

FAMILIARITY EXPERIENCE AND PREFERENCE FOR SIDDHA TREATMENT

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DOI: 10.47750/pnr.2023.14.02.227

Abstract

Siddha medicine is a traditional system of healing that originated in South India and is regarded to be one of India's oldest medical systems. Siddha System of Medicine played an important role in the health care scenario of the people in Tamil Nadu. The government sector contributes significantly to the development of the system throughout the country and still the number of users is less. The objective of this study is to understand the demographic profile of the respondents, the awareness and preference for siddha treatment in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu. Data were collected from 252 respondents and the results show the lack of knowledge about the treatment available for various ailments in siddha.

Key words: awareness, knowledge preference.

INTRODUCTION

Traditional medicine has a rich heritage in India, with traditional healthcare systems flourishing for centuries. It is widely known that traditional medical systems have always played an important role in meeting the world's healthcare needs. They are still doing so and will continue to play an important role in the future. Indian Systems of Medicine are medical systems that are thought to be of Indian origin or that have come to India from elsewhere and been assimilated into Indian culture. The Indian health system may have the world's largest community-based indigenous systems of medicine, and India is the only country with six recognised systems of medicine (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga, Naturopathy, and Homoeopathy) in this category.

Siddha medicine is a traditional system of healing that originated in South India and is regarded to be one of India's oldest medical systems. The word Siddha is derived from the Tamil word Siddhi, which indicates "to achieve," "perfection," or "heavenly bliss." Siddha medicine is mentioned in the earliest Tamil writings as a part of Tamil culture. The Siddha System of Medicine emphasises that medical treatment is concerned with the patient's age, gender, lifestyles, creed, diet, habitat, surroundings, psychological frame, desire to eat, biological constitution, health status, and climatic consideration, to name a few. This implies that treatment must be individualistic in order to ensure that there is little room for error in the diagnosis or treatment. The process of diagnosis includes determining the underlying cause of a disease. The causative elements are identified by inspecting the eyes, tongue, urine, body colour, pulse, voice, and digestive system condition.

Siddha medicine is also one of the safest forms of treatment available, and it can be used by anyone. They are extremely beneficial for chronic illness, and the treatment is readily available to people of all ages. It also boosts your immune system and helps to correct imbalances so that the illness doesn't really reoccur in the future. It detoxifies and cleanses your system, and Siddha medicine is now widely used as an alternative cancer treatment.

When using Siddha medicines, there will be no side effects. Many researchers have found that this ancient healing technique is extremely safe and does not interrupt with any other medications or drugs you may be taking.

Siddha medicines are typically inexpensive. Except in emergency situations, the Siddha system is able to cure all types of disease. In general, this system is efficient for treating all types of skin problems notably psoriasis, liver and gastrointestinal tract diseases, urinary tract infections, general debility, diarrhoea, allergic disorders, postpartum anemia, arthritis and general fevers.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Samal, Janmejaya and Dehury, Ranjit Kumar (2019) examined the utilisation, preferences, perceptions, and characteristics of people in India who practice AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) systems of medicine. A specific group of people, such as tribal and general population, medical practitioners, and religious groups, were observed using it in a specific geographical area. The perception of the AYUSH system varied across different segments of society. The general public's preference centered around deep mistrust or distress with allopathic medicine, cost effectiveness, availability, the lack of other options, and the lower side effects of AYUSH medicines. Furthermore, people mainly adopted AYUSH medical systems due to their own experiences and recommended them to others.

Rudra S, Kalra A, Kumar A, Joe W. (2014) traditional and AYUSH systems of medicine are used more commonly in weaker population groups in specific geographical areas, among tribal patients with chronic diseases, and for treating skin-related and musculoskeletal ailments.

Krishnan. A et al., (2008) studied the revival of Siddha Medicine in Tamil Nadu, It was concluded that nearly 19% of consumers had previously used Siddha, 29% of Homeopathy and Unani patients, 20% of Ayurvedic patients, and 33% of Allopathy patients have switched to siddha medicine.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Traditional Siddha System of Medicine played an important role in the health care scenario of the people in Tamil Nadu. Siddha is an idol health care structure given to society by supernatural beings. The government sector contributes significantly to the development of the system throughout the country and still the number of users is less.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study is to understand the demographic profile of the respondents, the awareness and preference for siddha treatment in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is conducted in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu as its target audience. To determine the level of awareness and preference for Siddha treatment, data was collected from 252 respondents using a questionnaire.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Demographic profile of the respondents

Table 1 Demographic profile of the respondents

Description		Frequency	Percent
Gender	Male	114	45.24
	Female	138	54.76
Age	Less than 20 years	14	5.56
	21-30 years	48	19.05
	31-40 years	56	22.22
	41-50 years	55	21.83
	50-60 years	38	15.08
	Above 60	41	16.27
Education	Not complete schooling	27	10.71
	Finished Schooling	46	18.25
	Graduate	94	37.3
	Post Graduate	67	26.59
	Doctorate and higher	18	7.14
Occupation	Student	34	13.49
	Government employee	46	18.25
	Private employee	66	26.19
	Self employed	51	20.24
	House wife	55	21.83
	Total	252	100
Monthly income	Less than Rs.25,000	88	34.92
	Rs.25,000 to Rs.50,000	97	38.49
	Rs.50,000 to Rs.75,000	52	20.63
	Rs.75,000 - Rs.100,000	13	5.16
	Above Rs..1,00,000	2	0.79
Family type	Nuclear	157	62.3
	Joint	95	37.7

Religion	Hindu	98	38.89
	Christian	88	34.92
	Muslim	66	26.19

Demographic profile of the respondents

Figure 1 Demographic profile of the respondents

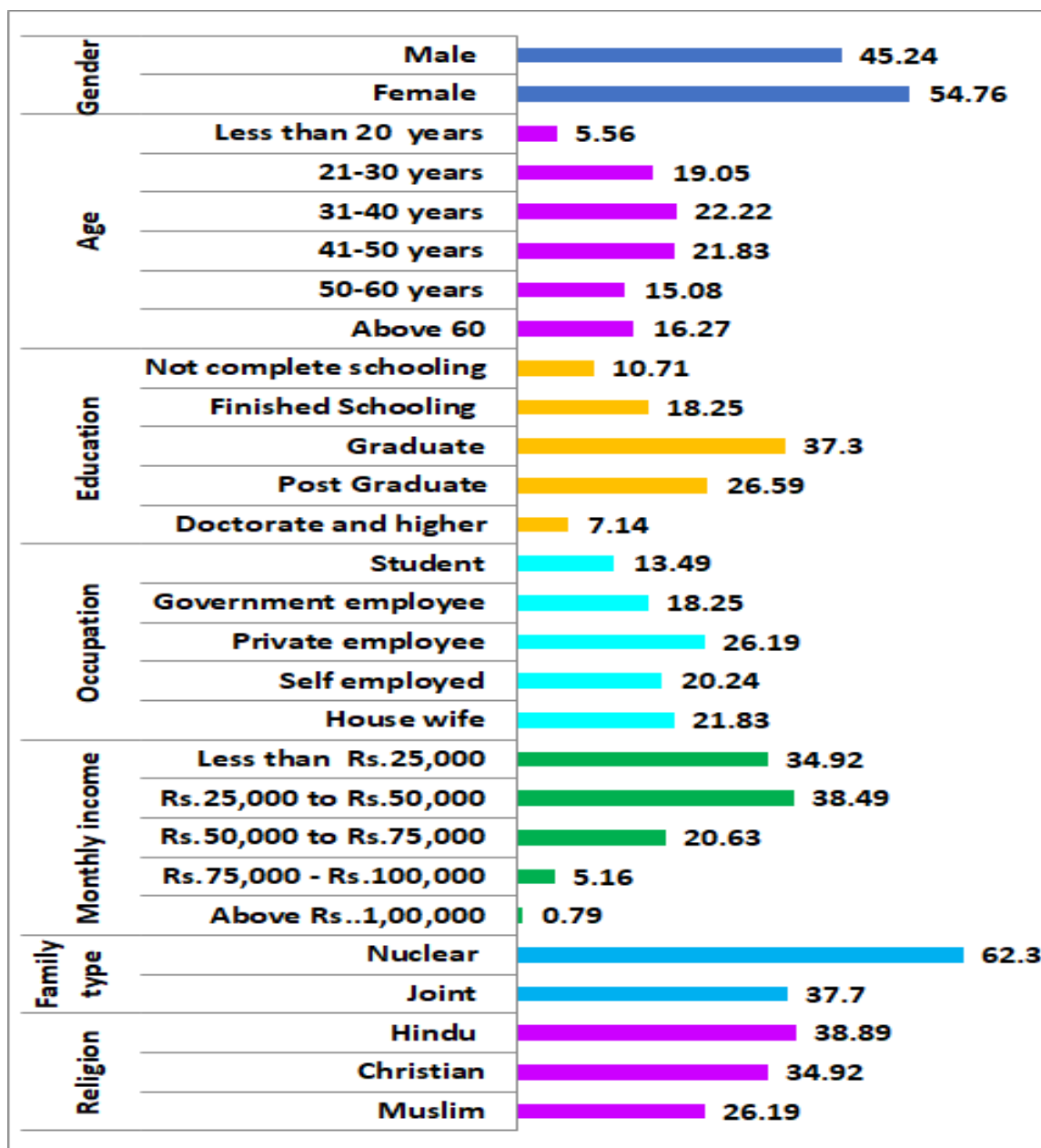


Table 1 shows the demographic profile of the respondents. 45.24% of the respondents are male and 54.76% are female. Age of the respondents shows that 5.56% of the respondents are of less than 20 years of age, 19.05% of the respondents are of the age category 21 to 30 years of age, 22.22% of the respondents are of the age category

31 to 40 and 21.83% are of 41-50 years and 15.08% are 50-60 years of age and 16.27% are of above 60 years of age. Educational qualification of the respondent's shows that 10.71% are not completed schooling, 18.25% finished Schooling, 37.3% are Graduates, 26.59% are Post Graduates and 7.14% are Doctorate. Occupation shows that 13.49 % of the respondents are students, 18.25% of the respondents government employees, 26.19 % of the respondents are Private employees, 20.24% are Self-employed 21.83% of the respondents are housewives. Monthly family income of the respondents shows that 34.92% of the respondents had less than Rs. 25,000, 38.49% had Rs.25,000 to Rs.50,000, 20.63 % had Rs.50,000 to Rs.75,000, 5.16% had Rs.75,000 -Rs.100,000 and 0.79% had above Rs.100,000. Family type of the respondents shows that 62.3% live in nuclear families and 37.7% live in joint families. Religion of the respondents shows that 38.89% are Hindus, 34.92% are Christian and 26.19% are Muslims.

Awareness and level of knowledge on Siddha treatment

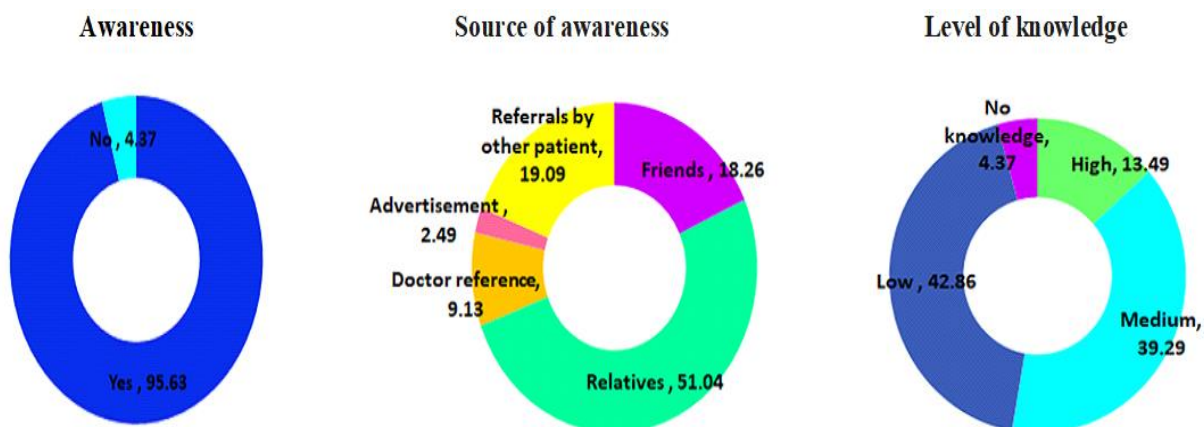
Table 2 Awareness and level of knowledge on Siddha treatment

Particulars		Frequency	Percent
Awareness of siddha treatment	Yes	241	95.63
	No	11	4.37
	Total	252	100.00
Source of awareness	Friends	44	18.26
	Relatives	123	51.04
	Doctor reference	22	9.13
	Advertisement	6	2.49
	Referrals by other patient	46	19.09
	Total	241	100
State your level of knowledge on Siddha treatment	High	34	13.49
	Medium	99	39.29
	Low	108	42.86
	No knowledge	11	4.37

	Total	252	100
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Table 2 shows the awareness and level of knowledge on Siddha treatment of the respondents. 95.63% of the respondents are aware of Siddha treatment and 4.37% are not aware of Siddha treatment. Source of awareness of Siddha treatment shows that 51.04% are aware through Relatives, 18.26% through Friends, 19.09% are through Referrals by other patient, 9.13% through Doctor reference and 2.49% through Advertisement.

Figure 2 Awareness and level of knowledge on Siddha treatment



Familiarity of Siddha Treatment

Table 3 Familiarity of Siddha Treatment

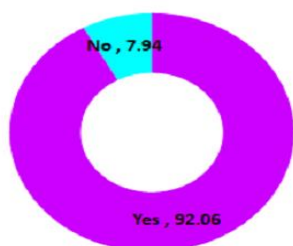
Particulars		Frequency	Percent
Experienced Siddha Treatment	Yes	222	92.06
	No	19	7.94
	Total	232	100
Taken treatment for chronic disease	Yes	123	53.02
	No	99	46.98
	Total	222	100
Taken treatment for	Diabetics	34	27.64

	Arthritis	20	16.26
	Rheumatoid arthritis	7	5.69
	Bronchitis	18	14.63
	Bronchial asthma	24	19.51
	Psoriasis	11	8.94
	Eczema	5	4.07
	Insomnia	4	3.25
	Total	123	100

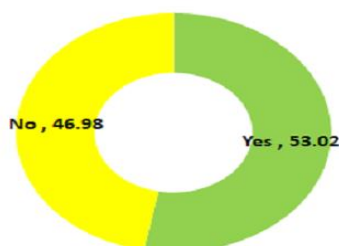
Table 3 shows that 92.06% of the respondent's familiarity with siddha treatment and 7.94% do not experienced siddha treatment. 92.06% of the respondents have taken treatment for chronic disease. Taken treatment for chronic disease shows that 53.02% had taken the treatment and 46.98% so far did not taken treatment for chronic disease. Treatment taken for chronic disease shows that 27.64% for Diabetics, Bronchial asthma (19.51%), Arthritis (16.26%), Bronchitis (14.63%), Psoriasis (8.94%), Rheumatoid arthritis (5.69%), Eczema (4.07%) and Insomnia (3.25%).

Figure 3 Experience of Siddha Treatment

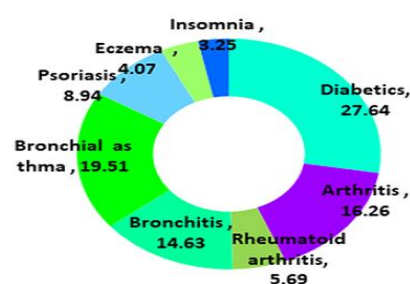
Experienced Siddha Treatment



Taken treatment for chronic disease



Taken Siddha treatment for



Preference for Siddha Treatment

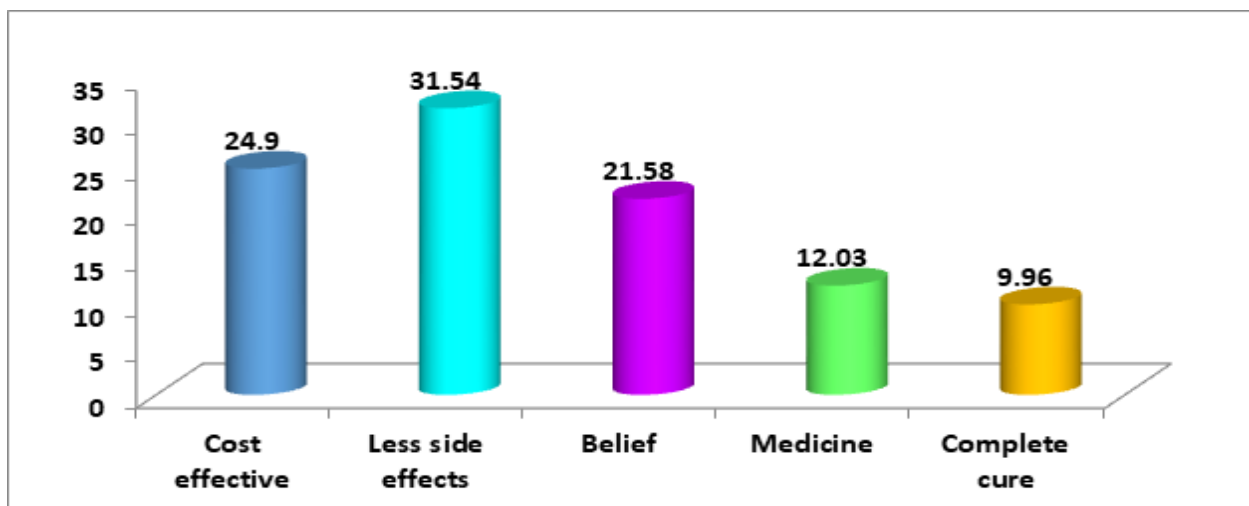
Table 4 Preference for Siddha Treatment

Particulars		Frequency	Percent
Reasons to prefer	Cost effective	60	24.9

	Less side effects	76	31.54
	Belief	52	21.58
	Medicine	29	12.03
	Complete cure	24	9.96
	Total	241	100

Table 4 shows the reasons for preferring Siddha treatment. 31.54% of the respondents prefer the treatment due to less side effects, Cost effective (24.9%), Belief (21.58%), Medicine (12.03%), Complete cure (9.96%).

Figure 4 Preferences for Siddha Treatment



Awareness on siddha treatment available for diseases

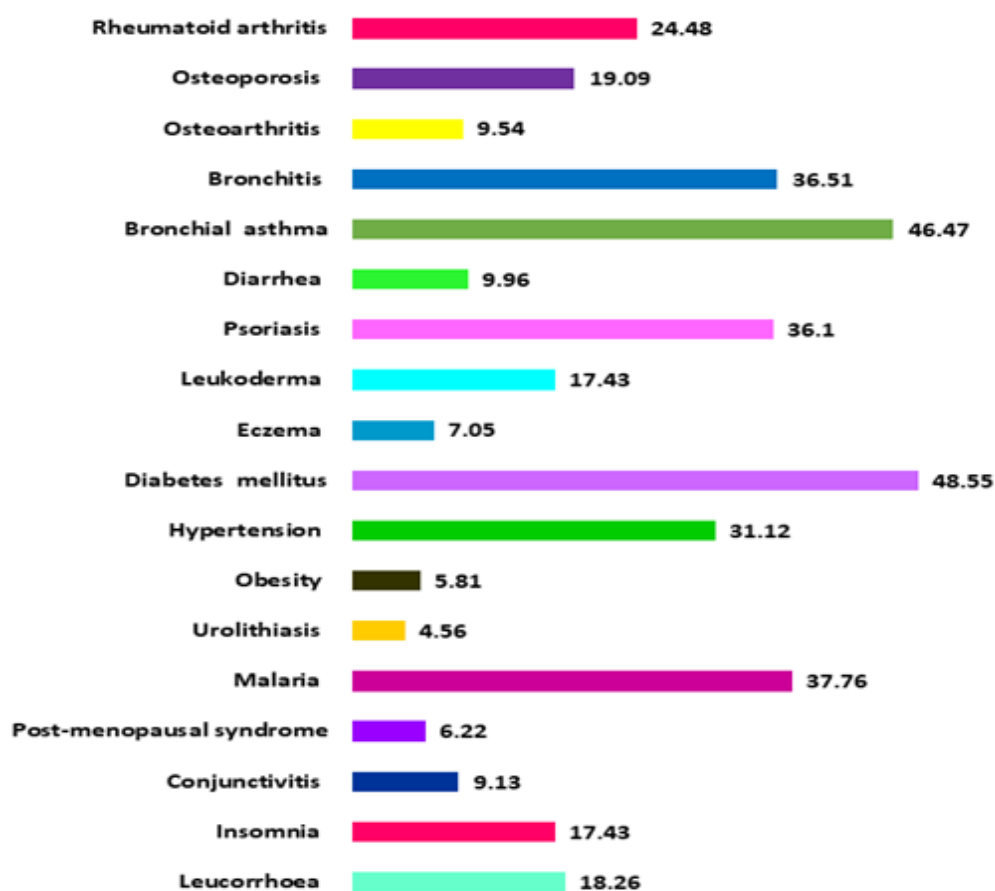
Table 5 Awareness on siddha treatment available for diseases

Diseases	Frequency	Percentage
Rheumatoid arthritis	59	24.48
Osteoporosis	46	19.09
Osteoarthritis	23	9.54
Bronchitis	88	36.51
Bronchial asthma	112	46.47

Diarrhea	24	9.96
Psoriasis	87	36.1
Leukoderma	42	17.43
Eczema	17	7.05
Diabetes mellitus	117	48.55
Hypertension	75	31.12
Obesity	14	5.81
Urolithiasis	11	4.56
Malaria	91	37.76
Post-menopausal syndrome	15	6.22
Conjunctivitis	22	9.13
Insomnia	42	17.43
Leucorrhoea	44	18.26

Table 5 shows the awareness on siddha treatment available for various diseases. 24.48% of the respondents are aware that the treatment is available for Rheumatoid arthritis (Osteoporosis (19.09%), Osteoarthritis (9.54%), Bronchitis (36.51%), Bronchial asthma (46.47%), Diarrhea (9.96%), Psoriasis (36.1%), Leukoderma (17.43%), Eczema (7.05%), Diabetes mellitus (48.55%), Hypertension (31.12%), Obesity (5.81%), Urolithiasis (4.56%), Malaria (37.76%), Post-menopausal syndrome (6.22%), Conjunctivitis (9.13%), Insomnia (17.43%) and Leucorrhoea (18.26%).

Figure 4 5 Awareness on siddha treatment available for



CONCLUSION

Siddha medicine aims to protect and restore the body's ability to maintain balance and combat ailments such as arthritis, hypertension and obesity. Siddha medicine can help you live a happier life by modifying the diet and lifestyle. Based on the study's findings, people are aware of siddha medicine after Covid 19 and have a good understanding of the quality of medicines for colds, coughs, asthma, bronchitis, and are also aware that the treatment improves the immune system and corrects imbalances so that the disease does not reoccur. People prefer the treatment for a variety of reasons, including fewer side effects and lower costs. The majority of respondents are unaware that chronic disease treatments are available in Siddha. As a result, we propose that intensive advertising aids in bridging their knowledge gap.

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