



Gender Assessment of Energy Sector in Pakistan

Muhammad Zakria Zakar, PhD
University of the Punjab,
Lahore
Pakistan

Gender-energy nexus in hydropower projects

- At political and institutional levels, there is a little awareness about the importance of gender mainstreaming in energy policy and development programs
- Energy institutions in Pakistan lack integrated institutional framework for addressing women's issues and gender mainstreaming in energy sector

Barriers in Gender mainstreaming

- Workplaces lack enabling environment
- Mostly women work at lower and middle levels (not at decision making/policy levels)
- No separate gender specific budget allocation (in Resettlement Action Plans except Dasu and Diamir-Basha)
- Women not able to convert their skills into income generating activities
- Women's restricted mobility, dependency on men
- Women's land ownership issues, lack of social capacity, connectivity

Unanticipated Challenges

- Huge influx of male labors on site create security concerns for women; increase in crime rates, violence, result into restriction on women's mobility and access to public space
- Family system in the displaced communities undergoes several changes which sometimes are problematic for women

Key interventions

- Information sharing and consultation with women
- Inclusion of women in the entire processes of land acquisition and compensation
- Women be given proper representation in decision making bodies including grievance redress committees

Entry Points for Gender Mainstreaming

- Framing national gender policy and guidelines for gender assessment
- Mandatory collection of gender disaggregated data as a part of national energy sector development policy
- Gender sensitive budgeting
- Gender sensitive impact assessment
- Women's participation in project operations and implementations

Entry Points

- Changing attitude of community
- Inserting gender perspective in the local knowledge system and cultural norms
- Use of locally acceptable terminologies/linguistic constructs
- Reach out to women through men
- Disclosure of project benefits to local women
- Attracting and retaining women on projects' jobs
- Gender sensitive trainings and capacity building of project staff and the stakeholder involved

Recommendations

- National policy and regulatory framework
- Strengthening institutional capacity of energy institutions
- Gender-responsive national budgeting
- Gender safeguards in national resettlement policy
- Periodic gender audit of national power policy
- Linkages of project activities with women's needs
- Gender balance in composition of staff
- Gender sensitive work environment
- Availability of gender mainstreaming literature
- Gender disaggregated data
- Bridging gaps between planning and implementation of the projects.



Thank you very much