

## JUSTIFICATION FOR DEEMED-TO-BE-UNIVERSITY

### UNDER 'DE NOVO' CATEGORY

The introduction of Homeopathy as a system of a medicine in India has reached almost two centuries. On account of simplicity of the medicines, easy availability, holistic approach in general and effectiveness of the medicines in particular, homoeopathy celebrates about five decades of its official journey in the Govt. recognitions.

Homoeopathy is the system of medicine incorporated by Hahnemann for the first time in 1796 in Germany. Then within few decades it spread in different countries rapidly overcoming all the obstacles of the prevalent system of medicine and sceptical notions. Many countries adopted homoeopathy as a mode of therapeutics for the population.

India welcomed homoeopathy when in 1938 Johann Martin Honigberger came with the request of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and treated him. Homoeopathy soon become popular among all classes of people for its gentleness of treatment. In the mid of 20<sup>th</sup> century Government of India also recognized homoeopathy officially. It flourished in Bengal at first, and then spread all over India. Mahendra Lal Sircar was the first Allopathic physician of Indian origin who became a homeopathic physician. The people's acceptance towards the homoeopathy resulted in the establishment of The 'Calcutta Homeopathic Medical College', the first homeopathic medical college in India in 1881. Since then many homoeopathic doctors opted homoeopathy as a career and the graph is increasing more and more.

India is considered to be a land of culture and spirituality. The interwoven relationship between homoeopathy and people of the country is a part of it. In many of the spiritual scriptures the principles of homoeopathy are narrated.

'The Law of Similia' i.e. *similia similibus curentur* ("Let like be treated by like") is the main principle on which the whole system of Homoeopathy medicine depends. This law advocates the application of an agent in a condition, which is very much capable of producing the similar effects as already existing in the condition in question. When stronger effect removes the weaker one permanently, the Law of Similia is identified. This law had been existing in Nature and was also identified by Indians in Vedic age.



Hippocrates wrote of curing 'like with like' more than 2,000 years ago but later, it was formally incorporated by Hahnemann. But, the same principle was explained in Bhagavata Purana, which was written by Sage Veda Vyas around 5000 years ago (3100 BCE). In that Sage Narada explains to Vyas

“आमयो यस्च भूतानां जयते येन सुव्रता ।  
तदेव याम्यहम द्रव्यं न पुनती चिकित्सितम् ॥”

Which means the same substance which contributes to a particular malady cannot ordinarily counteract the disease, but when taken in a properly medicated form does cure the ailment.

This principle has also been mentioned by the ancient Indian poet Kavi-Kalidasa in 'Abhijnan Shakuntalam':

“Shrudyate hi pura loke, vishasya visham aushadham”.

Which depicts: “it has been said of old time in the world that poison is the remedy for poison.”

The Sanskrit literatures of Vedic heritage expresses,

“Shamah Shamam Shamayati”

which means the establishment of cure on the basis of similarity. This further extends in Subhashit Sangrah as

‘Ushnam Ushnena Seetalam/Santi’

That is, heat can be tackled by heat to make it cold. The explanations of this Sanskrit shloka establishes that the Law of Similia was known to Indian intellectuals since ancient times.

In different times different important figures recognised homoeopathy as an important part of healing process. Mahatma Gandhi gave the statement, “Homoeopathy cures a greater percentage of cases than any other method of treatment. Homoeopathy is the latest and refined method of treating patients economically and non-violently.” He also described 'yajna' of bhagvad gita with the example of homoeopathy as, “... Without such unavoidable violence, we cannot keep alive the body for its sacred pilgrimage. It is a principle of homoeopathy that the patient should take in the smallest possible quantity the very substance which has caused the disease.”

The first Indian homoeopathic physician was from Bengal called, Dr. Mahendra lal Sircar who was in close association with Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Dr. Sarkar also treated him for



his throat cancer. In a conversation narrated in 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna', Referring to the homoeopathic system of medicine, the Master said to Dr. Sircar, "This treatment of yours is very good." "According to Homoeopathy the physician has to check up the symptoms of the disease with the medical book. It is like western music. The singer follows the score." Dr. Sircar replied.

One of the important disciple of Sri Ramakrishna and an extraordinary Indian sage, Swami Vivekananda once commented, "An allopath comes and treats cholera patients and gives them his medicine. The homoeopath comes and gives his medicines and cures perhaps more than the allopath does because the homoeopath does not disturb the patients but allows the nature to deal with them." Another Indian Sage Sri Aurobindo personally preferred homoeopathy.

Mother Teresa preferred homoeopathic medicine. Mother Teresa told others that she would not do a "physician's prescribing" (that is, she would not treat people with chronic or potentially fatal illnesses) but instead would use homoeopathy in many first aid situations. Mother believed that homoeopathic treatment is indispensable for the poor and distressed people of India in particular, all other countries of the world in general, for its easy approach, effectiveness.

Rabindranath Tagore, a great poet and noble laureate was a great believer of homoeopathy. Once He wrote, "I have long been an ardent believer in the science of homoeopathy, and I feel happy that it has got now a greater hold in India than even in the land of its origin. It is not merely a collection."

The first Hon'ble President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad had great interest in homoeopathy and also appointed Dr. K. G Saxena as the first Honorary Homoeopathic physician to the President. He also thought about the mass application of homoeopathy and said, "I believe Homoeopathy as a system of cure has great scope in a poor country like India and deserves encouragement." The first vice president and second president of India Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan said, "Homoeopathy did not merely seek to cure a disease but treated a disease as a sign of disorder of the whole human organism."

Apart from this, many big personalities recognises and used homoeopathy as a significant portion of their therapies. The millions of people of India accepted homoeopathy not only for its efficacy and safety in treatment but also for the culture inherited in the principles of it.

With the technical advantages during the progressive developmental stage, now the Homoeopathy is in fully developed phase in front of us contributing significantly in the



country's healthcare infrastructure and resulting in increase in confidence and popularity among the patients day by day and also offering a professional career to the young generation of India for their future.

While there is existence of more than two hundred Homoeopathic Medical Colleges across the country, offering under-graduates and post- graduate courses for the students, very recently Ph.D. Courses has been introduced to homoeopathy in another height. The latest data shows that the India is the global leader in homoeopathy.

Among all the institutions, there is only one Central Government Institute i.e. National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH) situated in Kolkata. The Institute was started by the Govt. in 1975 and serving more than 1500 patients per day in out-patient with an integrated In-patient facility. The excellence of education, patient care and research is the basic and unique part. There is a strong need to upgrade the status of NIH by elevating from National Institute to Deemed University which will sovereign its academic activities and establish its position as a global leader of Homoeopathy in coming years.

