

RARE

ORGANIZATION AND TRANSMISSION OF ĀYURVEDIC  
AND  
INDIGENOUS MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE IN SRI LANKA

Submitted by

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## Abstract

Ayurveda the science of life has been the oldest system of medicine in the world. The divine origin of this has made it a very great science among others. Similarly the indigenous medicine in Sri Lanka also is a very unique system of medicine. Though there has been an influence of Ayurveda towards the indigenous medicine, it has some unique features and an identity. No in – depth study has been undertaken so far organization and transmission of knowledge on these both medical fields of Āyurveda and Indigenous system of medicine.

There are two main objectives of this study, to explore the organizational patterns of knowledge in Āyurveda and Indigenous systems of medicine and to explore the knowledge transmission techniques used in these both medical fields. The major research tools employed for collecting data for this research study were interviews and direct observation. Āyurveda and Indigenous medical practitioners of the two districts of Anuradhapura and Colombo were deemed suitable as the study population. The Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) software was utilized in analyzing the data collected for this study.

The study revealed that the organization of Āyurvedic medical knowledge in India is the same as in Sri Lanka. But in the field of Indigenous medicine, organizational patterns of knowledge used were based on patterns unique and inherent to the subject itself. The broad spectrum of knowledge transmission in both medical fields is comparatively run on verbal and non-verbal methods cum conventional and modern methods as well. In addition *Veda Geta*, *Dutha Lakshana* Incantations and Kem system have facilitated the transmission of Indigenous medical knowledge within the country. The three main disciplines of Buddhism, Astrology and Occultism have supported the existence and evolution of both medical fields of Āyurveda and Indigenous medicine in Sri Lanka.

Key Words: Knowledge Organization, Knowledge Transmission, Āyurveda Medicine, Indigenous Medicine, Dissemination of Knowledge