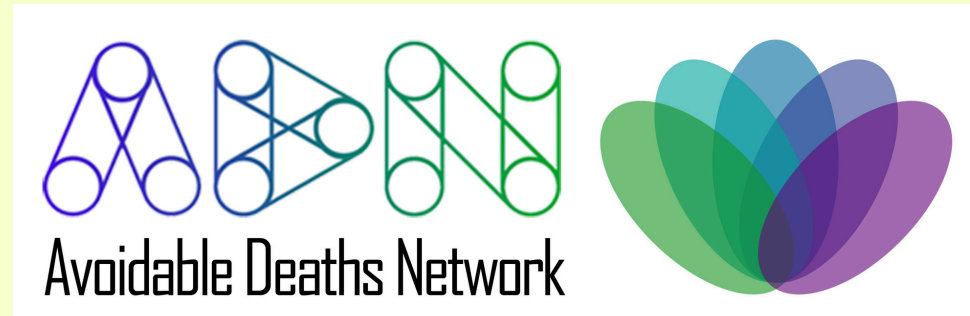


DEBUNKING 5 MYTHS ABOUT SNAKES¹



Snakes have crystals on their head.

This is a myth. Snakes have bones on their crown hood; but not carbonated crystals –that glow in the dark.

1



2

Snakes can be shape-shifters.

This is a myth. Snakes cannot shift shapes and become human beings.



3

If you kill a snake, one of the snake's relatives will come to take revenge.

This is a myth. Snakes do not have emotions like human beings. They are fearful of human beings. They bite to protect themselves.



4

Snakes drink milk.

Snakes do not drink milk. They are all carnivores and they must eat meat to survive. It is observed that they feel the milk pot by the long tongue, which creates an illusion of drinking milk.



5

Snakes have ears as such; they can hear the snake charmer.

Snakes do not have ears. Snakes have the tympanic membrane (which receives the vibrations from the ground), in place of ears. The hand movement of the snake charmer is observed by snakes in response.



¹ The information related to myths was curated from the Avoidable Deaths Network's brainstorming session that took place on 20 June 2023 in Bhubaneswar as part of the 'Avoidable Snakebite Deaths Project'. The myths have been debunked in consultation with two technical experts Dr Amarendra Mohapatra (ICMR- RMRC) and Dr Stephen Samuel (Ophirex Inc.). The poster content is created by Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett and the poster is designed by Ms Darshanika Dinushi Arambegedara and Master Arkoneil Ghosh.