

# Review of: "Traditional soap plants used in hand hygiene, can play an important role in curbing infectious diseases including COVID-19. So why is there so little research?"

Konda Mani Saravanan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bharath Institute Of Higher Education & Research

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I agree that our hands are a critical vector for transmitting microorganisms. The cross-transmission of these organisms to others occurs when we fail to wash hands effectively. Hand washing has received considerable attention during the COVID-19 pandemic. I simply made a pubmed search with a couple of keywords "Hand wash AND COVID" and "Hand wash AND SOAP and COVID". This resulted in very limited hits (101 with first keyword and 36 with other).

The overall statements made in the manuscript can be agreed. But have some suggestions to improve:

1. The author makes a statement "There is little research". Justify this and elaborate.
2. The author may provide more details about the plant stated "*Alphitonia excels*" with a photograph. List of soap plants can also be tabulated.
3. Yes. I agree there is lack of research about soap plants. The author should state in detail why this research is important and insist what type of research should be undertaken. Please note that the pandemic is over now.
4. Author also should state that "Non-pharmaceutical interventions such as social distancing, handwashing, using hand sanitizer, and wearing facial masks are recommended as the first line of protection against COVID-19". Campaigns thru social media and other way of communications have been done at the time of pandemic.