

Dear Readers,

Special children is one area where developing countries like ours need more awareness as lack of knowledge about this state leads to poor or no development of the child and also causes detrimental effect on the parents and related family members. Today, in India, the stigma attached with having a child with special needs is the biggest hurdle in our society for development of this group of children who can prove to be a wealth of our country if tapped rightly. Children need attention and care like a plant needs sun and water; and children with special needs need much more consideration.

Lack of awareness and aid from the authorities usually makes the parents feel left out and helpless. There is a need to bring in more help from the Government sector, which can happen if there is attention brought to the fact that this is one area which needs consideration and funding. This can be done by stakeholders and executive people working in Government sector. Help is needed for children, parents and family coping with the stress of having a special child. They need to be brought to a level where there is acceptance of this fact being a normal aspect and that it's something that can be managed very well. There needs to be awareness that such children can also be made independent if they are brought up rightly and under special educators. Homeopathy also has scope for helping the special children where homeopathic remedies can show improvement in overall development of the child

and his/er growth as an individual. There are doctors doing evidence based work on this subject though limited data is available of what results are being drawn. Many doctors claim to have similar cases, but to authenticate the work and for documentation and to convince more people and rather Government, to choose homeopathy as one of additional line of management for this group of children we need more evidence. Substantial and evidence based work in this field is being by Dr Praful Barvalia in Mumbai, India who has an institute which works especially for children with neurological and orthopaedic problems and has documented results. They are adopting a multidisciplinary approach for such cases. We are having a paper from Dr Barvalia in this issue, which has two cases with detailed information of line of treatment and follow ups. If homeopaths are treating such children, role of other disciplines like physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, pediatricians and counseling can also be kept in loop for treatment of such children so that they get the best treatment possible and we also recognise the role of other disciplines. Today when we talk of homeopathy to become a part of the main line treatment, we also need to include and recognise other disciplines for the benefits they can bring in for betterment of health of different sections of society.

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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.

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