



Forsythia ovata 'Northern Gold' shrub blossoms. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change, organizational development and international development. Information is shared with members, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse organizations.

The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of the editor.

If you have information to share, please send it to [dinah.ceplis@gmail.com](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) to compile and re-distribute once a month.

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Virtual edition of CCIC Cooperation Forum

<https://ccic.ca/cooperation-forum/>

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation is organizing a virtual edition of its Cooperation Forum on **June 8 – 11**. The Forum will convene CCIC’s members and others to discuss issues that matter for the international development and humanitarian sector. The Cooperation Forum will be hosted on an app which will have individual livestreams for each session in our program. For example:

- Keynote panel: The Intersection of Climate Change, Gender and Food Systems. June 9.
- Keynote panel: Feminist Foreign Policy. June 10

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### 2. Call for Papers: The Role of Agricultural and Extension Education in an Era of Disruptive Change

*The Role of Agricultural and Extension Education in an Era of Disruptive Change: Pandemics, Climate, and Other Global Crises*

<https://www.iaee.org/index.php/journal>

The Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education (JIAEE) is the official refereed publication of the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education. The JIAEE editorial team is excited to announce the JIAEE editorial board has supported the development of a special issue of the journal to be published in January 2021.

Within these unique times, the salience of effective and impactful community education cannot be overstated. Practitioners, researchers and educators working in international agricultural settings have already been creating innovative programs and projects around the world. But what does this look like in relation to the current worldwide crises?

This special edition of JIAEE is looking for Feature Articles and Research Notes that address global crises (such as the COVID-19 Pandemic, Global Warming or other Global Crises) through processes associated with Agricultural and Extension Education. Preference will be placed on manuscripts that address these applications (Ag Communications, Education, Extension, Leadership, etc.) within a crisis environment, as well as those that push to advance what we know about how to utilize Agricultural and Extension education processes from a global perspective in these situations.

This is an open call. Manuscripts submitted to the special issue will be processed by Dr. Kristina Hains, the Past Editor, and undergo an accelerated blind review. The deadline to submit your manuscript is **October 1st, 2020** to our FastTrack system located at <https://jiaee.expressacademic.org/login.php>

Please be sure to follow the submission guidelines as you develop your manuscript. When submitting for the special issue, please check the “Invited Document” box in the submission portal in FastTrack. This is how we will know which manuscripts would like to be considered for this special issue.

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### 3. Advancing Women conferences join Glacier FarmMedia

<https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/daily/advancing-women-conferences-join-glacier-farmmedia/>

Agricultural publisher Glacier FarmMedia is expanding its events division at both ends of the country with a major networking event for women in agriculture and agribusiness.

The Winnipeg publishing house, which owns and operates this website, announced Thursday it acquired the two Advancing Women in Agriculture Conferences (AWC) — and has hired AWC’s founder, conference organizer Iris Meck of Calgary, as GFM’s director of conferences.

Meck will lead the AWC West and AWC East conferences and the annual Farm Forum Event, which GFM acquired in 2018 and is scheduled this year for Nov. 24-25 in Saskatoon.

AWC West 2020, which was set for March 23-24 in Calgary, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic; **AWC East 2020 is scheduled for Nov. 15-17 in Niagara Falls, Ont.**

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### 4. New Date: Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) Conference

<https://ccwesttconference.org/>

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to escalate and impact communities around the globe, we feel it is important to postpone our National 2020 Biennial Conference to **November 12 to 14, 2020**. The conference will still be held in **Winnipeg at the RBC Convention Centre**. Please note that the Early Bird Registration Deadline has been extended to September 15, 2020. This year’s conference theme is Future Forward: Engage. Advance. Inspire.

Keynote speakers include: Dr. Marcia Anderson, Dr. Gina Parvaneh Cody, Julie Angus and Sherry Holmes.

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## This Month’s News

### 1. Equal, and equitable too

<https://www.country-guide.ca/guide-business/equal-and-equitable-too/>

In a new column, CAHRC’s Jennifer Wright offers strategies that can boost the opportunity for female family members and employees to contribute on-farm.

CAHRC provides tools that can help address both gender quality and equity on the farm through the AgriHR Toolkit and best practice guides for increased inclusion and diversity in agriculture.

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## **2. Kenya’s coffee sector in the COVID-19 context: Can producer agency be sustained?**

<https://www.iied.org/kenyas-coffee-sector-covid-19-context-can-producer-agency-be-sustained>

A webinar on 19 May discussed an experience of promoting the agency of coffee growers as well as youth and women entrepreneurship in Kenya’s coffee sector, the implications of COVID-19 and some possible pathways to sustaining the progress made to date.

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## **3. Has COVID-19 Reversed Progress for India’s Small Tea Growers?**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/05/covid-19-reversed-progress-indias-small-tea-growers>

Across the region, tea harvesting begins on Apr. 1. But as India declared a total lockdown to halt the spread of coronavirus on Mar. 25, farmers in Tripura — the fifth-largest tea producer in India — also had to halt all activities, which included not being allowed to bring in additional labour for harvesting. Two weeks later, on Apr. 12, the government finally allowed harvesting, but by then the tea bushes had grown bigger with new leaves losing their tenderness — a crucial factor in determining the quality of the tea.

The supply chain includes plucking the tender tea shoots in spring, drying, processing, packaging and selling, which is done through auctions. Small tea growers, few of whom own a processing facility, sell their entire produce to bigger tea farms in the region. So being at bottom of the supply chain pyramid means that small growers are also the most vulnerable as they have little say in the sale of the produce or price control.

The combination of a delayed harvest coupled with a low market price is almost certain to cause financial damage and losses too heavy to recover.

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## **4. Africa’s Youth Scholars Harvest Ideas on the Business of Agriculture**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/04/africas-youth-scholars-harvest-ideas-business-agriculture>

80 young African scholars that are tackling the business of agriculture through the innovativeness and freshness that comes with youth — while obtaining their masters or doctoral degrees in the process. 80 young African scholars that are tackling the business of agriculture through the innovativeness and freshness that comes with youth — while obtaining their masters or doctoral degrees in the process.

Young researchers are providing answers to greater questions about agriculture on the continent. Like:

- What will it take to attract more African youth into agriculture — a sector the World Bank says could be worth \$1 trillion in the next 10 years?
- And what supportive policies and investments are needed to develop this sector?

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## **5. Digital Agriculture Benefits Zimbabwe’s Farmers but Mobile Money is Costly**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/05/digital-agriculture-benefits-zimbabwes-farmers-but-mobile-money-is-costly/>

Approximately 34,000 small holder farmers across the country of Zimbabwe collectively are using two smart phone-based solutions, Kurima Mari and Agrishare, promoted by German development agency, Welthungerhilfe Zimbabwe, to find markets, extension services, weather information and hire agriculture equipment.

Farmers have been using Kurima Mari to learn good agricultural practices and link with markets since 2016. “Kurima Mari is available offline which eliminates the need for buying data. An extension officer updates the application on a regular basis and the updates are shared using bluetooth making it costless to the farmer,” the head of digital agriculture at Welthungerhilfe Zimbabwe told IPS. “Whilst Agrishare is an online-based solution, it enables farmers to secure the best equipment in their homes, which reduces mobility costs.”

Mobile digital technologies improve the quantity and quality of farmer’s harvests by giving them current information on production practices. They also facilitate linkages, weather advisory services, add efficiency to commodity systems, which in the long run help increase farmer’s yields and make them more profitable.

In recent years, Zimbabwe has witnessed a rapid growth in the use of digital agriculture. Other digital agriculture innovations include the Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) and Econet Wireless championed, Ecofarmer Combo programme, which delivers weather-based insurance, real time location-based weather information and farming tips to over 80,000 communal farmers.

Started by the churches in 2019, Turning Matabeleland Green, is another digital agriculture programme that uses satellite technology to send weather information and farming advice to over 2,000 farmers via the short message service.

Although content was important, many farmers and traders don’t have time and bandwidth to toy with many of the available mobile and digital farming applications. The channels have reached their limits and are disintegrated, in addition to causing information asymmetry amongst farmers. Digital literacy and the high cost of mobile communication is also reversing gains that could have been made by digital technology.

There is little use of high-end technologies with potential to enhance production and value chain competitiveness such as crop protection technology, soil and moisture sensors, drones, precision farming, molecular technology, use of global positioning systems and geographic information systems (GIS).

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## **6. Electrification in last-mile communities: A gender perspective**

<https://fsr.eui.eu/approaching-electrification-in-last-mile-communities-with-a-gender-perspective/>

Addressing electrification with a gender perspective is urgent to scaling up the energy transition in rural communities and beyond.

Energy access and gender equality are inextricably linked. This is especially true in last-mile rural contexts in low and middle-income countries where the share of female-headed households with access to electricity is significantly lower than their male counterparts. In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), electrification in rural areas (26%) is far beyond urban rate (74%).

This article provides an overview of the major bottlenecks faced by women without energy access through a multi-dimensional framework. The first section focuses on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) coupling between gender equality (SDG 5) and energy access (SDG 7) in last-mile communities; the second section will analyse major bottlenecks hindering female empowerment and how electricity can overwhelm such hindrances from a small-scale entrepreneurial perspective. Finally, the third section will review viable measures for addressing female empowerment through a multi-level stakeholders’ approach.

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## **7. Clean Cooking Alliance – COVID-19 Special Edition Newsletter**

<https://www.cleancookingalliance.org/about/news/>

The special issue features the following articles:

- Survey Results: How is COVID-19 Impacting the Clean Cooking Sector?
- COVID-19, Air Pollution, and Cooking: A Deadly Connection
- Scaling to New Markets: An Interview with the Leadership Team at Greenway Appliances
- Alliance COVID-19 Resources
- Global Push for Clean Cooking Under Fire from Coronavirus Slowdown
- Addressing the Root Causes of Noncommunicable Diseases
- Why Energy Access for African Households is Fundamental to Mitigating Impacts of COVID-19
- The Unseen Link Between Clean Cooking and the COVID-19 Pandemic
- India to Provide Free LPG Cylinders to Poorer Citizens
- Induction Stoves Seeing Increased Demand in Nepal

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## 8. Farming for Tomorrow - Lynn Dargris

[https://issuu.com/farmingfortomorrow/docs/fft\\_mayjune2020\\_lores](https://issuu.com/farmingfortomorrow/docs/fft_mayjune2020_lores)

Lynn Dargris unexpectedly took over her family farm in Alberta at just 20-years-old. After becoming fed up with traditional grain marketing she launched the app Farmbucks in 2018. See pages 18 to 24 of the May-June 2020 issue of *Farming for Tomorrow*.

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## 9. Advancing Gender Equality as part of National Call To Action

<https://scwist.ca/scwist-advances-gender-equality-as-part-of-national-call-to-action/>

Advancing gender equality in Canada will require collective action on four priorities identified by the Gender Equality Network Canada (GENC). Three SCWIST representatives were part of a network of 150 GENC leaders met and developed recommendations essential to gender equality in four priority areas: Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence; Decolonization and Reconciliation; Accessibility, Equity, Equality, and Inclusion; and Economic Security and Prosperity.

Key recommendations include a national childcare strategy, pay equity, and sustainable, long-term core funding for women’s organizations and gender equality organizations across Canada. Winding up after three years of work, the GENC was funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) and convened by the Canadian Women’s Foundation.

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## 10. Gender Bias in Academic Conferences

<https://scwist.ca/gender-bias-in-academic-conferences/>

With the majority of men dominating STEM fields, it is not surprising to hear that the majority of presenters and speakers at academic conferences are predominantly male. While this doesn’t seem like a significant problem in the midst of so many other issues that women face in academia, it certainly makes a difference. Lack of visibility of women at conferences plays a negative role in women’s motivation to pursue STEM fields, and also sets them back when it comes to insufficient recognition and acknowledgement of their research. Essentially, this only benefits men further, as it places their work in the spotlight and eclipses the valuable academic work of women. Also, women belonging to minority groups are even further underrepresented at many conferences, which is why it is crucial that rules be put into place to ensure gender equity and overall fairness when it comes to conference attendees and speakers.

So, the question remains: what can we do to accentuate these issues and bring about a new reality for women at academic conferences that make them feel both secure in their attendance and acknowledged in their scholarly work?

## **11. Supporting women environmental defenders in the time of COVID-19**

<https://www.sei.org/perspectives/supporting-women-environmental-defenders-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

From the Stockholm Environment Institute: “Protecting the environment and life on this planet cannot be limited to those who can afford to social distance, reflect, and mobilize. While possibilities for a different world are plentiful, the rollback on environmental and social protections is likely to rise as governments and corporations seek to extract their surplus, once again, from free (or cheap) nature, labour and reproductive labour.

We know that dominant narratives, embedded in an environmentalism of the rich, can exacerbate inequalities. If the hopes for a different world are to stand a chance, researchers operating at the science-policy interface must ensure a firm commitment to advance social justice framings embedded in both environmentalism and feminism.”

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## **12. Five Journeys: STEM-educated Immigrant Women in Canada**

<https://www.techgirls.ca/five-journeys>

Five Journeys: STEM-educated Immigrant Women in Canada is a collaborative online exhibition that shares the stories of five STEM-educated women who immigrated from their home countries of India, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to build a new life for themselves and their families, and to continue to develop their own careers. They each share their experience of settling into Canada, figuring out the system, building a support network, and forming the foundation of their current careers.

The exhibition seeks to raise awareness around the gaps in the new immigrants’ labour market integration process and systemic challenges faced during transition. It is intended to encourage a larger conversation about how new immigrants, potential employers, the settlement and government sectors, and the general public can look beyond jobs and job-finding processes to reflect on issues of fairness and belonging through increased understanding, empathy, and inclusivity.

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## **13. Fairtrade International and the Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development**

<https://www.fairtrade.net/news/fairtrade-international-signs-the-unece-declaration-for-gender-responsive-standards-and-standards-development>

14 May, Bonn, Germany – Fairtrade International has signed the Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, on the one-year anniversary of its opening. The Declaration, which has now 64 signatories, aims to provide a practical framework for standard bodies seeking to make the standards they develop, and follow, be gender responsive.

Although the acknowledgment of women’s role in agriculture has increased over time, they still have less access to resources such as land, inputs, information, credit and technical assistance – resulting in the perpetuation of the ‘gender gap’ in agriculture. Development of clearly designed and monitored gender responsive standards are a powerful tool to help close the gap.

The Fairtrade Standards already include strong requirements to prevent gender inequality, increase female participation and empower more women and girls to access the benefits of Fairtrade. As part of its 2016-2020 gender strategy, Fairtrade also developed tailored programs and interventions to increase women’s participation in producer organizations. One

example is the Women's Schools of Leadership, enabling women to learn business, negotiation and finance skills, and to take on leadership and committee roles within their cooperatives and communities.

Even with this progress, Fairtrade acknowledges that much work remains to be done to drive equal opportunity, access, and benefits for women. With current planning taking place to define its global 2021-2025 strategy, Fairtrade is committed to integrating gender-transformative measures across its standards, programmatic and advocacy work.

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## **14. USask appoints new dean in College of Agriculture and Bioresources**

<https://news.usask.ca/articles/colleges/2020/usask-appoints-new-dean-in-college-of-agriculture-and-bioresources.php>

Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (PhD) has been appointed the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). Bedard-Haughn will begin a five-year term on Aug. 15, 2020. She specializes in soil science research, focusing on two main areas: management of wetland soils and predictive soil mapping. Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Bedard-Haughn received her Bachelor of Science in 1998 and Master of Science in 2001 from USask, and a PhD in 2004 from the University of California, Davis.

Bedard-Haughn will replace Mary Buhr, who has served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources since July 1, 2009.

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## **Reports, Publications, Resources**

### **1. The AgriHR Toolkit**

<https://hrtoolkit.cahrc-ccrha.ca/>

From the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council: The AgriHR Toolkit is designed to address the unique needs of the agriculture industry.

Based on years of research and field testing conducted in Canada and internationally, this toolkit offers everything you need to improve your people-management skills and develop key resources to help you find, retain, and support your employees.

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### **2. The AgriHR Management Curriculum & Instructor Guide**

<https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/programs/agriskills/educator-tools>

From the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council: In collaboration with the AgriHR Toolkit, the 12-unit AgriHR Management Curriculum is designed as a flip classroom, and covers a complete range of HR topics, including recruitment, selection, hiring, training, health and safety, workplace wellness, and more. All curriculum materials can be customized with your institution's logo and brand.

Instructor resources include detailed guides, lesson plans, presentation materials, assignments and summative assessments, videos, and guest-lecture agendas. See sample curriculum materials.

Student resources include video overviews, self-guided discovery and practice exercises, self-assessments and quizzes, and access to current research and insights from real-world practitioners.

Collaborative content. AgriHR Management supplements core educational content with peer-generated "living program" content from instructors across Canada, including reports, guest lectures, and more.



Measure your training curriculum against the job skills that support the success of today’s agricultural businesses. Get Started with the commodity-specific **Curriculum Mapping Tool** when you subscribe to the AgriHR Management Curriculum & Instructor Guide.

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### 3. Podcast: What makes a sustainable diet? And who decides?

<https://www.iied.org/sustainable-diets-for-all>

<https://www.iied.org/what-makes-sustainable-diet-who-decides-make-change-happen-podcast-episode-5>

Sustainable Diets for All is an advocacy programme that uses evidence, including evidence generated by citizens, to help low-income communities to improve their access to sustainable, affordable and nutritious food. The programme is working in Uganda, Zambia, Kenya, Bolivia and Indonesia, and is coordinated by Hivos, IIED and partners in the focal countries.

We aim to achieve policy and or behaviour change on three key issues:

- Healthy and diverse consumption: promoting healthy food choices that improve diets.
- Small and medium enterprises and market linkages: focusing on how the informal food sector and small businesses can help connect cities with rural areas.
- Healthy production: safeguarding crop and seed diversity, including the preservation and promotion of traditional varieties.

IIED’s ‘Make Change Happen’ podcast provides an opportunity to hear our researchers discuss key global development challenges and explain how they are working to support positive change.

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### 4. Inclusiveness by design? Reviewing sustainable electricity access and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629618311204>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2019.03.010>

#### Abstract

There is a substantial literature analysing the role of electricity as a catalyst for economic development. However, there are significant knowledge gaps in whether such systems are or can indeed be designed in a gender sensitive way to promote equal opportunity for socially inclusive entrepreneurship at the local level. We make three main contributions with this paper. First, we carry out a literature review to unpack the gender-electricity-entrepreneurship nexus by identifying the agenda of the gender-energy and gender-entrepreneurship literature respectively and how they intersect and understand gender over time. Second, we synthesise key factors identified as hindering and driving empowerment in relation to electricity and entrepreneurship and identify the weaknesses of the respective literature. Third, we outline the contours of the conceptual intersection and develop a framework which shows how electricity systems can be designed to become favourable and economically empowering for both men and women. Furthermore, we demonstrate how local value chains can benefit from this electric inclusiveness. Finally, with our framework, we develop recommendations for strategic action and identify points of intervention in policy, planning, design and operation of electricity systems.

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## 5. Ways to Ensure Gender Equality Is at the Center of Responses to COVID-19

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/coronavirus-outbreak/gender-equality-coronavirus-response>

Save the Children has been on the front lines of the Coronavirus pandemic since the beginning, delivering critical supplies to health workers as well as trusted information to reduce transmission and keep kids safe. Pandemics affect girls, boys, women, men and people of diverse gender identities differently, which is why gender equality must be at the center of responses to COVID-19, as a life saving measure. Here are eight ways to lead to a more effective and equitable response.

- i. Address the disproportionate burden of women’s and girls’ care work.
- ii. Prevent and address gender-based violence.
- iii. Prioritize information and services on sexual and reproductive health.
- iv. Empower adolescent girls.
- v. Prioritize social protection and economic empowerment.
- vi. Ensure equal leadership and participation by women, children and adolescents.
- vii. Address the needs of women on the frontline of pandemic.
- viii. Invest in women’s and girls’ rights organizations.

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## 6. Practical Tools and Frameworks for Measuring Agency in Women's Economic Empowerment

<https://seepnetwork.org/Resource-Post/Practical-Tools-and-Frameworks-for-Measuring-Agency-in-Women-s-Economic-Empowerment>

<https://seepnetwork.org/files/galleries/2019-WEE-MeasuringWomensAgency- EN-DIGITAL.pdf>

There is increasing interest from economic programs to better understand, measure and capture agency across interventions in order to more deliberately pursue women’s economic empowerment. Yet, there are many challenges in integrating agency in program planning and design, and specifically in measuring its impact.

The objective of this brief is to identify and analyze the different techniques practitioners use to measure agency in programs that promote WEE. The brief is practitioner-led, with a focus on finding promising practical frameworks and tools; indicators, research techniques, and results; and lessons and good practices in measuring agency.

This brief is relevant for a wide spectrum of audiences, from those already dedicated to agency as a topic to those just now considering how to adopt elements of agency measurement and provides guidance on what indicators and questions are relevant. It will provide frameworks and tools that have been tried and tested, with insights on learnings, good practices, and challenges. Our goal is to provide tips and lessons on how agency can be captured.

The brief serves as a starting point for practitioners from a range of development programs and practices, including monitoring and evaluation, program management, and implementation teams. The information comes from peers with practical experience in measuring agency and applying the results to improve program outcomes.

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## 7. 30 Years of Gender Inequality and Implications on Curriculum Design in Open and Distance Learning

<https://jime.open.ac.uk/articles/10.5334/jime.553/>

<http://doi.org/10.5334/jime.553>

**Abstract:** Gender inequality is a pressing issue on a global scale, yet studies on this important issue have stayed on the margins of open and distance learning (ODL) literature. In this study, we critically analyse a batch of ODL literature that is focused on gender inequality in post-secondary and higher education contexts. We use Therborn’s social justice framework to inform and guide the study. This is a comprehensive social justice lens that sees inequality as “a life and death issue,” approaching empowerment as a central area of concern. Qualitative content analysis of 30 years of peer-reviewed literature reveals patriarchy and androcentrism as significant mechanisms that continue to produce gender inequality, in particular in women’s access to educational resources and formal learning opportunities. We highlight three themes that emerged in the content analysis: (1) ODL and equal opportunity; (2) Feminism and gender-sensitive curriculum design; and (3) Culturally relevant curriculum design. We critique views of access to technology-enabled education as an instrument for social justice, and provide a pedagogical model for an ODL curriculum centred on empowerment and agency, two concepts closely linked to existential inequality. We argue that such a curriculum is public service and requires a model of education that is based on participation and co-construction, and lies at the intersection of critical, feminist, and culturally relevant pedagogical practices.

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## 8. Activity book: Way to Grow! A Guide to Exploring the Fields of Agriculture

<http://cwse-prairies.ca/pages/way2grow/00720-AgActivityBook.pdf>

Hot off-the-presses is an agriculture activity book called *Way to Grow! A Guide to Exploring the Fields of Agriculture*. CWSE-Prairies produced this youth activity booklet to feature 16 women in varied careers related to agriculture and share a brief personal reflection of their work and an activity when they were young.

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## 9. Policy Brief: The Role of Appliances in Achieving Gender Equality and Energy Access for All

<https://efficiencyforaccess.org/updates/efficiency-for-access-and-energia-publish-the-first-policy-brief-centering-off-grid-appliances-in-energy-access-and-gender-equality-efforts>

In much of the world, women shoulder a disproportionate share of the energy burden. A new, first-of-its-kind policy brief from the Efficiency for Access Coalition and ENERGIA reveals the benefits of modern energy are not reaching those who need it most.

As decentralized energy solutions and appliances become more widely available, the ability to radically change the quality of life for millions of households increases. Modern, energy-efficient appliances reduce drudgery and increase productivity, enabling people to be more flexible and efficient with their time.

These advantages are most pronounced for women. However, purchasing decisions about which appliances and productive use equipment a household will purchase are often gendered, with women having less of an influence than men. By placing a greater emphasis on appliances in electrification plans and directly addressing gender bias in incentives and programs, policymakers, governments and donors can ensure the advantages of energy access translate into measurable social and economic benefits for all members of a household.

The policy brief was co-authored by ENERGIA and Efficiency for Access. It offers compelling evidence for why governments should include energy-efficient appliances a part of a holistic approach to achieving universal energy access and underscores the importance of addressing gender bias in incentive and program design. Recommendations for the donor community are also presented.

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