

Traditional Medicine: Blessing of Nature for Human Being

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Abstract

Our earth which is one of the unique planets of universe has been a source of medicinal agents for thousands of years and an impressive number of modern drugs have been isolated from natural sources, many based on their use in traditional medicine. Out of 2, 97,000-5, 10,000 plant species distributed throughout the world, 35,000-70,000 plants have medicinal properties. The estimated number of medicinal plants used worldwide includes 10,000-11,250 in China, 7,500 in India, 2,237 in Mexico and 2,572 in North America. In India, a remarkable achievement has been made in the field of drug development to develop a new leads of therapeutic interest. This review article determine how these traditional medicines are very impotent in health system of human.

Traditional Medicine

Nature has been a source of medicinal agents for thousands of years and an impressive number of modern drugs have been isolated from natural sources, many based on their use in traditional medicine [1]. These plant-based traditional medicine systems continue to play an essential role in health care and 80% of the world population relies on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs [2-4]. Modern medicine draws heavily from traditional medicine, which exists in every continent of the globe and in every cultural area of the world. The global demand for traditional medicine is not only large, but is growing and 85% of the traditional medicines involve the use of plant extracts. During the past decade, traditional medicine became more and more important for preventive and therapeutic purposes [5,6]. Nearly 25% of modern medicines are derived from plants first used in traditional medicine Figure 1 [7,8].

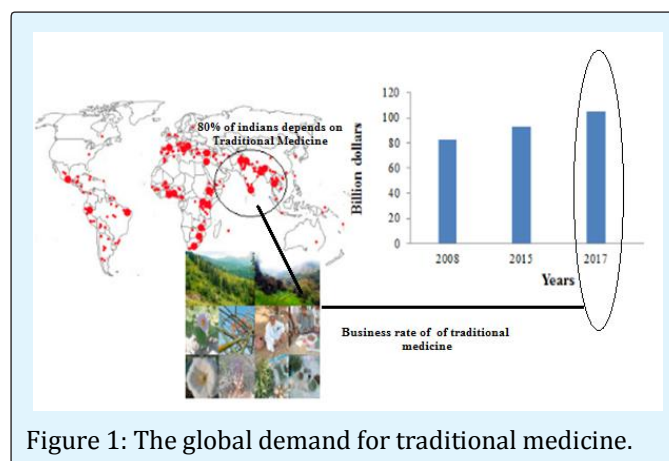


Figure 1: The global demand for traditional medicine.

World Health Organization defined Traditional Medicine (TM) as diverse health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant, animal, and/or mineral based medicines, spiritual therapies,