Title: Policy Pathways for Mapping Clean Energy Access for Cooking in the Global South—A Case for Rural Communities

Summary:

This study analyzes the "clean cookstoves" movement to address the energy and health challenges faced by rural communities in the Global South. The research team conducted a comprehensive literature review and qualitative analysis of data collected from three countries (Fiji, Ghana, and Nigeria) to understand the barriers and opportunities for clean cooking technology adoption.

Key Findings:

- The burning of biomass for cooking in traditional stoves is a major source of air pollution and health problems in rural areas.
- Access to clean cooking fuels and technologies is essential for improving health, reducing environmental degradation, and promoting economic development.
- Policy interventions are needed to address the technological, affordability, and sociocultural barriers to clean cooking adoption.

Proposed Policy Pathways:

Based on the findings, the study proposes a set of policy pathways to drive clean cooking adoption in rural communities. These pathways include:

- Integrating gender considerations into policies and initiatives.
- Prioritizing clean cooking in national policies and plans.
- Increasing funding and risk-reducing mechanisms for clean cooking suppliers.
- Establishing quality assurance and control programs to ensure the durability and functionality of clean energy systems.
- Allocating resources to civil society organizations and local providers of clean cooking solutions.
- Designing educational programs targeting women and girls to promote clean cooking adoption.

Conclusion:

The study highlights the importance of a coordinated approach involving governments, NGOs, energy developers, businesses, and end-users to address the challenges of clean cooking in the Global South. By implementing the proposed policy pathways, rural communities can improve their health, well-being, and economic prospects through access to clean and sustainable cooking solutions.