

## ABSTRACT

### Introduction

Epidemics are public health disasters. Dengue is a major public health problem in Sri Lanka. The aim of study is to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards control of dengue vector breeding sites and garbage collection and disposal among heads of household in high and low dengue incidence GN divisions in Batticaloa MOH area.

**Methodology :** A community based comparative descriptive cross sectional study was carried out among 100 heads of household from 9 high and low GN divisions of Batticaloa MOH area using random sampling method. A pre-tested interviewer administered questionnaire was used to collect data. Descriptive methods of statistical analysis was undertaken in presenting the findings in relation to the stipulated objectives.

**Results:** From the respondents 56% (n=56) were from high dengue incidence GN divisions and 44% (n=44) were from low dengue incidence GN divisions. Out of the 100 heads of household involved in study 79% (n=79) were male headed households. The majority of heads of household (61% , n=61) belonged to the age group of 26- 45 years in both high and low dengue incidence GN divisions. The majority of them were Tamils in both high and low incidence GN division (82% n=82). The majority 77% (n=77) were working in the private sector. The majority of study population (46% n=46) studied up to grade 6-11. The Majority ( 97.7%, n=43) of study participants from low dengue incidence GN area knew the cause of dengue disease and about 75% among them knew Aedes mosquitoes are vectors for dengue disease. All of the study participants (100%) were aware of importance of knowledge on waste management particularly segregation of waste, proper disposal and recycling of old tires and plastic bottles.

Mean attitude score towards household's responsibility and control measures were slightly higher among low dengue incidence households than those of high dengue incidence area (2.72 and 2.48 respectively)( $p = 0.702$ ). Mean attitude score towards responsible government stake holder was higher in high incidence GN division compare to low dengue incidence GN division (10.34 vs. 7.84) ( $p = 0.934$ ).



About 91.1% (n=51) of the participants from high dengue incidence GN area and 95.4% (n=42) of participants from low dengue incidence GN area had good practice on committing actions to reduce household waste. Flower pots and vases (64.3%) and pet dishes (57.1%) were commonest potential breeding sites in high dengue incidence GN area while discarded coconut/ king coconut shells (56.8%) were commonest potential breeding sites in low dengue incidence area.

**Conclusion:** In overall this study concluded knowledge of households on cause, symptoms, transmission, waste management and prevention was slightly higher in high dengue incidence GN division. On the other hand household from low dengue incidence area had much positive attitudes towards prevention of disease, self responsibility and control measures. Overall it shows households of high dengue incidence GN division had much more good practice compare to those from low dengue incidence GN divisions.