International Journal of Management, IT & Engineering
Vol. 12 Issue 12, December 2022,
ISSN: 2249-0558 Impact Factor: 7.119
Journal Homepage: http://www.ijmra.us, Email: editorijmie@gmail.com
Double-Blind Peer Reviewed Refereed Open Access International Journal - Included in the International Serial Directories Indexed & Listed at: Ulrich's Periodicals Directory ©, U.S.A., Open J-Gate as well as in Cabell's Directories of Publishing Opportunities, U.S.A

SURVEY OF THE OPINION OF GHANA ON THE INTEGRATION OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN MEDICINE

SUBHA RANJAN GANGULI (M.Sc),
Ph D Scholar, Deptt. Of Chemistry,
CMJ University, Jorabat, Meghalaya,

Dr Harsh Sharma (M.Sc, Ph D),
Supervisor
CMJ University, Jorabat, Meghalaya.

ABSTRACT

Traditional and modern scientific medicine's contributions to health care delivery have gotten a lot of attention from people all around the world. Both treatments have had a positive impact on the health care system in Ghana, despite the disparities in their characteristics. They've existed on their own for a long time, contributing to the enhancement of health and well-being. When it comes to health treatment in Ghana, traditional and contemporary scientific medications are often mixed together. A total of 150 people from Kumasi and Akoefe-Avenui, Ghana, who practise and utilise both types of medicine are interviewed for this study. Data was gathered primarily via the use of interviews and questionnaires, both of which were administered to study participants. The study found that, despite the widespread use of both traditional and contemporary scientific treatments, there appears to be no formal integration between the two. Some respondents (more than 70%) favoured the merging of both systems of medicine, while others (less than 20%) objected. For this reason, it is recommended to engage in dialogue between medical practitioners from both the scientific as well as the traditional medical traditions. As a result, a comprehensive national structure and strategy should be established to ensure to ensure their integration so that health care delivery may improve.

KEYWORDS: Traditional and Modern Medicine, Integration, Health Care, Survey

INTRODUCTION

Modern Scientific Medicine (MSM) and Traditional Medicine (TM)1 have long coexisted in Ghana as complementary but separate medical systems. For a long time, these medicines have coexisted with one other. Modern Scientific Medicine has improved the country's life expectancy and death rate2 through scientific and systematic methods, but Traditional Medicine, which existed before modern scientific medicine was introduced, continues to play important roles in indigenous health care systems by curing and preventing disease. As a result of this recognition, scientific medicine has become the state-funded medical system, whereas traditional medicine relies only on the efforts of individual practitioners. While this is true, the use of traditional medicine as an adjunct to contemporary scientific health care is on the rise as the cost of modern scientific health care continues to rise. Traditional medicine is used by nearly 70 percent of the population in the poor world, particularly in Africa, according to a WHO report (2002) on Traditional Medicine. 4 The necessity to incorporate traditional medicine into modern scientific medicine has always emerged because of this. Thus, the integration of different medical systems has been thrust to the forefront of the current medical discourse. No one should underestimate the importance of these remedies to the traditional Ghanaian society. They have had a significant impact on the healing process, both physically and spiritually, in a variety of ways.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

MehrabDashtdar(2022) Getting a better grasp on traditional medicine means first comprehending the philosophical and cultural foundations upon which it is built. Traditional Chinese medicine views food's impact on health as intertwined with one's personality, mind, body, and surroundings. Traditional and contemporary medicine views on the nature of hot-cold food are compared in this article, with the goal of clarifying the notions of traditional medicine in this area and promoting its universal application. [1] In order to better explain and promote traditional medicine's worldwide applicability, we will use the following concepts: four temperaments, the nature of foods, hot and cold meals.

Haidan Yuan (2016) It's critical to use organic foods and herbs as well as traditional remedies. For example, Ayurveda, Kampo, Korean medicine, and Unani have been practised in several countries throughout the world and developed into regulated systems of medicine. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the literature on the link between natural products, traditional medicines, and contemporary medicine, and to investigate the possible concepts and approaches from natural products and traditional medicines that may be used to further drug development. According to this study, eight different types of traditional medical systems have been analysed in regards to their distinct qualities. Modern medicine relies heavily on natural products and traditional remedies, even though only a small percentage of plant species have been rigorously studied for bioactivities since 1805, when the first pharmacologically active molecule was identified from opium. Natural products and traditional medicines have unparalleled benefits when employed to produce novel pharmaceuticals, such as extensive clinical experience and their unique diversity of chemical structures and biological activity.

John Kwaku Opoku(2015) Traditional and modern scientific medicine's contributions to health care delivery have gotten a lot of attention from people all around the world. Despite the disparities between the two drugs, their existence in Ghana has contributed to the improvement of health care services across societies. They've existed on their own for a long time, contributing to the enhancement of health and well-being. When it comes to health treatment in Ghana, traditional and contemporary scientific medications are often mixed together. 150 people in two Ghanaian towns, Kumasi and Akoefe-Avenui, who practise and utilise both types of medicine are interviewed for this study, and their perspectives are analysed. Data was gathered primarily via the use of interviews and questionnaires, both of which were administered to study participants. The study found that, despite the widespread use of both traditional and contemporary scientific treatments, there appears to be no formal integration between the two. Some respondents (more than 70%) favoured the merging of both systems of medicine, while others (less than 20%) objected. For this reason, it is recommended to engage in dialogue between medical practitioners from both the scientific as well as the traditional medical traditions. As a result, a comprehensive national structure and strategy should be established to ensure to ensure their integration so that health care delivery may improve.

Saleh Hosseinzadeh (2015) It is impossible to imagine human civilisation without the use of medicinal herbs. Traditional medications rely on medicinal plants, and many contemporary medicines are also derived from plants. Treatment and management of human diseases and disorders benefit greatly from the use of both traditional and contemporary medications, as demonstrated in this study. An estimated 80% of the global population, primarily those living in remote rural regions in poor nations, rely on herbal medications, according to the World Health

Organization (WHO). Disillusioned with contemporary health care in industrialised nations, customers are exploring alternatives. In the mint family, Lamiaceae, Thymus vulgaris is a flowering plant. In the culinary and pharmaceutical sectors, thymus is frequently utilised as a therapeutic herb. Thymus vulgaris is the most commonly employed species in therapeutic dose forms among the several Thymus species. People in rural places across the world produce T. vulgaris, which is used in traditional medicine for a variety of conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammation-related disorders. Thyme essential oil's anti-inflammatory, antioxidative, antibacterial, and antifungal qualities have been shown by contemporary medicine. As bioactive natural substances, medicinal plants like Thymus vulgar will be examined for their historical and current significance in this review.

TheingiMaungMaung (2019) Choosing between contemporary and traditional medicine therapy is a common option among the general public in the modern world. Some nations use the phrases complementary, alternative, and non-conventional medicine interchangeably. Traditional medicine use is on the rise across the world, with certain nations seeing an increase of as much as 80%, albeit the percentage varies by country owing to socioeconomic and cultural differences. The results of a community survey conducted in rural Kedah State, Malaysia, were the basis of this investigation. In this study, participants were asked about their understanding of contemporary and traditional medical treatments, as well as their preferences for which form of therapy to use in certain scenarios. Housewives over the age of 18 were the primary participants in two focus groups, which were conducted as a kind of qualitative research. Modern medical as well as more ancient forms of medicine were well-understood by the attendees. Modern medicine was favoured by the vast majority of participants and their families. Their knowledge of contemporary and traditional medicine is likewise well-informed. They, on the other hand, chose to rely on Islamic medicine and traditional methods. The people should be made aware of the value of both traditional and contemporary medicine.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Traditional and modern scientific medications were gathered from primary and secondary sources in this study.. Information gleaned from books, papers, and journals was referred to as secondary sources. To be on the safe side, only reliable Internet sources were consulted. There was an oral interview and the delivery of a questionnaire for primary data collection. A total of 150 people were given a structured questionnaire to gather their thoughts. Non-probability sampling was used to pick respondents in most cases. As a result, the researchers utilised a simple random sampling procedure to choose all respondents — practitioners and non-practitioners alike. (general public). Medical professionals included herbalists, midwives, traditional bone setters, general practitioners (medical physicians), nurses, health assistants, and physician assistants. Teachers, shopkeepers, hospital officials, truckers, bankers, dealers, religious leaders, and students were also among the general public. Interviews with medical professionals were conducted via a purposive sampling strategy. All of the interviewees were from the Ghanaian communities of Kumasi (Ashanti area) and Akoefe-Avenui (Volta region). Due to the high degree of use of both traditional and modern medical and medicinal activities focused at resolving people' health requirements, the two towns were chosen as case study regions. When it comes to using traditional and scientific remedies in Ghana, both cultures have a significant amount of history in common. It was thus appropriate to consult Kumasi and Akoefe-Avenui inhabitants about the merits of combining Traditional Medicine with Modern Scientific Medicine. Respondents' perspectives are described and illustrated in this article to make the most important results and discussions more understandable. Tables and figures in this work were presented using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS 16.0 version).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The poll found that 28 contemporary scientific medical practitioners, 32 traditional herbal/medical practitioners, and 90 members of the general population participated. Men (91), women (59), and people from a wide range of backgrounds participated in the study. Males and females made about 18 and 10 percent of modern scientific medical practitioners, respectively. They ranged in age from 18 to 29 to 30 to 49 to around 50 years old. Health care providers in the contemporary scientific age were divided into ten categories: general practitioners, specialists, health assistants, nurses, and pharmacists (2). 7 Muslims and 21 Christians participated in the survey, with ages ranging from 0 to 8, 9 to 20, and 11 to 21 years, respectively (8). In addition, all scientific medical practitioners have completed postsecondary training.

There were nine practitioners between the ages of 18 and 29, ten between the ages of 30 and 49, and 13 between the ages of 50 and above. Twenty-one men and eleven women participated in the study. There were 10 and 14 conventional medical practitioners who had worked for 0-8 years, 9-20 years, and 21 years, respectively. Even so, there were 19 herbalists, eight traditional birth attendants, as well as five bone-setting practitioners. In addition, there were five Muslims, eight Christians, and a majority of 19 traditionalists in the group. There were two people who had no formal education, compared to 12 and 18 people who received basic and secondary school. It was found that none of the respondents in this group had a bachelor's degree or above.

There were 52 men and 38 women among the general public, according to the study. This group's age distribution was 42 for 18-29, 38 for 30-49, and 10 for those over 50. There were 18 people with no formal education, followed by 27, 41, and 14 people with some type of secondary, post-secondary, or university education. The demographics of all survey participants are shown in the table below.

Table1:Socio-demographicbackgroundof respondentsinKumasiandAkofe-Avenui

Variables	TraditionalMedicine Practitioners(n23=32)21.3%	Modern ScientificMedical Practitioners(n=28)18.7%	GeneralPublic(n=90)60%	Total150100%
Gender				
Male	21	18	52	91(60.7%)
Female	11	10	38	59(39.3%)
Agein Years				
18-29	9	10	42	61(40.7%)
30-49	10	12	38	60(40%)
50andabove	13	6	10	29(19.3%)
Religion				
Muslim	5	7	12	24(16%)
Christian	8	21	47	76(50.7%)
Traditionalist	19	--	26	45(30%)
Noaffiliation	--	--	15	15(10%)
EducationalStatus				
NoFormalEducation	2	--	18	20(13.3%)
BasicEducation	12	--	27	39(26%)

SecondaryEducation	18	--	41	59(39.3%)
TertiaryEducation	--	28	14	42(28%)
YearsofService				
0-8 9-20 21 and above	10 14 8	9 11 8	-- -- --	19 (12.7%) 25 (16.7%) 16 (10.7%)
Qualification in Scientific Medical Practice General Practitioners Specialised Health Assistants Nurses Pharmacists	 -- -- -- -- --	 10 3 5 8 2	 -- -- -- -- --	 10 (6.7%) 3 (2%) 5 (3.3%) 8 (5.3%) 2 (1.3%)
Groups in Trad. Medical Practice Herbalists Traditional Birth Attendants Bonesetters	 19 8 5	 -- -- --	 -- -- --	 19 (12.7%) 8 (5.3%) 5 (3.3%)

CONCLUSION

4. Kumasi Metropolis and Akofe-Avenui were used as case studies to examine the attitudes of the people on the merging of traditional and contemporary scientific medicine. Results came from a wide cross-section of the two towns' populations, but they represent the first steps in Ghana's combination of traditional and modern scientific medicine. Both Kumasi and Akofe-medical Avenui's systems, despite their differences in origin, method, and presentation, are extremely well-liked. As a result, Modern Scientific Medicine is widely accepted by the government and other rich persons, whereas Traditional Medicine is virtually completely ignored. Thus, their merging has become rather challenging across the country as a result of this. Therefore, it is proposed that traditional medical practitioners be recognised in health care development programmes in order to facilitate the integration of Traditional Medicine and Modern Scientific Medicine. Modern scientific medical practitioners have been recognised in the major health care systems around the country, as previously shown. Giving the conventional medical practitioner a comparable platform is therefore recommended in order for them to be well-known as well. Despite the passing of the Traditional Medicine Practice Act (Act 575) in 2000 and the establishment of institutions to publicly promote traditional medicine, the recognition of this practise in general is quite low.. Only a few institutions in the United States have their conventional medical methods acknowledged by the government, in actuality. It is also necessary to conduct additional study into all parts of traditional medicine in order to enhance its practises and composition. The medical system's reputation for uncleanliness will be shattered as a result of this campaign. In addition, all stakeholders and decision makers should be made aware of the benefits of integrating Traditional and modern scientific medical procedures in order to encourage support for these methods.

REFERENCES

1. Yuan, Haidan& Ma, Qianqian & Ye, Li & Piao, Guangchun. (2016). The Traditional Medicine and Modern Medicine from Natural Products. Molecules. 21. 559. 10.3390/molecules21050559.
2. Opoku, John & Addai-Mensah, Peter &Wiafe, Frimpong. (2015). TRADITIONAL AND MODERN MEDICINE: A SURVEY OF VIEWS ON ITS INTEGRATION IN GHANA. 3. 22-36.
3. Dashtdar, Mehrab&Dashtdar, Reza &Dashtdar, Faranak&Dashtdar, Babak &Mojab, Elaheh. (2022). The perspectives of traditional and modern medicine on the nature of hot and cold foods. Medical Research Journal. 10.5603/MRJ.a2022.0001.
4. Hosseinzadeh, Saleh &Jafarikukhdan, Azizollah& Hosseini, Ahmadreza& Armand, Raham. (2015). The Application of Medicinal Plants in Traditional and Modern Medicine: A Review of Thymus vulgaris. International Journal of Clinical Medicine. 06. 635-642. 10.4236/ijcm.2015.69084.
5. MaungMaung, Theingi& Deborah, Sherly & Tun, Aye & Jian, Tan & Subramaniam, Yumitra& Pillai, Jagadesan& Johnson, Jeeviamonica. (2019). Traditional Medicine Vs Modern Medicine in Rural Area of Kedah State, Malaysia. 14.
6. Asante, E. and Avornyo, R., "Enhancing Healthcare System in Ghana through Integration ofTraditionalMedicine".*Journal ofSociological Research*,Vol.4, No.2: 2013,256-257.
7. Bour, D., 'Religion, Science and Development'. In:ChralesMarfo (Ed), *Reflections onReligionand Science*. Kumasi: UniversityPrintingPress, 2008.pp.58-75.
8. Crowshoe, C. "Sacred Ways of Life: Traditional Knowledge. Prepared for The First NationCentreNationalAboriginalHealthOrganization".*TraditionalMedicine*.(2005).
9. Fan, Tai-Ping & Briggs, Josephine & Liu, Liang & Lu, Aiping& van der Greef, Jan & Xu, Anlong&Wietmarschen, Herman. (2014). Integrating traditional medicine into modern health care. Science. 346. 1569. 10.1126/science.346.6216.1569-d.
10. Rout, Susanta&dutta, Saptarshi&sengupta, Mukul & das, Srimanta& rout, Bikram. (2010). The traditional and modern medicine system in India for insomnia. Journal of Pharmacy Research.
11. Günaydın, Nevin &Özpulat, Funda. (2018). The role of nurses in traditional–modern medicine conflict. New Trends and Issues Proceedings on Advances in Pure and Applied Sciences. 110-113. 10.18844/gjpaas.v0i10.3751.