

## **ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS IMPARTING HOMOEOPATHIC TRAINING BY CORRESPONDENCE AND FIVE POINT PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE HOMOEOPATHIC SERVICES**

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The news item published under the heading 'Caution Against Fake Institutions' in June 1983 issue of your journal make a dismal reading. To call any institution fake is rather unpleasant. When virulent attack has been launched against certain institution, tongues are likely to wag.

Whether all members of the so-called fake institutions are quacks should be viewed from the perspective that most of them are old-timers, matured, selfless real lovers of Homoeopathy, sincerely dedicated with life-experience and higher academic background whereas, admission to diploma course is given to fresh matriculates or premedical/intermediates. So, the platform is definitely higher in the case of former category. Since the membership of institutions like Grace Medical Mission and their certificates do not lead to direct registration as R.M.P., the members as amateur homoeopaths, are very cautious in prescription so that no accusing finger could be raised. It is, therefore, *not* understood how they all are believed to have dabbled and created problem in the pursuit of their social activities. With experience their sincerity and devotions, the basic knowledge obtained through correspondence courses turn into homoeo. wisdom with the lapse of time. Dr. E. B. Nash, M.D., a believer of higher potency says, "Pathology prescribing often fails, for the choice of the remedy may depend upon symptoms which go to make up the pathology of the case, at least so far as we yet understand pathology." A true homoeopath treats the patient and not the disease and he can do no harm if he can do no good. There are deficiencies and lacking in all spheres except godly acts, but it is *not* correct to broadcast that all members of institutions imparted training through correspondence are below standard and dangerous in the field of homoeo. services.

Now something about the so-called diploma or degree holder qualified homoeopaths. A majority of them use large percentage of allopathic medicines in a vain and frantic bid to provide immediate relief. A case of disbelief in their own pathy. What a sin! Why they forget that homoeo. school of medicine also possesses remedies which provide immediate relief in many acute diseases? Further, what about recovery percentage of these doctors coming out of colleges? A poor one due to immaturity and loss of self confidence. Your journal admits that some of them prescribe unhomoeopathically, i.e. without taking into account totality of symptoms. What a pity! This amounts to misusing degree or diploma. It is also seen that

doctors of long standing in Allopathy, *Ayurveda*, *Unani* and Veterinary are resorting to homoeopathic system of medicine. Are they qualified in this pathy also?

Now something about homoeopathic philosophy. There is no disease but symptoms and medicine should be prescribed in accordance with symptoms. Matured persons from all accounts are better equipped in this regard. A majority of cases with which doctors are confronted at street level (not requiring hospital admissions) are of minor nature. These can be handled easily. Moreover, homoeopathic medicines are normally devoid of side-effects. Some good teachers like Kent have done commendable job by enlightening which medicines, numbering only a few, are dangerous from point of view of potency and frequent indiscriminate use (e.g. Phosphorus and Sepia in very low potency; Acetic acid, Vert. vir. in continued use; Digitalis without relevant symptoms; Ferrum mct. in advanced phthisis etc.). In the circumstances, the students of these pseudo-institutions have a positive role to play provided the drugs of required potency and purity are available from the pharmacists.

In India, more than one lakh doctors practice Homoeopathy. Majority of them are registered medical practitioners. They must have started as a hobby, then received guidance from such institutions, got registration, when it was offered on experience basis. Now this category of doctors are having roaring practice and some rendering free service to humanity. All great men are *not* the products of universities. Glorious examples are Late Rai Bahadur Bishambarnath (author of *Select Your Remedy*) and Shri B. S. Darbari, Advocate (author of *Simplest Remedies For All Diseases*). Such dedicated homoeopaths did not hanker for registration or to addition of the word Dr. before their names, yet they gave such gifts to the homoeopathic profession, which now guide them in prescribing proper medicine.

India is a vast country with majority of population living below poverty line. Allopathic and other systems of medicine are very costly and perennial source of health hazards. The dire needs of the day are to bring home to the minds of the public down to village level about this valuable system, to ensure supply of pure medicines of correct potency in remote villages and continued advancement and research in this system. So, circumstances demand that these institutions should be encouraged so that they could provide preliminary knowledge at least to those who are age-barred but dedicated to do this as a hobby for free social service. The Central Council of Homoeopathy should feel contented and happy that these institutions have spread a network of homoeo. consciousness throughout India which the government or the Council could not have done.

In view of the above discussion, if we aim at establishing the medical science of Homoeopathy in the real perspective, the present stalwarts in the field of Homoeopathy should set aside their personal interests and narrow-mindedness of launching attacks on institutions engaged in imparting

homoeopathic knowledge through correspondence. As a matter of fact, education through correspondence is now accepted as a vital media even for highly technical subjects throughout the world. If we have sincere intentions to promote homoeopathic system of medicine, we should now concentrate on constructive programmes, whereby, we shall be able to go ahead with advancement of knowledge by research, providing pure medicines and qualified pharmacists, improving the present training system by introducing special facilities so that our professionals could stand side by side of those of other systems. The greatest need of the day is that there should be homoeopathic clinics at every village with qualified doctors and pharmacies to supply pure and genuine medicine at least within a radius of ten kilometre. At present to get a homoeopathic remedy, one has to run 30 to 40 km. Our homoeopathic stalwarts of the day, The Central Council of Homoeopathy and State Boards of Homoeopathy, homoeopathic associations and other missions should join hands and convince the Government of India to promote homoeo. services vis-à-vis other services. Five point programme is suggested as under:

*Point one* (Research, development & standardisation): Establishment of an all India institution of homoeopathic science for research, development and standardisation. This institution should be responsible for carrying out research, inventions of new techniques for controlling fatal and chronic diseases and emergency acute cases; introduction of new remedies and supplementing the materia medica and the organon. This institution should also be responsible for training in specialised fields and grant of doctorate degree in Homoeopathy. We should turn out surgeons, gynaecologists, eye specialists and dentists also in due course.

*Point two* (Homoeo. services down to village): Homoeo. services should be included in all government hospitals, dispensaries, health centres down to village block level.

*Point three* (Professional training): The present degree course should include subjects essential for medical services, e.g. surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology etc. The existing diploma courses should be converted to degree course. The diploma holders should be given an opportunity for obtaining degree through a condensed course. In addition a new course of pharmacists in Homoeopathy should be introduced in all colleges so that we have trained pharmacists.

*Point four* (Training through correspondence): The system of Homoeopathy is unique, harmless and effective in the hand of an intelligent. So, training by correspondence should not be ruled out. The institutions now imparting training by correspondence should be encouraged and asked to improve their standards and adopt strictness in examinations. These institutions are a boon to those who are aged for getting admissions in regular colleges and to those who wish to give free services. Those declared qualified by Institutions should be registered as R.M.P. or pharmacist after practical experience. The experience can be gathered in government dispensaries or

with renowned physicians approved by the Central Council of Homoeopathy.

*Point five (Co-ordination and implementation):* The Central Council of Homoeopathy should work as a link between the governments at the Centre and the States for co-ordination and implementation of the four points mentioned above.

The above are just suggestive outlines of a programme that should be launched to remove our present lackings and to put Homoeopathy towards advancement.

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