

## RAINFALL FACTOR RELATING TO THE DENGUE EPIDEMIC IN SRI LANKA

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### Abstract

The Dengue epidemic has become a major health issue in Asian countries, as well as in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, there has been an oscillation pattern in terms of the risk dengue and the number of infected persons. During the period from 1990 to 2015, Sri Lanka experienced a continuous growth of the dengue disease. Among the areas, Western, Southern and Central provinces showed a significant growth. There was a rapid expansion of the disease, especially in the urbanized areas with high population density. All the selected districts were indicated a high population density due to the rapid urbanization. The main objective of this study to analysis rainfall factors relating to dengue disease in Sri Lanka from 2004- 2015. Colombo district was recorded as the highest distribution area within the Wet Zone. It was revealed that the rainfall factor plays a vital role for the spread of the disease in Colombo district. It showed a strong relationship between rainfall and the spreading of the disease. Specifically, in the year from 2012-2015, 50% patients of the entire cases have been recorded within three months starting from December, January and February in 2015. It also showed the relationship between annual rainfall and total annual cases in the study period 2004-2015 existed in selected districts. It can be obviously proved that slightly positive correlation occurs between the annual rainfall and annual number of dengue cases.

**Keywords:** Rainfall, Dengue Epidemic, Correlation.

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