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**THEME: 20HH- HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING
SUB THEME- ETHNOMEDICINE**

PANEL TITLE:

**ETHNO-MEDICINE: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH AND HEALING,
LOCAL HEALTH CARE PRACTICES, TRIBAL HEALTH**

CONVENER: DR. SIMPUL BEHERA

CO- CONVENER: DR. JAGATBANDHU MOHAPATRA

DISCUSSANT: MR. GHEN KHILLO

ABSTRACT

All medical systems are rooted in the social and cultural environment within which they emerge. Several factors including biological, environmental, cultural, socio-economic, etc., are considered as important determinants of health. An understanding of the indigenous concepts of health and hygiene is necessary because these concepts involve disease, sickness and illness which are basically biological, but are often manifested and determined by socio-cultural circumstances. Experiential learning documented in texts of both ethnomedicine and now in allopathic medicines acknowledge the fact that for effective cure comes when medical interventions accompany psychological support. The psychological support comprises of cultural components. For decades 'modern medicine' ignored this crucial component and often dismissed indigenous medicine systems for being rooted in orthodoxy and witchcraft. It was unfortunate that for nearly a century there was no effort by the health system to build on this traditional understanding. Traditional health providers who are important stakeholders have not been integrated into the health system. It is very important to develop transdisciplinary links, validating traditional health practices and turning research into outreach solutions in primary health care which strengthens the 4th pillar of healthcare system. Keeping in mind the structural problems of bio-medicalization and delegitimization of folk and local health traditions, changing agricultural patterns and uncertainty in access and availability of public health services, the local health and healing traditions are being revived to create an environment of medical pluralism. This gives immediate access to multiple kinds of health care. Choices multiply and patients are free to choose from and not feel dependent on a given system. Revival of local health traditions as a strategy is being undertaken to relocate the power over the community's health within the community itself. They understand their body through their knowledge systems and have better control on agency that decides their life course. It is these aspects of plural healthcare systems that this panel proposes to discuss using expertise of health professional from different specializations.

LIST OF PANELLISTS:

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