

Academic and Research Pursuits in Ayurveda



Ayurveda products and service sectors in our country are being revamped for all good reasons to ensure quality and competence to meet the domestic and global demand. Academy and research domains are also undergoing sea changes after the inception of NCISM and other Central Research organizations. It is time that the policy makers evaluate the status and initiates a thorough review to suggest remedial course to ensure standards and benchmarks in these sectors.

In many instances, the policies regarding Ayurveda academy seems like sails in the uncharted sea. In the academic sector, repeated add-ons to the curriculum and unrealistic pedagogical targets by the concerned authorities in recent past have made it complex and often counter-productive. Poor strength in terms of facilities and clinical conveniences in majority institutions render it ineffective at the lower levels. Tested systems of periodic inspections by the Council are mostly online and are displayed just incurious in the post-Covid era. Most of the academic institutions of Ayurveda in India are not just meeting the stipulated minimum standards required by the Council for the show. The result is embarrassing and the expected outcome of this exercise can be catastrophic. The shape of both undergraduate and post-graduate academic fragments is no exception to this. The direction of the so called Ayurveda education industry is definite and precise in the present day.

Academic research and straight researches that happen in Ayurveda are also missing the vital attributes of wider applicability and acceptability. Various fraternities of Ayurvedic practitioners, even the teaching hospitals or colleges are hesitant to grab the progressive ideas (if any) that appears in a published study. History of research in Ayurveda doesn't showcase serious papers on relevant topics. The code and framework of modern 'scientific' research laced with ill-fitting statistical jargons leave any research report 'out of the purview' of leading accredited journals. Scientific papers published in Ayurveda in many instances present multitude of numbers of which the author is helpless to convey what does these mean!

Majority researches in Ayurveda are set for the sake of doing research, and there is cropping up of hundreds of Ayurvedic 'research' centers in our country. Funded researches that are completed and documented/published safely hibernate at safe vaults for want of applicability or futuristic considerations.

The aim of research in Ayurveda is different for different stake holders. Doctoral researches are proposed seriously, but are realized and accomplished with constraints and dumpiness. Institutional researches by the industry sector focuses mainly on feeds that lead to product development or aims at short term outputs, despite there is no financial constraints. Overall the picture is grey to dark.

No breakthrough is possible without a step forward by fact-checking and understanding the realities. It has to be bitter to all of us to accept bitter truths. Consistent quality is never a chance, but always a pre-meditated product. Authorities should effectively check the premises of academic institutions ensuring high standards that a graduate of Ayurveda actually come across patients in serious clinical settings! Masters program in Ayurveda should produce specialists and quality teachers as well as researchers. Research domain should be diligently screened, spirited and designed researches promoted/funded and false researches curtailed.

Dr. N.K.M. Ikbāl
Executive Editor