

**INTRA HOUSEHOLD BARGAINING POWER OF WOMEN AND  
OPEN DEFECATION: EVIDENCE FROM NFHS-5**

**DIYA CHATTERJEE**

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**MADRAS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**

**Chennai- 600025**

## ABSTRACT

Open defecation(OD) has severe and long run health consequences for children and an even more holistic negative impact on women where their dignity, safety, health and overall well-being gets compromised by having to go out for defecating.Thus, toilets can be considered in essence as a female private good and has been our main guiding motivation in this study.

In this study we use a bivariate probit model and NFHS-5 data(2019-21) (Women, Household and Men module) to see if women intra-household bargaining power like financial control can affect household toilet construction and if social norm

We find that intra household bargaining power positively affects the probability of toilet construction .Social norms like young bride and presence of elderly in the household and gender attitudes like justifying wife beating are seen to be significant channels to explain this relationship. Heterogeneity in the nature of this relationship has been observed based on wealth group, education attainment, average state level patriarchy value, area of residence etc.

**Key words:** Sanitation; intra-household bargaining power; social norms, biprobit regression

**JEL Codes:** 013, J16, D1, B23