

SUMMARY

A questionnaire to assess the health status was administered to a sample of rural and semi-urban elders at Kadugannawa MOH area. The demographic pattern of the study groups was similar to the national situation except for the ethnic and religious distribution.

Although several of the elders were impaired in the performance of day to day activities, only a few could not attend to personal care activities. A high percentage were having poor hearing, poor vision and chronic diseases. Only a small percentage of them were found to be having severe degree of dementia and depression. But a significant proportion of them had the milder forms of those conditions. Their social status was very poor and a very high percentage of them had low level of contact with social activities except for the religious activities. Chronic diseases, poor mental status and lower social contacts were more marked in semi-urban areas than that of rural areas.

A majority of them preferred Government Institutions for treatment. Although a considerable number utilized the private sector, very few get treatment from the indigenous sector. Also, the health and social workers contact with the elders was found to be very poor.