

Flexibility in curriculum helps in switching specialisation without starting afresh

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QUALITY IN HOMEOPATHY EDUCATION

Please tell me about the prospects in homeopathy? I would like to specialise in this field but my family is not convinced.

Sujatha Keshavan, Pune

From being considered a non-scientific last resort, homeopathy has now emerged as a preferred system of medicine in India as well as in more than 80 other countries. Best homeopathic medicines are manufactured by German and American companies.

Homeopathy offers virtually the same opportunities as the other systems, of approx 1.5 lakh qualified homeopaths in the country, working in government hospitals, recruited by the UPSC. The central government has adopted the Complementary & Alternative Medicine (CAM) system for an integrated approach to achieve health for all by 2020. Among the Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM), Homeopathy is a major stakeholder in the CAM, followed by Ayurveda. Low cost of treatment, easy palatability and minimal side effects have contributed to its popularity. Education costs are also considerably lower.

Besides independent practice, many homeopaths work as medical officers in the central and state government (ESI & CGHI clinics etc). The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has maximised the opportunities for homeopathy graduates to serve as medical officers. An MD in Homeopathy qualifies you for a teaching position. The number of sub-specialties has multiplied (apart from the complimentary and supplementary). If you are research-oriented, there are endless possibilities to consider. You can work as a junior/senior research fellow or assistant research officer, research officer or scientist in research councils and homeopathy colleges.

Veterinary homeopathic medicine is yet another option to consider. The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Rajya

Sabha to replace the Central Council of Homoeopathy with a board of governors to infuse accountability and quality in homeopathy education.