

Social Norms and Attitudes in Access to Energy

Govind Kelkar

ENERGIA
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON
GENDER & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Policy, Law & Practice in Energy Access

- ❖ Social Norms and attitudes have a powerful influence that are reflected in formal structures and in its informal rules of day-to-day practice
- ❖ Emerging economies and continued norms and policy and practice about:
 - Women's economic dependency on men
 - Lack of right to decision making
 - Limits to women's mobility
 - Lack of Recognition of women's work and contributions
 - Inaccess to land/property, new technology, modern energy infrastructure and services
- ❖ Nevertheless, there are policy and legal changes but slow implementation. Why?

Policy Changes for Women's Right to Modern Energy Services

- ❖ Policy change for clean cooking energy: Subsidised LPG connections in women's names
- ❖ Higher subsidies for women farmers for ownership of farm machinery by women
- ❖ Why these policy changes? What are the drivers?
 - Factoring gender in energy development
 - The role of feminist ideas through national and international research
 - Civil society's engagement with the state
 - Feminist advocacy on the importance of energy access
 - Role of citizens and elites e.g Give it up campaign



Impact of Policy Change on Social Norms

Our research, we noted the change through:

- ❖ Women's unmediated asset ownership rights to land, house, energy equipment and new technology
- ❖ Organising and self-organising of women
- ❖ Training/capacity development in new knowledge, financial skills and new technology
- ❖ Policy change that addresses gendered norms e.g. HSAA 2005, Ujjwala 2016, Agriculture Policy for Higher Subsidies.

In conclusion:

- ❖ The complexity of social norms and doxa of attitudes can be addressed through:
 - National and trans-national dialogues on the need for change in social norms
 - Research and research-based advocacy on gender justice
 - Conscious, concerted efforts towards a gender responsive shift in policy and practice
 - Energy infrastructure, recognition of women's work in production and social reproduction for betterment, equality and dignity of all, as SDG principle "leaving no one behind".

