It was 1987 and I was an intern in SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, Kashmir. But the incidence I am about to narrate did not happen there. It occurred in my Mohalla (locality) where I lived that time. It was early morning and we heard a hue and cry from one of the neighbor’s house. All of us rushed to see what had happened.

What we saw was horrific. The young daughter of the neighbor was lying on the floor of her room and was having convulsions. But we were helpless. We were seeing her through the window which had an iron grill. She had consumed poison and had locked the door and windows from inside. Later we came to know she had consumed a full bottle of Tik 20 (an organophosphorus insecticide). There had been a minor fight with the father the night before and she had decided to end her life.

I was very young and inexperienced that time but had seen some cases in the Emergency department of SMHS hospital and knew these cases could be saved. Unfortunately this girl had locked herself. The rush of people around the house did manage to break open the door later but it was too late. She was in deep coma by then and was declared dead on arrival to the hospital.

There have been hundreds of patients with organophosphorus compound poisoning which I have seen in the more than two decades of my job as a physician. Most of them we have been able to save. But when I remember this young girl I feel helpless.

Conflict of Interest: None
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Contribute to Nine One One. 911 is based on real code blue stories. The patient may have been seen by you in the hospital or outside. The resuscitation might have been successful or not, but the effort might be worth discussing. If you have good experience to share with the readers you could also contribute to this column. These experiences should convey some message. We would be happy to publish it. Kindly send your code blue story in no more than six hundred words on Microsoft Word document to editor@physicians-academy.com