

A successful community project to prevent kerosene burns



A Sri Lankan project of **18** years
that has won four **international** awards



Rolex



Lindbergh



Readers Digest



BBC, Shell & Newsweek

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Accidents

- * Don't happen. They are caused by carelessness, ignorance, laziness, fatigue, indifference, haste, alcohol, poverty, old age etc., and they are **preventable**
- * Over **90%** occur in developing countries
- * **Children** are much more prone than adults
- * **3.5** million deaths annually
- * Burns: **320,000**

BURN INJURIES

Most health workers say , that "Burns are among the **most painful** and **devastating** injuries one can sustain"

The photos in the next slide will show you why

Burn Injuries

1. **Pain,**
for weeks
& months



2. Life long
physical and
emotional **scars**



Burn Injuries

3. Death in severe burns



14 yrs, Died in 3 weeks



19 yrs, Died in 1 day

Kerosene burns

Many of the burns in developing countries are caused by unsafe kerosene lamps and stoves

Availability of electricity:

- * Sri Lanka: 80%
- * Nepal : 60%
- * Bangladesh : 50%
- * African countries like Malawi, Mozambique and Rwanda : < 20%

1.5 billion people in the globe
have no electricity!

Makeshift unsafe kerosene lamps



In Sri Lanka

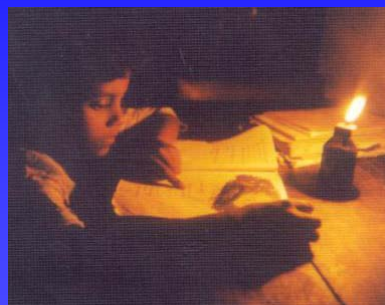


In Indonesia



In Bangladesh

Unsafe kerosene lamps



A **cat** can cause a **cat**-astrophe!

Burn Prevention

In rich countries

Proven interventions like smoke detectors, flame retardant sleep wear and regulation of temperature in water heaters have caused a **fall** in the incidence of burns.

In poor countries

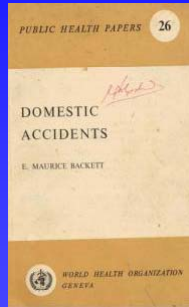
Very few such interventions, and so there are **many burns**.

Kerosene burn prevention in low income countries:

Only **two** projects in the world

<u>Country</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Type</u>
South Africa	Paraffin Safety Association.	Cooker burns
Sri Lanka	Safe Lamp Foundation	Lamp buns

Bottle lamp burn prevention

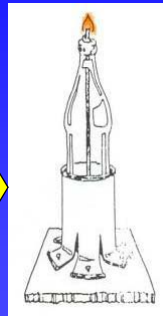


1965
WHO



>>>> 1983 <<<<

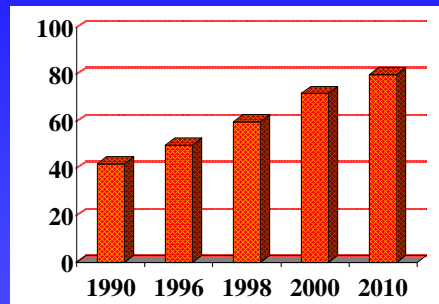
WHO & Johns Hopkins
University



1992
Sri Lanka

Prevention of kerosene lamp burns

Best solution is to provide electricity



% age of homes with electricity
in Sri Lanka



Safe bottle lamp project

Year: 1992

Place : Ratnapura Hospital

We first looked for a safer oil, but failed to find a suitable one

Then we designed the 'Sudeepa' safe kerosene lamp

Production of our safe lamp

1. Glass bottle



2. Metal lid



Our safe lamp

- * Simple design
- * Short and heavy
- * Two flat sides
- * Screw on lid
- * No delicate or moving parts
- * Thick glass
- * Could be mass produced fast



Our safe lamp



Approved by :

- **Globally:** The WHO, International Society for Burns, UNICEF etc.
- **In Sri Lanka:** The S/L Medical Assn., College of Surgeons, National Committee for Prevention of Injuries, Inventors' Commission

Our activities during the past 18 years

- Free distribution of safe lamps >>>> **800,000**
(Mostly given out free because selling is difficult)
- Collection of funds (Rs 16 million in 18 years)
- Advising people through posters, hand bills media on the safe use of kerosene etc. >>>>>

Promotional work



Distribution of safe lamps



Commendations



Kerosene burns are widespread in many countries. That is why your project is of definite interest"



It was the stunning simplicity, yet feasibility and Impact that drew our attention."



"Your achievements really are most impressive".

Commendations



"Your team .. is an inspiration to people everywhere."



"You amaze me with your efficiency and commitment. The Sri Lankans are so lucky to have you working on their behalf."

Presentations in foreign soil





Vidyajyothi
(Sri Lanka)

Rolex
(Geneva)

Lindbergh
(USA)



Appreciation

Many people and organizations have helped us

Special thanks to the following who gave over **Rs 1 million**

- Rolex Watch Company (Rolex Award prize - Rs 4 .0 mn)
- BBC, Shell & Newsweek (World Challenge Prize - Rs 2. 3 mn)
- International Relief & Development , S/L
- Commercial bank
- Canadian Embassy in Sri Lanka



How organizations can help us

We tried selling for a **nominal** price, but it was not successful for several reasons.

So, we now solicit donations, and give the lamps free through youth clubs, women's organizations, grama sevakas etc.

Please make donations. We can paste a sticker on the lamp with your logos as shown >>>>>.



[A letter from a Sri Lankan in Dubai](#)

Dear Dr. Godakumbura,

I salute you! Living in Dubai for the past 20 years, the 'FRIDAY ' Magazine has become a habit. Nothing had moved me so much the way your article did.

I promise to make a monthly donation of Rs 1000/-. May the good you do help your family and the blessed human beings who gave life to you.

With so much respect in my heart
Fathi

PS: I will copy your article to my colleagues. Lets just pray they too are moved like me!!!!!!!

Safe bottle lamp foundation

We welcome donations
Our accounts are edited every year



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Thank you for your attention

