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ABSTRACT

2011

This study was undertaken to study the common Health Problems, socioeconomic background and personal habits of the first year undergraduates.

It was observed that there is a paucity of literature related to health status of University Students of Sri Lanka. There was very little information available on the common health problems of university students, encountered in the Primary Health Care setting.

It was seen that about half of the students belonged to economically and socially underprivileged sectors of the population.

While 9.3% of males smoked some form of tobacco and 7.1% of males consumed alcohol at least once a month none of the females smoked or consumed alcohol in keeping up with the cultural pattern.

493 Principal diagnoses were analysed to identify the common illnesses among the students.

Consultation rate among economically underprivileged students were higher than that of students from economically privileged sectors.

Illnesses commonly encountered were viral upper respiratory tract infections, Superficial mycoses, Dental caries, Periodontal diseases and Emotional disorders.

This study carried out scientifically with minimum inputs of resources should guide the health care providers in planning and reorganization of Student Health Services and provide a baseline for future research in related fields.