

OECD Gender, energy use and policy June 4th 2009

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Research studies on gender and energy use

- Rather few studies on gender and energy use (Roehr, 2001)
- The OECD study by Dalen and Halvorsen is an important contribution (cross country, large sample)

Outline of the presentation

- Some reflections upon the OECD paper
- Examples of studies on gender and energy use funded by the Swedish Energy Agency
- Discussion on policy measures based on the particular findings within gender and energy use

The OECD study

The study confirms some earlier findings

- Gender patterns of transport
- Women tend to undertake more energy saving measures than men
- Women tend to be more concerned with climate issues than men

Some reflections upon methodology

- How is gender and cultural differences working here?
- The negotiations among household members are important aspects of behavioural patterns on energy use (single households?)

Examples of Swedish studies on gender and energy use

- Energy use within single households (Carlsson-Kanyama et al:2008).
- Gender patterns in activities within the household (Nordell:2003)
- Energy use patterns negotiated by household members (Ellegård, Karlsson & Widén, 2008).

Gender and energy use

- Men use considerably more energy on transport than women do. Men use more money to buy cars, and they drive more (therefore they also use more fuel)
- Women use more energy on buying clothes
- Men use almost double the energy on eating outside the house, alcohol and tobacco as do women

Gender patterns in activities

- Women spend more time in the home and less time than men on work
- Women spend more time on household activities (cooking, cleaning, washing and so forth)
- Men spend their time on more seldom occurring activities (outside activities)
- Men (in all generations) spend more time on information and entertainment (such as watching TV)
- Men spend more time using cars
- Results from this study show that the gender patterns are constructed early since these patterns are obvious in the age of 10-15 years old children

Gender aspects in household members' energy use

- Appliance use; when, where, by whom and for what reasons
- Overall the study points out that an **individualisation** trend is ongoing (household members cook meals after each other, and watch television in different rooms for example)
- Serial and parallel energy use (after one another and at the same time with different appliances).
- Women spend more time on cooking and cleaning.
- Men spend more time on information and entertainment.
- Generation aspects: Youths spend sometimes even more time than adults on information and entertainment. Youths contribute to increased appliances use connected to entertainment and information. (Longterm parallel collective use)

Translating knowledge of gender patterns into policy??

- Men buy and use cars to a larger extent than women
- Men (and children/youths) use information and entertainment related appliances to a larger extent than women
- Women use more time on cooking and washing
- **How do we use these results without reproducing gender patterns?**
- **Risk for conflicts between for example equality policys and energy efficiency policys?**