EPIRA and the Filipino Women:
The Dynamics of Women’s Reproductive Work
in the context of EPIRA

In partial fulfillment of the requirements on Political Science 198 Special Problems in
Political Science under Dr. Jinky Leilanie del Prado Lu

Maria Karisa Joy C. Leonidas
2008-66598
ABSTRACT

EPIRA was the law that unleashed the “real cost of electricity”. As such, the subsequent years of the implementation of this policy witnessed rise in electricity rates. In the Philippines, this raise in rates affects the limited budget of families, especially, those in the urban poor. Women being the primary household production workers are also the primary and largest end-user of electricity. As such, they are rendered the most vulnerable to the impacts of high electricity rates. With the limited access to electricity, women members of the family, particularly mothers, experience dual burden. This is because they perform both productive and reproductive works for the family. The productive work is classified as the work done by mothers, which directly earn income. On the other hand, reproductive work or women’s work are those unpaid works performed by mothers.
I. INTRODUCTION

News about the Philippines being one of the countries having the highest electricity rate is alarming yet there have been news reports that new petitions for rate hikes are being negotiated (Freedom from Debt Coalition, 2011). This presents an irony considering that the Philippines has a law that was aimed at bringing down electricity rates and achieving greater efficiency.

This year is EPIRA’s 11th year of implementation; it is thus, interesting to know the background of how and why EPIRA was crafted and implemented, what its impact to electricity rates is and how women member of the family carry out household production activities in such a context. These household production activities we refer to in this paper as women’s reproductive work. In contrast women’s productive work, as used in this paper, refers to the work performed by women, which directly earn income. On the other hand, women’s reproductive works are those tasks carried out by women in the households, which are unpaid.

Electricity is established in this paper as an important factor in the development. It is necessary to both the business sector and the household. The business sector represents the macro level while the households represent the micro. As such, they are both affected by the reforms implemented in the power sector.

This paper first looked at the situation of the power sector before the implementation of EPIRA. It searched for the main or the triggering event that lead to the government resorting to the privatization of the assets of the NPC. The ballooning debt of the NPC was pointed out to be the main reason. The government admitted that the NPC could no longer sustain the operation and maintenance of its assets. In the
data presentation is enumerated the various factors that lead to NPC to face problems. It included evaluation of the government on the 10-year implementation of EPIRA. Contending views of the government and the private sector were also presented in tables.

The most important part of the paper discussed the actual experiences of women who shoulder the burden of high electricity rate. Their responses were presented their experiences were enumerated. Data show that mothers in informal settlements prioritize electricity over budget for food and education. The data analysis and the conclusion further established why women are the most vulnerable in the vulnerable sector.
II. OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Last year marked the 10th year of the implementation of EPIRA. Non-government organizations pursuing women’s welfare call for the review of the provisions of this law which mandated the reform in the energy sector and consequently promised bringing down the rates of electricity.

This study brings in the forefront that policy regarding electricity is a women’s concern. Women as well as women’s work are often rendered invisible in economic statistics subsequently making them less significant a consideration in crafting policies such as EPIRA. However, it is a deceit to take women out of the picture as they contribute the largest part (if not all) of the household production, which value is also debatable economically.

The main focus of this paper is to present the actual experiences of women, who are the main end-users of electricity at home, in dealing with high electricity rates brought about by the implementation of EPIRA.

The study answers the following objectives:

- To know the dynamics of women’s reproductive work in the context of EPIRA
  - Women, being the largest end-user of electricity, is the most affected by the consequences brought about by the reform in the energy sector. It translates to the efficiency of how they perform the household chores.

- To contextualize the effect of EPIRA to electricity rates
  - This sets the context of the paper. Of course there have been reasons and
triggering event/s, which lead to the government pursuing such reform in the power sector.

- This gives the government (particularly, DOE) to explain what really happened. The evaluation would focus on whether EPIRA was successful or has fulfilled its promise of bringing about more affordable electricity rates.

- To discover the dynamics of household production in the context of EPIRA
  - Residential is of the biggest consumers of electricity in the Philippines. This objective presents how families consume electricity and how much of their income is spent on paying the bills.
III. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

As the focus of the study, it covers mothers belonging in the urban poor communities. Mothers are the respondents of the focus group discussions and survey because of the assumption and premise of household economics that, among the family members, women, particularly mothers, are still the primary household production worker. Choosing the mothers who reside in informal settlements (i.e. informal settlements in Damayang-Lagi, Tatalon and Tondo) satisfied the qualifier, women in urban poor communities. The said population was chosen because they are the ones who have experience the electric connections, as well as electric disconnection.

This study does not include the experiences of the rural poor women. There are findings in this study that are similar to the experiences of rural poor women, as they are acknowledged as the primary household producers in their respective households. However, there are households in the rural areas that are still not reached by local electric services. On the other hand, in the urban areas, particularly in Manila, it is assumed by the Department of Energy that all houses have electric connection.
IV. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Living in a modern world, electricity is deemed vital in the daily living. In a more macro sense, electrical power supply can be viewed as an essential part of any nation’s industrialization. According to Jessy (2009), increase in energy consumption rate is a result of both population and economic growth. He claims "energy demand, supply and pricing have enormous impact on the socio-economic development, the living standards and overall quality of life of the population of a nation".

In the case of Africa, energy consumption is still very low; however, it is the demand and intensity that has shown sharp increase. This proves that electricity is a need to improve the standards of living of the growing population. However, demand is not always easy to provide. It touches the issue of the supply of energy in a country. Finding a supply of energy entails both economic and social problem (Jessy, 2009). In most developing countries, oil is still the major source of energy. Additional oil consumption to provide for the demand of the people increases the import burdens of the country, especially with the occurrence of economic events such as inflation. However, providing electricity by building dams or power plants endangers a developing country to fall deeper carrying a heavier debt burden. It suggest such a circular pattern wherein the unreliable source of energy in developing countries causes heavy economic burden to the country that greatly affect its GDP, thus, discouraging its development.

This goes to show that access is as important as the issue on consumption, or it may be a much bigger issue to consider than the latter. However, they do not differ much in importance in the topic at hand. Deshmukh (2009) supports the argument about the economic importance of electricity. More than economic growth alone, he
posited that, quoting Deshmukh (2009), "electricity is an important sector for the economic development of any country". However, following this is his claim that access is an important matter. It is a prerequisite for a country to achieve its Millennium Development Goals (Deshmukh, 2009).

The issue of access brings us back to the more micro dimension of electricity issues. As presented by Jessy (2009), the number of people that does not have access to electricity thus relying to other sources is an estimated of 1.6 billion making up about a quarter of the world's population. Fifty percent could be found in South East Asia with India alone contributing 35% which is even larger than Sub-Sahara Africa's percentage of 32% while 14% is located in East Asia (China excluded). In these regions, a large percentage of those who do not have access to electricity are in the rural areas. Furthermore, consumption is centered on household uses and not on industrial processes unlike those mentioned about the nature of energy consumption in developed countries.

In India, it is recognized that "access to easy and reliable energy in rural parts (Deshmukh, 2009)" is important. However, the efforts of the government for rural electrifications in many areas meet failure. Deshmukh (2009) points out several factors such as:

- the lack of willingness of the state utilities to develop the electricity infrastructure in rural areas;
- transmission and distribution losses;
- low revenue collection efficiency; and
- highly subsidized consumers (such as farmers and poor communities).
The literatures mentioned above explain the importance of energy in a country's growth and development. They were used to describe how the impact of electricity is dealt with in a macro level. They also cover the micro through the concept of access. However, their discussions of the importance of electricity in households did not present much detail. The role of electricity in the household would be presented in more details in this paper as to serve as basis in justifying the impacts it has to the standard of living of a family, especially to women. The cited literatures also center on electricity issue in the third world, especially that of Deshmukh which is a case study of India. They would be helpful in laying comparisons in the situations between the Philippines and other third world countries.

Through the concept and issues regarding access, poverty is another concern attached to energy power issues. Poverty, in an economic sense, dictates the extent of access to energy. There is a remarkable difference between the access to energy of poor households and those rich households. The latter has more access to modern energy sources, especially electricity, while the previous content themselves in the traditional ways of acquiring energy through the use of burning biomass for cooking and using gas lamps for lighting. The poor having no other choice just content themselves to using low quality energy sources. Such situation is a recognition of an "energy dimension to poverty: energy poverty" (Clancy, Skutsch, & Batchelor). According to Reddy (2000 in Clancy, Skutsch, & Batchelor), energy poverty is "the absence of sufficient choice in accessing adequate, affordable, reliable, high quality, safe and environmentally benign energy services to support economic and human development".
Economic poverty, in this sense, leads to lack of access to quality energy source choices.

However, the relation between energy and poverty could also be seen not really in a reverse perspective but in such a way that a variable leads to intensifying the effect/s of the other. Applying this to the issue at hand, aside from the perspective that economic poverty causes a household limited access to energy, it could also be seen as the lack of access to energy leads to further economic underdevelopment. In the literature *Where Energy is Women’s Business*, Karlsson (2007) recognizes that people in the developing countries having no better access to energy limits their chance to break away from living in severe poverty. This served as the rationale for her position that increasing investment in energy is crucial in realizing Millennium Development Goals. Such literature gives the same position as that of Deshmukh (2009). Also, in the *Gender-Energy-Power Nexus*, it was presented that, like the usual assumptions of other literatures, lighting in households make it easy for children to study during the night and that lighting allows works to be performed at night time (Clancy, Skutsch, & Batchelor) and that lighting in streets bring about less worry about safety. However, the authors also presented uncertainty on whether lighting indeed increases educational and economic productivity and whether the poor really know how to take advantage of such.

Energy poverty is both an issue of fuel and electricity. They are almost always discussed as a single issue, or at least, very closely related. Manlove (2009) described that both the 1.6 billion people in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia having no access to electricity and the 2.4 billion people using biomass in cooking and heating as "living in energy poverty". However, when Manlove (2009) talked of harms done by energy
poverty, data are focused on damages done by fuel poverty and less on negative effects of energy poverty’s, in the form of electricity. The same approach could be recognized in Karlsson’s *When Energy is Women’s Business*. Both of literatures, as well as many others, mentioned and recognized biomass fuel as the main source of energy in the poorest areas in underdeveloped countries. Biomass is believed to be dirty source of energy. As such, the dangers concerning the use of such fuel center on its health effects. Most pieces of literature picture women as the ones suffering most from the harms caused by energy poverty.

At this point, it is deemed necessary that the main concern regarding the subject of this paper be cleared. The first issue to be dealt with is the establishment that energy is women’s concern. There is a common notion that electricity and fuel are both men’s business. It is because the popular thinking is that electricity is something needed to run appliance and equipment while fuel such as gasoline, diesel is necessary to run motors and vehicles (Karlsson, 2007). Generally, energy being “dangerous and risky” (Karlsson, 2007) is considered the domain of men from where woman should be insulated from. However, Karlsson (2007) established the energy, even if considered a "hard sector", also includes issues concerning women.

In most countries where access to modern energy is not guaranteed, they subscribe to the traditional way of using biomass despite its established dangers. In such a set-up, women are the ones involved in collecting and burning this biomass. There is recognition that such an activity is “women’s business” (Karlsson, 2007). As such, it is sound to say that women supply 80%-90% of the energy consumption in countries such as Mali, Zambia and Nepal (Karlsson, 2007). Women tend to spend
most of her time collecting woods to burn as fuel. This restricts her from engaging in more economically significant activities such as income-generating activities. Despite women doing such a job, Karlsson (2007) admits that there is no intrinsic division of labor among men and women. The present roles that men and women play are imposed upon by the culture. In this light, the role in relation to energy discussed above is a "matter of traditional cultural roles".

Most of the pieces of literature used in the discussions above are concerned, mainly with the adverse effect of fuel poverty on health and economic (in terms of restriction for a woman's economic growth) well-being of a woman. Karlsson (2007) laid a good discussion on why women are involved in energy poverty issues; however, it focused on fuel as used in cooking and did not discuss how women are affected by energy poverty in the form of electricity. The approach appeared to be an affirmation that the domain of women cooking with collecting biomass as a backward linkage while electricity is a "hard sector" out of a woman's business. Karlsson (2007) also failed to explain the direct relation, in micro level, of using biomass as fuel, which is considered the traditional way, to having access to electricity.

Almost all pieces of literatures written discussing energy poverty consider energy as both in the form of fuel and electricity. However, the discussions center more on fuel and insufficient information are given to the aspect of electricity. It is in this paper that energy poverty will be discussed focusing on issues on access to electricity.

However, aside from access, energy poverty, be it in form of fuel or electricity, has something to do with the issue on efficiency of services. In the energy power sector as well as in many others, the thinking is that when it comes to efficiency, a sector is
better of with a private entity. More often than not, government failure to provide for the services its country's demands is offered as the justification for the privatization of such sectors. Privatization in its most basic definition is the "selling [of] public assets (corporations) to individuals or private business interests (Todaro, 2006). It is, as well as deregulation, is considered as "the most complete forms of decentralization from a government's perspective (What is Decentralization?)." Privatization is considered as such because it is a mechanism where in with the transfers of physical asset, the government also transfers the "responsibility for providing services from the public to the private sector". Efficiency is just one of the reasons for privatizing a government-owned enterprise. Ortile gives three main reasons why a government chooses such path or program:

1. It may be because a country wants to take advantage of the private sector's efficiency and to save money in implementing infrastructure projects;

2. out of budgetary concern or part of an economic development program; or

3. is seen as a global trend and therefore the "in" thing to do at that time.

According to Ortile, the Philippines has experienced three waves of privatization up to the present. The first one happened during Marco's dictatorship in 1980s when the country experienced economic crisis. Because of the difficulties and need for money, the government had to resell its nonperforming companies. Year 1990 was said to be the start of the second wave. It started with the privatization of the power (generation) sector followed by areas of infrastructure and information technology. The Philippines is
still under the third wave today wherein responsibility in providing social services such as housing, health, among others is being transferred to non-government entities.

Privatization of various sectors has been guided by policies that recognize the “indispensable role of private sector as the main engine of growth for national development” (Ortile). In the power sector, Executive Order No. 215 served as the legal framework that was passed during the term of President Aquino and was amended to cover wider scope in the term of President Ramos. The worth of the completed operations, as according to the article Privatization in the Philippines amounts to estimated $11 billion.

In the succeeding years, two other laws were passed expanding the accommodation for the private sector. RA 7718 was passed on May 5, 1994, which encouraged the private sector to enter infrastructure projects. On 2001, EPIRA (Energy Power Industry Reform Act), which still takes effect today, was passed into law and it paved the way to "full restructuring and privatization of the power industry in the country" (Philippine Power Industry Restructuring and Privatization, 2007).

The work of Ortile presented how privatization of the power industry started in a manner that is easier to understand. His discussion were, however, too simplistic. It only laid the events, legal basis and discussed the results of privatization very briefly in the sectors of power, transport, water and waste and information technology. Such literature was, basically, only descriptive and did not offer any analysis of the issue.

In discussing the main subject of this paper, which is EPIRA, it would be best to refer to the law itself to provide the details. However, the provisions only give the information of how EPIRA was expected to work.
EPIRA provided for the privatization and restructuring of the power sector. The main purpose of the law was to unbundle generation, transmission and distribution functions, which were done by NPC before (Philippine Power Industry Restructuring and Privatization, 2007). It also created PSALM (Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management) which was tasked to privatize the assets of previously owned by NPC (Philippine Power Industry Restructuring and Privatization, 2007). The idea was to promote free and fair competition among private enterprises "as a means to achieve quality, reliable and affordable supply of electric power for the public" (Briola, 2009).

Privatization schemes were also implemented in several other countries. Like in the Philippines, India sees the private sector as an important actor in the economy. As such they implemented Electricity Act, 2003, which encourage more private sector participation. It also aimed at unbundling the SEB (State Electricity Board) into generation, transmission and distribution (Power Sector in India, 2010).

According to Freedom from Debt Coalition, in the Philippines, despite the goal of EPIRA to lower electricity rates, two rounds of increases were granted. In Luzon, there has been an increase of P0.4682 per kWh; P1.1460 per kWh in Visayas; and in Mindanao, P0.7147" (EPIRA a “massive failure” – FDC, 2011). At this point, it is safe to say it is a case of efficiency versus affordability. According to a case study of energy poverty of Tajikistan, affordability is the "share of utility payment in total household expenditure" (Robić, Olshanskaya, Vrbensky, & Morvaj). However, the authors mentioned that it is not applicable to be used as measurement of energy poverty (Robić, Olshanskaya, Vrbensky, & Morvaj). Also, they mentioned that lack of access is not always to be seen as an issue of affordability.
In the Philippines, access as not an issue of affordability can be seen in far-flung places – those that are still not reached by electrification projects. In those areas, affordability of electricity cannot be considered as an actual case because it is access that is the main concern. Places in provinces that are still not reached by electricity are the perfect examples of energy poverty wherein affordability is not an actual prerequisite for access. However, in this paper, the target population is women in areas reached by electrification projects. As such it would be sound to use affordability as important factor of access.

At this point, it is necessary to point out why issues concerning electricity are a women's concern. The concepts as discussed above would be useful in finding the place of women in electricity issues.

As established earlier through literatures mentioned above, electricity is an important service in the household. In an ordinary context, household is seen as one single unit. Considering this view, there is a "nominal household head" (Dwyer & Bruce, 1988). This household head is regarded as the representative of the whole household and serves as the basis of policy makers in directing the flow of resources (Dwyer & Bruce, 1988). According to Dwyer and Bruce, it is almost always "mechanically identified" that the males are the household heads. As such, it is said that "their welfare is too often taken as a proxy for the welfare of all household members" (Dwyer & Bruce, 1988). This implies dominance of male family members. Economic bargaining power may be the reason for this. According to Roldan (in Bruce & Dwyer, 1988), the commanding position of the husbands is translated from their being the ones in a more formal and better-paying jobs (Dwyer & Bruce, 1988). An inequality in the relationships
within the family is vivid. This inequality renders that changes in policies affect the different members of the families differently. In the case of privatization, women are more vulnerable. As according to the United Nations Development Programme,

“The recent trend towards privatization of basic services has increased the burden on poor women; since the poorest families cannot afford the cost of privatized water and energy services, women must spend more time hauling water and gathering fuel. As public services and formal safety nets disappear, the burden of care, especially in countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, falls increasingly on women and girls. When care services shift to girls and younger women, they are less able to attend school – perpetuating the cycle of feminized poverty across generations.”

(Taking Gender Equality Seriously, United Nations Development Programme)

Men being in the work sector of having the more economically valued jobs leave women in the household as her domain. Such is the basic premise of household economics. It is maintained the main contribution of women is its household activities (Dwyer & Bruce, 1988). Most literatures build on this theory.

In the National Power Summit regarding the 10-year implementation of EPIRA, it has been recognized that there is a difference between the effects of EPIRA to men and its effects to women. Gender-differentiated experiences because of such privatization were provided as follows:

- Non-access to electricity means more difficult household work for women
• To save on expenses, women are forced to stay-up late and do chores during non-peak hours when rates are less expensive.

• If in case electricity service is cut off from households, it is the women who beg for extension of service and as a result become the target of different kind of harassment.

• It is the women who oftentimes have the burden of finding the money to keep up with electricity payments and prevent having power services cut off from their households. Women need not only budget time but money as well. Aside from sustaining the minimum requirements for basic needs in the household, there is also the added (male) pressure of maintaining social status (by having continuous electricity service).

Freedom from Debt Coalition also has the same view regarding the issue. According to its report about the Philippine power industry restructuring and privatization, the society has assigned to mothers the “responsibility of ensuring the well-being of their family”. To cope with the effects of privatization of power sector, they usually adjust the budget allocations to be able to pay for electricity. Also, they tend to do chores manually.

Abovementioned points establish that women are more vulnerable to the effects of privatization. This paper is especially interested in covering the situation of women regarding the issue in the local or in the Philippine context. Some information about the situation caused by privatization in other countries will be included. However, only the
actual experiences of women affected by EPIRA are the focus of this paper and thus will be the concentration of the primary data gathering.
V. THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

A. THEORIES

1. Household Economics and Feminist Economics

Mainstream economic theory maintains that it is only in the business and the public sector where good and production happens. As such, it considers households only as places for consumption (Ironmonger, 2001). Household Economics, on the other hand, rejects these notions. It holds that production also happens inside the household.

Household economics draws distinction between market economy and household economy. The traditional statistics only compute for the market economy. This includes transactions that have direct monetary value (i.e. goods and services produced and sold in the market). Activities of the market economy are the only ones reflected in the system of national accounts. On the other hand, production made inside households is ignored. Because households are seen as merely a center of consumption, production within it is disregarded. This is because the productiveness of household is being questioned. Applying the test for productiveness proposed by a household economist, an activity is deemed productive only if you could assign it to a paid worker (Reid, 1934 in Ironmonger, 2001). As such, so many activities in the household could be considered productive.

In the household, production is done with its own capital and labor. Thus, it is unpaid. Being seen as having no economic value, these unpaid productions are not included in the GDP. Some of the productions which happen inside the household are food related activities, child care, adult care, making and care of textiles, upkeep of
dwellings and surroundings, repairs and maintenance of dwellings, shopping and services, gardening, pet care, non market work for the community (Kulshreshtha & Singh, 1999). The female members of the household generally undertake these activities. As such, ignoring the value of these unpaid works is tantamount to overlooking women’s work.

This is also the major stand of feminist economists. Such approach holds that the price of women’s work is in the time and energy women devote to (Sweetman, 2008). Feminist economics further argue that there is a difference on how the society the work done by men and those done by women. This, they posit, lead to the bias against women (Sweetman, 2008). The different institution of the society such as the family, market and the state, perpetuates the prevalence of such system.

Only “paid production” is valued in the SNA (GDP). Women’s work, which is unpaid, though productive, is not included. Kulshreshtha and Singh (1999) enumerated two problems why this is the situation:

1. Convention – production of all goods (and services) which are marketed, is accounted for in the estimates of GDP through various sources of data including the Enterprise Surveys of the Economic Census

2. Work does not generate income - production of goods and services having utility, but it does not necessarily generate income by way of marketability and hence poses measurement problems

Household economics still recognizes that most of these non-market household productions, if not all, are unpaid work done by women.
Applying the theory to the issue at hand, economic accounts are used extensively to craft policy. Therefore, women's work being invisible to these accounts is ignored. This being the situation, women could have little benefit from policies made by the government; worse, they could burden women instead.

2. Energy poverty

Energy poverty is a function of “access and consumption of energy” (Tennakoon, n.d.). As by definition, “the energy dimension of poverty - energy poverty - may be defined as the absence of sufficient choice in accessing adequate, affordable, reliable, quality, safe and environmentally benign energy services to support economic and human development” (World Energy Assessment 2000). The theory of energy poverty suggests that energy poor people have limited, if not totally none, to the energy sources. Energy poverty also offers limited sources to which people could choose from. According to Cecelski (2000), “poverty influences and determines energy choices of households”.

The issue of energy poverty was said to have started in Africa. Women belonging in the poor families are the ones who gather energy sources, which are mostly biomass. They spend most of their time logging and they are also the ones to use this biomass for cooking and heating which subsequently affect their health.

3. Dramaturgy

Focusing on EPIRA, it is a policy implemented to reform the energy sector, to privatize the generation, to be specific. There can be two main perspectives to this. One is that which comes from the government and another, is from that from the people who experience the effect of the policy themselves. Of course the government tends to
maintain the loyalty and trust of the people to them. As such, they would render that the policies it implement are just what the best for the situation and for its people. Goffman’s Dramaturgy applies to the condition. The government plays its role in ways that maintain a figure to please the people. Its front stage is the public sphere. However, in the backstage, little is known to the people. The true motives of the liberal policies freely operate in the backstage.

B. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
C. OPERATIONALIZATION

To have a clearer understanding of the terms in this study, provided are the definition of the significant words and how they are used in the body of this paper.

**Privatization** – In its most basic definition, it is the transferring of certain assets or properties from the government to the private sector. As such, it includes the power of the new owner (i.e. the private sector) over the operation, and maintenance of such assets and properties.

**Household Production** – It is the unpaid activities carried on by the members of the household. The products and services produced in household production are accomplished by family members and are consumed also by them. It is necessarily unpaid as to distinguish them from market production, which is primarily has the “monetized” characteristic.

**Women’s reproductive work** – These are works done by women, still within the bounds of the household. These are tasks designated to women, generally by customs and traditions. As a part of the household production, it carries the characteristic of being unpaid.

**Access** – It is the capacity to acquire the means to benefit from the source and method of choice. Applying on the case at hand, access refers to the ability of they consumers to enjoy the very benefit of electricity from the source and connection of their choice.

**Consumption** – As distinguished from demand, consumption is the actual usage or amount of goods and services consumed. In this study, the consumption means more than demand but the recorded used amount of the electricity.
VI. METHODOLOGY

The methods used in the primary data gathering were key informant interview, in-depth interview, focus group discussion and survey. The secondary data gathering was done through reviewing electronic literatures, journals and printed materials.

Key informant interviewees were from the Department of Energy and the some non-government organizations. Mr. Ed Fernandez was the interviewee from the department of energy. The interview focused on the comparison between the pre-EPIRA situations that lead to the implementation of EPIRA. He gave important points why there have been significant hikes in electricity rates. The mechanism to promote competition among power generators was elaborated by the interviewee.

The researcher also conducted interviews from the members of the civil society. Representatives from Freedom from Debt Coalition, Partidong Manggagawa and Center for Women’s Resources were interviewed. The first two organizations are actively advocating the review of the provisions of EPIRA and have always been in the opposition even if EPIRA was still being deliberated to become a law. Center for Women’s Resources is one of the organizations involved in advocating women’s concerns. Mae Buenaventura, the vice-president of Freedom from Debt Coalition and Judy Chan-Miranda, the Head of the Women’s Committee of the same organization; Yuen Abana, the Power Campaign Head of Partidong Manggagawa; and Cham Perez, Center for Women’s Resources’ researcher and sociologist represented their respective organization in the interviews conducted. They were asked to describe the nature of EPIRA. Because they work with women in the community, they were able to answer the questions regarding the impact of high electricity rates to women especially those
belonging in the poor communities. They gave opinions in lined with their organizations’ advocacies on how reforms in the energy sector would be more beneficial to women. The interview with the non-government organization representatives ranged from 30 minutes to an hour. The duration of interview with the representative from the Department of Energy was more or less two hours.

To check on the information given by the key informant interviewees, focus group discussions and in-depth interview were also conduction. Three focus group discussions were done. Four members participated in the focus group discussion held in Damayang-Lagi; four members partook in the FGD conducted in Talon and an FGD of five members was conducted in Tondo. There have also been two in-depth interviews. Both interviewees were from Tondo. Damayang-Lagi, Talaton and Tondo are of the communities where a large number of informal settlers inhabit. Participants in the focus group discussions were asked to describe their role in the household. They also described and contrast how they perform the tasked assigned to them by the society as mothers – doing the household chores – with the aid of electricity and in those times when they experience disconnection. Their budget allocation for paying electricity bills was also inquired. Basically, the same items were asked in the participants of the in-depth interviews. The focus group discussion ranged from 15-30 minutes.

Based on the objectives mentioned above, a survey of 50 mothers was conducted in Damayanglagi, Quezon City. People used to enjoy regular electric connection until a fire destroyed their houses. Since then, they were not granted electric connection because of the pending relocation.
The researcher herself administered the survey questionnaires, with the help of an organizer from GABRIELA (General Assembly Binding women to Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action). The significance level was set as $P=0.1$. The survey was done in the afternoon because it is the only time of the day when the mothers have less work. The questionnaire was written in Filipino so that the participants understand the questions better.
VII. DATA PRESENTATION

A. Pre-EPIRA and EPIRA Situation

Literatures say that electricity is an indispensable part of development. This is supported by NGOs working for the reviewing and overhaul of EPIRA. According to Freedom from Debt Coalition, "even if the Philippines is not a developed country, many of the things we use needs electricity to operate - things that we need to enjoy the basic minimum of what we call "quality of life". Partidong Manggagawa on the other hand, give importance on the role of electricity in the development in the business sector and in the domestic life. In the words of a representative from PM, “electricity is an important factor that goes hand-in-hand with development. In the business sector, it enables work to be done faster entailing a faster growth in the industry. In the life of a person, on the other hand, it makes tasks easier to accomplish”.

Setting the context, an interview with a representative from the Department of Energy was conducted. Data gathered from the interview described the situation of the power sector before the implementation of EPIRA and identified the main factor that lead to the need for a reform law in the energy sector. The changes brought about by the law to the industry were consequently discussed in comparing the pre-EPIRA structure to the restructured energy sector.

This year is EPIRA's 10th year implementation. June 8, 2001 when it was signed by the then president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and passed into law. Before that time, the energy sector was a monopoly of the NPC or the National Power Corporation. Being the largest corporation in the country, it was not able to sustain the continuous operation of its many power plants, transmission lines, etc with a regulated electric rate as
dictated by the ERC (Energy Regulatory Commission). Being burdened by the maintenance and other operation costs while abiding by the rate approved by the ERC, NPC faced ballooning debts.

NPC was said to be operating at a loss. Of the reasons that lead to this situation were the need to adjust due to the unstable prices of fuel such as coal which the Philippines import; the ERC being unresponsive to the petitions of the NPC for rate increases as well as electricity rates being used as a political tool; the NPC being trapped in a debt cycle wherein it will borrow money to pay for a debt; the subsidies the NPC pays and the delinquency of payment of institutions such as the military camps and electric cooperatives (EC); and the lack of effective leadership in the NPC (Table 1).

Table 1 - a Situation of the energy sector before the passage of EPIRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation of the power sector before EPIRA</th>
<th>Responses (Mr. Ed Fernandez of the Department of Energy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td>“So, before, NPC owns these - generation; high voltage transmission; substations; except the distribution because it is by franchise. Now, imagine, before EPIRA, NPC owns almost all plants and even transmission. So you can assume that the biggest corporation in the Philippines is the National Power Corporation. You go anywhere in the island, there is NPC there. It owns the power plants. It also owns the transmission facilities. Now, if you are the operator of a business like this, you need money.” (Translated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem of the energy sector</td>
<td>“It's like this. The power plant operates just like your car. Your car runs when you have to use it. But power plants, they are operated 24 hours a day. That's a whole day. The car gets damaged, right? You use it on and off. What more the power plants? Now, if there is something wrong with the plant, you need money to repair it, right? It entails millions of investment. So like the electric wire in your house, it also gets damaged. You have to replace. So, it was under the government before EPIRA. The problem of the NPC was, before, it...”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 | Page
| Reasons why the energy sector had such a problem | First, the ERC will set - because it (NPC) is regulated - the ERC will say, "my power rate is three pesos and fifty centavos." You have to understand, what about NPC? How will it meet Php3.50? It has many plants - hydro, geothermal, diesel. It has different power plants. It also owns the coal, right? I have to run the plant with a generation cost of Php3.50. So I will operate the hydro. My fuel is free, okay, I will profit. But with hydro, you have summer, you el nino. When the hydro does not work because you do not have water, you have to run the expensive plant. Now, the generation cost of the expensive plant is more than Php3.50. (Translated) |
| If I were the power plant [operator], I bought my fuel, and it's imported. That's in dollars and not in peso. So I have to get back what I spent, right? And then, I bought it in dollars, your peso fluctuates. So you have to adjust in terms of cost if the price of the coal rises. Especially with petroleum. When something specific events happen in the Arab countries, the prices immediately change. So at Php3.50, I won't earn. (Translated) |
| It (NPC) will petition for are adjustment in the ERC. It was in 2002, until now, it has still not been paid, the ERC has still not approved it. So that's for the record. The NPC says, "just imagine, since 2002 or 1990 something, 3 years, 4 years, it has still not been approved". Okay, in the side of the ERC, once it approves of the rate increase, the people will strike. (Translated) |
| That is what I see in our regulatory. It is very much pro-people. At the same time, the power rate that is being issued is a political tool. When you raise rates, "ibagsak 'yan! Mataas and kuryente (Oust! Electric rates are high!" So what is affected is the popularity of the administration. So the president cannot support when the NPC calls, "tulungan n'yo naman kami. Talo kami e. (Help us. We're operating at a loss." (Translated) |
| What happened to the NPC is that it will borrow money to pay for its debt. Borrows money to pay for its debt. The government does not infuse money. (Translated) |
| Another problem of the NPC, not everyone pays. Military camps. Do they pay? No. Delinquent payment. Electric cooperatives in the provinces are delinquent, too. Now if you're going to sum these up, it's a large debt. (Translated) |
| It also pays for many subsidies. (Translated) |
Another illness of the NPC, if you have the biggest corporation - let’s say, San Miguel or the company of Pangilinan - you buy the corporation, I have to see to it that the yes people should be the ones to lead the corporation. So with NPC, it’s a government. So it’s a presidential appointee. When the administration leaves, you will appoint a new president to the NPC. There are so many accusations of anomalies there and so forth. So you keep on changing the president and then are this people, with due respect to those assigned, you compare them with the private. If you are [in the] private, make sure that the one you will appoint to seat as the president is at least a Phd holder and you will pay good salary. But with the government, the pay is not good. So it (the appointee) is not high caliber. So these are political appointees you don’t know the background of. Do they have background in power? That is not the case. (Translated)

| Triggering event that lead to the implementation of EPIRA | So in essence, this was the old set-up. We were on the losing battle. We kept on having this ballooning debt. |

However, privatization was not new to the industry. 1987 was said to be the beginning of the privatization scheme in the power sector. With the issuance of Executive Order 215, private sector participation in the generation sector of the power industry was allowed. As explained also in the interview conducted, this happened through the IPP (independent power producers) contract that was signed in 1988 (Table 2). Such contract was followed the scheme of BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) wherein the IPPs will generate electricity and the government through the National Power Corporation (NPC) will purchase from them. The Omnibus Power Industry Bill served as an indication of the continuance of privatization in the energy power industry. Such industry aimed to privatize the National Power Corporation and restructure the power industry. The bill was filed in 1996 and 1998 when it became the Congress’s priority. In June of 2001, Electric Power Industry Reform Act or EPIRA was passed into law, which
was basically with the same goal of privatizing and restructuring the energy power industry.

### Table 2 – Pre-EPIRA privatization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early stage of privatization</th>
<th>Situations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reason</td>
<td>If you will compare our debt, nothing will happen. It (NPC) has many problems. Regulatory. The regulation was very much pro-people. It always demands low power [rate], and yet, it cannot be sustained by the generation of power plant. It was so low. What happened was NPC was operating at a loss. (Translated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privatization strategy/ies</td>
<td>Now, you will ask why we had this take-or-pay. That was during the administration of Ramos. Take-or-pay means, whether you actually consumed it or not, you will pay for it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The situation that lead to privatization</td>
<td>What happened that time was that, that was the year wherein nobody, that is the NPC or the government, would like to avail financial loan to put up additional plant. What was at stake was that the Philippine government will be the one to pay for it. It did not want that anymore. So what they did was they offered it in private. (Translated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of privatization</td>
<td>Actually, government corporations, there are plants that, like cars, you have to maintain – don't operate immediately, you need to tune-up first. Change oil and filter - that's how you do it with a car. It's the same with power plants. However, with power plants, you cannot just turn it off. If you do, there would be brownouts. That is also what's happening in the industrial-commercial, no business will take place. So the government was forced to open the door to private. Now at the same time, it was sold but there is a certain amount that they have to pay for. Anyway, the payment they will get from that will be paid for the stranded debt.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The restructuring of the power sector as mandated by EPIRA intend to achieve "a regime of fair and fee competition in the country's power sector as means to achieve quality, reliable and affordable supply of electric power for the public (Briola, 2009)". 
EPIRA rests on the assumption that competition would bring about efficiency and lower electricity. To encourage competition, there have been incentives that the government provides:

1. National Government's assumption of the NPC's P200 billion debts
2. P1.03 tariff rate hike granted to NPC in 2004
3. Cross-ownership which is allowed by the Congress

Also, the introducing of competition is intended to be a means to enable end-users of electricity to choose who will provide their electricity requirements. PSALM (Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management Corporation) supposes that the privatization would provide end-users the "choice of power and "the power of choice".

One of the main and most significant steps in the implementation of EPIRA was the unbundling of the power sector (Table 3).

**Table 3 – Comparative descriptions of the Pre-EPIRA structure and the restructured power sector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electric Power Sector</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
<th>Sources of descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-EPIRA structure</td>
<td>NPC is vertically integrated. Meaning, when it is vertically integrated, it owns the power plant, transmission, means to transfer electricity and the power plants are portfolio.</td>
<td>Key informant interview (DOE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restructured power sector</td>
<td>Following the restructuring and deregulation principles of EPIRA, the power industry was unbundled into four sectors: generation, transmission, distribution and supply.</td>
<td>Secondary data gathering from PAID or People Against Immoral Debt (Official Publication of the Freedom from Debt Coalition)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Aside from the privatization of the National Power Corporation assets (NPC), the Act created the National Transmission Company (TRANSCO), Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

The target of EPIRA by 2004 was to have privatized at least 70% of the generation asset of NPC. Managing the privatization of such assets was the purpose of the creation of PSALM. Aside from this, it was also mandated to do the renegotiation of contracts with the independent power producers. PSALM maintains that privatization was aimed for the following objectives:

- Total electrification of the country
- Reliable, secure and affordable power supply
- Transparent and reasonable electricity prices
- Inflow of private capital
- Broader ownership base
- Fair and non-discriminatory treatment of public and private sector entities
- Protection of public interest as it is affected by rates and services of electric utilities
- Socially and environmentally compatible energy sources and infrastructure
- Utilization of indigenous and new and renewable energy resources
- Orderly and transparent privatization of the assets and liabilities of National Power
- Competitive operation of the electricity market and consumer protection
- Efficient use of energy and other modalities of demand side management

Before the contracts with independent power producers and before EPIRA, the energy power industry was a monopoly of the government and it alone performs the generation, transmission and distribution. However, to encourage competition from
greater number of private actors, unbundling of the industry has to be done. It is also a way to de-monopolize the industry.

In the generation sector, as of 2009, among the actors are First Gen, Meralco, Aboitiz Power Corporation, The Global Business Power, Trans-Asia Power Generation Corporation, CEPALCO, Mirant and Kepco. Both First Gen and Meralco are owned by the Lopezes. First Gen accounts for the 23% of the country’s national grid. Lopez-owned generation assets lead the generation sector in both Luzon and Visayas. The second dominant player in the sector, Aboitizes own most of the generating assets in Mindanao and in Visayas.

To promote real competition, Section 45 (Cross Ownership, Market Power Abuse And Anti-Competitive Behavior) prohibits power abuse and anti-competitive behavior. It also sets limit of 40% to the allowable ownership and control of installed generating capacity of a grid and at most 30% of the national.

EPIRA primarily aimed at bringing down electricity rates by encouraging competition. However, the competition that is expected to be the mechanism for cheaper and greater access to electricity has yet to happen through the Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA).

Open Access is "the system allowing any qualified person the use of transmission, and/or distribution system and associated facilities subject to the payment of transmission and/or distribution retail wheeling rates duly approved by the ERC" (Fernandez, 2011). On the other hand, Retail Competition "refers to the provision of electricity to a Contestable market by Suppliers through open access (Fernandez, 2011). As according to the constitution, Contestable market "refers to the electricity end-
users who have a choice of a supplier of electricity as may be determined by the ERC”. It includes end-users at least with an average monthly peak demand of 1 megawatt. The contestable market is granted a chance to choose a Retail Electricity Supplier (RES). The RES takes care of the generation and transmission of electricity to its respective contestable market.

Several RES are already registered and with the provision, the idea of RCOA is to foster a competition between retail electricity suppliers so that they will be forced to bring down rates to gain a contestable market.

The unbundling of the power sector entailed the unbundling of the rates in electric bills. Breaking down the items in an electric bill, more or less 50% of the cost comes from the distribution. It is on this premise where RCOA is based. The belief is that through negotiating with a particular RES who would be responsible from the generation, the end-user would get to save a lot even with the small discounted amount. End-users are expected to benefit from the following:

- Customer Choice
- Consumer Satisfaction
- Consumer Empowerment
- Greater Efficiency by the Market Participants
- Promote Competition
- Consumer Protection
- No Barrier to Entry
- Level Playing Field.

These benefits that would be derived upon the operation of RCOA are consistent with EPIRA’s aim of the "power of choice".

RCOA is expected to lower the demand requirement to 750 MW after two years.
That time, it would still be just including businesses as participants. However, after 7 years from the first implementation, open access would be offered also to residential end-users. Retail competition and open access has not been immediately implemented due to certain pre-conditions. Among them is the requirement that at least 70% of NPC’s assets must have been privatized. After 10 years, this requirement as well as the others was satisfied and so the Department of Energy is confident that the energy sector is ready for the RCOA system.

It has been mentioned that EPIRA aims for the total electrification of the country. However, electrification in Metro Manila area is not included in this concern. A number of unelectrified households in Metro Manila are unrecorded. According to the Department of Energy, "in Metro Manila, most likely, they are in the squatters’ area, those households that do not have access to electricity because there is no place in Manila that is not electrified. Even Meralco does not count them and does not have a record of them”.

In the perspective of the non-government organizations such as the Center for Women’s Resources, Freedom from Debt Coalitions and Partidong Manggagawa, EPIRA is a failure. Their main argument they have is that despite its main goal of bringing down electricity rate, it remains to be high and even higher compared to the rates before the implementation of EPIRA. They see privatization as the main reason for this. They agree that, "because you put it (energy sector) in a private set-up, its main objective would be to earn profit".

On the other hand, DOE refused to accept this argument. Mass organizations and the DOE have contending views towards EPIRA (Table 4). Privatization of NPCs asset
was seen by the non-government organizations as the main reason for the rates in electricity to soar when EPIRA was implemented. The rate in 2001 was recorded at Php4.87 per kilowatt. In 2010, it soared to Php10.35 per kilowatt. In 2005, Senate Economic Planning Office released a report regarding the electric power status and rates in the Philippines. In a comparison of electricity rates of selected Asian countries, the Philippines ranked second highest in the residential electricity rate and fifth in the commercial electricity rate (Table 5). DOE argues that “the rate that was approved by ERC before EPIRA was so low at the expense of NPC (Fernandez, 2011)”. The implementation of EPIRA was also aimed at recovering the following costs:

- foreign exchange losses due to depreciation of peso
- interest due to longstanding loans
- subsidies for missionary electrification
- mandated rate reduction to residential consumers
- unrecovered power purchases
- unrecovered fuel cost
- uncollected power refuteables
- eligible stranded costs
- unrecovered natural gas expenses
- cap on purchased oil
- reward for prompt payment
- uncollected energy charges from NDTC
- unrecovered ancillary services
Table 4 – Contending Views on EPIRA

| Comparisons between pre-EPIRA situation and during EPIRA implementation | Responses |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nature of EPIRA | DOE | CWR | FDC | PM |
| First and foremost, power plants have been privatized. Now the obligation to operate, rehabilitate the plants were transferred to the private companies. (Translated) | Basically, EPIRA is privatization - transferring to the private sector the work or responsibility of providing social services to the people. (Translated) | EPIRA is called "framework law". It sets what will be the framework of the energy sector and that is the framework of privatization. What is privatization, it's general definition: the government withdraws its former public responsibility of providing essential services and we think electricity is service perhaps much the same degree [of importance] as water. Their thinking is that the government bureaucracy had been inefficient and riddled with corruption. So they think that private sector is more efficient. (Translated) | All assets in the power industry were sold, even the last transmission [facility] or where the energy flows from generation until it [electricity] reaches the people. (Translated) |
| Changes in Electricity rates | Now, you will say that according to certain news, the Philippines now ranks number on when it comes to rate of residents; 2nd when it comes to industrial. Now there is an explanation to that, Before, it was regulated. What we are experiencing now is the real cost of electricity. | It turns out that the price of electricity doubled even, say, we take account inflation, it is still very high. If you will look at the objective of EPIRA that electric rates will be cheaper, it did not happen because it raised electricity rates instead. (Translated) | The problem was, when assets are passed unto them [the private sector], the debt remained with the Filipinos. So that is what war are paying for, what is called "stranded debt". That is why we have one of the highest rates in Asia - we are the highest today - and one of the highest in the world. (Translated) | It did not achieve its objective to bring down the price of electricity and greater access to power. Before, despite having shortage, the power sector is regulated by the government. Before, how much people pay for electricity is lower because of the subsidy of the government. (Translated) |
Table 5 – Monthly Commercial and Residential Electricity Rates in Selected Asian Countries (US cents/kWh)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Commercial Rate</th>
<th>Residential Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Mar 2005</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>15.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Mar 2005</td>
<td>17.54</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>June 2005</td>
<td>14.37</td>
<td>8.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>June 2004</td>
<td>13.89</td>
<td>12.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>June 2005</td>
<td>13.58</td>
<td>14.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Mar 2005</td>
<td>12.53</td>
<td>10.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Dec 2004</td>
<td>10.58</td>
<td>10.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>Dec 2004</td>
<td>10.49</td>
<td>10.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>June 2004</td>
<td>9.79</td>
<td>9.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>May 2004</td>
<td>8.62</td>
<td>8.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Mar 2005</td>
<td>8.24</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>June 2004</td>
<td>7.64</td>
<td>5.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Dec 2004</td>
<td>7.19</td>
<td>8.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>Mar 2005</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wholesale Electricity Spot Market Data (in Senate of the Philippines website)

B. Dynamics of Women’s Reproductive Word in the Context of EPIRA

Ordinary citizens experience the practical impacts of this law. Among the members of a household, women are said to be the most vulnerable. In the words of the Freedom from Debt Coalition Vice President Mae Buenaventura, “first and foremost, how we see it is that household or Filipino families, it is not one unit. There are people there. And we know very well that inside a household, there are negotiations that happen and it depends on how strong your negotiating power is. Although I’m not saying that it applies to all, in general in our situation today, the man still has the strongest decision making power”. It is on this context that the claim that women are the most affected by EPIRA is based.
The small income of the families is seen as the main reason why EPIRA has so much impact on them. The social expectations to women as the main in-charged of the household chores and taking care of the family, she is said to be the most vulnerable to the effects of high electricity rates and lack of access to electricity.

The interviews conducted with the representatives from the non government organizations – Freedom from Debt Coalition, Partidong Manggagawa and Center for Women's Resources – all pointed out to the results as presented in Table 6.

The small income of the families is seen as the main reason why EPIRA has so much impact on them. The social expectations to women as the main in-charged of the household chores and taking care of the family, she is said to be the most vulnerable to the effects of high electricity rates and lack of access to electricity (Table 6)

**Table 6 – Impact of EPIRA to Filipino households and to women**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effects of EPIRA</th>
<th>CWR</th>
<th>FDC</th>
<th>FDC (Women’s Committee)</th>
<th>PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Filipino households</td>
<td>&quot;Yes, electric services reached people... There are still households that do not have access to electricity. And because of events like the increase of electric rate, there are households that were serviced but were not able to afford high rates and so were disconnected afterwards. It has been seen in our study, in our poverty survey in 2009, there are households that had electricity before but because were to able to pay the bills, they were disconnected.&quot; (Translated)</td>
<td>&quot;For people who do not have the capacity to pay they are the ones suffering. In our country, there are many poor families that their budget almost cannot afford food and other basic things like medicine and health care. Any increase in [the price] of essential services, like the government withdrawing subsidy or help, it will have a great effect especially if your income is very low.&quot; (Translated)</td>
<td>&quot;Scores of poor Filipino families in urban hubs and across the regions have limited, if not zero, access to electricity. EPIRA promises of affordable and accessible electricity to all through privatization have been turn entirely upside down. Filipino families are facing higher electricity rates. Access to electricity is becoming more impossible to poor fails. As a consequence, millions of Filipino consumers especially the electricity wise - adding another facet to the worsening problems of Philippine poverty, including the increased burden on our women.&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;You will really prioritize electricity because, first, you will be embarrassed to your neighbors in your state of life that you cannot pay for electricity. Second, it is more difficult when you do not have access to electricity.&quot; (Translated)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To highlight the actual experiences of women in connection with the electricity issue, three focus group discussions and two in-depth interviews were conducted with the total of 15 participants – FGD in Damayang-Lagi, four participants; FGD in Tatalon, four participants; FGD in Tondo, five participants. The considerations for choosing the participants in the FGD were being a mother and having experienced electric services as well as disconnection. However, the in-depth interviewees were chosen because of the differences in their current condition. On mother who was interviewed could really not afford electric services because of lack of job and high electricity rates. The other
Interviewee was a mother who depends on the money given by her husband and children and have not experienced electric disconnection in the past years. The length of the focus group discussion in Damayang-Lagi as well as in Tatalon was more or less 15 minutes. In Tondo, the duration of the FGD was more than 30 minutes. The in-depth interviews, on the other hand, ranged from 7-15 minutes.

It was found out that of the mothers who participated in the methods mentioned, 47% of the families they represent depend on the money that their respective husbands and children earn. Only 13% of them earn their own income from a regular job (Figure 1).

**Figure 1 – Main source of Family income (n=15)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From mothers with regular job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From mothers with no regular job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From husbands and children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mothers who participated in the FGDs and in-depth interviews were asked to evaluate the importance they give to electricity. The researcher also inquired upon how the mothers use electricity or how electricity aids them in their performance of the household chores. There was also a question about the difference they experience in
having electric services and electric disconnection. This aims to know the difference that access to electricity make, still, in the mothers’ performance of household chores. The researcher also asked the participants about the kind of electric connection that they had and have, as well as how much they pay for the service every month. The participants were asked to enumerate the things they do to maintain electric connection, avoid disconnection and in case of disconnection, be connected again (Table 7).

Table 7 – Women’s perception on and experience dealing with electricity issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual experiences of women in urban poor areas burdened with high electricity bills</th>
<th>Area and methods of gathering information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damayang-Lagi (FGD) (n=4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree of importance of electricity</td>
<td>- Very, very important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of electricity</td>
<td>- Ironing of clothes - makes doing job at the night easier - runs electric fan for the children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between having access and not having access</td>
<td>- no longer able to iron clothes - uncomfortable sleep at night - doing household chores manually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind of electric connection</td>
<td>- sub-meter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The researcher conducted a survey of 50 mothers. In an estimated population of 200, sample size calculation yielded the result of 50. The following are the findings attained from the survey.

**Income and budget of the families**

Among the 50 mothers who participated in the study, only 16 percent have regular jobs. On the other hand, 84% or 42 participants only rely largely on “pangangalakal” or collecting recyclable garbage from the river and selling them to junk shops (Table 8). Some of them earn by occasional offering manicure and pedicure services while some earn a living by serving as a household worker or “kasambahay” in nearby barangays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electric bill per month</th>
<th>Effect of high electric bill to the budget</th>
<th>Sacrifices to maintain electric connection or to have electric services after disconnection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Php500–Php700 (Php15/kWh)</td>
<td>- decreasing allocation for food - decreasing pocket-money of children going to school (sometimes no pocket-money at all)</td>
<td>- lesser budget for food and schooling - limiting use of electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Php400 (Php16/kWh) – Php500 (Php20/kWh)</td>
<td>- decreasing allocation for food - decreasing pocket-money of children going to school (sometimes no pocket-money at all)</td>
<td>- lesser budget for food - limiting use of electricity - soliciting contribution from family members - taking additional job for income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Php500-Php900 (Php30/day)</td>
<td>- decreasing budget allocation for food</td>
<td>- taking additional jobs to gain extra income - lesser budget for food and schooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Php600 (when still connected; expenses for purchase of wire not included)</td>
<td>- decreasing allocation for food</td>
<td>- begs to owner of the electric connection to extend payment time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- average of Php3500</td>
<td>- decreasing allocation for food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eventually when stricter rules against jumper connections were implemented.
Table 8 – Distribution of Mothers According to the Regularity of Job (n=50)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-regular</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A large number of mothers having no regular job rely on their husbands for financial support for the family. In terms of income, 36 households are male-headed while only 10 households or 5% of the families are female-supported (Figure 2). However, regardless of who primarily earns money for the family, all of the mothers affirmed that their families’ monthly income is below Php10,000.

Figure 2 – Members of the family primary earning the income for the family (n=50)

The incomes of the families are divided among different primary needs of the family. Food, water, fuel and electricity and education are among the priorities of the families when it comes to budgeting (Figure 3). The average expenditure for electricity is 18% of the budget. It is among the priorities of the family next to food (34%) and water (26%).
Electric Connection and Consumption

Not all households in the area are electrified. In fact, eight percent of the households studied were still not electrified. There are three kinds of connection in the area (Table 9). Majority of the household are connected via sub-meters (57.14%). On the other hand, only 28.57% is electrified via regular connection or the legal type. Some households or 14.29% of the participants enjoy electrification through extensions (not specified whether connected to households with regular connections or to those with sub-meters).

Table 9 – Distribution of Household According to the kind of Electric Connection (N=42)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of Electric Connection</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Connection</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-meter</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>57.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among the appliances owned by households are light bulb, electric fans, television sets and flat iron (Table 10). More households own electric fans than light bulbs. 34 households have the previous while only 31 have the latter. Even if flat iron is the least that households have, its use ranked first in the chores wherein mothers use electricity. Very rare households in the community owned washing machines and electric cooking appliances and so they using electricity for laundry and cooking only came next to ironing of clothes (Table 11).

**Table 10 – Distribution of Appliances used in the Households (n=50)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appliances</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light bulb</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric fan</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat iron</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 11 – Distribution of Chores Using Electricity (n=50)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household use of electricity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ironing of clothes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the abovementioned appliances and use of electricity in chores, most of the families pay electric bill of less than Php500 with a per kilowatt charge of Php15. However, there are also families paying a range of Php500 – Php1000 per month (Table 12).
Table 12 – Distribution of the Average Monthly Electric Bill of Households (n=34)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average monthly electricity bill of households</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than Php500</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>64.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Php500 – Php1000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Role of Mothers in Households

Results of the survey show that 90% of those taking care of household works are mothers (Table 13). The rest 10% is divided among the male head of the families or the fathers, as well as the children and the other members of the family, especially the extended ones.

Table 13 – Distribution of Family Members Primarily in-charge of Household Chores (n=50)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members of the family primarily in-charge of household chores</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child/Children</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other family members (extended family)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mothers were asked what they did or have done during the situations when the family comes almost short of budget to pay for electricity. Fifty percent of them resort to lesser usage of electricity to decrease charges. Borrowing money is the primary resort of 18% of mothers who participated in the study. They (16%) also tend to reduce the budget for education, food, etc., to meet electric expenses. Another 16% find additional jobs to earn extra income (Table 14).
Table 14 – Distribution of Approaches used by Mothers to Pay Electricity Charges (n=50)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrifices made by mothers to pay for electric bills</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less usage of electricity</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing money</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional job</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VIII. DATA ANALYSIS

From the data presented above, it can be derived that Filipino families in the urban poor communities do not experience the full benefits of having electricity; with their little amount they have to budget for their respective families’ expenditure, a relatively large part of it is spent on electricity bills; and this burdens women who are, among the family members, the most vulnerable to the impacts of high electricity rates. We will elaborate on these claims in this chapter.

The changes in the energy sector have been sufficiently explained in the data presentation part. Despite electricity rates being higher than what was set by the ERC before EPIRA, DOE still maintained that EPIRA is not a failure. It posits that if we just continued the previous set-up then the NPC would further be indebted. As such, they saw privatization as the strategy to save the NPC. However, how the privatization schemes and competitions work is unknown to the public. The irony is that the public is the most affected by laws like this. Main issue is the income of poor families. With this income, women are the ones most burdened by high electricity rates. The society assigned her domestic roles but decisions in the public sphere where she has less participation have great impacts on her (Table 14).

Table 14 – Analysis of key issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Issues</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Theory and Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity as a need</td>
<td>Electricity is a factor that is a requisite for development. It is needed to operate big</td>
<td>Level of demand of energy consumption of a country is reflective of its economy. Industrialized countries consume more energy compared to the less developed countries. The</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
industries as well as little appliances in a home. In the business sector and in home, it enables tasks to be accomplished faster. The situation of the Philippines reflects its status. Demand is a function of the required energy input in industries while consumption is a function of access and affordability.

| Privatization of NPC’s assets | The responsibility of operating and maintaining power plants and other former assets of NPC were transferred to the private sector. This also entailed deregulation and removal of subsidies by the government. | The government staged EPIRA as a means to bring down electricity rates through competition of private entities. In the front stage, the advantages this restructuring of power sector was put up. However, at the backstage exposed is the purpose of the government for privatizing – continuous investment in the country and relief on the part of the NPC from the problems in the power sector. The competition encourage was just between businesses and not including the residential consumers. As such, only the electricity rates in the industrial sector will decrease with that of the residential being left behind. There is no pro-people mechanism. |

| Women as the most vulnerable to the impact of EPIRA | Women are the ones who make sacrifices to make both ends meet. It affects both her economic status as well as her social well-being. | Mothers and other women members of the family are assigned the domestic roles. They were not expected to participate in the public sphere. However, what happens in the public sphere affect them domestically. Their being subordinated in the public sphere is reflected in their subordination in the domestic level. Being boxed in these expectations, taking care of their family is their primary tasks, however, their |
extension works such as acquiring additional jobs to earn money for the family is deemed necessary for their performance of their social role of taking care of the needs of the family.

A. Electricity as a need

1. Energy and Development

Electricity is needed not only by developed country, but also by developing nations to enjoy the basic requirement of what we call quality of life (Buenaventura, 2011). Energy consumption and demand as well shows as side of the economy of a country.

As a comparison, both in the United States and the Philippines, the industrial sector ranks as the largest energy consumer followed by the transportation sector (US Energy Information Administration); the residential consumers rank third. This is also the case in the Philippines. However, Department of Energy considers only three major energy consumers (i.e. industrial sector, residential sector and commercial sector). However, energy consumption in the United States is way, way higher than in the Philippines (Table 15). While the previous consumes 12, 904 kWh per capita, the latter only uses 593 kWh per capita. The same pattern could be noticed in other developing countries and other developed countries. The trend is that in the developed countries, there are higher levels of electricity consumption as compared to the level consumed in the developing countries.
Electricity demand is not the only measure of the level of energy poverty in a country. Actual consumption is a much better measurement.

**Table 15 - Electric power consumption (kWh per capita) of US and the Philippines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>13,574</td>
<td>13,642</td>
<td>13,651</td>
<td>12,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: World Bank*

2. **Energy and Poverty**

The definition of poverty traditionally was limited to the level of monetary income and expenditure (Tennakoon, n.d.). However, it extended to include not necessarily just income but deprivation. Deprivation as defined by Pachauri, et al (2004) is “associated with not having access to one’s choice of material goods, freedom, capabilities and opportunities”. However, the problem of energy poverty in the urban poor communities goes beyond just access. Sure households in the urban poor communities have access to electricity considering their location. However, they do not experience the full benefit of having such service. One reason is that they experience disconnection because of the inability to pay for the high electricity rates. Another could be that they fear the previous and so they lessen the consumption of the service leading members of the household to do most of the chores manually even if time should have been much productive with the aide of electricity. Household members, especially women, limit the use of electricity to just lighting and ventilation to make sure that they could pay for the bills.
It could be dealt with the second requirement to improving the well-being of the poor in terms of energy, particularly electricity – ensuring that there is an adequate amount of use of energy by making it affordable (Pachauri & Spreng, 2004). It is clear that this is not satisfied in the Philippines. Households do not experience the full benefit that could be derived from using electricity because they keep limiting the use to the activities that are the most necessary and require low level of kilowatt consumption.

**B. Privatization of NPC’s assets**

EPIRA was not the first move of the government to privatize its assets; it intensified privatization, nevertheless. With the reconstruction of the power sector, NPC lost more than 70% of its assets to the private sector. In effect, it no longer has the power to look after the operations. As such the new owners have the capacity to demand for higher rates as deemed by their evaluation to recover the amount they spent for the operation of the industry. The role of the government, basically, has been limited to the regulation performed by the Energy Regulatory Commission, which is relatively weaker than the position it has before the privatization. A linear sequence of what happened because of EPIRA is illustrated in Figure 4.

**Figure 4 – Linear Illustration of the Effects of EPIRA**
On the other hand, NPC itself is recovering certain amounts such as the stranded cost to pay for the debts the private sector left with them when the private owners bought the assets. The paying of the debts remains on the shoulder of the ordinary consumers.

EPIRA set a mechanism for competition that was hoped to bring down electricity rates and bring about greater efficiency. However, it is limited to those who consume 1 megawatt hour every month. That is to say only entities in the industrial sector are included and the residential consumers, which ranks second in terms of electricity consumption (Department of Energy), would not benefit from it. All these factors lead to the revealing of the “real cost of electricity” (Fernandez, 2011).

C. Women as the most vulnerable to the impacts of EPIRA

*Women in household production*

Women’s work could be classified into two. First is the formal productive work. This includes women’s work, which earns income. Women nowadays are already participative in the “market sector” because they are employed in different institutions. The issue of the amount of participation and the discrimination in the work place is out of the scope of this paper. Women’s reproductive work is the focus of this paper rather than the situation in the conventional workplace.

On the other hand, women’s participation in the formal economic sector does not change the status of women in the household. That is to say that the norm has not changed.
Household production includes things done within the household that yield utility for the family members. As contrast to the traditional notion of the household as center of consumption, household production argues that it is indeed a place of production (Ironmonger, 2004). However, it is not widely recognized. Household production’s character that distinguishes it from the market production is that the previous is unpaid; with this character follows that it is hard to measure. As such, it is not commonly included in economic statistics. Economic data helps assess the status of the nation and to see its strong and weak points (Diokno, 2012). It is of importance in policy-making. Household production not being included in such data glosses over its importance.

This extends to the non-recognition of the “principal household worker” (Reid, 1934). The data presented above shows that in the Philippines, it still remains as the norm. Mothers work in the household and take care of the family while their husbands work in the field and earn money.

The link between household, production, women’s work and the use of electricity is in the nature of the work performed (Figure 5). Household production includes, food related activities, child care, adult care. Upkeep of dwellings, etc (Kulshreshtha & Singh, 1999). These are also the kind of works that need electricity for greater efficiency. In the survey four major tasks are done in the household that require the use of electricity – ironing of clothes, doing the laundry, cooking and cleaning of the house. Both the household production tasks and the tasks that require electricity are assigned primarily to the mothers and other female members of the family thus accounting to women’s work.
These women’s reproductive works are not included in the GDP of the country. As such, it is expected that because GDP does not reflect the experience of women, policies done with the aid of this economic data would not “respond to the needs of women and half the story of the country is unseen and un-reflected and ignored” (Diokno, 2012).

3. Measuring women’s participation in household production

There has always been an assumption that because men are the ones expected to earn income for the family, women are assigned home as their domain. However, data gathered support that having a job does not relieve a mother of her household responsibilities. The association of the women being the primary earner in the family and her performance of household chores was analyzed using the bivariate analysis (Table 16). With a number of cases of N = 50 and a level of alpha = .1, the chi-square
was computed as 0.05. Using Pearson’s phi, it yielded a result of 0.03 interpreted as a weak associated between women having work outside the home and the non-performance of household chores.

**Table 16 – Relationship between women having a job and to non-performance of household chores (n=50)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mothers in-charge of household chores</th>
<th>Women as primary earner for the family</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey results present that women have different ways of meeting the energy power requirement of the family in terms of paying monthly electric bills (Table 14). However, the distribution of their perception of what sacrifice of method to do first is not evenly distributed. Using chi-square, the previous claim was analyzed. With a total observed frequency of 50, on a degree of freedom of 3 in a degree of significance of .1, the rejection region was set at 6.251. The chi-square was computed as 16.72. It exceeded the set rejection region; thus, the null hypothesis that the perceptions of the usefulness of the methods or sacrifices of mothers were evenly distributed was rejected.

**Table 17 – Relationship between having experienced electric disconnection and doing chores manually (n=43)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doing chores manually when experiencing electric disconnection</th>
<th>Household experienced disconnection</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Whether the households experienced electric disconnection or not, their regard on the importance of electricity in doing chores with the aid of appliances is significant. Mothers in households that already experienced power cut-offs as well as those who still have not sees that with the absence of such service, chores are and would be done manually (Table 17). With the value of measure of 0.04, a weak association can be concluded from the relationship. The same interpretation was yielded with the result of the relationship between having experienced disconnection and prioritizing electricity payment in the budget in events of high costs (Table 18).

Table 18. Relationship between having experienced electric disconnection and prioritization of electric payments in the family budget (n=43)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prioritization of electricity bill</th>
<th>Household experienced disconnection</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes 33</td>
<td>No 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There seem to be a disparity with the data yielded from the FGD and from the survey about who primarily earns income for the family. In the focus group discussion, majority of the mothers said that they are primary income earners in the family while the survey shows that a large majority of women participants still depend on their male counterparts for the income for the family. What reconciles this difference is the fact that both the mothers and their husbands do not have regular job. As such, women still depend on their husbands to work for the family as dictated by traditions. However, in times when the money brought home by the husbands deem not enough for the family
expenses; women also have their extra work to do to make ends meet. They also work for the family. However, the respondents in the survey may have not considered this.

The findings highlight that, in practice, women are no longer boxed in the notion that their place is nowhere but the house. It still holds that they accept that they should be the ones to work in the household and take care of their family and their needs. The fact that they have productive work, the job, be it regular or irregular, that they do outside the house and earn income, added to their reproductive work, or the unpaid work that they carry out in the household and for the household, result to their experiencing double burden.
IX. CONCLUSION

The study showed how women whose domain, in a traditional society is the home. Even if this is what the practice is, and they are being kept apolitical, the household itself is political. There are power relations within the house that reinforce her status in the family. Her negotiating power is still lesser than the man. Economic factor explains this. Traditionally, men are the ones to provide the needs of the family and the women are to take care of the family and manage the house. With such set-up, the father earns for the family and so he has the economic power. This translates to the decision making power in the family.

However, in the situation of families today, even if it is acceptable that women also join the work force, her responsibility in the family remains as much as it was before. She works and at the same time, look after the family – a double burden for women. Having the same economic capacity as the men in financial terms, it is already embedded that women still do the chores and men still have the greater deciding power.

Having such set-up, the situation of women is often overlooked when it comes to the political sphere. It is the same as with the issue at hand. This paper evaluated the real purpose of the implementation of EPIRA. It looked beyond the façade of cheaper electricity rate and greater efficiency of services. With the information gathered, the researcher tried to find a face of women in EPIRA. With the main purpose of the paper, methods were done to capture the real experience of Filipino women in depressed areas burdened by high electricity rate.

EPIRA’s provision on the reconstruction of the power sector allowed the private sector to take over the generation, transmission and distribution and supply of the
power sector. The government controls the electricity rates through the ERC which has a relatively weaker position in the sector. The mechanism of EPIRA to bring down electricity rates favors business and not the residential consumers.

High electricity rates burden poor Filipino households because they have to “adopt few strategies to accommodate the impact of increase direct and indirect energy costs on their already limited household budget” (Sarkar, n.d.).

Women are the primary end-users of electricity in the households (Sarkar, n.d.), which could be accounted to their being the principal household worker (Reid, 1934). They do most of the household production or women’s reproductive work (Diokno, 2012) but are not given much importance as women’s work is not included in the SNA (Ironmonger, 1995). SNA and other economic statistics are significant in evaluating the performance of the country and in policy-making (Diokno, 2012). Women being the primary in-charge of the household production experience the following due to high electricity rates:

i. Doing chores manually
ii. Eating less
iii. Borrowing money from loan sharks
iv. Pleading to extend paying time
v. Sacrificing or no time for leisure at all
vi. No time to spend in training to development
vii. Facing embarrassment due to disconnection
Being laid off from work

Having access to electricity is not enough. According to Pachauri and Spreng (2004), “to improve access to efficient energy sources; and to ensure that they get an adequate quantity of energy by making it affordable”. This has a bearing on uplifting of the quality of life of the family in general. Thus, taking advantage of the benefits of electricity “improves the human development, gender empowerment specially women and poverty alleviation” (Tennakoon, n.d.).
X. RECOMMENDATION

The study posed that electricity issue is largely a women’s concern and the reforms in the energy sector really affected them. As such, there is a large call that the provisions of EPIRA be revisited. And in such reevaluation of the law, not only should it be assessed based on its performance of the purpose to which it was aimed (mainly, bringing down electricity rates) at but also how this impacted on the population, especially, to the poor population. In doing so, the gender dimension must be considered. Women’s reproductive work, though not included in economic statistic must, nevertheless, be considered in crafting bill as important as the one considered in this paper. The less they are considered in the decision-making, the larger the negative impact would a law have on them.

Household should not be taken as one unit. Inside the household are power relations and bargaining done by members that determine they status in the family. And still, as dictated by the society, women have a weaker bargaining power compared to men. As such, there should be developed a mechanism for gathering a gender-disaggregated data to show the differences on the experiences of men and women so that appropriate measures could be done.
XI. BIBLIOGRAPHY:


Diokno, M. (2012, January)


*Executive Order 215 (Amending Presidential Decree No. 40 and Allowing the Private Sector to Generate Electricity).* 1989.


http://www.rice.edu/energy/research/poverty&energy/gender/conference.html


Appendix A – Interview Guides
Appendix A. 1. Interview Guide
(For interview with the secretary or any official of the Department of Energy)

Questions:
Before EPIRA
- How was the electric power industry before the implementation of EPIRA?
- What was the main reason or is there any event that determined the need for a reform in the power industry?

Filipino Families and EPIRA
- What is the percentage of families in Metro Manila have access to electricity? Those that do not have?
- In what part of Metro Manila do they reside?
- How much the decrease in the number of these families that do not have access to electricity was upon the implementation of EPIRA?

Implementation of EPIRA
- What were the improvements brought about by EPIRA during its first years of implementation?
- Can you give us updates on the effects the reform in the energy power sector to the live of Filipino families on its 10th year of implementation?

Other actions of the government
- What are the other efforts of the government to provide greater access to energy and electricity for indigent families?
Appendix A. 2. Interview Guide
(For interview with the representatives from FDC, CWR, PM)

Questions:

Before EPIRA
- What are your insights about the situation of the power sector in the Philippines before EPIRA?
- What implications does the difference in the availability of access to electricity have on the quality of living of Filipino families?
- What was the situation of indigent families in terms of their access to electricity before EPIRA was implemented?
- What is your evaluation of the effectiveness of EPIRA as a solution of the government as to providing cleaner and more accessible electricity for Filipino families?

After 10 years
- What are your insights about EPIRA?
- After 10 years of implementation, what has changed in the situation of indigent families in terms of their access to electricity?
- What are the effects of EPIRA to the Filipino families in general?

EPIRA and its effects to women
- In a Filipino family, who is/are the most vulnerable to the implications of EPIRA? Why do you say so?
- What are the effects of EPIRA to women who are head of households?
- What better solutions or alternatives do you suggest would yield a more beneficial result to the general public?
- How will the reforms in energy sector be more sensitive to the situation of Filipino women?
Appendix A. 3. Interview Guide (Economist)

Significance of Electricity to Development

- Is access to electricity important to the development of the country? How is it important? How important is it?
- How important to Filipino families is the access to electricity?
- What is the common use of electricity in the households?

GDP, Household and Women

- What are the things included in the GDP?
- In the Philippines, is the household considered a productive sector or just a center of consumption? Why?
- Why is women’s work not included in the GDP?
- Is economic statistics important in policy making? Why?

High electricity rates and its impact to women

- In a Filipino family, who is/are the most vulnerable to the impact of high electricity rates? Why do you say so?
- What went wrong in crafting and implementation of EPIRA that made women the most vulnerable?
- What are the effects of high electricity rates to women especially those belonging in the urban poor communities?
- What is the relation to each other of poverty and having no access to basic services, especially to electric services?
- What better solutions or alternatives do you suggest would yield a more beneficial result to the general public?
- How will the reforms in energy sector be more sensitive to the situation of Filipino women?
Appendix A. 4. Interview Guide/FGD Guide  
(For interview with women belonging in the urban poor communities)

Questions:
Gampanin sa tahanan
- Mayoon po ba kayong trabaho?
- Ano-ano ang mga gawaing ginagampanan ninyo sa tahanan sa pang-araw-araw?
- Bakit kayo ang gumagawa ng mga iyon?

Gamit ng kuryente
- Gaano ka halaga sa inyo ang kuryente sa paggawa ninyo ng mga gawaing-bahay?
- Ano-ano ang mga gawaing bahay na ginagawa ninyo ang ginagamitan ng kuryente?
- Magkano ang karaniwang binabayaran ninyo na singil sa kuryente?
- Ano-ano ang epekto sa inyong bawayet ng mataas na singil sa kuryente?
- Ano ang nararamdaman ninyo kapag nawawalan kayo ng kuryente?
- Anong epekto ng kawalan ng kuryente sa paggawa ninyo ng mga gawaing-bahay?
- Ano ang nagsilbing ilaw ninyo sa gabi?
- Paano ninyo ginagawa ang mga gawing-bahay sa gabi?
- Ilang porsyento ng inyong kita ang napupunta sa pambayad ng kuryente?
Appendix B. Survey Questionnaire  
Informed Consent

Ang inyong partisipasyon ay hiniling sa pag-aaral na ginagawa ni Maria Karisa Joy C. Leonidas, nasa ikaapat taon sa kurong Political Science sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Maynila. Ninanais sa pananaliksik na ito na malaman ang epekto ng EPIRA (Electric Power Industry Reform Act) sa kababaihan. Bahagi ng pag-aaral na nabanggit, layunin ng survey na ito na malaman ang aktwal na karanasan ng kababaihan sa paggamit at kawalan ng kuryente; gayundin, ang bahagi ng pambayad sa kuryente sa budyet ng pamilya.

Kung pagpapaunlakan ninyo ang pagpapartisipa sa gawaing ito, maaari po lamang na sagutan ang mga katanungan ang mga katanungang nakapaloob sa questionnaire na ito: (1) demograpiko, (2) kita at budyet ng pamilya, (3) kahalagahan ng kuryente sa mga gawaing-bahay, (4) karanasan sa pagkaputol ng koneksyon sa kuryente.

Sinisiguro ng mananaliksik na ang katauhan ng nagpartisipa ay mananatiling confidential. Walang pangamba kung maisip man ng kalahok na huminto sa pagsasagot ng questionnaire na ito.

Ang inyong lagda ang magpatunay na sumang-ayon kayong magpartisipa sa pag-aaral na ito isinasaalang-alang ang mga kondisyong nabanggit.

________________________  _______________
Lagda sa ibabaw ng Pangalan       Petsa

________________________  _______________
Lagda ng Mananaliksik           Petsa

Demograpiko
Direksyon: Punan ng sagot ang mga kahon ayon sa impormasyon hinihingi.

Pangalan (optional): ____________________________________________
Edad: 
Petsa ng Kapanganakan: ________________________
Tirahan: ____________________________________________
Civil Status: __________
Kita at Badyet ng Pamilya

1. Mayroon ka bang regular na trabaho?  
   □ Mayroon  □ Wala

2. Sino-sino ang kumikita sa pamilya?  
   □ Ako  □ Asawa  □ Anak  □ Iba pa _________

3. Magkano ang kinikita ng pamilya sa loob ng isang buwan?  
   □ Mababa sa Php 10,000  
   □ Php 10,000 – Php 20,000  
   □ Php 20,000 – Php 50,000  
   □ Mataas sa Php 50,000

4. Ayusin ang mga sumusunod ayon sa kahalagahan sa inyong budget (1 bilang pinakamahalaga at 5 bilang pinakahuli).  
   □ Pagkain  □ Tubig  □ Panggatong at kuryente  □ Edukasyon  □ Iba pa _______

5. Kahanapan sa Pagkaputol ng Koneksyon ng Kuryente  
   □ Reglar na koneksyon  □ Sub-meter  □ Iba pa ______

Kahalagahan ng Kuryente sa mga Gawaing-bahay

1. Sino o sino-sino ang pangunahing gumagawa ng mga gawaing-bahay?  
   □ Ako  □ Asawa  □ Anak  □ Iba pa ___

2. Mayroon ba kayong kuryente?  
   □ Mayroon  □ Wala

3. Magkano ang binabayaran ninyo sa kuryente buwan-buwan?  
   □ Mababa sa Php 500  
   □ Php 500- Php 1000  
   □ Php 1000- P5000  
   □ Mahigit sa Php 5000

4. Ano-ano ang mga gamit sa bahay na ginagamitan ng kuryente? (Maaaring markahan ang higit sa isa)  
   □ Bumbilya  □ Electric fan  □ TV  □ Plantsa  □ Iba pa _____

5. Ano-ano ang mga gawaing bahay na ginagamitan ng kuryente? (Maaaring markahan ang higit sa isa)  
   □ Pamamalantsa  □ Paglalaba  □ Paglululuto  □ Iba pa _____

Karanasan sa Pagkaputol ng Koneksyon ng Kuryente

1. Anong uri ng electric connection ang nakakabit sa inyong bahay?  
   □ Regular na koneksyon  □ Sub-meter  □ Iba pa _____

2. Regular ba kayong nakakabayad sa kuryente buwan-buwan?  
   □ Oo  □ Hindi

3. Naranasan ninyo na bang maputulan ng kuryente?  
   □ Oo  □ Hindi

4. Ano-ano ang ginawa o ginagawa ninyo upang manatili ang serbisyo ng kuryente?  
   □ Nagbabawas ng budget pagkain, edukasyon, etc.  
   □ Nagtitipid sa paggamit kuryente
☐ Nangungutang para makabayaran sa singil sa kuryente
☐ Nagdadagdag ng trabaho para sa karagdagang kita
☐ Iba pa ____

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kuryente, gawaing-bahay at budget</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lubusang hindi sumasang-ayon</td>
<td>Hindi sumasang-ayon</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Sumasang-ayon</td>
<td>Lubusang Sumasang-ayon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Napakahalaga ng kuryente upang mas mapabilis ang mga gawaing-bahay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Limitado ang paggalaw at paggawa ng mga gawaing-bahay sa gabi kung walang kuryente</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mano-mano ang paggawa sa loob ng tahanan kung walang kuryente</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Nagiging prioridad sa budget ang kuryente dahil mas mahirap ang mawalan nito</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Nakapagpapabigat sa budget ang mataas na singil sa kuryente</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C. Transcription of Interviews and Focus Group Discussions
Appendix C. 1. Interview with Ed Fernandez (DOE)

Karisa: Sir, what was the situation of the power sector before EPIRA?
Mr. Ed Fernandez: So, before, NPC owns these - generation; high voltage transmission; substations; except the distribution because it is by franchise. Now, imagine, before EPIRA, NPC owns almost all plants and even transmission. So you can assume that the biggest corporation in the Philippines is the National Power Corporation. You go anywhere in the island, there is NPC there. It owns the power plants. It also owns the transmission facilities. Now, if you are the operator of a business like this, you need money. It's like this. The power plant operates just like your car. Your car runs when you have to use it. But power plants, they are operated 24 hours a day. That's a whole day. The car gets damaged, right? You use it on and off. What more the power plants? Now, if there is something wrong with the plant, you need money to repair it, right? It entails millions of investment. So like the electric wire in your house, it also gets damaged. You have to replace. So, it was under the government before EPIRA. The problem of the NPC was, before, it does not earn well.

Karisa: What has been the problem that led to the crafting and implementation of EPIRA?
Mr. Ed: First, the ERC will set - because it (NPC) is regulated - the ERC will say, "my power rate is three pesos and fifty centavos." You have to understand, what about NPC? How will it meet Php3.50? It has many plants - hydro, geothermal, diesel. It has different power plants. It also owns the coal, right? I have to run the plant with a generation cost of Php3.50. So I will operate the hydro. My fuel is free, okay, I will profit. But with hydro, you have summer, you el nino. When the hydro does not work because you do not have water, you have to run the expensive plant. Now, the generation cost of the expensive plant is more than Php3.50.

If I were the power plant [operator], I bought my fuel, and it's imported. That's in dollars and not in peso. So I have to get back what I spent, right? And then, I bought it in dollars, your peso fluctuates. So you have to adjust in terms of cost if the price of the coal rises. Especially with petroleum. When something specific events happen in the Arab countries, the prices immediately change. So at Php3.50, I won't earn.

It (NPC) will petition for are adjustment in the ERC. It was in 2002, until now, it has still not been paid, the ERC has still not approved it. So that's for the record. The NPC says, "just imagine, since 2002 or 1990 something, 3 years, 4 years, it has still not been approved". Okay, in the side of the ERC, once it approves of the rate increase, the people will strike.

That is what I see in our regulatory. It is very much pro-people. At the same time, the power rate that is being issued is a political tool. When you raise rates, "ibagsak 'yan! Mataas and kuryente (Oust! Electric rates are high!" So what is affected is the popularity of the administration. So the president cannot support when the NPC calls, "tulungan n'yo naman kami. Talo kami e. (Help us. We're operating at a loss.)"

What happened to the NPC is that it will borrow money to pay for its debt. Borrows money to pay for its debt. The government does not infuse money.

Another problem of the NPC, not everyone pays. Military camps. Do they pay? No. Delinquent payment. Electric cooperatives in the provinces are delinquent, too. Now if you're going to sum these up, it's a large debt. It also pays for many subsidies. Another
illness of the NPC, if you have the biggest corporation - let's say, San Miguel or the company of Pangilinan - you buy the corporation, I have to see to it that the yes people should be the ones to lead the corporation. So with NPC, it's a government. So it's a presidential appointee. When the administration leaves, you will appoint a new president to the NPC. There are so many accusations of anomalies there and so forth. So you keep on changing the president and then are this people, with due respect to those assigned, you compare them with the private. If you are [in the] private, make sure that the one you will appoint to seat as the president is at least a Phd holder and you will pay good salary. But with the government, the pay is not good. So it (the appointee) is not high caliber. So these are political appointees you don't know the background of. Do they have background in power? That is not the case. So in essence, this was the old set-up. We were on the losing battle. We kept on having this ballooning debt.

Karisa: What was the difference in the energy sector when there was no EPIRA and when EPIRA was implemented?

Mr. Ed: If you will compare our debt, nothing will happen. It (NPC) has many problems. Regulatory. The regulation was very much pro-people. It always demands low power [rate], and yet, it cannot be sustained by the generation of power plant. It was so low. What happened was NPC was operating at a loss. So the government had to do something and it had resorted to take-or-pay. Now, you will ask why we had this take-or-pay. That was during the administration of Ramos. Take-or-pay means, whether you actually consumed it or not, you will pay for it. What happened that time was that, that was the year wherein nobody, that is the NPC or the government, would like to avail financial loan to put up additional plant. What was at stake was that the Philippine government will be the one to pay for it. It did not want that anymore. So what they did was they offered it in private.

Karisa: What happened when EPIRA was implemented?

Mr. Ed: Actually, government corporations, there are plants that, like cars, you have to maintain – don't operate immediately, you need to tune-up first. Change oil and filter - that's how you do it with a car. It's the same with power plants. However, with power plants, you cannot just turn it off. If you do, there would be brownouts. That is also what's happening in the industrial-commercial, no business will take place. So the government was forced to open the door to private. Now at the same time, it was sold but there is a certain amount that they have to pay for. Anyway, the payment they will get from that will be paid for the stranded debt.

Karisa: What is your evaluation to the performance of EPIRA? I mean, many people and news say that electricity has soared rather than brought down.

Mr. Ed: What we are experiencing today is the real cost of electricity. The rate that was approved by ERC before EPIRA was so low at the expense of NPC. The cost of electricity now covers, foreign exchange losses due to depreciation of peso, interest due to longstanding loans, subsidies for missionary electrification, mandated rate reduction to residential consumers, unrecovered power purchases, unrecovered fuel cost, uncollected power refutableables, eligible stranded costs, unrecovered natural gas expenses, cap on purchased oil, reward for prompt payment, uncollected energy charges from NDTC, unrecovered ancillary services.
Appendix C. 2. Interview with a Cham Perez (CWR)

Karisa: Ano po 'yong insights n'yo sa sitwasyon ng power sector bago ang EPIRA?

Cham: Katulad ng nabanggit ko kanina 'no? 'Yong EPIRA kasi basically, ang nilalayon nito, in paper, no'ng pino-propose pa lang siya para maging efficient 'yong idistribution ng electricity at para mas mapamura raw ang pagghahatid ng serbisyo, 'yong kuryente, sa mga mamamayan. Nasa gano'n 'yong framework ng EPIRA no'ng prinopose siya.

Kung bakit naman nagkaroon ng gano'n polisiya o mungkahi kasi may nakikitang problema sa sektor ng enerhiya sa pagsusuplay ng kuryente kaya parang minarapat na rin na bakit hindi natin gawin itong EPIRA?

Bago pa man siya ipatupad tinutulan na ito ng maraming organisasyon, mamamayan, kasi nakikita na hindi... basically kasi ang EPIRA privatization 'yan e - paglilipat mo sa pribadong sektor no'ng gawain o tungkulin na makatutulungan po sa mahihirap na mamamayan. Makikita na, hindi lang sa sektor ng enerhiya e... sa marami pang pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan... kapag prinivatize mo 'yan, hindi siya ganong nakakatulong talaga kahit saan pa na magiging episyente 'yong pagbibigay, pagghahatid ng serbisyo kasi mas madalas, nagiging pabигat.

Karisa: Ano po ang naging epekto ng EPIRA sa presyo ng kuryente?

Cham: Ayon sa pag-aaral ng IBON [foundation] no'ng 2001, 0.08 cents 'yong presyo per kilowatthour no'ng kuryente in US dollars na 'yon. Tapos, ngayong... in recent times, naginon 0.18 cents na siya in US dollars. So lumalabas, dumoble 'yong presyo ng kuryente kahit saan na pahang ite-take into account ang inflation, masyado pa rin syang malaking. Kung titingnan mo 'yong objective ng EPIRA na mas mapapamura na 'yong presyo ng kuryente ay hindi naman nangyari kasi mahigit nga 'yong itinaas ng presyo.

Karisa: Mula sa inaasahan ano nang sitwasyon ng mahihirap na pamahalaan matapos ipatupad ang EPIRA?

Cham: Oo, nadalhan naman ng serbisyo 'yong mga mamamayan, kasi sampung taon ba naman, bagama't hindi lahat, pero meron pa rin mga household na hindi pa rin nakaka-access do'n sa kuryente. At dahil nga dun sa, halimbawa, sa pagtaas ng kuryente, may mga households na nadalhan nga sila, naserbisyuhan nga sila pero sa sobrang taas ng kuryente ay napuputulan sila dahil hindi sila nakakabayaran. Lumabas 'yan sa pag-aaral namin, sa poverty survey namin no'ng 2009... 'yong study ay nation-wide... meron 'yan sa Manila, Muntinlupas, sa Sorsogon, sa Bicol, sa Davao, sa Butuan City sa Mindanao, lumabas na 'yong mga households meron silang kuryente dati pero dahil ang mahal ng singil sa kuryente, hindi sila makabayaran. Lalo na sa urban poor... walang trabaho, mababa 'yong sahod... hindi makabayaran ng kuryente so naputulan sila. Iniisip nga nila na relief pa sa kanila na naputulan sila ng kuryente kasi, at least, hindi na nila propormalahan na buwan-buwan 'yong pambayaran dito.

Karisa: Sa isang pamilya, sino 'yong pinakabuluhang sa mga epekto ng EPIRA?

Cham: Eh di kapag sinabi nating EPIRA, na'nd'o'n na tayo sa mataas na singil sa kuryente, at saka do'n na rin sa hindi gano'ng kaepisyenteng paghahatid ng serbisyo. Sino ba 'yong pangunahing apektado dito? Eh di 'yong mga nanay. Kung bakit naman 'yong mga nanay... kasi siya 'yong pangunahing... 'yong kuryente kasi mahalaga siya, hindi natin maitatanggih... ano 'yan eh, kelangan 'yan ng tao kasi para makapag-function siya lang maayos, kailangan n'ya ng kuryente. Kahit naman sa isang lipunan, kelangan mo ng enerhiya para mag-function nang maayos 'yong sistema. Eh di gano'n din sa

Sabi sa family income and expenditure survey ng National Statistics Coordinating Board no'ng 2009, 'yong bottom 30%, eto 'yong mga tatumpung porsyentong pinakamahihirap na pamilya, pinakamalaking pinaglalaanan nila ng budget ay, una, pagkain, [pangalawa] 'yong house rent at tsaka 'yong fuel, light and water - kasama d'yan 'yong sa kuryente. Ang sabi dito, 6.8% 'yong ginagastos nila para rito. Malaking bahagi ito kung ikukumara mo siya sa ginagastos nila sa edukasyon. Ang sabi dito, 1.2% lang sa edukasyon ang ginagastos ng mga tatumpung porsyentong mahihirap na pamilya. Tapos sa medical care, 1.7% lang. Makikita mo na malaki 'yong agwat do'n sa laki ng budget na nilalaan. Syempre kung bakit maliki 'yong budget na nilalaan mo, kasi mas mahal 'yan - 'yong kuryente, kasama na 'yong tubig.

Karisa: Anong mamumungkahing alternatibong paraan upang mas maging kapakipakinabang sa mga kababaihan 'yong mga polisiya sa sektor ng enerhiya
Cham: Dapat kasi 'yong pagdadala mo ng serbisyo, 'yong paghahatid mo ng serbisyo sa mga mamayan ay pangunahin sanang ginagawa ng pamahalaan at hindi inaasa sa pribadong sektor. Kasi ang pribadong sektor negosyo 'yan e. Kahit sabihin mong may kompetisyon d'yan, negosyo pa rin 'yan. At ano ba ang gusto ng negosyo? Ang gusto ng negosyo ay tumubo. Oo, nagahatid sila ng serbisyo, kasi magco-compete daw sila, kung ganon' man ang nangyayari. Pero dahil nga negosyo 'yan, pinatutubuan ng mga negosyante 'yong paghahatid ng serbisyo... eh napakahalagang utilidad n'yan sa isang bansa. Katulad lang din 'yan ng sa tubig, sa langis na hindi dapat inaasa sa pribadong sektor kasi nga pagkakakitaan at pagkakakitaan 'yan.

Karisa: Paano mas magiging sensitibo sa kalagayan ng kababaihan 'yong reforms o pagbabago sa sektor ng enerhiya
Cham: Dahil na-establish natin na kababaihan ang nagbabadyet para sa pamilya, eh di, dapat maging sensitibo ang pamahalaan do'n sa pangangailangan ng isang pamilya. Ano lang ba.. halimbawa, sa Pilipinas, magkano lang ba minimum wage, magkano lang ba talaga ang sinasahod ng mamamayan n'ya on the average. Mula doon, tingnan natin kung sa sinasahod bang ito ng mga mamamayan, kakayanin ba nilang magbayan ng mahal na kuryente? Kasi kung hindi, may problema tayo d'yan. Dapat kasi nagtutugma kung magkano lang 'yong kita mo, dapat sasapat 'yong para tugunan mo 'yong mga pangangailangan mo. Pero dahil nga hindi naman tumataas 'yong sahod [at] nagmamahal pa lalo 'yong presyo ng kuryente at ng iba pang bilihin. Kasi 'pag nagtaas ang presyo ng kuryente, magtaas ng production cost ng mga pagpro-produce ng, halimbawa, sardinias, pagpro-produce ng noodles, ng mga iba pa nating ginagamit... sa mga serbisyo, sa serbisyo ng komunikasyon... 'Pag nagtaas ang presyo ng kuryente, apektado na itong [mga] iba pa. Sa pagtaas ng presyo nito, tataas din 'yon presyo ng mga iba pang pangangailangan. Magiging pabigat siya lalo sa mga mamamayan lalo na 'yan sa mga kababaihan.
Appendix C. 3. Interview with Mae Buenaventura (FDC)

Situation of power sector before EPIRA

Karisa: Ano po ang sitwasyon ng energy sector bago ang EPIRA?
Ma’am Mae: Kasi di ba ang EPIRA na-pass siya into law [no’ng] 2001, before that, meron tayong utilities na talagang taking care of the electricity sector. So ito ‘yon National Power Corporation na was taking care of the whole industry. So eventually over time, no’ng time ni [President] Ramos, actually, nagkaroon ng mga shortages. Maybe you were not born during that time yet. That was the time na mahahaba talaga ‘yon brownouts. Oo, talagang, as in minsan umaabot ng half day. So naging talagang intense na ‘yon crisis that President Ramos at that time decided to do something about it. But the way he went about it was to contract itong mga tinatawag na independent power producers which are private firms from which bibili sila ng kuryente. So ang naging problema... so na-solve ‘yon krisis, ano? Nabawasan ‘yon brownout hanggang eventually wala nang brownout... ang problema, ‘yon contracts. There are materials there later, makikita mo in detail kung ano ‘yon mga tinatawag na IPP - independent power producers contract. One of the most eronous features ng contract dito is ‘yon tinatawag na take-or-pay. So for a certain amount of kuryente na napro-produce, whether kailangan ‘yon ng mga Pilipino, ‘yon capacity ba, ‘yon ginagamit natin. Kunyare andito ‘yon level (both hands drawing virtual line) na ginagamit ng Pilipinas, maski... so maka-set ‘yon sa contract... so maski dito (left hand stays on the level drawn while right hand draws a virtual line lower than the position of the left hand) lang [ang] ginagamit natin, you have to pay for that full amount. And eventually naging napakabigat ng conditions sa contract that NaPoCor became very heavily indebted. So ang laki-laki na ng utang n’ya ngayon. Maski sa ngayon, ang laki-laki ng utang no’n. So eventually, no’ng parts no’ng after EPIRA which is ‘yon nag-pave ng way for the privatization of power sector... parts of the industry naging under na ng control no’ng mga private firm. Ang problem, when the assets passed unto them... hindi... ‘yon utang hindi nag-pass on to them, [at] naiwan sa mga Pinoy. So that was part of hindi fair na contract ‘no? ‘Yong mga utang na akala mo sasaluhin na nila, which should be the initial business practice, naiwan sa atin. So ‘yon ‘yon binabayaran natin ngayon na tinatawag na "stranded cost" na kung kay we have one of the highest rates... one of the highest rates in Asia - highest na nga, oo, highest na ngayon - and one of the highest in the world. So ah makikita na... I don't know if you've visited the website. You've visited the website, right? Ando’n ‘yon mga latest kasi itong... recently, ‘yon mga nagmayari ngayon, may series of petitions ‘yon NaPoCor and Meralco for another round of rate increases dahil... ah... gusto nilang gawin ‘yon. ‘Yon, ‘pag nangyari ‘yon, tiyak na lalong tataas ‘yon kuryente. That is why the FDC women's committee held the picket and also the other members of the coalition.

Karisa: Ano po ang kahalagahan ng kuryente sa tahanan?
Ma’am Mae: In some countries in Europe na nirecognize nila ‘yon right to internet as a basic right ah. Eh what more ‘yon right to electricity, eh in our day and age, ang dami natin na ginagamit at without electricity, magka-suffer talaga ‘yon quality of life mo. For example, sa urban halimbawa, affected na ‘yon pwede mong gawin sa gabii if you are not connected sa... na-disconnect ka o wala kana pambayad sa kuryente... or ‘yon mga gamit sa bahay na ginagamit tinatag na nagbabahay pwede ring ma-affect ‘yon if the cost of electricity is too high and things like that. So ibig sabihin, sa buhay natin
ngayon, maski hindi masyadong, hindi parang first world 'yong Pilipinas, marami na rin sa mga ginagamit natin sa buhay, kailangan ng kuryente para ma-enjoy mo 'yong basic minimum na tinatawag natin na quality of life.

Karisa: Ano po ang epekto ng EPIRA sa mga pamilya in general?

Ma'am Mae: ‘Yong EPIRA kasi tinawag ‘yan na framework law. Parang sine-set n'ya kung anong dapat maging framework sa sektor ng kuryente and it's the framework of privatization. What is privatization, siguro 'yong general definition n'ya na wini-withdraw na ng goyerno ‘yong kanyang dating public responsibility of providing essential services and we think [that] electricity is service perhaps much of the same degree na nga as water... although syempre ‘yong water, one week lang [na] wala ka no'n mamamatay ka... pero parang malapit-lapit na rin do'n ang kuryente. So sa privatization hindi na inaako ng goyerno 'yon kasi parang ang thinking nila [ay] inefficient 'yong naging government bureaucracy, riddled with corruption. So ang tingin nila sa private sector, more efficient, [at] hindi naco-corrupt. But you know, what's been happening lately, di ba mga private companies na out of the world, naglalabasan mga CEO nila na nangurakot din pala. So medyo nabasag do'n 'yon myth that if you're a public sector, corrupt ka't inefficient. Hindi siguro 'yon ang problema. So, anyway, dahil 'yong EPIRA sagot do'n sa krisis, ang thinking no'n is really privatization is better which is what we're opposing... dahil nilagay mo 'yan sa isang private set-up ang pinaka-objective na no'n is to earn profit. And for people who do not have the capacity to pay, sila 'yong magsasuffer. Dahil sa ating bansa, maraming mahirap dito na halos hindi ka na magtambak ng kuryente. So sa privatization hindi na inaako ng goyerno ‘yon kasi parang ang thinking nila [ay] inefficient 'yong naging government bureaucracy, riddled with corruption. So ang tingin nila sa private sector, more efficient, [at] hindi naco-corrupt. But you know, what's been happening lately, di ba mga private companies na out of the world, naglalabasan mga CEO nila na nangurakot din pala. So medyo nabasag do'n 'yon myth that if you're a public sector, corrupt ka't inefficient. Hindi siguro 'yon ang problema. So, anyway, dahil 'yong EPIRA sagot do'n sa krisis, ang thinking no'n is really privatization is better which is what we're opposing... dahil nilagay mo 'yan sa isang private set-up ang pinaka-objective na no'n is to earn profit. And for people who do not have the capacity to pay, sila 'yong magsasuffer. Dahil sa ating bansa, maraming mahirap dito na halos hindi ka na magtambak ng kuryente.

Karisa: Ano po ang difference ng situation of families from the pre-EPIRA from the EPIRA implementation?

Ma'am Mae: Medyo, 'yong tanong mo lang, ewan ko lang kung may mga gano'ng malalaking studies that really are able to conclude kung ano 'yong before and after, pero 'yong... siguro based lang do'n sa mga communities where FDC works... hindi naman sa sinasabi namin sa EPIRA lang nag-cause ng paghihirap nila. Syempre maraming factors. May general decline ka naman in the economic well-being of Filipinos. Parang tingtingnan namin na sa gano'ng hindi tao makaasad economically, laws like this further constrict 'yong access mo to basic servies, naturalmente, 'yong effect no'n 'yong pag-overall na pagbababa.

Karisa: Sa Filipino families, sino ang pinaka-vulnerable sa effects ng EPIRA?

Ma'am Mae: Unang-una, 'yong tingin kas namin sa household or Filipino families, hindi 'yan isang unit [na] kunyari ito 'yong household (gesturing a whole). May mga tayo dyan sa loob di ba? May mga lalaki, mga babae, mga anak. And actually, 'yan 'yong mahirap sa statistics natin kasi they use households but they do not really look at the intra-relationships within households. And we know very well na sa loob ng isang
sambahayan o households, may mga negotiations d'yan na nangyayari and it depends on how strong your negotiating power is. Sa palagay mo, sa isang family, sino ang may pinakamalakas na negotiating power do'n? Bagaman hindi ko naman nilalahat, 'yong general na lagay natin sa ngayon, malakas pa rin talaga 'yong decision making powers of the man. Maski nga marami na tayong OFW na kababaihan, so sila 'yong kumikita, parang sila 'yong head of household. Pero who makes the decision, still? It is usually the male, the dominant male doon sa household. So ganon din sa gustusin sa family, kasi marami nang studies... kasi I also finished my master's in women and development sa UP and maraming studies doon na nagpapakita na where the male also has income, usually tinatabi n'ya 'yong what he personally needs like, for example, kung gusto n'yang lumabas or worse kung meron siyang bisyo, nakatabi na 'yon before he gives the rest to his wife to budget. So ibig sabihin, secured na 'yon for his own personal needs. Kumpara do'n sa mga babaeng kumikita, agad-agad 'yong iniisip n'yang paggamit no'n [ay] 'yong what will benefit the family and nahuwli naman, kabaliktaran, nahuwli like kelangan n'yang bumili ng bagong panty, kelangan n'yang manood ng sine. Hindi na, actually, pumapasok do'n 'yong kelangan n'yang magpahinga. Kasi agad 'yan, for the education of the kids, or maybe we could have mas masarap na ulam one of these days... 'yong ma-e-enjoy ng buong family. And with connection with electricity rates, gumagawa sila ng extra work. Marami na nga silang ginagawa, nadadagdagan pa 'yon para makatipid sila ng pambayad sa kuryente kasi para sa mga nanay, mairap na mahirap 'yon na maputulan na ng kuryente. No'ng baby pa 'yon anak ko, I would spend, though hindi ko naman sasaibhin na sobrang hirap, pero 'yon aabutin ka ng limang oras nagpapapaypay ka sa baby. Kasi hindi pwedeng ano, kasi uubuhin siya, iiyak siya, 'yong ganong hirap. Tapos sa pagtitipid din, nakausap namin recently 'yong mga tagaprobinsya, nagkaroon kami ng national power summit, naghihintay sila no'n time na mura, alam nilang mura 'yong rates. Kasi itong mga oras na 'to (referring to the time we are conducting the interview which was between 7PM-8PM) maraming gumagamit, 'yon 'yon tinatawag natin na peak hours, so 'yon mahal ang kuryente. Pagdaling ng mga bandang 10[PM to] 11[PM], sinasabi nilang mas bumababa na 'yong lalabas sa metro mo, mas bumababa. So naghihintay sila ng gano'ng time para mamlantsa, o mag-washing machine, o whatever they would do na kelangan gawin sa bahay. So anong ibig sabihin no'n? Tulog na 'yon household, 'yong asawa nila at mga anak, nagtratrabaho pa sila. So 'yon mga gano'n. And then when they're naputulan, ang ano talaga, and this was established really as a trend, ang nangungutang is the woman [and] not the man. And also because the usurers or 'yong mga loan sharks, gusto nilang magpautang sa babae kasi parang feeling nila mas katiwa-tiwalang magbayad, mas malaki 'yong [chance] na mag-return 'yon kanilang mga inutang. So babae din 'yon nababaon sa utang.

Have you heard itong CCT na 'yon mostly women kasi 'yon nag-e-encash ng ATM, so pupunta sila sa rediscounting, kunyari P1500 'yon, bibigay lang sa kanila [ay] P1400, pero ang kukunin no'ng nagpautang ay P1500, 'yon gano'n. So mga gano'ng examples. And sabi rin nila, kasi 'yon mga nakausap natin 'yon mga nagtratrabaho sa electric cooperatives so doon pupunta kapag... to plead na 'wag putulan, mga women din daw.

Karisa: Ano pa pong epekto sa kababaihan ng mataas na singil sa kuryente?
Ma'am Mae: Meron kaming inaaral ngayon pero nasa process pa lang pero you might also want to ask ibang community, kung ano 'yong relationship between 'yong walang access sa kuryente at violence against women kasi there might just be... although sa tingin ko naman, 'yong general na paghihirap ng economically ng family, may relasyon siya sa increase potential ng violence against women happening or domestic violence happening. So isa 'yan sa, syempre hindi maganda na effect na isa ring argument why we want to push for universal access na affordable 'yong ating rates. Marami pa d'yang kelangang aralin sa usapan ng talagang effects pa sa women. And I think we're just beginning to scratch the surface. Pero ang general anong kasi 'yan na ang viewing namin sa women as, although pwede mong sabihin na ang dami na nating rights na nag-enjoy ngayon, especially ngayon na nakakapag-aral at we have many laws that are friendly to women... 'yong status ng Filipino women, still, ang daming kalusugan para masabi mong may gender equality. So kung meron kanyang gano'nsituation na nahunuhul na siya, any crisis that happens, whether it's crisis in rise in prices, rise in oil, 'yong mga ganong ano... mas malaki 'yong nagiging impact sa kaniya [women], as a general rule. So same goes with the increase sa taxes. So dahil, kunyari 'yong VAT, 'yong value added tax. Di ba usual na nakikita mo 'yan sa mga purchases? Marami do'n, tina-tax siya on goods and services at these are usually 'yong kailangan mo sa bahay, 'yong groceries, at stuffs. So halimbawa, you have a two income, nag-e-earn din 'yong kababaihan, mas malaki, usually 'yong shio-shoulder na tax ng babae kesa do'n sa lahat. [Kasi] usual na in-charged siya sa paggro-grocery. 'Yong mga gano'n. Tapos may isin rin palang effect na nakwento 'yong mga kababaihan at you might want to this [and] further study it. Para kasing... may kapit-bayah ka bang naputulan? Kasi parang sobrang nakakahiya. Parang ang tingin talaga sa kanila no'ng mga kapit-bayah, so parang may connect din talaga 'yon sa VAW, sa violence against women. So parang 'yong nagbe-bear ng gano'ng kahihiyan [ay] 'yong kababaihan, kasi usually ando'n siya sa... 'yong lahat kasi mobile eh, wala do'n sa [tuwing araw]. So isa 'yan sa mga dinadaing nila o nire-raise nila na sila 'yong nagbe-bear ng gano'ng kahihiyan at sila 'yong naghanap, ine-expect na maghanap ng paraan para maano sila, ma-reconnect. So parang cultural naman 'yon na effect ng marginalization sa community. Na-o-ostracize sila being na naputulan ng kuryente.

Karisa: Sa pagbabadyet naman po, ano ang epektor nito?

Ma'am Mae: So 'yong, di ba na-establish na natin kanina na 'yong impact ng laws sa pagpapahirap sa access? So all these rate increases, habang nagre-rate increase nang nagre-rate increase, hindi namin tumataas suweldo mo eh. So kakain siya nang kakain [ng allocation] do'n [sa budget]. So eventually sabihin mo, "ano kaya 'yong pwede nating bawasan dito? Oh pwedeng hindi ka na muna siguro magpa-check-up ngayong buwan". O kung ako 'yong anak nay, pwedeng hindi na muna siguro ako magpa-check-up. Or instead na mag-enroll sa isang sem, pwedeng ipagpaliban muna. 'Yong mga gano'ng trade-offs. Hindi namin 'yong sabihin mo na, "Oh next year ka na lang mag-tour". Hindi namin gano'n 'yong mga ano di ba? Education, health, o 'yong mismong pinakaano talaga sa 'kin, 'yong mga nanay, wala na sa agenda nila 'yong leisure, leisure time. 'Yong mga gano'n. Or maybe, training, "mag-enroll ako sa manpower development o sa TESDA". Eh ubos na oras mo eh. Kelangan mo pang maghanap ng sideline o dagdag na kung anong tinda-tinda para lang magdagan 'yong kita mo. Di ba 'yong, marami na ngang na-lay-off... so, halimbawa 'yong teacher, pag-uwi n'ya sa bahay
meron siyang tindahan. "Yong mga gano'ng different things to make and skip, at tsaka
para madagdagan 'yong income.
Karisa: Ano po ang a
assessment to EPIRA in connection to its effects to women?
Ma'am Mae: Wala talagang women sa EPIRA. Kahit bali-baliktarin mo 'yan, wala kang
makikitang consent for women and gender d'yan. "Yong importanteng i-raise din, tayo
bila ng Pilipinas, marami tayong i-meet sa international community, at isa d'yan, narinig
mo na 'yong CEDAW, Convention for the Elimination of forms of Discrimination Against
Women. At isa nang kinommit (commit) ng Pilipinas do'n, no'ng ni-ratify 'ya 'yon ay
gender mainstreaming. Ibig sabihin, sa byurukrasya ng gobyerno, kinommit n'ya na i-
educate, isa 'yon sa mga task n'ya, magkaro'n ng kamulatan o awareness na there
should be gender equality sa important concern. Syempre hindi natin nakikita as ang
daming problema sa implementation ng mga ganitong international treaties, ang dami
'yan. And mga laws natin na pina-pass, gano'on ang hitsura 'no? Wala siyang
pagtitimbang, wala siyang masusi o studies na pagwe-weight what are the different
conditions of women and men. So it does not suggest gender at all. Although alam natin
sa totoong may gender differentiated na effects ang law. That is one of the things [that]
we're argung. "Yong mga mainstream economists, mga sinasabi nila, "eh lahat naman
kayo maaapektuhan ng privatization eh. Lahat kayo may problema d'yan". What we're
saying is that, "oo nga lahat kami, but some groups are more equal than others". Some
people are more equal than others. They have more privileges than others. And it so
happened that half of your population are affected differentially, ibig sabihin, iba 'yon
epekto sa kanila dahil 'yong positioning nila sa lipunan to start with is not on an equal
positioning with men. So in effect, sa pagtutulak na changes do'n sa EPIRA, o totally
'yon pag-scrap sa kaniya, it has to be a very important consideration din na sa usapin
ng access, may gender sensitivity o may pag
consider sa gender when you're talking
about improving access or democratizing access, especially for the poor.
Karisa: Para sa inyo po, pano mas magiging sensitive ang
government?
Ma'am Mae: Maraming ways 'yon, ano? Off the top of my head, siguro they need to look
at 'yon data nila Pilipino. "Yong last census ko kasi na sinagutan meron nang
tinatanong tungkol sa women. So 'yon ang problema kung i-lump mo ang household sa
mga tao. Isa ngang kaugnay d'yan is the need for sex disaggregated data. I think you've
encountered the term before. Well malaki pa rin ang data na gine-generate ng gobyerno
natin, totals. 'Yong mga aggregates. 'Yong mga total lang na numbers. You don't know
if those are men. Or if the majority are men or the majority are women. And that's one of
our commitments do'n sa CEDAW na unti-until, gagawa ang gobyerno ng paraan sa
kaniyang statistical methods so that it finds out specific information about men, specific
information about women. So kunyari, kun 'yong ikabit mo sa kuryente, kelangan do'n sa
mga, kunyari nagbayad ng kuryente, sino ba 'yon sa usapin ng na sino 'yon usually
nangungutang para ma-reconnect sila. [Or] ano 'yon mga gini-give up, kunyari may
listahan ka ng needs [which is] 1-10, ano 'yon gini-give up do'n na needs to be able to
pay for the electricity. So isa ring research question 'yon. Marami 'yang pwedeng
gawing researches. So ibig sabihin, to be more sensitive, hindi pwedeng 'yon sila
business-as-usual. They have to change also 'yon methods nila ng paghahanap ng
information because if you want that kind of information to come out - what affects men
and women differently - your research questions also have to change. Kasi do'n naman
nag-uumpisa sa paghanap nila ng data. So ito 'yon naka data kasi ito 'yon
tinatanong nila. So if you want men and women disaggregated data, you also have to change questions to be able to get that information. Sa ngayon, sa tingin ko, the Philippine Commission of Women has a very role to play. Baka hind pa nama-maximize yong papel nila. Medyo powerful siya ngayon kasi if you’ve seen the Magna Carta of Women, na napasa lang last year, it's very comprehensive and ando'n yong mga rights ng kababaihan sa iba't ibang social services and there are penalties for non-compliance. So halimbawa, instances of discrimination, may penalties from the local to the national. Marginalization ng pag-access ng social services, naka-provide yon do'n sa law. So sa tingin ko, dahil agency naman siya ng government, it should be able to help in synthesizing the government on laws that are responsive to those women and men. Kasi sabi naman natin, "of course we are all equal," but we also have different needs. And that's what we mean by gender equality. Hindi naman if the man has 10 apples, the woman has 10 apples, hindi naman 'yan ang ibig nating sabihin na equality lang but looking at maybe the woman does not need apples; maybe she needs pears. So may mga gano'ng thinking dapat sa ating policy makers - changes that have to happen amongst our policy makers to be able to come up with more sensitive laws and that doesn't happen overnight.

Karisa: Ano pong alternatives yong masa-suggest n'yo para mas maging beneficial sa mga babae ang reforms sa energy sector?
So ang tingin talaga namin d'yan, an essential service like electricity, just like water as well, hindi siya dapat i-privatize. You cannot put a public service, a very important public service in the hands private companies who will just prioritize yong profit nila kesa yong serbisyo. Kasi kunyari dito, hindi naman nagma-matter kung [ano yong] laking epekto sa yong, basta't hindi ka nagbayad, putol ka. Hindi ka nagbayad, wala kang [halimbawa] tubig. So sa isang public set-up, hindi dapat gano'n. Part of your responsibility as government is yong meron kang extra mile that you go para matulungan those who are most disadvantaged. Hindi mo titinginan yong population mo na lahat customer. Titinginan mo yon na may mga tao d'yan na nangangailangan ng tulong at may mga tao naman na may mga swimming pool at mga aircon 24 hours na hindi mo kailángang tumulong at dapat lang silang magbayad nang more. So kaya nga ang isa sa aming argument, kaya nga gusto na naming palitan yong EPIRA because naninindigan talaga siya for and in support of privatization which we think is wrong and leads to all sorts of difficulties, especially to poor and marginalized na dapat nga sila yong subsidized sa mga ganitong bagay.

Pero hindi ito sa lahat ng babae. 'Yong mga marginalized woman.I don't know if you've heard of double shift. Kasi yong working woman, she has this 5-8 hours job di ba? Tapos pag-uwi n'ya, she has this another shift at home taking care of the kids, working on the... 'yong sa 'tin, marami naman kasi sa communities, hindi lang 'yan double shift, multiple shifts yon. Sa maraming communities fina-farm out na ngayon 'yong parang piece work. Minsan gumagawa sila ng manggas... 'yong mga companies ganyan style nila ngayon para hindi sila mag-u-unionize. So pinaparte-parte nila 'yon. So mas maraming women ang nag-aano [nagtratrabaho sa ganon] kasi hindi sila makaalis sa anak nila eh. Kaya titinganggap nila 'yong work because they don't need to go out... to go out of their house kasi doble-doble 'yong kanilang ginagawa. So while taking care of the kids, may ginagawa rin sila na panghanap-buhay. Naglalako pa. May tinda pa sila. So ibig sabihin multiple shifts 'yan. And hindi lang 'yan usapin na nagrereklamo sila na,
"ay dagdag na naman na trabaho". It's really 'yong assumption that women have unlimited and flexible time. Para bang hindi ka nauubusan [ng oras]... hindi lang 24 hours ang araw mo. Pwede mo pang i-stretch 'yan, idagdag mo lang nang idagdag. So parang ina-assume ng EPIRA at nang gan'yang kind ng policy na kung ano man 'yong hindi na mapro-provide ng gobyerno, may sasalo n'yan. But who's doing it? The woman is doing it.
Appendix C. 4. Interview with Yuem Abana (Partidong Manggagawa)

Karisa: Ano pong pangalan nila?
Yuem: Yuem Abana.
Karisa: Taga-PM po kayo?
Yuem: Oo.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong situation ng power sector noon bago 'yong EPIRA?
Yuem: Ang power sector noon, syempre, namromroblema na rin sa power, sa kakulangan ng power no'n. Kaya nga nagkaroon... binuo nila 'yong EPIRA... may mga shortage no'n ang power industry noon... may mga shortage. Hinayaang magkaroon ng kanya-kanya... IPPs, independent power producers. Eh di hinayaan n'ya kung pa'no iso-solve 'yong shortages na 'yan. Kaya sabi bubuhin 'yong isang batas na magtitiyak para bumaba 'yong presyo ng kuryente [at] ayusin 'yong sistema sa power industry. 'Yon ang kalagayan, mga problema.

Karisa: Ano po 'yong difference ang naidudulot ng access sa kuryente sa kalidad ng buhay ng mga pamilyang Pilipino?
Yuem: 'Yang kuryente, isa 'yang serbisyo na mahalaga... kasabay 'yan sa pag-unlad ng buhay. Sa mga negosyo, syempre nagpapabilir 'yan sa mga gawain at pag-unlad sa industriya. Tsaka nagpapagaan sa buhay ng tao.

Karisa: Ano po 'yong evaluation n'yo sa effectiveness ng EPIRA bilang solusyon do'n sa sinabi n'yon problema saka po sa pagpro-provide ng access sa kuryente?
Yuem: Ang EPIRA ay failure. Bigo ang EPIRA. 10 years na siya. Dahil hindi ka magkakaroon ng access. Una access, mapuputulan ka ng kuryente, wala kahang sa laki ng bayarin sa kuryente. At hindi n'ya natupad 'yong kanyang objective na pababain 'yong presyo ng kuryente at lahat magkaroon ng access sa power. Bale ito 'yong naging daan pa para i-privatize 'yong power industry. Halimbawa, tulad nito, no'ng Napocor, ibinenta na siya. Ibinenta siya dahil lubog sa utang. Samantalang binabayaran naman ng gobyerno no 'yon ano, 'yong sinasaging utang kasi para maibenta n'ya 'yan, o ma-privatize, kailangang bayaran n'ya 'yong losses o 'yong pinagkautangan, bakit nalugi, na walang paliwanag do'n. So isa 'yon. Lahat ng assets sa power industry ay binibente ng gobyerno hanggang sa pinakahuli-huling transmission o 'yong pinagdaduluyan 'yong mula sa generation papuntang distribution, hanggang makarating sa mga tao. Binenta na rin 'yon dahil mula sa generation, transmission hanggang distribution ay private 'yan. So wala angyang d'yan kung magtaaas ng singil sa kuryente dahil nga nasa pribadong korporasyon na 'yon nagtatakada. At syempre dahil binili nila nag mahal 'yan, babawiin nila 'yan sa madaling panahon. 'Yong 'yon nangyari sa EPIRA.

Karisa: Ano naman po 'yong pinagkaiba ng sitwasyon ng mga pamilya noon at ngayon in terms of access nila?
Yuem: Noon, bagama't may shortage, regulated pa 'yan ng gobyerno. E ngayon, noong una maliliit pa 'yong binabayaran mo sa presyo ng kuryente dahil may subsidy pa ng gobyerno. Ngayon wala na 'yon subsidy na 'yon kaya sino-shoulder nang lahat ng mga mamamayan lalo na ng mga kababaihan na nagbabayad sa pamilya - kakainin na lang, ilalaan pang pambayad ng kuryente. Unahin mo talaga dahil pag wala kahang kuryente, unang-una kahihi-hiya ka sa kapit-bahay, 'yong kalagayan n'yon hindi nakapagbayad. Pangalawa, hirap ka na dahil walang kuryente, paano ka na aandar maghapon no'n? E sa init pa naman ng panahon ngayon dahil sa climate change, global warming. Kahit

Karisa: Sa isang pamilyang Pilipino po, sino ang pinakabulnerable sa mga epekto ng EPIRA?


Karisa: Bukod pa po sa mga nasabi n’yo, ano pa pong epekto ng EPIRA o ‘yong mahal na singil sa kuryente. Ano po ‘yong epekto nito sa mga babae?


Karisa: Bilang organisasyon po na simulang una ay tinutulan na ang EPIRA, paano po sa tingin ninyo magiging mas sensitive sa sitwasyon ng mga babae ‘yon pong reforms sa energy sector?

Karisa: Ano po 'yong masa-suggest n'yo na better solution or alternative po para mas maging beneficial 'yong results sa public at lalo na sa kababaihan?

Yuem: Dapat talaga tanggaling 'yong pinagmumulan. 'Yong pinagmumulan no'n 'yong EPIRA. Tapos ibalik 'yong, kasi 'yong ERC, ipinalit 'yan sa Department of Energy. E kasi siya, regulartory commission lang siya, wala naman siyang power pero payag siya nang payag na taasan nang taasan itong kuryente 'pag hiniling ng mga korporasyon. Ibalik ang Department of Energy na mangangasiwa talaga do'n. Tapos i-repeal na 'tong EPIRA. Ibalik ang subsidy sa kuryente. May pera namang pagkukunan para d'yan e. Bakit hindi i-budget?

Karisa: A 'yong proper allocation po?

Appendix C. 5. E-mail interview with Judy Miranda (FDC Women’s Committee)  
Before EPIRA

- What are your insights about the situation of the power sector in the Philippines before EPIRA?

- A. There was a severe power supply crisis as witnessed in the early 1990s. At the core of these problems had been the government’s inability to finance the sector’s investment requirements, setting off a crippling power crisis.

- What implications does the difference in the availability of access to electricity have on the quality of living of Filipino families?

- A. Scores of poor Filipino families in urban hubs and across the regions have limited, if not zero, access to electricity. In terms of development, a growing population would mean increasing consumption, especially for electricity that is now a requisite for modern life. A mismatch between electricity demand and population growth could be an indicator of the fact a failure to make electricity more accessible to the population – whether that be in terms of distribution or pricing. The declining average demand of electricity attest to the fact that the growth benefits remain exclusive to the owners of Power industry and the affluent sectors of society who can afford the prohibitive costs of electricity.

- What was the situation of indigent families in terms of their access to electricity before EPIRA was implemented?

- A. A decade ago indigent families have a fair share of access to electricity in terms of owning a meter in affordable price, a two months grace period of paying up electric bills which was still included in budgeting other than food, house rental, education, medical, etc.

- What is your evaluation of the effectiveness of EPIRA as a solution of the government as to providing cleaner and more accessible electricity for Filipino families?

- A. EPIRA was intended to be the solution to the country’s electricity problems. How gov’t had envisioned EPIRA to solve the electricity problems can be gleaned, for instance, from the gov’t’s policy statement submitted to the Asian Development bank in November 1998, in support of its loan application. In restructuring and privatizing the power sector, the gov’t believed that competition would happen, generating greater operational and economic efficiency. It would at the same time facilitate the inflow of private capital, thereby minimizing gov’t financial and risk exposure. The projected overall result of EPIRA is a reliable, secure, high quality and affordable power supply. With independent power producers and private distribution utilities, they said, we can achieve the lowest cost of electricity for consumers. These perspectives are reiterated in EPIRA’s declaration of policy.
After 10 years

- What are your insights about EPIRA?

- A. Today, the Philippines has the most expensive electricity in Asia. The privatization promise was that EPIRA would encourage competition among the industry players and eventually bring the prices down. However, to date, power generation in Luzon, the nation’s largest grid, is dominated by only 3 players, and they have maintained the price setting power that was supposed to be the role of the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM). Meralco on the other hand, remains the biggest contributor, servicing around 70% of Luzon’s demand. The sheer size of its market share effectively means monopoly.

- It has also created a problem of regulatory capture: the Electricity regulatory Commission (ERC) that was supposed to be in charge of monitoring electricity rates and making sure that they are “just and reasonable” have allowed these problems to persist.

- EPIRA has effectively turned the state monopoly in electricity generation and distribution into the monopoly of the private sector. In short, EPIRA has failed.

- After 10 years of implementation, what has changed in the situation of indigent families in terms of their access to electricity?

- A. As a consequence, millions of Filipino consumers especially the indigent families are much poorer, electricity wise – adding another facet to the worsening problems of Philippine poverty, including the increased burden on our women.

- What are the effects of EPIRA to the Filipino families in general?

- A. EPIRA promises of affordable and accessible electricity to all through privatization has been turned entirely upside down. Filipino families are facing higher electricity rates. Access to electricity is becoming more impossible to poor families.

EPIRA and its effects to women

- In a Filipino family, who is/are the most vulnerable to the implications of EPIRA? Why do you say so?

Women and children family members are most vulnerable to the implications of EPIRA. Women and children have less or no economic capacity to avail of high power costs. In Philippine society, most women and children are dependent economically on their male relatives/partners.

Data shows that more women are unemployed, underemployed hence, the inability to spend for high power rates.

Women manage most households and are relied upon the family to do multiple task of domestic work, care for children, sick and elderly, and juggle funds.

Women and children are the ones at home most of the time that needs access to power to ensure quality of life at home such as use of basic appliances for domestic work, home education and caring for infants, children and elderly. In the absence of power, women would have to do more manual work and extend hours doing domestic work.
What are the effects of EPIRA to women who are head of households?

- What better solutions or alternatives do you suggest would yield a more beneficial result to the general public?

- A. 1. After 10 years of EPIRA, it is high time to review the law toward finding suitable alternatives that would truly bring down high power rates and efficient, reliable and secure power supply to the nation.

- 2. Review and renegotiate contracts with Independent power Producers (IPPs). Consumers should not be made to pay for electricity they did not consume.

- 3. Electricity must still be made affordable and widely available to each and every Filipino family. The structure of ownership and control of energy resources must be democratized. We must assert the role of the people in ownership and control of electricity generation and distribution. This must no longer be determined simply by the profit motive of private corporations or the technocratic instincts of gov’t. At this point, we must collectively urge the gov’t to support the expansion and strengthening of rural electric cooperatives, and other public-public partnerships that would own, control or develop electricity resources.

- 4. We must also emphasize the importance of including the people’s voice in the decision making – be it a question of production, distribution, pricing or regulation.

- 5. We must take steps to ensure that the solution to the power problem would not push the environment and our natural resources to further degradation, and the indigenous people and local communities into graver destitution. It is likewise important for us to develop proposals that would allow the smooth transition from coal-fired power plants and other destructive electricity generating-technologies to reliable renewable energy sources.

- The struggle to democratize the Philippine power industry is not just a matter of sustainable development, for most us it is likewise a matter of survival.

- How will the reforms in energy sector be more sensitive to the situation of Filipino women?

  - Energy issue should be given a gender perspective, collate available information on impact of energy issues on women, hold consultations among women from all areas and across economic status.

  - Enrich research on impact of energy issue on women so as to ensure continuous inclusion of women concerns.

  - Ensure that power rates are affordable, accessible to women.

  - Government should public electricity services to very poor women or women with no capacity to access private power supply.

  - Energy sector should include women in the planning for power reforms.
Appendix C. 6. E-mail interview with Maitet Diokno (Feminist Economist)

Access to electricity is important because electricity makes possible more efficient production and an enhanced way of living. Women men and children in families need light, ventilation, recreation, communication, some production, that is mostly provided with electricity. Access to electricity is a development concern. In 2006 there were 14 million families without access to electricity. The poorer the region, the higher the proportion of the population/families without access to electricity. Please see attached files.

For a discussion on GDP, household and women, please see attached file. Sorry, wala pala sa computer na ito, I'll send to you later from my laptop. I think you should go to the website of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) www.nscb.gov.ph for an official discussion on GDP and what's included in it. That is not an interview question that is a research topic that you have to study on your own. But I'll send you a file from a lecture that I listened to on a gendered view of the macroeconomy.

Women's formal productive work IS included in the computation of the gross domestic product. Or at least it should be. The problem is that women's REPRODUCTIVE work is not (caring for the family, providing for the needs and sustenance of family members). Oftentimes too women work in the fields and in the farms but this work doesn't get recognized as PRODUCTIVE work. Part of the reason why this is not recognized is because when women are asked, did you work? For them they didn't because they do so many things at the same time and because they don't get paid for it. Another reason is that mainstream thinking does not recognize any difference between men and women because they're considered equal. The unit of work is the family and the assumption is that within the family there is no difference between the position/condition of men and women vis a vis each other. That tends to make the government gender blind even if it doesn't intend to be gender blind.

Women who work in the INFORMAL sector also tend to be invisible. So their activities and their earnings are generally not reflected in the official data.

Economic data is needed to help us assess where we are as a nation, where we are weak and where we're strong, and this gives us an idea of where we should be moving forward. So if economic data doesn't capture the realities that women face and their contribution to the country then we can't respond to the needs of women and half the story of the country is unseen and unreflected and ignored.

The framework of the reforms embodied in the EPIRA have no specific concern or focus or attention to women and their needs. The mainstream view is that the reforms are gender neutral, in other words, not necessarily giving an advantage to men over women, or women over men. Whether this is true still needs to be tested. FDC is in the process of conducting research on this.
Appendix D. Focus Group Discussions and In-depth Interviews

Appendix D. 1. FGD (Damayang-Lagi, Quezon City)


Nanay Gina: Ako po si Gina.

Karisa: Ilang taon po?
Nanay Gina: 62.

Girlie: Sixteen ka?
Nanay Conching: Girlie. 36.

Karisa: Kayo po?

Nanay Conching: 28.

Elvie: Elvie. 37.

Karisa: So... ah... ga'no katagal na po kayong may pamilya?

Girlie: Ako?

Nanay Conching: Ilang taon na 'yong anak mo? ['Yong] panganay?

Girlie: 15 years old ako may anak na 'ko.

Karisa: Kayo po? (kay Nanay Gina)

Nanay Gina: Ano...

Nanay Conching: Ilang taon ka nag-asawa?

Nanay Gina: 20. [Bale] 42 (taon nang may pamilya).

Karisa: Kayo po? (Kay Nina)


Karisa: Kayo po? (Kay Elvie)

Elvie: Mga 11 years na rin.

Karisa: Meron po ba kayong mga trabaho?

Silang lahat: (iling) Wala.

Nanay Gina: Mangalakal ng...

Nanay Conching: Trabaho pa rin 'yon.

Karisa: May iba pa po ba kayong pinagkakakitaan?

Silang lahat: Wala.

Karisa: Sa bahay n'yo po, ano po 'yong mga nakatokang gawain sa inyo?

Nina: Maglalaba, magluto.

Elvie: Mag-alaga ng bata.

Nanay Gina: Sumundo sa anak.

Karisa: Tapos sino po 'yong kumikita sa pamilya n'yo?

Nina: Kami, wala.

Nanay Conching: Oh eh sa'n nanggagaling 'yong kinakain n'yo?

Nina: Eh kung may kalakal, eh di, doon.

Nanay Conching: Sinong naghahanap buhay sa inyo? Ikaw o siya?

Girlie: Silang dalawa.

Karisa: 'Yong pagbabadyet kayo rin po [ang] gumagawa?

Silang lahat: (tango) Oo.

Nina: Kung may ibabadyet ah. Kung wala, di, wala kaming badyet.

Karisa: May mga kuryente po ba kayo?

Silang lahat: (iling)


Girlie: No'ng hindi pa nasunugan.

Karisa: Mula kailan po?

Elvie: Matagal na rin eh.

Nina: Mga isang taon na. April 20 pa lang eh.

Girlie: April 25.
Karisa: Natatandaan n'yo po ba kung magkano 'yong nagagastos n'yo para magbayad ng kuryente?
Nina: Magkano 'yon?
Elvie: Five hundred.
Nina: Seven hundred.
Elvie: Malakas man umikot 'yong sa 'min.
Nanay Conching: Tipid na tipid 'yon?
Nina: 'Yong ano 'yon.
Nanay Conching: Ay... Submeter.
Elvie: Naki-submeter lang kami.
Nanay Conching: Once na mabuksan 'yon... kahit walang gamit ikot siya.
Nanay Conching: 'Yon, kaììt wala 'yong gamit na... [kahit] 'di mo ginagamit, ikot siya.
Elvie: 'Yong kinabitan namin, wala kaming gamit [kundi] ilaw at electric fan lang. 'Yon pala, 'yong bago naming submeter, binuksan pala para malakas umikot. Kahit magtipid...
Nanay Conching: Para 'yong pati 'yong sa mismong may ari kayo na ang nagbabayad.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga nasasakripisyo sa badyet n'yo para kuryente?
Nina: Kahit wala nang makain, sa kuryente na lang. Kasi kailangan-[kailangan eh.
Elvie: Babawasan na lang 'yong sa pagkain... sa badyet ng pagkain.
Karisa: Gaano kahalaga po sa inyo 'yong kuryente?
Elvie: Importante din.
Nina: Importante.
Elvie: Maraping lamok. Di pa kami makatulog, mainit; puno pa 'yong bahay ko, kubo lang.
Karisa: Ikaw po, Nanay? Ano-ano po 'yong mga gawain n'yo na ginagamitan ng kuryente.
Nanay Gina: Dati po, namamalantsa kami. Importante 'yon sa mga estudyante.
Karisa: Sa inyo po? (kay Girlie)
Girlie: Gano'n din po.
Karisa: Narasasan n'yo na po bang maputulan ng kuryente o 'yong pagkatapos n'yo lang po masunugan?
Elvie: Pagkasunog lang.
Karisa: Pero dati hindi naman po kayo napuputulan?
Girlie: Unahin talaga namin, 'yong kuryente tsaka 'yong tubig.
Elvie: Isipin mo wala kaming mga tubig. Binibili lang din namin timba-timba. Kasi wala rin kaming
Nanay Conching: Magkano isang timba?
Girlie: Tingnan mo nga ngayon oh, nagtyatyaga kami...
Nanay Conching: Hirap mo pa mag-igib. Hahakutin mo pa.
Elvie: Ano lang, pagdating sa banda dito wala kaming ano eh... lalo na sa ilaw, wala na rin dito banda. Parang hindi na nila inaano.
Nanay Conching: Hindi na pina-prioritize.
Girlie: Hindi na nila talagang ano... kinakabit.
Elvie: Kaya nagtiis kami.
Girlie: Katulad ngayon, nakahanda kami sa 28.
Nanay Conching: Syempre 'yong mga nakakabayad...
Karisa: Paano po no'ng wala na kayong kuryente? Ano pong pinagkaiba no'n kaysa no'ng wala kayo?
Elvie: Mas mahirap. Mahirap.
Karisa: Sa mga gawing-bahay.
Nina: Mas mahirap.
Elvie: Madilim din.
Nina: 'Di magkagawa nang maayos 'pag madilim na. Sa umaga, mabilis lang.
Girlie: Kaya ang saing ngayon... alas singko pa lang magsasaing ka na eh.
Nanay Conching: Kain-kain na agad 'yon?
Nina: Oo, kain na 'yon.
Girlie: Kasi 'pag inabot ka ng alas siete, madilim na 'yon.
Nina: Ang ilaw mo lang, 'yong poste.
Karisa: Alam n'yo po ba 'yong EPIRA?
Silang lahat: Hindi.
Appendix D. 2. FGD (Tondo, Manila)

Karisa: Maaari po ba kayong magpakilala?

Neneng (2): Ako si Neneng. Organizer ng PM ZoTo at kasalukuyang secretary ng barangay.

Karisa: Ilang taon na po kayo?

Neneng: 50.

(Lahat nagtawanan)

Esperanza: Pinabata mo pa!

Neneng (1): Ako naman si Melba. Pero tinatawag nila akong Ate Neneng. Tapos...

Karisa: "Neneng" din?

Neneng (1): Oo, "Neneng" din. Kaya Neneng 1 (turo sa katabi), Neneng 2 (turo sa sarili). Ay! Neneng 1 (turo sa sarili), Neneng 2 (turo sa katabi sa kaliwa). Ha ha ha! Tapos ako'y 58 na... At mayro'ng siyam na anak. Ipinaagmamalaki!

Esperanza: Ako si Esperanza. Ate Espi kung tawagin. Ah... PRO ako ng ZoTo. ZoTo Tondo.

Karisa: Ano pong ibig sabihin ng ZoTo?

Espi: Zone 1 Tondo Organization. Ah. 43 years old.


Karisa: Ilang taon po?

Lolit: Ano... 59.

Analina: Analina Merucho. Tawag nila sa 'kin, "Inday". 41.

Karisa: Pareho po kayong "Inday"?

(Nagtawanan lahat)

Neneng 1: Mga Bisaya kami.


Karisa: Unang tanong ko po. Gaano katagal na po kayong may pamilya?

Neneng 2: May?

Karisa: May pamilya po.

Lolit: May mga asawa? Ha ha ha

Neneng 2: 1980 ako nag-asawa e.

Neneng 1: Ako... '73.

Espi: Ako, hindi nag-asawa pero nagkaanak ako nang 19... 87. Ha ha ha!

Tapos 'yong pangalawang asawa ko. 'Yon na 'yong kinalakihan ng anak ko.

Karisa: Kayo po?

Lolit: Ako, actually, hindi ako nag-asawa.


Karisa: Meron po ba kayong mga trabaho?

Lolita: Hmp walang trabaho.

Espi: Eto empleyado. (Turo kay Neneng 2)

Neneng 2: Ako secretary ng barangay. Ikaw? (Turo kay Neneng 1)

Espi: Secretary ng bahay (tingin kay Neneng 1)

Neneng 1: Dati nagtitinda. Pero ngayon... wala na, nagbabalat na lang ng bawang. Sobrang mahal ng presyo ng ano... wala ka nang tinutubo.

Karisa: Ano pong ginagawa n'yo do'n sa bawang?

Neneng 1: Binabalanat.

Karisa: Tapos po?

Lolita: Binabayaran kami. Do'n kinukuha namin 'yon sa may-ari.

Neneng 1: Limang piso isang kilo.

Karisa: 'Yong 4Ps po?
Espi: (tango). Ah lider din ako dito sa barangay namin.
Lolita: Ako, 'pag may puhunan, tinda-tinda. 'Pag wala, bawang-bawang.
Miyembro din ako ng 4Ps... na hindi ko pa nahawakan.
(Tawanan)
Karisa: Kayo po?
Neneng 1: Kararating lang n'yan.
Analina: Tinawag agad ako ni Neneng.
Karisa: Anong mga gawain po 'yong nakatoka sa inyo sa bahay?
Analina: Marami.
Neneng 2: Lahat. Mga gawain ng babae.
Analina: Tagalinis.
Espi: Taga-budget.
Analina: Nag-aalaga ng bata.
Espi: Kung may babadyetin. Kung wala, ikaw maghahanap ng budget. Ha ha ha!
Neneng 2: Mga basic na ginagawa ng nanay.
Karisa: Sinabi n'yo po, kayo rin nagbabadyet?
(Tumango silang lahat)
Karisa: So sino po'ng kumikita sa pamilya?
Lolita: Kami pa rin. Ha ha ha!
(Tawanan lahat)
Karisa: Kayo rin po?
Espi: Ako, hindi. Ah 'yong mister ko nag-aano sa shop. Ah... Ano 'yon?
Neneng 1: Kararating lang n'yan.
Karisa: Sa'n n'yo po ginagastos 'yong mga kinikita n'yo?
Lolita: Baon.
Espi: Pambayad ng mga bata. Pambayad ng tubig.
Analina: Pagkain.
Espi: Pambayad ng ilaw.
Karisa: Ga'no kalaki po 'yong ginagastos n'yo sa kuryente?
Espi: Hindi pare-pareho.
Neneng 1: Kami naka-submeter kami kaya... Ngayon tumaas sa P20 ano.
Analina: Ngayon pinapabayaran sa 'min P20.
Neneng 1: Kaya salaub kami ng...
Neneng 2: Iba-iba 'yan kasi submeter.
Karisa: Limang libo po? Isang buwan lang po 'yon?
Analina: Wala pang isang buwan 'yon.
Karisa: Mas malaki pa po sa binabayaran namin sa probinsya.
Silang lahat: Ay oo. Malaki 'yan.
Neneng 2: Bawat ikot kasi ang binabayaran d'yan sa submeter e.
Espi: Sa amin nga doon 16 pesos isang metro.
Analina at Lolita: Kilowatt.
Analina: Sa 'min Espi kulang-kulang tatlong libo.
Neneng 1: Kaya nga 'yong anak ko, umalis muna. Nahihirapan kasi sila ang sumasalo. E kasi 'yong suweldo naman ng manugang ko sa CCP dahil sa... ano 'yong painting na 'yon? 'Yong sa simbahan?
Karisa: Politeismo po?
Neneng 1: Oo, naku po naaapektuhan sila... na...
Espi: Natitigil.
Neneng 1: Oo, biruin mo apat na buwan na siyang wala siyang sahod.
Analina: Naapektuhan sila?
Neneng 1: Oo, naapektuhan sila do'n. Kaya hirap na hirap talaga.
Karisa: Paano po naaapektuhan ng mataas na singil sa kuryente 'yong budget n'yo?
Neneng 1: Wala, ang pinagtratrabahuhan ko sa kuryente lang napupunta. Wala na ang sa pagkaing kaya hirap na hirap talaga.
Espi: Sa amin, ano, 'yong budget sa pagkaing naipambabayad pa sa ilaw.
Karisa: Ano pa po 'yong ibang nasasakripisyo sa budget n'yo para po makabayarad sa kuryente?
Espi: Pambaon ng mga bata.
Karisa: Gaano kahalaga po sa inyo ang kuryente? sa mga gawain n'yo sa bahay?
Lolita: Napakahalaga.
Analina: Mahalaga.
Neneng 1: Salamat na lang at may pailaw ang barangay d'yan at 'pag nagbalat kami ng bawang. Sama point lang kami kumukuha ng aming pang-araw-araw. May isang daan ka sa isang araw na kitaing sa bawang, o biruin mo... kaya napakahalaga n'yan.
Karisa: Ano-anong 'yong mga gawain n'yo na ginagamitan ng kuryente?
Analina: Electric fan.
Lolita: 'Pag naglilibang ka, TV.
Espi: Pinakamahalaga, ilaw.
Karisa: TV, electric fan at ilaw lang po ang gamit n'yo pero ang laki ng binabayaran n'yo?
Analina: Oo.
Lolita: Pinapatay pa namin sa gabi 'yan.
Analina: Nagtitipid kami sa ilaw.
Karisa: Nararanasan n'yo na po bang maputulan ng kuryente?
Espi: Ay madalas kami.
Analina: Jumper.
Espi: Sa jumper dati. Wala kaming kasiguraduhan na may ilaw sa jumper. E wala nang jumper kaya...
Analina: Kaya naka-submeter na lang kami.
Espi: ...nakipagsapalaran kami sa submeter.
Karisa: Ano pong pinagkaiba ng jumper at submeter?
Analina: Sa jumper ambagan lang.
Lolita: Lahat doon pwede.
Karisa: 'Yong submeter?
Lolita: Ang binabayaran mo 'yong ikot.
Analina: 'Di ka pwedeng magplantasya.
Karisa: 'Pag napuputulan po kayo ng kuryente, paano po naaapektuhan 'yong mga gawaing bahay n'yo?
Espi: Mabagal kumilos.
Lolita: Madilim.
Analina: Bulag. Wala kang makita.
Neneng 1: 'Di lalo na sa mga nag-aaral na mga bata.
Lolita: Mahirap kumilos.
Neneng 1: ...'di ka na makapamalantsa. Imbes na neat tingnan 'yong anak mo dahil plantsado [ang damit], e di ngayon, tyaga na sa gusot-gusot.
Analina: Bukod pa do'n, may kasama kaming matatanda, madaling matumba.
Karisa: Paano po kayo nasunugan no'n?
Neneng 1: Actually, ano, kandila [kasi] walang ilaw...
Espí: Mga kapit-bahay na walang ingat sa kandila.
Neneng 1: Hindi, kahit naman ingatan mo siya, hindi mo maiwasan matumba ang kandila. Maano ng daga.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga sakripisyong ginawa ninyo upang mahatiran ulit kayo ng serbisyo [ng kuryente]?
Neneng 1: 'Yon nga. Unahan mo talaga ang para sa kuryente.
Karisa: Pina-prioritize po?
Karisa: Ano pong mga polisiya ng gobyerno tungkol sa kuryente 'yong alam ninyo?
Karisa: Bawal po magpakabit ng kuryente rito?
Silang lahat: Hindi e.
Analina: Under demolition daw kami.
Neneng 1: Oo, kasi squatter nga, hindi pwedeng magkabit dito, pero nagkaroon din naman ng pagkakataon. Nagkaroon ng proyekto. Ang problema talaga, dahil sa kahirapan, nade-delay talaga ng pagbabayad hanggang sa hindi na nakakabayaran, hanggang sa awala na lang 'yong proyekto.
Karisa: Ano pong pinagkaiba ng sitwasyon ninyo 10 years ago regarding po sa access ninyo sa kuryente?
Espí: May pambayad pa sa kuryente.
Lolita: May puhunan ka, wala ka nang kinikita ngayon.
Analina: Mas magsaan-gaan ang buhay noon.
Neneng 1: Nagkaroon ng EPIRA, parang hindi naman epektibo kasi hirep rin talaga makabayaran, [at ang] kabuhayan.
Analina: Lalo ngayon, maraming walang hanap-buhay kaya hirep lalo sa kuryente makabayaran.
Analina: Ang singil ngayon, nuebe. Bente ang submeter sa amin. Ang laki di ba?
Appendix D. 3. FGD (Tatalon, Quezon City)

Elizabeth: Ako po... ano... Elizabeth Eras.
Karisa: Kayo po?
Cecilia: Cecilia Eras.
Karisa: Magkakamag-anak po kayo?
Cecilia: Oo.
Rowela: Rowela.
Karisa: Rowela po?
Rowela: Oo. R-O-W single L.
Karisa: Ah.
Rowela: Riel. R-I-E-L
Karisa: Kayo po?
Marites: Marites Eras.
Karisa: Meron po ba kayong trabaho?
Lahat: Wala.
Conching: Kasalukuyan nga silang naghahanap ng trabaho. Ngayon nag-a-apply sila.
Karisa: Sa'n po kaya mag-a-apply?
Conching: Pabrika ng ano... Capiz.
Karisa: Ah... Ano naman po 'yong mga ginagawa n'yong trabaho sa bahay? Ano po 'yong mga nakaatang sa inyong gawaing?
Elizabeth: Ako, naglalaba, saing...
Karisa: Pwede po kayong sumagot.
Rowela: Ah pwede ba?
Karisa: Opo, lahat po.
Cecilia: Ah, akala ko isa-isa.
Marites: Nag-aalaga ng bata.
Rowela: 'Yong mga ginagawa ng mga nanay.
Elizabeth: Hugas ng pinggan.
Karisa: Sa tingin n'yo po, bakit po kayo ang gumagawa ng mga gawaing-bahay na iyon?
Rowela: Kasi 'yong mga asawa namin naghahanap-buhay.
Elizabeth: Mga asawa namin nagtratrabaho.
Rowela: Kami ang naiwan sa bahay, kaya kami ang gumagawa sa mga gawaing-bahay.
Karisa: May trabaho naman po ang mga asawa n'yoy?
Lahat: *tango*
Karisa: 'Yon po ang pangunahing pinagkukunan n'yo ng kita ng pamilya?
Lahat: *tango*
Karisa: Ano po 'yong ginagamit n'yong panggatong?
Cecilia: Uling.
Rowela: Gaas.
Conching: Silang tatlo uling.
Rowela: Kaming tatlo uling.
Karisa: Wala pong nag-e-LPG?
Lahat: Wala.
Karisa: May kuryente naman po kayong lahat?
Lahat: Oo.
Karisa: Pero naranasan n'yo na pong maputulan?
Lahat: Oo.
Conching: Oo, lahat 'yan, naputulan na sila.
Karisa: Gaano po kahalaga sa inyo ang kuryente sa paggawa n'yo ng mga gawaing-bahay?
Rowela: Malaking halaga siya para sa amin, lalo na may maliit ako [na anak]. Syempre umiiyak siya kapag walang bintilador. Mahirap. Walang bintilador, walang ilaw sa bahay. Basta isa siyang malaking bagay... mahalagang bagay para sa amin.
Karisa: Saan-saan n'yo po ginagamit 'yong kuryente?
Rowela: Bintilador, pagluluto, TV, pakikinig ng mga ano... tugtog, rice cooker.
Karisa: Ah may rice cooker po kayo?
Rowela: Oo.
Karisa: Ano-ano pa po 'yong appliances n'yo?
Cecilia: TV lang tsaka electric fan.
Elizabeth: Ilaw ang tsaka bintilador. Wala kaming gamit. He he he!
Karisa: Kayo po?
Marites: Ayon... TV.
Rowela: DVD.
Karisa: Nagcha-charge din po kayo ng mga cellphone?
Rowela: Meron naman.
Cecilia: Sila meron, ako wala. Wala akong cellphone.
Karisa: Kayo po?
Rowela: Oo.
Marites: Gano'n din. Electric fan, ilaw.
Karisa: Sa average po, magkano ang binabayaran n'yo sa ilaw buwan-buwan?
Cecilia: Malaki 'yong akin. Trenta ako araw-araw.
Karisa: Ano po ba 'yong connection n'yo? Sub-meter po? Extension o 'yong regular na connection?
Conching: Gumagamit lang siya ng ano... ng ano... 'yong may kuntador.
Karisa: Sub-meter po 'yon o extension?
Cecilia: Extension.
Karisa: Kayo po?
Rowela: Sa akin, hindi ako ang nagha-handle. 'Yong biyenan ko kaya hindi ko alam.
Karisa: Kayo po?
Marites: Kami ano... 'yong mister ko nagbabayad. Limang daan isang buwan.
Conching: Thirty a day ka?
Cecilia: Oo.
Conching: Ang laki ano?
Conching: Ah gabi lang, wala kang araw?
Cecilia: Oo.
Karisa: Anong epekto po ng mataas na singil sa kuryente sa budget n'yo?
Cecilia: Malaki ang epekto kasi imbes na pambili pa namin ng ulam, binabayad na namin sa kuryente. Mahirap talaga. Imbes na ibili mo ng baon sa mga anak mo,
naibayad mo na.
Karisa: Nag-aarala po 'yong mga anak n'yo?
Cecilia: Oo, nag-aaral 'yong anak kong tatlo
Karisa: Kapag pumapasok po sila 'yong mga damit nila napapalATS pa?
Cecilia: Titiklupin na lang ng maayos tapos daganan ko para hindi masyadong gusot.
Karisa: Kapag napuputulan po kayo ng kuryente, ano po 'yong ginagawa n'yo para mabalik 'yong serbisyo ng kuryente?
Rowela: Pakiulit?
Karisa: Ano po 'yong ginagawa n'yo para magkakuryente kayo ulit kapag napuputulan kayo? May mga nasasakrIpiSyO po ba kayo sa budget?
Conching: Kasi nagshe-share-share sila ng ano… kunyari bent-bente, singkwenta.
Karisa: Sino-sino pong nagco-contribute?
Rowela: Kami-kami.
Conching: May humahawak na naniningil.
Rowela: May humahawak na isa para siya ang magbayad.
Karisa: 'Pag nawawalan po kayo ng kuryente, paano n'yo po ginagawa 'yong mga gawaing-bahay?
Rowela: Ginagawa pa rin kaya lang ano…
Cecilia: Mahirap.
Rowela: Walang ilaw. 'Yong iba nagagawa namin, "yong iba hindi na.
Karisa: Sa gabi po?
Rowela: Paypay, 'yan.
Lahat: *turo sa likod na may poste* d'yan. D'yan kami gumagawa, may ilaw.
Karisa: Mas mahirap po para sa inyo 'yon?
Marites: Oo, mas mahirap.
Karisa: Ano-ano po 'yong mga hindi n'yo nagagawa dahil wala kayang kuryente?
Rowela: Paglalaba, paglilinis ng bahay.
Cecilia: Pagsasaing sa rice cooker.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong nararamdaman n'yo kapag napuputulan kayo ng kuryente?
Rowela: Mainit. Aburido.
Karisa: Nakakaramdam po ba kayo ng hiya?
Lahat: Oo.
Karisa: Wala naman po ba kayong nasasakrIpiSyO? O nagdadagdag kayo ng extrang trabaho?
Karisa: Mayroon po ba kayong alam na polisiya ng gobyerno kaugnay sa kuryente?
Lahat: Wala.
Appendix D. 4. In-depth interview with Menchie Zamora (Tondo)

Karisa: Ano pong pangalan nila?
Menchie: Menchie. Zamora.
Karisa: Ilang taon na po kayo?
Menchie: 33. No'ng September 16 33 ako. Batiin mo ako. Ha ha ha!
Karisa: Happy birthday po! Ha ha ha! Meron po ba kayong trabaho?
Menchie: Ano, padiska-diskarte lang. Actually, nagtitinda 'ko rito sa harap ng daycare ng mga baon ng bata.
Karisa: Sa bahay po, ano po 'yong mga nakatoka sa inyo ng gawain.
Menchie: Lahat. Wala kasi akong asawa e.
Karisa: E bakit po walo ang anak n'yo?
Karisa: Lahat po sa inyo? Kayo rin po 'yong nagbabadyet?
Karisa: 'Yong pagbabadyet po kayo rin ang gumagawa?
Karisa: Kayo lang din po 'yong kumikita sa pamilya?
Menchie: Oo.
Karisa: Saan-saan n'yo po ginagastos 'yong kinikita n'yo.
Karisa: Pero dati po may kuryente pa kayo?
Menchie: Dati meron.
Karisa: Kailan po napawalan?
Menchie: Mga isang taon na ang lumipas. Anong sabi ng jumper to jumper? Jumper na lang 'yong a, nawaalan pa 'ko.
Karisa: Ga'no po kalaki dati 'yong nagagastos n'yo sa kuryente?
Menchie: Ha ha ha ha! Ang hirap ata kwentahin no'ng ginagastos ko kasi hindi ako ang nagbabayad no'n e. Bale ang nagbabayad no'n, 'yong asawa ko.
Karisa: Paano pa ng mga anak na ang lumipas?
Menchie: Mga isang taon na ang lumipas. Anong sabi ng jumper to jumper? Jumper na lang 'yong a, nawaalan pa 'ko.
Karisa: Ga'no po kalaki dati 'yong nagagastos n'yo sa kuryente?
Menchie: Ha ha ha ha! Ang hirap at kwentahin no'ng ginagastos ko kasi hindi ako ang nagbabayad no'n e. Bale ang nagbabayad no'n, 'yong asawa ko.
Karisa: Paano pa ng mga anak na ang lumipas?
Menchie: Mga isang taon na ang lumipas. Anong sabi ng jumper to jumper? Jumper na lang 'yong a, nawaalan pa 'ko.
Karisa: Ga'no po kalaki dati 'yong nagagastos n'yo sa kuryente?
Menchie: Ha ha ha ha! Ang hirap at kwentahin no'ng ginagastos ko kasi hindi ako ang nagbabayad no'n e. Bale ang nagbabayad no'n, 'yong asawa ko.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga sakripisyong ginawa n'yo para mahatiran po ulit kayo ng serbisyo ng kuryente?
Menchie: Aba pinaglaban namin 'yong jumper. Hindi. Pinaglaban namin 'yong pa'no kami magkaron ng sariling ilaw dito kasi hindi naman talaga binigyap 'yong squatters' area ng ano e.
Karisa: E sa budget po? Paano po nasasakripisyo 'yong budget n'yo para makabayarad po kayo noon ng kuryente?
Menchie: Sa budget? Ano, lahat ng trabaho kailangan kong gawin.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga binabawasan n'yo...
Menchie: A 'yong binabawasan para makaano...
Karisa: Opo.
Menchie: Tipid sa pagkain. Tapos pati baon ng bata titipirin mo para makaano ka na... bago magbaon, bayad ka munang ilaw. Wala kang ilaw 'pag wala kang bayad. Bale walang baon para may ilaw.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga polisiya ng gobyerno sa kuryente 'yong alam n'yo?
Menchie: Wala e.
Karisa: Wala po.
Menchie: Wala e. Wala 'kong nalalaman, wala 'kong ano e. Pero ang alam ko bawal 'yong mga iligal, bawal sa gobyerno.
Appendix D. 5. In-depth interview with Shirley Pascua
Karisa: Ano pong pangalan nila?
Shirley: Shirley Pascua.
Karisa: Ilang taon na po kayo?
Shirley: 53.
Karisa: Ga'no katagal na po kayong may pamilya?
Shirley: Ano na... Kasi 20 ako nag-asawa.
Karisa: Di, 33 po.
Shirley: (tango)
Karisa: Meron po ba kayong trabaho?
Shirley: Wala. Dati nagtitinda-tinda, kaya lang huminto na 'ko.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga gawang nakatoka sa inyo sa bahay?
Shirley: Budget namin ano e, kulang na kulang dahil hindi pa napagtrabahuhan, nabale na.
Karisa: 'Yong pagbabadyet kayo rin po ang gumagawa no'n?
Shirley: (tango)
Karisa: Sino-sino po ang kemikita sa pamilya n'yo?
Shirley: Ay 'yong anak kong dalaga at tsaka 'yong mister ko.
Karisa: Saan-saan n'yo po ginagasto 'yong... ano po 'yong budget n'yo?
Shirley: Budget namin ano e, kulang na kulang dahil hindi pa napagtrabahuhan, nabale na.
Karisa: Saan-saan n'yo po ginagastos?
Karisa: Sa pagkain po?
Karisa: Tapos ga'no kalaki po 'yong gastos n'yo sa kuryente?
Shirley: Ano, mataas 'yong ano namin e. Minsan tipid na tipid nga kami kaya lang sa submeter P20 kasi 'yong kilowatt kaya inaabo kami ng ano, P3400. P3400 binabayaran namin.
Karisa: P3400 po?
Shirley: Oo, buwan-buwan.
Karisa: Marami po ba kayong gamit?
Karisa: Paano po naaapektuhan ng mataas na singil sa kuryente 'yong budget n'yo po?
Shirley: Malaking bagay. Talagang apektadong-pektado.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga nasasakripisyo sa budget n'yo para po makabayaran sa kuryente?
Karisa: Gaano kalahaga po sa inyo ang kuryente?
Shirley: Kung kami lang malalaki, hindi naman, parang... symepre malalaki na kami tska, ano, maliwanag naman 'yong bahay namin, kaya lang, kailangan sa gabi dahil mahirap ding kumilos dahil madilim.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong mga gawain n'yo na kailangan n'yo ng kuryente?
Shirley: Minsan, 'yong ano, hindi nga rin kami namamalantsa [dahil] tipid na tipid na kami.
Karisa: Bawal din po ba 'yon?
Shirley: Lalo kasing lalaki 'yong bayaran namin 'pag namamlantsa pa.
Karisa: Naranasan n'yo na po bang maputulan ng kuryente?
Shirley: Ahm, hindi pa naman.
Karisa: Ano po 'yong ginagawa n'yo para manatili 'yong serbisyo ng kuryente?
Shirley: Syempre 'pag hindi pa kami nakakabayaran, makiusap muna do'n sa kinakabitan namin.
Karisa: Kayo po ang nakiusap?
Shirley: Oo. Kahit na medyo nakasimangot, masama ang mukha.
Karisa: Ano pa po bukod doon?
Shirley: 'Yon na 'yon.
Karisa: Ano pong polisiya ng gobyerno tungkol sa kuryente 'yong alam n'yo po?
Shirley: Basta ang alam ko, ang sabi magdadagdag sila ng ano ba 'yon? Ng kilowatt ata 'yon.
Karisa: Tataasan po 'yong singil?
Shirley: Oo. Tumaas na nga raw ng tatlong piso sabi no'ng kinakabitan namin. Kaya nga kami tinaasan, kaya nga ginawang P20 'yong kilowatt namin dahl tumaas daw ng tatlong piso, kaya tumaas din kamin ng tatlong piso.
Appendix E. Calculations
Appendix E. 1. Sample Size Calculation

\[ n = \frac{NZ^2 \cdot p(1-p)}{Nd^2 + Z^2 \cdot p(1-p)} \]

- \( N = 200 \)
- \( Z = 1.645 \)
- \( d = .10 \)
- \( p = .50 \)
- \( 1-p = .50 \)

\[ n = \frac{200 \cdot (1.645)^2 \cdot (.50)(1-.50)}{200 \cdot (.10)^2 + (1.645)^2 \cdot (.50)(1-.50)} \]

\[ n = 50 \]
Appendix E. 2.

Table 8. Relationship between women having a job and to non-performance of household chores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mothers in-charge of household chores</th>
<th>Women as primary earner for the family</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}
\]

\[
= \frac{(9 - 8.8)^2}{8.8} + \frac{(1 - 1.2)^2}{1.2} + \frac{(35 - 35.2)^2}{35.2} + \frac{(5 - 4.8)^2}{4.8}
\]

\[
\chi^2 = 0.047 \text{ or } 0.05
\]

**Pearson’s Phi (ϕ)**

\[
\Phi^2 = \frac{\chi^2}{N}
\]

\[
\Phi^2 = \frac{0.05}{50}
\]

\[
\Phi = 0.03 \rightarrow \text{ weak association}
\]
Appendix E. 3.

We are examining the perception of mothers on coping with threat of electric disconnection. They were asked to pick among the choices the first thing they do when the situation arises. The distribution of approaches used by mother to pay electricity charges are shown below:

Table 7. Distribution of Approaches used by Mothers to Pay Electricity Charges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrifices made by mothers to pay for electric bills</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less usage of electricity</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing money</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional job</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 1:

Ho: The population of choices of mothers is equally distributed across the approaches.

Hi: The population of choices of mothers is not equally distributed across the approaches.

Step 2:

Level of Alpha = .1
DF = k-1 = 4-1 = 3

Step 3:

Rejection region: 6.251
Step 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approaches</th>
<th>fo</th>
<th>fe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less usage</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowing money</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional job</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}
\]

\[
\chi^2 = \frac{(8-1.25)^2}{12.5} + \frac{(25-12.5)^2}{12.5} + \frac{(9-12.5)^2}{12.5} + \frac{(8-12.5)^2}{12.5}
\]

\[
\chi^2 = 16.72
\]

Step 5:
- reject null hypothesis
Appendix E. 4.

Table 9. Relationship between having experienced electric disconnection and doing chores manually

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doing chores manually when experiencing electric disconnection</th>
<th>Household experienced disconnection</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e} \]
\[ = \frac{(35 - 35.37)^2}{35.37} + \frac{(4 - 3.63)^2}{3.63} + \frac{(4 - 3.63)^2}{3.63} + 0 \]
\[ \chi^2 = 0.079 \text{ or } 0.08 \]

Pearson’s Phi (ϕ)

\[ \Phi^2 = \frac{\chi^2}{N} \]
\[ \Phi^2 = \frac{0.08}{43} \]
\[ \Phi = 0.04 \text{ → weak association} \]
Appendix E. 5.

Table 10. Relationship between having experienced electric disconnection and prioritization of electric payments in the family budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prioritization of electricity bill</th>
<th>Household experienced disconnection</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe} \]

\[ = \frac{(33 - 32.65)^2}{32.65} + \frac{(6 - 6.35)^2}{6.35} + \frac{(3 - 3.35)^2}{3.35} + \frac{(1 - 0.65)^2}{0.65} \]

\[ \chi^2 = 0.25 \]

*Pearson’s Phi (ϕ)*

\[ \Phi^2 = \frac{\chi^2}{N} \]

\( \Phi^2 = \frac{0.25}{43} \)

\( \Phi = 0.076 \text{ or } 0.08 \rightarrow \text{ weak association} \)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction .............................................................................................................. 3

II. Objectives and Significance of the Study ................................................................. 5

III. Scope and Limitation .............................................................................................. 7

IV. Review of Related Literature ................................................................................. 8

V. Conceptual and Theoretical Framework
   A. Theories ................................................................................................................. 21
      a. Household and Feminist Economics ................................................................. 21
      b. Energy Poverty .................................................................................................. 23
      c. Dramaturgy ....................................................................................................... 23
   B. Conceptual Framework .......................................................................................... 24
   C. Operationalization .................................................................................................. 25

VI. Methodology ........................................................................................................... 26

VII. Data Presentation ..................................................................................................... 29
    a. Pre-EPIRA and EPIRA Situation ........................................................................... 29
    b. Dynamics of Women’s Reproductive Work ....................................................... 41

VIII. Data Analysis ........................................................................................................ 52
    a. Electricity as a Need ............................................................................................ 54
       i. Energy and Development ................................................................................ 54
       ii. Energy and Poverty ......................................................................................... 55
    b. Privatization of the Energy Sector .................................................................... 56
    c. Women as the most Vulnerable
       to the Impacts of High Electricity Rates ............................................................ 57

IX. Conclusion .............................................................................................................. 63
X. Recommendation ............................................................................... 66
XI. Bibliography .................................................................................... 67
XII. Appendices
    A. Appendix A. Interview Guides ...................................................... 71
    B. Appendix B. Survey Questionnaire .............................................. 75
    C. Appendix C. Transcriptions of Key Informant Interviews .......... 78
    D. Appendix D. Transcriptions of Focus Group Discussions
       and In-depth Interviews ............................................................... 96
    E. Appendix E. Computations .......................................................... 110