

Editorial

Snake bite- a disaster in rural area- an Editorial

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Snake bite is a major medical emergency that accounts for a large number of deaths annually. Those living in rural areas, such as farmers, plantation workers, and fishermen, are more affected by this terrible environmental occupational hazard.¹⁻³ It is also regarded as environmental poisoning.

Due to their occupations outside of house, males are more affected than females.⁴ The bulk of afflicted individuals are of younger age group. Most instances occur between the ages of 20 and 40.^{5,6,7} The majority of instances occur in rural regions, where snakes are more numerous, and where daily activities bring people into close contact with snakes.⁴ Most snake bites happened during the rainy season.⁸ In the majority of instances, snakes cannot be identified and are frequently misdiagnosed.⁹

Bangladesh is the home to 82 different species of snakes, 28 of which are poisonous

(including 12 species of sea snakes).¹⁰ Bites from green pit vipers (*Cryptelytrops erythrurus* and other species), cobras (*Naja* species), and kraits (*Bungarus*) are the ones that are most usually recognized. On the other hand, Russell's viper (*Daboia russelii*) appears to be rare, while saw-scaled vipers (*Echis* species) do not exist.¹¹

The majority of venomous snake bites are neurotoxic. Approximately 60% of snake bites are non-venomous.¹² In addition to neurological symptoms, venomous snake bites can also cause haematotoxicity, myotoxicity, organ failure, and local symptoms.

In cases of poisonous snake bites, the use of antivenom and tetanus prophylaxis, together with rapid treatment, can save many lives. Tetanus treatment and reassurance are required to treat nonvenomous snake bites.

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The precise death rate in Bangladesh is not known; the reported mortality ranges significantly from 0.5 percent all the way up to 22 percent.¹³⁻¹⁵

In Bangladesh, snake bites are a major public health concern and are considered one of the most life-threatening crises. There is a correlation between delays in hospitalization and higher mortality. A great number of

patients do not know what to do in an emergency and, hence, do not receive early first aid care. Because of people's lack of understanding, the likelihood of illness and fatality resulting from snake bites is increased. Education on healthy living habits is a crucial component of public health efforts to lower death rates.

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