The importance of integrating traditional medicine into primary health care in developing countries

Tsabang Nolé
University of Yaoundé, Cameroon

Traditional medicine in developing countries is resorted by 80% of the population. However conventional medicine puts its practice under pressure. Yet occidental medicine, as key elements of the architecture of contemporary western societies, is not always satisfactory in developing countries. A global stewardship which emerges is the intensification of the integration of traditional medicine products in primary healthcare. This politics can stimulate the elimination of poverty exemplified in the millennium development objectives. In fact, the products of local therapists are rich in active ingredients that act synergistically. The objectives of present work are to identify efficient local therapists’ products of my family, plants that they used for their preparation and confirm their efficacy through previous chemical and pharmacological studies. To achieve these objectives 8 products of 8 local therapists were recorded in Fongo-Tongo district, West Region of Cameroon. The previous chemical composition and pharmacological tests on recorded plants were investigated using the following existing documents in the areas of chemistry, ethnopharmacology and pharmacology. 14 plants were used in the ethnopharmacological preparation of 8 remedies. These herbal medicines are used to treat 8 diseases including: Amoebiasis intestinal parasites, diabetes, hypertension, diarrhea, malaria, cough and sexual impotence. The high concentration of glycosides and flavonoids, hypoglycemic ingredients in Morinda lucida and many pharmacological hypoglycemic tests may be responsible for the oral antihyperglycemic effects of local therapist's antidiabetic herbal medicine. Therefore, the introduction of this herbal medicine into the primary healthcare like many others which are efficient against recorded diseases may reduce the cost of treatments and save many patients in developing countries.

tsabang2001@yahoo.fr