

- Virus / Alternative medicine

Traditional meds effective against COVID, claims study

While vaccines are offering protection against COVID-19 and several drugs are being used for its treatment, a study shows that immune-boosting traditional medicines are effective as they have chemical compounds that can contain the pandemic virus.

DT Next · 14 Feb 2022 · 2

A study based on network pharmacology approach to understand the activating mechanism of the immune system by a team of researchers and experts from Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education; Siddha Central Research Institute - Chennai; School of Biosciences & Technology, VIT; and Department of Biotechnology, Sri Ramachandra Faculty of Biomedical Sciences and Technology probed the immune-boosting mechanism by the Kabasura kudineer, Nilavembu kudineer, and JACOM in treating COVID-19.

The Ministry of AYUSH has approved Kabasura kudineer and Nilavembu kudineer as part of the COVID-19 treatment. However, the mechanism of these formulations is not well known. “The plants and phytochemical chemical compounds in the Kabasura kudineer, Nilavembu

kudineer, and JACOM were obtained and the common genes for the COVID-19 infection and the drug targets were identified,” said Dr MS Shree Devi, one of the authors of the study. She said 339 human genes were found to be involved in COVID-19. The biological process, molecular functions, cellular functions, pathways involved in treating COVID-19 against the target proteins were analysed and other studies were performed to identify the most potential targets and significant phytochemical compounds to treat the COVID-19 that are present in these traditional medicines.

Published in Science Direct, the study stated that these plants were found to have phytochemical compounds that have drug-likeness properties and based on their efficacy in treating infectious disease with other RNA viruses or in reducing cytokine storms and other illnesses caused by viruses are identical to SARS-CoV-1 and SARS-CoV-2. Several compounds that play a crucial role in regular immune response function were found and these helped to improve the immune system by preventing or reducing inflammation. Several compounds that play a crucial role in regular immune response function were found to be present in traditional medicines, there by preventing or reducing inflammation