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Factors determining fuel choice and health of under-five child: Evidence from three-decade household responses in India

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ABSTRACT

One of the main causes of health difficulties is household air pollution. In India, the fifth National Family Health Survey report from 2022 states that 41% of the population overall and more than half of the rural population still rely on solid or dirty fuel combustions, which would result in future health risks. This paper discusses the factors affecting household's decision regarding cooking fuel. The National Family Health Survey responses from all five rounds are utilised to chart the usage of unclean fuel during the last 30 years. Cooking fuel determinants and relative likelihood of acute respiratory infection among under-five children are analysed using an integrated approach, adjusted probit and logit models respectively. The number of households using unclean fuel has declined over the years, with a slightly higher decline in the last five years. The household choice of cooking fuel is influenced by the poverty status and place of residence of households. Further, the children in households using clean fuel are less likely to suffer acute respiratory infections.

KEYWORDS Cooking fuel; Household air pollution; Health effect; Acute respiratory infection; Indoor pollution
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