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EDITORIAL

AN APPEAL TO FORM INDEPENDENT AYUSH MINISTRY IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Vasant Patil¹, Pramod Baragi²

¹Editor-in-Chief, ²Associate editor

Corresponding author email: editor@jahm.in

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Ayurveda, the mother of all systems of medicine, existed from India since thousands of year back. In recent years it is growing globally but the speed of growth is not satisfactory. There are both internal and external factors which are arresting the growth of Ayurveda. Since the post-independence era Ayurveda is treated like step mother by Govt. of India, and also by State Govt.s. The experts quotes that, the total budget of AYUSH is equal to the budget of AIIMS New Delhi alone.

China is becoming the leader in herbal drug market. The Chinese had already started pushing forward their Traditional Chinese Medicinal System (TCM) with tremendous power rather aggressively. Chairman Mao Tse Tung personally took initiative in this and learning of TCM was made compulsory for all doctors who practice any system of medicine in China.

For the development of Ayurveda and other Indian systems of medicine there is need of action plan which should concentrate on the education, practice and research aspects. With this background, in this letter I am briefing the burning problems & solutions for the same.

Need for Independent AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy) Ministry in Central Government:

- In order to make Ayurveda as mainstream system of medicine in India
- Including Ayurveda in National health policy
- To get sufficient budget and Pro-Ayurveda policies
- Improve the AYUSH pharmacies
- The AYUSH systems of medicine will make a substantial share in GDP
- To boost the health tourism, as in Kerala State

Reasons for downfall of AYUSH Growth:

1. Poor policy
2. Poor action plans
3. Insufficient budget
4. Negligence of bureaucrats
5. Failure to make lobbying at WHO level
6. No satisfactory measures to sensitize the AYUSH awareness among the people
7. Ineffective utilization of human and natural resources.
8. Non utilization of National level and State level teaching, training and research institutes.

Solutions for AYUSH Growth:

1. To bring back Ayurveda as the **main stream of medicine system** for meeting the new coming challenges to the human health.
2. Improve the quality of health care by less finance and least side effects around the world.
3. For a longer quality life through a holistic approach.
4. Besides all issues, the most important gain through this global recognition is the considerable increase in the export potential of the Ayurvedic medicines.

A) EDUCATION:

Presently, even though there are nearly 250 + Ayurveda colleges are providing Ayurveda education, research, training and treatment. Among these only 30% colleges are providing good quality education. The reasons for poor quality educations are as follows-

- Poor infrastructure
- Lack of facilities from the Govt. side.
- Lack of interest among the learners
- Lack of adequate training for teachers in teaching and conducting researches.

Solutions

- 1) Uniform practical oriented syllabus all over India.
- 2) AIIMS like Ayurveda facility just at least in one place, later it can be expanded to 4 regions
- 3) Including the Ayurveda education under UGC

B) PRACTICE (HEALTH CARE):

Due to poor quality education , poor practical training and lack of interest, 70% of the graduates of Ayurveda are practicing allopathic system of medicine. No standard practice guidelines are available for the doctors of AYUSH.

Solutions

- 1) Increasing the awareness of Ayurveda and its importance among common people
- 2) Intensive training programs for BAMS doctors
- 3) Creation of jobs for Ayurveda doctors at Govt. & private sectors
- 4) Specialists or consultants who has finished MD (Ayurveda) should be posted in district level hospitals, at least one consultant from Kayachikitsa, Panchakarma, Shalya, Prasooti Tantra, Shalakyas, Balaroga must be there in district Ayurveda hospital.
- 5) Accessibility of high quality medicines even to rural areas
- 6) Equal pay & powers for all system medicine doctor
- 7) Complete Medclaim and Health Insurance for Ayurvedic Hospitals.

C) RESEARCH:

Very few quality research has been done in India due to lack of infrastructure, research skill, and poor policies of Govt.

Solutions

- 1) Establishing NCCAM like research centre in India at least in 4-6 regions
- 2) Research on the natural resources available at north east India, western ghats and Venad (Kerala)
- 3) Formation of Bio-Agro-Ayurveda task force team for identification, protection of plant animal products used for medicines
- 4) Post-harvest centers for preservation of medicine
- 5) Formation of pharma-farmer task force team for better cultivation of genuine Ayurvedic drugs.

D) PHARMA SECTOR:

There are hundreds of pharmacies in India which are preparing AYUSH medicines. There is lack of standardization in the field of production. No standard criteria for the genuine raw drugs, no

uniformity in the percentage of ingredients, no standard in the method of preparation, very few centers to analyze the chemistry of drug, not even standard monographs and manufacturing process to follow. The lack of quality control measures is another crucial factor that keeps away the West from recognizing our medicinal products.

- 1) FDA like agency for improving the quality of AYUSH medicines Strict regulation of AYUSH pharma and related companies
- 2) Updating the API (Ayurvedic Pharmacopeae of India) , AFI (Ayurvedic Formulary of India), TKDL (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library)
- 3) Strict implementation of magic remedies act.

We on behalf of all the Ayurvedic fraternity, request the Central Govt. of India, to form the Independent AYUSH Ministry in Government for the growth and globalization of Ayurveda. In turn this will increase our motto of Swadeshi movement, increases the better job opportunities

in Agriculture, Pharma, Cosmetic sector and Colleges related to AYUSH. This will also help in increasing the GDP of our country. Hope under the new Govt. in the Centre, good days will come for AYUSH.

Please sign the online Petition and Share.
<https://www.change.org/en-IN/petitions/prime-minister-an-appeal-to-form-independent-ayush-ministry-in-central-government>

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Prime_Minister_FORMATION_OF_INDEPENDENT_AYUSH_MINISTRY_IN_CENTRAL_GOVERNMENT/?Day2Share

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