This thesis presents an analysis of the sociological aspect of the patterns of response to systems of medicine in a township of Gujarat. It is a study in the field of Sociology of Medicine and is intended to supplement the existing knowledge and information on the acceptance pattern of various systems of medicine, the perception of etiology of diseases by lay people. Further, it explores the pattern of network; firstly, the interpersonal links or the reference links influencing the perception of diseases and the acceptance of a system of medicine and its practitioners and secondly, the reference links involved in the establishment of clinic and enlarging clientele for the practitioners.

The study shows that response to systems of medicine and their practitioners is influenced by various factors and that an individual's response to a system of medicine and its practitioners is influenced by those with whom he or she interacts. The thesis thus advances our understanding of people's perception of diseases and highlights the fact that 'health behaviour', if the response can be called so, is not always an individual decision but a result or product of interaction.