

Blowing Traditional Healer (Mor Paw) : Traditional Healers in Northeastern Thailand (Poster)

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Introduction

Blowing traditional healers (Mor Paw) are traditional healers that function within communities in northeastern Thailand. The blowing method is one type of traditional therapy that is popularly used in co-ordination with other methods. These healers use blowing methods to treat mostly external symptoms or health conditions and these include, skin, eye, mouth, and throat disease, child disease, and injuries caused by accidents.

Objectives

To identify the natural materials used by blowing traditional healer (Mor Paw) to treat health conditions and determine the methods used to prepare these remedies

Methods

In-depth study was conducted among blowing traditional healers to explore their concepts of health care and role as a local health care provider. The treatment includes incantation and blowing, and can also include chewing and blowing herbs, using herbs topically or for ingestion, tattooing and burning.

Results

Blowing traditional healer believe that some disease (eg. burn, snakebite) are caused by poisons with must be moved by blowing to other parts of body before other treatment can be used. The research found over 70 species of medicinal plants, animal parts, and minerals. These raw materials are collected from the local area, cultivated, or purchased from other areas.

Conclusion

Blowing traditional healers usually receive knowledge on blowing treatments from their parents and other experienced blowing traditional healers. When receive the knowledge new initiates must present ("khai") offerings to their teacher on an auspicious day. New healer are often subject to superstitions, for example, they must "test" their new skills or adhere to specific taboos. Consequently, healers often only learn treatment with taboos that they can accept, and this can lead to loss of knowledge of blowing treatments.

Keywords : Blowing traditional healers, ethnomedicine

Selected references

1. Boonmee Phokham, Chayan Picheansoonthon, Prathan Luecha and Vichai Chokevivat, Blowing Traditional Healer (Mor Paw) : Traditional Healers in Northeastern Thailand,
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