

Knowledge and attitude of School children on mosquito-borne diseases and vector controlT Tharmathass¹ and K A Srikrishnaraj^{2*}¹Danish Refugee Council, Orrs Hill, Trincomalee²Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna, Vauniya

Mosquitoes play an important role on human comfort in several ways and more importantly as vectors of diseases. Among the various methods of mosquito control, an environmental method seems to be very important, primarily through the removal of breeding sites and raising public awareness. Improper solid waste disposal such as open containers, polythene bags, coconut shells lie in the environment provide mosquito-breeding sites for dengue vector mosquitoes. Therefore, vector control methods through community participation are very important especially in the case of vector of dengue fever where the vector breeds in artificial containers. This study was conducted to identify the knowledge and attitude of school children (Grades of 9 and 10) on the following aspects viz., mosquito-borne diseases, breeding sites, identification of mosquitoes, mosquito control methods and self-protection methods. In this study, 240 students were randomly selected from four schools in the Vavuniya district and pre-tested structured questionnaire was used to assess the students' knowledge and attitude on mosquito control. Results showed that 65% of the students have adequate knowledge on mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and filariasis in Sri Lanka. The 78% of study group know the mosquito biting times and 75% know the environmental and self-protection methods against mosquito bites. However, only 20% of the study group knows the different genus of mosquitoes, which are responsible for transmitting different diseases. In this study only 5% of the study group knows specific breeding places related different types of mosquitoes and only 23% of the study group believe clean environment through community involvement would control the dengue vector mosquitoes. This study reveals that more awareness programmes are needed to school children on mosquito biology and environmental control strategies.

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