

# International Aspect of Herbal Medicines

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Around the entire world, millions of people voluntarily use traditional system of medicine and they strongly believe in these herbal medicines. Usually, they deal only with practitioners how they know and with whom they are comfortable.

The main factors, specially in rural areas (such as easy accessibility to practitioners, availability of herbal remedies and also an inherent faith etc.) complement the desire of large sectors of the population to use medicinal herbs for therapeutic purpose.

Not only in the most countries of the third world, but also in the western world, treat this faith in traditional medicines as a boon of nature. But due to shortage of medical staff to go to the countryside, healthcare that can be provided by countrywide administrations/ authorities becomes still limited.

On the other hand, it is also compounded with the fact that modern medicines are fast getting out of reach of the poor general masses that inhabit the bulk of rural areas.

Therefore, the easy availability of medicinal plants, accessibility of practitioner within the community itself and strong faith in traditional medicine by the local people are favourable factors for the promotion of alternative medicines. Even people of developed countries (like USA, Europe and Japan) are also turning to alternative medicines also due to the fact that there are frequent side effects to be faced when taking strong doses of synthetic allopathic drugs.

Besides, there is another reason that there are huge alternatives to general popular allopathic medicines and as well as new things could be tried out differently. In these

countries, most of the people usually refer to the traditional medicine systems as Alternative System of Medicine.

Now, it is necessary to bring the use of these remedies into the existing framework of rational scientific usage and to know what regulatory and legislative controls on the manufacture and sale of such medicines exist or are required to be implemented in different places throughout the world. There are also issues of quality control (both of the raw material and finished product) and as well as standardization of herbal products.

The need for regulating the use of medicinal substances out of traditional medicines and medicinal plants is felt by mostly all the countries using these alternative systems of medicines and medicinal plants is felt by mostly all the countries using these alternative systems of medicines. The Asian countries using these alternative systems of medicines. The Asian countries like India and China have a history of use as a form of medicine since ancient era.

On the other hand, in the countries like United Kingdom and Germany, main Stream medicines are well developed modern medicines but traditional folk medicines have been also practiced to some extent, without teaching or textbooks. Whereas, in the country like Canada, herbal remedies were not used in an organized manner in the past and the system of medicine, which is used presently, is the modern or allopathic system of medicine.

Actually, it is also a required for these countries to regulate the use of medicinal plants because of migrant populations who

would like to continue to use these herbal medicines.

In fact, they have been used to these remedies and huge interests are also growing in herbal medicines in the people of those developed countries. It is worth to be mentioned that in India, since 1964, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940 covers these traditional herbal medicines specially for Unani, Siddha and Ayurveda.

But at global level, there is a need for international regulatory control in traditional medicinal plants and herbal medicines. The basis of medicinal substances may be chalked out under the leadership of Asian countries like India and China where medicinal plants and herbal medicines continue to be used right from ancient period to present modern era.