

**International Symposium on Homeopathy  
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**Check against delivery!**

**HOMEOPATHY IN INDIA**

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Excellencies  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would first of all like to thank the organisers for inviting me to share India's experience in practice of Homeopathy as an alternative form of medicine that is today widely prevalent in my country. Being myself personally a beneficiary of this form of medicine you can understand I also have this added enthusiasm and a sense of conviction in joining your cause.

Homeopathy in India is having an important role to play in providing low cost, quick, effective and safe solutions to health care problems of the people. It also has a major role in preventive health. It is also regarded as a holistic system which takes care of the mind and body while ensuring a personalised system of treatment.

Homeopathy is known to have been brought to India by travellers and missionaries as early as 1810 and Bengal in eastern India was the first province to constitute a homeopathic state. In 1836-1867 Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, learned about Homoeopathy from a layman, Rajendralal Dutta, popularly known as Babu Rajen Dutta. He had a number of cases to his credit. He cured Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar of asthma and also cured gangrene of the foot of Maharani of Shorapur, and greatly impressed Raja Sir Radhakanta Deb Bahadur of Shorapur. On 16th February 1867, Dr. Sircar apparently wrote an article condemning allopathy titled "On the Supposed Uncertainty in Medical Science and the Relationship between Diseases and Medicine". He was the first man to start a journal on homoeopathy – "India Medical Review" and to attend the first Homoeopathic National Congress conference under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Hering.

Evolution of Homeopathy in independent India went through several stages. In 1954, a Homoeopathic Advisory Committee was formed at the Central Government, which advised the Govt. on all matters pertaining to Homoeopathy including education, research, regulation of practice, pharmacopoeias, drug manufacture, hospitals & dispensaries, etc. A Special postal cancellation on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1955 was also introduced to commemorate Bicentenary celebration of birth anniversary of Dr. Hahnemann, the father of Homoeopathy. There was the formation of Indian Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee in 1962. A Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (CCRIM&H) was formed in 1969.

The Homeopathic Central Council Bill was passed by our Parliament in 1973 and the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy was set up in the year 1978 for promotion and propagation of Homeopathy, spreading and improving education as well as taking up research in Homeopathy. Today we have separate a Department of AYUSH in the Ministry of Health of the Government of India with AYUSH, standing for Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha

and Homeopathy. The Department is responsible for the promotion of all these alternative forms of medicine.

Traditional systems including Homeopathy and the others we have in India are used in treatment of diseases, preventive health care, promoting education and promoting research. We have altogether 186 Homeopathic colleges of which 33 are post graduate colleges, 5836 Homeopathic dispensaries and 230 exclusive district and sub district Homeopathic Missions in the country. Keeping in view the strengths of Homeopathy the Government of India have launched a National Campaign on Mother and Child care through Homeopathy. Under this campaign wide publicity is given about the strengths of Homeopathy. Training of officials and non officials have also been taken up so that public health delivery is improved.

We are also upgrading a good number of Homeopathic institutions as centres of Excellence in the country. Similarly under the Public Health Initiative Scheme of the Department Public Health, programmes through Homeopathy are encouraged.

The Minister of Health of the Union Territory of Delhi Dr. Kiran Walia recently stated that Homeopathy is more than 200 years old and it has shown results in many diseases including Cancer, Arthritis and Skin problems. She also said Homeopathy was good for pregnant women and newborn children. Dr. Kalyan Banerjee another reputed homeopathic physician said Homeopathy works in children and comatose patients so the argument that it has just placebo effect does not stand. He added Homeopathy has wide acceptance. It is cost effective and has no side effects. It is the only system of medicine that has holistic approach and cures the disease completely. We treat cases of organ failure, autism, occupational hazards, viral diseases, cancer, allergies, immunological diseases and hypothyroidism among others.

You will see therefore from all these anecdotal and other reports, the Homeopathic system of medicine has wide and growing acceptance in India and the Government itself has been promoting its spread while at the same time also giving the people other options they wish to pursue.

Thank you.