

POLLUTION EXPOSURE FROM COOKING & MORBIDITY: AN ANALYSIS BASED ON IHDS DATA

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ABSTRACT

Indoor air pollution (IAP) is a potential public health risk. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that globally 4.3 million die due to air pollution from household sources. This paper attempts to investigate the impact of indoor air pollution, arising out of use of polluting fuels for cooking, on the health of the population. The paper uses India Human Development Survey-II (IHDS-II) data, 2012. Data analysis using cross-tabulation method is applied to investigate the choice and collection time of fuel, location and ventilation of kitchen across households and morbidity profile across ages and sexes. A Personal Index for Cooking Exposure (PICK) has been constructed. Logit regression is run to find the impact of indoor smoke on the IAP induced morbidity controlling for other confounders like income (per capita), education and sexes. The PICK has a positive coefficient on the incidence of morbidity implying less exposure due to the use of cleaner fuel leads to less morbidity. Education of the individual also has a significant effect on the reduction of morbidity. Switching to a cleaner fuel (LPG) is a potential solution for IAP induced morbidity of the individuals. Educational attainment also can put an end to this menace through raising awareness.

KEYWORDS: *Indoor Air Pollution, Morbidity, Cooking Exposure, Clean Fuel*