

## UniFiji Students Receive Top Recognition

The University of Fiji's staff and students' research paper titled "Traditional use of medicinal plants among selected villages in Fiji Islands" was considered as the **Most Outstanding Article** for year 2018 by the Pacific Medical Student Journal.

The paper was written by Mr. Ravneel Chand and Year 3 Bachelor of Science students Shilpa Sohagni Devi, Sheemal Seeristi Kumari, Shayal Santoshni Kumar, Nikhilta Nirvani Goundar, Natasha Narayan and Priyashna Chandra.

The research paper received the honours amongst various research papers in the region. The selection criteria for the Most Outstanding Article included strong focus within the Pacific Island Region, demonstration of strong research skills whether quantitative, qualitative or through systematic review, written quality of the final product, perceived interest to medical students studying in the Pacific region, provision of educational content not commonly delivered in medical schools and perceived interest of presentation of the piece during the annual conference.

Shilpa Devi, one of the co-authors of the research paper described her feelings after receiving the honours.

"Being a co-author for the Most Outstanding paper of 2018 and attending an International Symposium on Interdisciplinary Ocean Science and Sustainable Management, has encouraged me to further my studies in Master of Sciences abroad in the field of Marine Science, as in years to come I want to see myself as a good researcher in terms of publication," she commented.

The research paper focused on a survey that was carried out at villages in Western Division of Fiji. The survey revealed a total of 50 medicinal plant species from 33 different families that hold medicinal properties to a number of common diseases such as cold, diabetes, measles, menstrual cramps, gastritis, measles and dengue.

The University continues to foster and encourage its staff and students towards the area of research and publication.