5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The summaries of findings of the study are discussed under two groups i.e. from the perspective of Traditional Folk Practitioners and perception of Patients towards Folk Medicine.

5.1.1 Indigenous Knowledge of Folk Medicine among Traditional Folk Practitioners

A) Personal Characteristics of Traditional Folk Practitioners

- 361 Traditional Folk Practitioners are covered in the study comprising of four districts of Hyderabad Karnataka Region, in which 27.15% (N=98) of Traditional Folk Practitioners belong to Bidar District, 32.41% (N=117) belongs to Gulbarga District, 26.59% (N=96) belongs to Raichur District and 13.85% (N=50) belongs to Yadgir District.

- Majority of the Traditional Folk Practitioners covered in study are Male respondents 92%, (N=332), whereas only 8% (N=29) of Traditional Folk Practitioners are Female.

- Nearly half of the Traditional Folk Practitioners of Hyderabad Karnataka Region are in the age group between 51 and 70 (46.82%, N=169) years and 19.4% (N=70) of Traditional Folk Practitioners are above 70 years of age, which implies that the Traditional Folk Practitioners of Hyderabad Karnataka Region are mostly aged people.
Majority of the Traditional Folk Practitioners who provide Folk Medicine to the Society are Illiterates 64%, (N=231), however, only 6.4% (N=23) of Traditional Folk Practitioners possess PUC and 4.7% (N=17) are Graduates.

Most of the Traditional Folk Practitioners dominate in Rural Areas that accounts to 82.8% (N=299) and only 17.2% (N=62) practicing in Urban Area.

Nearly One Third of the Traditional Folk Practitioners are carrying out Medicinal Practices mainly through the Father’s Inheritance (31.3%, N=113) is followed by Grandfathers 24.9% (N=90), Forefathers 20.5% (N=74) and Teacher 18.8% (N=68).

31.6% of Traditional Folk Practitioners charge a nominal fee for the treatment of patients (N=114), whereas 30.5% receive fee at the will of patients (N=110), 12.7% (N=46) don’t charge any fee and 25.2% demand fee to treat patients (N=91).

More than Three Fourth of the TFPs carry on Folk Medicine Practice on part time basis (75.1%, N=271) and rest carry on full time basis (24.9%, N=90).

32.4% (N=117) of Traditional Folk Practitioners have 11 to 20 years of experience treating with their Folk Medicine, whereas 26.3% (N=95) have 21 to 30 years of experience, 16.6% (N=60) have 31 to 40 years of experience, 11.1% (N=40) have 41 to 50 years of experience and 3.6% (N=13) of Traditional Folk Practitioners have more than 50 years of experience in Folk Medicine.

B) Treatment for Various Diseases

Abdominal Disorders include Gastric, Food Poison and Stomach Pain. In the Hyderabad Karnataka Region, a total of 48 Traditional
Folk Practitioners is available for treatment of Abdominal Disorders, in which 47.9% of Traditional Folk Practitioners are found to be specialized in providing treatment for Stomach Pain (N=23), 45.8% are for Gastric (N=22) and 6.3% are for Food Poisoning (N=3).

- In Hyderabad Karnataka Region there are five Traditional Folk Practitioners who provide treatment for AIDS, in which Bidar District has two Traditional Folk Practitioners and Raichur District has three Traditional Folk Practitioners.

- Animal Bites includes Dog Bite, Fox Bite, Rat Bite, Scorpion Sting and Snake Bite. In the Hyderabad Karnataka Region, a total of 151 Traditional Folk Practitioners is available for treatment of Animal Bites, in which 57.0% are found to be specialized in providing treatment for Snake bite (N=86), whereas 20.5% are for Scorpion sting (N=31), 14.6% are for Dog bite (N=22), 3.3% are for Fox bite (N=5), 2.6% are for Rat bite (N=4) and 2.0% are for Wolf bite (N=3). More particularly Traditional Folk Practitioners are dominant in treating the snake bite.

- For treating Asthma, Cough and Heart Disease, a total of 27 TFPs is available in Hyderabad Karnataka Region, in which 77.8% are providing treatment for Asthma (N=21), 18.5% are for Cough (N=5) and 3.7% is for Heart Attack (N=1).

- In the Hyderabad Karnataka Region there are 15 Traditional Folk Practitioners who are specialized in Blood Pressure (BP) and Diabetes, in which 75% are for Diabetes and 25% are for Blood Pressure (BP).

- Total 129 Traditional Folk Practitioners in Hyderabad Karnataka region who deal with treatment for Bone Fractures and Arthritis, in which 50.4% of Traditional Folk Practitioners are specialist in
curing Bone Fractures (N=65), whereas 49.6% of are for Arthritis (N=64).

- Results found that 55.7% (N=34) Traditional Folk Practitioners provide treatment for Scrofula, 27.9% (N=17) for Cancer, 8.2% of Traditional Folk Practitioners provide treatment for Ulcer and Tumor respectively. Thus, a total of 61 Traditional Folk Practitioners is available in Hyderabad Karnataka Region who deals with treatment for Cancer, Scrofula, Ulcer and Tumor diseases.

- In Hyderabad Karnataka Region, there are 18 TFPs found to be specialized in providing treatment for Children Problems, in which 77.8% are specialized for Children Stomach Pain (N=14) and 22.2% are for Children Fever (N=4).

- Total 43 specialized Traditional Folk Practitioners are available for the treatment of Ear Problem, Eye Problem, Nose (Pins) and Dental Care, in which 51.2% are for Dental Care (N=22), whereas 34.9% are for Ear Problem (N=15), 11.6% are for Eye Problem (N=5) and 2.3% is for Nose (N=1).

- In Hyderabad Karnataka Region, a total of 34 Traditional Folk Practitioners is found to be specialized in the treatment of Fever, Cholera-Malaria and Typhoid. Out of which, 58.8% are specialized for Fever (N=20), whereas 23.5% are for Typhoid (N=8) and 17.6% are for Cholera-Malaria (N=6).

- Results found that 14 Traditional Folk Practitioners in Hyderabad Karnataka Region provide folk medicine for the treatment of Gangrene, Leprosy and Vitiligo, among them 57.1% of Traditional Folk Practitioners are specialists in Vitiligo (N=8), 35.7% of Traditional Folk Practitioners for Gangrene (N=5) and only one Traditional Folk Practitioner for Leprosy.
• It is found that, there are 70 Traditional Folk Practitioners who deal with treatment for Body Heat, Cold, Migraine, Headache, Weakness and Thorn Problem. Out of which 30% are specialists in providing treatment for Body Heat (N=21), 22.9% are for Headache (N=16), 8.6% are for Migraine (N=6), 17.1% are for Weakness (N=12), 14.3% are for Thorn Problem (N=10), 7.1% of Traditional Folk Practitioners for Cold (N=5).

• In the Hyderabad Karnataka Region, total 94 Traditional Folk Practitioners who deal with Jaundice are available.

• For Kidney Stone there are 23 Traditional Folk Practitioners available (79.3%), whereas 05 Traditional Folk Practitioners are specialists in treating Hydrocele (17.2%) and 01 (3.4%) is for Hernia treatment. Thus, total 29 TFPs are available who provide treatment for Kidney Stone, Hernia and Hydrocele problem in Hyderabad Karnataka Region.

• Among 96 Traditional Folk Practitioners who deal with treatment for Mania, Paralysis and Epilepsy. 8.3% of Traditional Folk Practitioners are specialist in curing Mania (N=8), 42.7% are for Paralysis (N=41) and 49% are for Epilepsy (N=47).

• In the Hyderabad Karnataka Region results reported that, there are 107 Traditional Folk Practitioners covering Districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur and Yadgir are specialists for the treatment of Piles and Fistula, out of which 94.4% of Traditional Folk Practitioners are specialists in the treatment of Piles (N=101) and 5.6% are for Fistula (N=6).

• In Hyderabad Karnataka Region 48 Traditional Folk Practitioners who deal with Pyoderma are available.

• Total there are 221 Traditional Folk Practitioners who deal with treatment for Female Menses Problem (Menorrhagia, Leucorrhoea...
and Menstrual Pain), Amming Problem, Female Infertility and Male Sterility, Male Impotence and Delivery. 52.5% of Traditional Folk Practitioners are specialists in Female Menses Problem (N=116), 10.4% are for Female Infertility and Male Sterility (N=23), 34.8% are for Male Impotence (N=77), 0.9% are for Amming Problem (N=2) and 1.4% are specialized in Delivery (N=3).

- Skin Diseases include Scabies, Eczema, Vorter, Psoriasis and Rashes. In Hyderabad Karnataka Region there are 90 Traditional Folk Practitioners find to be specialized for Skin Diseases, in which 38.9% are for Eczema (N=35), 33.3% are for Scabies (N=30), 21.1% are for Rashes (N=19), 5.6% are for Psoriasis (N=5) and 1.1% for Vorter (N=1).

- 8 Traditional Folk Practitioners are found to be specialized in providing treatment for Wounds (53.3%), 5 Traditional Folk Practitioners are specialized for Elephantiasis (33.3%) and 2 Traditional Folk Practitioners are for Swelling (13.3%).

### 5.1.2 Perceptions of Patients towards Traditional Folk Practitioners/Folk Medicine

#### A) Personal Characteristics of Patient Respondents

- Total 7220 Patient Respondents were covered in the study, among them 26.3% (N=1896) were from Bidar District, 33.0% (N=2380) were from Gulbarga District, 25.5% (N=1844) were from Raichur District, and 15.2% (N=1100) were from Yadgir District.

- Among 7220 patient respondents covered in the study, 75% of patient respondents were male (N=5416) and the rest female respondents (25%, N=1804).

- Out of 7220 patient respondents, 684 patient respondents were between the age group of 3 months to 10 years (9.5%), whereas 772
were between 11-20 years age group (10.7%), 19.1% were in the age group of 21-30 years (N=1378), 23.9% were in the age group of 31-40 years (N=1725), 24.3% were in the age group of 41-50 years (N=1757) and 904 patient respondents were between 51-60 years (12.5%).

- Most of the patient respondents were from local areas that accounts to 29.3% (N=2112), followed by 28% (N=2024) were within district, 22.1% (N=1592) from other districts and the rest 20.6% (N=1484) were from other states of Karnataka.

- More than two fourth of patient respondents opined that Traditional Folk Practitioners charged very nominal fee (60.9%, N=4396), while 2048 patient respondents indicated that they charge reasonable fee (28.4%), 172 patient respondents indicated that they take at the will of Patients (2.4%) and 604 patients indicated that they charges no fees (8.4%).

- Results found that based on the experiences of successful treatment received by earlier patients, 35.3% of them were motivated to use folk medicine (N=2552), whereas 30.1% of patient respondents use folk medicine through the advice of their relatives (N=2172), followed by friends (20.1%, N=1452) and self (14.5%, N=1044).

- Majority of the patients undergoing folk medicinal treatment have indicated high satisfaction over the treatment provided by Traditional Folk Practitioners (80.6%, N=5820), whereas 14.8% of patient respondents have indicated medium satisfaction (N=1068) and 4.6% of patient respondents have indicated satisfaction (N=332). Among the various diseases, Jaundice (95%) is found to be very common and highly satisfied among patients visiting the Traditional Folk Practitioners in the Hyderabad Karnataka Region.
• The main reasons for preferring folk medicines against Allopathic were mainly because of successful treatment of earlier patients (49.9%, N=3604), then patient respondents have faith in folk medicine (20.4%, N=1476), no side effects (10.9%, N=784), the treatment is affordable reason (10.8%, N=780) and the treatment is economic 8.0%, N=576).

• The problems encountered in using folk medicinal treatment by the patient respondents is found to be slow in process (38.4%, N=2772) and then followed by food restriction (19.4%, N=1404), difficulty in consuming prescribed medicine (15%, N=1084), difficulty in bringing prescribed medicine (6.3%, N=456), medicine preparation mode (13.2%, N=952) and treatment is painful (7.6%, N=552).

B) Patient Respondents by Diseases wise

• 377 Patient respondents were interviewed for Abdominal Disorders, which includes Food Poisoning (5%, N=19), Gastric (52.2%, N=208) and Stomach Pain (39.8%, N=150).

• Total 12 patient respondents were approached for AIDS.

• Among 594 patient respondents were affected with Animal Bites, 59.8% of them were specifically affected with Snake Bite (N=355), 19.2% of them were affected with Scorpion Sting (N=114), 14.1% of them were affected with Dog bite (N=84), 2.9% of them were affected with Fox bite (N=17), 2.4% of them were affected with Rat bite (N=14) and 1.7% of them were affected with Wolf bite (N=10).

• Results found that, 76.5% of patient respondents suffering from Asthma (N=75), 19.4% of patient respondents suffering from Cough (N=19) and 4.1% of patient respondents suffering from Heart Diseases (N=4) were approached.
• Total 72 patient respondents were interviewed for Blood pressure and Diabetes, of which 75% of patient respondents were for Diabetes (N=54) and 25% of patient respondents were for Blood pressure (18).

• It was observed that total 926 patient respondents were affected with Bone Fractures and Arthritis, in which 55.3% of them were for Bone Fractures (N=512) and 44.7% of them were for Arthritis (N=414).

• Results reported that, 54 patient respondents suffering from Cancer (24%), 136 patient respondents suffering from Scrofula (60.4%), 17 patient respondents suffering from Ulcer (7.6%) and 18 patient respondents suffering from Tumor Diseases (8%).

• For the treatment pertaining to Children problems 61 patient respondents were interviewed, in which 73.8% of patient respondents for Children Stomach Pain (N=45) and 26.2% were for Children Fever (N=16).

• Total 146 patient respondents were approached for Ear Problem, Nose, Eye Problem and Dental Care, in which for Ear Problem (33.6%, N=49), for Eye (11.6%, N=17), for Nose Problem (2.1%, N=3) and for Dental Care (52.7%, N=77).

• Treatment for Fever, Cholera-Malaria and Typhoid there were 276 patient respondents were interviewed, 63.4% were for Fever (N=75), whereas 14.9% of were for Cholera-Malaria (N=41) and 21.7% were for Typhoid (N=60).

• Out of 42 patient respondents, 15 patient respondents were affected with Gangrene (35.7%), whereas 24 patient respondents were affected with Vitiligo (57.2%) and 3 patient respondents were affected with Leprosy (7.1%).
• Among 552 Patient respondents were interviewed, 185 patient respondents were for Body Heat (33.5%), 89 were for Headache (16.1%), 85 were for Weakness (15.5%), 72 were for Thorn Problem (13%), 75 were for Migraine (13.6%) and 46 were for Cold (8.3%).

• 1077 patient respondents were interviewed for the treatment of Jaundice.

• Treatment for Kidney Stone, Hydrocele Problem and Hernia there were 143 patient respondents interviewed, 85.3% of patient respondents were for Kidney Stone (N=122), whereas 12.6% were for Hydrocele Problem (N=18) and 2.1% were for Hernia (N=3).

• Among 438 patient respondents, 54.3% of patient respondents were affected with Epilepsy (N=238), whereas 8% of patient respondents were with Mania (N=35) and 37.7% of patient respondents were with Paralysis (N=165).

• For Piles and Fistula 676 patient respondents were interviewed, in which 641 patient respondents were for Piles (94.8%), whereas 35 patient respondents for Fistula(5.2%).

• 144 Patient respondents were interviewed for Pyoderma.

• Among 995 patient respondents suffering from Sexuality, 50.8% patient respondents were from Menses Problem i.e. Menorrhagia, Leucorrhoea and Menstrual Pain (N=505), whereas 1.1% of patient respondents were from Amming Problem (N=11), 3% of Delivery (N=30), 10.4% of patient respondents were Female Infertility and Male Sterility (N=103), 34.8% of patient respondents were from Male Impotence (N=346).
• 282 patient respondents interviewed for Skin Diseases which includes Scabies 97 (34.4%), Eczema 109 (38.7%), Voter5 (1.8%), Psoriasis 18 (6.4%) and Rashes 53 (18.8%).

• For treatment of wounds 58 Patient respondents were interviewed (66.7%), whereas for Elephantiasis 16 Patient respondents were interviewed (18.4%) and for Swelling 13 Patient respondents were interviewed (14.9%). Thus 87 patient respondents were interviewed for Swelling, Elephantiasis and Wounds in Hyderabad Karnataka Region.

5.2 Web Directory of Traditional Folk Practitioners: Hosting on the Web

In the light of the objectives of the study, a web portal providing a directory of Traditional Folk Practitioners of Hyderabad Karnataka Region is designed and is available online @ https://hkfolkmedicine.wordpress.com/. This is a very useful portal to identify and explore to the world of folk medicines and also to know the Traditional Folk Practitioners available for treating various diseases. For the convenience of the society at large, a web directory both district-wise and also disease-wise is provided in a very user menu-driven mode.
5.3 SUGGESTIONS

In view of the findings of the study following suggestions are made:

- **Recognition**

  Many a Traditional Folk Practitioners have not registered by any Government machinery like AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Sidha and Homeopathy). Hence, there is need for value the Indigenous Knowledge of Traditional Folk Practitioners to be recognized by Government (AYUSH) by providing ID/Registration Certification to pursue their health practices for the benefit of society.

**Model No. 1**

**RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL FOLK PRACTITIONERS OF HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION**

**AYUSH CERTIFICATION** - (For safety, security & recognition of Traditional Folk Practitioners)
• **Remuneration**

It is essential to recognize registered Traditional Folk Practitioners of Hyderabad Karnataka Region by providing minimum monthly remuneration for the registered Traditional Folk Practitioners, as this has been already practiced for Folk Artists and Drama Artists in the state.

• **Transport Facility**

Some of the medicinal plants which are required for treating diseases to the patients are not available in Hyderabad Karnataka Region and they are required to frequently visit other parts of states/India. Hence, the KSRTC and Ministry of Railway should provide free or concession pass to travel for registered Traditional Folk Practitioners.

• **Scope for Preservation and Development of Medicinal Plants**

In Hyderabad Karnataka Region, there are very rare medicinal plants which are required for treating severe diseases are available and needs proper preservation, due to the danger of deforestation followed by reduced rainfall, forest fires, and road widening. According to traditional practitioners opinion deforestation is primarily due to expansion of cultivation land, firewood collection and grazing. The Government has to identify the potentiality of medicinal plants by earmarking specified land and supervision in the interest of the society.

• **Marketing / Creating Awareness about Folk Medicine**

AYUSH should take necessary measures to promote and market the value of folk medicine practices to the society through Mass Media, Government Machinery and Online Database etc.
5.4 FUTURE AREAS OF RESEARCH

The areas of research for the incumbent researchers would be:

- Folk Medicine Practices versus Allopathic Practitioners for Selected Diseases: A Comparative Study.

- Preferences of Respondent Patients towards Folk Medicines and Allopathic: An Evaluative Study.

- Traditional Knowledge and Folk Wisdom in other parts of India could also be studied.

- Knowledge Management in Preservation and use of Folk Medicine.
• Design and Development of Online Databases on Folk Practitioners in Regional or National Level.

5.5 CONCLUSION

Traditional Knowledge has always played an important role and will continue to do so in indigenous communities. India has possessed a rich traditional knowledge of ways and means practiced to treat diseases affecting people and it is a country which has been nurturing a tradition of civilization over about 5,000 years. It is clear from the results that Hyderabad Karnataka Region, though considered as backward region, but has very rich traditional folk medicine and popular Traditional Folk Practitioners who are available in this region and who are involved in providing treatment for various diseases.

Investigator’s efforts to document the live examples of treatment procedures for diseases would be a valuable source of information for the future generation and so also the proficiency of the Traditional Folk Practitioners has led to attract the society towards folk medicines against allopathic. There is no centralized database of Traditional Folk Practitioners of Hyderabad Karnataka Region, as they are not registered neither under AYUSH nor any medically recognized certificate and hence calls for recognition of such Traditional Folk Practitioners and who need both financial and moral support. As per the experience of the investigator and his level of satisfaction towards folk medicine by the patient respondents’ calls for proper recognition of Traditional Folk Practitioners in the region for better sustainability and preservation of tacit folk knowledge.