



PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA – SCHEMES

NEWS: *Recent study by International Energy Agency underscores the need for targeted interventions to address both cultural and financial barriers, thereby promoting the exclusive adoption of clean cooking fuels in rural India.*

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Impact of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

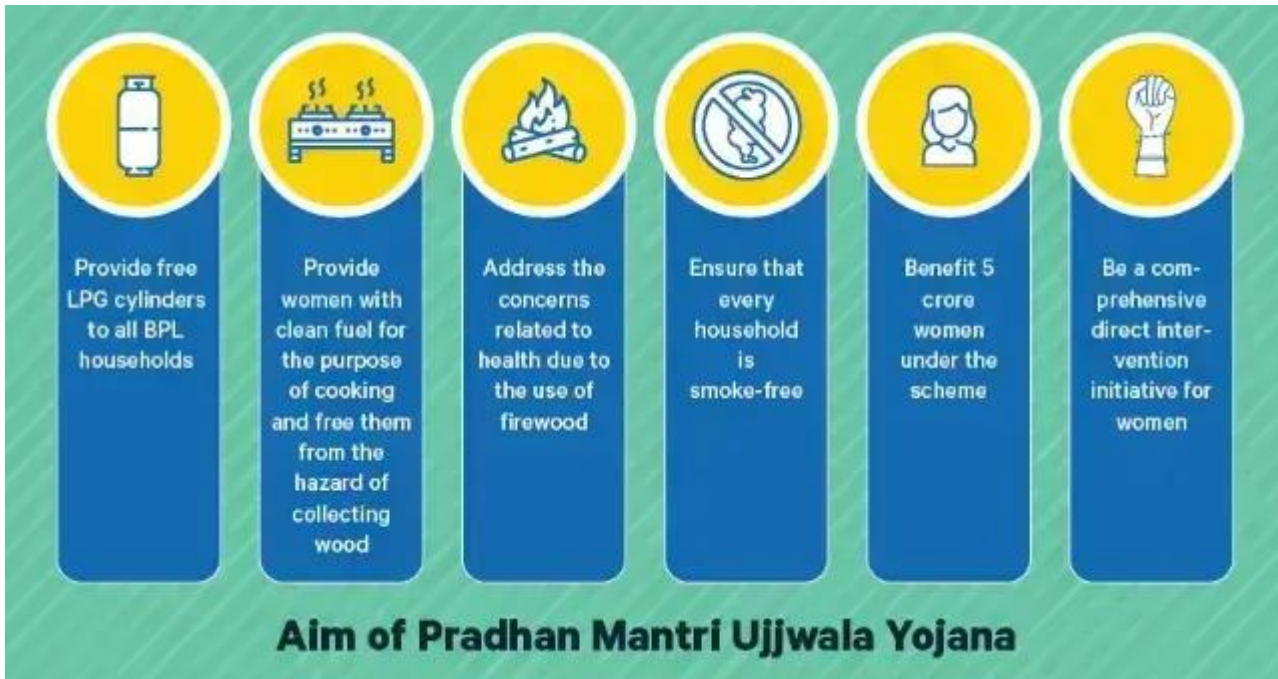
- **Solid Fuel Usage in India:** According to the International Energy Agency, about 681 million people in India rely on solid fuels for cooking, posing significant health and environmental risks.
- **Objective of PMUY:** The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana aims to promote clean fuel by providing subsidised LPG connections to poor households.
- **Government Achievements:** As of now, 10.3 crore LPG connections have been provided under this scheme.

Study Background: Research in Jammu and Kashmir

- **Survey Data:** A primary survey was conducted with data from 820 households across 48 villages in Kulgam and Rajouri districts.
- **Sampling Method:** Systematic random sampling was used, ensuring a representative sample from different economic groups: APL (Above Poverty Line), BPL (Below Poverty Line), and AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana).

LPG Connection Adoption in Jammu and Kashmir

- **Adoption Rates:**
 - **Overall:** 85.07% of households in rural J&K have official LPG connections.
 - **Under PMUY:** 68% of these connections were provided through PMUY.
- **Access Gaps:**
 - 4.41% of households, especially in hilly regions like Rajouri, still lack access to LPG.
 - 10.53% rely on unofficial LPG connections.
- **Traditional Cooking Practices:**
 - Despite increased LPG adoption, 92% of households still use traditional chulhas.
 - **Fuel Stacking:** 85% of households use both solid fuels and LPG, due to cultural ties and affordability issues.



LPG Consumption Patterns

- **Average Usage:** Households consumed 3.56 LPG cylinders on average over the last six months.
 - In Kulgam, PMUY beneficiaries showed higher usage (3.54 cylinders) than non-PMUY households (3.21 cylinders).
 - In Rajouri, PMUY beneficiaries used fewer cylinders compared to general consumers.
- **Continued Use of Solid Fuels:** Average consumption of firewood was 226 kg per household in six months, indicating persistent dual-fuel usage.

Health Impact of PMUY

- **Improved Health Outcomes:** PMUY adoption has led to significant health benefits in Kulgam, especially among women.
 - **BPL Households:** Reduction in respiratory issues like coughing (from 24% to 21%) and chest infections among beneficiaries.
 - **AAY Households:** Coughing incidences decreased from 13% to 10% among PMUY beneficiaries.
- **Influence of Modern Appliances:** Households with appliances like rice cookers and those with educated members reported better health outcomes.

Barriers to Exclusive LPG Usage

- **Lack of Awareness:**
 - 47% of households were unaware of the health risks associated with solid fuels.
 - Limited access to information due to 64% not owning TVs and 33% lacking mobile phones among women cooks.
- **Financial Constraints:**
 - The cost of LPG refills remains a significant barrier.



- Fuel stacking is prevalent in 85% of households due to financial limitations.

Influence of Awareness and Modern Appliances

- **Health Awareness:** Households aware of LPG's health benefits had higher LPG usage (3.73 cylinders) and lower firewood consumption (216 kg).
- **Perception of Taste:** Households not perceiving a taste difference between LPG and traditional cooking were more likely to rely solely on LPG.
- **Availability of Modern Cooking Appliances:** Households with rice cookers used more LPG (3.59 cylinders) compared to those without.

Recommendations for Increasing Clean Fuel Adoption

- **Expand LPG Distribution Points:** Increasing the availability of LPG in rural areas.
- **Enhanced Financial Support:** Providing more subsidies to make LPG refills affordable.
- **Targeted Awareness Campaigns:** Focused communication efforts to highlight the health benefits of LPG and reduce the use of solid fuels.