

Alternate Healthcare Systems and Their Utilization with Special Reference to Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli Districts of Tamil Nadu, India

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Abstract

In India, the modern medicine (Allopathy) has almost replaced the Traditional system of medicines (AYUSH) and the private healthcare sector has grown by leaps and bounds at the cost of the public sector. This study is conducted mainly to analyse the standout features of different healthcare systems and the factors that influence their usage and to suggest ways and means of strengthening them. Among the two systems of medicine, Allopathy is ranked first, the most utilized system of healthcare, in both the districts and among the two major healthcare providers, the private sector is much preferred to the public sector. The utilization of a service is highly influenced by the income and the education of the respondents. Allopathy is preferred as it provides fast relief from illness while AYUSH is preferred as it has zero side effects. Public hospitals are preferred as medicines are free and private hospitals are preferred as doctors' care for patients is excellent. Location and distance also have some influence on the preference for the healthcare providers. The main reason for the poor performance of public healthcare sector, which is in a dilapidated condition, is the utter negligence of it by governments.

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