

# **Regional Workshop on : "Women, Energy and Enterprise"**

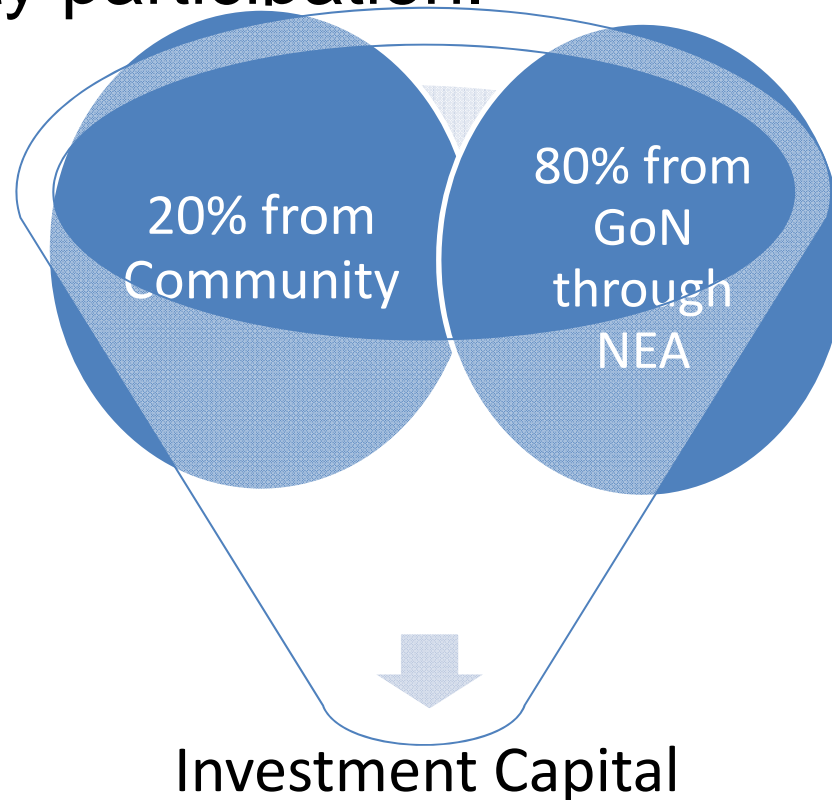
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# Community Based Rural Electrification (CBRE) Program in Nepal ?

## *Financial Model*

- Grid based Rural Electrification through community participation.



# What is CBRE? *Service Delivery Model*

- Metering, Billing & Revenue Collection from electricity consumers
- Operation & Maintenance responsibility of low voltage distribution system

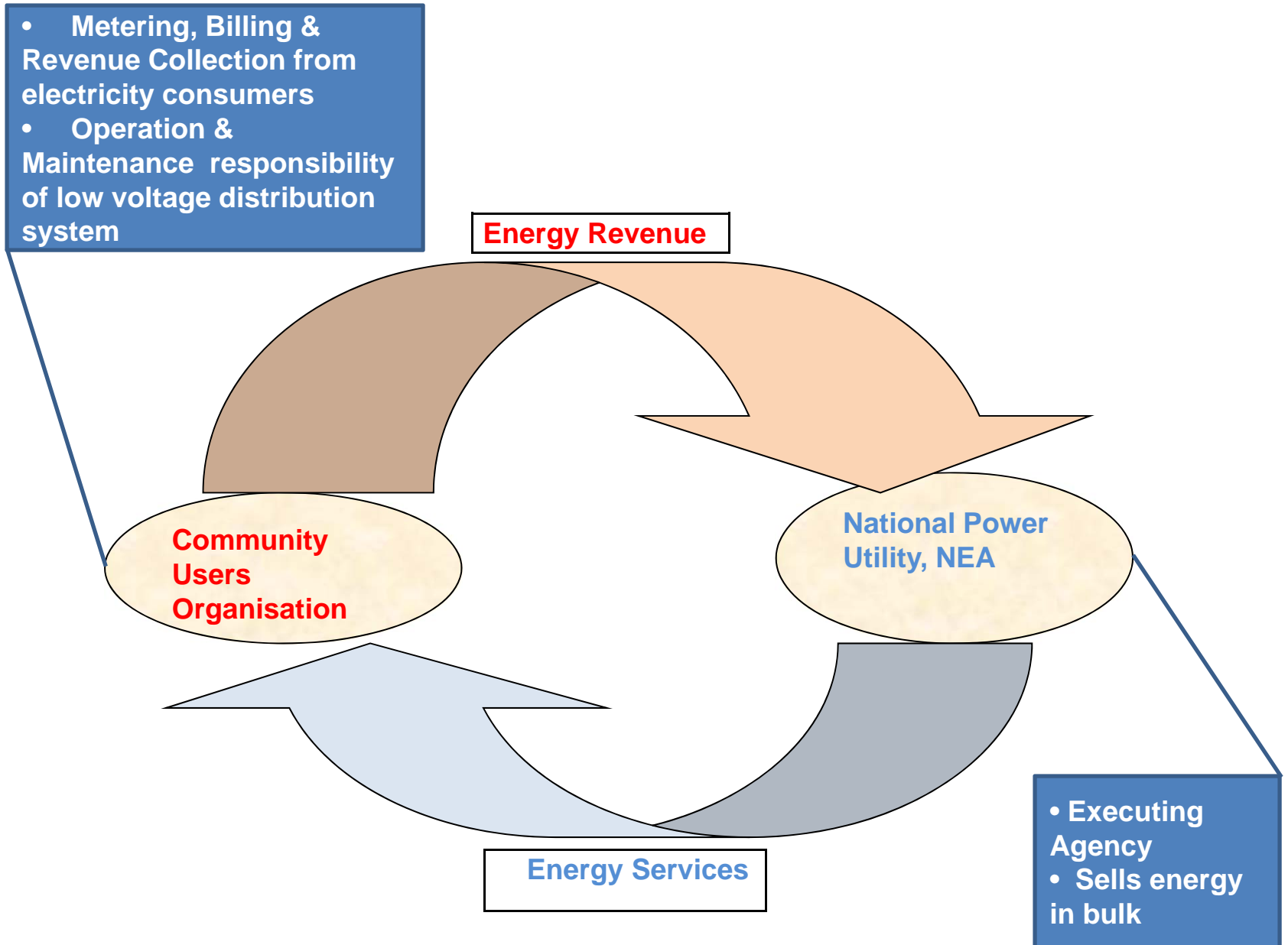
Energy Revenue

Community Users Organisation

National Power Utility, NEA

Energy Services

- Executing Agency
- Sells energy in bulk



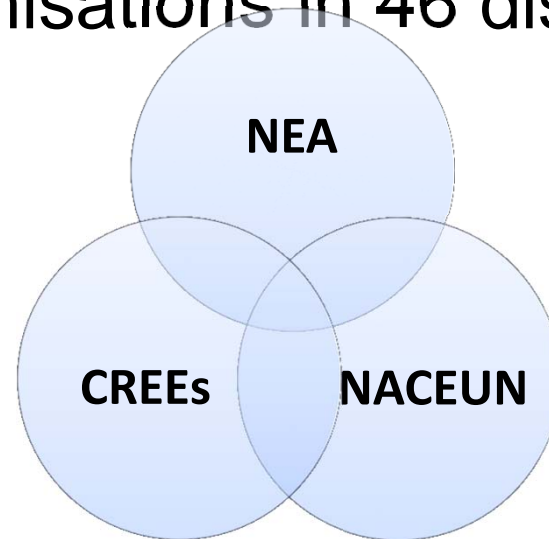
# National Association of Community Electricity Users-Nepal (NACEUN)

NACEUN is established

- to ensure the effective role of communities in rural electrification through users' advocacy,
- institutional capacity building and
- national network building.

NACEUN has

- 207 member organisations in 46 districts



# Role of NACEUN

- Capacity building activities and Technical assistance to CREEs
  - Organisational Development & Leadership training
  - Financial Management & accounting training
  - House wiring training
  - Lines person training
  - Training of trainers for safety awareness and promotion of productive use of electricity
- Awareness raising campaigns & consumer sensitisation
- Advocacy for policy and regulatory barriers to implement CBRE program efficiently
- Task Force in preparing operation guideline of CBRE Program
- Steering Committee member
- Network Building

# Women participation in CBRE

- Women participation in CBRE program is negligible
- 2 CREEs have women chairperson; only one active
- Other participation in the committee are just to fulfill mandatory seats
- Women are always dis-empowered with new technology and deprived from the participation in the meetings, discussions and other decision making process.
- They do not participate because they do not have the knowledge to understand the talks suggesting low self-confidence among women.
- Although switching on the bulb in the evening, plugging on the heater for cooking, plugging on the motor for water pumping are the major activities of women; as having no knowledge on simple repair & maintenance, majority of them have to rely on male members of the family

# Case Study on Women participation

Fig.1. Male /Female ratio among staff of the CBREEs

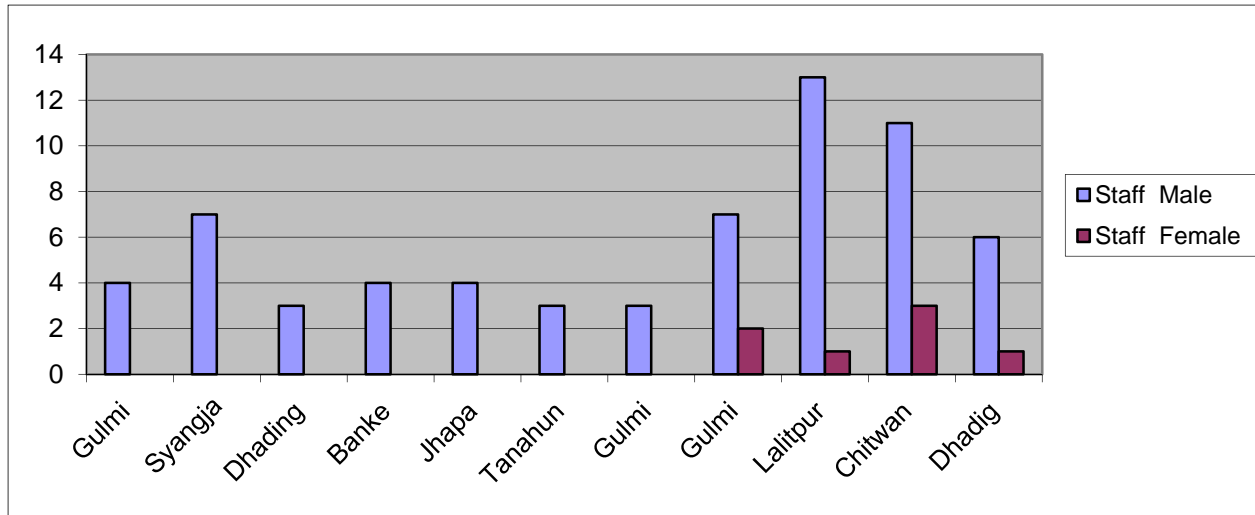
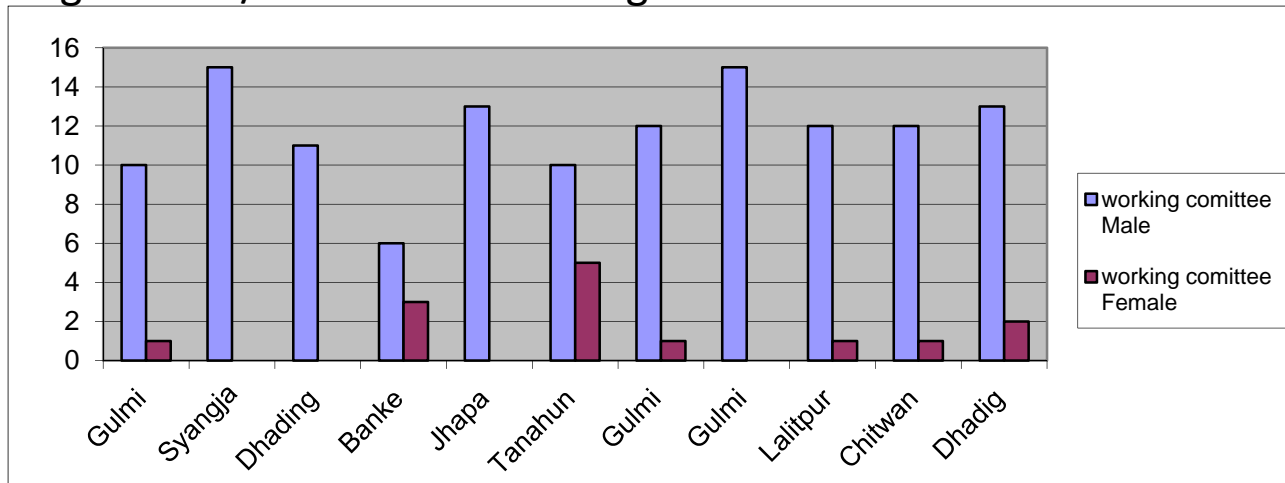
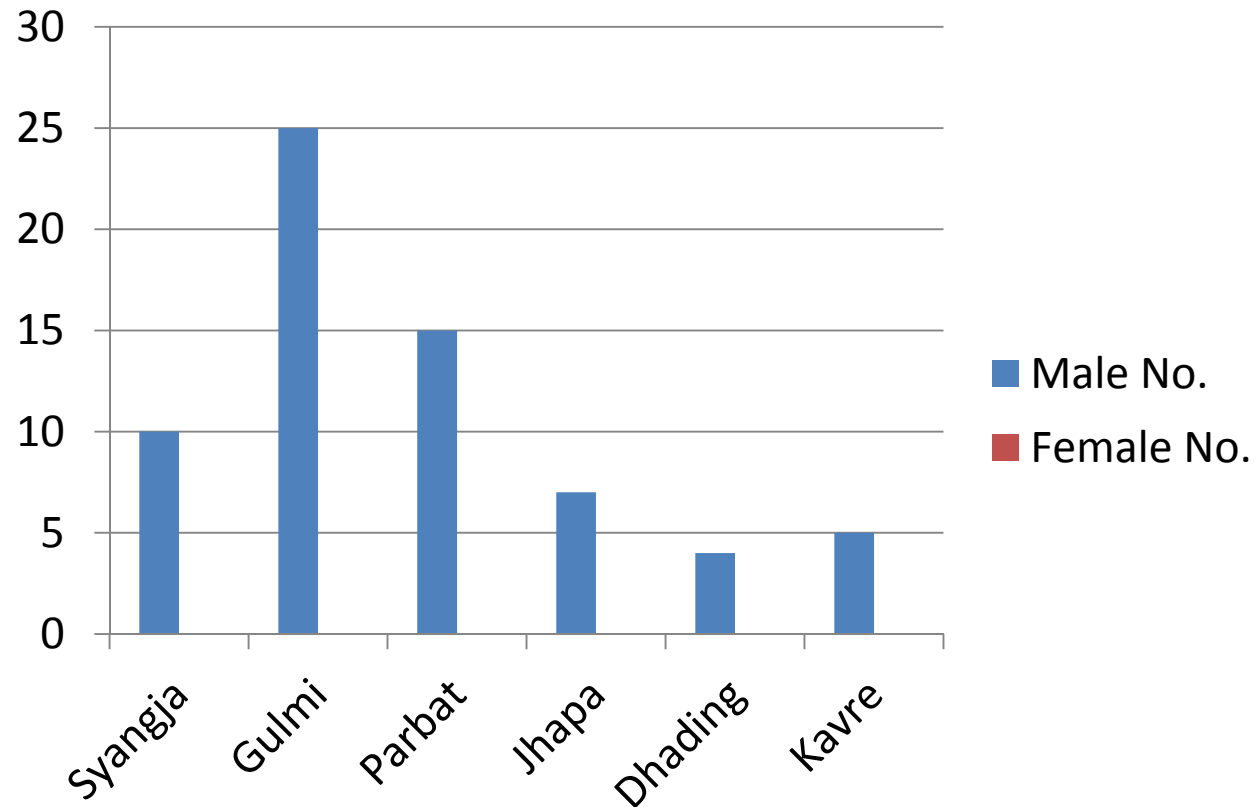


Fig.2. Male /Female ratio among the members of executive committee in CBREEs



# Case Study: women participation in technical jobs in CBRE



# Initiatives for Gender Equality in CBRE Program

- Awareness Campaigns
- Reserved Seats in Trainings
  - Organisational Development Training
  - Financial Planning and Accounting Training
  - House Wiring Training
  - Training of trainers
- House Wiring Training to rural women in Nepal
- Leadership training to women
- Reserved Seats in secretariat body of NACEUN
- Reserved Seats at District Chapter

# Electricity house wiring training to rural women in Nepal

- Technical jobs like house wiring, repairing and maintaining supply lines, towers and machinery at substations are male dominated in Nepal
- **116000** rural households are electrified through community based rural electrification till date
- 50 million Nepali Rupees (approximately 681,391 USD) as wages for in-house electrification to male pocket only
- Thus 15 women were proposed to train as housewiring technicians with support from Small Grant Fund / SARI-Energy
- Income generating opportunities for women through house wiring



A woman carrying a plough in Humla



It is common to see women felling trees with an axe, carrying heavy loads of stones for house building, carrying water long distances, and other similar physical labours. House wiring workers need to climb on a ladder or stand up on a tool to reach a maximum height of 6.5 ft. They need to carry these small tools only.

# Project Description

- **Objective of the training**

The main objective of the training was to train rural women as competent electrical house wiring technicians, who after the training module are capable of installation, maintenance and repair of electrical house wiring systems in rural Nepal.

- 3 months residential training:
  - 1 month inhouse training (leadership quality, motivation skills and self esteem added as morning sessions)
  - 1 month field training in a group (wiring done at 56 houses)
  - 1 month field training at individual CREE
- Participant Selection by CREE ; selection criteria by NACEUN

# Strategies

- All female participants to build self confidence within themselves
- Two participants from each district so that it would be enabling environment to work together later
- Resource person and assistants - female
- Commitment seeking from CREEs for work security at initial stage

# Achievements:

- Women earn upto 1000 NPR (approximately 11USD-13.62 USD) for one house; are self sufficient
- Increased social status in the society
- Self confidence developed
- Pioneer in the village and the whole country
- Encouraged and confident for other similar jobs such as repair, maintenance of electrical home appliances and eager to open such shops
- Involved in energy Efficiency awareness campaigns
- Involved in safety awareness campaigns

# Some Success Stories

**Bimala Duwadi:** 27 years old has wired 26 houses; villagers did not trust her; all gathered at the time of getting connection in the first house she did her job

**Bishnu Gurung:** 30 years old has wired 150 houses; she went to other villages and stayed for 15 days, conflict started in her house

**Sangita KC and Rupa Rokka** of Syangja do it together. They have already wired 30 houses and are involved now in repair, maintenance work

**Usha Ghising** although did some houses on her own initiation, she couldnot do many as she could not defeat the male technician. If some seats were reserved for female, she could be employed by CREE itself.



**No one in the village was eager to give her house for wiring. I was the first and encouraged her with my own house. Initially she assisted male technician but now she can do alone. Unfortunately, we did not have much houses left. She wants to open electrical shops and we are planning to give her soft loan**

# Lessons Learnt

- 50% of the participants were immediately engaged in wiring work in their village whereas others are still waiting for wiring works to be started in their village.
- Enough home work needed during participant selection
- Complete cycle has to be designed during project design phase
- Self confidence is most strongly correlated with success. Hence has to work more to build up their self confidence.

# Problems encountered:

- House wiring still considered as male job
- Lower caste trainees not allowed to enter some houses
- It is a one time job
- Since house wiring is a business, one has to create its own business.
- Selection of participation is a major issue for its sustainability
- Some organisation at the local level has to take the responsibility to provide them with some opportunities

# Glimpses







# Recommendations

- There is also a need to adopt policies and practices that address current gender imbalances in technical jobs
- Regular monitoring system that will be able to measure progress
- Publicize women's potential in technologies through various experiences to increase their self enhancement & empowerment

## Conclusion

- House wiring is not that technical and tough to learn; minimum criteria of class ten passed is enough
- It doesnot require too much of physical labour
- Why should women be discouraged?

Where the problem lies?????

- Lack of Acceptance and Support at Individual house hold level, village level and organisation level in the region

# Conclusion

**Women has been showing enthusiast to participate in technical work and are willing to contribute their skills**



**Enabling environment is required for increasing women participation**

- a. appropriate policy**
- b. legal framework**
- c. institutional arrangements**
- d. Sensitisation and awareness campaigns**

