

## ABSTRACT

The need to conserve traditional medicine knowledge (TMK) is gaining wider acceptance and continues to be an important area for international implementation and domestic measures. The evolution of traditional medicinal knowledge from an international perspective indicates to distinct influence of the international movement of indigenous people rights, its inclusion in the global health mandate and inclusion of the knowledge and innovations of indigenous/local communities and their participation into decision making. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol provide the foundation for obligations of member countries for conservation, sustainable utilisation and access and equitable sharing of benefits of biological resources. The developments in relation to the CBD, role of organisations such as WHO with respect to traditional medicinal knowledge help ascertain the scope and extent of TMK implementation. The present research analyses the international context of the growth of indigenous rights, the WHO, WTO forum, the CBD and post CBD context. In India, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 caters to the protection of knowledge associated with bioresources. The status and implementation of TMK under the Biological Diversity Act 2002 has been examined from the analysis of the substantive and procedural aspects and implementation by the authorities under the legislation. Questionnaire as well as field surveys were undertaken to select biodiversity boards and communities within the selected states to analyse the measures for implementation of TMK and the challenges. Based on the analysis of the research work a suggestive framework for enhancing traditional medicinal knowledge has been suggested.

*Keywords: Traditional Medicinal Knowledge; Biodiversity legislation, Biological Diversity Act; protection of TMK, Biological resources, Convention on Biological Diversity*