CURRENT SCENARIO OF AYURVEDA RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS.

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Since ancient time, Ayurveda is life as well as main stream medical science of India. By the time, it has been replaced by allopath i.e. modern medicine. There are several causes of this replacement, out of which lack of scientific research and its presentation is of prime one. It’s time to think of it. It’s a burning issue before Ayurveda field. Teaching, Research, and Publication are the three basic components of education system, but new knowledge, concepts, modifications and updates are disseminated through research papers published in peer-reviewed journals. Currently, peer-reviewed publications by the researchers are the measurable index of their performance. To show down the credibility, an institution should have a good number of quality publications over a time scale. Good and responsible institutes will always reorient itself and generate good quality papers. Considering the impact of good publications in the field of science, certain universities have come out with a comprehensive policy on research publications, primarily to curb the growing tendency to publish papers in dubious and predatory journals, which, in turn, lowers the quality of research and affects the reputation of the researchers and institution. Such stringent policies developed by many institutes are needed in current times and all institutes should come forward to take measures that curb academic pollution. The college/institute should establish research committee involving dean, senior faculties, HOD, professors who are interested to work in this particular area. The concern team should teach, guide, direct and promote every UG, PG and Ph.D. scholar for scientific writing and research publication. Frequently workshops should be organised to make familiar for the said purpose.

It is very difficult question to answer whether such policies will work in the field of Ayurveda? Despite of larger investments in Ayurveda researches and a huge number of Ayurveda PG and PhD Scholars coming out every year, they failed to publish the outcome because of many reasons. Lack of good journals to encourage Ayurveda research publications may be one of the reasons.

By publishing good quality research, professional advancement of a scientist can be obtained. The system of promotions in universities also depends on the papers published by an individual in an academic calendar. In such a scenario of publication driven promotions, annual appraisals, and lacking of Ayurveda journals, mushrooming of casual or spurious or predatory journals is witnessing. Such academic black market guarantees the researcher, a publication over the night. This ultimately produces a poorly taught generation, which is a serious concern to the society and to the science.

Unfortunately, current scenario of Ayurveda journal is discouraging. There are only few journals in the field of Ayurveda that understand and encourage Ayurveda concepts and researches. AYU managed by IPGT and RA Jamnagar, JAIM by the Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine, Bangalore, and ASL by The Ayurvedic Trust, Coimbatore are the only three Ayurveda journals indexed with PubMed and PubMed Central. Another journal, IJAR was started with great expectations, but was closed with certain administration wrangles. There are few more journals that exclusively encourage Ayurveda work. Few other journals that encourage Ayurveda works. In addition, certain journals such as Indian Journal of Natural Products and Resources, Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, and Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research of NISCAIR also support Ayurveda researches to some extent.

The scenario is pathetic and painful. There is a need to conduct training programs on

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research methodology, create awareness about predatory journals, and develop scientific writing skills to Ayurveda professionals”. On the other hand, there is no encouraging atmosphere for aspiring young researchers of Ayurveda. If enthusiastically someone wants to communicate their publications to foreign journals, they cannot meet the expenses.

In such situation, to uplift Ayurveda researches and publications, Ministry of AYUSH and other responsible authorities for AYUSH Education should think and take immediate actions to define a roadmap that will go ahead for a long. The two important issues that may help in uplifting the Ayurveda researches are:

- Appointing Bio-statistician in all the Ayurveda research centres and Post Graduate education centres and hospitals
- Establishing a PUBLICATION CELL at central level.
- Undoubtedly, this step will uplift and disseminate Ayurveda potentialities throughout the world.

The initiation should be focused on **Primary Objectives** as follows-

- At the outset, have extended discussions with the scientific community to assess the requirement for new journals and establishing a publication cell.
- Identify potential individuals/agencies/universities/institutes that can be given the responsibility to manage journals.
- Fix number of journals and handover responsibilities.
- Appoint manpower and provide facilities.
- Organizing the journals punctually and periodically.
- To be certain that the contents of journals get into the abstracting and indexing journals.
- To improve citations for the publications (as high citations are always appreciated against publications in IF).
- To decrease the time lag in between the acceptance of a paper and its publication.

As well as secondary objectives as follows-

- To reach-out to universities/students and inspire them. Discuss the reasons for the lack of good publications and restructure entire strategy to achieve this. Try to define and develop a smooth strategy, so that administration wrangles cannot come in the way of good research.
- Teach ethics to researchers and encourage young researchers and faculty to contribute.
- Must design a mechanism to assess the quality of publications while selecting best universities and institutions.
- Categorizing journals: Merely adding an adjective “National” or “Global” or “International” cannot qualify a journal to become truly international. There is a need to categorize journals for assessing the quality of publications.
- Keep a check on universities/individual institutions (annual reports of institutions focusing on publications) for grading/allotting funding to further researches etc.

Unfortunately, the education system of India in the present scenario is much considered about technical aspects and least preferred towards developing the communicating, writing, and publishing skills. It may be one of the reason, many scientists does not like to write or have poor writing skills.

Its need of time that all govt and non govt should come forward and take appropriate pro-active steps; design a strategy for optimum outcome in the area of research publications in Ayurveda as well as allied system of medicines. If this comes in true, it will definitely boost up interested researchers/scholars to come up with scientific writings.