

## SUMMARY

Sri Lanka is one of the endemic countries of malaria in the South East Asia region of WHO. Malaria had been endemic in Sri Lanka since the end of the thirteenth century and remains a major public health problem of the country. Despite vigorous and sustained efforts being undertaken to control the disease morbidity due to malaria still remains rather high in Sri Lanka.

First major outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in Sri Lanka had occurred between November, 1985 and February, 1986 in Anuradhapura and the Surrounding Districts. Ever since Japanese encephalitis has been a major public health problem in Anuradhapura District. For last 12 years the Epidemiology unit of the Ministry of Health together with Medical Research Institute have been closely monitoring the epidemiological trends of Japanese encephalitis.

Anuradhapura District is one of the few Districts in Sri Lanka where both Malaria and Japanese encephalitis are highly prevalent.

A sample of 104 PHMM were given a pretested, structured, self administered questionnaire. Their knowledge and attitudes were assessed as per their response. Knowledge of respondents in malaria is very satisfactory when compared to Japanese encephalitis. Knowledge of younger respondents with a period of service between 6-9 years is significantly better than those who are over 40 years with a period of service over 10 years.

The principal investigator is of the opinion that training programmes in malaria and Japanese encephalitis should be conducted more frequently in order to update the knowledge of PHMM.