CHAPTER II

MEDICAL SYSTEMS IN INDIA

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter aims to describe the major features of the medical systems in India. An understanding of the Indian medical environment is crucial for the study of service quality expectations and perceptions of Siddha medical students, faculty and medical professionals, which is the subject of this research. This chapter highlights the different systems of medical system in India and aspects of traditional medical practices in India, medical education and its affiliations.

2.2 MEDICINE AND SOCIETY

‘Health is wealth’ is a famous adage. So, health is the high priority for a nation and wealth of a nation depends upon the healthy people’s ability and work. In ancient times health and illnesses were interpreted in a cosmological and anthropological perspective. After the science education propagation, and inventions health and illnesses were interpreted through the logical findings of scientific truth. So, health education constitutes the highest priority in a country for the promotion of healthy society.

2.3 MEDICAL SYSTEMS IN INDIA

The Medical System and practice of India is broadly classified into two systems

1. Modern allopathic medical system.

2. Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy. (ISM & H)
2.3.1 MODERN ALLOPATHY MEDICAL SYSTEM

The Modern medicine is the allopathic medicine otherwise called English medicine system is practiced throughout India. Medical council of India (MCI) was established as a statutory body under the provisions of Indian medical council act in 1933. At present, there are 264 medical colleges have been recognized by MCI and 90 medical colleges have been permitted by the Union Central Government to conduct the undergraduate MBBS Courses and the admission capacity in these colleges is approximately 30122 students per year (IJMR, 2013, April). Postgraduate courses (MD) and other Post Diploma speciality courses were conducted throughout India in specialized medical institutions.

2.3.2 INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE AND HOMEOPATHY

Indian medicine is otherwise collectively called as indigenous traditional medicine, which comprises Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy. (AYUSH) Though, Homeopathy is of German origin it is quiet popular in India. Several institutions have been established to develop these systems in India and there are about four lakh practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine. Ayurveda is practiced throughout India, but the Siddha system is practiced in the Tamil speaking areas of South India.

Henry Siegerist, the medical historian has stated about traditional systems that every culture had developed a system of medicine. The medical systems that are truly Indian in origin and development are the Ayurveda and Siddha systems. Both systems differ very little in theory and practice.

2.3.2.1 CONCEPT OF SIDDHA AND AYURVEDA

According to the Siddha and Ayurveda system, the individual is a microcosm of the universe. The human body consists of the five primordial elements- earth, water, fire,
air and space, the three humors- *vatha, pitta and kapha* and seven physical constituents. Food is the basic building material of the human body gets processed into humors’, tissues and wastes. The equilibrium of *Vata*, *pitha, kapha* are considered as health and its disturbance or imbalance leads to a diseased state.

The Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) is the statutory body constituted under the Indian Medicine Central Council act 1970. In 1971 CCIM (Central Council of Indian Medicine) has been framing on and implementing various regulations including the curricular and syllabi in Indian systems of medicine viz. Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani.

**2.3.2.2 SIDDHA SYSTEM OF MEDICINE**

The Siddha system of medicine is not only used to cure, but also to prevent diseases and in turn increases the life expectancy of human beings. As per the textual and archeological evidences which indicate the remote antiquity of the Dravidian civilization of the erstwhile submerged land Kumarikandam, that is the Lemuria continent situated in the Indian ocean, the Siddha System of Medicine is contemporaneous with those of the submerged lands Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Chinese and Grecian medicines.

The ancient Systems of medicine in Siddha is compiled by SIDDHARS, who lived a spiritual life in the southern region of India. The SIDDHARS were the embodiment of divine knowledge with which they served the people to cure diseases. Tamil Nadu, the home of siddhars were considered to be having specialpowers. Agastya is considered to be the first siddhar who belonged to Sangam period of Tamil and wrote many books on siddha. Siddha practice has been hereditarily nurtured by their successors for generations by the Tamil language speaking people.
SIDDHARS’ findings on the characteristics of plants, metals, minerals and animal products and their knowledge of the properties of drugs, its purification, processing, fixing dosage, toxicity, antidote and clinical application, were preserved in the form of verses in Tamil for the use of the posterity. The contributors of Siddha system, the Siddhars of Tamil land were mystics, yogis, poets, devotees, seers and medical men of various combinations and various statures. They were super human beings who possessed supernatural powers (like eight types of Siddhis). They were the greatest scientists of ancient times and were the guardians of the world and they existed, and still exist, for the benefit of the public at large. They were men of great practical knowledge and wisdom. They had full awareness of the nature and activities of all the objects in this planet and of all times-past, present and future. They were mainly responsible for the growth and development not only of Tamil medicine that includes Alchemy, Medicine, Yoga, Kayakalpa (rejuvenation therapy), Philosophy, Astronomy, Astrology, Varma, Muppu, Thokkanam (a way of treatment in Siddha) etc., but also for many other sciences of public utility.

2.3.2.3 MATERIA MEDICA

Siddha drugs used by the Siddhars can be classified into three groups:

- *Thaavaram* (herbal product)
- *Thaathu* (inorganic Substances)
- *Jangamam* (animal products)

2.3.2.4 DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

The diagnostic methodology in Siddha treatment is ‘unique’ as it is made purely on the basis of the clinical acumen of the physician. The pulse, skin, tongue, complexion,
speech, eye, stools and urine are examined. This approach is collectively known as "Eight types of examination" and among the eight, the examination of pulse is very important in confirming the diagnosis.

Developments in academic and scientific research have been coming up in siddha medicine after seventies of twentieth century. Scientific research of available Siddha literature may bring us precious truths, methods of preparation of miracle medicines of mineral, vegetable and animal origin and this would be a valuable contribution to the medical world today. And there are many valuable medicines and treatment techniques in practice. For example: 777 oil is patented for psoriasis cure in the year 1987 by Siddha Central Research Institute, Chennai. It is told that this is the only medication for Psoriasis for complete cure. No other medical systems provide such a wonderful treatment but they manage the disease for psoriasis.

2.3.2.5 THE LITERATURE OF SIDDHA MEDICINE

2.3.2.5.1 PALM MANUSCRIPTS

Palm manuscripts of Siddha literatures are the identity of Tamil and its culture. The available palm leaf manuscripts and the knowledge were documented in less permanent Palm leaves. Palm leaf manuscripts are written with an iron stylus in palm leaf. Exploring information from palm manuscripts are continuing till the time due to the families of Tamil retain the palm manuscripts as treasure. Steps are being taken by the Union government and its funded research institutions for medicine research for collecting, screening, analyzing and codifying the available manuscripts, printed books, traditional recipes, medical secrets.
According to Velcheru Narayana Rao (2010) Thousands of such manuscripts continue to turn up in every corner of Tamil Nadu country to this day.

According to Tripathi, D.S (2005) it is estimated that India possesses five million manuscripts, probably the largest collection in the world. The transcribed and annotated copies of palm manuscripts of Siddha medicine available in printed form in the following libraries have explored such manuscripts and make them available as printed form.

- The SaraswathyMahal Library - Tanjore
- Department of Manuscriptology, Tamil University.- Tanjore
- The Govt. Oriental manuscript Library - Chennai
- U.Ve. Swamynathaiyer Library - Chennai
- Institute of Asian studies.- Chennai
- International Institute of Tamil studies.- Chennai
- Siddha Central Research Institute.- Chennai
- Literary Division, The Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy, Govt. Tamil Nadu.- Chennai.
- Manuscript Resource Centre of French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) – Pondicherry

The Govt. Oriental Manuscript library has digitized Tamil Siddha manuscripts in the year 2005 to the tune of 1085. According to Sridhar, TS (2011) that about 800 original works of texts of Siddha medicine are available in Tamil Nadu and of which 160 have been published as of now. So the unexplored original works of Siddha medicines continue to turn up in every corner of Tamil Nadu.
Figure 2.1 Tamil Palm manuscripts on anatomy

Source: www.unesco.org

Figure 2.2 Palm manuscript section in Library

Source: Tamil Nadu Archives
2.3.2.5.2 SIDDHA JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES

As Siddha medicine is the culturally and linguistically popular among the Tamil people most of the articles published in various popular magazines of general interests as food recipes and proved traditional home remedies. So, very few scholastic Siddha journals published in Tamil Nadu. Journal of Siddha (open Access) is published by the National Institute of Siddha Medicine in Chennai. NISCAIR, Delhi and Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore publishes few journals in related subjects of Biological sciences and herbal plants. They bear few articles on herbal medicine.

2.3.2.5.3 SIDDHA BOOKS

‘Agastya’ wrote many books on Siddha medicine and it is considered that around twenty five books are standing in the name of Agastya. The book “Agastya Vagadam1500” describes the preparation of siddha medicine, utilizing the crude drugs of poisonous minerals animals and plants origin. Agastyar 1500 is considered to be one of the oldest Materia Medica in Tamil.

‘Bohar’, one of the eighteen Siddhars, who lived in Palani 5000 years ago wrote many books on siddha medicine. ”Bohar Nigandu” gives the names of crude siddha drugs. Well known “Pathartha Guna Sinthamani” provides the names of crude drugs of plant origin, animal origin, metal origin, and mineral origin. ”Hindustan Materia Medica” by Kannusamy Mudaliar was published by the Government of Madras, a century back.

At present, Siddha books and their reprints are published in Chennai, Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli. Publications from Tirunelveli Saiva Siddhantha Kazhagam, Tamil university of Tanjore, Thamarai Noolagam, Chennai and International Institute of Tamil in Chennai are important publishers.
2.3.2.5.4 SIDDHA REFERENCE BOOKS

Tamil lexicon, encyclopedia of plants and medicinal botany are important reference works for siddha medicine annotation. Very few case studies published in Siddha medicine in modern times. So, the explored facts on disease cure are not fully available as printed source. However, few case studies publishing is on from Siddha medical professionals.

2.3.2.5.5 NEWSPAPERS

Most of the Tamil Newspapers carry articles on Siddha medicine benefits and practices among families, individuals and other professionals. These newspapers always supplement in the weekend issues. And it provides information that highlights health issues, answers for FAQs and for the readers question on disease prevention and cure. The followings are leading Tamil newspapers that cover Siddha article

- Dinamalar
- Dinathanthi
- Dinamani
- The Hindu (Tamil)

In addition to this the following two popular dailies publish Siddha medicine column in English:

- The Hindu (English)
- The New Indian Express
2.3.2.5.6 E-RESOURCES

Apart from printed sources, a limited number of articles published through internet, overall there is a lack of electronic version like e-books and e-resources consortia for Siddha medical information sharing. However TKDL (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library) is a collaborative project between CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) and the department of AYUSH, (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) provides a repository in digitized format in the public domain. Apart from this a few ‘Y’ generation (young generation) medical professional are interested in electronic publishing particularly in English.

2.3.2.6 HISTORY OF SIDDHA MEDICAL COLLEGES

Siddha medical colleges are situated only in the southern parts of India, where Tamil as mother tongue. Before 1964 Siddha medical education was given to the family members by the traditional Siddha practitioners otherwise called as nattuvaiyiar (Village doctor) in Tamil. Others studied Siddha with their own interest and approach the nattuvaiyiar and learn through him by rendering free service to the master, who is practicing Siddha. Later the private Siddha medical practitioners and few associations also provided some courses without due recognition either from the Union Government or the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

Due to the popularity and importance in Siddha medical practice among the people of Tamil Nadu, then due recognition was accorded by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for Siddha degree courses.

In 1964 Madras University started the course, following this Madurai Kamaraj University started the UG course in Siddha in the year 1966 and PG in 1972. At present,
there are eight colleges provide Siddha medical education in Tamil Nadu, and one in Kerala. Currently Siddha degrees are awarded by the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai for Tamil Nadu and University of Kerala for Kerala state. Since, the medical colleges have been affiliated to these universities.

After the privatization of higher education in India various professional education institutions established by private philanthropists. Siddha medical education institutions also established similar to the other professional education of engineering, technology and agriculture. After 2000, five medical colleges were established by the private people. However, the Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai is the pioneer institution in Siddha education. In 2009 a national importance of institution was established for promoting Siddha research in Chennai by the Union Government of India called National Institute of Siddha (NIS).

Table 2.1 shows the establishment of Siddha medical colleges in Tamil Nadu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the college</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Siddha Medical college</td>
<td>Palayamkottai</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Siddha Medical college</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AkilaThiruvithamcore Siddha VaidyaSangam Siddha Maruthuva Kallory&amp; Hospital</td>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velumailu Siddha Medical College</td>
<td>Kancheepuram</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sai Ram Siddha College</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institute of Siddha (National Importance Research Institution)</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RVS Siddha Medical College</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sivaraj Siddha Medical College</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: http://web.tnmgrmu.ac.in
Table 2.2 presents the district vise establishment of Siddha Medical colleges in Tamil Nadu.

**Table 2.2 Districts Coverage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kancheepuram</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** [http://web.tnmgmu.ac.in](http://web.tnmgmu.ac.in).

Table 2.3 shows the management category of Siddha Medical colleges in Tamil Nadu.

**Table 2.3 Management category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aided</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Self- finance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** [http://web.tnmgmu.ac.in](http://web.tnmgmu.ac.in)
2.3.2.7 NOMENCLATURE OF SIDDHA MEDICAL DEGREES

The degree in Siddha medicine which was originally awarded as BIM (Bachelor of Indian Medicine) later, it is being awarded as BSMS (Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery) and the Postgraduate courses are awarded as MD (Doctor of Medicine) in the following six branches of specialization.

1. Maruthuvam (General Medicine)
2. Gunapadam (Pharmacology)
3. Sirappu Maruthuvam (Special medicine)
4. Kuzhandai Maruthuvam (Paediatrics)
5. Noinal (Siddha Pathology)
6. Nanjunoolum Marthuva Neethinoolum (Toxicology and Medical Jurisprudence)

2.3.2.7.1 DURATION OF DEGREE COURSES.

The duration of undergraduate Siddha degree course is 18 months each for first professional, second professional, final professional and a Compulsory Rotatory Resident Internship (CRRI) for the period of 12 months. The total duration of study is 4 years and 6 months and one year CRRI. The duration of Postgraduate Siddha degree courses is three years.

Table 2.4 states the duration of Siddha medical degree courses
TABLE 2.4 Duration of Degree Courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BSMS</td>
<td>I professional</td>
<td>18 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>BSMS</td>
<td>II Professional</td>
<td>18 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BSMS</td>
<td>Final Professional</td>
<td>18 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BSMS CRRI</td>
<td>Compulsory Rotatory Resident Internship</td>
<td>12 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>In Six branches</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://web.tnmgrmu.ac.in](http://web.tnmgrmu.ac.in)

2.4 SUMMARY

In order to understand the Siddha medical college library users, first it is important to know the overview of the Siddha medical system. Understanding the system and the available literature is important to know the requirement of Siddha professional. Furthermore, medical profession is a dynamic entity and it needs variety of new findings on case studies and exploration of new ideas, facts, and new health hazards.
REFERENCES


WEB SITES


- TamilNadu Dr. MGR Medical University. Retrieved from http://web.tnmgrmu.ac.in/index.php/about-us
