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Title: Women's perceptions on Household Air Pollution

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Household air pollution (HAP) is linked to 4 million deaths worldwide, with 85% occurring in Low-middle income countries. HAP predominantly affects women as they tend to do the household daily chores. It is therefore important to understand women's perceptions and wants for this topic.

This was a joint project with 15 qualitative semi structured interviews conducted by each researcher. The research took place during May and June 2016 in Kavresthali, a village in Kathmandu district, interviewing married women over the age of 25. Data was analysed using thematic analysis.

Burning wood on a traditional cook stove was identified as the most common cause of HAP. The effects of HAP most commonly affected women, with eye and respiratory problems the most commonly associated symptom. Cost, habit and taste were barriers identified preventing the switch to cleaner fuel types and stoves.

Lack of information and cheaper gas were key improvements participants wanted to see. The findings in this study were similar to those identified in the literature based in other LMIC. Despite numerous common themes, unique challenges were identified in Nepal. Geographical and political issues were exclusive to Nepal. Four SMART recommendations are made which are specific to the study area:

- Subsidised cleaner fuel
- Education and advice to empower local women
- Promotion of Improved cook stoves
- Further research focusing on housing structure and ventilation

Key Words

Household Air pollution, Nepal

Themes:

Indoor Air pollution, women's health, education