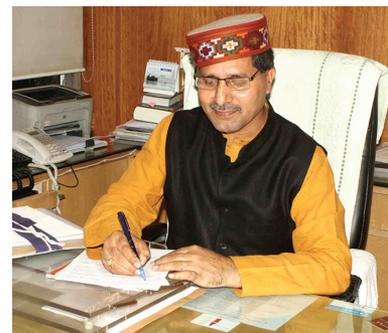




Editorial

Systematic Documentation of Traditional Knowledge and Methodical Review: Need of the hour

There has been wide difference in health infrastructure, facilities influencing the healthcare delivery across different regions and ethnic groups in the country. In addition to cultural beliefs, knowledge, sustainability in AYUSH specific healthcare delivery certainly has great impact on the health seeking attitude and utilization of AYUSH and other Local Health Traditions (LHTs). The contributions of Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) are significant in extending healthcare services in remote tribal pockets across the country and also preserving the valuable ethno medical knowledge prevailing among tribal communities by systematic documentation and validation.



It is the high time to record and gather knowledge for the use of plants for medicinal purposes inheriting from the tribes before it is lost because of rapidly changing of eco-climatical conditions. Realizing this, CCRAS documented ethno-medical practices, use of medicinal plants besides studying living conditions of tribal areas across the country from Trans-Himalayan region, North-eastern India to southern parts of the country and Andaman & Nicobar through its Survey of Units, Mobile Clinic Research Units, and Tribal Health Care Research Programmes. The authenticity of the information is confirmed by cross examination of the treated patients, and specimens of plants/part(s) used kept in record as herbariums/museum specimens. It has been observed that several agencies have undertaken such tasks with different approaches and methods which lack certain aspects and issues. In view of this, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences has developed a comprehensive format for systematic documentation of LHTs through consultative process involving stake holders concerned. The format provides wider scope and provision to record vast information concerning the folklore LHTs right from botanical/chemical/ other biological source, method of use, method of preparation including photography, videography etc, details of Tribal/folk healers, etc. This format could be well utilized for documentation and validation of novel therapeutic claims and health traditions. The format is available in the current edition of this Journal for its wider utility among all stake holders.

The council has put considerable efforts to mainstream the leads taken from LHT through systematic process of drug development and scientific validation. Some of certain illustrations comprise AYUSH SC-3 for sickle cell anemia, C-1 oil for wound healing and AYUSH-D for diabetes mellitus, AYUSH-M for migraine, AYUSH K-1 for chronic nephritis, etc. which are under different stages of development.

For dissemination of traditional knowledge, the CCRAS has successfully launched and maintaining AYUSH research portal (<http://ayushportal.nic.in/>) which is a dynamic web portal encompassing more than 20000 articles and abstracts, etc. dedicated to dissemination of R&D in AYUSH system of medicine and related sciences. The website can be well utilized by the research scholars, academicians, physicians, students and AYUSH pharma industries and all other stake holders in the sector for updation of their knowledge. This current issue of JDRAS comprises of meta-analysis on cancer prevention, surveys of the tribal areas, review article on Nootropics used in Ayurveda and a tribal format.

Such contribution on revival and validation of therapeutic claims from LHTs, academicians, scientists and scholars for publication in the forthcoming editions of this journal are highly appreciated, which could certainly add to the preservation of National medical heritage.

Prof Vd Kartar Singh Dhiman

Editor-in-chief

Journal of Drug Research in Ayurvedic Sciences

Director General

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

New Delhi, India