

Sustainable Energy Access in India

- Enabling Factors

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Context

In Pursuit of a Light Bulb and a Smokeless Kitchen

- Energy access by low-capacity end-users (underserved and unserved); emphasis on inter and intra-household dynamics
- Longitudinal Analysis of role of energy sector policies between 1950-2010 in improving energy access in India
- Understanding the inter-linkages between contextual influences affecting energy access by low-capacity end-users
- Delivery pathways and mechanisms (formal and informal) for providing energy access
- Enabling factors critical for enhancing energy access

Assessment of Policies for Energy Access

- Policies have addressed energy access through programmes and budgets, *but not sufficiently* to create universal access
 - Top-down, target oriented and driven by 'numbers'
 - Different motives and drivers shaped energy policies for addressing energy poverty - investment in building infrastructure, populist measures through subsidies and entitlements
 - Impact of policy reforms on energy access by poor less understood
 - Implementation oblivious to local conditions and lack flexibility to address local contextual influences
 - Not take into account development and presence of informal delivery mechanisms; which are actually enabling access

Reflections from Field

- Despite intentions of 'equity' central to policy and programmes, large numbers of unserved population remain
 - Limited access is a function of multiple contextual influences and problems associated with delivery pathways
- Availability has improved, however, access to modern energy carriers remains limited
 - Constant 'backward' and 'forward' shifts between modern and traditional energy carriers; especially with cooking energy
- Grid extension will not reach many people in short and medium time frame; even if it reaches there will be huge uncertainties in electricity supply
- Clean and advanced cooking solutions remain out of reach of the majority of low capacity end-users

Enabling Factors

The principal challenge is to do a lot more, a lot faster

- Not just new policies and regulations; but change in approach and mindset (of policy makers and end-users)
 - Do away with distinction between grid and off-grid?
 - Changes needed to integrate off-grid at distribution utility level?
 - Can we make subsidies only for poor households?
- Reducing implementation uncertainties by strengthening local organisations and policy instruments that enables energy access
 - Integrating intra-household dynamics in designing energy access? (extremely relevant from health and cooking)
- Local organisations as service providers:
 - Possible to involve PRIs as 'innovative model' by providing them technical and management capacity and skills for effective supply chain management?

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Longitudinal Analysis of Role of Energy
Sector Policies to Alleviate Rural Energy
Poverty in India

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Thank You for your kind attention

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