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A Note on the Status of Ayurvedic and Herbal Studies in India

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Ayurvedic Education in India

Ayurveda is taught at two levels in Indian institutes:

- A. Undergraduate
- B. Postgraduate

Duration of undergraduate studies is five and half-years. It includes five years of intensive studies and six-month clinical internship program. For getting admission in Ayurvedic College, the student has to pass common entrance test after plus two. Before introduction of common entrance test, the Pre-Ayurveda course was available in colleges. Here study of subjects like Chemistry, Sanskrit, Botany and Zoology were integral part of Pre-Ayurveda curriculum. Degree awarded was Graduate of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (G.A.M.S).

After the introduction of the common entrance test, the name of the degree undergraduate of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (G.A.M.S) was changed to Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (B.A.M.S). The graduates have to register themselves with state Ayurvedic and Unani Councils. Central Council of Indian Medicine (C.C.I.M) is apex body governing rules and regulations related to Ayurveda in India. Most of the practitioners of Ayurveda opt for allopathic practice after graduate studies.

A postgraduate study in Ayurveda is three-year course. After completion of postgraduate studies, Vaidya Vachaspati (equivalent to MD) is concerned discipline is awarded. Postgraduate studies are available in following disciplines:

1. Agadtantra (Toxicology)
2. Ayurved Siddhant & Darshana (Fundamental principles)
3. Bhaishjyakalpna (Ayurvedic pharmaceuticals)
4. Dravyaguna (Medicinal Plant Pharmacology)
5. Kaumarbhritta (Pediatrics)
6. Kayachikitsa (Internal Medicine)
7. Manas Roga (Psychiatry)
8. Panchkarma
9. Prasuti & Striroga (Obstetrics and Gynecology)
10. Rachna Sharir (Human Anatomy)
11. Ras-Shastra (Indiana alchemy or latrochemistry)
12. Rog Nidan (Clinical-diagnosis)
13. Samhita (Ancient texts)
14. Shalaky (Ear, nose and throat)
15. Shalya (Surgery)
16. Swasthavritta (Hygiene)

Ayurvedic postgraduates opt for teaching profession or join industry as consultants. Some of them opt for clinical practice. These days subjects like Dravyaguna and Bhaishjyakalpna are in great demand particularly from industrial point of view. For postgraduates, further options are available for PhD studies. Person holding PhD in Ayurveda is known as Ayurvedavaridhi.

Following is exhaustive list of Ayurvedic colleges providing education at graduate and postgraduate levels in India:

S. no	State	Number of colleges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Assam	1

3.	Bihar	11
4.	Chandigarh	1
5.	Chattisgarh	3
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	5
9.	Haryana	6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
12.	Jharkhand	1
13.	Karnataka	52
14.	Kerala	13
15.	Madhya Pradesh	13
16.	Maharashtra	56
17.	Orrisa	6
18.	Punjab	6
19.	Rajasthan	5
20.	Tamilnadu	6
21.	Uttaranchal	4
22.	Uttar Pradesh	15
23.	West Bengal	3

Table 1: List of number of Ayurvedic colleges in India (state wise)

Compounder training course in Ayurveda

A person trained in dispensing Ayurvedic medicine is known as upvaid. Now days the course is known as Compounder training course in Ayurveda.

S. no	State	Number of college/ institute/ hospital
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. B.R.K.R. Ayurvedic Hospital Hyderabad
2.	Andhra Pradesh	A.L. Govt. Ayurvedic College Waranga
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Dr. N.R.S. Govt. Ayurvedic College, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Vijaywada
4.	Chattisgarh	Manjusha Shri Education Society Ayurveda Compounder Training Center, Sunder Nagar, Raipur
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Ayurveda Pharmacists Training Centre, Yogendar Nagar Distt. Mandi

6.	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Dhanvantri Ayurvedic College, Ujjain
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Rewa
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Jabalpur
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Gwalior
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Burhanpur
11.	Rajasthan	State Ayurvedic Compounder Nursing Training Center, Jogima, Ajmer
12.	Rajasthan	State Ayurvedic Compounder Nursing Training Center, Pumbra, Jodhpur
13.	West Bengal	Vishwanath Ayurveda Maha-vidyalaya & Hospital, 77, Arbinda, Sarani, Kolkata
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Pt. Khushilal Sharma Ayurvedic College, Bhopal

Table 2: List of Compounder training courses in Ayurveda

Reviving the Ayurvedic curriculum

With changing global trend for Ayurveda, we need to emphasize introduction of new courses in Ayurvedic curriculum. Subjects like phytochemistry, biochemistry, pharmacognosy and ethno pharmacology should be made integral part of graduate Ayurvedic syllabus. Ayurvedic/herbal studies have recently become interdisciplinary. For an herbal expert, knowledge of subjects like phytochemistry biochemistry, pharmacology and pharmacognosy is a must. This is particularly significant for professionals working in industry or practicing pure Ayurveda/herbals.

Keeping in mind the growing demand for professionals for herbal drug industry several Indian universities have introduced courses related to Ayurveda, medicinal plants, cultivation and medicinal botany (see the table). The courses depicted in the following table are particularly useful for Ayurvedic professionals interested in joining the pharmaceutical industry.

S. no	Course Name	Name of the providing institute/ university	Duration
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1.	B.Pharm in Ayurvedic Pharmacy	Lovely, Professional University, Jalandhar	4-years
2.	Certificate course in Herbal Medicine documentation	Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	6-months
3.	Certificate course in Medicinal and Aromatic plant cultivation	Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	6-months
4.	Certificate course in Medicinal Plants	Institute of Distance Education, University of Madras	6-months
5.	Certificate course in Medicinal Plants	The Gandhi gram Rural Institute (Deemed University), Dindigul, Gandhi gram	6-months
6.	Certificate course in Phytochemical Techniques	Institute of Distance Education, University of Madras	6-months
7.	Certificate in Cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	U.P Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad	6-months
8.	Certificate in Herbal Farming	Institute of Distance Education, University of Madras	6-months
9.	Diploma in Ayurveda Pharmacy	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Guwahati, Assam	2-years
10.	Diploma in Ayurveda Pharmacy	Rattan Professional College of Ayurveda, Sohana, Mohali	2-years
11.	Diploma in Ayurveda Pharmacy	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Kurukshetra, Haryana	2-years
12.	Diploma in Ayurveda Pharmacy	Gaur Brahmin Ayurvedic College, Rohtak, Haryana	2-years
13.	Diploma in Ayurveda Pharmacy	Mahila Ayurvedic Degree College, Khanpur Kallan, Sonipat, Haryana	2-years
14.	Diploma in Ayurveda Pharmacy	Chaudhary Devi Lal College of Ayurveda, Jagadhri, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana	2-years
15.	Diploma in Ayurveda Pharmacy	Arignar Anna Hospital of Indian Medicine, Chennai	2-years
16.	Diploma in Ayurvedic Pharmacy	Gujarat Ayurved University	1 year
17.	Diploma in Herbal Technology	University of Mumbai	6-months
18.	Diploma in Medicinal Herbalism	The Open International University for Alternative Medicine, Calcutta	1-year
19.	Diploma of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	Nalanda Open University, Patna (Bihar)	6-months
20.	Graduate of Ayurvedic Pharmacy	Gujarat Ayurved University	2-years
21.	M. Phil in Medicinal Plants	Global University, Nagaland	1-year
22.	M.Sc in Herbal Technology	University of Mumbai	2-years
23.	M.Sc in Medicinal Plants	Global University, Nagaland	2-years
24.	M.Sc in Medicinal Plants	Gulbarga University	2-years
25.	M.Sc in Medicinal Plants & Herbal Resource Management	Institute of Ethno biology, Jiwai University, Gwalior	2-years

26.	M.Sc. Ayurveda & Alternate Medicine	Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	2-years
27.	Master of Pharmacy in Medicinal Plants	Gujarat Ayurved University	2-years
28.	Master Program in Traditional Medicine	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali	2-years
29.	Post Graduate Diploma in Herbal Medicine	Mother Teresa Women's University, Tamil Nadu	1-year
30.	Postgraduate Diploma in Herbal Drug Standardization	Gujarat Ayurved University	1-year
31.	Postgraduate Diploma in Herbal Medicine Informatics	Bioinformatics Institute of India, New Delhi	6-months
32.	Postgraduate Diploma in Medicinal Botany	Institute of Distance Education, University of Hyderabad	1-year
33.	Postgraduate Diploma in Medicinal Plants	Institute of Distance Education, University of Madras	2-years
34.	Postgraduate Diploma in Medico-botany	The Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, Baroda	1-year
35.	Postgraduate Diploma Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	Annamalai University	1-Year
36.	Production and Quality Control in Medicinal Plants	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Tamilnadu	6-months
37.	Master diploma in Alternative Medicine	The Open International University for Alternative Medicine, Calcutta	1-year
38.	Doctor of Philosophy in Alternative Medicine	The Open International University for Alternative Medicine, Calcutta	1-year

Table 3: List of course related to Ayurveda/Medicinal Plants/Herbals available in India

Conclusion: The purpose of the short communication is to make Ayurvedic professionals aware about chances of enhancing career prospects. We neither want to rebuke or promote any course but keeping in mind the demand of people for Ayurvedic/herbal drug industry, such type of critical contributions are essential.

Note: The details given in the communication are for information only. The author is not responsible for courses mentioned in the text. Potential readers are advised to look into the details and validity of the course.

