

**Perceived Indoor Quality of Air in Calcutta Proper and Its
Relationship to Types of Fuels Used for Cooking**

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ABSTRACT The paper reports the results pertaining to perception of indoor air pollution as experienced by 1,724 residents selected randomly from 56 localities of Calcutta Municipal Corporation. The findings clearly indicate the households mainly using coal ovens and/or kerosene stoves tend to experience greater percentages of inconvenience caused by smoky rooms than households using gas or electric heaters. Indoor air quality was perceived as quite bad by slum dwellers who were reported to be using mostly coal ovens. No association was found between index of indoor air quality and number of sick persons in the household. Almost the same result emerged for number of asthma patients. Although the health hazard of indoor air pollution is not clearly home out the study, the results support the need for ventilation improvement for users of coal ovens in kitchens. Indoor cigarette smoking was also found to have almost no association either with indoor air pollution or with any health problems. Some of the implications of the findings are discussed.