

# SEforALL Global Tracking Framework: Asia-Pacific Results and Energy Access/Gender Metrics

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## **Women's empowerment through electrification: Why & how we need to measure**

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# Exploring Factors that Enhance & restrict Women's Empowerment through 'Electrification' – EFEWEE

- How may electricity make a difference ?
  - Not only interested in measuring impacts of electricity but **how and why this happens**
  - Focus on conditions to explain **why electricity produces a given set of gendered effects**
- Comparing **grid and decentralised** systems
- 2015-18;
- India, Kenya & Nepal;

- Electrification has a **gender** impact
  - The **explanations** for electricity's effects remain unclear
  - Provision of electricity has '**enhanced**' women's well being & social life
  - Whether the direct benefits **translate into women's empowerment** (economic – Yes; social & political – uncertain)
  - Little is known about electricity's effect on **women's decision making power**
- International initiatives & national electrification policies **often are gender-blind** in terms of anticipated benefits
  - Associated challenge is how to translate '**policy into practise**'
- Energy Ministries are **not collecting gender-disaggregated** data
  - Hinders **accumulation of knowledge** for research & policymaking
  - Limits our understanding of the different needs of women & men, essential for designing of efficient and inclusive policies



- Most of the available knowledge on the **electricity-gender nexus** derives from singular case studies
  - Unclear definition of **gender goals** in energy interventions
  - Off-grid supply appears receiving more attention than on-grid
  - In case of grid systems, interventions have more focused on the institution level rather than on implementation processes
- Electricity alone, in the **absence of other supporting factors**, may not be an immediate game changer towards women's overall 'empowerment'
  - Wider legislation such as on land rights, inheritance rules, social rules, etc. affects women's degree of empowerment through electrification
- Lack of **pressure from grassroots** level also act as a barrier for realising gender goals

## 4 conditional factors

### 4 Policies, regulations and international actors



### 1 Socio- cultural factors

### 2 Design of electricity system

### 3 The gendered organisation of supply and process of electrification

Dimension	Sub-dimensions	Conditional factors
<b>Empowerment 1</b> <i>Overarching issues</i>	Women and men's rights	1 The material and socio-cultural context 2 The socio-technical design of the system of supply 3 The gendered organization of supply and process of implementation 4 The role of policies, regulations and international actors
	Gender ideologies and norms	
	Social positions	
<b>Empowerment 2</b> <i>Resources</i>	Material short -term opportunities	
	Material long-term endowments	
	Social resources	
	Human resources	
<b>Empowerment 3</b> <i>Agency</i>	Influence over life decisions	
	Influence over everyday decisions	
<b>Negative events</b>	Negative effects of intervention	
<b>Agency in intervention (electricity access)</b>	Influence over decisions, household electricity access	
	Influence over system of supply	

# What could/should be done?

- ✓ Research: conceptual work needed for **accumulating knowledge on Energy and Empowerment**.
- ✓ Sustainable Energy for All initiative should, to the extent possible, **make efforts to collect gender-disaggregated data** during the Global Tracking Framework surveys.

This would

- Assist in changing **the policy design paradigm** from supply-driven to demand-driven
- Help the important endeavour of **developing affirmative policies and actions** for better and more gender equitable outcomes

## ■ Scoping Study Report 2016

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

<http://www.energia.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/RA1-Scoping-Report.pdf>

## ■ Journal papers

1. Winther, T., M.N. Matinga, K. Ulsrud and K. Standal (in press) Women's empowerment through electricity access: Scoping study and proposal for a framework of analysis. *Journal of Development Effectiveness*. To be published in 2017.
2. Palit, D., Mini G, Malhotra S & Saini A. Is gender mainstreamed in electricity policies: Perspectives from India, Kenya and Nepal. Submitted to Energy for Sustainable Development (under review)

## ■ Blogs & articles in EFEWEE website

- Can electricity provision be game changer for women's empowerment?
- Why we need to measure how electricity empowers women'
- Going further, faster - together, but fairly and justly!
- Strangely little is known about electricity's gendered impact!

**Thank you!**

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