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Subregional Conference - Going Beyond the Meter
Inclusive Energy Solutions in South Asia

11-12 April 2016 • Hotel Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Gender Responsive Policies and Practices: Emerging Trends

Soma Dutta

SESSION 2: GESI enabling policy, regulatory and institutional environments

ENERGIA
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON
GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

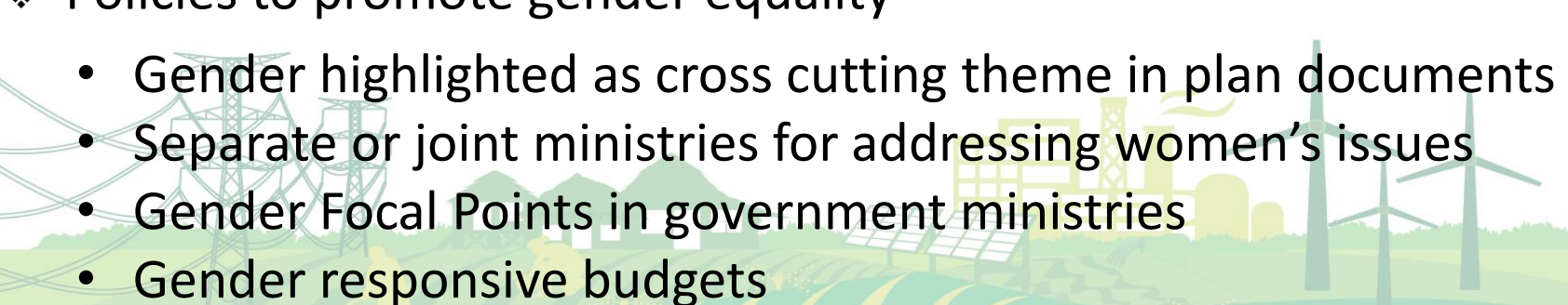
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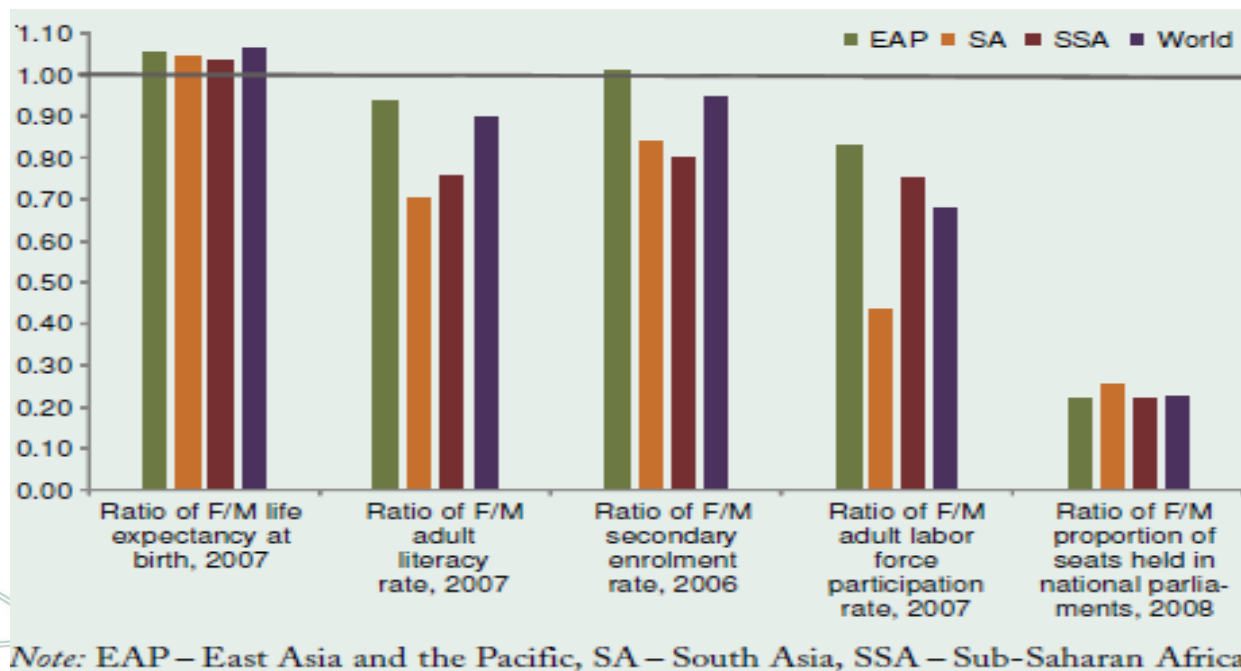
Japan
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South Asian countries have established frameworks for women's rights and gender equality

- ❖ Political, legal and institutional frameworks for gender equality are in place
 - ❖ Constitutions guarantee equal rights to women, without discrimination
 - ❖ Policies to promote gender equality
 - Gender highlighted as cross cutting theme in plan documents
 - Separate or joint ministries for addressing women's issues
 - Gender Focal Points in government ministries
 - Gender responsive budgets
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In spite of this, gender gaps persist....



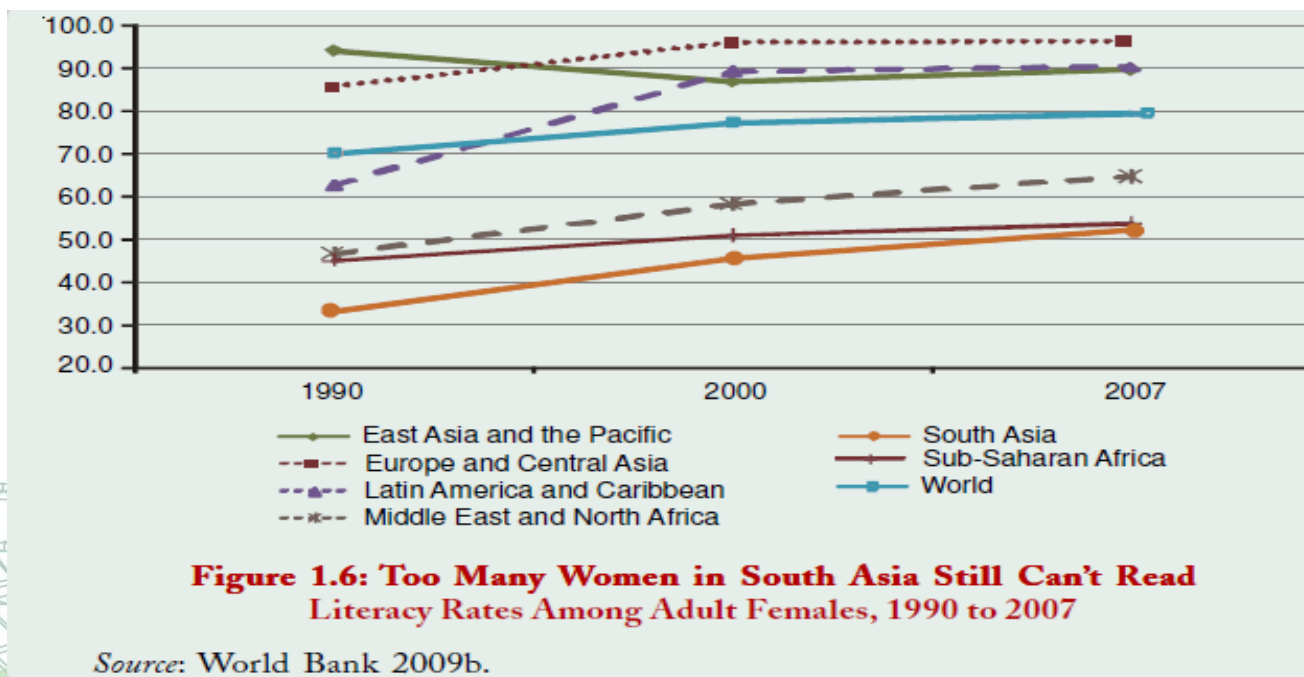
EAP: East Asia and Pacific

SA: South Asia

SSA: Sub Saharan Africa

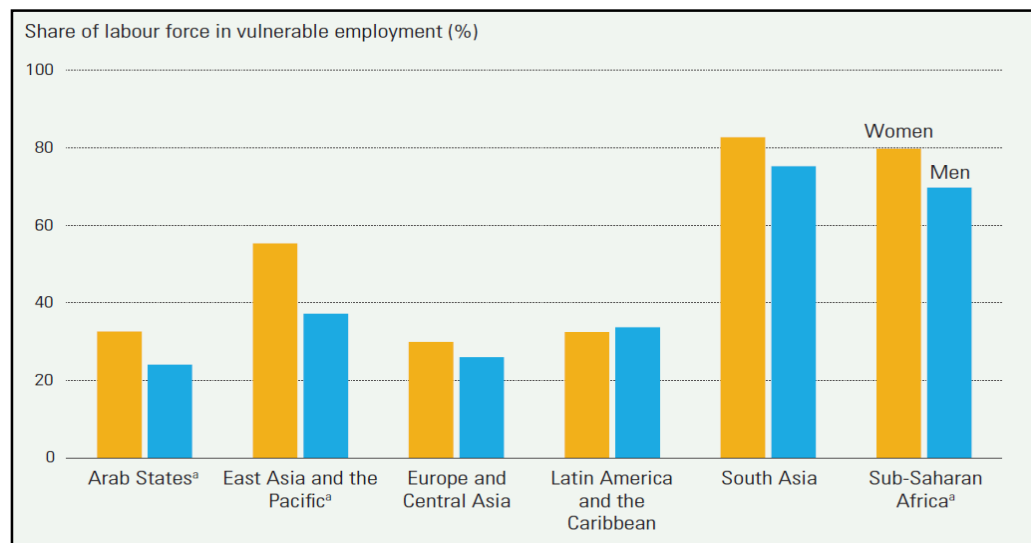
Key gender equality indicators

The gender gap in literacy begins in the 10-14 yr age group and widens with age



In South Asia women are engaged mainly in the informal sector. Agriculture accounts for more than 60 percent of female employment

| | Labour force participation rate, 1990 (15 plus population) | | Labour force participation rate, 2011 (15 plus population) | |
|------------|--|--------|--|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Bangladesh | 88 | 62 | 84 | 57 |
| Bhutan | 78 | 50 | 77 | 66 |
| India | 85 | 35 | 81 | 29 |
| Maldives | 77 | 20 | 77 | 56 |
| Nepal | 91 | 80 | 65 | 55 |
| Sri Lanka | 78 | 36 | 77 | 35 |



Labour force participation rate in South Asia

Share of labour force in vulnerable employment (%)

Gender in energy sector policies in South Asia: Key issues

- Existing energy use pattern in South Asia has disproportionate negative impacts on women

| | Rural | Urban | Total |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bangladesh | 95 | 63 | 91 |
| Bhutan | 55 | <5 | 40 |
| India | 86 | 23 | 58 |
| Maldives | 9 | <5 | 8 |
| Nepal | 90 | 33 | 82 |
| Sri Lanka | 85 | 34 | 75 |

In 2010, clean cooking solutions covered less than 30% of population in South Asia

Reliance on biomass fuels (percentage of population, 2010)

- National development goals and policies highlight 'inclusive' development provide an opportunity for gender work
- Energy sector policies and programme documents silent on gender: focus on 'people', unless specific women-only programmes

Gender in energy sector policies in South Asia: Key issues

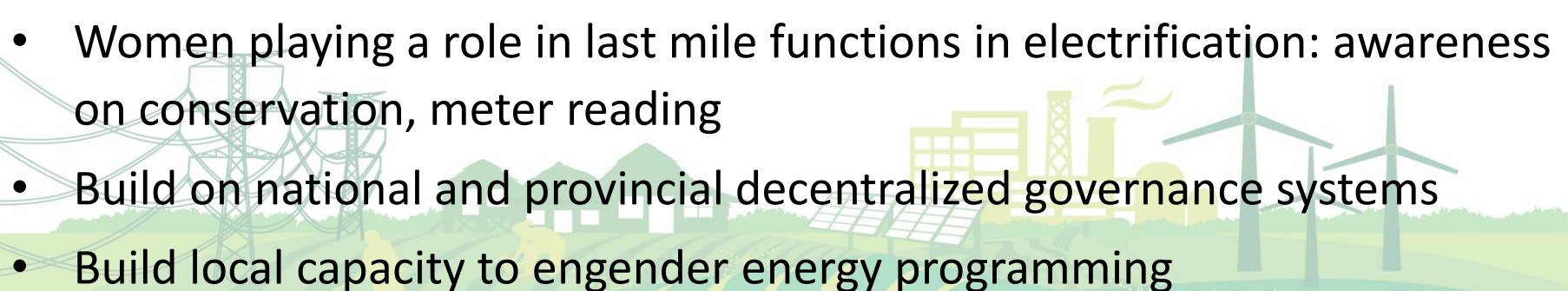
- Less access to productive resources and financial capacity:
Women are not always able to benefit from energy investments
- Women's 'unrecognized' involvement in the non-commercial (and non- monetized) energy sector
- Lack of women's engagement in formal system of engagement and consultations/ low representation in decision making bodies
- Electricity services not always responsive to women specific needs: low-cost domestic appliances, powering wells, labour saving technologies for agricultural production and post-production



Way ahead: Maximize benefits from energy interventions

- Energy **solutions** to ease women's work burden and improve access to health services and education
 - Water pumping
 - Labour saving appliances
 - Electricity for community health
- Promote use of energy for productive purposes for women
- Provide women with energy-related information and training
- Ensure participation of women in energy planning and decision making
- Target both genders in the social mediation processes in rural electrification (outreach/ communication etc)

Way ahead: Improve policy development and programme processes

- Establish gender-sensitive targets and indicators for energy programmes
 - Integrate gender in on-going processes: Explicit objectives for women's energy access, participation and labour mobilization in energy infrastructure programme documents
 - Energy sector projects to track participation of and benefits to women and disadvantaged groups
 - Women playing a role in last mile functions in electrification: awareness on conservation, meter reading
 - Build on national and provincial decentralized governance systems
 - Build local capacity to engender energy programming
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