1. PLACING GENDER

Margaret Skutsch

1.1. From Women in Development to Gender and Energy

Objectives of the Module

The objectives of this module are to help participants understand that there are many different approaches to the women and development issue and these have different implications for deciding the most appropriate actions to take, both in terms of the types of interventions made, and in terms of the planning procedures adopted.

By the end of the module, the participant will be able to name the major stages through which thinking on women in development has progressed and link these with typical energy policies and interventions. The following terms and concepts will be familiar.

- women-in-development
- gender
- mainstreaming
- practical and strategic needs
- gender as an efficiency issue versus gender as an equity issue
- embedding the gender approach in planning

Scheduling

The module consists of two lectures, each with exercises attached, which together should take a half day.

The first lecture and exercise should take more than half of the whole time allocated.

Materials

Lecture notes for the trainers are provided. These may be copied for the participants if so desired. Exercises will be found at the end of the package. Trainers notes are included.

1.2. Understanding the WID/GAD Matrix

1975 was declared the International Year of Women by the United Nations. The first UN Conference on Women and Development was held in Mexico City in 1975 under the motto ‘Equality, Development and Peace’. At this conference, the objectives for the first UN Decade of Women (1976-1985) were set: equality between the sexes was to be achieved within the framework of changed relations between North and South. In 1985, to mark the end of the first Women Decade, a second UN Conference was held in Nairobi. A much larger number of women from the South attended this conference and made their voices heard. At the time of writing, we are heading for the third UN Conference on Women and Development, to be held in Beijing in September 1995. What
have twenty years of Women and Development brought us? What has been achieved, and what is still lacking?

There are many different approaches to the ‘women and development’ issue. This paper aims to give an overview of these different approaches and relate them to the energy sector. As we will see, different approaches have different implications for the kind of energy policy that is adopted and the energy interventions that are selected. Note that the approaches are not placed in or implied to represent a hierarchy of correctness. Instead, attention is directed to what is perceived as ‘appropriate’ to different situations in different countries at any point in time.

The paper has the following structure: First, an historical overview of approaches in the ‘women and development’ debate is presented (Essentially, the debate started off in the early seventies within the women in development (WID) movement, with special emphasis on women, environment and development (WED), and has gradually developed into a gender and development (GAD) approach). Then, the theoretical framework outlined is applied to the energy sector. We try to determine which findings are especially relevant to the energy sector, and their implications for the energy policy that is adopted. The paper concludes with an extended bibliography.

1.3. From WID to GAD: A Historical Overview

Women in Development

Over the last twenty years, the subject of women and development has received increasing attention from both scientists and practitioners. Since the early seventies, donors and NGOs have regarded women as a special target group and have directed aid towards them in various ways. The mode of aid delivery has been influenced by dominant analytical approaches towards the subject of women and development. Throughout the years, there has been a progression in thinking. However, this did not include a dramatic shift of paradigm: different approaches reflect different viewpoints and angles rather than different dogmas. Up to today, many different approaches can be seen in the field. This section distinguishes between various approaches and gives an overview of the ‘cycling of ideas’ in order to enable us to identify the line of thinking behind policies and projects in the field of women and development.

Different phases within the women in development (WID) movement can be identified (Moser, 1989). The first idea, which came even before the official recognition of women as a special target group, was to start special programmes for women, which were primarily welfare oriented; they were designed to assist women in their traditional tasks, in the reproductive sphere. Programmes were aimed at women’s practical needs like health, nutrition and family planning, but not at making women self-sufficient. Women were seen as passive recipients, as victims of underdevelopment. This charitable approach was present, in missionary development work during the colonial period for example, long before WID became fashionable.

In the mid seventies the notion of equity between men and women became important. It was recognised that almost all aid had unconsciously gone to men, because they were thought to be heads of the households and, according to this line of reasoning, helping the households meant helping the women as well. This view proved too simple: many households appeared to be headed by women instead of men and it became apparent that benefits did not trickle-down to women as expected. Various international conferences, among them the UN Conference (1975) mentioned...
earlier, were held, which succeeded in raising consciousness and placing women’s issues more firmly on the agenda of donor agencies. Two new women’s agencies were created under the UN umbrella: UNIFEM and INSTRAW. Resolutions were made by donors to treat men and women on an equal basis in their projects, for example in agriculture, and address the strategic needs of women in addition to their practical needs. In practice, many difficulties were experienced in doing so. All in all, the equity approach represented a political move, initiated by feminist movements in the USA, and was not all that popular in most developing countries.

The basic needs approach took the view that provision of basic needs to poor people would increase their ability to develop themselves. When the donors adopted this strategy, more funds were directed to the welfare of the poorer strata in society. Women were seen as primary beneficiaries, and both women-specific and women-integrated projects were implemented, most of which were targeted to meet practical needs rather than strategic needs. Many studies were also made at this time to document the situation of women, particularly in rural areas. Most of the donor agencies set up special women-in-development bureaux within their central administrations to monitor such developments and to stimulate consciousness within their organizations. The women’s issue in development circles thus became more and more stripped of its originally feminist nature (the equity approach) and became inextricably linked with poverty alleviation in the South (Hausler, 1993).

Taking the basic needs approach as a starting point for their policy, donors began to hold the view that women should be included in projects on efficiency grounds: poverty alleviation can be achieved more efficiently when women are included from the start. Involvement of women was no longer considered morally correct only, but practically important as well. After all, women were doing most of the work in agriculture, so they should deliberately be integrated into ongoing projects. This approach is also called the instrumental approach, because it sees women as human resources for development. The term mainstreaming is used to indicate that women should be integrated into general projects for practical needs, on a par with men, in addition to having special projects for themselves.

The last phase identified in the WID approach is that of empowerment. In contrast with the other views, this view has mainly been inspired by Southern women. Historically based inequalities have to be broken by strengthening and extending the power base of women. Policies and programmes will have to meet the strategic needs of women to make a change for the better, including land rights, land titles, access to resources, education and employment. The concept of empowerment concerns the general emancipation of women. This line of thought is further pursued in the concept of autonomy, in which the equity and independence of women are the objectives of projects and programmes.

Women, Environment and Development

Women, Environment and Development (WED) as a theme came up in the early seventies, in the context of the debate on Southern women’s roles in economic development. The accelerating global economic problems, the debt crisis, the increasing environmental destruction and the overall

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1 Practical needs refer to the concrete circumstances women have to deal with, whereas strategic needs are derived from the subordination of women in relation to men (Moser, 1989).
feminization of poverty in the South started off a debate on the specific and cumulative effects of these processes on the poor, and especially on women. The WED approach was initiated from within environment-related disciplines such as forestry (fuelwood energy) and agriculture. At that time, there was an increasing awareness of the effects of environmental degradation worldwide, marked for example by the publication of the study of the Club of Rome in 1972, in which the long term effects of population growth, production growth, exploitation of mineral resources and pollution were combined in a number of future scenarios. In that same year, a UN Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm. At this occasion, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) was called into being. In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development (better known as the Brundtland Commission after its chairman) forwarded its report. The Commission advocated the need for the world to move toward sustainable development which was defined as: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The Commission also initiated the idea of holding a world conference in which both environmental and developmental problems would be addressed. In 1992, this UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro. A major parallel event, the Non Governmental Organization Forum (Global Forum) in which over 3,200 NGOs participated, also took place in Rio. It is in this context, that the WED approach took a firm shape.

Jackson notes that WED differs from earlier work in WID in the following ways: “It [WED] is not led by academics, it is very anecdotal ... and not concerned to establish clear evidence or strong arguments but it takes its position as self-evident and it is characterized by a strong presumption that women have an affinity with the environment” (1993, p.1948). Rural women are recognized as important victims of environmental degradation. The effects of deterioration hit women hardest: the subsistence of their families and households, for which they are held responsible, is endangered. As women develop new coping strategies to continue to carry out their survival tasks, their work load is often increased. Take the example of energy supplies. Seventy-five per cent of rural energy supplies (and 90% in Africa) comes from biomass such as fuelwood, crop residues and manure. Fuel collection, as long as it is not commercialized, is mainly a task for women, with some help from the children. As the ecological situation deteriorates because of deforestation, women have to spend more time and (human) energy collecting fuel. Depending on the ecological characteristics of the area in which they live, women may spend up to five hours a day on fuel collection (Dankelman & Davidson, 1987). New coping strategies, for example the use of alternative energy supplies such as dung and crop residues, can lead to further deterioration of the environmental situation by affecting the soil fertility. The poor in the South have no choice but to destroy their own environment: they are trapped in a vicious circle.

Apart from characterizing women as the main victims of environmental degradation, WED emphasizes the special bond that exists between women and the environment: women are seen as the privileged bearers of a special knowledge imported to them by nature. According to this view, women are assumed to be caring, nurturing and selfless beings committed to both future generations and the environment. Local women, as de facto environmental managers, have taken the lead in environmental protest actions. The Indian Chipko movement is one of the most quoted examples, as is the Kenyan Green Belt Movement. The WED approach is propagated by many NGOs, both Southern and Western based. Some key documents which demonstrate the features of WED thinking were produced at the NGO Forum of the 1985 UN Conference in Nairobi. Bottom-up, people-oriented development has to be stimulated in order to reach sustainable development,
and women, with their ‘healing hands’, are prominent actors in this matter, according to this way of thinking.

A more radical line of thought within WED is pursued by the ecofeminists who have attempted to integrate different factions of feminism as well as Southern critiques of these factions, spirituality, and the ecology movement. Ecofeminism encompasses an important criticism of the Western industrial growth model of development, which has dominated the global scene for so many years. It is felt that both women and the environment have suffered from the effects of the male-dominated growth model, and that an alternative path of development will have to be taken instead (Shiva, 1989). The concept of ecofeminism is based on the claim that there are connections between the oppression of nature and the oppression of women and that understanding these connections is necessary to understand the oppression of both. Feminist theory should include an ecological perspective, just as solutions to ecological problems must include a feminist perspective. This line of ecofeminism is pursued by the ‘Development with Women for a New Era’ (DAWN) network. This group of Southern-based female researchers, that first met in India in 1984, criticizes the Western development model from the experiences of poor women from the Third World. The group also criticizes the WID approach as being ‘paternalistic’. DAWN members formulated their own ideas regarding women's development within the framework of an alternative model of development, and presented these ideas at the UNCED Conference in 1992.

Gender and Development

In the past few years, the expression ‘women in development’ has gradually been replaced by the term ‘gender’ in the development literature. Instead of restricting itself to women only, a gender perspective takes into account the division of work and benefits between women and men: it aims for a conscious redistribution of these not only in productive activities but also within the household. Because men and women have different positions within the household and different control over resources, they do not only play different and changing roles in society, but also often have different needs. This role and need differentiation is the underlying rationale for gender analysis and planning, which has as its long term goal the emancipation of women. The GAD approach tries to counter the almost universal tendency to make the following generalized assumptions, which are far from confirmed by empirical reality:

1. the household consists of a nuclear family of husband, wife and two or three children;

2. the household functions as a socio-economic unit within which there is equal control over resources and power of decision making between all adult members in matters influencing the household's livelihood;

3. within the household there is a clear division of labour based on gender. The man of the family is primarily involved in productive work outside the home, while the woman takes overall responsibility for the reproductive and domestic work involved in the organization of the household.

Gender analysis helps to undermine this short-sightedness by differentiating between needs and interests of both men and women. With regard to the third assumption, for example, evidence shows that in most low-income households in the Third World, women have a triple role: their work does not only include reproductive work, the childbearing and rearing responsibilities, but also
productive work (secondary income earners) and community managing work, concerning the provision of items of collective consumption, undertaken in the local community in both urban and rural contexts (Moser, 1993). Although the tasks and responsibilities of women are not restricted to the reproductive sphere, their access to and control of resources such as land, trees, machines, credit etc., remains limited. Improving this access and control, which are now unequally divided between the sexes, concerns a strategic need of women, which can be identified by gender analysis.

Planning for low-income rural women in developing countries must be based on their interests, or, their prioritized concerns. Gender analysis tools are helpful instruments in identifying gender interests and needs. Gender analysis involves the collection of gender-disaggregated data, concerning:

- the physical location and type of economy
- the different groups within the community (class divisions, ethnic and/or religious minorities)
- age pyramids and other demographic data (family size, education level)
- living conditions and technology available
- the normal roles of men and women, children and old people as regards task distributions, including the hours worked by different family members on different tasks and distribution of these through out the day and year
- exceptions to the task distribution (in the case of widows, unmarried mothers and other female headed households)
- access to and control of resources (land, money, credit, machines etc.)
- legal and actual land holding situation
- rights to use communal or state land and forests
- financial situation
- household budget data
- membership of community organizations
- existence of women’s groups
- observations on general problems facing the community
- observations on general problems facing women
- observations on gender behaviour in general

and, in the case of energy interventions:

- types of fuel used for different activities, users and suppliers of fuel.

Now that we have gained some insight into the various approaches to the subject of women/gender and development, let us consider the implications of these different ways of thinking for interventions (projects and programmes) in the energy sector.

**Gender and Energy**

The oil crisis in the early seventies ushered in an era of higher energy costs. This, and the rising awareness that energy sources are exhaustible, underlined the need for more globalised energy planning. For developing countries, the picture was gloomy. These countries, including many oil exporters, would need ever larger amounts of energy in the future owing to increasing population growth, urbanisation and industrialisation. In 1983 the World Bank estimated that developing
Deforestation and desertification are among the most serious consequences of this reliance on ‘free’ biomass fuels¹. And agricultural productivity often falls since the growing use of tree, crop and animal residues decreases the soil fertility. Both crop yields and the capacity to support livestock are reduced. Men are forced to leave the land in search of seasonal work or work in the towns. These ‘environmental refugees’ swell urban populations and intensify the pressure on rural food and biomass resources. The ‘rural energy crisis’ hits women hardest (Agarwal, 1986). Women are largely responsible for subsistence food production and must increase their own labour input as productivity decreases. Time and effort spent on collecting fuel and water, two traditional tasks of women, increase. According to Cecelski: "Women have little choice but to work more, ... cut down on family living standards and try to squeeze more output and income out of the land, thereby contributing to the destruction of the ecological base—a vicious circle" (1987, p.42).

The energy crisis of biomass fuels in addition to the energy crisis of fossil fuels is now commonly understood. However, the incorporation of gender issues into the energy sector has not proceeded far as yet. The vast bulk of energy assistance goes to the formal sector. Over 50% of the DAC² energy budget is spent on conventional power projects including thermal plants and hydro-electricity. For the World Bank, this figure is 80% (Skutsch, 1994a). Although ‘sustainable development’ has been adopted as an overriding goal by donor agencies, this has not led to a major shift in their energy policies towards relieving the daily energy problems of rural women. In accordance with Agenda 21, more emphasis is given to the choice of (cleaner) technology in new power plants, to upgrading technology in old plants and to building up energy institutions. Most new elements in the policy primarily concern the building of planning and management capacity in the energy sector of the recipient countries, but the development of new and/or renewable energy sources, although it certainly falls under the general umbrella of the new environmental aims, still receives a very small proportion of energy spending.

To support rural people in their daily struggles and to come to terms with the increasing shortage of wood energy, donor agencies have developed several strategies, which however take up a minor part of the energy budget³. Women have become the main target group for wood-saving stove

¹ Note that woodfuel gathering can not on its own be said to have had a major impact on deforestation in most places: agricultural clearance for cultivation coupled with grazing is today believed to be the main threat to forest.

² DAC is the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD countries.

³ Programmes for household cooking technologies and other small scale alternative energy devices are supported by a large number of donors but their share in overall energy spending is very small, less than 2% of the DAC energy budget in the period 1979-1982 (Skutsch, 1994b).
programmes and eventually also of rural afforestation programmes. Donors however tend to define the subject of ‘women and energy’ as ‘women and firewood’: no attempt is made to look into other energy end uses apart from cooking and other household activities. There is also a large group of energy end uses which do not involve fuel but human energy (the larger part of which is women's energy) in exhausting physical tasks. These include, for example: the drudgery involved in fetching fuel and water, the transport of which mostly takes place away from the recognized transport network; the increase in female agricultural labour as a result of male migration and food processing (grinding grain). Cecelski (1992) concludes that one of the most damaging concepts in conventional energy studies is the exclusion of metabolic human (and animal) energy from consideration. Since the human energy provided by women to carry out their traditional tasks is left out of donor considerations, most of women’s activities are not energy sector concerns. If the energy end uses mentioned above were taken into account, other types of projects would be identified (a technical intervention to reduce drudgery could then be considered as an energy project).
Bibliography

WED


Ecofeminism

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GAD


Hombergh, H., vd, *Gender, Environment and Development*, 1993

Gender and Energy


Groen, B. & C. Huizinga, Have Planners Understood The Poor People's Energy Problem? Social-Economic Aspects of Energy Technologies, a literature review, TDG, University of Twente, 1987


Skutsch, M., Gender in Energy: How Some Major Donors See It, TDG, University of Twente, 1994a

Skutsch, M., Integrating Women in Energy Assistance: Which Way Forward?, TDG, University of Twente, 1994b
Annex 1: Exercise on Gender, Development and Energy

Notes

The purpose of this exercise is to help the participants become more aware of the underlying aim and effects of projects which are designed to help women: to distinguish those that have a charitable or welfare mission, but which are not really aiming to change the basic conditions under which women live, from those which are striving to emancipate women from subordination.

This is of course a sensitive subject and many participants may have strong views either in favour of, or against emancipation. The trainer must not take sides here and try to promote the virtues of one approach versus another: he/she must remain as neutral as possible, trying to explain that the different positions are all reasonable ones, and that they depend on underlying values and norms. The trainer may find it difficult to conceal his/her own personal values and norms, but must try very hard to do this. The purpose of the lecture and the exercise is not to preach but to demonstrate to the participants that many different approaches are possible, and that every project carries (often implicit, unstated) assumptions about what the underlying values and norms are.

Allow at least half an hour for the participants to complete the table, working in pairs. Examples of answers which might be given are provided overleaf, but the participants may name many specific projects with which they are familiar. In presenting the answers in plenary session you may need to allow time for participants to explain briefly the nature of such projects for the benefit of the other participants.

The role of the trainer in the plenary session is to question the answers provided, to play the role of ‘Doubting Thomas’. For example, if a participant claims that a certain stove building project, carried out by an NGO, was intended to emancipate women because it reduced the amount of smoke in combustion, the trainer should say: “Now, I agree with you that it is an excellent thing to reduce smoke. Many women suffer enormously from smoke pollution, and three times a day at that! But does removal of smoke from the kitchen really emancipate women as such?”—and he/she should appeal to the whole group for comments on this, so that discussion may ensue. It may be that the participant who proposed the project may go on to justify his/her point, for example by saying that the real purpose of the stove project was to create jobs for poor women and make them into ‘professional’ stove builders, with an income of their own and much more freedom of movement than they formerly had—or another participant may mention such a project with which he/she is familiar elsewhere. Encourage such debate and try always to highlight the contrasts in aims between projects which on the surface may seem to be similar.

Introduction

Many energy projects have a ‘women's’ component, or at least ‘helping women’ is mentioned as a specific goal. During the lecture it was pointed out that there have been many different approaches to women or to gender in development, which have rather different underlying philosophies and aims. This is reflected in the choices made at project level in a sector such as energy. A project which provides free improved cooking stoves to women is based on a very different philosophy about women and their needs than one which gives a women's group land so that they can cultivate trees, for example, although superficially the idea may be to save natural forest resources in both cases.
On the attached pages you will find a table in which the different stages in thought about women (or gender) development are presented. They are shown roughly in the chronological order in which they were developed, but it was never the case that one approach displaced another and there are examples of most types to be found in projects operating today. In the second column, examples are given of the types of rural development projects typically implemented under each of these approaches. The third column is blank. The idea is to fill it with projects in the energy sector which might be considered for each of the approaches. This might be actual projects with which you are familiar, or it might be general types of projects.

This course is primarily concerned with wood and biomass energy, but you may want to add projects which deal with other forms of energy, particularly if one of the aims of such projects is to reduce dependence on wood and other biomass resources.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Typical projects</th>
<th>Typical energy projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Approach</td>
<td>Programmes aimed at practical needs, targeted especially to ‘needy’ women, who are seen as passive recipients (charitable approach)</td>
<td>Interventions for traditional female domestic roles and tasks:</td>
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<td>Equity Approach</td>
<td>This was essentially a political movement, stimulated mainly by developments in the USA in the 1970s (anti-discrimination in job opportunities, equal pay for equal work etc). It is based on the idea that women should participate equally with men in everything, thus they should be ‘mainstreamed’ in all projects. Also, the equity principle stresses the need to meet women’s strategic needs as well as their practical ones.</td>
<td>There have been very few projects or programmes which aim at equity. There are however policies such as compulsory education for girls as well as boys, abolition of dowry, equal right of inheritance which are equity based, but these may be difficult to implement in local situations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Needs Approach</td>
<td>Projects and programmes targeted to meet practical needs, on the basis that women need to have their basic living requirements fulfilled before they can participate in development activities</td>
<td>! Mother-and-child-care programmes</td>
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| Efficiency   | Projects and programmes both mainstreaming or integrating women into general projects, and special projects targeted only to women. The purpose is not specially to benefit women, but to involve them because unless women are involved, the projects designed for general community benefit are likely to fail. | ! Agricultural extension directly addressed to female members of households (as well as males)  
|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ! Projects to support subsistence food cropping as well as cash crops                                                                                                      |                        |
| Empowerment  | Policies and programmes to meet strategic needs, which is to say education, legal and political rights, and women's use of these; also mobility, and the self-confidence of women. | Most interventions for empowerment have been at the policy level rather than at project level.  
|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ! Land rights and inheritance  
|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ! Rights for widows and divorcees  
<p>|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ! Quota systems for political committees and university entrance                                                                                                         |                        |
|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Often the law is far in advance of the actual practice, because of conservative attitudes locally.                                                                                               |                        |</p>
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<tr>
<td>Autonomy</td>
<td>The aim is to give women much more freedom and independance in all walks of life. Thus the autonomy approach is an extension of the empowerment idea, but in adopting it, a sponsor is saying that all programmes and projects, for all aspects of development, must pass certain equity/independence criteria, and none must worsen the position of women in the social, economic or physical spheres.</td>
<td>Projects are similar to those under empowerment, i.e. aiming to meet strategic needs of women. Officially, all projects of all types should be scrutinised to make sure that they do not involve a worsening of women's position.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED</td>
<td>Women have a special relationship with the environment, which is very different from men's, and more 'sustainable'. Programmes and projects should use their special skills and indigenous knowledge about the natural environment. In doing this, a better overall outcome can be attained, in addition to catering to the special needs of women.</td>
<td>Support to development should be directed through existing women's organizations</td>
<td>Support to programmes in which women are seen as the ones primarily responsible for environmental protection</td>
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<td>Support to programmes in which women are seen as the ones primarily responsible for environmental protection</td>
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<td>The need for gender-sensitive data is increasingly being recognized, i.e. use of and access to resources needs to be carefully analyzed both at inter and at intra-household level. Such data is required in the project proposals approval process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecofeminism</td>
<td>Conventional development is bad for the environment and bad for women. Ecofeminism rejects the goal of economic growth, and proposes instead that women will manage the environment for subsistence, resulting in sustainability.</td>
<td>There are few operational projects of this kind, but the idea is to empower women to manage the natural resources, which will result in sufficiency in subsistence requirements, low consumption levels, low growth rate, and ecological balance.</td>
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<td>GAD/GED Approach</td>
<td>It is recognised that it is useless to tackle problems of women without seeing them in their context: that of division of work, access and power between men and women. The whole system needs to be dealt with, not just the woman's part. The subordination of women to men is generally the key; there is a need to clearly establish how and why access to and use of resources, and tasks, are divided M/F.</td>
<td>! Use of gender analysis rather than emphasis just on women's role, when assessing projects: in using gender-disaggregated data the aim is not just to describe the situation (data analysis) but to explain it ! Designing gender sensitive projects does not mean that special projects need to be set up but that all projects need to consider their gender aspects.</td>
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Annex 2: Notes on Different Approaches

Welfare approach

Interventions for traditional female domestic tasks, with the aim to reduce drudgery, are often based on simplistic assumptions, such as:

- improved stoves will result in reduced fuelwood collection
- improved stoves will alleviate smoke problems and improve women’s health.

Equity approach

- This has not generally been addressed at project level: it could mean measures to ensure men do an equal share of fuel gathering/providing, raising men’s awareness of the firewood problem
- It is often interpreted in terms of getting more women onto programmes aimed at men, rather than changing programmes appropriately. Therefore, it could include projects in which positive discrimination is used to ensure that women get their share of the same benefits that men are getting.

Basic needs approach

- This includes community or individual woodlot projects with the simple aim of increasing the supply of firewood; also, agroforestry projects which aim for multi-products (fruit, fodder, fuel etc), intended primarily for home consumption and not for the market.

Efficiency approach

- Projects in which it is recognised that women need to be directly involved, e.g. in stove design and in tree planting. The rationale for this approach is that men don’t understand women’s needs and priorities as regards cooking, and men use trees for other purposes (commercial), which is often the reason that fuelwood projects ‘fail’. Some deliberate integration of women into ongoing social forestry projects has been introduced in places, and a few special women’s tree planting projects have been started. Gradually women’s views have been accommodated in stove design, with resulting success. Participants may have good examples of this. Note: the efficiency approach may also include some stove programmes, but the ‘efficient stove’ is not what is meant by efficiency in the sense under discussion! We are talking about the efficiency by which the project meets its goals, not the efficiency of the technology itself!

Empowerment

- It has been recognised that until women get land rights their access to fuel will be vulnerable; there has been some discussion in the forestry sector but the energy sector has not pursued this line very far.
- It would involve policy for giving land titles to women separately from men: changing inheritance practices, divorce settlement practices etc.
- It generally also supports women’s education in technology and positive discrimination in job allocation in energy institutions.
Autonomy

It is not applied widely in the energy sector yet
Madhu Sarin’s women’s stove building programmes (main aim: employment of low-caste women, to give them a profession as stove builders with independent income and a measure of freedom to travel) falls into this category
It also means applying criteria of gender fairness to all projects which a department handles (forerunner of the gender approach), rather than setting up ‘gender friendly’ projects as such. Participants may be able to cite cases where this is done, but they must show that it is done in a formal way, not just ad hoc.

Women, environment and development (WED) approach

Support in energy should be directed through existing women’s organizations—this is a basic principle of WED.
It supports programmes in which women are seen as the ones primarily responsible for environmental protection
The need for gender-sensitive data is increasingly being recognised, i.e. use of and access to energy sources need to be carefully analysed both at inter and at intra-household level. Up till now most practitioners have worked with gross generalisations about the roles of men and women as regards energy
Some case studies are available but there is an urgent need for more, and for training in how to do case studies

Ecofeminism approach

Energy technologies are all basically bad and come with a false type of development as regards women. Particularly large scale e.g. power plants or hi-tech e.g. solar but also tree planting schemes which are unnatural and do more damage than good, playing into the hands of commercialisation
Empower women to manage the natural resources, which will result in sufficiency in subsistence requirements including firewood, low consumption levels, low economic growth rate

Gender (GAD or GED) approach

Use gender analysis rather than emphasis just on women’s role, when assessing projects: gender-disaggregated data. Aim not just to describe situation (data analysis) but to explain it
No clear implementation strategies as regards energy have emerged
One could expect a movement towards provision of technologies to replace women’s energy in tasks other than cooking (e.g. porterage and food preparation), and for income generating activities outside the house, but this has not been forthcoming yet
One could expect analysis of impacts of e.g. electrification, on men and women in rural areas but this has not yet been forthcoming
As in WED, there have been statements to support to women’s groups to access/manage natural resources and/or obtain more legal rights over privatised land, but few actual examples: active seeking out of women’s voices in project preparation has been called for (again!) but rarely actually done
Support to technical education and placement of women in relevant planning sectors is needed but also major attitudinal shift in existing staff. One cannot assume that women are natural experts on gender, or that they have other women's interests at heart. This mistake is made far too often.