

Editor Speak

Dear Readers,

IS THE TERMINOLOGIES IN HOMEOPATHY AN IMPEDIMENT TO ITS GROWTH

How far homeopathy is involved in public health programmes? Funding on health care is encouraged by the government agencies on preventive and promotive health rather than the cost intense curative care. Recently there was a discussion on this issue with few renowned health care management experts at Ahmadabad. One gentle man, who is lover of Homeopathy, wanted to know the possible areas where homeopathy could be promoted in public health. Few of us were vocal on the achievements of the Govt of Kerala with Homeopathy on preventive care through REACH, initiatives on pain and palliative care and remarkable achievements in infertility. The success of private sector on agro care, veterinary practice, treatment of residual effects on leprosy cured (?) cases, allergic disorders, constitutional treatment on mal absorption and mal assimilation etc through homeopathy were also intensely debated. This information were very new to those experts, who are associated with health policy in Government, Niti Ayog, Arogya Bharti, Public Health Foundation etc.

Public health is concerned with community health. Protecting them from diseases and promoting the health of communities through education, policy making and research are its objectives. Public health look for an integrated approach by using the knowledge of biology, anthropology, sociology public policy, biostatistics, engineering, education, psychology, medicine and so on.

There is untapped strength in Homeopathy in public health. In spite of enviable growth of biomedicine and investment in R & D, mal absorption and mal assimilation syndromes continue to be a major challenge even in developed countries, Substitution therapies may be doing good but is limited to underdeveloped world(that fit into the terminology of malnutrition). Otherwise, it might be helping only the bio pharma majors. Leprosy eradication programme could make the patients serologically negative, but the disability with contractures, topical ulcer and sensory loss continue to hunt them with social stigmas and untold sufferings. Simple homeopathic remedies are giving solace with cute babies to thousands of couples with oligospemia, fallopian tube issues, PCODs etc. The meat of animals and birds loaded with heavy antibiotics and hormones are said to be the cause for many new diseases. Chemical pesticides and its overuse has become the greatest producer of alarming diseases. There are fragmented success stories of managing such hazards homoeopathically.

Mal- assimilation, infertility, agro care, veterinary homeopathy, treating disability of leprosy are public health issues. Active involvement in addressing these would give leap to the development of Homeopathy. The hurdle observed is that most of the public health experts associated with policies are not aware about the principles, terminologies and approaches in homeopathy that guide the basis of prevention of diseases and promotive care. The terms *Genius epidemicus, constitutional treatment, anti miasmatic approaches* etc which are deep rooted philosophical concepts in the system are unfamiliar to the world outside homeopathy. WHO, UNDP, etc that guide the governments do not recognise these terminologies. Tragically, there are no homeopaths in these bodies. Even in situations when homeopaths are involved in strategic discussions, their efforts to explain such terminologies get into more confusion.

The Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) and *Central Bureau* of *Health Intelligence* (CHIB) are the two major institutions under DGHS, Ministry of Health, Government of India guiding policies on public health. The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) is concerned with strategies on public health and provide training programmes to the doctors in all branches. The Public Health Foundation (NGO), Indian Institute of Public Health etc are focussing on strategising public health. The National Institute of Nutrition, the two institutions under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research **(CSIR)** Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, namely National **Institute** for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Trivandrum and Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore are actively involved on public health issues. There are institutions under ICMR working exclusively on public health. The 216 teaching institutions in homeopathy in India is a unique strength in the system. These institutions should establish connectivity and dialogue with some of the above institutions to make homeopathy broad spectrum and claim the space available in public health.

It may be also be more advantageous to rephrase the terminologies that are less known to outside with contemporary words to mainstream the system in public health programmes more easily.

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