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**Original article:
Factors associated with refusal of Indoor Residual Spraying in a high endemic district of Assam**

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**Abstract:**

**Background:** Indoor Residual Spraying is an effective malaria control intervention. However, high refusal rates have been reported in many studies from different parts of the country. The objective of the study was to study the various factors associated with refusal of Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in the malaria endemic district of Assam.

**Materials and Methods:** This is a community based cross-sectional study carried out in the district of Karbi Anglong. A multistage sampling technique was applied to achieve a sample size of 320 households for the study. A predesigned, pretested interview schedule was used while interviewing the households and information on last spraying status was enquired.

**Results:** Out of the 320 households interviewed, spraying was done in 153(47.81%), in 124(38.75%) households spraying was refused and in 43(13.43%) households spraying was not done due to reasons other than refusal. The most common reason for refusal was lack of advanced spray information (85.48%), followed by bad smell (51.62%) and damage to silkworm (49.19%), damage to food grains (38.70%), discomfort (36.29%), damage to walls (25.80%) and presence of small children in the house (10.48%). Statistically significant association (p-value <0.05) was observed between silkworm rearing and refusal of DDT spraying. **Conclusion:** The study shows that there is lack of community preparation for indoor residual spraying activities. Hence effort must be made to motivate the community by the frontline workers before spraying.

**Key words**: Indoor Residual Spray, malaria, refusal rate.