Abstract

The emergence of Western biomedicine in the Indian subcontinent began with British settlement in the early 18th century, gradually replacing indigenous medical systems like Ayurveda. Antibiotics became the norm, and the significance of religion in healing diminished. But faith in technology did not deter one's faith in divine intervention. Traditional healing techniques aimed to activate the mind's self-healing properties, whereas biomedical practices overlooked this role. Religion also served as a means for individuals to express their feelings and contribute to healing, acting as a protective shield against illness from a theological perspective. India faces various health challenges, including inadequate medical treatment. Amidst this social situation, studies confirm that reliance on traditional healing practices are still a prevalent practice in many parts of the country. Cultural norms and values influence an individual's choice of healthcare service. A study in the Jhargram district of Paschim Medinipur aims to understand how the Hindu population's faith and healing practices influence and have an impact on their overall health and well-being. The research examines whether religious or spiritual engagement contributes to healing, facilitates mind-body connections, and leads to improvements in health behavior. The study aims to understand the prevalence of traditional healing practices in the contemporary 21st century.

Keywords: Faith, Health, Healing, Hinduism