

Abstract

As the medical system of Chinese people, traditional Chinese medicine is the summary of their experience in struggling against diseases in the past thousands of years. To date, the medicine pattern has transformed from biomedicine to biology-psychology-social medicine and the treatment of diseases has developed from mere treatment to Health Promotion combing disease-preventing, health care, treating and rehabilitating. Additionally, in current medical trend of returning to nature, TCM has found increasing favor in people's eyes. However, the difference between western and eastern culture as well as their total different medical system results in the limited understanding of TCM and the doubt about its effect along with a lack of confidence in TCM utilization. Among these, what's most serious is the inadequate knowledge of TCM's economic and technical values, which leads to the confined practice of TCM and incorrect evaluation of its effects and values.

This study is carried out under the guidance of different research methods of document summarizing, expert interviewing, comparative analyzing and case analyzing. Firstly, the writer attempts to have a comparative research on the economic values of TCM and western medicine, which focuses on those countries with different medical system in terms of those listed below--- governments' investment on people's health care, its deployment, the rate of utilization together with the application range, features, economy of Chinese medicine and western medicine. It is safely concluded that TCM has distinguishing features and advantages in that it can provide people with more ways of medical treatment, lower people's health expenditure, lighten the load of the country, society and individuals, spread the covering of health service and play a more effective part in health service. Secondly, by analyzing the effect of TCM on the sectoral economy, its developing tendency and the comprehensive cost and value, it is noticed that the influence of TCM on sectoral economy is not as great as that of western medicine but it's superior to western medicine in scope and developing tendency ; meanwhile, TCM is more likely to keep sustainable development as a result of its closer combination with nature. Thirdly, the writer makes an analysis on the specialties of TCM together with its advantages. some possible or potential clinical diseases which prefer TCM treatment are picked out as a result of consulting documents and experts. And then, after analyzing those typical cases, the specialties and advantages of TCM are clearly defined and its position in human health career has been clarified. From what have been discussed above, it is suggested:

- (1) To establish a new pattern of medical healthcare system
- (2) To further the basic research on TCM
- (3) To strengthen the international cooperation on TCM, especially of governments so as to promote the internationalization of TCM
- (4) To stress the specialties of TCM for its better service for human health career

key words: traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and western medicine (WM)
economic value technical value comparison