

# PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA : AN INITIATIVE OF GOVERNMENT TOWARDS BETTER LIFE FOR ALL

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## Abstract

Most of the population of India resides in rural areas that the use of solid biomass for cooking causes high emission of pollutant evoking serious negative impact on human health not only one a single person whosoever involved in the cooking activity but the entire household people. It has been estimated by world health organization about 1 millions deaths occurs in India due to the use of solids cooking fuels. As it has been said by our father of nation, Mahatma Gandhi that future of our nation resides in its villages, thus development of India is akin to the development of its villages. To oversee it the Pradhanmantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in 2016 to distribute 5 crore LPG connection for below poverty line (BPL) holders at free of cost by March 2019 so that universal coverage of cooking gas in the country. It has been observed that most of the people in India resides in village under BPL line thus these poor households can't how afforded the high cost of purchasing an LPG connection and would depend on hazardous biomass fuel for cooking. After overseeing such a problem government of India has taken an initiative to overcome such barriers by launching a scheme in the form of PradhanMantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

The present study provides a comprehensive review of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana based an secondary data to gain a deeper understanding of the scheme's contributors on to the development of different sectors of society, such as women, the poor (BPL holders), various backward classes and others. It is observed that PMUJ plays a vital role in empowering womens bygivingconnections to them and paying concern towards health also.

**Key points:** Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), LPG connection, government.

## **Introduction:**

In2015, there are 193 countries those who have adopted sustainable development goals. There are total 17 sustainable development goals which has been designed to and poverty, protect the planet and to make each nation prosperous. Thus smoke free cooking is one of the vital action which impact indirectly 17 SDGs and that underlines the importance being placed upon clean working globally. The scheme has been proposed with the tagline "swachhIndhan, BehtarJeevan", government of India has launched a social welfare scheme under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Damodar Modi. If we look back we formed many problems faced by the poor women due to use of firewood, crowding, charcoal etc for cooking which cause an adverse impact on womens health not only of women but the entire family members due to excessive emission of smoke.

The Union Budget 2016 announced the launch of a new scheme with a budget provision of ₹ 8000 crore. The initial aim was to provide 5 crore LPG connections to BPL families issued on the name of women beneficiaries. The schemes was implemented with the support of Indian oil corporation limited, Bharat petroleum limited and Hindustan Petroleum corporation limited . The provision to subsidize an amount of ₹ 1600 for as security deposit for cylinder, pressure regulator, hose pipe, consumers passbook and installation charges has been made. It has been observed that most of the government schemes with has been brought up for beneficiaries of needy people but when they reach at ground level there is a lack of transparency due to which many deserving poor were left out of such kind of schemes. Efficiency, transparency and accountability have been the foundational basis of PMUY.

## **Objective:**

The objective of the study is to made an overview on Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana how effective the PMUY scheme what are the beneficiaries of PMUY.

## **Research Methodology:**

Descriptive and exploratory in nature where empirical study has been made. An attempt has been made to clarify an overview of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for the collection of data secondary resources has been taken into consideration such as government sites, news, reports and survey to made an descriptive analysis.

### **Procedures to be the part of UJJWALA SCHEME**

- Women above 18 years doesn't have any LPG connection former and come under below poverty line may apply for LPG connection having application form with certain details like address, account number, BPL card or Aadhar card.
- Eligibility under BPL status is ascertain under SECC-2011 database by LPG field official's.
- After issuance of eligibility oil marketing companies issue free LPG connection to eligible beneficiaries.

### **Aim of Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana**

The aim is to enrich lives and smiles of many rural womens by providing them free LPG connections.

- Main emphasizes is over to provide clean cooking fuel solution to BPL card holders.

- formerly most health issue determined while women cooking by excessive use of cow dung, kerosene or firewood, breathing problem is most common due to emission of carbon dioxide prevent the health implication PMUY has been launched.
- To degrade or ultimately control the environmental pollution.
- To fulfill the dream of millions of rural woman of smokeless kitchen.

#### Key challenges of the scheme:

Following challenges has been faced by government while implementing PMUY scheme:

**Identification of poor household:** Initially it has the challenge whom to allot the LPG connection due to lack of authentic data to identify poor households. Thus government used the SECC-2011 data to identify the deserving people for the connection under PMUY.

**Misuse of the SECC data:** It has been founded that a few affluent household were under BPL households in the SECC-2011 data thus it was a big challenge to check the authenticity of every data in SECC database.

**Safety awareness among beneficiaries:** Due to lack of awareness about the safety requirement for cooking on an LPG stove was a big challenge for government.

**Unavailability of documents:** Most of the needy people don't have ration card and Aadhar card.

**Limited Reach of LPG distributors:** In most of the areas, due to unavailability of LPG distributors still people are disconnected with the benefit of Ujjwala scheme.

#### Ujjwala 2.0:

After reaching the target of 8000 crore connections that has been set while launching PMUY scheme still people are there those who don't have access to PMUY scheme thus to made it reach to each and every beneficiaries, eventually, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from 7 more categories (SC/ST, PMAY, AAY, most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers, island's). To fulfill such purpose prime minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of the Ujjwala Yojana scheme on August 10, 2021. Ujjwala 2.0 aims to cover 10 millions more beneficiaries such announcement had made in union budget for the financial year 2021-22 Ujjwala 2.0 aims to provide deposit-free LPGs connection to low-income families and migrant workers who could not be covered in the first phase of PMUY.

#### Pillars of Ujjwala Scheme

Government aimed to provide safe and reachable clean energy supplies to people through Pradhan MantriUjjwalaYojana, focusing over three key pillars- affordability, Accessibility and Adaptability.

**1. Affordability:** Most of the beneficiaries under PMUY is from low socio-economic background they are not capable to afford the high refilling rates of LPG cylinder. Thus government of India work over it by taking an initiative and to reduce the cost burden of LPG refills and to ensure sustained use of LPG so that women in households shift from tradition use of solid fuel to cleaner,LPG smokeless fuel. Government has allocated budget of 8000 crores over 3 years for implementation of schemes. Few initiative undertaken by government were:

- The action of loan recovery through subsidy.
- To reduce the burden of cost refill option with 5 kg cylinder is also available.
- Free refill scheme option, provision made under Pradhan MantriGaribKalyan package.

**2. Accessibility :** PMUY beneficiaries mostly hail from rural and remote areas. To ensure better accessibility steps have been taken by government, to achieve the PMUY target warehouse should be located within 5 km from homes of beneficiaries. Commissioning of more than 6000 new LPG distributors. Booking facilities through common service. Augmentation of LPG booking capacity. Commissioning of additional blotting plants.

**3. Adaptability:** Various campaigns has been taken after engaging NGO's to bring out awareness among people through door-to-door campaign so that beneficiaries know about the benefits of scheme and of using LPG.

#### Benefits of Ujjawala Scheme

- Major shift of people from traditional method of cooking towards smokeless cooking.
- The purpose of distributing the connection on the name of female householder is to empowered theirstatus socially and economically.
- Degrade the emission of smoke, pollutants which are in the form of carbon and methane especially.
- Formerly the time spent on collection of fuel by the women has been reduced now they can utilizes their precious time in other productive activities to get benefits.
- Reduce health illness issues, which are caused by exposure to household air pollutions.

#### Conclusion:

Pradhanmantri Ujjawala Yojana is the world's largest poverty alleviation scheme. It is one of the vision of our Hon'ble prime minister Shri Narendra Modi to bring out all-round inclusive progress. Success of any scheme is observed on the basis of how much benefit that particular scheme providing to the needy people at grass root level. Through this scheme the vision, of providing each household whether localized in urban and rural area, with a LPG connection to make them smokeless to remove environment hazard and improve their lifestyle by turning the vision into rearing. Thus the scheme is widely accepted by the people and the mantra of the scheme : SwachhIndhan ,BehtarJeevan- Mahilaoko Mila Samman, is somehow achieved

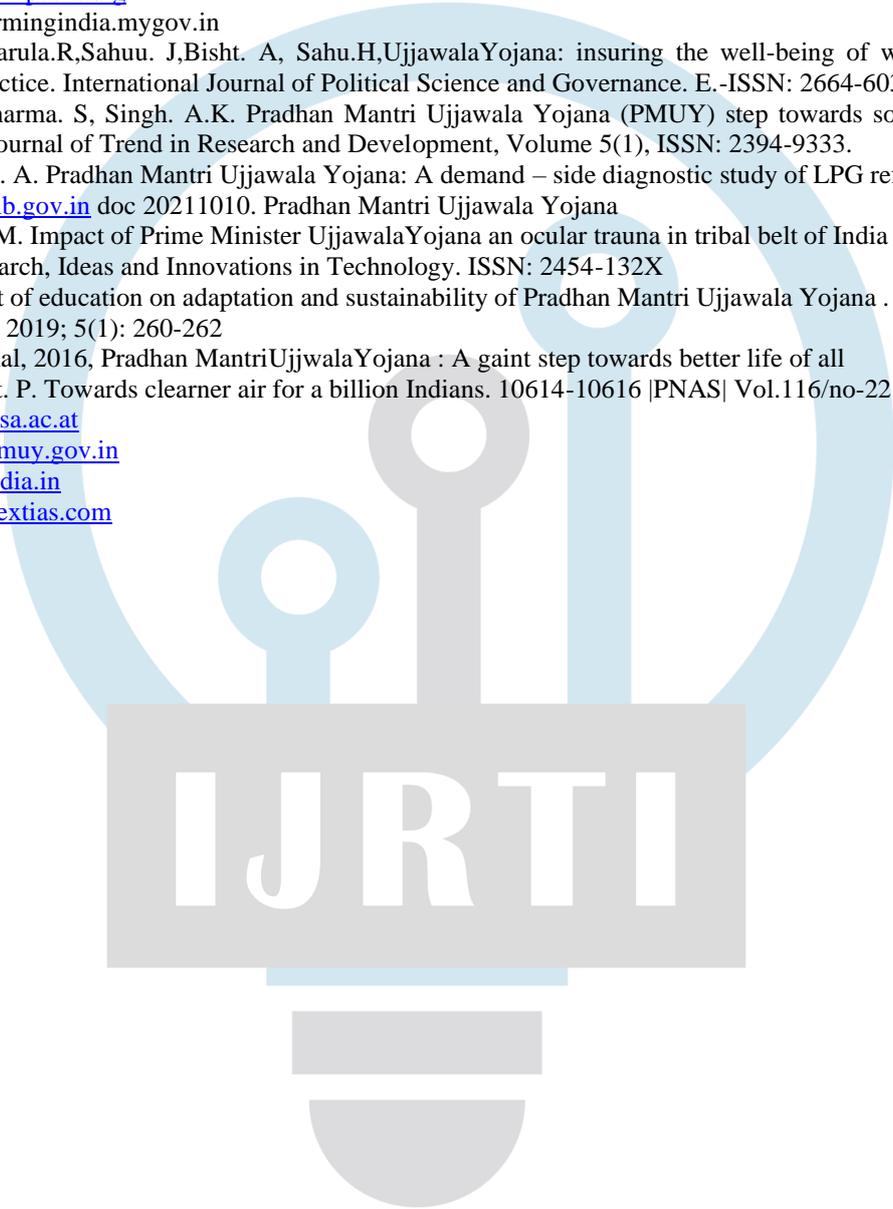
#### Recommendation of PMUY.

- In Bulk safety campaign should be carried out so as to bring awareness towards usable of LPG for beneficiaries who were not aware for it.

- Fare creation of a database to be made to avoid my discrepancies and duplication of names so that the scheme reached to the needy people.
- Subsidies should be delivered on time and price of subsidies must increase in proportionate as the price of LPG hikes because rise in LPG price is not more affordable by low-socio economic people.
- No delay should be made by oil manufacturing campaign (OMC) in providing LPG connections.
- Government must have to start awareness & information campaign so that the overall increase in the number of refills countrywide.
- Strengthening the supply chains.

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