

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP SET UP BY THE NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE (TM)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE GROUP TO THE KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION

Introduction:

Global health sector trends suggest that *Medical pluralism*, within which *Traditional Systems of Indian Medicine* should form a critical component, will shape the future of healthcare. This shift from singularity to plurality is taking place because it is becoming increasingly evident that no single system of healthcare has the capacity to solve all of society's health needs. India has a comparative advantage and can be a world leader in the era of medical pluralism because it has strong foundations in western biomedical sciences and an immensely rich and mature indigenous medical heritage of its own.

MAIN RECOMMENDATION:

To establish a *National Mission on Traditional Health Sciences of India* that should focus on achieving the following goals in the next 10 years.

Knowledge Creation Goals:

1. Create four teaching & research institutes in India for Traditional Health Science (THS) of the standards of IISc & IITs.
2. Establish a comprehensive “Traditional Knowledge Informatics program” to computerize, plant materia-medica (2,000 species) linked to their products (40,000) & clinical applications (5,000).
3. Establish a major program for digitization of India's medical manuscripts (located both within India & abroad) & make this digital library accessible to teaching & research institutions in India.
4. Support a major 10 year science initiative on Ayurveda to make original contributions to the world of medicine in fields like:
 - a) Pharmaco-genomics & Prakruti
 - b) Immunology & Panchakarma & Rasayanas
 - c) Drug Discovery & Rasa
 - d) New Physiological standards for enhancing quality parameters of drinking water via traditionally used herbs
 - e) Preventive cardiology & Yoga
 - f) Standardization of metal & mineral products

5. Upgrade 50 UG & 25 PG colleges of Traditional Health Sciences.

Knowledge Products & Service Goals:

6. Establish via public-private partnership the pre-clinical & clinical standardization of TEN best THS products, targeted for global market and technologically upgrade the ten best THS manufacturing units in the country to international standards.
7. Upgrade fifty reputed THS Hospitals & Nursing Homes in India & develop them into world-class institutions for clinical research & health-care services.
8. Support public limited companies with a global vision which will develop an “international brand identity” for THS & establish a world wide network of clinical services in the form of a) Rural & Urban clinics, b) Wellness centres c) Nursing Homes & Hospitals & d) Complementary Health care wings in Allopathic Hospitals.
9. Support creation of one world-class certification institution which can assist ISM Industry, Hospitals & Research Institutes to achieve internationally acceptable standards for Good Manufacturing Practice, Good Laboratory Practice, Good Clinical Practice, Good Agricultural Practice & Good Collection Practices.
10. Create suitable IPR framework in the country for promotion of THS.
11. Support EXIM bank of India to work with industry to open world markets for ISM products and services.

Knowledge Equity Goals:

12. Publish eco-system specific, standardized, regional pharmacopeias for different bio-geographic regions of India & establish a nation-wide network Home Herbal Garden & Community Herbal Gardens (CHG) to support Primary health care need of rural communities.
13. Establish 100 pilot primary healthcare centers in rural India to deliver ‘*integrated*’ healthcare services to demonstrate the role of THS in public health.
14. Introduce appropriate legislation that would allow rational cross-medical practice to both allopathic and ISM doctors in respect of selected drugs and selected therapeutic and diagnostic practices.

Goals for Conservation of Natural Resources:

15. Secure wild gene pool of India’s medicinal plants, via establishment of a nation wide network of 300 “Forest Gene Banks”.

16. Standardize best varieties & agro-technologies including post harvesting technologies of 100 top traded medicinal plants & support their large scale cultivation.

Mission Leadership:

The mission leader must satisfy the following criteria:

- (a) high public credibility
- (b) extensive knowledge and experience
- (c) commitment to the above objectives
- (d) established managerial capabilities
- (e) experience of dealing with all the concerned stockholders including the government.

The National Mission should present a ten-year plan with measurable milestones, within six months of the setting up of the mission. The GOI should make an allocation of Rs.1,000 crores towards the operationalisation of the mission, over a period of five years.

APPENDIX

Members of the Working Group

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