**4) Safety evaluation of traditional medicines in Tanzania.**

**Pharmacology of Traditional Medicine**

**Background**:Tanzania has over 12,000 plant species, fauna and marine resources of medicinal values that have been used in preparation of traditional medicines for diagnosing, preventing, managing or eliminating various diseases including cancers.

Safety, quality and efficacy of traditional medicine in the market has been an issue of concern as 60% of population depends on it.

**Method**: In 2017 the Traditional and Alternative Health Practice Council started evaluating and registering Traditional medicines (*materia medica* category II) based on safety profile as established through analytical processes. Recently twenty-three (23) traditional medicines have been registered in Tanzania, two of them have enough ethno medical information on anticancer activities.

**Analysis**: For traditional medicines to be registered have to go through different process such as plant identification, organoleptic properties, lethal components, heavy metals, pesticides, mycotoxins and microbial contamination screening under appropriate laboratory techniques. Finally, Traditional medicines registration committee approves and if the Council satisfies issue a traditional medicine certificate of registration.

**Results**: The prevalence of contamination on microbiology and mycology analysis based on assessment that was done on May 2019 for 21 products was found as follows; *Staphylococcus spp* (10%), *Escherichia coli* (15%), Total Plate Count Aerobic Bacteria (35%) and fungi/molds (20%) and 48% were approve for registration.

**Conclusion**:Traditional health practitioners have made considerable efforts to improve their practices and products; however, there are some challenges to be addressed including insufficient safety, quality and efficacy, protection of intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge and improving local production area for traditional medicines.

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