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Gender and Energy

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Gender refers to a system of socially defined roles, privileges, attributes and relationships between men and women.

Why is gender important in research and policies that address energy access?

- Women have greater responsibility for the tasks involved with the production of energy services (such as light, heat, cooling, cooking, cleaning) in homes.
- Women are underrepresented in the governance structures and businesses involved in planning, producing and delivering energy.



Practical benefits of energy access

- Saves time (enables better time management)
- Reduces heavy physical work
- Improves health
- Improves physical security
- Provides better communication

Empowerment

Providing women with the capacity to exercise agency and control over their lives. Examples:

- laws and regulations aimed at securing women's rights
- increased participation in political processes
- increased access to education and information
- expanded work opportunities and improved work conditions.

Energy's empowering potentials

- Education
- Work opportunities and income
- Access to information on rights and benefits through electronic media

Closing the gaps in energy-gender research

- Much of the research to date has been on rural, small scale electrification. More attention is needed on the gender consequences of large scale and urban electrification.
- Identifying the informal economies in which energy, gender and family are implicated.
- Sharpening confidence in causal relationships between energy access and specific benefits (health, work, education).
- Coordinated research designs deploying mixed methods.