

Obituary: Dr. Ramanlal Prabhudas Patel

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Dr Ramanlal P. Patel (1 August 1926 – 25 December 2019).

A knowledge house and a prominent figure in Indian Homoeopathy, Dr Ramanlal Prabhudas Patel, has bid adieu to the world, leaving behind a rich legacy of homoeopathic history. This legendary figure in Homoeopathy passed away at Vadodara due to cardiac arrest in the morning on 25 December 2019. Working with a passion, seldom seen, Dr R. P. Patel devoted his whole life for the cause of Homoeopathy. He was a prolific clinical practitioner with a rich and vast experience of over 55 years and treated innumerable difficult cases. His immense study on the miasms allowed him to penetrate deeply into the realms of miasmatic prescribing. He never let a stone unturned in the field of Homoeopathy and always loved facing challenges and getting their answers from Homoeopathy.

Hailing from a modest Gujarati family, he passed matriculation with great laurels. He was not only a distinguished Homoeopath but also a freedom fighter who took active part in the Quit India Movement. He passed D. M. S. of General Council and State Faculty of Homoeopathic Medicine, Calcutta, in 1951 and went to the UK in the same year to attend postgraduate course at Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, London, England. His medical education was moulded by his association with eminent physicians like Dr T. D. Ross, Dr Boyd and Dr Paterson, while working in the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital, Glasgow. He also attended the Children Homoeopathic Hospital under the care of Dr Hactor Machwill and Dr Thomas Ferguson Stewart.

His zeal for excellence further took him to Germany and America to attend postgraduate courses in Homoeopathy and then to Austria, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark and finally returning to India in 1954.

He practiced since 1954 in India and worked hard towards shaping the modern face of Homoeopathy in the country. He was widely acclaimed for his rediscovery, reproving and popularising the use of the 'Fifty Millesimal Potencies' and also for his pioneering and path-breaking clinical cures, experiences and research in the realm of cancer care. His greatest test was his own battle with cancer after being diagnosed with spindle cell carcinoma. But, his faith in the system was only cemented when he survived the rare cancer with Homoeopathy. Majority of his practice was established in the state of Kerala when he was called to serve the cause of Homoeopathy by the Late Dr A. R. Menon, Health Minister of Kerala. After that, he took charge of the Athurasramam NSS Homoeopathic Medical College in 1958 as principal and headed the Organon department for years with his deep understanding of the subject.

Apart from being a compassionate physician, a skilled teacher and a devoted researcher, he was the member of the Panel of Health, Planning Commission, Government of India; Pharmaceutical Training and Drug Control Committee, Government of India; Homoeopathic Research Committee, Government of India; International Homoeopathic League, Geneva; and Research Sub-committee, Government of India, which is now the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy and Scientific Advisory Committee.

He was an Avant-Garde visionary who asked the tech giant IBM to think along the lines of computerising repertories in

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Received: 12.02.2020; **Accepted:** 17.02.2020; **Published:** 09.04.2020.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:
www.ijrh.org

DOI:
10.4103/ijrh.ijrh_10_20

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How to cite this article: Azis SP. Obituary: Dr. Ramanlal Prabhudas Patel. *Indian J Res Homoeopathy* 2020;14:75-6.

Azis: Obituary

the 1950s and even patented his autovisual repertory which would be one of the earliest patents in Homoeopathy. He spoke of evidence-based Homoeopathy in the 1980s and has painstakingly documented and evidenced his clinical observations in an array of rich publications. 'The art of case taking and practical repertorisation in Homoeopathy', 'My Experiments with 50 Millesimal Scale Potencies', 'Chronic Miasms their cure and classification of their Repertorial Rubrics in Dr. Kent's Repertory', 'Dr. Kent's Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica, etc.', and 'KENTIAN' a

repertorisation and analysis software for Homoeopaths are some of his famous works.

He was a visionary educationist, an astute researcher, a compassionate practitioner, a technocrat, a philanthropist and a social reformer par excellence. His extraordinary passion and constant dedication will always be remembered among the homoeopathic fraternity for time immemorial. His literary works will keep on lighting Homoeopathy as a guiding beacon of wisdom. May his soul rest in eternal peace.