Abstract

This Bachelor thesis deals with the description of the situation of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Czech Republic. Therefore it is not based on specialised literature only, but primarily on a questionnaire research and personal interviews with therapists of Chinese Medicine. In order to enhance the validity of the study, the research was conducted between four differently interested groups. The sample of respondents was divided into therapists, physicians, clients of Chinese Medicine and patients of Western Medicine. Another important source of information was the media.

The turning point for Chinese Medicine in the Czech Republic is represented in the socio-political revolution in the 1990s. The revolution enabled the development of Chinese Medicine which continues up to the present. This thesis describes the current situation of the field and looks at options for studying Chinese Medicine, public interest in the treatment, and critique from defenders of Western Medicine who wish to preserve and develop only the scientific way of healing.

Despite that globalization destroys the differences between the East and the West, Chinese Medicine developed several thousand years ago is still based on its original principles and philosophy. Therefore understanding the principles is essential for the practice of the medicine. However, the research reveals that it is not just a matter of the therapists themselves, but also of the general public. It is the public who decides whether to support the medicine or not. At the same time, the majority continues in Cartesian-Newtonian tradition on which scientific approach was established. This bachelor thesis therefore takes the diverse cultural perspectives into consideration and shortly explains the main differences between Chinese and Western Medicine.

The thesis briefly compares Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Czech Republic with its situation in other countries of western world where circumstances often vary. The reason is mainly historical. The position of Chinese Medicine is worse in the post-socialist countries, yet the degree of legalization or popularity differs in other countries too.