

Factors behind Access to Latrine in India: An Application of Multinomial Logistic Regression Model

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This paper attempts to find out the factors that influence the owning of a latrine. For this purpose, unit level NSSO data of 69th round, collected exclusively to get an idea of this, has been used. On the extracted unit data, Multinomial Logistic Regression Model has been applied. Different sets of socio-economic and governance indicators are chosen as the predictors. Based on the available questions, the type of latrine has been divided into three categories-latrine exclusively use for household. Second one clubs different types of latrines to form as fixed point latrines. The third one is categorised as no latrine. In running MLR, no latrine is considered as reference category. All the predictors, starting from religion, region, location, caste and economic conditions have positive and significant impact on owning a latrine. Therefore, the latrine problem, usually being typed as only traditional and cultural problem, needs to look from holistic angle and it is recommended that while designing public policy all these factors are considered to mitigate the problem.

I Introduction

Open defecation as in India is not compatible with the economic performance of the country. In fact, this is a problem which can truly be termed as a black spot on the long history of civilisation of the nation. However, several initiatives have been taken by the Government to tackle the problem.¹ The entire lists of programmes have not yielded substantial achievements in terms of accessing latrine being reflected through Census data. India's position in accessibility of sanitation and safe drinking water is in contrast to the robust structure of the economy. Census of India, 2011 shows that 53.1 per cent households have no latrine facilities in India, while only 10 percentage point improvement since

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