

Editorial

This volume of the journal contains the oration delivered by Prof. Dulitha Fernando titled “Urbanization and health” at the inauguration of the college sessions in year 2008. There are several original research articles which are of relevance and important public health issues are addressed.

The article on risk factors for spontaneous abortion will be helpful in planning preventive measures to minimize the incidence of abortion. Prevalence of betel chewing article highlights the importance of proper preventive programmes that should be carried out in order to reduce the oral carcinoma in the rural areas. The study on adolescents reports of parental socio economic status provides evidence to suggest that 15 year old adolescents in Sri Lanka could be relied on as proxies to provide accurate information about their parents occupational status. The article on suicide indicates in detail the relationship to different socio demographic variables and geographic regions with the changing trends of suicide rates in Sri Lanka. The article on access to health care focuses attention on possibilities to be considered in future policy planning which is an eye opener.

The article on collaboration between preventive and curative health sectors for maternal and child health demonstrates that there are certain practical steps that can be undertaken by the health department to improve better collaboration. The short communication on LANKAPHEIN highlights its vision, mission and its objectives and the activities carried out during the year since its inception.

Happy reading!

Sampatha Goonewardena
Editor