



Review Article

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HOMOEOPATHY - A THOUGHT OF THE HOUR

Dr. Amit Bikram Basu

Medical Officer, West Bengal Homoeopathic Health Service, Govt of West Bengal

Email id: amitbasu1979@gmail.com

Abstract- Homoeopathy has been always questioned right from its inception. It has been more than 200 years that homoeopathy has been practiced in different countries. There have been many questions about its scientificity but still it has produced some miraculous result, which we get from history. In India it is also being practiced widely and recognized as an official system of medicine. This article puts a light of how homoeopathy can be one of the potential armories to the health care delivery system and be a part of community health.

Key Words- Community health, Genus epidemics, QoL

INTRODUCTION

Homoeopathy has stood the test of time, right from its inception. From Dr Hufeland till date, there has been constant criticism of homoeopathy. Dr Hanhemann promulgated this system, after finding the irrational approach in many aspects about the prevailing system of medicine at that time. In his various articles, like Medicine of Experience, Asclepius in Balance, Friend of Health etc. to his Organon of Medicine, he has tried to convince the

physicians of his era, about the irrational approach of the prevailing system of medicine and the usefulness of homoeopathy. Later on his followers like Dr. Staph, Dr. Ruckert, Dr. Jahr, even Dr. Boenninghausen who were very close to him have tried their level best, to carry forward his legacy. Stalwarts like Dr. Hering, through his writing on 10 volumes of Hering Guiding Symptoms and Dr Kent through his unique thought as reflected in his lectures on Homoeopathic Philosophy have put homoeopathy to such a level, that at the end of 20TH century there was a rush in America, when majority of the physicians from the orthodox system, developed a great curiosity for homoeopathy and even took admission in some of the best homoeopathic schools of that time to learn it. In Europe, particularly England, Dr. Clarke, a little later Dr. Margaret Blackie and even the Royal Family were great patrons of homoeopathy. Besides, there were many other eminent physicians, who had been great ambassadors of homoeopathy.

In United States, if we look back into its history, we will see that the physicians of the orthodox system, openly said that they were not against the homoeopathic philosophy, but rather they were afraid that the increasing popularity of homoeopathy, may decline their practice and they had to even form an association, named as American Medical Association just for opposing homoeopathy¹. The invention of wonder drug penicillin by Alexander Fleming, for the practitioner of the orthodox school, provided a further boon, as they could now combat various acute infections, irrespective of its side effects. A trend developed, among the American people, of going to a specialist, thereby forgetting the man as a whole. They started believing, that it was the specialist, specialized in a particular system can take care of one's complains better, than a homoeopath. Last but not the least, it was the internal politics, lack of perseverance, a gradual disbelief among the homoeopaths themselves that led to the downfall of homoeopathy in America². Like United States, England has also removed homoeopathy very recently, from the National Health Service following a series of baseless studies.

Without going much into the history now, in India, homoeopathy gained its foothold through Dr. Honningbuerger, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Dr P.C. Majumder, upto Dr. B. K. Sarkar, Dr. J. N. Kanjilal, Dr. Gyan Majumder and there were also many more. Homoeopathy has gradually become a part of Indian culture rather than a system of

medicine. At present homoeopathy enjoys a full govt. patronage, but somehow a lacuna has gradually encrypted this system. There have been lacks of able practioners, who can spread homoeopathy to every corners of the society.

The present demand of improvement in Community Health has been no doubt a fertile area for homoeopathy to be worked upon. A thought can be there of giving better MCH care through homoeopathy through practical on- field experience rather than theoretical speculations. Besides it is also known, that Govt. is striving its best to bring homoeopathy in so- called scientific lines, but a very good student of homoeopathy knows, that the application of the law of similia is an art and is not easy to establish this by so called scientific methodology. It is only by more and more practice that one can master this art of application. A young homoeopathic graduate, if perseveres and has the zeal is definitely going to succeed, instead of vacillating here and there with various new ideas. Even at this time, when there has been a dearth of classical practice in homoeopathy, there are physicians who are striving to their utmost, to serve the ailing humanity through homoeopathy.

It is high time, we as homoeopaths should come forward in recent outbreaks of various infectious diseases like, Dengue, Japanese encephalitis etc. And try to prove our efficacy in these conditions too. Let it not be a matter of books only, where our stalwarts have worked in various epidemiological conditions and suggested genus epidemics, as we also need to do the same thing to answer the critics, who call homoeopathy as a placebo therapy. Much of Homoeopathy's nineteenth century popularity may be attributed to its efficacy in treating epidemic diseases. Statistics indicate the death rates in homoeopathic hospitals from epidemic diseases were half to as little as one-eighth of Orthodox medical hospitals¹.

The national immunization schedule in India is gradually increasing. The increase in number of vaccines, whether has got long term bad effects on the infants, is a matter of debate, but whether homoeopathy through its unique philosophy can be another alternative, should be thought upon by the concerned authorities. An initiative by CCRH through its various projects, about the role of homoeopathy in non-communicable diseases is a definite welcome, thereby opening another avenue in community health. In the various

homoeopathic literatures, as in Organon of Medicine, The friend of Health etc there have an endeavor of improving community health , by adopting different positive measures. In the present scenario integration of Homoeopathy along with Yoga in the National Programme for prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDS) through pilot projects in different parts of India along with Swasthya Rakshan programme through 55 identified villages are showing promising prospects³. What we need, is that the research outcome should reach the practicing homoeopaths too, through a simplified linear way, so that positive aspect of the approach through similimum can be felt in every household of India.

In India, at the present scenario government is trying to put homoeopathy, as a complimentary system of medicine, along with the existing mainstream medicine. The postings of Homoeopathic Medical Officers by various state govts and central govt. in various rural as well as in urban areas have opened up an option, to the common people, so that they can also select homoeopathy as a treatment method, for various ailments. The govt. educational institutions are trying their best, so that the best homoeopaths, can be produced who can give better health care to the society through homoeopathy. Though there are lacks of some infrastructural facilities in various peripheral health units, but the govt is trying its utmost to fill up those lackings in order to give a better health care. AYUSH Hospitals are being established in various districts of different states, where people will get both OPD and IPD healthcare through homoeopathy.

Till date homoeopathy is facing criticism, whenever there is a failure in treatment. Whenever a so called modern physician, has a failure in treatment, then the responsibility of fault, solely is implied on the physician and whenever a homoeopath fails, it is the system, which is held responsible for the failure and not the physician's limitation. At the present socio-economic condition, it is the Community Medicine, where Homoeopathy must make its own place, in order to satisfy the present demand of improving the community Health, the QoL of the society.

Homoeopathy can be spread to every corners of the society through govt. patronage only, a proper presentation is the need of the hour, otherwise a fear always peeps, that what

happened in United States or in England should not happen here also. Institutional based studies with proper homoeopathic interpretation should be encouraged in order to answer the critics of so called scientific world. Lastly Homoeopathy is a unique system of medicine and it has got its own individuality and it should not be compared with that of the present modern system as in the words of Dr Kent 'it will always remain a minority but a glorious minority'.

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