

Working Group On Gender Mainstreaming

**Status Report
(Based on Information Provided by
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Group Mandates

- Identify the gaps in the areas of gender mainstreaming in the energy sector in the SARIE countries;
- Document what each of us is doing in the area;
- Develop a concrete plan on what could be done in the SARIE countries with respect to gender mainstreaming;
- Come up with project ideas;
- Identify what support it may require to carry out those activities.

3 Steps have been introduced

1. Create an understanding on gender mainstreaming & share it with the group;
2. Compile ideas, synthesize & share with the group;
3. As a group work on common responses.

Meaning of Gender Mainstreaming at a Personal Level

At a personal level, Gender Mainstreaming implies, to be able to express your self freely in any circumstances.

Two starting points in terms of action at the personal level:

- Most women still do not have faith in themselves or courage to break away from the conventional ways of accepting dictates of men' & this needs to be improved;
- A need was also voiced that we need to work towards popularizing (and clarifying) this term 'Gender Mainstreaming' at grass root level, in order to make a real impact. And for this we need to start young: target the 'girl child'.

Gender Mainstreaming in the Energy Sector:

Terms associated with Gender Mainstreaming are promoting gender equality; social, economic and political equality for women; freedoms to make decisions'; making decisions at par with men.

- Women represent an unrealized potential asset for the development of the energy sector;
- A greater attention to gender issues in energy policies and programmes could help promote overall development goals of poverty alleviation, employment, health, education & women's empowerment;
- Women suffer from additional constraints (lack of equal opportunities to education) which makes it more difficult for them to access & benefit from modern energy interventions;

Additional Points Emerged in Discussions

- Without empowering women on energy use, and addressing social and technical aspects we are not likely to get far;
- Women in communities are not so passive, they are active, but not in energy field;
- No clear mandate for women's participation in rural electrification.

Way ahead for SAWIE

Working group can now move on two questions:

- 1. Document what each of us is doing in this area;**
- 2. What else needs to be done, suggesting some concrete actions which can perhaps be taken forward as project ideas by SARIE**

Thank You