

F-18 Effect of material style of life and malaria knowledge on the use of bed-nets to control malaria in Kataragama

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Malaria in Sri Lanka is found mostly among the poor and the less educated in the rural areas. Malaria incidence is reported to have an inverse relationship with socio-economic status depicted through house types, education and literacy levels. Any intervention aiming at reducing malaria in community settings should have to grapple with this reality and face the challenge of socio-economic disparities that are found in overall community infrastructure including housing and patterns of material style of life. This paper analyzes the impact of people's knowledge of malaria and the standards of living as they affect the incidence of malaria at the household level in a successful experimental intervention of malaria control using bed-nets as the method of control. While showing that the bed-nets have had an overall impact on the reduction of malaria in experimental areas, the results show that the intervention was particularly successful among the poor householders in the area, notwithstanding the negative effects of poor housing and living standards that were reported to have an impact on malaria increase.