

A-13: Malaria incidence and house-types in a village introduced with treated bed-nets for malaria control in Kataragama

-Athula B Herath^{1,2}, M R S Senarath Bandara,^{1,4} L Perera¹,
D J P Rajakaruna¹, Sudath Weerasinghe¹, Richard Carter²,
-K N Mendis¹, -Amarasiri de Silva³

(¹Malaria Research Unit, Dept of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Univ of Colombo, Colombo 8, ²Div of Biological Science, ICAPB, Univ of Edinburgh, Scotland, ³Dept of Sociology, Univ of Peradeniya, ⁴Anti-Malaria Campaign, Mailagama, Kataragama)

The relationship between house-type and the incidence and distribution of malaria in a case-control experiment launched to control malaria using treated bed-nets as the intervention was studied. Prior to the intervention, in terms of house-types and malaria incidence, the 2 areas were matched. Research findings indicate that during the 6 months period from October 1993 to March 1994 there had been a significant reduction of malaria incidence in the experimental area showing an average of 2.4 patients per household. In the control area, during this period however, it was 2.9 patients per household. The analysis of patient data indicates that those families living in houses with poor conditions had the greatest number of malaria patients per family while the wattle and daub houses had the second largest number of patients in the population. The houses made of cement with plastered walls had the least number of patients in the area. Despite the reduction of malaria incidence in the experimental area, the intervention of treated bed-nets did not affect the

established relationship between house-type and malaria in malarious regions
in Sri Lanka.