

# A survey regarding awareness and beliefs about Homoeopathy among general population during Magh Mela at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Manas Ranjan Sarangi<sup>1\*</sup>, Abhishek Pramanik<sup>1</sup>, Jaya Gupta<sup>1</sup>, Ramesh Prasad<sup>2</sup>, Pramodji Singh<sup>3</sup>, Mahesh Shah<sup>4</sup>, Alok Kumar Upadhyay<sup>2</sup>, Saurabh Jain<sup>3</sup>, Ambresh Pandey<sup>4</sup>, Arvind Kumar<sup>1</sup>, Goutam Rakshit<sup>1</sup>, Anil Khurana<sup>1</sup>, Raj K. Manchanda<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, <sup>2</sup>Clinical Trial Unit (Extn. Unit), Gorakhpur, Haryana, <sup>3</sup>Dr. D. P. Rastogi Central Research Institute (H), Noida, <sup>4</sup>Homoeopathic Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

## Abstract

**Background and Objective:** Homoeopathy is one of the various alternative systems of medicine prevalent in India. A survey was conducted during the month of January–February 2017 in a congregation at Sangam, Allahabad, to know about the awareness of general population about Homoeopathy. **Methods:** A cross-sectional survey was conducted on patients and people visiting the health check-up camp and exhibition stall set-up during Magh Mela at Sangam, Allahabad. A self-administered questionnaire was used during the survey, devised by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy. **Results:** Of 1144 total respondents, 68.1% had knowledge about Homoeopathy. About 46.6% of respondents believed that it has no side effects and 15.1% believed that it is cost-effective. The diseases for which most of the participants have taken homoeopathic treatment were fever, common cold, constipation and diarrhoea. **Conclusion:** General population has knowledge about Homoeopathy, but various misconceptions are also prevalent. Awareness campaigns are needed to make people more aware about Homoeopathy and its effectiveness in various disorders.

**Keywords:** Awareness, Epidemic, Homoeopathy, India, Medicines, Survey

## INTRODUCTION

Health promotion and illness prevention are important strategies for maintaining and improving health. Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and its determinants and thereby improve their health.<sup>[1]</sup> Illness prevention is concerned with avoiding disease and involves health promotion behaviour that prevents disease and improves the overall quality of life. Within Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) system of medicines, Homoeopathy is well recognised. Interest and use of and research into Homoeopathy is on the increase in recent times even in developed countries. According to the Government of India report,<sup>[2]</sup> around 10% of India's population, i.e., more than 100 million people, depend solely on Homoeopathy for their healthcare.

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, participates in Health Melas, AYUSH

cultural programmes, community talks providing health tips, public health lectures and free health check-up/outpatient departments (OPDs) to generate public awareness. One such health mela was conducted during Magh Mela 2017. Magh Mela is an annual gathering of Hindu pilgrims in Prayag, on the banks of Triveni Sangam. This Mela is held every year during the Hindu month of Magh (corresponding from mid-January to mid-February), and the important holy bathing dates are spread over a period of 45 days. A large number of people from across India arrive here annually and stay in makeshift houses or tents at the Sangam, spending the entire month of Magh in prayers. It is estimated that around 30 million people visited the Magh

**\*Address for correspondence:** Dr. Manas Ranjan Sarangi, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, India. E-mail: [drmanas2k@gmail.com](mailto:drmanas2k@gmail.com)

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Mela in 2017. Various arrangements were made by the Centre and State Government agencies for the mass gathering (MG) during this period. The Ministry of AYUSH through its various research councils also participated in the event and made arrangements for health promotion and illness prevention of the general public, through organising health camps and creating awareness by putting up information display stall, distributing information, education and communication material, through interpersonal communication and counselling.

There have been efforts by the government and stakeholders for promoting Homoeopathy. To plan an effective strategy towards this, there is a dire need for information on the utilisation of Homoeopathy by the community. The National surveys of National Health Service (NHS) patients General Practice 1998 and National surveys of NHS patients General Practice 2002 are such efforts to evaluate the health services provided by the government.<sup>[3,4]</sup> There are studies which deal with various aspects of traditional and complementary medicine in India,<sup>[5,6]</sup> but there are very few studies or surveys particularly on awareness of Homoeopathy. This study was undertaken to explore the awareness/trend of general population towards Homoeopathy, their various beliefs, preferences and practices during a MG where people from all over India visit.

## METHODS

A survey on public awareness in Homoeopathy was conducted by CCRH, New Delhi, on patients and visitors attending the OPD/health check-up clinics and CCRH stall set-up during Magh Mela at Triveni Sangam, Allahabad, which was held during January 2017–February 2017. Physicians from different peripheral institutes and units of CCRH were deputed for the same. A self-administered questionnaire was developed by scientists at CCRH Headquarters, which was filled during the fair [Questionnaire 1]. The questionnaire was in English and Hindi and was short and simple having nine questions with appropriate options which took 5–7 min to complete. It included two sections; the first section consisted of individual's personal/social information and the second section contained nine questions regarding individuals' knowledge, attitude and practice of Homoeopathy. The personal/social information included name, age, gender, address, occupation and level of education. The knowledge part consists of three questions about one's awareness, about Homoeopathy and its source of information and about government homoeopathic hospitals/dispensaries and role of Homoeopathy in epidemic conditions. The attitude part included questions regarding conditions in which Homoeopathy is most useful/helpful, why Homoeopathy is preferred from other systems and reasons for not using homoeopathic treatment by an individual. The practice part included questions regarding acceptability/usage of homoeopathic medicine for disease and from where medicine/treatment was taken.

The respondents were informed verbally about the purpose of the study and participation in the study was taken as their

consent. Inclusion criteria for our survey included all patients and visitors of either sex and of any age attending the health check-up clinics and CCRH stall during Magh Mela 2017. The data were checked, cleaned and entered into the computer and were managed on an Excel Spreadsheet. SPSS version 20 (IBM SPSS Statistics) was used for statistical analysis of the data.

## RESULTS

A total of 1144 questionnaires were distributed, and all were filled and returned (participation rate 100%). The survey covered 1144 patients and individuals who visited the health check-up camp and CCRH stall during the fair.

### Demographic data

The mean age of respondents was  $30.5 \pm 13.9$  years; more than half of the individuals were male (937; 81.9%) and the rest were female (207; 18.1%). Majority of the individuals who participated in the survey were mostly from Uttar Pradesh followed by Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and from neighbouring country Nepal. Most of the individuals were educated, among them 439 (38.4%) were graduate, 222 (19.4%) were post-graduate or above, 187 (16.3%) have secondary level of education, 101 (8.8%) were having primary education only, and 70 (6.1%) were illiterate. In the survey, highest percentage of most of the responders were students 43.1%, followed by persons in government services 14.9%, farmers 10.1%, homemakers 8.1%, persons having their own business 7.4% etc., [Table 1].

**Table 1: Demographic data**

	<i>n</i> (%)
Sex	
Male	937 (81.9)
Female	207 (18.1)
Education	
None	70 (6.1)
Primary	101 (8.8)
Matric	125 (10.9)
Secondary	187 (16.3)
Graduate	439 (38.4)
Post-graduate or above	222 (19.4)
Occupation	
Student	493 (43.1)
Government services	170 (14.9)
Farmer	115 (10.1)
Homemakers	93 (8.1)
Business	85 (7.4)
Private job	72 (6.3)
Labour	32 (2.8)
Advocate	24 (2.1)
Shopkeeper	23 (2.0)
Retired	19 (1.6)
Self-employed	15 (1.3)
Doctor	3 (0.3)

### Knowledge about Homoeopathy

Of 1144 responders, 68.1% of people came to know about Homoeopathy from sources such as family 43.4%, friends 32.9%, newspaper 9.0%, electronic media 6.3%, more than one of these sources 1.9% and various other sources 6.5%, while 31.9% do not have any information about Homoeopathy. Among the people who know about Homoeopathy, 44.2% were school/college/graduate students, 16.7% were in government services and 10.0% were farmers, while 41.7% of them were graduates and 22.5% were post-graduate, and interestingly, 3.7% of them were illiterate and 8.1% had primary education [Tables 2 and 3]. Among the respondents who were not aware about Homoeopathy, 40.8% were students, 11% were government servants, 10.1% of respondents were farmers and 9.6% respondents were homemakers.

### Homoeopathy as preferred method of treatment

On enquiring whether Homoeopathy is their preferred method of treatment or not, 49.0% responded negatively while 51.0% positively, and among those using Homoeopathy, highest percentage is of graduate 20.7% and post-graduates 13% based on education criteria and students 21.6%, persons in government services 9.1% etc., based on the occupation of the participants [Tables 4 and 5].

### Homoeopathy in various diseases: Beliefs and knowledge

Among the surveyed population, 21.6% believed that homoeopathic treatment is beneficial in geriatric complaints, while 19.5% believed for chronic illness, 10.1% believed for adolescent problems, 13.8% believed for childhood problems, 6% believed for skin diseases etc., [Figure 1].

It was also noticed from the survey that 52.9% of people know about any Government Homoeopathic Hospital/Dispensary near their residences, while 47.1% have no information about this [Table 6]. Only 52.4% of people knew about the use of homoeopathic medicines as preventive in epidemic disease, of which 21.2% were graduate, 13.2% were post-graduate, 8% had secondary level of education and 4.2% had primary level of education. Twenty-three percentage of students and 9.4% of persons in government services knew about the use of homoeopathic medicines in epidemic diseases. Among the epidemic disease for which homoeopathic treatment is effective, people responded that they know about usefulness of homoeopathic medicines in dengue (15%), influenza (12.3%), chikungunya (8.3%) etc., [Figure 2 and Table 6].

In the survey, 76.3% of persons responded that Homoeopathy is better than other systems of treatment and the reason for that being no side effects 46.6%, cost-effective 15.1%, palatable 5% etc., [Figure 3], and among these population, 32.2% were students, 12.8% were in government services and 8.3% were farmers etc., [Figure 4]. Out of the population that know about the Homoeopathy, 85.1% of people have taken homoeopathic medicines from qualified practitioner. When enquired about reason for not using homoeopathic treatment for their illness, 60% mentioned that they not have proper information about treatment, while 19.8% of people

**Table 2: Occupation**

Occupation	Knowledge about Homoeopathy and Frequency (%)	
	Yes	No
Housewife	58 (7.4)	35 (9.6)
Student	344 (44.2)	149 (40.8)
Government service	130 (16.7)	40 (11.0)
Private job	43 (5.5)	29 (7.9)
Self-employed	11 (1.4)	4 (1.1)
Business	57 (7.3)	28 (7.7)
Doctors	3 (0.4)	0 (0.0)
Advocate	24 (3.1)	0 (0.0)
Farmer	78 (10.0)	37 (10.1)
Shopkeeper	8 (1.0)	15 (4.1)
Labour	11 (1.4)	21 (5.8)
Retired	12 (1.5)	7 (1.9)
Total	779 (100.0)	365 (100)

**Table 3: Level of Education**

Education level	Knowledge about Homoeopathy and Frequency (%)	
	Yes	No
None	29 (3.7)	41 (11.2)
Primary	63 (8.1)	38 (10.4)
Matric	72 (9.2)	53 (14.5)
Secondary	115 (14.8)	72 (19.7)
Graduate	325 (41.7)	114 (31.2)
Post-graduate	175 (22.5)	47 (12.9)
Total	779 (100.0)	365 (100)

**Table 4: Level of Education**

Education level	Homoeopathy is your first line of treatment and Frequency (%)	
	No	Yes
None	12 (1.5)	17 (2.2)
Primary	36 (4.6)	27 (3.5)
Matric	37 (4.8)	35 (4.5)
Secondary	59 (7.6)	56 (7.2)
Graduate	164 (21.1)	161 (20.7)
Post-graduate	74 (9.5)	101 (13.0)
Total 779 (100.0)		

do not use it because of the belief that it is slow in action and 0.1% has mentioned side effects as its main reason [Table 6]. The complaints for which people have taken homoeopathic medicine were fever (32.1%), common cold (15.3%), constipation (11.5%), diarrhoea (3.6%), others (15.6%) etc., [Figure 5].

Overall, in this survey, 779 (68.1%) responders had knowledge about Homoeopathy, whereas 365 (31.9%) had no knowledge about Homoeopathy. Among those, who have responded positively about Homoeopathy, were further assessed for three more variables; those who have *taken* homoeopathic treatment

**Table 5: Occupation**

Occupation	Homoeopathy is your first line of treatment and Frequency (%)	
	No	Yes
Housewife	32 (4.1)	26 (3.3)
Student	176 (22.6)	168 (21.6)
Government service	59 (7.6)	71 (9.1)
Private job	16 (2.1)	27 (3.5)
Self-employed	6 (0.8)	5 (0.6)
Business	25 (3.2)	32 (4.1)
Doctors	0 (0.0)	3 (0.4)
Advocate	16 (2.1)	8 (1.0)
Farmer	35 (4.5)	43 (5.5)
Shopkeeper	5 (0.7)	3 (0.4)
Labour	4 (0.5)	7 (0.9)
Retired	8 (1.0)	4 (0.5)
Total		779 (100.0)

**Table 6: Attitude towards use of Homoeopathy**

Response to question	Response	Percentage
Do you know about Homoeopathy?		
Yes	779	68.1
No	365	31.9
Do you know any government homoeopathic hospital/dispensary near your residence?		
Yes	412	52.9
No	367	47.1
Do you know that homoeopathic medicines were used as preventive in epidemic?		
Yes	408	52.4
No	371	47.6
Do you think that Homoeopathy system is better than other system?		
Yes	594	76.3
No	185	23.7
Whether you have taken homoeopathic medicines/treatment earlier?		
Yes	763	66.7
No	381	33.3
From where you take homoeopathic medicine/treatment?		
From qualified practitioner	643	85.1
By reading books	19	2.5
From unqualified person	7	0.9
Over the counter medicine	84	11.1
Combination	3	0.4
Reason for not using homoeopathic treatment for your illness?		
Not having information about treatment	467	60.0
It is slow in action	154	19.8
It has side effects	1	0.1
Any other reasons	145	18.6
Combination	12	1.5

667 (85.6%) and those who have not taken homoeopathic treatment 112 (14.4%); secondly those who said Homoeopathy

is their first line of treatment 397 (51.0%) and those who said no 382 (49.0%); finally those who believed Homoeopathy system is better than others 594 (76.3%) and those who did not 382 (23.7%).

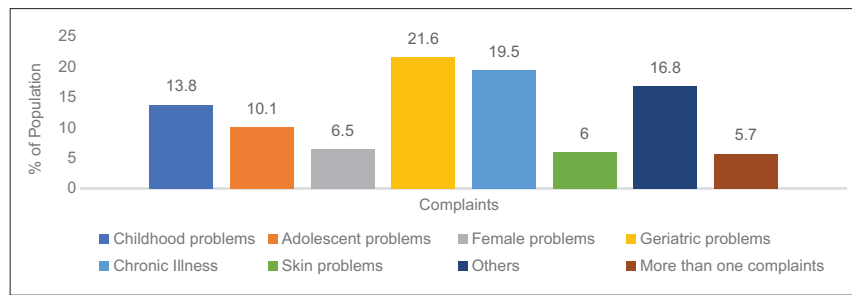
Knowledge about Homoeopathy seems to have correlated with age group ( $\chi^2 = 9.498$  [Yates corrected];  $P = 0.0497$  [Yates corrected]), whereas Homoeopathy as first line of treatment and homoeopathic system as better than other systems had no significant relation with age group ( $\chi^2 = 1.956$  [Yates corrected];  $P = 0.744$  [Yates corrected]) and ( $\chi^2 = 2.732$  [Yates corrected];  $P = 0.604$  [Yates corrected]), respectively.

Knowledge about Homoeopathy seems to be influenced with education ( $\chi^2 = 41.795$  [Yates corrected];  $P = 0.0001$  [Yates corrected]) and occupation ( $\chi^2 = 10.46$  [Yates corrected];  $P = 0.0150$  [Yates corrected]) of the responder, whereas other variables were not influenced by level of education and occupation [Table 7].

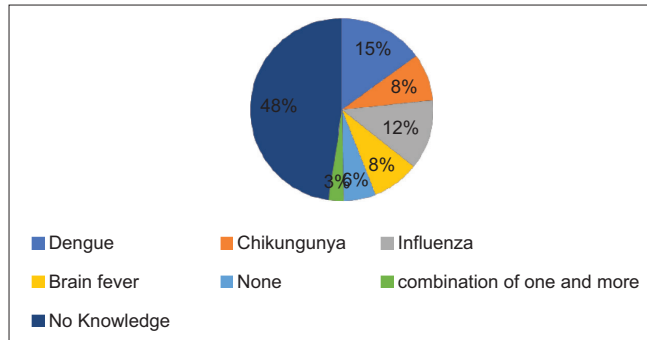
## DISCUSSION

Most of the responders of the survey were males from the age group of 21–40 years and mostly comprised students followed by people in government services. More than half of the responders (i.e., 68.1%) know about Homoeopathy either from their family or from their friends, which corroborates with the result of study, that the influence of family and friends was the most common reason for trying these treatment modalities;<sup>[7]</sup> it came out in our study that around 3% of responders (mainly illiterate) have information about Homoeopathy and used it for their ailments; among the responders who know about Homoeopathy, the highest percentage was that of students 44.2% and most of them were graduates 41.7%, followed by 16.7% of responders in government services who know and had used it at some point in their life. It was observed that majority of the responders (52.9%) know about the availability of homoeopathic treatment in government Hospital/dispensaries near their residence and take treatment from an qualified medical practitioner. Regarding the use in epidemic diseases, 15% of individuals know its use in dengue followed by influenza and chikungunya disease.

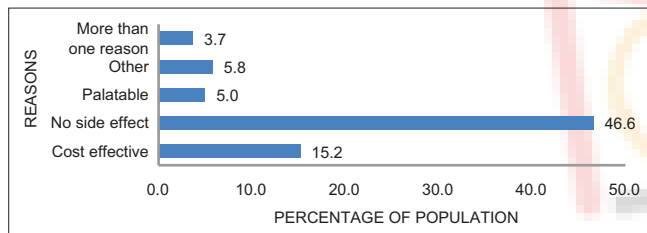
Homoeopathy with other complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is commonly used by the patients for chronic diseases, as shown in a survey where 20% of patients used Homoeopathy for pain management in case of rheumatoid arthritis<sup>[8]</sup> and 11.4% of patients prefer Homoeopathy for serious ailments,<sup>[5]</sup> while in this survey, majority believe that it is useful in complaints related to old age followed by chronic diseases, adolescent problems, childhood problems and skin diseases. More than 70% of population believed that Homoeopathy is better than other systems, reason for that being no side effects, low cost of treatment and easy to take medicines, which corresponds with the study of Singh *et al.*<sup>[5]</sup> The initial homoeopathic consultation and the process of searching for the appropriate medication were confidence-inspiring



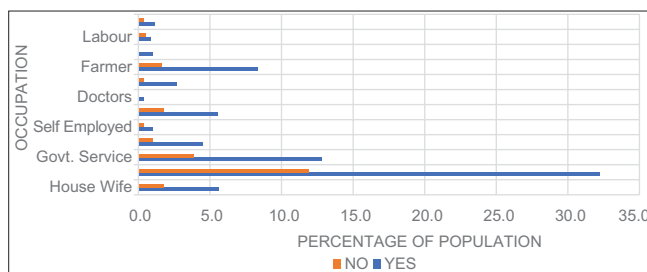
**Figure 1:** Usefulness of Homoeopathy in different complaints: A general view



**Figure 2:** Knowledge about use of Homoeopathy in epidemic diseases in general population



**Figure 3:** Preference of Homoeopathy over other systems – reasons



**Figure 4:** Is Homoeopathy better than other systems of medicine

confirmations of the validity of homoeopathic therapy as seen in the study done by Schmacke *et al.*,<sup>[9]</sup> is also a factor for choosing Homoeopathy which was not observed in our survey. Contrary to the belief in Homoeopathy over other systems, in this survey, only nearly 50% of responders prefer this as their first line of treatment, most of them were being graduates and post-graduates.

The complaints for which most of the surveyed population had taken treatment were fever, common cold, constipation,

diarrhoea etc. Although 18% of females participated in the survey, around 5% of them used Homoeopathy for female-related complaints, which corroborates with other studies that have documented the use of Homoeopathy in women’s reproductive health;<sup>[10,11]</sup> whereas in another study by Shah *et al.*, none of the female respondents consulted Homoeopathy for female-related diseases.<sup>[12]</sup>

In this survey, it was observed that, despite their knowledge and beliefs about Homoeopathy, their attitude towards its use in treatment of their illness is different [Figure 6]. It does not reveal the socioeconomic dimensions of the population. Too much generalisation had been done in respect to the morbid conditions for which homoeopathic medicines had been taken; more specific conditions such as osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis in place of arthritis should have been included in the survey. The use of other CAMs/conventional medicine could have been included in this survey along with the role of private sector/practitioners in this field. At the same time, this survey paves the way to conduct more studies in this direction.

## CONCLUSION

In this survey, it was observed that general population have knowledge about Homoeopathy, but certain myths or misconceptions were also present, and it is also evident that use of homoeopathic treatment is restricted only for common ailments mostly due to lack of awareness of its usefulness in wide range of diseases and disorders. As the survey was done on a small population in a region, it is very difficult to extrapolate about the general awareness and utilisation of Homoeopathy; a nationwide survey is needed to be done to exactly know about the status of awareness about Homoeopathy in general population across the country.

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**Table 7: Variables score**

Variable	Overall (%)	Do you know about Homoeopathy?			Whether you have taken homoeopathic medicines/ treatment earlier?			Whether Homoeopathy is your first line of treatment?			Do you think that Homoeopathy system is better than other systems?		
		Yes	No	P	Yes	No	P	Yes	No	P	Yes	No	P
No. of subjects (% age)	1144 (100)	779 (68.1)	365 (31.9)		667 (85.6)	112 (14.4)		397 (51.0)	382 (49.0)		594 (76.3)	185 (23.7)	
Age (years) <sup>#</sup>	30.5±13.9	30.9±13.8	29.7±14.1	0.165	31.6±13.9	26.7±12.1	0.000	31.5±13.9	30.4±13.7	0.256	31.4±14.1	29.3±12.9	0.057
Age group <sup>#</sup> (years)													
≤20	327 (28.6)	203 (62.1)	124 (37.9)	0.049	159 (78.3)	44 (21.7)	0.006	97 (47.8)	106 (52.2)	0.741	147 (72.4)	56 (27.6)	0.603
21-40	571 (49.9)	409 (71.6)	162 (28.4)		354 (86.6)	55 (13.4)		211 (51.6)	198 (48.4)		312 (76.3)	97 (23.7)	
41-60	199 (17.4)	132 (66.3)	67 (33.7)		122 (92.4)	10 (07.6)		72 (54.5)	60 (45.5)		106 (80.3)	26 (19.7)	
61-80	44 (03.8)	33 (75.0)	11 (25.0)		31 (93.9)	2 (06.1)		15 (45.5)	18 (54.5)		27 (81.8)	6 (18.2)	
>80	3 (00.3)	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)		1 (50.0)	1 (50.0)		2 (100.0)	0 (00.0)		2 (100.0)	0 (00.0)	
Sex													
Male	937 (81.9)	644 (68.7)	293 (31.3)	0.368	549 (85.2)	95 (14.8)	0.606	327 (50.8)	317 (49.2)	0.893	493 (76.6)	151 (23.4)	0.748
Female	207 (18.1)	135 (65.2)	72 (34.8)		118 (87.4)	17 (12.6)		70 (51.9)	65 (48.1)		101 (74.8)	34 (25.2)	
Education													
10 <sup>th</sup> Std or less	296 (25.9)	164 (55.4)	132 (44.6)	0.000	137 (83.5)	27 (16.5)	0.772	79 (48.2)	85 (51.8)	0.631	121 (73.8)	43 (26.2)	0.668
12 <sup>th</sup> Std	187 (16.3)	115 (61.5)	72 (38.5)		99 (86.1)	16 (13.9)		56 (48.7)	59 (51.3)		91 (79.1)	24 (20.9)	
Graduate or above	661 (57.8)	500 (75.6)	161 (24.4)		431 (86.2)	69 (13.8)		262 (52.4)	238 (47.6)		382 (76.4)	118 (23.6)	
Occupation													
Service	242 (21.1)	173 (71.5)	69 (28.5)	0.015	156 (90.2)	17 (09.8)	0.126	98 (56.6)	75 (43.4)	0.348	135 (78.0)	38 (22.0)	0.176
Self employed	265 (23.2)	181 (68.3)	84 (31.7)		158 (87.3)	23 (12.7)		94 (51.9)	87 (48.1)		148 (81.8)	33 (18.2)	
Student	493 (43.1)	344 (69.8)	149 (30.2)		283 (82.3)	61 (17.7)		168 (48.8)	176 (51.2)		251 (73.0)	93 (27.0)	
Others	144 (12.6)	81 (56.3)	63 (43.7)		70 (86.4)	11 (13.6)		37 (45.7)	44 (54.3)		60 (74.1)	21 (25.9)	

<sup>#</sup>Continuous data presented as mean±SD and independent t-test applied; Categorical data presented as n (%) and Chi-square test (Yates corrected) applied. SD: Standard deviation

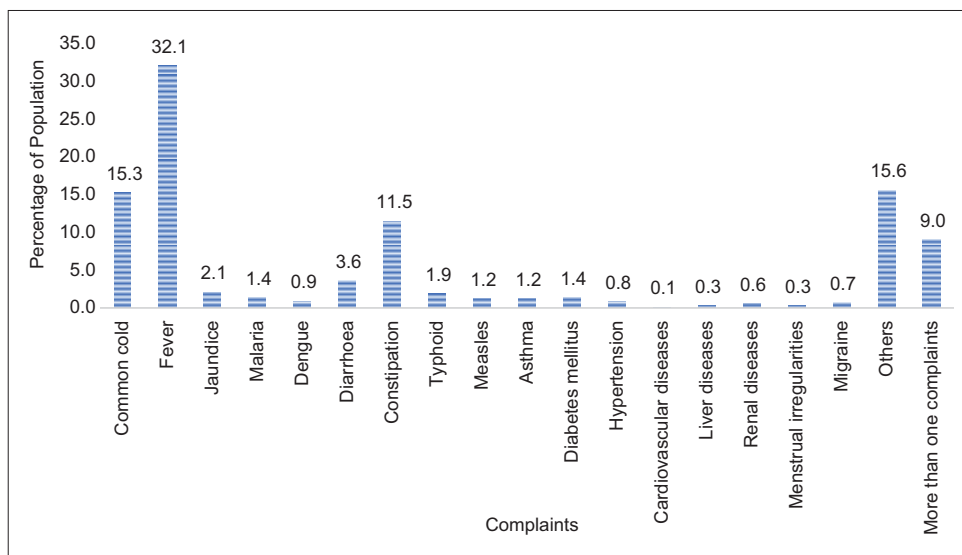


Figure 5: Complaints for which homoeopathic medicines were taken

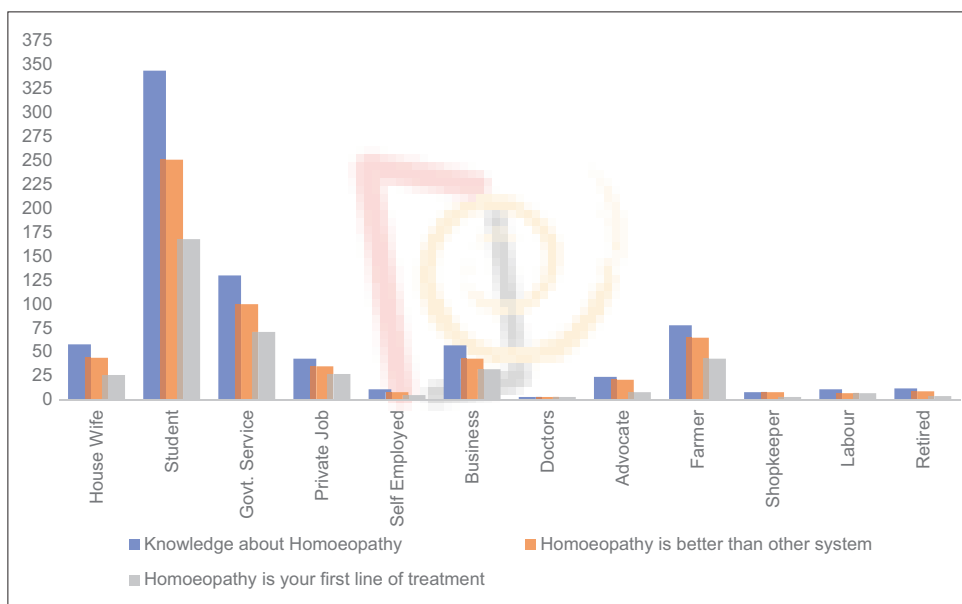


Figure 6: A view on knowledge, belief and attitude of general population about Homoeopathy

### Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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## QUESTIONNAIRE

### Questionnaire 1

**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN HOMOEOPATHY, NEW DELHI**

**SURVEY ON PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HOMOEOPATHY**

**Personal information**

- Name:
- Age:
- Gender:
- Address (full):
- Education – None/Primary/Secondary/Higher Secondary/Graduate/Postgraduate or above
- Occupation:
- Contact:

**QUESTIONNAIRE (Please tick (✓) below)**

1. Do you know about Homoeopathy? Yes  No

Source of information:

- a) Family
- b) Friends
- c) Newspaper
- d) Electronic Media

2. Whether you have taken homoeopathic medicines/treatment earlier? Yes  No

For which complaints:

- a) Common cold
- b) Fever
- c) Jaundice
- d) Malaria
- e) Dengue
- f) Diarrhoea
- g) Constipation
- h) Typhoid
- i) Measles
- j) Asthma
- k) Diabetes mellitus
- l) Hypertension
- m) Cardiovascular diseases
- n) Liver diseases
- o) Renal diseases
- p) Menstrual irregularities
- q) Migraine
- r) Others.....

3. Whether homoeopathy is your first line of treatment? Yes  No

4. In which diseases do you think homoeopathy is most useful?

- a) Childhood problems
- b) Adolescent problems
- c) Female problems
- d) Geriatric problems
- e) Chronic illness
- f) Skin diseases
- g) Others (specify)

5. Do you think that homoeopathic system is better than other systems? Yes  No

If yes, why

- a) Cost effective
- b) No side effect
- c) Palatable
- d) Other

6. From where you take homoeopathic treatment/medicines?

- a) From Qualified Practitioner
- b) By reading books
- c) From Unqualified person
- d) Over the counter medicine

7. Do you know about any Govt. homoeopathic hospital/ dispensary nearby your residence? Yes  No

8. Do you know that homoeopathic medicines were used as preventive in epidemic diseases? Yes  No

If yes, in which epidemic diseases:

- a) Dengue
- b) Chikungunya
- c) Influenza
- d) Brain fever

9. Reasons for not using homoeopathic treatment for your illness?

- a) Not having information about treatment
- b) It is slow in action
- c) It has side effects
- d) Any other reasons .....

.....

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

*Thank you for participating in this survey and taking time to answer this questionnaire*



### **इलाहाबाद, उत्तर प्रदेश, भारत में माघ मेले के दौरान सामान्य लोगों के बीच होम्योपैथी के बारे में जागरूकता और विश्वास पर एक सर्वेक्षण।**

**पृष्ठभूमि और उद्देश्य:** होम्योपैथिक प्रणाली भारत में प्रचलित चिकित्सा की विभिन्न वैकल्पिक प्रणालियों में से एक है। होम्योपैथिक चिकित्सा प्रणाली के संबंध में सामान्य लोगों की जागरूकता के बारे में जानने के लिए संगम, इलाहाबाद में एक समूह में जनवरी – फरवरी 2017 के दौरान एक सर्वेक्षण किया गया।

**विधि:** संगम, इलाहाबाद में माघ मेले के दौरान लगाए गए स्वास्थ्य जांच शिविर और प्रदर्शनी स्टालों पर जाने वाले लोगों पर एक क्रॉस-सेक्शनल सर्वेक्षण किया गया। सीसीआरएच द्वारा तैयार किए गए सर्वेक्षण के दौरान एक स्व-प्रशासित प्रश्नावली का उपयोग किया गया था।

**परिणाम:** 1144 व्यक्तियों में से, 68.1% लोगों को होम्योपैथी के बारे में जानकारी है। 46.6% प्रतिभागियों का मानना है कि इसका कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं है और 15.1% का मानना है कि यह किफायती है। जिन रोगों के लिए अधिकांश प्रतिभागियों ने होम्योपैथिक उपचार लिया था वे हैं—ज्वर, सामान्य सर्दी, कब्ज और दस्त।

**निष्कर्ष:** सामान्य लोगों को होम्योपैथी के बारे में ज्ञान है, लेकिन विभिन्न भ्रांतियां भी प्रचलित हैं। होम्योपैथी और विभिन्न विकारों में इसकी प्रभावशीलता के बारे में लोगों को जागरूक करने के लिए विभिन्न अभियानों की आवश्यकता है।

### **Une enquête sur le niveau de sensibilisation ainsi que sur les croyances en matière d'homéopathie effectuée auprès du grand public pendant le Magh Mela à Allahabad en Uttar Pradesh, Inde.**

**Contexte et objectif :** l'homéopathie est une des médecines alternatives existant en Inde. Une enquête a été menée durant les mois de janvier et février 2017 auprès d'un rassemblement de personnes au Sangam (confluent de plusieurs rivières) à Allahabad pour déterminer le niveau de sensibilisation du grand public en ce qui concerne l'homéopathie.

**Méthodes :** Une enquête transversale a été menée auprès de gens qui se sont rendus aux camps assurant des bilans médicaux et aux stands d'exposition installés lors du Magh Mela au confluent de plusieurs rivières à Allahabad. Un questionnaire autoadministré, conçu par le CCRH, a été utilisé pour effectuer l'enquête.

**Résultats :** Sur un ensemble de 1144 participants, 68,1% connaissaient l'homéopathie. 46,6% pensaient qu'elle ne présentait aucun effet secondaire et 15,1% estimaient qu'elle offrait un bon rapport coût-efficacité. Les maladies pour lesquelles la plupart des participants avaient pris un traitement homéopathique étaient le rhume, la fièvre, la constipation et la diarrhée.

**Conclusion :** Le grand public connaît l'homéopathie, cependant il existe également diverses idées fausses. Des campagnes de sensibilisation sont nécessaires pour que plus de personnes soient informées sur l'homéopathie et son efficacité dans le traitement de diverses maladies.

### **Encuesta sobre la conciencia y las creencias sobre la homeopatía en la población general durante la celebración del Magh Mela en Allahabad, U.P., India.**

**Fundamentos y objetivos:** El sistema homeopático es uno de los diferentes sistemas de medicina alternativa, prevalentes en la India. Durante los meses de enero y febrero de 2017, se efectuó una encuesta en una congregación en Sangam, Allahabad para averiguar el conocimiento de la población general sobre el sistema médico homeopático.

**Métodos:** Se realizó una encuesta transversal a las personas que se visitaban en el campo de chequeo de salud y en los stands feriales durante la celebración del Magh Mela en Sangam, Allahabad. Para la encuesta, se empleó un cuestionario autoadministrado diseñado por el CCRH.

**Resultados:** El 68,1 % de los 1.144 individuos tenía conocimientos sobre la homeopatía. El 46,6% de los participantes creía que no tiene efectos secundarios y el 15,1% estaba convencido de que es rentable. Las enfermedades para las que la mayoría de los participantes se había sometido a un tratamiento homeopático fueron fiebre, resfriado común, estreñimiento y diarrea.

**Conclusiones:** La población general tiene conocimientos sobre la homeopatía, aunque también prevalecen algunos conceptos erróneos. Se precisan diversas campañas para que la gente conozca mejor la homeopatía y su eficacia en diferentes trastornos.

## **Eine Umfrage zu Bewusstsein und Glaube bezüglich der Homöopathie in der Allgemeinbevölkerung während der „MaghMela“ in Allahabad, U. P., Indien.**

**Hintergrund und Zielsetzung:** Die homöopathische Heilkunde ist eines der verschiedenen alternativen medizinischen Systeme, die in Indien praktiziert wird. Im Zeitraum Januar bis Februar 2017 wurde in einer Gemeinde in Sangam, Allahabad, eine Umfrage durchgeführt, um sich über das Bewusstsein der Bevölkerung in Bezug auf die homöopathische Heilkunde zu informieren.

**Methoden:** Es wurde eine Querschnittserhebung mit Personen durchgeführt, die das „Check-up Camp“ und das Ausstellungsstände der „MaghMela“ in Sangam, Allahabad, besucht haben. Bei der Umfrage wurde ein vom CCRH entwickelter Fragebogen verwendet.

**Ergebnisse:** Von 1.144 Personen haben 68,1% Kenntnis über die Homöopathie. 46,6% der Teilnehmer glauben, dass die Homöopathie keine Nebenwirkungen hat, und 15,1% glauben, dass sie kostengünstig ist. Die Krankheiten, bei denen die meisten Teilnehmer homöopathisch behandelt wurden, waren Fieber, Erkältung, Verstopfung und Durchfall.

**Schlussfolgerung:** Die Allgemeinbevölkerung kennt sich mit der Homöopathie aus, es gibt jedoch auch verschiedene Missverständnisse. Es sind weitere Kampagnen erforderlich, um die Menschen auf die Homöopathie und ihre Wirksamkeit bei verschiedenen Erkrankungen aufmerksam zu machen.

### **問卷：在印度北方邦（U.P.）安拉阿巴德（Allahabad）的大壺節期間，對公眾調查有關順勢療法的認識和信念**

**背景和目標：**順勢療法系統是其中一個印度流行的替代醫療系統。2017年1月至2月，在安拉阿巴德（Allahabad）桑加姆（Sangam）的一個集會中進行了一項調查，以了解公眾對順勢療法系統的認識。

**方法：**在安拉阿巴德（Allahabad）桑加姆（Sangam）的大壺節期間，建立的健康檢查站和展覽攤位，對逗留的病人和人們進行了一項橫斷性研究。研究期間，使用了一份由印度政府順勢療法研究中央委員會（CCRH）設計、自行填寫的問卷。

**結果：**在1,144人中，68.1%的人認識順勢療法。46.6%的人認為順勢療法無副作用，15.1%的人認為順勢療法具有成本效益。大多數參與者曾接受順勢療法處理的疾病是發燒、感冒、便秘和腹瀉。

**結論：**公眾對順勢療法有所認識，但普遍有各種誤解。需要開展各種推廣運動，使人們更加了解順勢療法及其對各種疾病的有效性。