



Some Key Principles and Policy Actions for Making Ujjwala More Responsive to the Needs of People

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Feminist political economy analysis shows that a gender responsive approach provides greater empowerment to women and girls than traditional approaches in the energy sector. While policy for energy access may include gender considerations at macro level, the outcomes at micro level are often diminished by socio-economic norms.

Our research of Ujjwala programme shows that organizations of rural women as active agents (such as in self-help-groups in agriculture and allied enterprises) leads to greater use by women of productive resources, including clean cooking energy and the appliances based on modern energy services.

*“We can buy LPG with our own money.
We will never go back to cooking with wood.”*

A statement from rural woman engaged in

agricultural and allied enterprises in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

The key messages are:

- Women’s unmediated control over their earnings and productive assets, as well as the valuation of women’s labor are needed for subsidized LPG programme, such as women specific Ujjwala scheme, to result in fuel switching to clean cooking fuel.
- The importance of women’s agency through income earning with greater control over earnings, and ownership of land are key to bring about change in energy transition and change in patriarch social norms.
- It is necessary to assess the impact of energy interventions on a vector of gender inequality, which may require addressing the influence of gendered norms in policy and practice.

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