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**Brief Note on  
How Deemed-to-be- University Status  
would further the Aims & Objectives of the  
National Institute of Homeopathy, Kolkata**

**Deserving Upscale process -**

National Institute of Homoeopathy was established on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1975 as an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. Since 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014 it is performing under the aegis of the newly founded Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India and it is popularly known as NIH, Kolkata (Since its inception in 1975 it had started its journey for excellence). In its budding it started functioning in a rented building of 118, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Sarani, Kolkata- 700009 (Marwari Hospital located at Amherst Street, Kolkata) provided by the State Govt. of West Bengal for the National Institute Homoeopathy.

NIH started its aspiring journey with a two years certificate course in Diploma in Homoeopathy, NIH [Dip. (NIH)] in the year 1976. At that time, it was an elite course among the Homoeopathic fraternity as it was aimed for upgrading prospective teachers and would be equated with any PG Surgery (DMS). DMS course had study duration of total five years out of which one year comprised of internship. The Dip.(NIH) course was very successfully run till 1992; producing many stalwarts in the field of homoeopathy, in total thirteen different batches.

In the year June 1985 the Institute shifted from the rented building of to its present campus at GE-Block, Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 16 acres of Land and building with total floor space area of 1,84,578 sq mtr. From the year i.e. 1986 it started offering the B.H.M.S. Degree Course under the affiliation of the Calcutta University. At present it is having 116 seats in B.H.M.S. Degree Course.

In the year 1999-2000 the Institute started its 3 years M.D.(Hom) Postgraduate Degree Course in three disciplines having six seats in each discipline namely Materia Medica, Repertory and Organon of Medicine. In the year 2009-10 it started Postgraduate Degree Course in two more disciplines with three seats each i.e. Practice of Medicine and Paediatrics followed by another Postgraduate Degree course in the year 2010-11 in one more subject with three seats i.e. Homoeopathic Pharmacy. At present NIH Kolkata is offering M.D.(Hom) Postgraduate Degree Course of three years duration in six disciplines with a total admission capacity of 36 seats.

Everything in this universe has a potential for growth which it aspires to attain by performing to the desired level. National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata has the strength and every potential for excellence World Health Organization (WHO) has declared NIH, Kolkata as the *Center for Traditional Medicine in South East Asian Countries* in *Delhi Declaration of 2014* of WHO, for its achievements and contributions both at the national and international levels.

Meaningful existence of NIH, Kolkata, for the last forty-five years, its unconditional health care service delivered to the nation, it's unparallel educational prospective provided to

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the world, and evidence-based research and development strategy is in acute need of another upscaling to the status of a Deemed to be University under De Novo Category). NIH, Kolkata's global recognition, meaningful contribution to the society and robust logic for its independent existence, exceedingly well performance, deserves another upgradation as Deemed to be University. Such an upgradation will be befitting for the larger mandate of the Institute i.e. to lead to a higher learning in Homoeopathy which is being constrained due to lack of academic autonomy. This shall fulfil the aspirations of NIH, Kolkata for serving the suffering humanity and play a vital role in nation building.

The presence of NIH, in Kolkata is quite significant and historic; as Kolkata is the cradle of Homoeopathy. Probably the first homoeopathic physician started his practice in Kolkata. Many eminent stalwarts and practitioners in Homoeopathy in India and abroad had their homoeopathic education in Kolkata.

#### **Strengths of NIH to be declared as Deemed to be University -**

1. **APEX LEARNING CENTRE** - NIH has remained the apex centre for learning and training in Homoeopathy from its inception. It has not only provided high quality Homoeopathic Education and Research but also acted as a role model to be followed by other institutions and colleges of the country.
2. **PAN INDIA & GLOBAL PRESENCE** - As a National Institute in its true sense, students of each and every State of India have studied in this Institute and gone back to improve Homoeopathic education and research in the respective States. Nominees from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Japan, Mauritius, Russia, Ukraine, form a part of the NIH student community. Similarly, many pass-outs of this Institute are working in various countries of the world and contributing to the cause of Homoeopathy and India at a global arena.
3. **SUSTAINED HIGH QUALITY HIGHER LEARNING** - NIH has been providing high quality higher learning in Homoeopathy for the last 44 years which can be inferred from the fact that the alumni of this Institute have adorned the responsibilities of Vice Chancellors, Principals, Directors, Professors, Physicians, Researchers, and Entrepreneurs and so on.
4. **UNMATCHED KNOWLEDGE & SKILL DEVELOPMENT** - NIH imparts knowledge and skills in a manner which is unmatched in the country. This enables its alumni to perform at a different level than their peers. NIH adopts a very unique way of Homoeopathic training wherein current scientific revaluation and thoughts are incorporated and students are encouraged to inculcate neo-scientific thought process without compromising Dr. Hahnemann's core essence of Homoeopathy. This enables the alumni to spread Homoeopathy in its classical form in a globally acceptable way. At the same time NIH believes that knowledge needs to be transformed by skills so as to elicit a desirable applied outcome. Thus, at NIH students are trained in a manner by adding real time





required skills like clinical, teaching, public management, personality management, entrepreneurial skill, pharmaceutical manufacturing, medicinal plants cultivation, etc. These skills enable our products to easily carve their own way to be successful even in non-conventional job works.

5. **UNHINDERED FLOW OF R & D** - Research and Development is a must for progress. For the last 44 years NIH has been engaged in unhindered target-based R & D. It has successfully provided many unique and new health care measures and products based upon the in-house research. The Medicine suggested by NIH for Chikungunya, Dengue, Diabetes mellitus, Common Flu, etc. is used extensively for successful management of these diseases. NIH is also producing 36 MD (Hom) per annum who go on to serve the cause of research in the society. NIH is also engaged in intra-disciplinary research with other systems of medicine, basic sciences, sociology, etc.
6. **EDUCATION POLICY & PLANNING** - The faculty of NIH are the leaders in the education policy and planning both at national and state levels. The faculty contribute to policy forming process of the Government of India and other State Governments as technical experts in almost all the important committees. Its faculty are also experts in the Curriculum framing process of the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), NAAC and NABH, the regulatory body of Homeopathic Education in India. The inputs of faculty are thus sought in all important processes of the Government.
7. **GLOBAL PLACEMENT OF HOMOEOPATHY** - The faculty of NIH are regularly invited or send as delegates to various countries for globalization of Homoeopathy. Our faculties have helped Sri Lanka, South Korea and Malaysia to develop formal Homoeopathic education in those countries. Students from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, etc. come to study here so that Homoeopathic education can be spread there.

#### **HOMOEOPATHY BOTH A CULTURAL HERITAGE & AN EMERGING FIELD**

1. The origin of homoeopathy was by founder Master Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, originally discovered and practiced in Germany and Europe during its primitive phase. Up to the second world war it started propagating to the countries of Asian continent. The incidence of the Pulmonary phthisis of Maharaja Ranjit Singh of province of Punjab and its successful homoeopathic treatment by Dr. Honigberger; one of the ardent followers of Master Hahnemann is the recorded birth of Homoeopathy in India. Thereafter Homoeopathic treatment started gaining momentum in India. Due to its simple principle of treatment based upon the law of nature, very low-cost medicine and that to without any side effects became more popular among the poor people of the country. So, Homoeopathy also enriched the cultural heritage of India.
2. Incidentally Calcutta, the birthplace of NIH saw the growth and potentiality of the homoeopathic medical science. Some of the patrons like Babu Rajendra Lal Dutta, M. L. Sirkar popularized homoeopathic system of medicine in the province of Bengal. It is worth mentioning here that some of the known believers of homoeopathy viz. Eshwar Chandra



Vidyasagar, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Rama Kishna Paramhans, Swami Vivekananda, with whom Kolkata has umbilical attachment have also significantly contributed to this propagation of Homoeopathy. The Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi Jee was a true proponent of homoeopathy in India. They inspired many physicians of other systems to adopt homoeopathic system of medicine for the treatment of their chronic patients. Today after allopathic system of medicine, homoeopathy is the second most preferred mode of treatment among the people of India.

3. In due course the Govt. of India patronized formal education, research and treatment in the field of homoeopathy. Afterwards homoeopathic medical science got the proper momentum and reached to the point where it has reached today. Today homoeopathy has become a household name for all ages. Implication of homoeopathy through mother and child health programmes, general public awareness through Arogya melas has increased its social and cultural acceptance.
4. The beauty of the principle of homoeopathic medical science lies in its simplicity. Simple medicine, single medicine and minimum dose are the basic guiding principles. With its birth from the proving of Cinchona bark till the last medicine proved, the basic principle remained unchanged. And this basic principle of individualized treatment through simple, single medicine and minimum dose, is the true essence of classical homoeopathy for which Master Hahnemann dedicated his entire life, wealth and wisdom.
5. NIH is the torch bearer in the field of homoeopathy in India. It is known that teaching is the only profession that creates all other professions. The global presence of NIH in the field of homoeopathic education is quintessential. Many attempts to undermine the treatment modality of homoeopathic medical science has strengthened its potentiality more and more in nation building. Contemporary ideologies to conduct evidence-based research and development is the key tone of NIH. Dedicated faculty and staff have remained the backbone in its all pursuits be it patient care, education or research.
6. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the current generation of proponents to preserve the ethics of classical homoeopathic practice for their future generations and to promote Homoeopathy.
7. Homoeopathy is a complete and functional way of life following which one can remain healthy. The knowledge and practice of Homoeopathy was formally known to the armature homoeopaths. While homoeopathy has become the past of German medical culture, it has a well marked presence in India. But it is NIH, Kolkata where homoeopathy is practiced religiously and ardently with full dedication and devotion. It has helped crores of Indians to remain healthy and lead a productive life.
8. Thus, logically and deservingly the world looks at the Homoeopathic systems of health care with curiosity and hope, and it helps in achieving the desired health.
9. Homoeopathy is an emerging field in health care. It is a fact that Homoeopathy is a century old system of health care. But the gap in practice and knowledge that came during last few





decades, had pushed Homoeopathy to run behind the time. Thus, the continuous development and enrichment of Homoeopathy was halted and that rendered its practices and understanding to be incomprehensible to the larger population. Homoeopathy has emerged as the need of the time.

#### **HOMOEOPATHY AND NATIONAL STRATEGIC GOAL**

1. Health of the citizens is critical parameter to the development and progress of any country. A diseased population not only leads to reduced effective output but it also puts a huge plunging hole into the economy of the country. Thus, all countries both rich and poor are genuinely worried about the escalating national health budget and trying to bring it down.
2. Homoeopathy is contributing to the minimisation of Indian health budget, though this is not adequately recognized. Adopting Homoeopathy, reduces the health care expenditure and helps in the treatment of many chronic diseases like lifestyle disorders, malignant conditions, autoimmune diseases. Homoeopathy plays a significant role in enhancing the quality of life. All these are reducing the health budget of the country and improving the average work efficiency of the population.
3. The basic doctrine of Homoeopathy says, that death cannot be prevented but sickness can be. And if sickness is reduced and wellness is increased then naturally the health budget of the country will be reduced.

#### **CHALLENGES OF CONVENTIONAL AFFILIATION SYSTEM OF EDUCATION**

1. The ancient nature of Homoeopathy and contemporary research validation process needs a delicate balance so that the global acceptance of Homoeopathy is enhanced without compromising in its original uniqueness. NIH has achieved this objective with a fair degree of success. NIH has been successfully preserving and enhancing the cultural heritage and homoeopathic knowledge strength of India.
2. Any science needs to remain time relevant and this requires continuous innovations in its research, education and training. NIH has been successfully integrating innovations in its pursuits to keep its men and methods highly useful in contemporary era. This Institute adds more in its teaching and training both in terms of content and methodology, to the conventional degree curricula (B.H.MS, M.D.(Hom)/ Ph D.) so that its students acquire more than the rest. At the same time NIH has developed to impart many informal short-term courses for various sections of the interested learners of Homoeopathy, which shall enhance the awareness and practice of Homoeopathy significantly.
3. NIH has many rational ideas in Homoeopathic Education for effective increase in awareness and practice of Homoeopathy for the betterment of the health of the humanity and contributes to the strategic requirement of the country by minimizing the health budget of the country through prevention - preservation - promotion of health. But, owing to the fact that because NIH belongs to the conventional university affiliation



system and lacks academic autonomy it has not been able to perform to its true potential in the field of Homoeopathic Education and Training. If NIH is granted academic autonomy, it will be able to achieve much more than it currently does in terms of enrichment of cultural heritage and Homoeopathic knowledge system. Such an autonomy will also pave the path for NIH to effectively and more meaningfully contribute to the strategic needs of the country by improving the health status of the population.

Therefore, we believe that NIH has all the requisites to be given the 'Deemed to be University' status in De Novo category in order to enable it to fly its wings for spreading the colors of Homeopathy throughout the globe. By obtaining the Status, the Institute will be able to join hand-to-hand with the Govt. of India in its initiatives of globalization of Homoeopathy as many countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America etc. are showing great interest in adopting Homoeopathy as one of their medical care systems. This will also help NIH in better preservation of Indian Traditional Knowledge Heritage and contribute more meaningfully to the strategic health goals of the nation.

