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HEALTH LAW: A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF SRI LANKAN POSITION

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'Health is Wealth' is a good old proverb and it is well accepted that Health Law (HL) is an area of vital importance. However, many States including Sri Lanka do not have a clear policy on health. It is unfortunate that governments adopt piecemeal approach to health related laws and regulations. There are many areas under HL and some of those are consumer law (Consumer Affairs Authority Act 2003 - regulated by Consumer Affairs Authority), food law (Food Act 1985 - regulated by Ministry of Health and Local Authority), environmental law (National Environmental Act No:47 of 1980 - regulated by Central Environmental Authority) cosmetic law, pharmaceutical law and health services law (Cosmetics, Devices and Drugs Act 1981, Health Services Act 1977 and National Medicines Regulatory Authority Act 2015 - regulated by National Medicines Regulatory Authority) and epidemiology law. Since there is no centralised forum to regulate these laws the overlaps, ambiguity, problems in enforcement mechanism and public awareness are not looked into. Further, the outbreak of COVID 19 is handled by National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 and headed by Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army while the Director General of health services plays a minor role. Hence, this paper evolves around that problem that lack of sound policy on HL in Sri Lanka causes hardship to stakeholders. The findings of the author will be given along with recommendations for a practically feasible HL and policy that best suits Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Health Law

THERAPEUTIC EFFECTIVENESS OF SIDDHA HERBO MINERAL DRUG OF GANDHAKA RASAYANAM – A REVIEW

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Siddha Medicine is an oldest Traditional Medicine which was practiced by Saint Siddhas. Siddha Medicine originated from Southern part of India and Northern and Eastern part of Sri Lanka. Siddha Medicines prepared from raw materials that is used *moovigai*(herbals), *kaathukkal* (minerals including metals, salts, *paadamam*, *upararam*), *jeevam* (animal and animal products). *Gandhaka rasayanam* is one of the Siddha herbo mineral preparation with 16 ingredients, including 15 herbals (Dried raw materials) and one mineral ingredient which is mentioned in authenticated siddha classical text book. It is used to treat various diseases, such as *megha rot*, *kaddam*, *kiruvai*, *moolam*, *kavassam* and particularly used for all type of skin diseases (*sarva rotikal*). The aim of this study is a review on therapeutic effectiveness of Siddha herbo mineral drug of *Gandhaka Rasayanam* in literature aspect and focused on the organoleptic character and pharmacological activities of the ingredients of the drug which are responsible for curing the skin diseases. Data was collected by using siddha classical text book and other text books and Google scholar from September 2019 to January of 2020. According to the organoleptic character, taste, potency and efficacy of the drug have 27% bitter, 23% pungent and sweet, 62% heat (*urtha shama*), 50% pungent and 44% sweet respectively. Most of the raw materials used for preparation of *Gandhaka Rasayanam* have immunomodulatory activity, antimicrobial activity, anti-inflammatory activity, antioxidant activity, anti-allergic activity thus, justifying its usage in skin diseases. This review provides useful documentary evidence about collecting data of *Gandhaka Rasayanam*. However, there is a need to further research.

Keywords: Siddha medicine, *Gandhaka Rasayanam*, Organoleptic character, Pharmacological activity