MEDICAL PLURALISM AND GENESIS OF MODERN MEDICINE SYSTEM

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Abstract
The review and observations of literature surveyed concerning the prevalent dominant allopathic system reveals that many names are attributed to the system. The objective is to apprise that this medical discourse which is being challenged by alternative discourse. This research encompasses the evolutionary perspective of Modern medical system that means allopathic system. Therefore, firstly, this study elaborates the plurality of medical systems; furthermore, it explains the evolutionary process of development of Biomedicine system. This contemporary medicine system is the dominant discourse in the modern world. So, this research reviews ancient history through which allopathic system has been evolved. Mythological explanation of the research has also been mentioned and all the material collected here is a secondary source base.

KEYWORDS:
Medical Pluralism, Biomedicine, Alternative Medicine

INTRODUCTION:
The medicalization of society has been a surging phenomenon in modern time in modernity era that appeared with modern scientific and technological age and along with a larger apparatus of power in the societies. But social philosophers have come to criticize the medicalization of society by placing arguments against it however, somewhat differently. Ivan Illich (1975) attacked modern scientific medicine system in his book „Limits to Medicine“. He criticized „medicalization“ by referring medical, social and cultural „iatrogenesis“, the harms caused to health and patients in different ways either ill advised drugs and surgery, harm caused by bureaucratization of health system as it becomes depersonalized and due to the managed health idea. And more, that the failure of people to accept personal responsibility for one’s own health.
Foucault also dealt with the phenomenon of medicalization of society condemning it, and, he saw it as the subject of control and surveillance of people where visible „panoptic” authority constructs the illness and health for their purpose. Panoptic power is the medical knowledge and power acquired by them. This idea, he elaborated in his book „Discipline and Punish” (1975) where „expert knowledge” was legitimizing the health affairs. This knowledge was a subject of historical development; sufficient to declare some are sick and some others healthy. Dominant health discourse of a time suppresses the other ideas about health and illness. Of course, medicalization is to create dependency of people on the system. Obviously, in India, because of its colonial past has adopted Western, modern, scientific healthcare system and medicine as it the dominant approach to health or say the dominant health discourse prevails over indigenous and local health discourse as suppressed the later historically. However, this health discourse resurfacing as alternative health practice with the policy and financial support of Indian government again but this health discourse is subservient to dominant medicine discourse still, however, struggling with new energy, seemingly.

“There are a large number of discursive ways in which health and illness are understood by human beings”.

To understand the Yoga health/ medical discourse it is imperative to look in the past Greek and Indian traditions, which generated contemporary Bio- Medicine (allopathic) and the Indian Yoga remedy for illness respectively. The brief account of this is given here under

THE PLURALITY OF MEDICAL PRACTICES:

In the field of medicine and health systems there is a simultaneous presence of various treatment pathies and healing that can be indicated by a term medical pluralism. There are numerous primitive, folk and regional medicine systems vis-à-vis cosmopolitan medicine system like allopathy (Bhardwaj, Ruby, 2010). All it requires attentions to make a comparative study of them based on their text and discourses of their own. Leaving aside the unabated controversies about „first civilization” when it appeared, one thing can be said clear way that all (civilizations) has their own system of health and the treatment of illness. Some authors, however, attempted to sort out commonness and interconnection between the medical system connecting with civilizations as these having own identity in that regard especially in the wake of general cultural- mythological pattern
of India and Greeks.

There are four major medical systems – India, China, Greek and later developed European- American one. All these have their own originators and propagators of such medicines whose names retain big mythological value.

Enlightenment era of 17th to 19th C witnessed the phased development of science and reason, which includes the work of Galileo (1564- 1642), Newton (1642-1727), Copernicus (1473-1543), Darwin (1809-1874), Mendel(1822-1884), all in their fields. However, this momentum continued in the 20th century with Louis Pasteur, a microbiologist (1822- 1895) producing penicillin, Marie Curie (1867- 1934) and Hanneman (1755-1843) who departed from allopathy” and developed Homeopathy. All developments in Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Genetics, Medicine plus instruments of testing laboratory have been observable. The later year scientists have made advancements and helped differentiation within science spectrum itself with the growth of Genetics, Physiology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Microbiology, X-ray technique and recently the Nano science, Nuclear Medicine, Cognitive Science which promoted the development of Biomedicine - the allopathy drugs.

To mention one gracious name of Hanneman that brought a thrust in medical revolution was from Germany. Hanneman (1755-1843) who was MD in allopathy medicine and who after practicing in allopathy for 10 years abandoned it for its being useless and ill founded creating side effects. He erected his own medical paradigm after experimenting on cinchona, medicinal plant for curing malaria. However there used a negative term for allopathy, that means the opposites (allos), and suffering means pathos, as he established. In the next coming years and till date homeopathy travelled to the trust and efficacy in diagnosis and treatment of illness by its approach against symptoms based allopathy.

However, the allopathy practitioners consider this nomenclature as „wicked use” and „cunningly coined” against the regular medicine by the „enemy” Hanneman who has gone „heretic to the pathy”. As the researcher knows the pains and sigh of present allopaths through its apex autonomous body the „British Medical Association” and expressing their condemnation of homeopathy and its originator still today as the body resolves thus “it is pernicious non sense that feeds into a rising wake of irrationality that threatens the hard won gains of enlightenment, and the scientific method” (Times of India, 1-7-2010).
A debate between the devotees and deniers of homeopathy as trusted alternative aggravating in the second decade of 21st century (The Hindu, 24-2-2010) reporting earlier. Obviously, given this attitude of administrators- politicians lead the comparative lack of attention to Indian system of medicine and cure.

THE MYTHOLOGICAL MEDICAL GODS:

Jindal, S. K. (2012) mentions in his article on Mythology and Modern medicine thus- “Myth has preceded medicine with stories of witch doctors and magical cures”. This statement pertains to there of medical history of different cultures. In the context of development of modern Biomedicine system and the alternative indigenous system of medicine it is pertinent to present the originators of medical/ health systems as known and respected in their national communities. The Hindu ancient civilization has produced Ayurved-yoga system of health, Greek has its own, Chinese, and, Arab world is with Unani system, very close to Ayurveda of Hindu civilization. All have developed out of mythological stages. Tribal groups in different part of the world tended to maintain the ethnic medicines extra terrestrial beliefs. Asclepius, a Thinker of Ancient Greek Believably the Distant Father of Modern Biomedicine Patanjali, who Founded 8 Limbs Yoga (4th to 2nd Century BC).

THE EARLY EQUIVALENTS IN HEALTH THINKING:

Mystic Personalities from Greek and India: The legendry characters of early civilizations were attributed to God´s status and are referred memorized in the history of medicine by the authors on the subject. A brief account of the events is given here under. Greek gods founded the base of modern western medicine (allopathy). The first name was Asclepius a caesarean himself and a son of Apollo (1923BC) considered on god of medicine. He always carried a snake coiled around a log like the snake visible around the neck of Shivji associated with Vishnu in Hindus mythology, a god form that created universe.

Asclepius has „six daughters” Hygieia (Personification of health), Iaso (recuperation from illness), Aceso (healing process), Aglaea (beauty, splendour and glory), Panacea (universal remedy) and Meditrina (healing or recovery). These symbolized sisters cover important aspects of health and illness in men.

Dhanwantri in Indian medical mythology (Vishnu incarnation) was said reproduced out of
churning of ocean of milk combindly by Devtas and Asuras, in prehistory period of India. He is the god of health having curative charisma. Dhanwatri and Apollo are the adorned names in hospitals and health complexes in India and Greek. Hippocrates (460-370 BC) was the name viewed as direct father of western medicine. The Hippocrates school of medicine started professionalism in medicine. Hippocrates oath is sweared by doctors pass outs in medicine systems thus- “I swear by Apollo...”. Ayurveda equivalent to Greek medical thinking in India who established, it are Susrut (600BC), Charak (300- 500BC), and Patanjali (400BC-2000AD), known for yoga philosophy.

Indian scientific thinking has written relatively old chapters that include Arya Bhatt, Astronomy (476-550 BC), Brahmbhat on gravity (628AD) and Bhaskar in 12th Century. In furtherance of science, the contribution made the Indian scientists is no way ignorable; Sir JC Bose was acclaimed world over as he said that plants that appear dumb and motionless feel the touch of drop of water; the prick of a pin and the smell of a stimulant like animals of all kinds are living beings. In Indian mainstream philosophy it is that plants are living being called Sthavar Yoni (Non moving body) under Karma theory. CV Raman was another name who was conferred noble prize in 1930 and is known for Raman effect; Homi Jahagir Bhaba an Indian atomic scientist and Vikram Sarabhai worth to be added. And Hargovind Khurana who researched DNA theory all makes the late years galaxy of Indian origin world scientists.

Religious cultures are the rich source of mythology, which also shape the medical thinking of experts and non-experts both. Leaving thousands of beliefs aside ´dua´ in Islam, Raakh(ash) in Hindus and salvation power of a beatified person in Christianity where charisma is produced after the people are treated successfully by persons sanctified extraordinary as evidence of such power, very- very rare in human image. Generally these treatments and incidents are unverifiable but these are the faith items.

There are many dukhbhanjan temples or the sites of relinquishing of miseries of devotees or bhaktas, the miseries of all kind. „Beej Mantras” given in the area of Haryana and Punjab by Shree Lakshmi Narayan Dham a religious mystic also believably serve the purpose of salivating the believers if they receive his mantra and if it is given. Naamdaan ceremonied for the laity of gurus considered also a panacea for the welfare of bhaktas is also is also a medical belief. Apart from these very loose and non-verified areas of medical belief the modern complex of medical systems is matured today setting aside these beliefs.
FINAL DIRECTION OF BIOMEDICINE:

Allopathic medicine which dominates the world scene of medical systems today is told „to be based on techno-scientific reasoning” this system has its own logic, its origins to the Greek and Roman cultures with contribution from ancient Egyptian and Arabic traditions of their medical literature.

Viviane Quirke and Jean-Paul Gaudilliere (2008) while explored the era of bio-medicine; science, medicine and public health in Britain and France, contended that 1940s and 50s was the era of “conjunction of chemical and bacteriological work conducted in academic and industrial laboratory. Hence bio-medicine was only truly invented after the 2nd world war”. This was the era of the “transformation of biology and medicine and their convergence after 1945” which remained far are from being uncharted territory for historians, they affirmed.

John V. Pickstone attributed the period 1945-1975 the period of „the ways of knowing, the new ways of knowing (2000) since in this period the historians of molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, virology, bacteriology have played critical role in the development of „new tools and instrumental practices‟- such as the use of ultra centrifuge, electron microscope and electrophoresis. Here the researcher objective is only to point out the coemergence of molecularisation of life sciences and molecularisation of medical intervention that produced chemotherapeutic model of treatment so emerged.

Apart from France and Britain, American bio-medical complex functioning as a model, competitor and provider of means- cognitive and financial which reflected the economic, political and scientific hegemony of United States. Term bio-medicine emerged and subsequently used in the area of health care which acquired prominence between 1945-1975, however Dorland of Britain in his medical dictionary (1923) had used the term bio-medicine.

Actually the term biomedicine was emerged after a combination of science, medicine and public health in Britain and France forced the nationalization of the medical profession and the central planning of health services vis-à-vis the policy of laissez-faire and professional governance that prevailed.
CONCLUSION:
Actually the term biomedicine was emerged after a combination of science, medicine and public health in Britain and France forced the nationalization of the medical profession and the central planning of health services vis-à-vis the policy of laissez-faire and professional governance that prevailed. Biomedicine discourse is rooted in materialistic philosophy. The features of biomedicine/modern/western/allopathy medicine system have been prepared with the help of writings of Giddens (2001), Vivian (2008), William T. Jarvis (2000). Therefore, Western medicine system’s development encompasses ancient history of Europe.

REFERENCES:
