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## **The Nature of Indigenous Medicinal systems in the villages of Marailppai and Katsilaimadu**

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According to the researchers a majority of rural forks in Sri Lanka depend on traditional medical systems for their health care benefits. However, these indigenous medical practises have undergone numerous changes in the country due to the popular of western medicinal practice as a result of changes occurred in people's life styles and other matters related to industrialization and globalization. Thus, this research aims to analyse the nature of the origin, changes and the present condition of these medical systems in the villages of Northern Province. This study was conducted in two villages, Marailppai and Katsilaimadu in the Northern Province for two years using qualitative and quantitative research methods. For the quantitative validity of the study, the tools such as observations, interviews and focus group discussions were used while the study was proofed qualitatively using the data collected through annual reports and research articles. The finding of the research revealed that in Marailppai an indigenous medicinal practice was initiated with the arrival of a medical practisonner in 1987. Using Ayurveda and Siddha concepts, he has treated patients in the regions popularly during the internal displacements as well as ethnic conflicts up to 1987. However, this practice is no longer exists at present as it has not been institutionalized and discontinued by the family members. But, a medicinal practice combined with Ayurveda and Siddha concepts continue to exist in Katsilaimadu for generation as it has adapted the new changes in the country's education systems and yet competes with the western medicinal practices of the region.

**Key Words:** Ayurveda, Marailppai, Katsilaimadu, Siddha, western medicine