

**Gender and Energy Capacity
Building Workshop
for South Asia**

*Gender Integration in the Energy
Sector: Challenges and
Opportunities.*

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Energy is key for achieving the MDGs

1. energy initiatives that increase income-generating opportunities for women and men can be important factors in reducing hunger and poverty levels (MDG1),
2. Income earning opportunities can enhance women's economic, social and political status—thereby promoting the empowerment of women (MDG3).
3. When women have access to adequate fuel, water supplies, and money for school fees, their children, especially girls are more likely to attend school, (MDG2).
4. Having money for food and the fuel and equipment needed for processing and cooking it also promotes better health for women and their families (MDG4, 5, and 6), and reduces pressures on forests and other ecosystems vulnerable to depletion (MDG7).



Why Gender Matters in the Energy Sector

- Addressing gender disparities is increasingly recognized as being at the core of the World Bank's mission of promoting economic growth and poverty reduction. *Gender Equality is Smart Economics*.
- men and women have different roles and responsibilities in households and communities; and their uses of energy, and the benefits they derive from energy services, or the costs they incur from the absence of such services, also differ.
- women are both producers and consumers of household fuel; this domestic unpaid tasks are largely invisible in development policy and practice, and this non-market productive work is not counted in national accounts.
- Over 2.5 billion household use biomass for cooking, exposing women and children to indoor air pollution and health risks.



Enhancing gender integration in Bank's portfolio

- **Gender action Plan 2006**, stresses the importance of infrastructure and women's economic empowerment;
- Evaluations indicate that **Women's participation in design and decision making** in water users' associations or Rural Electrification cooperatives improves governance, management, cost recovery and production
- **Women's participation** increases effectiveness, quality and sustainability of infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance; high economic rate of return (31%); improved work environment,
- World Bank has established baseline (FY09) and targets (FY14) on gender integration for monitoring progress. South Asian countries also have gender equality goals in their National Plans
- This workshop is one of the steps to assist governments to achieve MDGs and gender equality goals.



Objective of this workshop

- Develop a common understanding on why gender matters in energy sectors, especially the value added and development effectiveness of investments by addressing gender dimensions in design and implementation.
- Increase the capacity of Counterparts, Bank Staff, and other stakeholders in identifying, addressing, and monitoring gender issues in energy policies, programs, and projects.
- Assist governments and Bank staff to develop a gender-responsive energy sector program.
- Pilot an approach for “Training for Action”, exchanging knowledge and experience across South Asia, and adopting good practices.

From darkness to modern electrification – carefully planned energy services can bring security, employment, income and opportunities in the lives of poor men, women and children in South Asia.

