

AIIMS booster for Ayush research, treatment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal:

In a first, AIIMS Bhopal will support and collaborate in research in homoeopathy, ayurveda and Unani. Scientific evidence gathered could well provide answers to age-old question ‘whether treatment is placebo or not’.

“Our aim is science should progress. We are ready to assist in research in any ‘pathy’,” said AIIMS Bhopal director Dr Sarman Singh, speaking at a workshop on basic research and its methodology in the light of ethics, organised by MP Government Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital (GHMCH), in the city on Thursday.

“Let there be scientific evidence and only then we could look at supplementary treatment through Ayush,” said Dr Singh. Experts have often cited success stories are highlighted by Ayush. However, scientific and statistical data is not comprehensive enough to back the claims.

Modern science — alopahy — often dismisses homeopathy, ayurveda, Unani and other system of Indian medicines. There have been various medical papers calling homeopathy a placebo effect. Ayurveda has found it tough to get USFDA approvals. In 2016, US federal trade commission report stated homeopathic remedies in the market are just extremely diluted versions of plant or animal extracts believed to bring relief to symptoms.

However, high-level of government funding in research has tilted the scale in favour of Ayush. “There is a lot of money (in Ayush). We are not shy to explore,” said an AIIMS expert at the workshop, which was attended ayush medical officers, postgraduate and PhD scholars.

Agreeing that science and evidence are lagging, GHMCH principal Dr SK Mishra said, “Once quality of research would be assured by AIIMS. It would create an opening and opportunity to complement and coordinate.”

AIIMS Bhopal faculty would assist GHMCH students and faculty. Quality control, observation and analysis of more than one statistical outcome

variable at a time, single blind and a double blind study along with basics of preparation of research proposal would be carried out.

Competency and quality assurance from AIIMS could mean finding scientific evidence homoeopathic treatment for ailments like urinary tract infection works. “It has been found after switching over to homeopathy drug resistance (to gentamicin) came down,” said GHMCH, nodal officer and consultant research Dr Nishant Nambison.

ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES GET SHOT IN THE ARM

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