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**Development Of Homoeopathy In India- A Review**

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**Abstract-**

Today we are celebrating the goodness of Homoeopathy, serving to community as a very efficient and reliable mode of treatment for various types of complicated diseases only because of our Indian pioneers who struggled a lot, dedicated their life to survive Homoeopathy in India. The journey of Homoeopathy in India is shrouded in uncertainty. As it is difficult to mention the exact year or date about the starting of homoeopathy in India, the past & existing facts are divided into seven segments to understand clearly about the origin & history of homoeopathy in India.

**Key word:** History, Homoeopathy, CCH, NIH.

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**Introduction-**

The importance of studying 'History of Homoeopathy in India' lies in the very fact that homoeopathy has been surviving successfully for the last 180 years (1839-2019) without any major setback. The year **1796**, is the birth year of Homoeopathy, in the hand of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, of Germany. After that, this new system of medicine had not taken a much time to spread all over the world especially in India. 14 years later, in the year 1810, Homoeopathy came to India. It is very

difficult to say the exact date for starting homoeopathy in India. Before 1852, homoeopathy was practiced only by some amateurs in the Indian civil and military services and also by some other gentlemen in Bengal. Homoeopathic therapeutic practice came to India, when Hahnemann was alive in Paris, as know from a book published in London in 1852.

**The Journey Of Homoeopathy In**

**India:** The origin of Homoeopathy in India is

shrouded in uncertainty. The journey so far is mentioned below chronologically.

### **1. Homoeopathic history in East India especially in Calcutta:**

- Before publication of Organon of Medicine Dr. Samuel Hahnemann had proved about 27 drugs as they were recorded in *Fragmenta de viribus*. A **German physician & geologist** came to India with his officials for some geological investigations in the year 1810. He set up his base in Calcutta, where he distributed homoeopathic medicines free of cost for the treatment of his ailing workers and people of that locality. The German geologist had some knowledge about the homoeopathy and its medicines, mentioned in *Fregmenta*.
- **Dr. Mullen** of the London Missionary Society, known to have distributed homoeopathic medicines freely among the people of Bhowanipore of Calcutta, as at that time Bengal was famous area for homoeopathy.
- **John Martin Honigberger** has learned homoeopathy in Paris in 1835. When he had come to India, the exact date or year was not known. But he practiced homoeopathy for some years in Calcutta up to 1860. He was called famous “*Cholera doctor*”. He was also the physician to court of Lahore.
- **Rajendra Lal Dutta (Father of Indian Homoeopathy)** was popularly known as Babu Rajen Dutta belongs to a scholar family of Bengal and for sometimes he studied in Calcutta Medical College. He

was treated for a chronic disease by an amateur homoeopath in India and cured. Therefore, he developed interest in homoeopathy. Being an ardent believer of homoeopathy, he decided to practice homoeopathy by himself in 1861. Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar in 1863 was treated by Dr. R. L. Dutta for one of his chronic illness and got a marvelous result whereas he was treated by many allopathic doctors beforehand. The king of Sovabazar Rajbari, Raja Sir Radhakanta Deb Bahadur was suffering from gangrene of his feet was treated by Dr. R. L. Dutta with homoeopathic medicine.

### **These two successes played a great role for spreading the homoeopathy in India mostly in Calcutta.**

- **Dr. Mahendralal Sirkar** helped in establishing homoeopathy in India. He has obtained M.D. degree from Calcutta University. Dr. R. L. Dutta had converted Dr. M. L. Sirkar to homoeopathy. He was basically an allopathic physician, but after reading some books on homoeopathy he got interest in the subject. After seeing the efficacy of homoeopathic medicine with Rajen babu, he became a member of homoeopathic society.
- Around 1863 – 1864, **Dr. Berigny**, another French homoeopath came to Calcutta and set up homoeopathic practice.
- **Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar** took his L.M.S. degree from Calcutta Medical College in 1878 and later got the honorary degree of M.D. from USA. Converted to

homoeopathy by his Father-in-law, *Dr. B. L. Bhaduri* he fortified his grasp of Hahnemannian Homoeopathy as the worthy assistant to L. Salzer for a pretty long time. He proved a number of indigenous drugs, and wrote a large number of books in English and Bengali. He edited the Indian Homoeopathic Review, the second oldest homoeopathic journal in India. He attended the Fourth International Congress held in Chicago in June 1891. In 1881 in collaboration with **Dr. D. N. Roy**, Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College was established and maintained till his death.

- At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, another great man **Sri Mahesh Chandra Bhattacharya** with a broad imagination and outlook entered into the field of homoeopathy as a chemist and pharmacist. He used to selling good quality medicines at a very cheap rate and thus making homoeopathic medicines popular among poor people of our country. He also compiled and published a pharmacopoeia in Bengali and English.
- **Dr. B. K. Bose** a son of a Judge was born in India in 1879. The son of a good house soon developed into a riotous rebel against the British occupants. Persecuted by the British as an anarchist, he had to flee to America via France. Then fortunately he was directed to *Dr. James Tyler Kent*, who took him to the Hering Medical College and imparted knowledge of homoeopathy. Here he also had a brief acquaintance with *Sir John Weir* of Royal Homoeopathic

Hospital who was then an out-going student. After this he took his admission into the Kansas City University where he obtained M.D., D.O. degree and then returned to India. In India at first, he started his practice at Calcutta and then shifted to Banaras where he became the family physician of *Shri Motilal Nehru*. Later on, he migrated to Calcutta, where he has been the backbone of the Calcutta Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital.

- **Dr. J. N. Majumdar** belonged to a family, which did pioneering work in introducing homoeopathy in India in the second half of the nineteenth century. His grandfather **Dr. Pratap Chandra Majumdar** was among the first few homoeopaths who started practicing in India around 1870. Dr. J N Majumder was a brilliant student of Calcutta University and did his M.Sc. (Physiology) and M.B. securing first position in both the exams. Soon after his degree, he went to Scotland and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (F.R.C.S.) of Edinburgh. In course of time not only he became a good homoeopath in India but worked relentlessly to acquire official recognition for Homoeopathy from the Government of India.

## 2. Homoeopathic history in South India:

- In 1846, homoeopathic hospitals were started by Surgeon **Samuel Brooking**, a retired medical officer at Tanjore and Paducuta in south India under the patronage of the Rajahs of those states.

- In the golden pages of the history of mankind, **Fr. Muller's** name shines bright, inspiring men of goodwill to works of charity. Father Augustus Muller S J landed in Mangalore, India on 31st Dec. 1878. He brought with him a small chest of homoeopathic medicine from Catellan, a homoeopathic firm in Paris, which he effectively used to treat students, their relatives and common people. In the year 1880, he started a regular dispensary offering free medicines and consultation at Kankanady hills, which was known as "Homoeopathic Poor Dispensary". Fr. Muller did not stop with the dispensary but continued ahead with the establishment of Saint Joseph's Leprosy Hospital & Asylum in 1890. In 1895, Fr. Muller started a General hospital for the poor. The homoeopathic dispensary started by Fr. Muller in 1880, has now taken form of mighty institution offering under graduate and post graduate medical education, training and research in homoeopathy.

**The Govt. of India recognized the humanitarian work rendered by Fr. Muller and awarded him Kaiser-e-Hind in 1907.**

### 3. Homoeopathic history in North India:

- In the year 1867, Banaras Homoeopathic Hospital was established with **Sri Lokenath Maitra**, as physician In-charge. He was a converted homoeopath by *Dr. R. L. Dutta*.
- In Aug. 1869, Homoeopathic Charitable dispensary was opened at Allahabad. **Priyanath Bose**, a layman, but

practicing homoeopathy was put In-charge of this hospital.

- **Dr. Younan** had the good fortune of permanently curing *Pt. Moti Lal Nehru's* Bronchial Asthma by administering him only a single dose of medicine. *Pt. Moti Lal* was so impressed by this miracle that he purchased a library from an American Homoeopath and he studied Homoeopathy and used to prescribe medicine to his relations and friends. After his death, the whole library was donated to Allahabad University.
- **Dr. Diwan Jai Chand** was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1887 in Bhawalpur State (now in West Pakistan) and did his initial medical education at the K.E. Medical College, Lahore. On return from U.K. he joined service with the Punjab Government as Dy. Sanitary Commissioner. He resigned soon after and started a clinic at Lahore in 1915. He soon became converted to Homoeopathy. After independence in 1947, he had to shift to Delhi as a refugee and established his clinic in New Delhi. He was President of the All-India Institute of Homoeopathy, Delhi Branch for some years. He also founded and edited an excellent journal- "Health and Homoeopathy".

### 4. Homoeopathic history in West India:

- In 1870, Maharaja Bahadur of Jaipur called **Dr. G. Salzar** of Calcutta for the treatment of his cataract, which was cured by homoeopathic medicine.

**Thus the Galaxies of homoeopathic physicians were appeared, like Dr. D. N.**

Roy, Dr. B. N. Banerjee, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Kali, Dr. J. N. Majumder, Dr. N. M. Choudhury, Dr. Barid Baran Mukherjee, Dr. Diwan Jai Chand, Dr. S. K. Nug and all others.

### 5. Struggle for Recognition of Homoeopathy in India (Pre & Post Independence):

- In 1943 the West Bengal Government under the leadership of **Mr. Fazlul Haq**, then Chief Minister of Bengal, took up the cause of Homoeopathy and constituted the *first State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine*. However not much effort has been put by the other states.
- The background was rather gloomy and hopeless. The leader of the Congress Party **Shri Bhula Bhai Desai** bluntly told **Dr. K. G. Saxena** that he did not recognize Homoeopathy as a scientific system however with the exception of **Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah** who in favor of homoeopathy.
- With the advent of Central Legislative Assembly's resolution the second logical step was to organize the Homoeopathic professionals into a corporate body through which further efforts to be made to develop the system. To achieve this objective, the **All India Institute of Homoeopathy**, was established in the year 1944 with its central office at Delhi.
- The resolution was discussed for three hours and unanimously adopted as an official resolution on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1948 under first Health Minister of India **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** and Resolution Passed by the Indian

Parliament was approved after a long fought battle.

- The **Homoeopathic Enquiry Committee** was appointed by Government of India to make a survey of the position of Homoeopathic practice in India, to report on the available training facilities and the need to regulate such training in Homoeopathy in relation to medicine and also as to the desirability and mode of State control of the practice of Homoeopathy.
- The committee submitted a report and made recommendations in 1949. In 1952 some action in the form of a Homoeopathy Adhoc Committee and later Homeopathic Advisory Committee came about.
- In 1952, **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** expressed her desire to form a Homoeopathy Adhoc Committee with Director General of Health Services as Chairman, Dr. C. G. Pandit, Secretary, ICMR and Dr. J. N. Majumdar of Calcutta, Dr. L. D. Dhawale of Bombay, Dr. Diwan Jai Chand & Dr. M. Guru Raju as its members.

### 6. Formation of Apex Body for Homoeopathy:

- In 1967 a bill was discussed and the Government decided to constitute a committee of 36 parliamentary members for consideration of establishment of Central Council. *The Central Council of Homoeopathy Act* was made in 1973 and the then Health Minister *Dr. Karan Singh* on behalf of Government of India

constituted the **Central Council of Homoeopathy (C.C.H.)** in December, 1974. As soon as the Central Council was nominated, the Government abolished the **Homoeopathic Advisory Committee.**

- The National Institute of Homoeopathy was established in December, 1975 as an autonomous organization under the *Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India*, registered under the West Bengal Society Registration Act of 1961. This institute was set up with a view to promoting the growth and development of Homoeopathy in the country by producing graduates and post graduates in Homoeopathy
- In 1970, under the advice of **Dr. K. G. Saxena**, the then Hony. Advisor of Homoeopathy, the Central Government decided to form *Central Homoeopathic Research Institute and thus Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy* had been established on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1978 under Society's Registration Act XXI of 1960.

#### **7. Formation of Separate Department for all existing alternative systems of medicine:**

- All the alternative systems of medicine were given a separate identity by creating separate department as **ISM & H** (*The Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy*) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India in

1995 which was renamed as **AYUSH** (*Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy*), in November, 2003.

#### **Conclusion:**

Today, India is one of the important countries to lead this system of medicine in the world. **CCH, NIH, CCRH & AYUSH all together is the depiction for Homoeopathic System of Medicine in India.** At present there are about more than **195** medical colleges of homoeopathy in the country allowed by the Central Council for Homoeopathy including **45** post-graduate colleges to teach & promote Homoeopathic System of Medicine.

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