

Environmental pollution has many facets, and the resultant health risks include diseases in almost all organ systems. Many infections are acquired by inhalation and ingestion of pathogens. Airborne diseases are spread when droplets of pathogens are expelled into the air due to coughing, sneezing or talking. Water-borne diseases are infectious diseases spread primarily through contaminated water.

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## The Environmental Significance of Airborne Diseases Due to the Use of Household Biomass Fuels

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To date, approximately half the world's population and up to 90% of rural households in developing countries rely on biomass fuels in the form of wood, coal, animal dung, and crop residues [1]. As many deleterious substances are produced from food materials via cooking, various types of pollutants are also emitted due to the incomplete combustion of these fuels. These pollutants include Particulate matter (PM) and the associated components (metals, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), etc) as well as numerous gaseous constituents (e.g., carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, nitrogen dioxide, volatile organic compounds) [2-6]. As such, the use of household biomass fuel can act as the source of Indoor air pollution (IAP) through which various forms of pollutants are released.

Exposure to IAP may be responsible for nearly 2 million excess deaths in developing countries and for some 4% of the global burden of disease [7]. Children are particularly vulnerable to IAP because their metabolic pathways are underdeveloped and immature [8]. It is thus imperative to acquire the basic knowledge concerning the diverse health risks associated with cooking emissions in relation with the use of coal and biomass fuels. In light of environmental significance of IAP stemming from the household use of biofuel and its potential health risks, it is very important to be able to establish various policies and prevention strategies to handle this issue properly.

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