POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION IN AYURVEDA

Education or training when continued after obtaining the bachelor’s degree i.e. graduation, has been termed as post-graduation. Post-graduation is not the end of education: scholars go for higher (super-specialization i.e. doctorate and post-doctorate) degrees. Actually the process of acquiring higher and higher knowledge never ends. In fact, it starts with post-graduation.

The history and tradition of post-graduation and self-study (Swadhyaya) to enrich one’s own knowledge in all branches of learning can be traced to Upanishadic and Puranic literature. References about post-graduation are also available in Ayurvedic literature. The ancient seers like Charaka and Sushruta have mentioned the aims and objectives of post-graduate education as follows: To get ability for exposition, to achieve fuller grasp of the meaning or nomenclature, for boldness, for dexterity in practice and success in treatment.

The present post-graduate institutions imparting training in Ayurveda do also claim similar aims and objectives. The Assessment Committee for Research and Post-Graduate Studies (appointed by Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, India), had suggested some utility-oriented aims and objectives of post-graduate education, i.e. “1. To produce good teachers, 2. To turn out good research scholars, 3. To train students as good general practitioners and 4. To impart specialist/specialized training in the various branches of Ayurveda.” This is only possible when due
attention is paid to build up confidence, initiative, resourcefulness and competency in particular speciality in the post-graduate. Equal importance should be given to inculcate human attributes like compassion, honesty, character, capacity to work hard and a spirit of enquiry in the students.

After Samhita period up to the end of 19th century A.D. there is no mention of the post-graduate education in Ayurveda. The post-graduate education's need was the result of revival of systematic education of Ayurveda in the early 20th century. Following various representations by different organisations, some provincial Governments appointed committees which gave their reports in due course of time. A bird's eye view of some of them follows:

Madras Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine (1921-1923) recommended post-graduate teaching in Ayurveda. The Government of Madras thus instituted in 1930, a post-graduate course in Indian Medicine—Fellow of Indian Medicine (F. I. M.). This post-graduate course of Ayurveda was open to the graduates of Modern Medicine. Another post-graduate course, Associate Licentiate in Indian Medicine (A. L. I. M.), a Modern Medicine course for practitioners of Indian Medicine was also started. Later, on political grounds the A. L. I. M. course was abolished in the year 1941. The Fellow of Indian Medicine (F. I. M.) was also renamed as Associate in Indian Medicine (A. I. M.). This was the first attempt of post-graduate teaching and training in Indian Medicine/Ayurveda in pre-independent India. The basic facts behind the abolition of A. L. I. M. course was its results, of modern medicine teaching to Ayurvedists, which the rulers apprehended as to foster a future competitive race of Ayurvedic doctors trained in modern medicine as a danger to the existence of so-called supremacy of western medicine and its British brand doctors.

The First Health Ministers' Conference (1946, Delhi) resolved that adequate provisions should be made in Centre and Provinces for post-graduate education in Indian Medicine for graduates of western medicine. Chopra Committee (1946) also recommended that in Central Research Institute, provision should be made for the post-graduate teaching and training of research workers. Later, in pursuance to U.P. Ayurveda and Unani Committee (1925-26) which recommended the institution of post-graduate courses, the Govt. of U. P. agreed in principle to start post-graduate teaching and training in Benaras and Aligarh Universities. However, the proposal was sabotaged. In 1947, Indian Systems of Medicine Enquiry Committee of Government of Bombay recommended that Ayurveda should be introduced in the post-graduate courses of Modern Medicine. This recommendation also could not be implemented. Hence before independence and partition of India only Government of Madras could start post-graduate course in Ayurveda, but that could not do the needful. On private level, various institutions at Jhansi, Poona, Gurukul Kangri and Calcutta may also be cited for having started the post-graduate courses.

In 1949 Pandit Committee recommended that the incorporation of the instructions contained in Ayurveda and Unani etc., in curriculum of modern medical colleges is not immediately feasible at the under-graduate or the post-graduate level. As is apparent, the recommendations mentioned above revolved around teaching of Ayurveda to modern medical doctors so as to evolve an integrated national system of medicine, which became history.
It was in 1955 when Dave Committee recommended two years post-graduate training and research facilities at suitable places for post-graduate training. On the basis of these recommendations the Post-Graduate Training Centre in Ayurveda was established at Jamnagar, Gujarat, in July, 1956.

Udupa Committee (1958) later recommended that Central Government should, in addition to the Post-Graduate Training Centre at Jamnagar, establish three more model post-graduate training centres at Banaras, Poona and Trivandrum to cover their respective region. In all these post-graduate training centres, a three-year training course schedule be instituted for integrated degree holders, Shuddha Ayurvedic degree holders and modern medical graduates. In addition, there should be special training courses of one year's duration for all existing teachers of Ayurveda. This committee further recommended that every Ayurveda teaching institution or at least one institution in each State should provide for post-graduate courses in Ayurveda as well as in modern subjects, as a part of the development programmes of the concerned State. The Shuddha Ayurvedic graduate may take up post-graduate training in Ayurvedic subjects only, whereas the integrated Ayurveda graduate may take both Ayurveda and modern subjects. The modern medical graduate can take up post-graduate courses in Ayurvedic subjects, provided that he has an aptitude for it and has undergone some training under established Ayurvedic preceptors and passes preliminary test.

Mudaliar Committee (Health Survey and Planning Committee, 1959-61) recommended for the development of various post-graduate centres in Ayurveda. One in each region was desired. The development of such centres was to be guided by the experience gained till date at Jamnagar.

Later, as the result of appreciable effect of various organizations specially that of All India Ayurvedic Congress under the lead of Late Vaidya Pandit Shiv Sharmaji, Indian Parliament passed the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Central Council of Indian Medicine (C. C. I. M.) was established under that Act. Now the under-graduate as well as post-graduate education in Ayurveda is supposed to be controlled by C. C. I. M. which prepares graduate and post-graduate courses for Ayurveda. The Government of India declared in 1977 that these courses should be adopted in the whole of the country. Presently about 93 institutions affiliated to 43 universities of India are imparting education and training approved by C. C. I. M.; among them are 19 institutions where post-graduate courses are being conducted (Table. 1).

Updated list of PG Ayurvedic colleges as approved for academic session 2019-20 is available on E-mail: secretary@ccimindia.org (Website: www.ccimindia.org)