

Present Status of Traditional Drugs in India

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Traditional drugs constitute a major share of all officially recognized systems of health in India viz. Unani, Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, Homeopathy and Naturopathy, except Allopathy. A major population in India still use these non-allopathic systems of medicine. Presently, there is no separate classification of Traditional drugs, as per the Indian Drugs Act. However, there is a massive experiential-evidence present for many of the natural drugs. This offers immense opportunities for Observational Therapeutics Mechanism and Reverse Pharmacology. Evidence-based Traditional drugs are widely accepted in the diverse systems and manufactured, as per the Pharmacopoeial Standards, by various manufacturers. A number of evidence base research has been carried out on the medicinal plants and their formulations with reference to their active constituents. Number of good examples of Indian medicinal herb provide a rich source for antioxidants that are known to prevent/delay different diseased states. The traditional drugs contain other beneficial compounds like ingredients for functional foods. Hence, the global knowledge about Indian Traditionals drugs will confidently be enhanced by knowledge on the evidence-base of these plants. This will yield rich dividends in the coming scenario.

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