

# Review of: "The Ancient Indian Knowledge System and the Medical Sciences"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review of "The Ancient Indian Knowledge System and the Medical Sciences"

by [Ankita Raikwar](#)

This introductory article of the ancient Indian knowledge system is quite interesting and provokes some observations.

If the aim of the article is to justify the concepts of ancient Indian medical sciences, justification is neither the result nor the purpose of the article. The article is a basic introduction to the process of Health/Illness/Intervention in ancient Indian tradition, and its transition to the global market by the biomedical pharmaceutical industry. The combination of these two perspectives, the traditional and the post-modern, results in some cognitive dissonance for the reader.

Fundamentally, the use of the term "systems" of health and illness would be more accurate if the term "processes of Health/Illness/Intervention" were used. These are process, not systems.

The interesting table of the varieties of fever and their causes would have greatly benefited if the treatments and their effectiveness had been included.

The article is a mix of introduction to ancient Indian knowledge of health and illness and an introduction to the interest of Big Pharma and the biomedical industry in Indian medicinal plants for exploitation on the global market.

The reader would benefit from an analysis of the effects of the pharmaceutical industry on local indigenous practices, beliefs, and continued availability of raw material (herbs and plants) for local healers, or the expropriation of these beliefs and raw materials by the pharmaceutical industry.