

# Factors affecting the selection of Western and Ayurveda medicine methods

Faculty of Social  
Sciences  
University of Kelaniya  
Sri Lanka

Tharaka Nuwanthi Perera<sup>1</sup>  
Manel Kumari Wijekoon<sup>2</sup>

---

## Abstract

Organization of Sri Lankan health care system can be divided into two main medicine traditions as Western medicine and Ayurveda medicine under both state and private sectors. A vast deviation of amounts of people who select the each medicine methods can be identified. The objective of this study is to ascertain the factors that affect to the selection of Western and Ayurveda medicine methods. The selection of medicine method is considered as the dependent variable while the 16 other variables are identified as independent variables according to previous literature. Sample is selected using the multi-stage cluster sampling from Kasbewa and Hingurakgoda DS divisions which are urban and rural areas respectively. Ethnic groups are considered as clusters. Both primary and secondary data were used and primary data are collected by using a structured questionnaire and interviews. Frequency tables, Non parametric tests and factor analysis are used to identify and evaluate the factors and also statistical inference is used to generalize the results. According to the results of factor analysis, the study identified the five main factors that affect to the selection of medicine methods such as educational and economic background, demographic background, personal information, attitudes and geographical background, first aid method and satisfaction of external western medicine facilities. These results are useful in the fields of insurance and health care policy making. Total government expenditure on behalf of health can be reducing by improving the facilities of identified factors. It will be much effective than the use of alternative health care financial methods.

**Key words: Factors, Western medicine, Ayurveda medicine, Selection, Attitudes**

---

<sup>1</sup> Department of Economics, University of Kelaniya , tharakanuwanthi@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Kelaniya