

Situational analysis of the use of indigenous knowledge for therapeutic purposes in two rural areas in India and South Africa

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India and South Africa are two developing countries both with a rich history regarding the use of indigenous knowledge (IK) for therapeutic purposes. This information needs to be preserved by intergenerational transfer.

Purpose: Our study is aimed to investigate household use of IK to address the health needs of the household members and the use of plants for therapeutic purposes.

Methods: Cross sectional study using mixed methods. The study areas were in India -4 villages in West Bengal, and in South Africa - the rural area of Vulamehlo, Ugu District, KwaZulu-Natal. Focus group discussions were held with community leaders, healers, service providers and community groups to explore their perceptions about indigenous knowledge for therapeutic purposes in both countries. This was followed by a survey using a structured questionnaire (translated into the local language) to investigate the use of indigenous remedies and the source of this information. The data were triangulated and similarities and differences in the two countries were investigated.

Results: In each country between 10-12 focus group discussions were held with a range of respondents. The household survey included 70 in-depth interviews. Respondents explained about the types of disorders/disease conditions that could be treated by indigenous practices, and described the use of the same plant prepared in the same way for different disorders, and also the use of the same plant, but using different preparations depending on the disorder. In both countries there were gender differences in the responses. Further youth in both countries were less interested in the use of traditional remedies.

Discussion: In both countries IK was a rich source of information offering scope for improving health through using local resources. The strength of IK has been the transfer of this information and for this to continue inculcating awareness of the value of IK is necessary.

Conclusion: Working together in India and South Africa has emphasized the similarities in these two developing countries and that sharing information and ideas can assist in raising the profile of this important source of knowledge.

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Development of rapid HPLC method for estimation of catechin from *Albizia lebbeck* bark extracts and its validation

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A new, simple and rapid HPLC method was developed and validated using diode array detector and 0.1% phosphoric acid-acetonitrile gradient elution for quantification of catechin in the methanol extracts of stem bark of *Albizia lebbeck*. The analysis was performed on Sunshell C18 column (100 mm×4.6 mm I.D., 2.6 µm) from ChromaNik Technologies Ltd. The flow rate of mobile phase was maintained at 2.0 ml/min. The column temperature and the detection wavelength were kept at 28 °C and 279 nm respectively. The catechin peak was detected at 1.79 min with the total run time 9 min. Linearity was obtained over a range of 10-60 µg/ml with correlation coefficient of 0.999. The detection limit and quantitation limit were found to be 1.0 µg/ml and 3.0 µg/ml respectively. The evaluation of the accuracy was done using an addition/recovery assay. The recoveries of the catechin were between 97.09%-100.02%. The low values of intra and inter-day relative standard deviation (less than 2.0%) indicated good precision of the developed method. The developed and validated method was applied for estimation of catechin content from stem bark extracts of *Albizia lebbeck* obtained three different geographical sources.

Biography

Pratima Tatke is Professor at C. U. Shah College of Pharmacy, SNDT University with 25 years of teaching experience. She has completed Ph.D. in 2000 and is actively involved in research on medicinal plants. She has received "Best Pharmaceutical Scientist 2011", "International Award of Excellence" and "Talented Scientist Award". She has 32 publications in reputed journals and more than 110 presentations and serving as an editorial board member of many national and international journals. She has filed 4 Indian patents (2 granted), 1 US patent (granted). She has delivered lectures in national and international conferences.

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