

IASTAM

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Communiqué

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Connecting Systems; Bridging Disciplines

• Ayurved • Yoga • Unani • Siddha • Asian Medicine •

"Bridging the Gap between Knowledge and Action."

- Steven Hawk

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PRE NOTE

Reforms in Ayurvedic Education, A Predicament

Dr. Narendra Bhatt

It was as early in 1988 when a Regional Seminar was organized at Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar on 'Teaching Methods in Ayurveda'. An announcement invite was received where participants were to make 8 to 10 minute paper presentation made me write to the university about how a subject on teaching methods could be deliberated through papers. To my surprise the then Vice chancellor Shri Vasant R. Mehta, whom I had never met made it point to look for me and meet near airport on one of his trips. Over an hour or so he learnt of my views and inquired whether I was ready to share it publicly. He ensured that I did so. Similarly, sensitized on the subject, Smt. Shailaja Chandra, secretary at Dept. of ISM under Ministry of Health in 1999 decided to form a committee headed by Prof. R. H. Singh, that never took off, once she left the department. In 2005 IASTAM as a part of its silver jubilee Conclave on Transforming Traditions for Tomorrow's Health had 'Education Reforms' as its focus. This conclave was designed after several discussions on the subject to derive the best outcomes. The proceedings were much acclaimed by stakeholders and administrators like Mrs. Malti Sinha and Shri Shekhar Dutt, former secretaries and Shri Taradutt, former Joint Secretary. I recollect Mr. Shiv Basant, former Joint Secretary saying that he used to refer to the conclave proceedings as a bible to understand related issues. Thereafter several sincere efforts have been made at different levels in the form

of discussions, reorientation programs and projects. However, these efforts have not delivered the desired results. Rather, if viewed from need of contributions from Ayurveda on its own footing in the medical care, it has become more complex. Quality of Ayurvedic education prevails to be confused of methodology and lacks on clarity of purpose. While Central Council of Indian Medicine [CCIM] has rightly tried to bring in changes, mainly revisiting the syllabus or bringing in changes in curriculum and such, this is not enough as there is need to examine the basic flows in functionality and purpose for reforms.

31 years have passed since 1988 when need for change in method of Ayurvedic education was felt but now the challenge with its expanded base is bigger than ever. This necessitates a careful relook at the whole approach and process of reforms.

What is Education?

Education is the method of enabling learning, or gaining of information and knowledge, ideas and ideals, theories and views, skills and capabilities, ways and means and traditions and practices. Presently, education requires instruction and training from a teacher or a group of teachers - faculty supported by an institutional agenda and framework. Use of singular or composed literature and practical experience under supervision of an experienced guide are essential components of present-day education. Educational methods include

teaching, discussion, training, guidance, experiencing outcomes and guided research and such other activities. These activities represent *functionality* to achieve the *objective* or the *purpose*.

What are 'Reforms'?

Reforms are modifications made for improvement and reorganization of a system for advanced development. Reforms are changes made to improvise on inappropriate or unsatisfactory elements or methods in a system.

Changing responsibilities or liabilities are imperative for improved performance.

Form is a shape that indicates a functional entity. A functional entity that signifies meaning or a purpose. If a form denotes meaningful or purposeful activity, then the reform must aim at fulfillment of the purpose. Any failed or inadequate fulfillment of purpose requires to relook at either clarity of the purpose or improvisation in its functionality or both. Redefining of purpose and analysis of functional outcomes of the system are vital for transformation or reorganization. Focus will be on what is the purpose of reforms.

Purpose of Reforms in Ayurveda Education

The purpose of Ayurvedic education could be broadly be categorized into four objectives.

1. To deliver economic health and medical solutions having different base other than the prevailing conventional medicine-based system that is found to be limited in its delivery.
2. To preserve, protect, enrich and expand Indian heritage, ancient knowledge and traditional wisdom, for its continuity and universal use.
3. To develop pool of teaching, training, research and administrative pool for its maintenance, development, expansion and reach.
And most important
4. To provide an Ayurvedic professional (doctor) to contribute to health and medical care in individual capacity and as a support to industry, corporate, environment, society and such other.

Reforms should aim at above objectives to bring in changes or improvisation in knowledge, information, skills and capabilities to satisfy the above needs. Reforms must aim at enablement of individuals and the institutions, both public and private, to deliver appropriately defined societal and national gains.

Risks for Failure of Reforms

Reforms without clarity of purpose, if deprived of comprehensive thought, that fail to address constituent functionality or enacted in a piece mill manner are bound to fail. Differently handled and alienated reforms without shared objectives in the areas of teaching, skill development, capacity building and infrastructure will not serve the basic purpose of reforms.

Reforms designed or planned within the prevailing realms without new vision or implemented within the existing framework will not provide desired results as such reforms will alienated objectives and will be devoid of constituent synergy that is vital for success.

Vital Considerations for Reforms

Re-Defining Purpose - Defining main purpose and redefining objectives are very vital to any reform. It is therefore necessary to examine what has not been achieved, what has not happened and what is required to be achieved. Identifying its role and possible contribution based on its own strengths and weakness will help right purpose.

Historical Review - History and analyses of more than five decades of institutionalization are vital as without that we cannot understand what has gone wrong. The path adopted, reasons thereof and outcome of what has happened necessary. Taking cognizance of societal, economic, medical situation then and now and needs felt of Ayurveda and role it can play in present situation are equally important. Health care delivery is a dynamic ongoing process and should be considered accordingly. Reforms cannot be undertaken in isolated of relevance.

Paradigm - There is need to change the paradigm on which the present system based on conventional medicine system was adopted and established. Though evolved based on principle of medical pluralism, it has become secondary to an existing and align system. Present paradigm has not helped Ayurveda to grow its own identity, reliability, quality, applicability and acceptance as envisaged. The present system based on socio-economic and political environment of 1960s require a major transformation. Whereas the conventional medicine does have its own dynamics to be sensitive to the changing needs as to adopted from general paradigm of health care delivery, Ayurveda as a system fails to cope up with it due to different paradigm. This is the basic issue.

Integration - Undoubtedly integration is an essential component for relevance. However, in order to be relevant, it has lost its own principles and practices. The model of integration is required to be addressed based on purpose and objectives defined based on its own strength and capacity. The integration must aim at innovation rather than adjustments and compromises of its own strengths. This has been disastrous for the system. Several countries and several areas of activities have succeeded in developing their own modalities to serve their needs. It can be done.

Innovative Approach to Modalities - The present system is borrowed from conventional medicine which in turn itself has borrowed from west. Even though it is found wanting the western model has served its people

well to most of the extent. However, it is aligning to the needs of an oriental system. While adhering to institutional infrastructure as prevalent and necessary for societal needs it is not impossible to evolve a new model within the present framework.

There is need to revisit, deliberate on and innovate novel functional modalities at different levels to serve purpose and objectives. The IITs and IIMs are examples of such customised modalities to develop our systems and to serve our people. An innovative approach, a new modular integrated structure of learning and training based on Ayurvedic principles is required. Such an approach could be supported by development of suitable means, methods, tools and techniques.

Urgency - There is a recognized loss of our heritage, traditional knowledge and practices. Knowledge and contact with basic principles, strengths of its universality and uniqueness are being felt. We are behind times. Challenges have compounded. *Reforms must be driven by a determined resolution to provide meaning to the whole process for fulfillment of the purpose for which activity is undertaken. It is a drive to bring in changes that will help achieve the objectives for an activity*

A reference could be cited as -

Bhatt Narendra, Reforms in Ayurvedic Education, A Predicament, IASTAM Newsletter, January 2019; III (2) : pp 1- 3

undertaken. 'Earliest and accelerated Reforms' is the only solution.

Looking Forward - The word 'impact' is essential to reforms. Unless we bring changes there won't be an impact. Reforms must be objected towards improving the learning and creativity of thought process, thinking process. The impact must have an objective and measurable outcome. *Ayurveda has potential to serve the people and to the growth of the nation.*

'Sense of insecurity', 'inferiority complex', 'secondary existence', and 'pseudo existence' must be replaced with true confidence and capabilities based on its inherent strengths to satisfy contemporary needs with strong, alternative, economic and effective care.

There is a need to look at the AYUSH sector with such a radical change that has objectivity, accountability, and responsibility. Otherwise, it will remain limited in stature and restrained in delivery.

These thoughts are based on my 11 years earlier career as a teacher and recent association for 4 years with an academic institute for its research outcomes. Further deliberations on constituents of reforms will be of interest. Your views are welcome. ○○○

International IASTAM President, Prof. Dr. Angelika Messner will be in India

IASTAM - India will be delighted to have one more honoured Guest at the IASTAM Award Function 2019 and Conclave on AYUSH in Cancer in February at Kochi. Prof. Dr. Angelika Messner, President of IASTAM International and Head of China Centre, Kiel University, Germany will be participating at our next important event. Following Prof. A. L. Basham, Prof. Charles Leslie and Dr. Waltraud Ernst, she will be the 4th President to visit India. She believes Traditional Asian medicines can play a significant role in improving the well-being of people worldwide, both as health care systems in their own right and as resources for biodiscovery projects and has been always eager to integrate the diverse forms of knowledge and ways of practice in Asian Medicine and AYUSH. *We are delighted that she has accepted our invitation. We look forward to expand our horizon through her position in IASTAM and other International linkages.*



Prof. Dr. Angelika Messner
President, IASTAM International

13th Global Ethnomedicine and Ethnopharmacology Conference

Group Participation

April 15-16, 2019 | Hong Kong

Theme: 'Explore the new horizons in Ethnomedicine & Ethnopharmacology'

IASTAM is planning for a collaboration with Ethnomedicine 2019 To deliberate on 'Asian Medicine / AYUSH' and for Group Participation To Exchange Knowledge, Information and Recent Developments.

Ethnomedicine 2019 aims at sharing new ideas and technologies amongst the professionals, industrialists and students from research areas of Ethnomedicine and Ethnopharmacology Conference.

For Details visit: <https://ethnomedicine.pharmaceuticalconferences.com/>

Contact IASTAM office for further details

IASTAM Oration and Award Function 2019

&

**Conclave on****'Cancer Care & Research in AYUSH:
Developing A Roadmap'**Fri - Sun, 15th - 17th February 2019, , Kochi

*Pre-Conclave Workshop on 'AYUSH Treatment Modalities of Cancer'
on Friday, 15th Feb' 2019*
Entry is restricted to 100 participants.

Conclave & Subthemes***"Cancer Care and Research in AYUSH: Developing a Roadmap"***

- *Developing Drugs and Products for Cancer Management*
- *Clinical Insights for Understanding Cancer in AYUSH*
- *Cancer Biology and AYUSH Principles, Evolving Integrative Approaches*
- *Treatment modalities for AYUSH in Cancer*
- *Prevention of Cancer, AYUSH Perspectives*

Plenary - Keynotes - Panels / Paper Presentations & Posters*Opportunity to Interact With the best of the EXPERTS**3 Orations, 9 Awardees, Research Scholar Awardees*

Honoured Guest - Shri Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor of Chattisgarh
Prof. Angelika Messner, President IASTAM International

Confirmed Speakers

Dr. Shripad Banavali
Oncologist
Tata Memorial Center

Dr. Chitra Mandal
Distinguished Biotechnology
Research professor

Dr. Antonella Delle Fave
University of Milan, Italy

Dr. Shrikanth
Dy. Director General
CCRAS, New Delhi

Dr. Manzoor K.
Amrita Nano Scientist
- Cancer Biology

Dr. Pavithran
Oncologist, AIMS

Dr. Sreeraj Gopi
Plant Lipids, Kochi

Dr. C. K. Katiyar
CEO-Technical
Emami Ltd.

Dr. Neeraj Siddharth
Haematologist, AIMS

Dr. S. N. Gupta
J. S. Ayurved Mahavidyalaya

Dr. Manohar Gundeti
CCRAS Unit Cancer Center
Mumbai

Dr. Pooja Sabharwal
- Chaudhary,
Brahmaprakash, Delhi

Dr. Ram Manohar
AIMS, Kochi

Dr. Younis Munshi
Scientist-4 & Head
R. R. I. U. M.

Dr. Narendra Bhatt
Consultant Ayurved -
Research & Industry

IASTAM Awardees 2019

*Pandit Shiv Sharma oration
For Contribution to
Promotion of Ayurved*

**Vaidya Devendra Triguna,
Delhi**

*Zandu International Award
For Research Contributions
to Natural Products for
International expert*

**Dr. Robin James Marles,
Canada**

*Zandu International Award
(Indian citizen) For Research
Contributions to
Natural Products*

**Prof. S. C. Lakhota,
Varanasi**

*Prof. K.N. Udupa Award
For Contribution to Research
in Ayurveda / Indigenous
Systems of Medicine*

**Dr. Neeraj Tandon,
Delhi**

*Dr. C. Dwarkanath
Award For Contribution
to Contemporary
Interpretation or Application
of Ayurvedic Principles*

**Dr. Kishor Patwardhan,
Varanasi**

*Dr. K.M. Parikh Award
For Contribution to
Development of Ayurvedic /
Herbal Pharmaceuticals*

**Prof. Shailendra Saraf,
Raipur**

*Vaidyaraj Haribhanu
Paranjape Award
For Excellence
in Shalya Tantra*

**Dr. C. Suresh Kumar,
Thiruvananthapuram**

*Sbri Mathuradas Parikh
Award For Excellence in
Ayurvedic Profession*

**Ud. S. D. Kamat,
Mumbai**

*Sbri Jugatram Vaidya
Award For Excellence
in Teaching in Ayurveda*

**Vaidya Anant
Dharmadhikari, Pune**

*Yoga Forum Muchen
Patanjali Award For
Excellence in Interdisciplinary
Development of Yoga*

**Dr. B. N. Gangadhar,
Bangalore**

*Sbri Gopaldas Parikh
Award Contributions
to Drug Development*

**Dr. S. Natarajan,
Bangalore**

*Rasavaidya Nagindas
Shah Award For
Contribution in the subject
of Rasashastra*

**Dr. Shriram Savarikar,
Mumbai**

*Speakers yet to Confirm

Dr. Jeffrey White*
NCI, USA

Dr. K. S. Dhiman*
DG, CCRAS

Prof. Asim Ali Khan*
DG, CCRUM

Dr. Jayant Deopujari*
CCIM, New Delhi

Dr. C. P. Mathew*
Rtd. V. Principal & Hd. of
Oncology, Kottayam Med. Col.

Dr. Dinesh Chandra*
Doval, Delhi

Dr. Y. K. Gupta*
AIIMS, Delhi

Dr. Manu Jaggi*
Dabur Research Foundation

Visit Website for Further Details, Registration and Abstract

<https://www.amrita.edu/event/conclave-cancer-care-research-ayush-developing-roadmap>

**For Details Contact : Dr. Prajeesh Nath - 09496848044;
Write to acara@ay.amrita.edu, iastam.india@gmail.com**

OUR ASPIRATIONS

Dr. Vandana Kozarekar provides a profile of

Former Vice President, IASTAM-India, **Dr. V. N. Pandey**

Dr. V. N. Pandey, the eminent Ayurveda scholar was former Research Director, CCRAS, and Delhi. He was also National Consultant, Department of ISM, Government of India. A simple and selfless man he never aspired for recognition but silently worked for promotion of Ayurved.

He was the first to report Pharmacological Study of some of the Cardio Vascular effects of Kutaki, Rohitaka, Kakamachi and Kasani used in the management of Liver disorder. Dr V. N. Pandey, in the symposium on HIV/AIDS and Traditional Medicine of the Global Holistic Health Summit, Bangalore, 14 January 2003 reported a study on 22 patients from Gujrat of those CD 4 and CD 8 count has increased. He has reported as *'Approach of Ayurveda in the management of patients of HIV/AIDS'* and stressed upon that *India's Ayurvedic system has a*



classification for the type of debility associated with HIV and offers a range of individualized therapeutic interventions. The study was vital as according to the WHO report worldwide estimated child and adult death due to HIV / AIDs during 2003 was 2.5 – 3.5 million! Standardization of Ayurvedic medicines has been his concern and he stressed upon that *'there is a need to develop modern means and methods and to develop linkages and interface between the basic Ayurvedic concepts e.g. Rasa, Guna etc with modern parameters e.g. Chromatographic profile etc.'*

He was Consultant Editor to The Journal of Research and Education in Indian Medicine and Contributed as an Ayurvedic Expert to books 'All you wanted to know about knee Joint Pain'; and 'Health Solutions: Menopause' by Savitri Ramaiah.

He was one of the few those have seen our founder President Pandit Shiv Sharmaji and his insights and profound approach towards Ayurved. He has been a vocal supporter of IASTAM and always provide a guidance and participate in IASTAM activities.



MEMORY ● 'A SATWIK RESEARCHER', A MENTOR AND MOTHER TO MANY PASSES AWAY.

Prof. Dr. Maltiben Chauhan passed away on 1st January 2019. An internationally known pharmacognosist, knowledgeable taxonomist, respected academician, committed researcher and able industry collaborator Maltiben as we all knew her will be missed by many. She served in various capacities at the institutions as Post Graduate Teacher, Ph.D. Guide, Professor, Head of the Department and Dean. She was the founder member of AADAR and an active member on SFTRRD, ICMR, ICAR, State Medicinal Plants Board, Gujarat State Pharmacy Council, and several others. She was honored with Dr. Harit R. Derasari Oration award at L. M. College of Pharmacy & Best Pharmacognosy teacher of Indian Society of Pharmacognosy. Dr. Maltiben Chauhan was aptly awarded with IASTAM - Dr. K.M. Parikh, instituted in the memory of her former associate. She appreciated IASTAM objectives and encouraged it with her presence and in many ways.



Prof. Maltiben Chauhan

She will always remain etched in my memory as a very simple, unassuming, straightforward and committed scientist. I remember her just walking into my clinic or home and becoming part of it or visiting me several times on learning that I was in Ahmedabad. She ensured that books written by her reached me and will time to time update me on her activities. She had a childlike enthusiasm for her subject. She also exemplified integration of Ayurveda and pharmacognosy or product research and gave priority to activity and its outcome beyond self. She was one who bridged people to complement each other. Maltiben personified the satwik personality as a researcher.

- Dr. Narendra Bhatt ○○○

DIALOGUE

Dr. K.R. Mahadik, a supporter and former IASTAM Awardee is Principal and Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Bharati Vidyapeeth University Poona College of Pharmacy, Pune. Professor Mahadik has been working on promotion of Ayurvedic pharmaceuticals by validating the traditional knowledge through scientific methods emphasizing herbal drug developmental research include herbal drug standardization, design of Phyto formulations, phytopharmacology and herb-drug interaction studies. We interacted with him to find out his views about IASTAM and seek suggestions for future.



Q: How long are you associated with IASTAM?

I have been associated with IASTAM last 28 years. I have been member of IASTAM since 1990. I remember my participation in 3rd International conference of traditional Asian medicine at Bombay during 4-7 January 1990 which was conducted under leadership of Dr. K. M. Parikh. There were many international delegates. From Pune we made group participation.

Q: You have participated in IASTAM activities. What are your observations and views on IASTAM and its activities?

I have been observing since my association with IASTAM which is actively working in promotion on the integration of traditional medicines especially Ayurvedic pharmaceuticals and Asian medicine. The activities framed and executed by the IASTAM are much appreciable.

Q: What are your views on the Dr. KM Parikh Award, Zandu International Award?

It was my privilege to receive Dr. K. M. Parikh Award by IASTAM. The awards are perhaps real encouragement for the eminent personalities who excel in the field as research scientists, academicians and actively involved for the promotion of traditional medicines. IASTAM is perfectly doing this task which motivates such personalities and other young researchers to involve them into research activities more.

Q: Your views on the integration of Ayurved, pharmaceuticals and Asian medicine. How do you think it will help Ayurvedic products?

As we all are aware that Ayurved is an ancient Indian medicinal system which has excellent treatment remedies for many ailments. However, considering the modern science, this traditional knowledge is to be validated scientifically. Thus, the Ayurved knowledge can be disseminated and Ayurved products can be popularized globally. Similarly, such Asian medicinal knowledge should be integrated with modern medicine. A huge gap exists between traditional medicinal

knowledge and modern scientific methods. If this gap can be addressed with appropriate approaches there will be lots of innovations brought in the treatment strategies. IASTAM is the forum which continuously involves in such activities and the efforts are highly appreciable. Interdisciplinary research should be promoted which will help in promotion of Ayurvedic products globally.

Q: Your views on the Award selection process, Award function, Publications, and present activities, of IASTAM.

Being in the of Award selection committee as a member, I am aware about the process of selection of awards by IASTAM. The methodology is quite commendable that has no partiality and the entire team of IASTAM ensure that the awards are given to the right people. Similarly, the award function is organized appropriately with sincere efforts. Regarding publications, the newsletter of IASTAM has good merit. The scientific contents invited from eminent personalities, articles by researchers are of highly useful and the knowledge dissemination is impressive. It would be a great service if a journal could be established for Traditional Asian Medicine.

Q: In your opinion why should the new generation of AYUSH join IASTAM? What should be done to attract them? Future of IASTAM?

The new generation of AYUSH are so active as generally their grasping is fast and adopted for newer technologies. However, the new techniques acquired should be amalgamated with the knowledge of highly experienced experts in the field so that there will be positive developments. Though current activities attract new generation, there should be technology-based communication such as mobile APPs, digital communications etc would bring more interest for the new generation. So future IASTAM will bring in all young researchers, academicians and industrialists together for further integration of traditional medicines with the modern science.

I wish all the best.



"IASTAM Oration & Award Function 2019"

And Conclave On

"Cancer Care & Research In AYUSH: Developing A Roadmap"

15th - 17th February, 2019, Kochi

Visit Website for Further Details

<https://www.amrita.edu/event/conclave-cancer-care-research-ayush-developing-roadmap>, www.iastamindia.org

Seminar on

"AYUSH Products, Regulatory Aspects for Global Reach"

Pune, Tuesday, 18th February, 2019

2.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Main Speech

4 Presentations

A Robust Panel Discussion

Q & A Session

Registration Fees -
Rs. 500

Chief Guest & Speaker

Dr. Robin Marles
Senior Scientific Advisor
Health Canada

Guest

Prof. Dr. S. S. Savrikar
Chairman Scientific Body Pharmacopeia
Commission of ISM & H

Convener

Dr. Narendra Bhatt
Consultant-Ayurved-Research &
Industry

Perspectives

- Pharmaceutical
- Ayurvedic
- Industrial
- Research

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