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## ACCESS TO SOURCES OF LIGHTING AMONG HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL INDIA

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### Abstract

*Lighting is the deliberate use of any source of light for illumination. It includes the use of both artificial source of light as well as natural illumination by capturing day light. Proper lighting can enhance task performance and improve the appearance of an area. Hence, availability of proper light has positive psychological effects on the occupants of a household. The present research work is based on district-wise household data on sources of lighting obtained from Census of India, 2011. Percentage technique has been adopted to understand spatial variations in the use of different sources of household lighting at regional, state and district, levels in rural India. The study reveals that 55.31 per cent of rural households in India are dependent on electricity, while 43.15 per cent are using kerosene for household lighting. On the other hand, 0.53 per cent households do not have access to any source of lighting in rural India, hence still living in darkness.*

**Keywords:** Households, Lighting, Electricity, Kerosene, Solar Energy, Other Oil.

### Introduction

A house is one of the three basic human entitlements that provide shelter to its occupant. It is a social concept; its nature and cognition are varying with caste, class, religion and region (Unni, 1965). It is also the most important need of mankind where people sleep, take rest and carry on their occupational activities. As per Census of India, a 'household' is a group of persons who normally live together and take their meals from a common kitchen. The persons in a household may be related or unrelated or a mix of both. The important point in knowing

kitchen. Thus, there is difference between a house and household, in the former, provision of shelter is a common point, while in the later it is the common kitchen which is at the central stage.

Lighting includes the use of both artificial source of light as well as natural illumination by capturing day light. Proper lighting can enhance task performance and improve the appearance of an area. Hence, availability of proper light has positive psychological effects on the occupants of a household. On the basis of sources of lighting, Census of India has grouped the households into six categories of having electricity, kero-