

UiO : **Centre for Development and the Environment**
University of Oslo

Getting the right gender indicators:
observations, challenges and strategies

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GECCO/ENERGIA Webinar 21st April 2016





EFEWEE (2015-2018)

Exploring Factors that Enhance and restrict Women's Empowerment through Electrification

- Grid vs decentralised systems



Seacrest Consulting,
Kenya

Dunamai Energy,
Malawi



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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

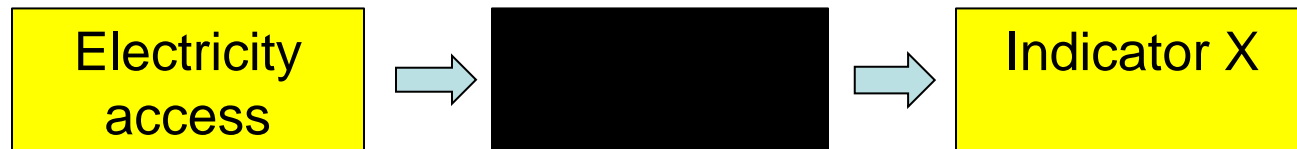
- **Gender:** socially constructed and concerns the relationship between women and men
- **Gender equality:** Women and men's equal
 - rights
 - access to and control over resources
 - power to influence matters that concern or affect them
- **Women's empowerment:** A process towards gender equality

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



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

Categories	Dimensions
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)

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

Examples II

Dimension	Concept	Indicator/question
Human resources	Drudgery/time poverty 	Time spent collecting firewood per week (w/m, g/b)
Material opportunities Human resources	Access to using electricity Access to information  Time to relax	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)
Human resources	Drudgery/time poverty 	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)
Human resources	Safety 	Who in this hh can safely walk outside in the neighbourhood after darkness (w/m, g/b)

Examples III

Dimension	Concept	Indicator/question
Material endowments	Long term financial security →	Who owns the land, the house, the mobiles and the el. appliances? (w/m)
Material endowments	Long term financial security →	Who in the hh keeps a bank account and/or is member of a savings group (w/m)
Agency: Everyday decisions	Decisions regarding household finances →	When a person earns an income, to what extent are they free to decide on how to spend the money? (age groups,w/m)
Agency: Electricity	Decisions regarding electricity →	Who decided to obtain electricity access? Who decided to purchase the appliances? Who paid for subscription and consumption?
Gender norms	Attitudes to discr. norms →	Do you think that a husband may be entitled to beat his wife?
Gender norms	Gender division of responsibilities →	Do you think that women and men have the same capacity to serve their country?
Gender norms (and practices)	Gender division of responsibilities →	How many times during the last week did a male member prepare a meal for the hh?



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):

- Palit, D., Govindan, M. et al.: “A gender review of electricity policies: Perspectives from Kenya, Nepal and India.”
- Matinga, M., T.Winther and K.Standal: “Electrification and women’s empowerment: What is the evidence?”
- Winther, T., M.Matinga and K.Ulsrud: “Electrification and women’s empowerment: What counts as evidence?”

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