



Dear Readers,

At the 257 years of Birth anniversary of Dr Hahnemann with so many ups and downs which homeopathy has seen from Hufeland's remark to Lancet report there have been times when the very existence of the science has been questioned. In this year, comes a good news in the form of a detailed study report by Swiss Health Authority which is considered as one of the unprejudiced authorities and this makes the report much reliable.

The report, published under the title "Homeopathy in Europe - Effectiveness, Appropriateness, Safety, Costs", commissioned by the Swiss health authorities has brought a positive news for homeopathy. The study (HTA - Health Technology Assessment report) has been done to evaluate the inclusion of homeopathy in the list of services covered by statutory health insurance. Previous studies carried out as part of the Swiss Complementary Medicine Evaluation Programme (PEK) had caused a massive stir due to their negative outcomes for homeopathy. The present report offers a differentiated evaluation of the practice of homeopathy in health care.

The objective of the study was evaluation of the previous publications, situation in Switzerland, current state of research, appropriateness, safety, demand and economy in relation to homeopathy.

The study covers the evaluation of principles and definition of homeopathy, homeopathic research and research problems in relation to clinical and pre clinical trials, general problems with clinical trials in research, HTA Homeopathy: method and materials, international utilization of complementary medical approaches, CAM conditions and use in Switzerland, overviews of systemic reviews on clinical efficacy,

clinical studies of efficacy of homeopathy in URTI, Safety of homeopathic use, cost effectiveness of homeopathy.

The study has been done by many researchers working collectively to evaluate the various aspects related to homeopathy. This report holds value as it is an unbiased and a very indepth study looking into various aspects of homeopathy.

It confirms homeopathy as a valuable addition to the conventional medical landscape - a status it has been holding for a long time in practical health care. It states "In conclusion we have established that there is sufficient supporting evidence for the pre-clinical (experimental) as well as clinical effects of homeopathy, and that in absolute terms, as well as when compared to conventional therapies, it offers a safe and cost-effective treatment". This is an absolute support for homeopathy as a system of medicine and comes in the times when news about homeopathy is usually negative. The timing when we discuss this with you is great, that is, on the birth anniversary of founder of homeopathy.

At the mark of Dr Samuel Hahnemann's birthday we dedicate this issue to the great master who believed in for a reasoning for everything what is said and done and that is why he went ahead to find the reason for Cinchona bark being useful for malaria. Thus was born a science, that is, homeopathy. On his birth anniversary, we thank him for this wonderful science he gifted us and also for the path he showed us that is to think beyond what is the belief and thus discover and invent, for that one has to be as he said "Dare to be wise".

Dr Geeta Rani Arora
Editor

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