

UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC ENERGY PRACTICES AS SITUATED SOCIAL PHENOMENA IN KENYA



Serena SALIGARI
Social Anthropologist

Department of Public Health,
Policy and Systems

goes to



The informal settlement of LANGAS, Kenya

ETHNOGRAPHY CONDUCTED between March and September 2021

- Curfew after 7 pm
- Covid rates still high in UK & Kenya
- Travel & visa disruptions
- Very strict risk assessment
- Covid related Health and Safety face to face data collection

To study DOMESTIC ENERGY PRACTICES (especially COOKING)

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THE ISSUE OF HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION (HAP)

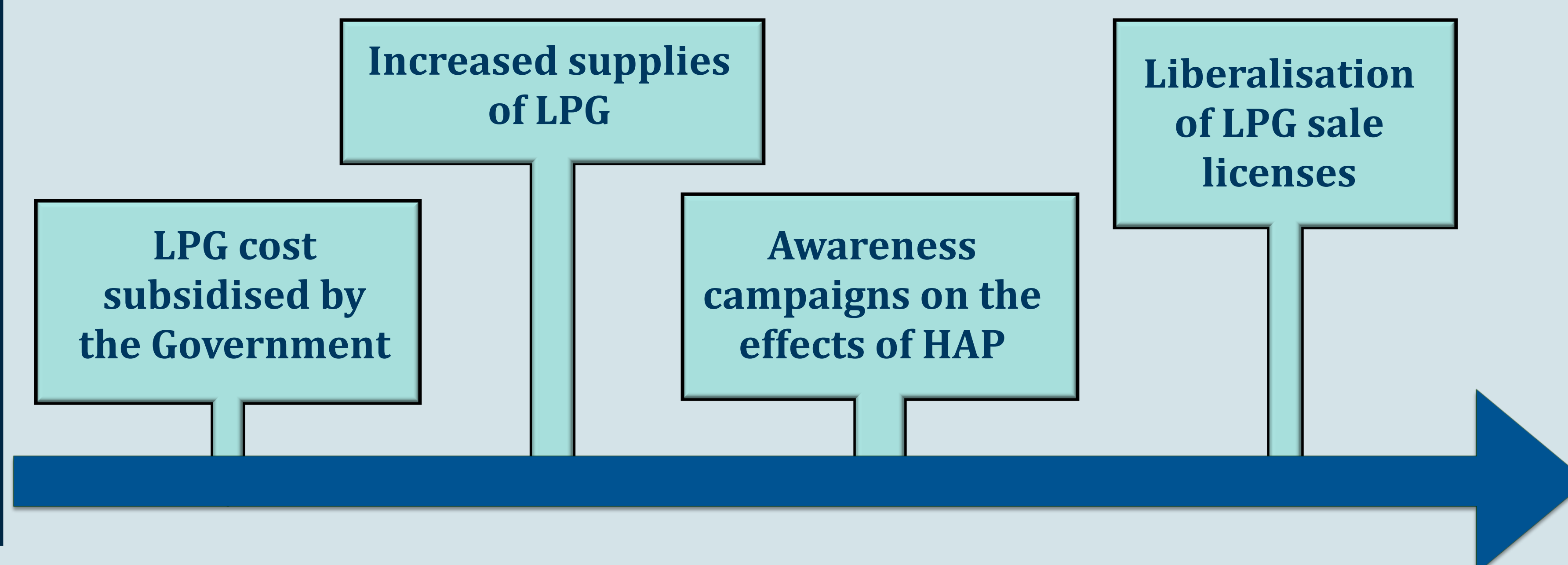
Domestic energy practices relying upon **biomass fuels** (wood, charcoal, sawdust, etc) and **kerosene** burnt in rudimentary stoves & not ventilated spaces release pollutants (particulate matter, black carbon, carbon monoxide) that are **harmful for people** in the surroundings and **detrimental for the environment**.

- Around **2.4 billion people worldwide use polluting fuels** - of which 76% of Kenya's population.
- Main health impacts include increased risk of stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer.
- HAP killed over 3.2 million only in 2020—23,000 Kenyans. HAP makes **more victims than malaria and HIV**.
- Harvesting firewood and charcoal for domestic energy purposes accounts for 40% of global wood harvest.
- Cooking with solid fuels release **1/3 of total black carbon emissions** -comparable to the emission of the aviation industry.

ENERGY TRANSITIONS to clean fuels & technologies (LPG, biogas, solar, electricity) are needed urgently.

UNDERSTANDING CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITIONS (in reference to the potential of LPG for clean cooking practices)

It is often assumed that if MATERIAL AND ECONOMIC BARRIERS to access clean energy sources are removed, people will naturally transit to use clean energy



However, domestic energy practices are enmeshed in the COMPLEXITY OF THE CONTEXT and in its SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DYNAMICS

LACK OF SKILL
POSTCOLONIALITY



We are surrounded by this technology from the West, but I do not feel comfortable with it - Robert

COPING PRIORITIES
GENDER



Even if it costs less and we can spare money, my husband would rather use them for something else. He does not know what is going on in my kitchen - Lucy

FOOD TASTE
FAMILY SIZE



Gas its practical, I live alone. But food doesn't taste good. I would never buy it for my mom, I cant spoil her ugali! - Manuel

PERCEIVED RISK
RESIDENTIAL SPACES



I bought this improved jiko, it uses coal, it was expensive. Gas? No, I can't use that in a rental property! - Mary

GENDER
OCCUPATION



I would still only use it in the morning, when I am in a rush with kids and I have to go to work. In the evening, I'll set on the fire or people will say I am a lazy wife! - Corinne

CONCLUSIONS

The ethnographic data suggest that structural political interventions are not enough to foster clean energy transitions. Appropriate solutions need to resonate with the context, to take into account the specificity of harnessing energy in situated spaces and to be co-designed in agreement with local communities.



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