

Clarion call on issues of Ayurveda: Our responses

Sir,

I read editorial entitled “Time for evidence-based Ayurveda: A clarion call for action” with great zeal and seriousness. After considering every point raised herein for the present day status of Ayurvedic system of medicine, I do endorse word by word all that reasons and suggestions of Editor Prof. Patwardhan with the references of other stalwarts of the field like Prof R H Singh, Prof Ashok Vaidya, and Prof M S Baghel.^[1] In fact, I wish to put it on record that very timely Prof Bhushan came to the stakeholders of Ayurveda with benchmark solutions of problems existing to get Ayurveda as evidence-based Ayurveda as per national/global call of time. This is more important when there is change of guard at Delhi in dept of AYUSH.

I feel that now at every field and juncture, Ayurveda is on journey of double edge. A simple ignorance or carelessness either way i.e. on doctrines or on experiments may harm it irreparably. A routine confusion is prevailing in mindset of majority of workers of Ayurveda about guidelines of its clinical studies, drug research, and some time even on methods of literary study. Two entirely different opinions crossing each other are advised to a new worker with equal force, and ultimate result of these uncertain approaches is never like “all is well” but always “nothing official about it.”

Drugs and Cosmetics Bill 2013 repealing Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 would be presented in Mansoon session of Parliament. This new bill is exclusively for modern medical sciences covering all aspects of recent advancements of the system. This is also reported that a separate bill would be there for AYUSH stream.^[2] I hope policy makers will take care of all points raised in this

editorial along with all other issues of Ayurveda where a new vision and thought is required in accordance of principles of this proper holistic medical science. Mere copy and paste phenomenon as it was the case in chapter IV A and Rule 151 to 170 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rule 1945, respectively, would be again an unwelcome step for larger interest of Ayurveda. So, norms for new drug research covering its quality, safety, and efficacy as well as parameters of clinical studies of classical Ayurveda formulations should be addressed in this new bill of AYUSH with a rationale approach to fundamentals of Ayurveda.

Hence, Editor’s clarion call for action demands a strategy with acceptable paradigms among all academicians, researchers, manufacturers and, of course, from regulators and administrators of all states and central governments to see Ayurveda accomplished at par to any medical science of word in terms of new researches of pharmaceutics, pharmacology, and therapeutics. Once again, I admire and congratulate Prof Bhushan Patwardhan for his eye opening comments in this editorial without caring personal and policy diplomacy of Ayurveda, a reality of day.

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Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:

www.jaim.in

DOI:

10.4103/0975-9476.118675

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