

Public Perception of Air Pollution in Proper Calcutta

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ABSTRACT The paper briefly reports the results of a sample survey of 1,724 respondents randomly selected from 56 localities of Calcutta Municipal Corporation to assess their level of awareness and knowledge of air pollution (AP) in Calcutta proper. About seventy-eight percent of the residents were found to be quite aware of AP. According to them, foul smell, filthy drains and rotten garbage were the main sources of AP. Very few respondents attributed unburnt fuel emission from automobiles as a cause. About seventy percent of the male respondents and about half of the female respondents expressed their concern over AP. More concerted campaigns are needed to create public awareness and concern. These must be backed by legal ban on all sources of AP. Youth clubs in different localities can play an important role to initiate such campaigns in their own areas.