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**Selected aspects of self-medication in Panadura divisional director of Health services area.**

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Self-medication was higher in the age group of 18-34, among female sex and in devotees in Islam religion, which suggest some influence of age, sex and religion on practice of self-medication. Majority of respondents had restored to self-medication with the impression that illness was a minor one. Main source of information for self-medication in the current study was experience from a previous illness. Several gaps of knowledge pertaining to western drugs revealed. Substantial proportion of subjects was unable to identify at least three drugs by name. Lack of awareness of side effects in western drugs was a major problem identified. Increasing awareness about western drugs through educational programmes using mass media and concentrating on main issues identified in this study will help to uphold the rational use of drugs in the community.