



Effectiveness of Gender Equality in Renewable Energy Policy Communication Campaigns for Sustainable Development in Africa

Authors: Wilson Okaka ¹, Judith Irene Nagasha ²
Kyambogo University, Kyambogo, Kampala, Uganda

¹ Tel: +256 782588846, Email: nupap@yahoo.com

² Tel: +256 782 321113, Email: judith.nagasha@gmail.com



Issues, motivation

- Public awareness communication campaign provides effective information services for gender equality for empowerment of women in renewable energy use for sustainable development achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs 5, 7) in Africa.
- Green technologies or renewable energy technologies (RETs) provide multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits, if adopted for various uses in domestic (household), trade & industry, food and agriculture, institution, community, transport & communication, real estates, and government buildings.
- Biomass energy provide the bulk of energy applications in most Africa constituting up to 80 -90% of household energy use for cooking, heating, or drying, traditionally dominated by women.

Africa's RES and RET Sources

- **RES:** Animate or muscle power: people & draught animals;
- Biomass sources: charcoal, fire wood, briquettes/pellets;
- Solar (sunshine / radiation); Wind / moving air;
- Water / hydro: river, lake, dam, ocean, sea, water fall, stream
- Vegetables / plants / peat ; Geothermal / hot steam;
- Waste / garbage (solid, liquid, gas, electronic, radiation)
- **RET:** Wood / biomass stove, wood electro - gasifier, kiln, furnace, pellet-making machine;
- Solar water heater, PV system, solar cooker, solar system;
- Turbines (water, gas, steam, wind), propellers, press, plant;
- Digester / plant (biogas),

Problem Statement

- Africa is well endowed with a variety of vast amounts of renewable energy resources which have largely remained untapped or unexploited for its key social, economic, environmental, legal, & political needs or interest due to vital information & knowledge gaps.
- Africa is afflicted by natural energy resource curse.
- Most renewable energy technologies, policies, plans, programs, projects, research & development activities are generally less competitive in Africa.
- Although gender equality is vital, it is still wanting.

Methods

- This review was conducted sourcing government documents, current literature, and news bulletins.
- In this review, we collated published evidence on the importance of women and girls in enhancing the development of green technology applications and the role of behaviour change communication campaigns to promote gender equality practice in tandem with SDG on access to clean energy for all.
- Additional data were obtained from key informants, UN & other development agencies, & private sector.

Results & Discussion 1/2

- Renewable energy (RE) is critical for household, institutional, commercial, industrial, and sub-regional energy needs.
- Awareness and knowledge of prospects of RE resources & innovations, exploitations, research, challenges and benefits of RE technology (RET) is still very limited to public domain.
- RE sources (RES) are more accessible, clean, sustainable, indigenous, local, marketable, job creators, viable, diverse, researchable, exploitable, suitable for gender parity, & health.
- South-South-North collaborations, public private partnerships for joint-ventures, innovations, information services, media coverage, **gender equality**, & policy gaps need to be plugged.

Results & Discussion 2/2

- Social issues to be resolved:** illiteracy, poverty, gender inequality and violence against women / girls, illnesses and diseases, food security, water stress, information services including access to internet, cultural violence and related negative cultural practices, game poaching, conflict resolutions and management, adult education, gender equality/equity;
- Economic issues to tackle:** mass income poverty, poor infrastructure, land access, unemployment of youth and women including house wives, poor agricultural practices / low productivity, slow tourism growth, small or medium enterprises (SMEs); trade competitiveness, power supply;
- Environmental concerns:** wild fires, illiteracy, conflicting policies and laws, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, poor waste management, indoor pollution; climate change and variability, wetlands and land degradation.
- Political issues:** good governance, zero-tolerance to corruption, rule of law.

Conclusions

- Exploiting renewable energy is imperative for critical real social, economic, environmental, & political development.
- Effective communication campaigns based on gender parity will help to and mobilise all the RES / RET stakeholders.
- The media have a social responsibility to: promote media awareness advocacy campaigns, provide extensive coverage of geothermal energy policy and technology outputs, hold the key national or sub-regional stakeholders to account for the persistent energy crisis amidst abundant endowments in Africa, host talk shows on radio or TV to promote awareness, explain the socio-economic or environment gains, & mainstream green into regular news.

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African Union

Thank You. God bless Africa and the world.

