

Domestic fuel consumption pattern among rural households

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ABSTRACT

The collection of biofuel for cooking is accompanied by two problems. First, drudgery in the collection of fuel due to coverage of long distance health hazards due to smoke. Second, poor ventilation/ no ventilation in kitchen. Keeping this in view, a study was conducted in the two villages namely, Achitpur and Chota Mirzapur Khurd of Jamalpur Block of Mirzapur district to know the various characteristics of the respondents and the domestic fuel consumption pattern of the respondents. Total one hundred and twenty five (125) female respondents from the two villages were selected randomly. Statistical analyses were done using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS programme). Descriptive statistics including mean, standard deviation, and percentage frequency were used for describing background characteristics of the study group. Respondents and their family members reported that they were facing many problems while fuel purchasing/gathering and prevalence of disease caused by smoke because of improper kitchen facilities and cooking materials

KEY WORDS : Domestic fuel, Consumption, Rural women

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After 64 years of independence 70 per cent peoples are living in rural areas and for cooking they still depend on biofuels such as fuel wood, dung and crop residues. Among these biofuels fuel wood has the highest share of energy consumption in rural areas, followed by animal dung and crop residues. The over-dependence on traditional fuels has led to several ecological and health problems (Rehman, 2002). The consumption of fuel wood on large scale is indeed associated with forest degradation (Jagdish, 2004). In view of above the present study was under taken with the following objectives: to know their various characteristics and to study the domestic fuel consumption pattern of the respondents.

RESEARCH METHODS

For the study, total 125 rural (16 per cent of the total household) were selected randomly from the two villages, Achitpur and Chota Mirzapur Khurd of Jamalpur Block of Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

It is evident from Table 1 that 45.6 per cent of the respondents were of younger age group. The average age and standard deviation of the respondents was 38.90 years and 11.97 year, respectively.

Maximum respondents were belonged to Hindu religion (89.6 per cent). Maximum respondents (55.0 per

cent) were OBC (other backward caste) category. It can be interred from the above findings that in our social system OBC have been dominating.

The majorities of respondents (66.4 per cent) were illiterate. It may be concluded that the female literacy rate in the study area is very low. Similar observations also reported by Prasad *et al.* (2009).

More than half (57.6 per cent) of respondent's head of the family were depend on daily wages as labour work followed by the respondents head of the family (18.4 per cent) who were engaged in tiny business like beetle shop etc.

More than half (52.8 per cent) of respondents had family annual income below Rs. 20,000 The trend showed that in study area, economic status of the people was very poor. Parikh and Laxmi (2000) have also stated poor economic condition of rural people in their study done at Tamil Naidu. Basic reason of poverty in the present study area was found the large population growth and there were majority of respondents (89.0 per cent) who had no membership of any type of organization.

Table 2 reveals that majority of the respondents (95.2 per cent) were cooking their food on fuel wood. Regarding the fuel as dung cake, it was found that 5.6 per cent of respondents were not using it at any cost while 80.0 per cent of respondents were purchasing dung cake from market. Only 14.4 per cent respondents who had their