

REVIEW ARTICLE

**A BRIEF REVIEW ON THE TURMERIC PATENT CASE WITH ITS
IMPLICATIONS ON THE DOCUMENTATION ON THE DOCUMENTATION
OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

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Abstract: *Turmeric is widely used in India as a medicine, a food ingredient and a dye to name a few of its uses. In 1995, the United States awarded patent on turmeric to University of Mississippi medical centre for wound healing property. The claimed subject matter was the use of turmeric powder for wound healing. The Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had objected to the patent granted. Due to extensive researches, 32 references were located in different languages namely Sanskrit, Urdu and Hindi on the traditional use of turmeric. After a legal battle the patent was revoked, stating that the claims made in the patent were obvious and anticipated, and agreeing that the use of turmeric was an old art of healing wounds. The Traditional Knowledge that belonged to India was safeguarded in Turmeric case. This paper is a brief review on the turmeric patent, the legal battle and final revocation of the patent. Implications of the legal victory in the turmeric patent case and the safeguarding of the traditional knowledge are discussed.*

Keywords: Turmeric, patent, traditional knowledge (TK), traditional medicine.