

Quality of Environment in Households Kitchens

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ABSTRACT In the present study the quality of environment in household kitchen was assessed in terms of quality of air, portability of water, adequacy of light, sound levels and temperature levels in three localities of Delhi. The subjective analysis of environmental quality was determined by allotment of scores to existing conditions in the kitchens. A knowledge test was developed to assess the levels of knowledge of respondents. A sample of 50 respondents from three localities in Delhi, namely, Shalimar Bagh, Shakur Basti and Subzi Mandi were chosen. The results showed that nearly sixty percent of houses had satisfactory environmental conditions. About fifty-eight percent of the respondents had medium level of knowledge while eighteen percent had high and twenty-six percent had low level of knowledge regarding environment quality. The quality of household environment was significantly affected by age, education and knowledge of respondents. It also varied with locality in which they lived. The quality of environment was also assessed through field experiments. The result revealed that suspended particulate matter (5 μ m) was above permissible limit while SO₂ was found below permissible level in all group (41.6 to 54.4 mg/m₃). CO level was more when windows were kept closed and SO₂ concentration was more when kerosene was used as fuel. CO levels also increased with use of flat bottom utensils (more than 10 ppm). Water quality was poor in locality where hand pump water was used that is, samples of water were found to be polluted. The sound levels were high (above 67db), temperatures were also high (more than 35° C) and lighting was poor (not more than 38 fc) in majority of kitchens where there were no windows. Thus quality of environment in household kitchens was found to be polluted and it varied from locality to locality.