

National Policies in the Energy Sector and Their Gender Features

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The government's commitment to gender equity issues has been reflected in various policies of the country and being a signatory to many relevant international treaties.

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Bangladesh is a signatory to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which recognizes the importance of involving women and men equally in the treaty's processes and in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are gender-responsive.
- The government has endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which Goal 7 is to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”
- However, gender and energy issues have not received due recognition or been articulated in many of the relevant policies.



National Policies on Gender

- **Bangladesh Constitution**
- **National Policy of Women's Advancement**
- **National Plan of Action for Women's Advancement**
- **Seventh Five Year Plan (first introduced in Fourth Five Year Plan)**



Important Policies and Documents in Energy Sector and gender Considerations

Main Policy or Documents in Energy Sector	Directly Addresses Women's Energy Needs
National Energy Policy 2004	Yes. The importance of provision for cooking energy is highlighted.
Renewable Energy Policy 2008	Yes. The policy supports development of cooking fuels or technologies like biogas, improved cookstoves, solar electrification systems for households and community use, and other renewable energy technologies, which are to directly benefit women in their day-to-day activities.
Action Plan for Energy Efficiency and Conservation, 2013	Yes. All the sections take into consideration the impact of improved energy efficiency at the household level and the need for taking actions for raising awareness.
Country Action Plan for Clean Cookstoves, 2013	Yes. It attaches priority to reduced household air pollution, improved maternal and child health, women's economic empowerment through participation in cookstove-related entrepreneurship.
500 MW Solar Program, 2013	Yes. Solar electrification in unelectrified areas will enhance the quality of life of the population and reduce drudgery for women.



- Policy targets have also been set for promoting renewable energy development that benefit women from 2015 to 2021.
 - The significant experience in developing renewable energy projects is now being expanded in other off-grid technologies like solar mini-grids and solar irrigation pumps.
 - Grid-connected technologies being planned for investment include utility-scale solar, wind, and waste to-energy,
 - Such programs can provide scope for women's involvement both as users and service providers.

