

Energy Access through a Gender Lens

A workshop to chart a research agenda to inform policy

May 12-13, 2020

Virtual Workshop via Zoom

OVERVIEW

The impacts of energy poverty and the solutions to addressing it must be understood through the lens of gender. Women in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) often bear the costs of fuel collection, inefficient cookstoves, household air pollution, and low access to labor-saving appliances because they spend more time doing domestic labor and taking care of children and other family members. While women may desire technologies that lessen those burdens, they also may have low access to capital, little power within the household, and lack information. Men, who commonly have greater bargaining power, may make different technology choices, thereby leading to misalignment between the goals of energy poverty alleviation policy and real-world outcomes. These household differences impact efforts to promote efficient cookstoves and electric appliances that reduce household drudgery (e.g., washing machines, ovens and induction stoves, kettles), or even decisions around how lights, televisions, and mobile phones should be used. The gendered and intrahousehold impacts of interventions, and the way that gender and intrahousehold dynamics moderate the effect of interventions, remain major research gaps (Jeuland et al. 2019). We aim to build capacity for cutting-edge gender research on energy access and energy poverty in LMICs, to better deliver on both SDG5 (gender equality and empowerment of women and girls) and SDG7 (access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all).

With this goal in mind, this workshop aims to:

- **Identify the right questions:** Engage with practitioners and organizations operating at different levels in the energy access domain to inform the creation of a research agenda that is grounded in real needs for evidence on questions of high relevance for improved energy poverty programming and policymaking.
- **Engage with existing frameworks, methods, and findings:** Hear from experts in other domains about their theoretical and methodological approaches to gender (e.g., in the context of health and nutrition interventions, vulnerability to gender-based violence, effectiveness of cash transfer programs, etc.). Present a white paper developed in preparation for this workshop on the gender-energy literature.
- **Improve approaches to studying gender in the energy access context:** Quantitative research on gender often relies on simplifications and short-cuts that are problematic for both interpretation of results and for seeking solutions (for example, focusing on the effect of a dummy variable that controls for gender of household head).
- **Ideate:** Brainstorm and develop a set of research ideas and takeaways – for incorporation into a revised white paper and into new proposals – that responds to the issues raised by the practitioner and policy community and fills critical research gaps related to energy and gender.

SCHEDULE

The workshop will unfold over two days, and, owing to the unprecedented situation with COVID-19, all participants will connect via Zoom. The first day of the workshop will be open to all attendees, though registration is required. Participation in the second day will be by invitation only.

Tuesday, May 12 (Open session)

- 8 – 8:20 am (EDT) **Welcome and introduction, orientation on the workshop goals and objectives, and organization of online interactions**
Marc Jeuland & Erin Sills
- 8:20 – 8:40 am **Presentation of the white paper on frameworks, methods, and metrics of the energy and gender literature state of energy and gender literature**
Victoria Plutshack
- 8:40 – 8:50 am **Open Q&A on white paper results** (Moderated by Rajah Saparapa)
- 8:50 – 9:40 am **How to measure relationships between energy and women’s empowerment: panel discussion with practitioners** (Moderated by Jonathan Phillips)
- Harriet Lamb (Ashden)
 - Annemarije Kooijman (ENERGIA)
 - Neha Juneja (Greenway Appliances)
 - Nilah Mitchell (60 Decibels)
 - Maurice Onzere (Energy 4 Impact)
- 9:40 – 10 am **Break**
- 10 – 10:15 am **Keynote talk: Empowering households and communities through gender responsive infrastructure – Experience from ECOWAS**
Monica Maduekwe (ECOWAS)
- 10:15 – 10:30 am **Open Q&A for practitioner keynote** (Moderated by Erin Sills)
- 10:30 – 11 am **Keynote talk: Gender research from conceptualizing to policy action: Lessons from Social Protection & Agriculture**
Amber Peterman (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- 11 – 11:30 am **Keynote talk: Women as creators of energy through personal empowerment**
Anita Shankar (Johns Hopkins University)
- 11:30 – 11:40 am **Break**
- 11:40 – 12 pm **Open Q&A for researchers and practitioners** (Moderated by Subhrendu Pattanayak)
- 12 – 12:15 pm **Day 1 reflection and wrap-up**
Marc Jeuland

Wednesday, May 13 (Closed session)

- 8 – 8:15 am (EDT) **Welcome back, summary of Day 1**
Erin Sills
- 8:15 – 9 am **Research report-back and synthesis from Day 1** (Moderated by Thomas Klug)
- 9 – 9:15 am **Break**
- 9:15 – 10:15 am **Virtual Research Flash Talks** (5 min each)
- A. Schueftan: Gender Aspects in Energy Poverty and Energy Transition of the South Central Region of Chile
 - D. Bhattarai: Promoting SPIPs with a gendered focus paying dividends
 - Imelda: Clean energy access: gender disparity, health, and labor supply
 - I. Das: Gendered Solar Mini-Grid Access in Myanmar
 - J. Orgill Meyer: Gendered benefits of LPG stoves
 - L. Richardson: Intra-household bargaining power of household energy in South Africa
 - M. Sievert: Rural Electrification and Domestic Violence in Sub Saharan Africa
 - P. Nkosi: Women bargaining power and energy ladder hypothesis: Evidence from South Africa.
 - R. Klege: Risk attitudes, gender and business success among off-grid renewable energy entrepreneurs in rural Rwanda
 - R. Listo: Resetting the focus on women's empowerment: what meanings and nature of energy?
 - S. Hassen: Impact of improved stoves on fuel re-allocation and intrahousehold participation into income generating activities
- 10:15 – 11:15 am **Virtual break-out sessions with ideation activities aimed at fleshing out themes and topics emerging from day 1 including consideration of study designs, locations, and potential partners.** Practitioners joining include:
- Hannah Girardeau ([SEforAll](#))
 - Bhim Adhikari ([IDRC](#))
 - Alicia Oberholzer ([Solar Sister](#))
 - Jescinta Izevbigie & Megan Collins ([Clean Cooking Alliance](#))
 - Sarah Baird ([Let There Be Light International](#))
 - Muchiri Nyaggah ([Local Development Research Institute](#))
 - Stephanie Finigan ([Value for Women](#))
 - Sue Stevenson ([Barefoot College](#))
 - Tara Ramanathan & Megan Bomba ([Nexleaf Analytics](#))
- 11:15 – 12:15 pm **Presentation of concepts from break-out sessions to whole group and feedback from donor and practitioner communities**
- 12:15 – 12:30 pm **Closing: summary of workshop, revision of white paper, opportunities for funding**
P.P. Krishnapriya & Marc Jeuland