

A Study of the Ethical Value of Norms Associated with Folk Medicine

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Abstract

Folk medicine, which is a major part of the Sri Lankan culture, is called traditional medicine or local medicine. Later, due to the combination of folk medicine and Ayurveda, its independent existence was lost. The traditional medicine gained the belief of the people under the name of **Ayurvedic system of medicine**. Therefore, in the study of traditional medicine, the related beliefs, customs and technical methods have a special value. The opportunity to learn about this folk medicine system, which has been handed over from generation to generation. It was mainly due to the private education given to only a selected set of their generation. The reason for this is that folk medicine methods and prescriptions are not given to anyone except a very trustful person. The teacher hand over the person, if the teacher has the strong faith in the student. This is why folk medicine has its own set of customs, principals, traditions and rules. What is important is to see a moral value that emerges from each of those matters. The objectives of this research to examine the existing terms and customs related to the Sri Lankan folk medicine. The research problem here is to investigate whether its terms have any ethical value related to the factor of disease prevention expected from folk medicine. Descriptive survey is the research method is adopted here. To collect data and information for this research, the researcher has taken ideas of the native doctors who are practicing folk medicine and ayurvedic medicine through interviews. As well given questionnaires to the native doctors, getting ideas through discussion, following monographs, olas and dissertations. Now it has been a demand in ayurvedic medicine among the people in all over the world because of the norms and ethical values in the field of folk medicine.

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