

Editorial

Intra–AYUSH Collaboration: The Way toward achieving ‘Health for All’

Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) systems are recognized health care systems in India. These systems have their own philosophy and practices with some similarities. As the traditional systems of medicine are gaining popularity globally, the dissemination of knowledge is required for scientific understanding among physicians/researchers of other systems of medicines and scientists of allied sciences.



It is increasingly understood that no single health care system can fulfill all the health needs of modern society. Evidently, there is a need for a new inclusive and integrated health care regime that should guide health policies and programs in future.

We do need to look beyond the current scenario of providing disease cure only. In the pursuit of complete health, we need to focus on physical, mental, social, and psychological well-being of the individual. The escalating costs of treatment and the side effects of medicines have prompted medical experts to think of widening their horizons to traditional systems of medicine. A focused effort should be made to tap the real potential of AYUSH systems in preventive, promotive, and holistic health care delivery.

The National Population Policy 2000, National Policy on ISM&H 2002, National Health Policy 2002, National Health Policy 2017, and the National Commission on Macroeconomic and Health 2005 of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, emphasized on reorientation and prioritization of research in AYUSH and to validate therapy and drugs for mainstreaming through integration and colocation.

Several scientific studies in and through AYUSH Research Councils have been carried out to generate evidence on feasibility of integration of AYUSH with conventional system of medicine and have demonstrative benefits of this integrative approach in managing noncommunicable diseases, reproductive and child health care, neuromuscular disorder, skin disease, etc.

There is system-wise specificity in treatment approach and certain diseases are better cured by a specific system of medicine. Developing effective interfaces between all the systems of medicine could be an important strategy for promoting pluralism, with more and more collaborative research among all the streams of AYUSH and other systems of medicine. To take forward these objectives, the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences successfully organized a “National Consultative Meet for Intra AYUSH Collaboration.” The meet was organized for assessing the retrospect on core strengths of AYUSH system, formulating a roadmap, and strategies for intra–AYUSH collaboration. In this meet, experts/panelist and other stakeholders from AYUSH systems have made detailed deliberations with suggestions and recommendations on intra–AYUSH collaborations in various aspects. This may pave the way toward true medical pluralism and integration among AYUSH systems of medicine.

Vaidya Kartar Singh Dhiman

Editor-in-Chief

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Director General

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, New Delhi