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Gender and Energy Assessment in the Republic of Tajikistan :

Main Findings

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AGENDA

1. The Research Context

2. Access to Electricity and Clean Fuels

3. Women in STEM

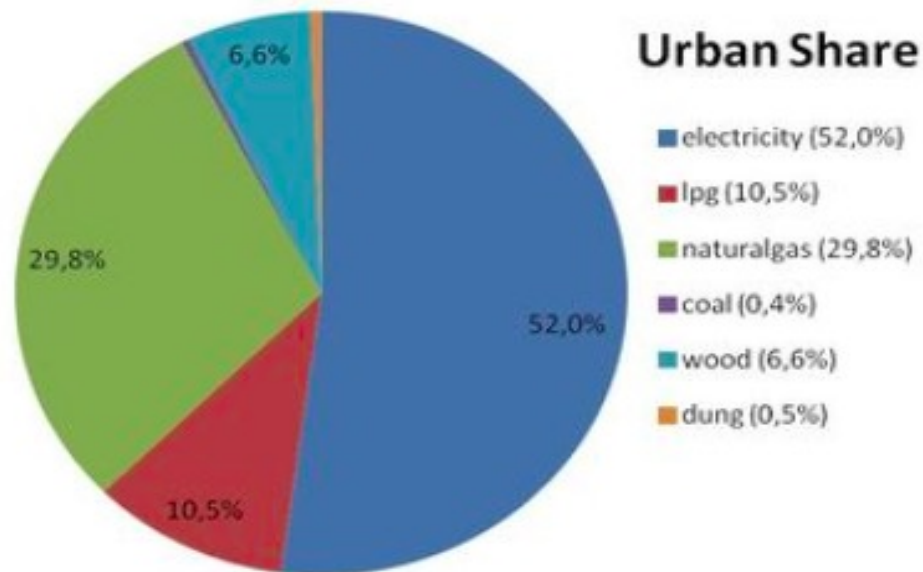4. Women's Employment in the Energy Sector

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1. THE RESEARCH CONTEXT

o The compilation of this research was confronted with challenges related to the availability of comprehensive, recent and gender-disaggregated data. The findings presented herewith acknowledge these constraints and are based on the few national and international sources providing some data and information on the investigated topics.

o No gender references were found in energy policies, programs and projects.

o References to women-specific vulnerabilities, to the need for women's economic empowerment and access to new skills were found in Tajikistan's Nationally Determined Contributions.
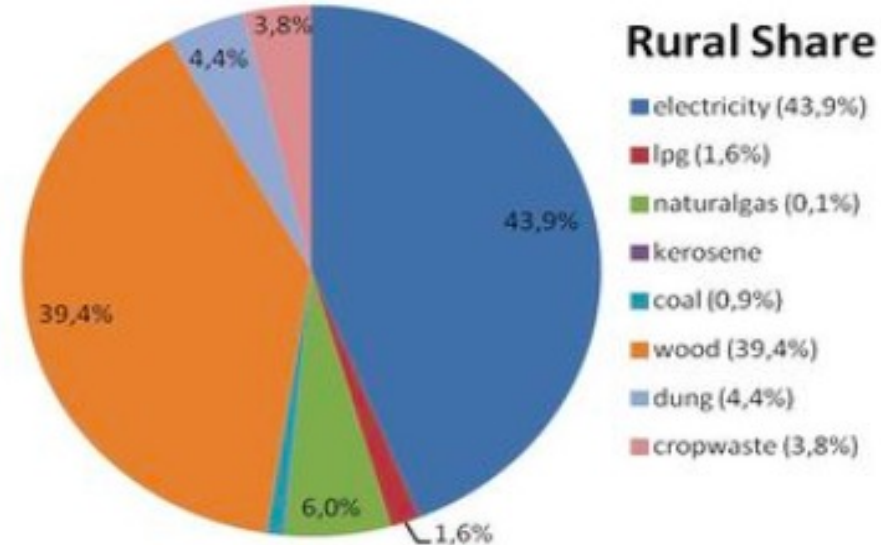
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2. ACCESS to ELECTRICITY and CLEAN FUELS

Access to electricity is universal in Tajikistan, however it is not stable, reliable and continuous. Especially people living in remote and rural areas – who still account for about **70% of the population** – cannot rely on electricity alone, to meet their energy needs, particularly in **winter.**

Urban Share

- electricity (52,0%)
- lpg (10,5%)
- naturalgas (29,8%)
- coal (0,4%)
- wood (6,6%)
- dung (0,5%)

6,6%
29,8%
52,0%
10,5%

Source: WHO Household Energy Database 2010

Rural Share

- electricity (43,9%)
- lpg (1,6%)
- naturalgas (0,1%)
- kerosene
- coal (0,9%)
- wood (39,4%)
- dung (4,4%)
- cropwaste (3,8%)

3,8%
4,4%
43,9%
39,4%
6,0%
1,6%

Source: WHO Household Energy Database 2010

2. ACCESS to ELECTRICITY and CLEAN FUELS (continued)

o   Responsible as they are for domestic chores, girls and women are the most exposed to:

- indoor air pollution, generated by unclean fuels

- drudgery and time poverty caused by procuring and preparing alternative fuels (esp. firewood, dung)

o   Unreliable access to electricity and dependence on alternative, non-efficient fuels has also an economic impact on the already vulnerable household's **disposable income** (up to 25% of their monthly budget can be used up by heating costs – GERES estimates).

o   No **gender-disaggregated data** were found about access to electricity and clean fuels.

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3. WOMEN in STEM
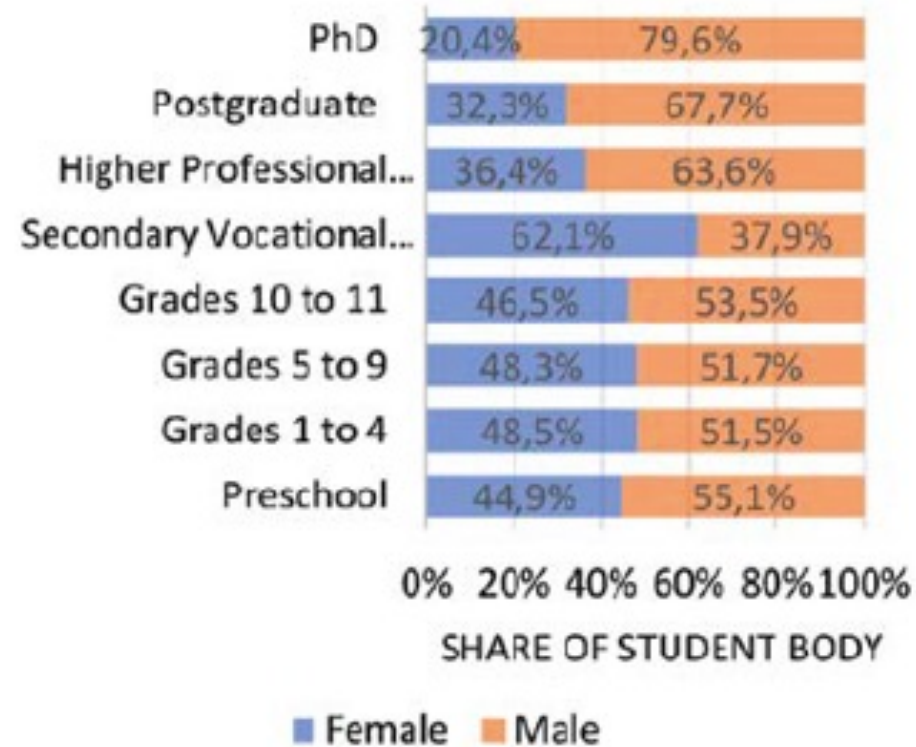
Context

o Female education has been increasing, and more than men's: between 2012 and 2017, women's median **number of years of schooling** has risen from 8.6 to 8.9, while that of men rose from 9.3 to 9.5 [WB data]

o The rate of **women in higher education** has been increasing faster than men's: between 2009 and 2017, the share of women in tertiary education increased from 16 to 27% vs 30 to 35% for men [WB data]

o Tajikistan has one of the largest shares, globally, of women (15-24 age group) **neither in education nor in employment** (NEET): In 2017, 49.3% of Tajik girls vs 7.2% Tajik boys were in NEET [WB data]

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3. WOMEN in STEM (continued)

o While women prevail in vocational education, there is a large gender gap in **higher and post—graduate education**, where men prevail:

(data from the 2018/2019 academic year)

Category	Female	Male
PhD	20,4%	79,6%
Postgraduate	32,3%	67,7%
Higher Professional...	36,4%	63,6%
Secondary Vocational...	62,1%	37,9%
Grades 10 to 11	46,5%	53,5%
Grades 5 to 9	48,3%	51,7%
Grades 1 to 4	48,5%	51,5%
Preschool	44,9%	55,1%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

SHARE OF STUDENT BODY

■ Female ■ Male

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There is a significant gender segregation with girls studying mainly traditionally female-dominated and low-paid sectors (i.e. education and health care), while boys enter a wider range of disciplines

Distribution of Female and Male Secondary and Higher Education Students by Industrial Specialisation (2018-2019 Academic Year)[138]

Source: TAJSTAT (2019b).

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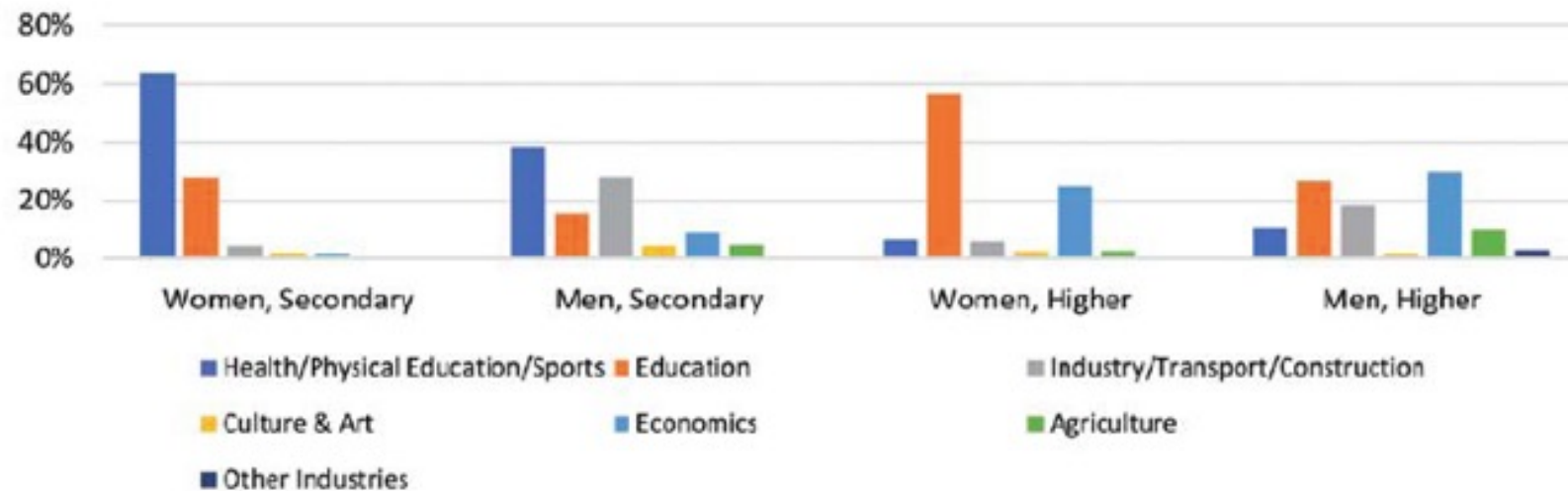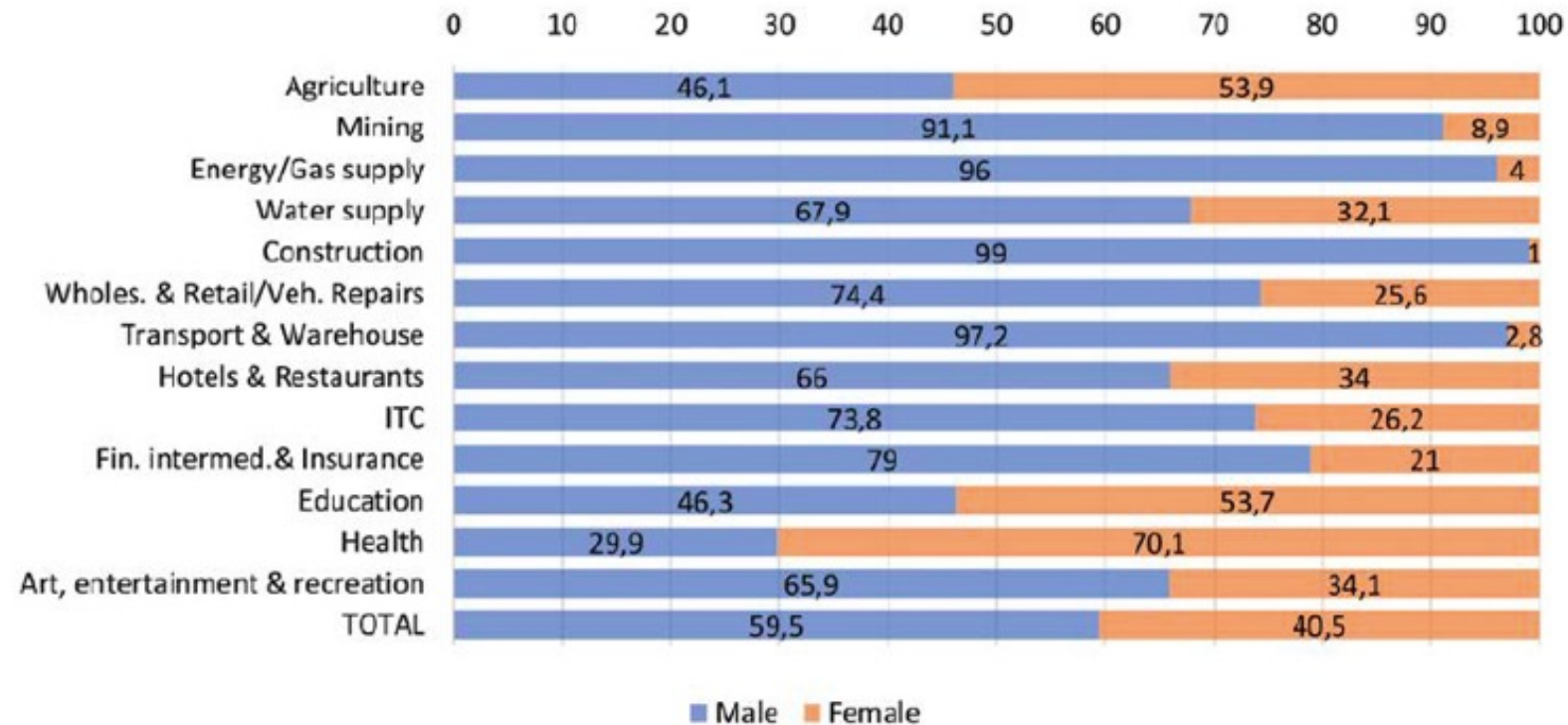
3.1 The Presidential Quota System

2006: The Presidential Quota System was launched, offering girls and boys from disadvantaged families and remote mountain areas free places to access higher education.

- The number foreseen by the quota is limited but increasing, reaching 3.4% of students in higher education in the 2014/2015 academic year, when 21 out of 38 higher education institutes received places funded from the state budget for quotas.

- Most quota seats distributed among medical, pedagogical and two regional universities (KhSU and KTSU); a lower number allocated to train physicians, teachers and engineers.

- The Quota System contributed to raise the number of women in higher education but de facto reinforced their enrolment in traditionally female-dominated sectors.

- Women displayed a lower completion rate, due to the lower quality of their earlier education in disadvantaged residential areas.

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o Gender segregation in education impacts gender distribution in the labour market:
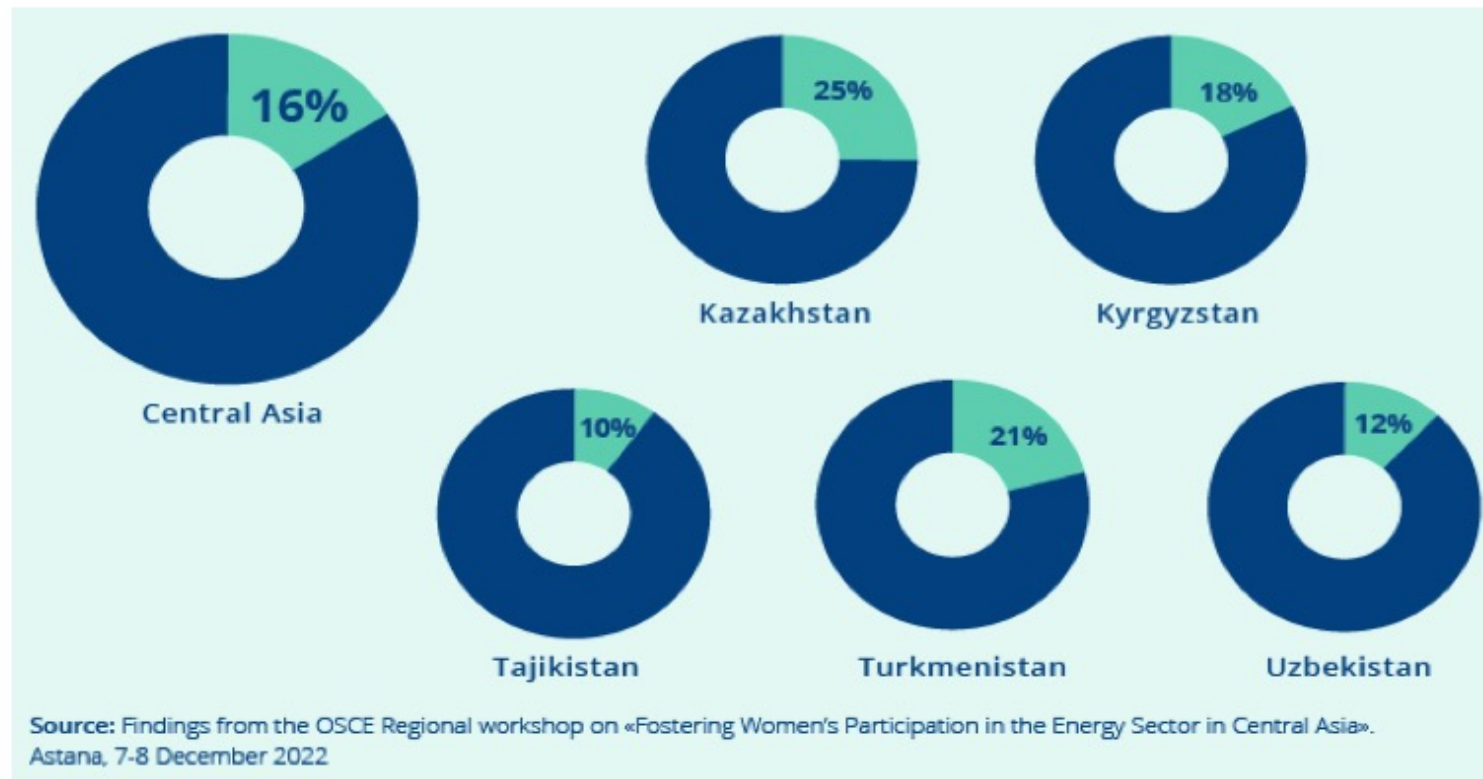
Key Economic Activity Employment by Gender (%), 2016

Activity	Male	Female
Agriculture	46,1	53,9
Mining	91,1	8,9
Energy/Gas supply	96	4
Water supply	67,9	32,1
Construction	99	1
Wholes. & Retail/Veh. Repairs	74,4	25,6
Transport & Warehouse	97,2	2,8
Hotels & Restaurants	66	34
ITC	73,8	26,2
Fin. intermed.& Insurance	79	21
Education	46,3	53,7
Health	29,9	70,1
Art, entertainment & recreation	65,9	34,1
TOTAL	59,5	40,5

■ Male ■ Female

Source: TAJSTAT (2017).

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In the absence of comprehensive gender-disaggregated data, estimates about women employment energy sector:

o   range between 4% and 10%

o   indicate that Tajikistan has the lowest share, regionally, of women working in the energy sector

Estimated Share of Women in the Energy Sectors in Central Asia

Central Asia — 16%
Kazakhstan — 25%
Kyrgyzstan — 18%
Tajikistan — 10%
Turkmenistan — 21%
Uzbekistan — 12%

Source: Findings from the OSCE Regional workshop on «Fostering Women's Participation in the Energy Sector in Central Asia». Astana, 7-8 December 2022

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- The renewable energy sector is, however, estimated to employ more women than the traditional energy sector [2024 GWNET-IRENA-OSCE Study].

- Not only are women substantially under-represented, they also occupy less paid and non managerial nor technical roles.

- In Tajikistan, the list of professions prohibited to women, inherited from the Soviet times, is still in place. In December 2023, it was reformed, reducing the number of jobs banned to women to 194 (from more than 400).

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THANK YOU!