

**Some aspects of drug utilization in a district of Sri Lanka" (Gampaha District).  
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The study was carried out to determine the pattern of drug consumption at institutional level with special reference to the prescription practices and the cost, and at community level with special reference to the practice of self-medication. Both nationally and district -wise ( Gampaha) anti-infective drugs accounted for a major portion of the pharmaceutical cost (nearly one third). Around 17.7 per cent of women used drugs regularly. The common illnesses for which they regularly used drugs were hypertension, arthritis and bronchial asthma. The common drugs used regularly were tablet methyldopa, capsule indomethacin, tablet salbutamol and tablet paracetamol. The results indicate that drug utilization in Sri Lanka appears to be satisfactory with regard to the aspects considered in the present study. However, few problems were identified for which recommendations were made to improve the prescribing habits of medical officers and also to safeguard people from the possible hazards of self-medication. The need for further research on drug utilization is also stressed.