

Socio-economic Aspects Influencing Rural Household Adoption of Improved Clean Cookstoves: *A Case of Rwanda in Africa*

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Abstract

Despite multiple socio-economic, health and environmental benefits of improved cook stove programmes, there is failure to capture the recognition worldwide and a set of sociocultural, economic, institutional barriers and cook stoves and fuel characteristics contribute to the slow adoption. This paper provides evidence of household driving factors that play a crucial role in the uptake of improved cook stoves empirically in Rwanda. The study was based on the fifth integrated household living standards survey (EICV-5) carried out by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. Using binary logistic regression analysis, the study utilised socio economic, stove and fuel factors for determining the adoption of usage of improved cook stove. The study revealed that for a substantially improved rate of adoption there should be consistent and focused cooperation of government and non-governmental organizations to work in parallel for developing energy policy frameworks like dissemination of improved cook stoves.

1. Introduction and Study Objectives

Worldwide, energy is very crucial in meeting households' basic needs majorly for cooking, water boiling, heating, and lighting. Worldwide over 3 billion people rely on solid fuels including biomass materials as the main source of energy for the household and more than 90 percent of the consumption took place in developing countries. About half of the global population is dependent on traditional fuels and stoves to fulfil their energy prerequisite.

The traditional fuels and stove to be inefficiency and are presumed to contribute about a third of worldwide carbon monoxide emission and other pollutants

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in biomass smoke affecting global climate change (Rehfuess et al., 2014). Consequently, household's solid fuel low combustion affects both local and region quality of air to a long extends and hence influence human health (Anenberg et al., 2013)

Revealed that Globally exposure to smoke from household solid combustion is one the largest risk factors resulting in approximately 3.5 million premature deaths 4.5 global DALYs (Disability Adjusted Life years) in 2010 (Lim et al., 2013). The pollutants emissions resulting from the process of fuels combustion are influenced by factors including fuels properties and stove design. Rysankova et al. (2014) Illustrated that if no action takes place by 2030 approximately 0.9 million of population will die from infection associated with solid fuels cooking

GIZ (2013) reported that Accessibility to modern clean cooking fuel is a global challenge and hence fourth efforts to design, adopt and use improved cook stoves are the best intervention solution for enhancing the way biomass is used in addressing advice resulting in impact. In middle income countries like Rwanda, intervention for improved cooking stoves by government donors and non-governmental organizations has had a promising impact on health and environment (Puzzolo et al., 2013).

Lewis and Pattanayak (2012) reported that improved cook stoves have been the evident efficient tool that would benefit human health, environment, and climate through decline in fuel wood harvesting and emissions. Few efforts have been devoted to understanding how improved cook stoves are currently adopted for a long-time sustainable use and this will ensure the social economic aspects that are well incorporated to ensure a long term sustained usage of improved cook stoves.

They are some studies conducted on the socio economic factors influencing household adoption of improved cook stove which was developed for reducing the health and livelihood consequence resulting from the usage of solid cooking fuels. the study by Bonjour et al. (2013) stated that the transition from traditional to clean cooking fuel began in 1990s and the switching movement was slow especially in most of low income countries and many people still relying on traditional fuels for their cooking purpose and hence effort needed towards improvement the household usage of improved cook stoves.

Malla et al. (2011) identified various socio-economic factors such as education, household size, income and price of cook stove, time spent in firewood collection as having influence on household adaptation of improved cook stove. In Burkina Faso, Ouedrago (2006) observed that there is a positive correlation between household income and fuels consumption and then do not switch to clean energy when the income increases but consume a set of fuels which may include solid fuels depending on their preference, need and their budget. Lewis and Pattanayak (2012) found that both household

head education level and household size have significant positive impact on household adaptation of improved cook stoves.

Designated that increase of household size prefers to use traditional fuels over modern clean fuels (Ozcan et al., 2013). Ouedrago (2006) discovered that preparing traditional meals increase the likelihood of using fuels wood hence significant influence of using traditional cook stove for rural household despite the introduction of improved cook stove so this believes influence both choices for existing cook stove and adaptation of new model. According to Person et al. (2012), in rural Kenya the revealed that purchasing improved cook stove for the household was influenced by the neighbour experience and relative who have already adapted the stoves. Various studies (i.e., Miller & Mobarak, 2013; Pine et al., 2011) discovered that opinions and pure pressure within the community influence household adaptation of improved cook stoves in Bangladesh. It is concluded that the old people are associated with a high probability of adapting modern cooking fuels (Guta, 2012; Gebregziabher et al., 2012). GACC (2014) expressed that the lack of demand for improved cook stoves especially among the low-income population is driven by perceived values of cook stove such efficiency, health environment benefit and culture belief without addressing this concern, the improved cook stove will never be adapted that is why they expressed that the creation of demand among the low-income household will improve the adaptation of cookstoves and fuels technology (Levine et al., 2012).

Various studies have been conducted in developing countries to identify the factors that determine household cook stove decision, in Rwanda studies carried out particularly in both urban and rural area, attempted to distinguish the determine factors of fuels and cook stove adoption with measure concentration on institutional and stove relation factors and little on disaggregated level factors using panel data.

This study will contribute to existing literature though providing empirical evidence of the factors influencing the household adaptation of improved cook stove as the previous studies showed that Multinomial probability models using cross-section data are unsuitable for investigating the cook stove adaptation at household level which requires panel data.

2. Research Methods

Binary logistic regression is frequently used as regression approach for evaluating discrete choice data such as household adoption improved cook stove, household adoption of improved cook stove is modelled as dictum variables with values 1 if household adopt cook stove and 0 otherwise, the probability of household adoption of improved stove is formulated as function of household level driving factors, the predictor variable in the model include attributes of individual and household characteristics that could influence the decision to adopt improved solid fuel stove,

According to Fox (2010) the binary logistic regression model has two practical advantages, where the simplicity is the first one, this implies that the logistic equation is very simple. Interpretability is the second that is inverse of linear transformation for the logit model is merely interpretable as log-odds with considering the odd ratios.

The binary logistic model regression:

$$\ln\left(\frac{P_i}{1-P_i}\right) = \pi_0 + \pi_1 X1_i + \pi_2 X2_i + \dots \dots \dots \pi_k Xk_i + \varepsilon_i \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where the subscript I means the ith observation in the sample.

P is the probability that the household adopts the improved solid fuel cook stoves; and (1-P) is the probability that the household does not adopt an improved solid fuel cook stove

π_0 the intercept term

$\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2 \dots \dots \dots \pi_k$ are the coefficients of interest of independent control variables $x1_i, x2_i, \dots \dots \dots xk_i$

ε_i is the error term

3. Data Analysis and Discussion

Here we first represent the results from descriptive statistics analysis and thereafter we describe the results from multinomial logit regression model

From the table1 above report the descriptive statistics for all variables used in the binary logit model showing that in EICV5 (2016/17) on average comparison, 21.7 percent of the households adopt the usage of improved cook stoves in urban region while only 14 percent of the households adopt to use the improved cookstoves are from rural region, not surprisingly on average 73.2 percent of households are engaged in other non-farm activities in urban region while only 47.4 percent of households in rural regions have other non-farm activities. Interestingly, 45.4 percent of households in urban regions live in their own houses while 85.4 percent of the households in rural regions live in their own houses. 22 percent of households with basic formal education in rural regions while only 24.2 percent of households have basic formal education in urban regions. Interestingly, only 28.7% of the urban households live in Umuugudu of Rwanda and modern planned areas while 66.8 percent of the rural households live in Umuugudu and the modern planned areas.

More interestingly, rural households spent more time on cooking fuel at an average of 10 hours while urban households only spent an average time of 4 hours on cooking fuel. The households within urban regions spend 4 hours on cooking activities while the rural households spend 3 hours in cooking activities and 6percent of urban households adopting the modern clean fuel for cooking

Table 1.
Descriptive statistics of dependent and all control variables by household location in EICV5 (2016/17) to be used in Binary Logit Regression Model

Variables	Variable Description	Urban Households		Rural Households	
		mean	S.d	mean	S.d
Dependent variable					
hhwithICS	Household with ICS	0.217	0.412	0.14	0.347
Independent /other control variables					
lnincome	Log of household income	13.992	1.619	13.02	0.948
valuecookstov	value of household cook stove	7.046	2.17	7.524	1.659
amntoncookfuel	amount spent on cooking fuel	8.449	1.172	7.487	1.092
harmscookstove	Harms happened mostly from cook stove	0.025	0.156	0.04	0.195
non-farm	Household with non-farm activities	0.732	0.443	0.474	0.499
homeowner	Household homeownership	0.454	0.498	0.854	0.353
Hhsize	Household size	4.247	2.4	4.445	2.053
hrs cooking	Total hours spent on cooking in a week	229	209.1	222.202	161.473
hrs firewood	Total hours spent on cooking fuels	3.913	15.342	9.719	23.954
basic educ	Household head with formal basic education	0.242	0.429	0.224	0.417
Agehhd	Age of household head	40.592	14.036	46.114	15.791
Polygamy	Household head marital status	0.014	0.119	0.027	0.161
wage salary	Household having wage salary	0.188	0.391	0.592	0.492
scecookfl	Primary source of cooking fuel (modern energy)	0.06	0.237	0.002	0.045
Typhbt	Household type of habitat	0.287	0.452	0.668	0.471

Note: From authors' computation using EICV5 (2016-2017).

purposes while only 0.2 percent of the rural households adopting the modern clean cooking fuel as primary sources of cooking fuel .surprisingly, almost 4percent of rural households suffered harms happened from the cook stoves while only 2 percent of the urban households suffered from the harm happened from the cook stoves.

Results from Estimations of Binary Logit Regression Model

From the table2 above reports that when the household income increase by one unit Rwandan franc, the odds of households using the improved cook

stove increases by $e^{(0.00111)}$ which 1 household additional to the households using improved cook stoves so the income is a crucial factor to be considered when adopting modern energy technologies since the manufactured cook stoves and other improved cook stoves need to be purchased at some cost associated with its production. The odds of the households using the improved cook stoves increased by $e^{(0.0652)}$ Almost 2 households additional to that adopt the improved cook stoves when the households live in their own homes increase by one more compared the households living in the rent homes which is significant at $p < 0.01$. This is related to the characteristics of the cook stoves since some cook stoves need to be built and fixed inside the cooking room and some other efficient cook stoves are easily movable. This shows that the homeownership driving factors are important to consider when adopting modern energy technology like cook stoves. Surprisingly, when the age of household head increased by one more year, the odds of the households that use the improved cook stoves is increased by $e^{(0.00835)}$ which means 1 more household adopts the modern energy technology which is significant at $p < 0.01$ while this is related to the fact that the aged household heads easily adopt the technology than the younger one towards the households efficient and effective consumptions. This shows that the households with older heads are more likely to adopt the improved cook stoves.

Interestingly, when the households living in the urban region increase by one additional household the odds of the households adopting the improved cook stoves decreased by $e^{(0.311)}$ which almost 1 household adopting improved energy technology where this is significant at $p < 0.01$ and this is related to the fact that most of the urban households use the traditional cookstoves and many of them try to shift to modern cooking fuel and the rural household mostly depend on solid biomass fuel for cooking purposes and hence the rural households are the first and more ones to adopt the improved cook stoves for effective biomass consumption.

When the household member increased by one more additional member that is the increase in the household size by one unit, the odds of the households adopting the usage of the improved cook stoves increase by $e^{(0.039)}$ which is 1 household adopting improved cook stoves while this is significant at $p < 0.01$. And this is associated with the fact that when the household members increase, there will be an increase in consumption of solid biomass fuel through cooking activities hence these households with increased size are likely to adopt the improved cook stove for effective and reduced consumption of solid biomass for cooking purposes.

Too much interesting, when the value of cook stove is increased by one unit Rwandan franc, the odds of the households adopting the improved cook stoves increased by $e^{(2.24e-08)}$ which is 1 household adopting the modern energy technology while this is significant at $p < 0.01$ and this is associated to the datum that the more efficient cook stove is the more the cost it is, so when the value of

the cook stoves that the household would receive when the sell their cook stove increase this will lead to increase in adoption of the cook stove when its value is increased hence more efficient cook stove adoption. When the households cooking fuel, expenditure increase by one unity Rwandan franc there will be a reduced household adoption of improved cook stove by $e^{(-3.57e-05)}$ that is, almost 1 household adopting modern energy technology, and this is significant at $p < 0.01$ while this is related to the microeconomic fact that household budget constraints govern the household expenditure. That is when the household cooking fuel expenditure increases there will be a reduction in other goods expenditures and hence reduction in cook stove expenditure leading to the decrease in improved cook stove household adoption.

Table2.

Estimation of factors influencing the household's adoption of improved energy technology in Rwanda

Variables	Variable Description	coefficient	SD
Household characteristic factors			
Lnincome	Log of household income	0.00111	0.028
Homeowner	Household homeownership	0.652***	0.085
non_farm	Household with non-farm activities	-0.047	0.061
Typhbt	Household type of habitat	-0.059	0.063
wage_salary	Household Having wage salary	-0.049	0.064
Polygamy	Household head marital status	0.008	0.197
Agehhd	Age of household head	0.00835***	0.002
basic_educ	Household head with formal basic education	-0.0777	0.064
Urban	Household location/urban	-0.311***	0.085
Hhsize	Household size	0.0390**	0.015
cook stove and fuel characteristic factors			
valuecookstov	value of household cook stove	2.24e-08***	4.34e-09
amntoncookfuel	amount spent on cooking fuel	-3.57e-05***	8.97e-06
harmscookstove	Harms happened mostly from cook stove	0.0847	0.166
hrs_cooking	Total hours spent on cooking in a week	-0.000424**	0.000
hrs_firewood	Total hours spent on cooking fuels	0.00468***	0.001
Sccookfl	Primary source of cooking fuel (modern energy)	7.105***	1.022
Constant		-1.489***	0.379
Observations		6,524	

Notes. Standard errors in parentheses *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Surprisingly, when the time spent on cooking activities within a week increased by one hour for the households, there will be reduction in the odds of households adopting the improved cook stoves by $e^{(-0.000424)}$ which is 1 household adopting the modern energy technology which is significant at $p < 0.05$ while this is related to the datum that most of efficient and manufactured cook stoves take long time for the food to be cooked enough and ready and this hinder the households with increased time spent on cooking activities in week to adopt the modern energy technology for their time allocation in cooking activities. When the time spent by the household on cooking fuels increased by one more hour additional the odds of the households adopt using the improved cook stove incline by $e^{(-0.00468)}$ which is 1 household adopt to use the modern energy technology like improved cook stove which is significant at $p < 0.01$ and this is linked to the fact that when the household spend much time on the cooking fuels the households try to reduce the time spent of cooking fuels by using the efficient and effective cook stove to reduce the consumption of that fuels and hence the households that adopt to use the improved cook stove increase due to the cook stove productivity for households time allocation on cooking fuels that can be used for other income generating activities and hence increased household income.

4. Conclusion and Implications

The study carried out on the driving forces influencing the household adoption support the arguments that the households adopting to use improved cookstoves is crucial for socio economic and environmental reasons. The adoption of improved cook stove is highly reliant on the household's homeownership, total income, age of household head and the number household members while household location especially Urban region slow the adoption whereas the household with polygamous household head are likely to adopt improved cook stoves so the adoption is increased by increase in household total income. The basic formal education for the household head is not sufficient for raising the adoption since the adoption require more information and training programme about cook stove.

For the cook stove and fuel characteristics, the study shows that as the value household cook stove that is the amount received by the household from the cook stove sales increase the adoption incline while the amount spent on cooking fuel that is associated with prices of the fuel slows the adoption and rise in numbers of total hours spent on cooking fuels leads to incline in adoption. As Pohekar et al. (2005) identified that there is a set constraints and barriers, although varying in different socio economic culture and environment situations contributes to slowing the adoption of improved cook stove, for example household members without formal basic education, low income for the household, inadequate of knowledge of health and environmental harms resulted from inefficient usage of biomass and lack of trainings programmes for awareness about improved cook stove and these are among the main driving factors.

In Rwanda, as the subject area of this research it was identified practically that the most crucial driving factors that slow the adoption are lack of motivation, awareness and training programme about the cook stove and lack direct institutional support. The study recommends that voluntary, non-governmental organizations and the government should intervene to work in parallel for enhancing and developing energy policy frameworks like deployment and dissemination of modern energy technologies like improved cook stoves in regions that are highly reliant on solid biomass. There is a direct prerequisite of consistent and focused cooperation of stakeholders on the demand and the supply side therefore, this will not only enhance the health, socioeconomic and environmental situation but will also play a crucial role in achieving sustainable development goals.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared that the study was carried out with no monetary and commercial relationships that might be the major source of conflict of interest.
