

# Systematic Review of the Perception of the Public towards Homeopathy

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## ABSTRACT

The systematic review of public perception towards homeopathy revealed a complex and multifaceted outlook shaped by cultural beliefs, personal experiences, accessibility, trust. Homeopathy is viewed as a gentle and natural form of treatment with minimal side effects, making it particularly appealing for chronic illnesses, pediatric care as well as lifestyle-related disorders. Overall, a significant section of the public holds a favorable perception of homeopathy particularly due to its perceived safety, minimal side effects, holistic approach, and emphasized on individualized treatment. These factors contribute to its continued popularity especially among populations seeking complementary or alternative healthcare options. In this article; systematic review on perception of public towards homeopathy has been discussed.

**Keywords:** Perception, Public, Homeopathy.

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## INTRODUCTION

Homeopathy is a system of alternative medicine founded in the late eighteenth century by Samuel Hahnemann, based on the principles of “like cures like” and the use of highly diluted substances. Over the years, homeopathy has gained widespread popularity in several parts of the world, particularly in countries such as India, where it is officially recognized and practiced alongside conventional systems of medicine. Despite ongoing scientific debates regarding its efficacy and mechanisms of action, homeopathy continues to attract a substantial number of users due to factors such as perceived safety, affordability, holistic approach, and cultural acceptance. Public perception plays a crucial role in shaping the acceptance, utilization, and credibility of any healthcare system. Perception towards homeopathy is influenced by multiple determinants, including socio-demographic factors, personal health beliefs, prior treatment experiences, accessibility of services, recommendations from family or practitioners, and trust in traditional or alternative medical systems. In recent decades, a growing body of research has explored public awareness, attitudes, beliefs, and satisfaction regarding homeopathic treatment. However, the findings of these studies are often fragmented, context-specific, and sometimes contradictory. While some studies report high levels of public trust and positive attitudes toward homeopathy, others highlight skepticism, lack of scientific understanding, and concerns regarding evidence-based effectiveness. This variation underscores the need for a comprehensive synthesis of existing literature. The objective of the research was to systematic review on perception of public towards homeopathy.

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Renda, G. et al. (2024). Homeopathy is described as a holistic practice approach that uses customized medications to enhance health status in Turkey's TCM regulations. The national and international literature contains little research that examines people's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours regarding homeopathy. Despite the fact that the Regulation on Pharmacists and Pharmacies in Turkey stipulates that only pharmacies are permitted to sell homeopathic medications, no study assessing pharmacy students' knowledge of homeopathy was located. The purpose of this study is to evaluate pharmacy students' attitudes and understanding regarding homeopathy and to determine the elements that affect them. Through a face-to-face survey, this descriptive study was carried out among the students of Karadeniz Technical University's (KTU) Faculty of Pharmacy between December 1, 2021, and February 1, 2022. The study comprised 418 questionnaires in total that were appropriate for data quality. The study's findings showed that KTU pharmacy students were very knowledgeable about homeopathy.

Ostermann, T. et al. (2024). Economic analyses of homeopathy, like those of other medical procedures, add to the body of knowledge supporting therapeutic notions and are essential for socioeconomic decision-making. A review from 2013 was expanded upon and updated to provide a contemporary picture. Using the terms "cost" and "homeopathy," a thorough literature search was conducted in electronic databases between January 2012 and July 2022. The Consensus

on Health Economic Criteria (CHEC) list was used by two independent reviewers to evaluate the quality of the study, extract data, and check records. Fifteen papers from the previous review were expanded to six. In 14 out of 21 investigations, a cost-benefit analysis revealed that homeopathic treatment was at least as effective as control at lower or comparable costs. Out of the three, two demonstrated the cost-effectiveness of homeopathy through incremental analysis, despite the higher expenses. One discovered three identical outcomes at higher costs for homeopathy, as well as similar findings. The CHEC values varied from two to sixteen. Research conducted prior to 2009 had lower values (mean  $\pm$  SD:  $6.7 \pm 3.4$ ) than those conducted after 2009 ( $9.4 \pm 4.3$ ). The CHEC assessment results indicate a good historical development, but there are far too many cases of methodologically flawed research to support the favorable cost-effectiveness of homeopathic therapies shown in a small number of high-quality studies.

Varanasi, R. et al. (2023). Homoeopathy can successfully regulate blood sugar levels and enhance quality of life (QOL), although it does require a set course of therapy. The purpose of this study was to evaluate Indian Homoeopathic Practitioners' (HPs) homoeopathic practices, prescription practices, experience, and perceptions in treating diabetic mellitus. A web-based cross-sectional study utilizing a snowball sampling technique was carried out from July 30, 2021, to August 18, 2021. Following consultation among subject matter experts and feasibility testing, a questionnaire was developed to document the clinical characteristics of Indian HPs in the treatment of diabetes mellitus. 513 HPs participated in the study, with a mean age [standard deviation (SD)] of 40.44 years (11.16) and a mean of 14.67 years [95% confidence interval (CI) = 13.71–15.63] of homoeopathic medical practice. Most homoeopaths (201, 39.2%) wrote classical homoeopathic prescriptions. However, those who wrote multiple prescriptions for potentized medications were better at managing diabetes mellitus (DM) than those who wrote classical prescriptions [Odds Ratio (OR) = 2.34,  $p = 0.032$ ]. The homoeopathic treatment, according to the HPs, significantly improved the QOL of the diabetic patients (418, 81.5%) with very few side effects (100, 19.5%). When homoeopathy was administered in addition to conventional therapy, the blood sugar level was better managed (348, 67.8%). The study's clinical experience with homoeopathic medicines has demonstrated that these treatments can help DM patients live longer and avoid problems. It further stated that homoeopathy can be a valuable supplement to traditional medicine in the management of diabetes mellitus.

Gadhava, S. & Tillub, G. (2023). The letter "Yes to a pluralistic health system, but no to homoeopathy" should be contested for its unfair treatment of homoeopathic medicine and its place in Universal Health Care (UHC). Under the AYUSH umbrella, the usage of homoeopathic medications is currently surpassed by the use of Ayurveda medicines.

Zulian, T.M. (2023). Homoeopathy is discussed in different contexts; people frequently respond negatively and cast doubt on the practice's ability to treat medical conditions. The fallacy, or post-truth, that "there isn't scientific evidence for homoeopathy" is deeply ingrained in the public consciousness due to its subtle and repeated dissemination in the mass media. This serves as a tactic to deepen prejudice and radicalize attitudes against this 200-year-old medical practice. Prejudice is a byproduct of misinformation or rejection of the research that underpins the homoeopathic paradigm in numerous scientific domains. It is frequently nourished by negative articles published in the media and on social media, which, in turn, hardly ever reveal studies that reveal positive outcomes for homoeopathy. For more than 200 years, homoeopathy has been a recognized medical practice on a global scale, fostering research, education, and patient care in a range of healthcare facilities and medical schools. In order to elicit a curative response from the organism against its own disorders or illnesses, it uses a clinical approach based on complementary and heterodox scientific assumptions (the principle of cure by similarity, homoeopathic pathogenic trials, use of dynamized doses, and individualized medicines).

Hamre, H.J. et al. (2023). They investigated how, with varying methodologies, findings, and conclusions, multiple meta-analyses (MAs) of placebo-controlled randomized efficacy trials of homoeopathy for any indication (PRETHAIs) have been published since 1997. A formal evaluation of these MAs has not yet been carried out. This systematic study of MAs of PRETHAIs was conducted primarily to assess the effectiveness of homoeopathic treatment. The following parameters were necessary for inclusion: MAs of PRETHAIs in humans; all ages, nationalities, environments, and languages of publication; and MAs published between January 1, 1990, and April 30, 2023. The following were the exclusion criteria: systematic reviews without meta-analyses (MAs); MAs limited to particular indications, homoeopathic therapies, age, or gender groups; and MAs lacking an efficacy assessment. Eight electronic databases were searched through December 14, 2020, and six databases were updated through April 30, 2023. The main result was the effect estimate for every trial that was included in each MA, as well as after limiting the sample to trials that satisfied predetermined standards for good methodological quality. The ROBIS (Risk of Bias in Systematic Reviews) tool was used to evaluate the bias risk for each MA. The GRADE system was used to evaluate the quality of the evidence. The percentage of MAs with a significant favorable effect of homoeopathy compared to those with no significant change was ascertained by statistical analysis. Included were six MAs that addressed all kinds of homoeopathy (ALL-HOM = I-HOM + NI-HOM,  $n = 3$ ) as well as non-individualized homoeopathy (NI-HOM,  $n = 1$ ). Individualized homoeopathy (I-HOM,  $n = 2$ ) was also covered. The included trials were published between 1943 and 2014, and the MAs contained between 16 and 110 trials in total. On average, there were 45 to 97 patients in the trial sample size. Three MAs had low and three MAs had high ratings for the risk of bias (low, unclear, and high). Homoeopathy had a significantly beneficial effect compared to placebo, according to effect estimates for all trials in each MA (5 of 5 MAs, no data in 1 MA). Four MAs did sensitivity analyses by only looking at high-quality trials. In

one MA (which measured NI-HOM), the effect was no longer significant, but it was still significant in three MAs (two of which measured ALL-HOM and one of which measured I-HOM). For I-HOM, the quality of the evidence showing that homeopathy works better than a placebo was good. For ALL-HOM and NI-HOM, it was average. The alternative hypothesis that there would be no difference in results between homeopathy and placebo was not supported. The available MAs of PRETHAIs demonstrate that homeopathy has substantial benefits over placebo. In vitro, physicochemical, plant-based, and animal-based test systems have shown that homeopathically potentized medicines have effects that can be seen over and over again.

Aßmann L. & Betsch T. (2023). Many people believe in and utilize complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) to treat health issues or prevent diseases. Due to methodological flaws, the empirical data supporting various treatments is either nonexistent or debatable. Therefore, rather than reliable empirical information from systematic studies, practitioners and patients generally rely on subjective references. This study looked into whether personality and cognitive variables may account for variations in homeopathic and complementary medicine beliefs. In order to get insight into the primary factors that influence these beliefs, we looked at the collective robustness of 21 predictors in a sample of 599 people, 60 percent of whom were female and aged 18 to 81. A combination of predictors (agreeableness, death anxiety, spiritual epistemology, ontological confusions, and gender) explained 20% of the variation in CAM belief; a similar combination of predictors (21% of the variation in homeopathy belief) explained ontological confusions, illusory pattern perception, need for cognitive closure, need for cognition, honesty-humility, death anxiety, gender, and age. People who practice homeopathy and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) have cognitive biases and individual variances that affect how they see the world. The results are compared to other false beliefs and examined in light of earlier research.

Mavela, N.H. et al. (2023). The public's demand for and usage of homeopathic medications is gaining attention, but little is known about pharmacists' opinions on the matter, especially in the context of private health in South Africa. An exploratory cross-sectional descriptive design was employed in a qualitative manner. A purposive sample of 15 participants—pharmacy managers, pharmacists, and pharmacy assistants—from six conveniently chosen private pharmacy retail locations provided the data. Individual interviews using a semi-structured interview guide were used to gather data. The data was recorded on an audiotape, transcribed verbatim, and subjected to thematic analysis using Tech's data analysis processes. The Institutional Research Ethics Committee at Durban University of Technology granted ethical approval for the study's execution. Four overarching themes emerged from the study's findings about pharmacists' self-reported knowledge and perceptions about homeopathic medications. These include unfavourable opinions about homeopathic remedies, the perceived advantages of homeopathic remedies, a lack of information and awareness of homeopathic remedies, and issues with curriculum and capacity building. To enable pre-service and in-service pharmacy practitioners to effectively educate patients about all kinds of medications as the demand for homeopathic medicines rises, the findings emphasize the necessity of an educational intervention on homeopathic medicines.

Valle, A. et al. (2023). Homeopathy has become more and more well-known for its demonstrated therapeutic advantages and for offering patients a course of treatment with fewer side effects, consequently improving their quality of life. In integrative medicine, homeopathic therapy is an extra option for treating cancer patients and can be applied in many settings. In this regard, hepatocellular carcinoma is associated with a high death rate and is typically detected in an advanced stage of the disease. So, this study looked at how well the homeopathic medicines *Lycopodium clavatum* and *Taraxacum officinale* worked together against HepG2 cells in a lab setting. Cells were cultivated in flasks for this purpose, and the cells were plated in 96-well plates after that. There was a discernible drop in viability as compared to the control group, which consisted of untreated cells. Furthermore, in the three studied settings, *Taraxacum officinale* showed a greater potential to reduce cell viability than the other drugs. In conclusion, the homeopathic remedy, according to potencies, shows promise against cells of hepatocellular carcinoma and can be applied to help treat this kind of cancer.

Millward, J. et al. (2022). Homeopathic products are popular with customers and may be purchased over-the-counter in many US pharmacies, despite the lack of solid proof of their therapeutic benefits. It is the duty of chemists to provide knowledgeable, fact-based information on these goods, but it's possible that many recent graduates aren't getting enough training in this area. This study presents the findings from a survey that examined the potential impact of completing a targeted elective course in complementary and integrative health (CIH) on students' opinions and knowledge of homeopathy. A survey consisting of 22 questions was created and disseminated to Idaho State University College of Pharmacy graduates. The survey responses of individuals who reported enrolling in the CIH elective course and those who did not were compared. 89 chemists out of 475 completed the survey (18.7% response rate). After completing the CIH elective course, pharmacists felt more capable of making recommendations (75% vs. 36%,  $p < 0.001$ ), were more at ease responding to patient inquiries (82% vs. 44%,  $p < 0.001$ ), and felt more qualified to explain the suggested mode of action of homeopathic remedies to their patients (87% vs. 61%,  $p = 0.002$ ). Additionally, there was a higher likelihood (82% vs. 64%,  $p = 0.007$ ) among those who took the elective course to claim that any advantages of homeopathy were the result of the placebo effect. When compared to respondents who had completed the elective course, a substantially larger percentage of those who had not (85% vs. 51%,  $p = 0.02$ ) said

they may benefit from additional training on CIH themes. When it came to answering CIH-related questions, there was no discernible difference between the groups' utilization of trustworthy sources (like PubMed and Natural Medicines) vs. untrustworthy sources (like other internet searches or personal anecdotes). These results suggest that chemists who have received more CIH-focused training are more at ease, self-assured, and informed when talking about homeopathy. Students in pharmacy colleges ought to have access to this kind of instruction more widely.

Sundararajan, M. et al. (2022). The declaration of coronavirus as a public health emergency emphasizes the urgent need for international cooperation in order to investigate and comprehend the virus better and to reduce the danger of transmission. Arsenicum album-30, a likely preventive homeopathic remedy for coronavirus infection, was released by the Ministry of Ayush. Strategies for preventing coronaviruses aid in reducing the transmission of disease. For three months, a cross-sectional survey with a semi-structured questionnaire was conducted among Chennai inhabitants. 52.5% of the 354 survey respondents were female. The preventive potential of homeopathy was recognized by 79.4% of respondents. Because of public awareness efforts on news and social media, they were well-versed in and practiced the Arsenicum album. The government's homeopathic preventive program was well received by the populace. According to the poll, a significant percentage of people think that homeopathy can treat the illness, which opens the door for further investigation into its potential as an adjunct.

Bagot, J.L. et al. (2021). The most common complementary therapy in supportive care in oncology (SCO) in France is homeopathy, and its use is growing gradually. However, little is known about how general practitioners (GPs) and oncologists (HGP and NHGP, respectively) with and without homeopathic training see and value homeopathy. Through two innovative observation survey-based research projects, our goal was to assess French physicians' opinions of homeopathy in order to elucidate its position in SCO. 150 specialist oncologists—97 HGPs and 100 NHGPs—participated in two cross-sectional surveys of French physicians. Questions assessed how doctors felt about homeopathy and how often they used homeopathic treatments on patients that needed SCO. Physician status was used to characterize and analyze survey results. Of oncologists, 10% said they prescribe homeopathy, 36% suggest it, and 54% believe it could be beneficial in SCO. 58% of NHGPs routinely refer patients to homeopathic physicians, and 2/3 occasionally prescribe homeopathy in the context of SCO. In SCO, homeopathy is viewed favorably by HGPs. Most French doctors who treat cancer patients, including oncologists and general practitioners, have a positive opinion of homeopathy as an integrated SCO therapy. Particularly pertinent symptoms include hot flashes, anxiety, peripheral neuropathy, exhaustion, and disturbed sleep. Homeopathy is regarded as a dependable treatment choice in many clinical circumstances, where response to traditional therapy may be less than ideal. The legitimacy of homeopathy as the first complementary therapy in SCO in France is demonstrated by these two investigations.

Donelli, D. & Antonelli, M. (2021). Homeopathy is a widely used, albeit much contested, medical practice that involves administering remedies with active ingredients so diluted that there is no discernible evidence of them left in the finished result. In order to enhance homeopathy's therapeutic safety and sustainability, this hypothesis paper attempts to present a potential reinterpretation of the practice in the context of psychological therapies. If we acknowledge that homeopathy can be viewed as a highly complex placebo treatment and that patients with conditions that respond to placebo can benefit from placebo treatments, including open-label ones, then homeopathy can be reinterpreted as a safe medical practice with clear boundaries and potential benefits. When compared to its current practice, homeopathy's use would become more restricted; yet, this reinterpretation would permit its safe application in certain circumstances without the need for a complete ban. Homeopathic practice may still have a safe and beneficial integrative role in modern medicine if it is reinterpreted as a placebo treatment as well as psychotherapeutic support. A list of evidence-based clinical indications may then be developed based on these considerations. It is important to shift the emphasis from homeopathy as a medical system that solely uses pharmacologically inactive remedies to the homeopath as a practitioner who may help patients with specific medical issues without causing toxicity or contraindications. If homeopaths are willing to accept a new, safer interpretation of homeopathy that has some limitations, new opportunities, and is still worthy of being practiced, this hypothetical interpretation could help to open a dialogue between the scientific community and radical proponents of homeopathy.

Vetrivelan, V. & Yoganandan, G. (2020). One of the fastest-growing medical systems in the world today is used practically everywhere. Customer perception is defined as how customers regularly view or feel about specific goods and services. Deconstructing public understanding and perception of homeopathy from the perspective of the general public is one of the research's goals, and its resolve will aid society and the public in considering the public's future possibilities. To gather replies, non-probability convenience sampling was employed. Ultimately, data analysis was conducted using 60 sample questionnaires. This study looked into the public's impression of homeopathic medicines and whether or not homeopathy has become widely used. The media is running efforts to limit interviews on homeopathic medicines, and the outcomes show that the experiments have been successful. It is imperative that the government raise public awareness of conventional drugs because they are vital to the feature.

Cukaci, C. et al. (2020). Homeopathy is remarkably popular. However, in a scientific discussion, popularity is not a deciding factor. In actuality, homeopathy's core presumptions go against the fundamental rules of nature. Homeopathy does not meet any of the stated requirements for a scientific approach and has no explanatory capacity.

Despite several clinical trials, there is no proof that homoeopathic therapies have any therapeutic impact that is greater than a placebo, according to two recent large-scale studies. The continued success of homoeopathy is made possible by loose restrictions, a lack of scientific literacy, and inadequate health education. Although there may be changes in the regulatory landscape, public health education is likely more crucial to helping patients make educated decisions. If not, the accountable patient—who is presumed to make medical decisions—remains a useful legal construct.

Kaur, H. et al. (2019). India provides its people with a variety of medical treatment options, all of which are grounded in a pluralistic approach to health care. In that regard, the Indian government wants to make homoeopathy more widely available to its citizens. This article sheds light on the infrastructure assistance the government has put in place to achieve that goal. To evaluate the changes in morbidity in India and the treatment options that patients are pursuing, a review of recent surveys and papers was conducted in the literature. A great deal of effort was put into locating and gaining access to any data sources that would be useful in figuring out how homoeopathy is used in public health in India. In addition to a case study of one government wellness clinic, their efforts involved secondary data analysis of the facility. Homoeopathy ranks highly among AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) services and is widely used in public health in India. The percentage of AYUSH wellness clinics that are homoeopathic makes up 31%. The most often reported illnesses at homoeopathic wellness facilities include seven of the ten diseases that are considered to be a national health burden. 35.8% of AYUSH institutions are academic homoeopathy institutes, with total enrollments of 13,658 and 32,256 students, respectively. 37% of AYUSH practitioners are homoeopaths. The number of allopathy units is one-fifth that of homoeopathy units, but the number of patients seen there each year is one-fifth that of the latter. When accessible, homoeopathic services are fully utilized, sharing the patient burden in the wellness clinics run by the government. There is a chance that more homoeopathic doctors may make a significant contribution to the provision of healthcare in India.

Sarangi, M.R. et al. (2019). One of the many alternative medical systems that are common in India is homeopathy. In order to find out how much the general public knew about homeopathy, a survey was carried out in a Sangam, Allahabad, congregation in January and February of 2017. Patients and visitors to the health check-up camp and display booth put up during the Magh Mela at Sangam, Allahabad, participated in a cross-sectional survey. The poll was conducted using a self-administered questionnaire that was created by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy. The majority of individuals received homeopathic treatment for fever, constipation, diarrhea, and the common cold. Although the general public is aware of homeopathy, there are a number of common misconceptions. To increase public knowledge of homeopathy and its efficacy in treating a range of illnesses, awareness campaigns are required.

Manchanda, R. et al. (2017). It also stated that not enough study has been done on Indian patients' preferences for integrated homoeopathy treatments. Positive attitudes towards and satisfaction with integrated services were found in two previous polls. This study aimed to investigate homoeopathy knowledge, attitudes, and practices, as well as preferences for its incorporation into secondary-level healthcare. A cross-sectional survey was done with 659 adult patients who went to randomly chosen secondary-level conventional health care settings in Kolkata, Mumbai, Kottayam, and New Delhi (India) between May and October 2015. The patients filled out a 24-item questionnaire on their own in four local languages: Bengali, Marathi, Malayalam, and Hindi. Scores for attitude towards integration and legal regulation were high, but scores for knowledge and practice were compromised. The adverse effects of homoeopathy, as well as its concurrent usage and combinations with conventional medications, were not well understood by the respondents. Of the participants, 82.40% (95% confidence interval = 79.23, 85.19) supported the integration of homoeopathic services. In Delhi, preferences were noticeably greater than in Kottayam. There is a discussion of potential strategic actions to advance the development of integrated models.

Rhee, T.G. et al. (2017). We assessed the motivations and perceived advantages of utilizing homeopathic and herbal treatments among U.S. adults. Data were obtained from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey, which represents non-institutionalized individuals in the United States. Over the previous year, 18.6% of U.S. adults indicated they used homeopathic and/or herbal remedies. Among these individuals, 34.8% utilized them solely for well-being, whereas 5.1% employed them exclusively for therapy. 60.1% indicated utilizing homeopathic and herbal remedies for both therapeutic and well-being purposes. In four of seven self-reported perceived benefit metrics, users of wellness alone and those utilizing a combination of treatment and wellness showed a greater propensity to report benefits compared to individuals who employed CAM only for treatment. Homeopathic and herbal therapies may represent a viable lifestyle strategy to improve health-related quality of life among U.S. adults; however, further study is required to ascertain safety and efficacy concerns.

Yoganandan, G. & Vetrivelan, V.V. (2017). Homoeopathy is currently one of the clinical modalities with the quickest rate of development worldwide. Samuel Hahnemann created the distinctive, extensive, and profound healing system known as homoeopathy about 200 years ago. The homoeopathy system is not well known to the general public. Around the world, a variety of medical practices are widely accepted and practiced. In India, people also favor complementary and alternative medicine such as homoeopathy, unani and ayurveda. This study uses a convenience sampling approach

with a sample size of 50 respondents. The analysis methods employed are the Garrett ranking approach and descriptive analysis.

Clare, R. et al. (2017). A systematic assessment of surveys pertaining to the 12-month prevalence of homeopathy use among the global general population. Database searches were used to find studies up until October 2015. A six-item tool was used to measure the quality of the study. All calculations were made within the framework of a survey that also revealed the prevalence of using complementary and alternative therapies. This research compiles data from surveys done in eleven countries (USA, UK, Australia, Israel, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore) regarding the 12-month prevalence of homeopathy use. A small but noteworthy portion of these general populations practice homeopathy annually. This covers both buying over-the-counter homeopathic medications and visiting homeopaths.

Saha, S. et al. (2013). This study aimed to determine the learning environment's strengths and weaknesses as well as to comprehend the opinions of students attending homeopathic undergraduate schools in West Bengal, India. In May 2013, 430 students from two government homeopathic medical institutions in West Bengal, India, participated in an institutional, cross-sectional, observational study. Students' opinions of the academic atmosphere, learning environment, and teacher-student connection in homeopathic schools were ascertained using a seven-item, closed-ended questionnaire with a four-point Likert scale. Flexibility, student-to-student connection, emotional climate, supportiveness, meaningful experience, organization, and range of interest are the seven subscales that were produced by the questionnaire. Bengali was the mother tongue of 93.7% of the students, and 46.5% of them came from rural areas. Group study was favored by 77.9% of students, and 39.5% of pupils preferred Bengali as the medium of teaching. 79.8% of students chose multimedia instruction over traditional classroom instruction, whereas 47.7% of students expressed dissatisfaction with the teaching method. The score for relevant experience (theoretical teaching) was high, but flexibility stayed low. Few subscales caused significant differences among students of different years, but scores did not differ significantly between preclinical and clinical students. The scale had adequate test-retest reliability, but its internal consistency scores were still debatable. Based on the opinions of the students, this study highlighted the areas in the homeopathic school environment that need improvement. To increase student happiness, plans should be made to modify the curriculum, faculty, and facilities.

Eames, S. & Darby, P. (2011). For the past few years, media coverage of homeopathy has tended to focus on the extremely negative stance adopted by sceptics, ignoring any potential advantages of the practice. As a result, the coverage has been erroneous, somewhat biased, and occasionally exaggerated. Dr. David Shaw's opinion piece, "Unethical aspects of homeopathic dentistry," is a prime example of how it falls well short of offering a framework for thoughtful, fair debate. Therefore, the authors are appreciative of the chance to present the argument for incorporating homeopathy into dentistry practice from the BDJ.

Brien, S. et al. (2011). To find out if the benefits of adding homeopathic treatment to RA patients' care are due to homeopathic medicines, homeopathic advice, or both. Experimental double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study that was carried out in patients receiving conventional therapy for active, stable RA between January and July of 2008. A total of 83 participants were randomly assigned to receive 24 weeks of treatment with either non-homeopathic consultation (further randomized to complex homeopathy or placebo) or homeopathic consultation (further randomized to individualized homeopathy, complex homeopathy, or placebo). The participants were drawn from three secondary care UK outpatient clinics. Co-primary outcomes include the patient's monthly global assessment (GA) and the ACR 20% improvement (ACR20) criterion. Secondary outcomes include the 28-joint DAS (DAS-28), the number of painful and swollen joints, the severity of the disease, pain, weekly GA and pain scores for patients and doctors, and inflammatory markers. Patients with active but somewhat stable RA may benefit clinically from homeopathic consultations but not from homeopathic treatments.

Rossi, E. et al. (2009). The goal was to assess how well all patients responded to homeopathic treatment in a public homeopathic clinic from September 1998 to December 2005, as well as to examine homeopathic practice. A longitudinal observational study was conducted in Lucca, Italy, in a homeopathic clinic housed in a public hospital. Data about the patient, the clinical diagnosis, the prescribed treatment, the dosage potency, the prescription method, and whether the case was classified as acute, chronic, or recurrent were all examined. By using the Glasgow Homeopathic Hospital Outcome Score, clinical response was evaluated. In total, 74% of patients said they had improved at least somewhat. Longer treatment times and younger patient ages produced greater results. Psychological issues fared worse than respiratory, gastrointestinal, and dermatological diseases in terms of response. Improvement is linked to homeopathic therapy for a variety of recurrent and chronic illnesses. Certain pathologies and patient variables have an impact on the outcome.

Marian, F. et al. (2008). This study was supported by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, is a component of a national assessment of complementary medicine in Switzerland (Programme Evaluation of Complementary Medicine PEK). This study's major goal is to assess patient satisfaction and perceptions of side effects between conventional and homeopathic care in a primary care setting. Data from two cross-sectional investigations carried out in 2002–2003

were analysed. A physician questionnaire was used in the first study to evaluate the structural features of practices. In the second trial, which involved four specific days over the course of a 12-month period in 2002/2003, a patient questionnaire (which included the Europe questionnaire) was mailed to the patient one month after it was completed by the physician and patient at the consultation. All of the collaborating doctors had training and licensure in traditional medicine. Medical professionals who provided homeopathy had to meet an additional requirement, which was membership in the Swiss Association of Homeopathic Physicians (SVHA). Compared to conventional care, homeopathic treatment resulted in much improved overall patient satisfaction. Compared to conventional care, homeopathic medicines were thought to be a low-risk therapy with two to three times fewer side effects.

## CONCLUSION

The review highlighted considerable variation in perceptions across educational level, scientific awareness, socioeconomic status, and exposure to conventional medical systems. While many users report satisfaction and subjective improvement in health outcomes, skepticism persists among scientifically informed groups, primarily due to concerns regarding empirical evidence, delayed therapeutic effects, and lack of standardized clinical validation. The findings also suggested that public perception of homeopathy is strongly influenced by interpersonal communication, practitioner–patient relationships, and traditional knowledge systems rather than by scientific literature alone. Media portrayal and policy-level recognition also play a critical role in shaping public attitudes. Importantly, the review underscores the need for rigorous, transparent research and effective public health communication to bridge the gap between belief-based acceptance and evidence-based practice. In conclusion, homeopathy continued to occupy a significant place in public health perception as a complementary system of medicine. Enhancing scientific literacy, promoting integrative healthcare approaches, and strengthening regulatory and research frameworks may help foster informed decision-making and balanced perceptions among the public regarding homeopathy’s role in contemporary healthcare systems.

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