



## Awareness And Use Of Homoeopathic Medicine Among The Community People Of Bangladesh: A Short Survey Report

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Research Survey

### **Abstract:**

*This study was conducted to analyze the awareness and uses of preferring medicine of Homoeopathic medical system in Dhaka and Chandpur district of Bangladesh. Data were collected from 303 respondents aging 18 to 57 years by personal interview with a well structured questionnaire during October, 2013 to January, 2014. Overall 29.9% of the respondents were found to feel comfortable in using medicine of Homoeopathic medical system whereas 64.6% preferred the Modern medical system (Allopathy). Community people showed their belief mostly in Homoeopathy 39.1%, Ayurvedic/Unani 4.5% and Allopathic medicine 56.4%. In any chronic disease, child problems and skin deasese were the three dominant disease conditions for which homeopathic medical systems were most preferred by the respondents. Beside these 69% of urban and 43% of rural respondents were not aware about the appropriate healthcare system for different diseases.*

*Believing in no side effect and safe remedy, mass population of the study area preferred different traditional healthcare systems, especially Homoeopathy, but most of them were not aware about the exact therapy. In this study, 29.9% respondents of Dhaka and 32.7% respondents of Chandpur suggested, 'Government Should open more Homoeopathic medical college and hospitals in different districts, 24.5% respondents of Dhaka and 19.9% respondents of Chandpur suggested that 'Government should make more publicity to improve this system and create social awareness'. 44.2% respondents of Dhaka and 44.9% respondents of Chandpur suggested that, 'Government should open Homoeopathic treatment clinic at Upozilla & Union level. But most of them were not aware about the exact therapy.*

### **Rationale of the study:**

Role of Homoeopathic treatment in medical science for serving of world health is immeasurable. Homoeopathic treatment system is involved with importance in many developed and developing countries including USA, Germany, Japan, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, India and Pakistan etc. To ensure health service standard of Bangladeshi people, necessary assistance in Govt. and non-Govt. level has been uninterrupted. Nevertheless, we think the main problem behind failure to achieve desirable success in health service activities is the lack of coordination among conventional treatment methods along with main methods of treatment recognized and patronized

by WHO. It is not possible to ensure health service for all in a developing country like Bangladesh by expensive Allopathic treatment method only. Keeping socio economic situation of this country if universal health service is to be ensured, then WHO recognized cost-effective and safe treatment like Homoeopathy, needs massive participation and provide assistance. For this circumstances, I have desired to conduct a research how many people currently using medicine of this system in Dhaka and Chandpur district.

In my research I also have found out why the people make interest to treat by Homoeopathic medical system.

### Objectives:

#### General objectives

- To find out the percentage of awareness and use of Homoeopathic medicine among community people in Bangladesh.

#### Specific objectives

- To assess the level of awareness and use of Homoeopathic medicine in selected areas of Bangladesh.

To find out the socio-demographic status of the participants who are taking the Homoeopathic treatment facilities in selected areas of Bangladesh.

### Methodology :

This study was regulated in descriptive cross sectional, which was carried out in Mirpur area of

Dhaka and Kachua and sador of Chandpur district in Bangladesh, Conducted from September, 2013 to January, 2014. The people who live in Mirpur area of Dhaka city and Kachua upozilla of Chandpur district were willingly participated in this research study. Therefore, 384 were the study population in my study, but due to the limitation of the study period a total of 303 people were interviewed for conducting the study. (See the following table:1)

In the above table, it is showne different particular categories of people of Dhaka and Chandpur district, with varieties of their age, sex, occupation and education demonstrated in their frequency and percentage of response, awareness and using of Homoeopathic medicine.

### Distribution of the respondents by demographic information :

Variables	Particulars	Dhaka		Chandpur	
		Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age	18 -25 Years	37	25.2	64	41.0
	26 -33	57	38.8	46	29.5
	34 -41	30	20.4	27	17.3
	42 -49	11	7.5	13	8.3
	50 -৫৭	12	8.2	6	3.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Sex	Male	117	79.6	76	48.7
	Female	30	20.4	80	51.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Occupation	Service/Job	69	46.93	29	18.6
	Home maker	28	19.0	45	28.8
	Business	37	25.2	17	10.9
	Students	7	4.8	37	23.71
	Others	6	4.08	5	3.20
	Farmer	0	0	15	9.61
	Day labor	0	0	8	5.12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Education	Illiterate	0	0	15	9.6
	Primary level	40	27.2	11	7.1
	Secondary level	59	40.1	59	37.8
	Higher secondary	28	19.0	35	22.4
	Graduate	20	13.6	36	23.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Distribution of the respondents by monthly income and individual use:

The respondents of Dhaka and Chandpur were surveyed about their monthly income. None of the respondents' of Dhaka, their monthly income, was between Tk. 5000 - 10000, but in Chandpur was 24.4%, 18.4% respondents of Dhaka, their monthly income were between Tk.10000 -15000 and in Chandpur were 35.9%, 23.8% respondents of Dhaka, their monthly income were between Tk.15000 - 20000 and in Chandpur were 10.9%. 38.8% respondents of Dhaka, their monthly income were between Tk. 20000 - 25000 and in Chandpur were 14.10%. The rest of 19% respondents in Dhaka, their monthly income were above Tk. 25000, but in Chandpur were 14.7%.

### Distribution of the respondent by the knowledge on the name of treatment systems:

About 31% of the respondents at Dhaka and 57% of the Chandpur knew that. Individually 30.6% respondents of Dhaka and 59% said about the name of Allopathy, 36% of Dhaka and 48% of Chandpur said as Homoeopathy system. 33% of Dhaka and 31% of Chandpur named as Unani-Ayurvedic system.

### Distribution of the respondents by the positive use and negative side of Homoeopathic system (See Figures: 1&2, as follows)

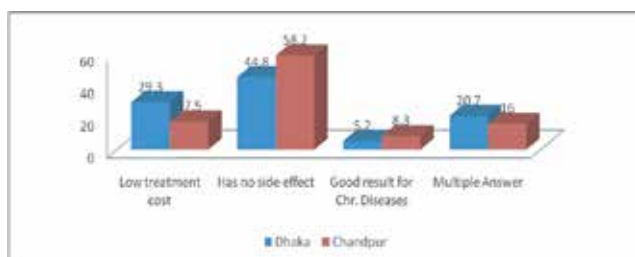


Figure 3: Distribution of the respondents by the positive use of Homoeopathic system

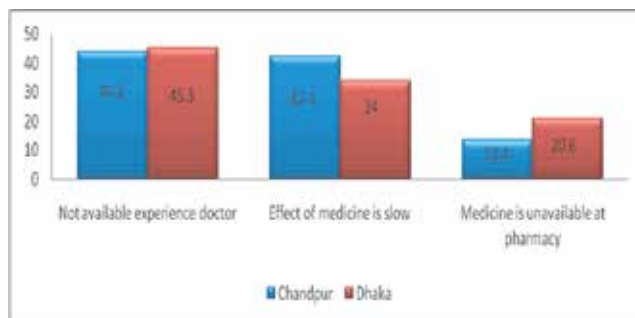
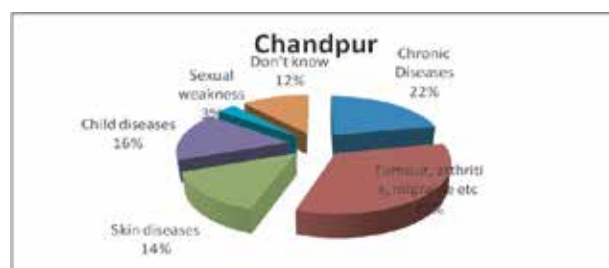


Figure 2: Distribution of the respondent by the negative side of Homoeopathic system

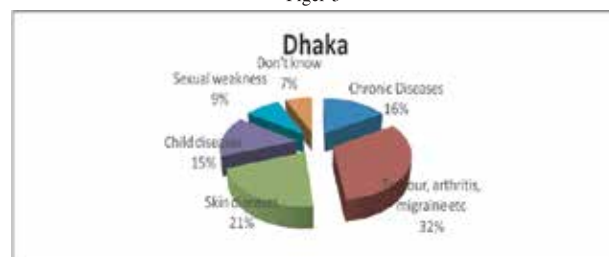
Distribution of the respondent by the knowledge on the name of treatment systems:

These figures show that, 29.3% respondents of Dhaka, where as 17.5% respondents of Chandpur said Low treatment cost, 44.8% respondents of Dhaka, where as 28.2% respondents of Chandpur said has no side effect of Homoeopathic system. 5.2% respondents of Dhaka, where as 8.3% respondents of Chandpur said good result for Chronic diseases so that they used it. The rest of 20.7% respondents of Dhaka, where as 16% respondents of Chandpur gave multiple response. 44.2% respondents of Dhaka where as 45.3% respondents of Chandpur said about 'non availability of experienced doctors . 42.4% respondents of Dhaka, where as 34% respondents of Chandpur said effect of medicine is slow and the rest of 13.4% respondents of Dhaka, where as 20.8% respondents of Chandpur said medicine is unavailable at pharmacy.

### Distribution of the respondent by the effective treatment of Homoeopathic system: (See Figures 3&4 as follows )



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Figure 3: Distribution of the respondent by the effective treatment of Homoeopathic system

The above figures show that, different percentages of respondents of Chandpur and Dhaka district said that Hmoepathic treatment is very much effective in the following diseases as summarized in the following table:2.

Name of disease	Percentages of respondents	
	Chandpur	Dhaka
Any Chronic disease	22%	16%
Tumour, Arthritis, Migrane	33%	32%
Skin diseases	14%	16%
Child diseases	16%	15%
Sexual weakness	3%	9%
Don't Know in which disease it is very effective	12%	7%

#### **Distribution of the respondent by the suggestions to improve homeopathic system:**

29.9% respondents of Dhaka and 32.7% respondents of Chandpur suggested 'Should open more Homoeopathic medical college and hospitals by the government in different districts. 24.5% respondents of Dhaka and 19.9% respondents of Chandpur suggested that 'Government should make more publicity to improve this system and create social awareness'. 44.2% respondents of Dhaka and 44.9% respondents of Chandpur suggested that 'Government should open Homoeopathic treatment clinic at Upozilla & Union level', the rest of 1.4% respondents of Dhaka and 2.6% respondents of Chandpur had no comments about this.

#### **Conclusion:**

Medicines and medication systems are the media for ensuring physical and mental wellbeing. No doubt only the proper healthcare system can cure a disease effectively. In Bangladesh through Modern healthcare facilities and qualified physicians are available, but many people still believe in different Traditional systems for the cure and prevention of their ailments. The findings of the study are threatening because majority of the people of both urban and rural part in the study area have shown their preference and belief towards Homoeopathic system, the some other respondents believe in Traditional systems healthcare facilities. Not only uneducated but also educated

people have not sufficient knowledge and awareness about the proper medication system. Most of the people possess a belief that Traditional medicines are safe and free from side effects where preparation and dosage of some traditional systems are not scientific. In maximum cases people are influenced of taking unscientific or wrong medicines through vigorous advertisements of some Traditional medicine manufacturers mainly in the rural areas. (see **Editorial nont, at the eand of this paper** ). Probably lack of education, unawareness about healthcare systems, poverty, non-availability and high fees of physicians, negligence of minor ailments, undeveloped medical service and superstitions in some cases may also responsible for giving preference in taking Homoeopathic medicine. As Homoeopathic healthcare system is still the preferable choice in many people and easily available with modern medical facilities, Its use is cost-effective, safe and scientific. People should be much educated and aware on these systems of medicines. Because, a little mistake to choice beneficial medication can leads to a fatal outcome. In future more study can be conducted to re-evaluate the using pattern of different healthcare systems for the betterment of the people in this area.

#### **Recommendations :**

The results of the calculations and the literature shows that it is necessary to create more awareness about Homoeopathic treatment system. The following recommendations are made for future interventions:

A) Homoeopathy as a recognized medical system by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Bangladesh should take some steps to establish & development.

B) More Homoeopathic medical college and hospitals should be setup by the government at district level to reach at the community people.

C) Should be launch Homoeopathic medicine treatment clinic at upozilla level in every district.

D) Should create job posts and appointments as medical officer for Homoeopathic physicians.

E) Should set up higher Homoeopathic educational institution for development and research of Homoeopathic education.

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