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PROPOSITIONS

Medicinal, Aromatic and Cosmetic (MAC) Plants for Community Health and Bio-Cultural Diversity Conservation in Bali, Indonesia

by L.N. Leurs

1. The application of the tri hita karana guiding principle as to maintain and restore the ‘Sacred Balance’ between and within the human world (pawongan), the natural world (palemahan) and the spiritual world (parahyangan), to human behaviour expressed in the use, management and conservation of the natural and cultural resources holds the key to safeguarding the bio-cultural diversity of Bali (Agung 2005, *this thesis*).
2. The Balinese community members’ knowledge, beliefs and practices with regard to medicinal, aromatic and cosmetic (MAC) plants are dynamic factors framed within the plural medical system of present-day Bali, preserved through local institutions which are devoted to the sustainable utilisation of the local bio-cultural resources (*this thesis*).
3. In present-day Bali, globalisation and localisation do occur simultaneously, rendering it possible that the local structures can also intervene with the global structures (Pitana 1999, *this thesis*).
4. The implementation of the *Leiden Ethnosystems Approach*, encompassing the historical dimension, the participants view and the field of ethnological study facilitates the comprehensive documentation, analysis and interpretation of the relations and interactions between empirical and cognitive background characteristics and human behaviour in health and conservation in real-life situations (*this thesis*).
5. The knowledge and utilisation of fresh MAC plants for health and healing practices transcends the boundaries of the paradigm of one single medical system.
6. It is essential to incorporate the so-called ‘invisible’ factors, including local beliefs, concepts, and philosophies of nature and the environment in the study of human-environment relationships and interactions because of their determinant role in the utilisation and bio-cultural conservation behaviour.
7. The popularity of the utilisation of fresh MAC plants holds an equal potential enrichment as well as a potential threat to both human health and the environment.
8. The utilisation of the Balinese medical pluralistic configurations supports the vision that: ‘*people chose therapists, not medical systems*’ (Foster 1983).
9. As much as *unity* can reinforce, *uniformity* may disrupt; the key is to find a peaceful balance within a unity of diversity.
10. Each new source of power is as promising as it is scaring; the scaring part lies within the way such power will be controlled. Empowerment of people holds the key to utilise it for the common good.