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Effect of education on adaptation & sustainability of Pradhanmantri Ujjawala Yojana

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Abstract

Pradhanmantri ujjawala yojana is aimed at providing 8 Crore LPG connections in the name of women in BPL (Below Poverty Line) households across the country. LPG connections have increased no doubt, but PMUY beneficiaries do not seem to be using their LPG cylinders, a large number of PMUY beneficiaries have not come back for refills. However, the sustainability of PMUY is still debated. Present study was conducted in Bihar. 200 women beneficiaries of PMUY (age group 40-55 years) from the two blocks (Kurhani & Bochahan) of Muzaffarpur district was selected randomly. Interview schedule was constructed to record the data obtained. The interview questions were analyzed using descriptive narrations. Data shows that more than half (57.78%) of the women were literate, while 42.22% of them were illiterate. A highly significant association (The chi-square statistic is 9.5748 & the p-value is .008334) was observed between caste and literacy. Present study also revealed that highly significant association between adaptation of LPG/ sustainability of LPG/ use of other optional kitchen fuel with education.

Keywords: Pradhanmantri Ujjawala Yojana, LPG, Literate, Illiterate

1. Introduction

The Asian Development Bank estimates India's population to be at 1.28 billion with an average growth rate, from 2010-2015, at 1.3%. In 2014, 49.9% of the population aged 15 years and above were employed. However, there are still 21.9% of the populations who live below the national poverty line, the poor have limited access to cooking gas (LPG). The spread of LPG cylinders has been predominantly in the urban and semi-urban areas with the coverage mostly in middle class and affluent households. However, there are serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuels. According to WHO about 5 lakh deaths in India alone due to unclean cooking fuels. Most of these premature deaths were due to non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. India is home to more than 24 Crore households out of which about 10 Crore households are still deprived of LPG as cooking fuel and have to rely on firewood, coal, dung – cakes etc. as primary source of cooking. The smoke from burning such fuels causes alarming household pollution and adversely affects the health of Women & children causing several respiratory diseases/ disorders. As per a WHO report, smoke inhaled by women from unclean fuel is equivalent to burning 400 cigarettes in an hour. In addition, women and children have to go through the drudgery of collecting firewood. LPG is supposed to replace traditional cooking fuels in rural kitchens such as firewood and cow dung which not only contribute to environmental degradation but also have serious health implications on users. Keeping in the view of the health & empowerment condition of the women, Prime minister of India launched Ujjawala yojana 1 may 2016 in Ballia in Uttar Pradesh. Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women (BPL household) for empower and protect their health because it is true fact that development of any society or country is not possible without the empowerment of the women. Growth in the number of LPG customers was the highest in the past decade in 2016-17. Pradhanmantri ujjawala yojana is the reason for this. Out of 32.2 million new LPG connections in 2016-17, 20 million are Pradhanmantri ujjawala yojana beneficiaries. This year, during April-October 2018, 3.14 million DBCs and 27.28 million new connections were released out of which 21.72 million were released under PMUY. This increase, however, does not reflect itself in

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consumption of LPG. Year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in LPG consumption increased from 9% in 2015-16 to 9.8% in 2016-17. Contrast this with y-o-y growth in LPG customers, which increased from 10.2% in 2015-16 to 16.2% in 2016-17. However, the sustainability of Pradhanmantri ujjawal yojana is still debated, so we need to focus on the education, which are the key indicator of the adoption and sustainability of the Pradhanmantri Ujjawal Yojana.

2. Methodology

Present study was conducted in Bihar. 200 women beneficiaries of PMUY (age group 40-55 years) from the two blocks (Kurhani & Bochahan) of Muzaffarpur district was selected randomly. The design of this research is a descriptive survey research. Two Blocks were selected from Muzaffarpur district by randomly sampling (chit fold method). Interview schedule was constructed to record the data obtained. The interview questions were analyzed using descriptive narrations. Further, appropriate statistical techniques were applied to derive the results of the present study.

3. Results & Discussion

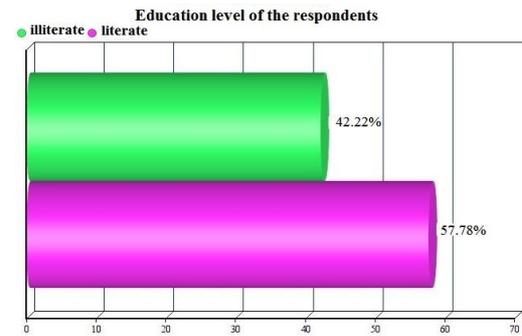


Fig 1

The respondents were asked the level of education acquired as it may affect their economic status, living standard, health and food security status. Data shows that (figure -1) that more than half (57.78%) of the women were literate, while 42.22% of them were illiterate.

Table 1: Socio-economic Status of Respondents

Sr. No.	Socio-economic Status	Illiterate		Literate		Chi-square value	P-value	
		n=76	%	n=104	%			
1	Caste						9.5748	0.008334*
	Gen.	05	06.58	16	15.38			
	OBC	32	42.11	57	54.81			
	SC/ST	39	51.31	31	29.81			
2	Religion						0.1844	0.980061
	Hindu	50	65.79	71	68.27			
	Muslim	24	31.58	31	29.81			
	Sikh	01	01.31	01	00.96			
	Christian	01	01.31	01	00.96			
3	Family Income (Rs./Month)						0.5306	0.766984
	<5000	46	60.53	61	58.65			
	5001-10000	24	31.58	37	35.58			
	>10000	06	07.89	06	05.77			
4	Marital status						0.8611	0.353421
	Married	57	75.00	84	80.77			
	Widow/divorcee	19	25.00	20	19.23			
5	Living Area						1.7821	0.181891
	Rural	43	56.58	69	66.35			
	Urban	33	43.42	35	33.65			

Significance Level = 0.05 * significant at p < .05

Table-1 revealed the data on socio-economic and general profile of the respondents. According to the data, majority of the respondents were OBC followed by the SC/ST & general caste, a highly significant association (The chi-square statistic is 9.5748 & the p-value is .008334) was observed between caste and literacy. 65.79% of the illiterate respondents were Hindu while 31.58% of them were Muslim, similarly 68.27% of the literate respondents were Hindu and rest of them were Muslim (29.81%), Sikh (0.96%) and Christian (0.96%). More than half (60.53% in illiterate & 58.65% in literate) of the family earned below Rs. 5000. However, near about one third of family earned between Rs. 5001-10000. Table also indicates that the 56.58% of the illiterate respondents were living in rural areas while 43.42% of them were living in urban area. Demographic data on marital status of both group revealed that the more than three fourth were married, while rest of them were widow/divorcee, for present study it was statistically not significant (p=0.181891).

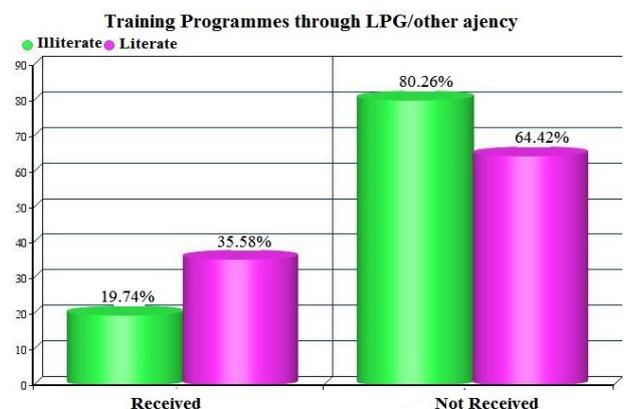


Fig 2

Figure-2 revealed that only 19.74% of the illiterate women received training from the LPG/other authority to deal with

the LPG and necessary security, in group of literate women more than one third (35.58%) of the women received training for LPG safety tips. After Pradhanmantri Ujjwala Yojana an LPG cylinder can be found in almost every Indian household, with it impossible to imagine daily life without it. Given its widespread use, it is imperative that household follow certain practices to prevent any untoward incidents. Our society

comes across umpteen numbers of cases where LPG cylinders explode, causing grievous injury and even death. While there have been tremendous improvements when it comes to safety standards, accidents can occur anytime, which is why it is important that we arm ourselves with certain safety tips to prevent them.

Table 2: Adoption & Sustainability of LPG

Sr. No.	Adoption & Sustainability	Illiterate		Literate		Chi-square value	P-value
		n=76	%	n=104	%		
1	Adoption of LPG					17.213	0.000033*
	Before PMUY	03	03.95	29	27.88		
	After PMUY	73	96.05	75	72.12		
2	Sustainability of LPG					22.4087	< .00001*
	Regular	19	25.00	63	60.58		
	Irregular	57	75.00	41	39.42		
3	Other Optional Kitchen Fuel					11.5256	0.009198*
	Kerosene	15	19.74	30	28.85		
	Firewood	40	52.63	44	42.31		
	Cow dung	19	25.00	15	14.42		
	Electric equipment	02	02.63	15	14.42		
Significance Level = 0.05 * significant at p < .05							

Table-2 revealed the data on Adoption & Sustainability of LPG. According to the data, majority of the respondents adopted LPG after PMUY, a highly significant association (The chi-square statistic is 17.213 & the p-value is .000033) was observed between adaptation of LPG and literacy. Data also revealed that there is strong association between sustainability of LPG and literacy (The chi-square statistic is 22.4087 & the p-value is <.00001). Firewood was the most commonly used by the household for the optional cooking fuel followed by kerosene, cow dung and electric equipment, a highly significant association (The chi-square statistic is 11.5256 & the p-value is 0.009198) was observed between use of other optional cooking fuel and literacy.

4. Conclusion

PMUY is a revolutionary scheme, which is not less than any boon for poor women, with this there is immense possibility of improving women's health as well as their life standard. LPG connections have increased no doubt, but PMUY beneficiaries do not seem to be using their LPG cylinders, a large number of PMUY beneficiaries have not come back for refills in Muzaffarpur district. Those women who understand the importance of LPG, for which she must be educated, can do the sustainability of LPG. Present study also revealed that highly significant association between adaptation of LPG/ sustainability of LPG/ use of other optional kitchen fuel with education.

5. Recommendations

The government should make an effort to increase awareness of the benefits and safety features of the Pradhanmantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme especially in illiterate women.

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