



A review of traditional medicine research in Sri Lanka: 2015–2019. World Health Organization

This review of traditional medicine research in Sri Lanka between 2015 and 2019 was undertaken by Dr. Pathirage Kamal Perera, Senior Lecturer in Ayurveda, Department of Ayurveda, Pharmacology, and Pharmaceutics, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo and Consultant Physician in National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Sri Lanka, with support from a team of the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia led by Mr Manoj Jhalani, Director, Department of Health Systems Development, Dr Manisha Shridhar, Technical Officer for Intellectual Property Rights, and Dr Sungchol Kim, Regional Adviser for Traditional Medicine. The technical content and text were further reviewed and elaborated by Dr Suzanne Grant of the Western Sydney University, Australia.

Abstract

Member States of the WHO South-East Asia (SEA) Region have prioritized attention to research in traditional medicine and supported substantial research activity to promote evidence-based traditional medicine practices. Many research reports have been published in national and international journals. However, despite many such research studies in countries, these have not been analysed systematically in terms of topic, area of research, and issues, challenges and gaps. On account of this, research findings are inadequately reflected in policy guidance on the development of traditional medicine and its appropriate integration with the public health care delivery systems. This publication provides a detailed account of traditional medicine research status in Sri Lanka during 2014–2019 with reference to research activities, types of clinical research, main health conditions studied, and the gaps, issues and challenges relating to clinical research in traditional medicine. It also enumerates the existing principles and practices for conducting research, including code of conduct, ethics, monitoring and evaluation, regulatory systems, reporting and dissemination, legal frameworks for protecting intellectual property rights, and administrative procedures (Ref: <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/347359>).

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