

Dear Readers,

Homeopathy being offered as a cost effective treatment option by Government and other agencies promoting homeopathy. Is there really a right argument to promote a medical system? Some homeopaths didn't agree with this saying that it's not a cheap option. Many homeopaths charge high and one should, as they put in a lot of effort and expertise to find the remedy. I looked into what has been said and done on it and came to find few facts. Some studies have been done which compare the cost effectiveness of homeopathy and conventional medicine.

A German study involving 493 patients seen in general practice found that treatment by homeopathy gave better outcomes than conventional medicine for similar costs. This study was published by a German health insurance company in 2005 to see if they should continue to cover homeopathic treatment. The outcomes and costs of homeopathic and conventional treatment were compared in patients being treated for chronic conditions commonly seen in general practice. The study was non-randomised and therefore not given much importance to. As per a study by WHO, the epidemiological burden of chronic diseases and their risk factors is increasing worldwide, especially in low and middle income countries where chronic diseases have been assumed to be less common. Projections indicate that 35 million of the 58 million worldwide expected deaths in 2005 were due to chronic, non-communicable diseases. A projected 388 million people will die of chronic disease in the next ten years. The majority of these deaths will occur in the most productive age groups; 80% of the deaths will be in low and middle income countries. Diseases in general, particularly chronic diseases, deprive individuals of their health and productive potential. The burden of chronic diseases may invariably challenge individual

or household income and savings, and compete with investment activities. From countries' perspective, chronic diseases reduce life expectancy and ultimately economic productivity, thus depleting the quality and quantity of countries' labour force. Homeopathy has a great option to offer to decrease this load on human health by offering a cheaper treatment option to public. This is one point which should be promoted to Government and stakeholders. And whatever be the cost of consultation, medicine, etc. for a homeopathic treatment it will come lesser than conventional medicines due to less involvement of expensive medicines and also because the treatment results can be equal or many times better than conventional medicines therefore the overall financial load decreases and the quality of life increases. Homeopathy should be promoted to be used at grass root levels also. Places where only primary care is available as a line of treatment homeopathy should also be made available as many diseases can be taken care of at that level by the homeopathy and there would be lesser need of secondary care referrals thus decreasing the burden for health care. Homeopaths will also have to assure that when given such responsibilities they are able to tackle these conditions. Nobody but we homeopaths have to make ourselves well equipped for handling such responsibilities and then put such proposals across to Government by setting examples of being able to do that. So in today's world we first need to prove by evidences that homeopathy is a equally good medical system as far as results of treatment are concerned and is more cost effective as compared to conventional medicine. This is one of the ways we can bring homeopathy up and at a better level of acceptance in today's world.

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Note: *The Homoeopathic Heritage* is now a peer reviewed journal since January 2013. All the articles are peer reviewed by the in-house editorial team and selected articles from each issue are sent for peer review by an external board of reviewers and those articles are distinctly marked with a stamp of 'peer reviewed'. For inclusion of articles in peer review section, kindly send your articles 3-4 months in advance of the said month.

Unbolt Yourself

Month	Topics	Last Date of Submission
May 2014	Infections and Homeopathy	March 20, 2014
June 2014	Syphilitic Miasm	April 20, 2014
July 2014	Psychosomatic Disorders	May 20, 2014
August 2014	Homeopathy for Endocrine Disorders	June 20, 2014