

## Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Issues and challenges

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### Abstract

India is a highly populated country ranking second in the world next only to china in terms of population. According to 2011 census total Indian population stands at high of 121.08 Crore which is 17.7% percent of the world's total population. The problem faced by India today is not only living overpopulated but also majorities of population living in poverty. According to the planning commission 21.9% (2697.8 lakh) of Indian population lives below the poverty line. It meaning there by that this section does not have access to even basic necessities of life. The incidence of poverty is higher in the rural areas. In this area 25.7% of the rural population does not have any access to LPG connection for cooking. Access to clean cooking energy is particularly gendered issue, because women are primarily responsible for cooking in virtually all culture. These differences in gender roles reduce women leisure, welfare and well-being. Most attention to time saving of women in the energy sector has focused on the burden of biomass fuel connection, which in fuel scare area can range from one to more than eight hours per household per week. The alternate fuels such as wood, dried cow dung, kerosene and low quality coal which the poor use for cooking. WHO reports, an estimated five lakh deaths in a year in India are caused by unclean cooking fuels while a large number of suffer from a range of respiratory illness. The indoor air pollution caused by low quality of fuel is responsible for a significant number of respiratory illness which among in the children. The present paper discussing the issue of Ujjwala Yojana and challenges of this scheme.

**Keywords:** ujjwala, empowerment, employment, fuel, health

### Introduction

India is a highly populated country ranking second in the world next only to china in terms of population. The Study reveals that having an open wood fire in the kitchen has almost as poisonous as 400 cigarettes in an hour. Health experts have confirmed that smoke released from the burning process contains hazardous substance such as particulate matter and carbon monoxide which may lead to disease stroke and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. This system degrades environment as well as forest also. C considerable time saving, health and clean environment are possible when switching to LPG for cooking. To provide clean and ecofriendly fuel to household, Prime Minister launched Ujjwala Yojana 1 may 2016 in Ballia in utter Pardesh.

### Objective of the Study

The objective of the present study is discuss the main issues and challenges of Ujjwala Yojana.

### Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana

Pradhan mantri Ujjawala yojana comes at the tag line Swach Behater Jeewan at the time when usage of unclean cooking fuels is high in rural areas. The union government committee on economic affairs gave approval to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide fifty million LPG connections to the poor families. This scheme aims to benefits the poor families. Each of the beneficiary will revive monetary support about sixteen thousand to get a connection of cooking gas. Time saved and

reduced drudgery due to fuel switching can enable women to take advantage of development and empowerment opportunities.

### Necessity behind the Launched of Ujjwala Yojana Scheme

Though it has been widely spread as Ujjwala Yojana scheme offers free LPG connection for the women's of BPL families across the nation in order to boost their living standards. The hidden truth is on considering the arising global environment thread several countries decided to reduce the factors which are the reason of environmental thread. In India usage of important cooking fuels causes hung dark smoke and emits carbon in atmosphere which affects the global green house gases and leads to unstable global climate. More ever usage of wood as households cooking fuel will leads to deforestation which once again affect eco balance.

### Objective of the Scheme

Availability of clean cooking fuel is a major challenge for rural poor household in the country. Government is committed to providing clean fuel to all poor households. Providing free LPG connection to five crors women beneficiaries from below poverty line (BPL) families over the next three years. The households will be selected using the socio –economic and caste census data as per 2011 census. This scheme is launched to reduce health hazard/ diseases and air pollution caused by the use of unclean fossil fuels.

### **Selection of Beneficiaries**

While the selection of beneficiaries would be from the BPL families only. Preferences would be given to SC/ST and weaker section of society. While providing the new connection to BPL households, priority would be given to the state which has lower LPG coverage as on 1 January 2016.

### **Benefits**

Providing LPG connection to BPL households will ensure universal coverage of cooking gas in the country to protect their health. It will reduce drudgery and time spent on forgoing wood, dung and other cooking fuel. Using LPG will help to improve the quality of life of poor women and will empower to protect their health. The connection under this scheme will allocated in the name of women member of the poor households. The funding money will be provided in the account of women head in the family. It will increase women's status and decision making power within the households and community. This may also be fastest route to encourage fuel switching to modern fuels. This scheme will be provide employment in the supply chain of cooking gas in the rural area and it also decreasing rural to urban migration. It will be ensure reduce deforestation and cutting down trees for fire woods and help to clean environment.

### **Challenges of PMUY**

The absence of proper and authenticated data on BPL population, identification of poor households for allotment of free LPG connection is biggest challenge. Uses of socio – economic caste census data may be get misused by well off. As Adhar based direct benefits transfer system is facing legal battle in courts, hence transferring subsidies directly to oil companies may encourage, leakages in the system by vested interest groups. Only a plan for three years till 2019 is provided. It may be possible that the demand of LPG increased and it leads shortage of LPG. Our distribution networks have also not fully developed which affect full realization of benefits of scheme.

### **Recommendations**

A wide range of recommendation for promotion of LPG. To realize the true benefits of scheme. Government must build proper mechanism to identify the deserving beneficiaries. Government should make the strong channel for the distribution and ensure the supply of LPG.

### **Conclusion**

PMUY is an historic opportunity to provide LPG connection to truly deserving ones. It will help in reducing the pollution. It will increase the opportunity of employment. It also improves the quality of life of poor households. It also empowered the status of women.

### **References**

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