

An Analysis on the Attitude of Elders on the Use of Ayurveda Medicine living in Vadamaradchy Division, in Jaffna District

¹ *Sriganeson, P.*, ² *Samarakoon, S. M. S*

¹ Free Ayurvedic Dispensary, Iyakachi

² Department of Deshiya Chikitsa, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo

Large scale surveys in the United States and abroad suggest that 35-60% of adults have used some form of complementary/alternative medicines. Sri Lanka is been providing traditional medicines for the citizen which is called Ayurveda. However, no studies to date have focused on predictors on the attitudes on the consumption of Ayurveda medicines among elderly persons. The sample of 333 elders surveyed from government Ayurveda hospitals in Vadamarachy Divisional Secretariat. Data were collected by structured questionnaire and interviews. Data were analyzed by SPSS (16.0). The elderly respondents were in different attitudes on the use of Ayurveda medicine in the study area. They stated that use of Ayurveda medicine depends upon hospital facilities and transport facilities (58.8%), staff's attitudes (10%), completely recovery from treatments (17.4%), noside effect of medicine (25.2%), Ayurveda medicine has to be taken for long term to get effect (10%), cost of Ayurveda medicine (10%), Ayurveda medicine is limited to particular age and diseases (72.3%) and Ayurveda medicine depend on cure of diseases, and gender (12.7%), Meanwhile, there was an inverse relationship between attitudes with the level of education. These findings suggest that there is significant interest in use of Ayurveda medicine among elderly persons. These results may encourage researchersto conduct community based researches on the use of these therapies among senior population in the country.

Keywords: Vadamarachy Division, Elderly population, Ayurveda medicine, Attitudes