



Mainstreaming Gender In Energy Access



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Structure of Presentation

- Introduction
- Gender Issues
- Gender and Energy
- Mainstreaming Gender in Energy Access
- Implications Under the SE4All
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Energy as a requirement for all human activity: household, production and community.
- Quantity and quality of energy: assurance of the quality of life of the users
- Access to modern energy services as a priority for Africa's socio-economic development
- Energy policy interested in mix of supply (electricity, oil, gas, solar etc.) in relation to what proportion of demand is to be met.
- The challenge of addressing both supply and demand side issues of energy to benefit both women and men.

Gender Issues

- Energy interventions as a means of reducing drudgery of work, saving time and improving lives
- Differences with reference to what work/tasks women and men are involved in
- Inherent disadvantages, inequalities, discriminatory practices and burdens for different women and men due socially constructed roles, relations and processes

Gender Issues

Women and men have multiple gender roles that can be divided into 3 types:

- 1. Productive**
- 2. Reproductive**
- 3. Community management**

Implications for availability, accessibility, reliability and affordability of sources of modern energy

Gender and Energy

- Women and men's differential access and control characteristics limits women's accessibility to modern energy forms
- Differential knowledge and skills on technical issues (electricity for water pumping and irrigation rather than for household drinking water)
- Near absence from spaces where critical energy policy decisions are made



Mainstreaming Gender In Energy Access

Gender Mainstreaming

- Seeks to address inequalities through ensuring that policies, programmes and projects benefit women and men equally in all aspects and at all levels of society
- It is a process and a useful tool for creating more awareness about the differential needs and concerns of women and men in order that energy decision-makers can take them in account.

Mainstreaming Gender and Energy

Can be considered in the following aspects:

- ✓ Policy choices (Political Aspects)
- ✓ Financial mechanisms, allocation of financial resources (Economic Aspects)
- ✓ Sustainable Energy sources (Environmental Aspects)
- ✓ Addressing inequalities (Social Aspects)

Implications Under the SE4ALL

- Changing gender relations in Africa can be made a central issue under the SE4All and against the background of changing climate conditions
- Active change agents working hard at all levels from the local to global
- A lot of resistance especially the call to respect 'culture' and 'tradition' even though African culture is dynamic

Conclusion

- Changes going on in Africa
- Disadvantages affect different groups of women and men (age, marital status, ethnicity, social status, religion etc)
- Need to ensure that increased modern energy access bridges gender gaps and empower women and men in an equitable manner
- That will enable us achieve a just, equal and transformed society.

