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Reaction Paper: Western science and traditional knowledge

The article Western science and traditional knowledge was written by Fulzio Mazzochi. It was published by EMBO Rep on the year 2006. The article discussed mainly about the acknowledgement of western science towards the use traditional knowledge. Though traditional science is mainly empirical observations it has showed numerous uses mainly its use towards environmental biodiversity. The article emphasizes the difference between western science and traditional knowledge and that one cannot should not disregard the other because each one is capable of giving viable answers to science.. It states that people should not disregard the use of traditional knowledge since knowledge only makes sense within its own cultural context. It states that the real world is too complex to be understood by solely relying on the use of traditional scientific methods and that people should choose to embrace the openness trait of traditional methods in order to discover out of the world. It finally concludes with an affirmation that no doubt traditional methods will surely improve our understanding of our world.

The article discussed about indigenous people and their use of traditional knowledge which is currently a topic in Science and technology. Traditional knowledge is important to scientific development since before scientific methods where formulated, numerous civilizations relied solely on the use of their traditional knowledge in order to face the world and this has not only helped the indigenous groups but also nature since they firmly believe in the interconnectivity between people and nature. Though there is a difference between western science and traditional knowledge, we should not disregard the use of any of these sciences since both can still be applicable in the real world. Also rather than focusing on one form of science, people should begin appreciating the use of both types in any scientific venture since western science uses scientific methods to give indisputable answers while traditional knowledge gives us the ability to be free in order to understand the world.

In today’s era, still many people tend to look down on traditional knowledge since some of us may have inherited the idea that this type of knowledge is somewhat uncivilized people. But from this article I understood that this is not the case since traditional knowledge follows methods that may let us look at the world in a different way. I also understood that knowledge only makes sense in its own cultural context which means that just because I look at things in a different method does not mean I have a different answer. I think that the article is very well made and informative because it enlightens us about traditional knowledge and removes our preconceived ideas towards the use of the indigenous knowledge.