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Opportunities for allied health science subjects in Ayurveda research and development

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The science behind *Ayurveda* has been researched by scholars from *Ayurvedic* and allied science fraternity. *Ayurvedic* science is offered as bachelor, master and doctoral degrees from *Ayurveda* medical colleges and universities. There are courses for allied science subjects such as Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Molecular biology, Microbiology, Phytochemistry, Pharmacognosy, Botany, Agriculture etc. at all levels of study under every university falling under UGC.

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences – CCRAS is engaged in research on pre-clinical/clinical aspects of therapies and drugs prescribed in classics. The medical research fraternity are engaged in pre-clinical and clinical research on *Ayurvedic* drugs. Experienced *Ayurveda* practitioners are usually engaged in clinical research while pharmacology (MD, MVSc, MSc Medical, MPharm, MSc Medicinal Plants/Biotechnology/Zoology) qualified personnel will be conducting pre-clinical/experimental research. In either of researches an experienced Statistician (MSc Statistics/Biostatistics/Mathematics) will be responsible to draw statistically significant conclusions. Drug research fraternity of *Ayurveda* is constituted by scholars from basic science such as Agriculture, Botany, Pharmacognosy, Chemistry/Phytochemistry, Biotechnology, Pharmacology etc. Identification of plants of medicinal importance based on ethnobotanical surveys, documentation of their diagnostic identification characteristics based on macro-microscopical and chemical fingerprints, isolation and characterisation of active molecules and verification of toxic and therapeutic effects are the kind of activities undertaken by allied science researchers.

Young researchers will cultivate interest in *Ayurveda* and other Indian systems of medicine when they are taught with the principles behind *Ayurveda* therapeutics. *Ayurveda* must be introduced as a module in undergraduate and post graduate allied science course curriculum so that every graduate from related biological or chemical science will have basic idea to develop research protocols on *Ayurveda*. Courses like MSc in Medicinal Plants and MPharm in *Ayurveda* (with specialisation in aforesaid allied sciences) offered by Gujarat Ayurveda University Jamnagar are specially designed to fill the gap between *Ayurveda* and allied science.[1] The courses are getting recognition as CCRAS and other AYUSH system's councils have included these qualifications as an eligibility to recruit research personnel to various allied science scientific positions in *Ayurveda*.[2] The initiative will definitely shower opportunity for scholars who are interested to prove the science behind *Ayurveda* by collaborating with *Ayurveda* doctors. A recent work reported in Scientific Reports (Nature Publications Group Journal) about correlation of genome and *prikrithi* is one such collaborative effort of doctors and allied science researchers.[3]

May the existing courses and new proposals to begin specialised *Ayurveda* allied science courses get recognition, funding and work opportunities in the ministry of AYUSH and other institutions so that *Ayurveda* will come to limelight in global scenario of traditional medicines.

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