



# Occupancy of house dust mites (HDMs) at different niche of homes and their associate causative factors

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## ABSTRACT

People carry out various type of activities in their day today life at homes. Among these activities, cleaning is the most essential activity. Cleaning involves various types of activities like dusting, sweeping, moping, washing etc. All these activities devote a lot of time to do in a proper way but when the homemaker lacks in doing these activities properly, the dust accumulates and it makes productive environment for HDMs. HDMs are abundant in settled household dust. They may be the most common trigger of year-round allergies and asthma. They are found almost every all over the world. Various causative factors are responsible for the growth of HDMs. Some of the most affecting factors are: type of family (Nuclear and joint), per person occupancy area in house (Sq. feet), humidity in summers and winters and time spent in cleaning different rooms (min/day). House is the place where people live and These dust particles contain minute (microscopic) organisms called 'house dust mites' which are a serious common indoor pollutant. HDMs due to their very small size (250 to 300 microns in length) and translucent bodies are not visible to the naked eyes (Layon, 2004). Mites living in house dust fall under the classification of acari. They are found in high densities where there is more humidity, low light intensity, high air flow rate, improper ventilation, unhygienic or faulty cleaning practices, improper waste disposal, overcrowding, increased gadgets, poor housing conditions, pets etc. Unlike some other kind of mites, house dust mites are not parasites living on plants, animals and humans. House dust mites primarily live on dead skin cells, commonly called dander, which are shed regularly by humans and their animal pets (Barbogg, 2003).