

The State of Scientific Evidence and Research Needs for Understanding Exposure to Air Pollution and Human Health Burden in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal

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Abstract

Rapid urbanization and motorization has led to air pollution as one the most significant environmental and human health hazards faced by many cities in South Asia. Additionally, rural areas and urban slums face indoor air pollution mainly from burning of solid fuels. Based on the Global Burden of Disease Study in Nepal, household air pollution is ranked 2nd and particulate matter ranked 3rd leading risk factor in terms of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2015. This seminar will summarize scientific understanding, ongoing efforts, research gaps, and data needs towards understanding the exposure to air pollution and human health burden present for residents of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal.

About the Speaker

Anobha Gurung is a postdoctoral research scientist at International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, Atmosphere Initiative. She earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Health from Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 2016. She has spent the past decade investigating the interaction between exposure to air pollution and social factors that determine human health burden in urban settings especially in developing world cities in South Asia. In Kathmandu Valley, Nepal her work focuses on understanding the spatial distribution of exposure to air pollution and health burden associated.