

Global scenario of traditional herbal medicines – Impact on ayurveda

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There has been an amazing increase in the use and demand of Traditional herbal medicines globally in the last couple of years. Worldwide it is recognized that there are different traditions within the herbal medicine and that individual practitioners utilize a range of treatment modalities within the scope of their practice. Traditional systems of medicine are very much a part of the health care system in their own country of origin. Ayurveda has existed as part of the health care system in India and over the years has developed facing major challenges to meet the growing concern on the safety and quality of the herbal medicines. It is clear that natural does not always equal safe which has eventually lead to each country having its own categorization, strategy and regulations for Traditional Medicine and Complementary and Alternative Medicine. One regulation that fits all - does not exist and this has lead to a whole lot of challenges to face and to address. The first step has been initiated by WHO in 2006 with the setting up of the INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY CO-OPERATION FOR HERBAL MEDICINES (IRCH) which is a global network of regulatory authorities responsible for regulation of herbal medicines. Its mission being to protect and promote public health and safety through improved regulations for herbal medicines. The presentation will research into the existing global scenario on traditional and herbal medicines and status of Ayurveda in other countries.

Biography

Deepika Gunawant, is an MD in Ayurveda from Kolkata University with a strong interest in mind-body medicine and developing clinical models in Integrative medicine, education and wellness. She is presently - MEDICAL DIRECTOR at the MAX CENTRE FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE, NEW DELHI. She also serves as an expert with National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and was a former consultant with AYUSH – Department of Health. She has a rich and wide experience of over two decades ranging from clinical, research, teaching, marketing and regulatory both in India and abroad. She has been a Consultant with the MHRA (Medicines and Health Care Regulatory Agency) and a member of the Herbal Medicines Regulatory Working Group formed by the Department of Health, UK. She was the Chief Physician and Marketing Director with the Ayurvedic Hospital in London and was a faculty member with the Thames Valley University, UK. She has lectured extensively and conducted Ayurveda and Wellness programmes in Europe. She is the co-author of the book entitled "Complete Illustrated guide to Ayurveda" published by Element Books which is available in over 500 libraries worldwide.

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