INTRODUCTION

Household products are those products found in the home environment and not of a medicinal nature. They include pesticides such as insecticides and rodenticides, cleaning products such as clorox and detergents, hydrocarbons such as kerosene, disinfectants, bleaches and variants of other products that commonly stored or present at homes. It is recommended that household products should be stored in their original containers in a special locked cabinet with child resistant caps in order to be away from the reach of the curious children to avoid their intoxications ***(Abdel Megid et al., 2007).***

Household products are generally ingested by children especially those aged between 9 months and 5 years in an accidental manner. Most commonly involved household products include bleaches, cosmetics, detergents, disinfectants and petroleum distillates. In the developing countries more toxic agents are available in a domestic setting which may lead to severe or serious toxicity, whereas in the Western Europe serious toxicity as a result of exposure to the household products is rare ***(Bateman, 2007).***

Although the great majority of the household products poisoning had no or limited clinical effects, it puts substantial burden on health care systems due to either its relative high frequency or it mainly involves young children. Importantly, a few household products poisons can kill after ingestion of very small amounts. i.e., household products

poisoning can be much more serious following ingestion of some products like kerosene, caustic agents, herbal remedies, insecticides and herbicides ***(Meyer et al., 2007).***

Management of the symptomatic patients with acute household products poisoning follows the same lines of any intoxicated patient and involves supportive care and, if available, administration of antidotes and removal of the offending agent from the body ***(Adeline, 2007).***

Exposures to the household chemicals like caustic agents constitute a potentially life-threatening global health concern. Public health efforts such as the successful implementation of child-proofing household substance containers and limiting the concentration of caustic agents in the household items in the United States should be encouraged in the developing nations as well to prevent serious toxicity that may result from exposure to these substances ***(Fulton & Rao, 2006).***

Negligence and ignorance at home may result in many deaths or disabling sequelae especially among young children which could very easily be prevented if more attention was given to implementing preventive measures at home, so increased public awareness of the risks of the household products could reduce the occurrence of the accidental household products poisoning to a great extent ***(Gupta et al., 2003).***