

# Gender audits:an approach to engendering energy policy

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# Background

- Presentation draws on study commissioned by ENERGIJA as part of the Gender and energy research programme
- Objective was to assess ENERGIJA's gender approach to gender mainstreaming in energy policy and projects
- Full report is available on ENERGIJA website.
- This presentation focuses on particular component which is gender audits as a methodology for mainstreaming gender in energy policy.
- Based on open access paper recently published in Energy Research and Social Science <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2019.101378>

# Exploring the effectiveness of gender audits

- Paper uses two research questions:
  1. As a result of gender audits, have gender issues or issues attending to women's particular interests been incorporated in energy policy?
  2. Did participation in an audit build the capacity of national actors to contribute to gender mainstreaming in the energy sector?

# Gender audits – the Background

- Tool to identify and analyse the factors that hinder efforts to mainstream gender in policy.
- Developed as alternative to gender budgets
- Gender budgets emerged after Beijing Conference in 1995
- A range of activities aimed at analysing whether or not the government budget advances gender equality

# Gender budgets: 3 objectives

- (i) **raise awareness** and understanding of gender issues and impacts of budgets and policies on those issues;
- (ii) make governments **accountable** for their budgetary policies and commitments in compliance with their commitments to the Beijing Platform for Action; and
- (iii) in line with those commitments, **change and refine** government budgets and policies to promote gender equality.

# Gender budgets – why an alternative?

- Very dependent on specialised skills eg understanding how to use Computable General Equilibrium Models
- Countries in the South have had to rely on external experts
- Not inclusive of the majority of citizens
- Data not always available at different government levels – certainly not gender disaggregated.

# Gender audits – the alternative approach

- Caroline Moser developed Gender audits as an alternative - started as an internal evaluation of organisation's gender mainstreaming approaches
- Later external evaluation added
- No standard methodology - methods used are qualitative: including desk studies, checklists, structured interviews, case studies and focus group discussions

# ENERGIA's approach

- Network members were concerned about lack of progress with GM in energy sector
- Gender audits were seen as method to:
  - raise government awareness
  - give them tools
  - provide group of local gender & energy consultants
- ENERGIA designed a gender audit approach with training programme



# ENERGIA's gender audit approach

- Audit team with facilitator
- Team members:
  - Ministry of Energy
  - energy sector (eg utilities, agencies, companies and NGOs)
  - government (eg, Finance Ministry and Statistical Office)
  - academia.
- Start with data collection and gender analysis
- Aim:
  - (i) identify and analyse the factors that hinder efforts to mainstream gender in energy policies and programmes,
  - (ii) identify and assess gender gaps in energy policies.

# ENERGIA's gender audit approach

- Spread out over 6 months
- Compiles report with recommendations and Gender Action Plan
- Finishes with validation workshop  
Ministry of Energy 'takes ownership' of report

# ENERGIA's audits

- Kenya, Botswana and Senegal initial audits: developed, tested and refined the methodology
- Later in Asia (India, Philippines and Pakistan) and in Africa (Ghana, Zambia, Lesotho and Nigeria)
- Each country chose own focus – India also included gender budget analysis

# Does ENERGIJA's approach work?

- **Direct effects**

Some signs of gender/women appearing in energy policy  
more gender aware methods

- **Indirect effects**

Employment policies are more inclusive

Men are more readily accepting mainstreaming when focus is 'gender rather than women' - they see they also benefit

Gender desks in Ministries of Energy – but budgets not changing!

- **Training programme**

Very positive response in terms of capacity building of local experts

Phase 1: 262 people (118 men and 144 women) participated in 12 training workshops

# Barriers continue to exist

- **pragmatic barriers**  
budget for follow-up activities eg GAP – missing from ENERGIA's programme
- **Conceptual barriers**  
Lack of understanding/mistrust of gender as concept – reduced to gender division of labour  
Western imposed concept
- **political barriers**  
lack of understanding of political processes – targetting civil servants rather than political actors  
relationship between government and civil society is not always one of trust and cooperation

# Does ENERGIJA's approach work

- Yes – up to a point & not always as intended
- SDGs gives us an enabling environment to take work further (eg sex-disaggregated data)
- Involve Ministry of Women/Gender
- Incorporate gender budgetting
- Shift objectives of a gender audit – supportive rather than criticism: tool that can help meet policy objectives rather than an opportunity for identifying policy gaps

# Thank you

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