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Major types of pesticides responsible for fatal self-harm in Sri Lanka

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Globally there is a scarcity of information on the magnitude of intentional poisoning, as well as the relative importance of different pesticides. Community based data on the pesticides responsible for fatal self-harm are not available for most of the rural Asia. The variety of pesticides available in communities for intentional poisoning is large, reflecting the pesticides used in local agriculture. This paper discuss the particular types of pesticides identified in 59 fatal self-poisoning cases analyzed in the toxicology laboratory of the Government Analyst's Department of Sri Lanka during the year 2016. Out of 59 cases 36 (61.0%) were carbamate poisoning cases and 19 (32.2%) were organophosphate poisoning cases. In one case (1.7%) both organophosphate and carbamate were identified. Tartan was identified in 3 (5.0%) cases. Particular types of carbamate and organophosphate pesticides identified the sex and age patterns and their occupation and residing areas will be discussed in the paper.

Biography

W D V Karunaratne has done her BSc degree in Chemistry from the University of Colombo and the MSc degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. She joined the Toxicology Laboratory of the Government Analyst's Department of Sri Lanka as an Assistant Analyst in the year 1996. She has completed her training in Analytical Skills Development course and Laboratory Quality Management course in VERIFIN at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Since 2006, she serves as the Head of the Toxicology Laboratory, where she is responsible for the analysis of alcohol, other volatiles, carbon monoxide, drugs and poisons such as cyanide, phosphene, metallic poisons and pesticides in biological samples for forensic toxicology casework island wide and issue reports to the judicial medical officers and to the courts of law. She also serves as the Technical Manager for the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of the Toxicology Laboratory. She has also published several peer reviewed scientific papers. She is a member of International Association of Forensic Toxicology (TIAFT), Medico-legal Society of Sri Lanka, Institute of Chemistry Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science.

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