Getting the right gender indicators: observations, challenges and strategies

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EFEWEE (2015-2018)
Exploring Factors that Enhance and restrict Women’s Empowerment through Electrification

➢ Grid vs decentralised systems
Results from the literature review

• Problem 1: What is ‘empowerment’?

• Problem 2: Unclear definition of gender goals in energy interventions (Skutsch 2006, Clancy et al. 2007, IEG 2008)
  – Women’s increased welfare
  – Women’s economic empowerment
  – Women’s political empowerment

• Problem 3: Fragmented evidence
Assumptions & definitions
Drawing on Friedman 1992 and Kabeer 1999 and 2001

• **Gender**: socially constructed and concerns the relationship between women and men

• **Gender equality**: Women and men’s equal
  – rights
  – access to and control over resources
  – power to influence matters that concern or affect them

• **Women’s empowerment**: A process towards gender equality
What counts as evidence 1
Statistical studies (incl modelling)

Gendered impact of having electricity access on
- Employment rate
- Fuel use and cooking technology
- Welfare indicators
  - Time use (drudgery)
  - Fertility rates
  - Girls’ and boys’ study time and enrolment in school
- Attitudes to norms that discriminate women

Electricity access → Indicator X
What counts as evidence 2
Qualitatively oriented studies

Electrification in local contexts, with focus on

- The gendered **process** of electrification
- The gendered **design of electricity supply**
- Focus on **social practices** rather than single indicators
- Impact on **welfare benefits, women’s economic and political empowerment, gender relations, norms and ideologies**
### Assessing women’s empowerment through electrification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Overarching issues                           | Women and men’s rights  
Gender ideologies and norms  
Women and men’s social positions |
| 2 Access to and control over resources          | Material opportunities (short term)  
Material endowments (long term)  
Social resources (e.g. social networks)  
Human resources (education, drudgery, health) |
| 3 Power to influence decisions (Agency)         | Life decisions (incl. political power)  
Everyday decisions  
Electricity at home  
Involvement in system of supply |
| 4 Impact of women’s involvement in systems of supply | The impact of women’s involvement in supply on the empowerment of women in the wider community |
Which dimensions of empowerment may purposefully be analysed through

- **NUMBERS**: How many … How much time… What is your opinion of….?

- **QUALITATIVE DATA**: How and why? Why not? How is this linked to… Could you tell us more about… (+ observations)
## Examples I, indicators (survey)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Indicator/question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material opportunities</td>
<td>Access to using electricity</td>
<td>In which rooms do you keep/use electric light? (kitchen etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material opportunities</td>
<td>Access to using electricity</td>
<td>Mobiles and appliances: Who in the hh uses the item on a daily basis? For what purposes?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material opportunities</td>
<td>Access to income</td>
<td>How much income do members of the hh make per month? (w/m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material opportunities</td>
<td>Access to food</td>
<td>How many months during the last year did your hh not have enough to eat? (hh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material opportunities</td>
<td>Access to food</td>
<td>In times of food scarcity, who in the household is more likely to go to bed on an empty stomach? (w/m, g/b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Examples II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Indicator/question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>Drudgery/time poverty</td>
<td>Time spent collecting firewood per week (w/m, g/b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material opportunities</td>
<td>Access to using electricity Access to information Time to relax</td>
<td>How many hours per day do hh members watch television? (w/m, g/b) Which channels do you watch and which programs do you prefer? (w/m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>Drudgery/time poverty</td>
<td>Spending the evening: From 8 pm until you go to bed, do you usually do household chores, read/study, work outside or watch television/relax in other ways? (w/m, g/b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Who in this hh can safely walk outside in the neighbourhood after darkness (w/m, g/b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Examples III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Indicator/question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material endowments</td>
<td>Long term financial security</td>
<td>Who owns the land, the house, the mobiles and the el. appliances? (w/m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material endowments</td>
<td>Long term financial security</td>
<td>Who in the hh keeps a bank account and/or is member of a savings group (w/m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency: Everyday decisions</td>
<td>Decisions regarding household finances</td>
<td>When a person earns an income, to what extent are they free to decide on how to spend the money? (age groups,w/m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency: Electricity</td>
<td>Decisions regarding electricity</td>
<td>Who decided to obtain electricity access? Who decided to purchase the appliances? Who paid for subscription and consumption?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender norms</td>
<td>Attitudes to discr. norms</td>
<td>Do you think that a husband may be entitled to beat his wife?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender norms</td>
<td>Gender division of responsibilities</td>
<td>Do you think that women and men have the same capacity to serve their country?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender norms (and practices)</td>
<td>Gender division of responsibilities</td>
<td>How many times during the last week did a male member prepare a meal for the hh?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ms. Mwanaidi Silima Jaffar and Ms. Wanja Khamis Hemed
Uzi Village, Zanzibar, July 2005
Available results, EFEWEE
From the scoping phase, literature and electricity policy review

- EFEWEE Web and Blog: http://www.efewee.org
- ENERGIA: http://energia.org/research/
- Scoping report: To be published on ENERGIA’s web site, May/June 2016

In progress (to be submitted to academic journals):

- Winther, T., M.Matinga and K.Ulsrud: “Electrification and women’s empowerment: What counts as evidence?”

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