**Scheme 2: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pradhan\_Mantri\_Ujjwala\_Yojana)

Launched to provide free LPG connections to women from below poverty line (BPL) families. The scheme focuses on distributing LPG cylinders, although consistent usage has been a challenge for some beneficiaries.

Category: Energy, Health, Poverty

Overview: Introduced in 2016, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to bring clean cooking fuel to rural households by providing free LPG connections to women in BPL families. This initiative is designed to enhance rural health by reducing the use of traditional biomass fuels that contribute to indoor air pollution.

Objective: To reduce indoor air pollution and improve women's health by facilitating a shift from firewood and other traditional fuels to LPG for cooking purposes.

Key Features:

* **Free LPG Distribution**: Eligible BPL families receive an LPG connection, cylinder, and regulator at no cost.
* **Financial Assistance**: Subsidies on LPG refills are provided to make continued use of LPG affordable.
* **Health and Environmental Benefits**: The program helps lower cases of respiratory illnesses and reduces indoor air pollution, fostering a healthier living environment.

Target Beneficiaries: The scheme targets women from BPL families, with a primary focus on rural areas across India.

Implementation: Managed by LPG distributors under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, PMUY operates through a transparent application process to issue LPG connections.

Challenges: The cost of refilling LPG cylinders is still considered high for some beneficiaries, which affects the regular use of the fuel.

Outcomes: The scheme has enabled millions of rural households to transition to cleaner cooking methods, positively impacting health and reducing indoor air pollution.

Impact: PMUY empowers women in rural areas, creates a safer and healthier home environment, and contributes to national energy security by curbing reliance on biomass for cooking.