

Homeopathy in Kolkata by Allan Pollock

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New Post Graduate Course started. (Recording Available)

Details: <https://allencollege.co.uk/post-graduate-course/>

Recordings of Calcutta Clinical Programme 2024 (where 150+ Live cases were seen in 2 weeks).

36 hours of Clinic Recording of Live Cases available: British Pounds: 300.

Details: <https://allencollege.co.uk/calcutta-clinical-training/>

Homeopathy in Kolkata (Calcutta, India)

Homeopathy in Kolkata is for many the home of Classical Homeopathy. In January I had the privilege to attend a course run at the [Bengal Allen Medical Institute](#) in Kolkata (Calcutta).

Some 18% of the world's population live in India – about 1.5 billion. Although there are many poor people it is a fast-developing country and is the fifth largest economy in the world.



[Dr Saptarshi Banerjea](#) now runs the Calcutta Clinic. His father [Dr Subrata](#) is primarily UK based but regularly visits India to assist. Respectively they are the fourth and fifth generation of homeopathic doctors. During the two-week course the two doctors saw over 150 patients. In addition to the main clinic, they also host a low cost 'slum' clinic which we were privileged to visit.

Homeopathy in Kolkata: A Different Health Care Model

In a departure from my recent blogs themes, I wish to share with you a different health care model to that which you find in the West. One that offers the client more choice.

At the outset let me say that in India that orthodox 'western' medicine such as you find in the NHS is widely available through both state and private facilities. It is not by accident that many doctors from the Indian subcontinent practice in the UK.

Almost all the patients seen by the Drs Banerjea had undergone orthodox investigation, diagnosis, and treatment. The strengths of orthodox medicine are not to be denied, but neither are the limitations. Medicine is complex, and the nature of healing more complex still. There is no single approach.



Local Pharmacy

Dr Subrata jokes that if you were to throw a stone in Calcutta, you would hit a Homeopath. Perhaps an exaggeration, but there are many pharmacies specialising in homeopathic medicines upon which the local communities rely.

Medical Training in India

So how is medical training in India organised? As mentioned, there is a strong focus on the 'orthodox' model as we understand it. But not to the exclusion of other systems.

The simple answer is that the Indian Government recognises traditional forms of medicine.

There exists a [Ministry of AYUSH](#). The acronym is a play on the Sanskrit word for Long Life, and incorporates Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. Ayurvedic and Siddha rather overlap. Their focus is to reestablish balance by dietary herbal and other means. Unani is not dissimilar but is Arabic/ Persian in origin.

These approaches reach back millennia and it is worth remembering that what we in the West see as orthodox medicine is a very recent science.

Almost everyone will have some familiarity with Yoga and how it benefits both mind and posture. There is much about Homeopathy on this website of course, but you can find an introduction [here](#).

In India, medical students with an interest in Homeopathy study for the BHMS qualification (Bachelor of Homeopathy and Medical Science). This is equivalent to the MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery) within the Western Orthodox model. Obviously, there is appropriate training in the other pathways, though I am unfamiliar with the details.

Practitioners and patients may favour (or show bias to) one approach over another. But they reflect different ways of approaching health and the different outlooks of physicians and patients alike. One size does not fit all. The majority present at the course were Indian BHMS qualified doctors.

Homeopathy in Kolkata: The Calcutta Clinic



The 'slum' clinic

Over the two weeks, there were both new and follow-up cases. There was a wide range of complaints affecting almost every system of the body: skin, respiratory, musculo-skeletal, gastic, cardiac, emotional / neurological and so forth. In most cases, given time, improvement resulted. Significantly so in some cases.

As a general rule, it is difficult to reverse well-established pathology, but symptoms can often be eased. You can get an idea of the range of cases from [Dr Saptarshi's website](#).

The in-depth knowledge of both father and son of the Homeopathic Materia Medica (that is to say the applicability of the homeopathic remedies) was truly impressive. Many patients travelled for long hours to reach the clinic which is testimony to the achievements of this homeopathic dynasty.





