

Gender and Social Inclusion in Mini-grid Systems in Nepal: Approach and Challenges



Suman Subba
Nepal Resident Mission
ADB

Policy and Directives

- Social Mobilization Guidelines 2013
- *Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming Plan* under National Rural and Renewable Energy Program (NRREP)
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Audit Guideline 2014
- Subsidy Policy for Renewal Energy 2013
- Rural Energy Subsidy Delivery Mechanism 2013

Approaches

- Affirmative actions and positive discrimination
 - Subsidies and credit facilities to single women headed households, indigenous and marginalized groups
 - *Quota in decision making committees*
- GESI sensitive community consultations and mobilization



'System' Challenges

- Demand driven approach is not favoring poor and excluded due to limited access to information and low education - *increasing elite control excluding others*
- Poor losing out on if access to electricity is contingent on the ability to access or pay for it – *cash or labour contribution*

'System' Challenges

- Engagement of women and excluded in consultations and representation in committee decline in bigger management and governance structure – *increased elite control and political influence in mini grid management committee lowered women's representation while integrating from MHP*



'System' Challenges

- Distribution system favored small enterprises mostly led by men and well off reducing energy supply to micro enterprises where majority women and poor were involved - *existing inequities determine the ability to benefit from energy*

'System' Challenges

- Preference for energy access is to reduce drudgery and better economic benefit – *how to balance between different gendered needs and interests*



Thank You

