

**JUSTIFICATION FOR GRANT OF DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY STATUS TO
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDDHA UNDER *DE-NOVA* CATEGORY**

Siddha, an Indian tradition system of medicine is date backed 5000 BC and has been practiced widely in the Tamil Nadu and southern part of India. It is a codified system of medicine and is being practiced for generations with long traditional history. The word “Siddha” is derived from “Siddhi” which means “attaining self-accomplishment/perfection”. Siddha medicine keeps the human being free from disease and helps to achieve “self- realization” through its holistic approach. It was found by Saints called “Siddhar”. The contributors of Siddha system, the Siddhars, of Tamil land, were mystics, yogis, poets, devotees, seers and medical men of various combinations and various statures. They were super human beings who possessed supernatural powers (like Eight types of Siddhis). They were the greatest scientists of ancient times and were the guardians of the world and they existed, and still exist, for the benefit of the public at large. They were men of great practical knowledge and wisdom. They had full awareness of the nature and activities of all the objects in this planet and of all times-past, present and future. They were mainly responsible for the growth and development not only of Tamil medicine that includes alchemy, medicine, yoga, kayakalpa (rejuvenation therapy), philosophy, astronomy, astrology, varma, muppu, thokkanam etc., but also for many other sciences of public utility.

National Institute of Siddha is an apex learning centre, established in 2014 set with goal of endeavour to develop patterns of teaching in postgraduate Siddha medical education in as many branches as possible and attempt to produce specialists in clinical and non-clinical disciplines of Siddha medicine. It was also envisaged that these specialists would spread out in various institutions and impart Siddha medical education of highest standard to the students and set up nucleus of excellence. The institute was also given the responsibility to broaden the horizons of Siddha knowledge by intensive research in the field of health. It has the grand vision of giving a new direction to the Siddha learning in India and making the health care more cost-effective for national development. As an institution of advanced learning, leading from the front our institute provides interdisciplinary modules of theory and practical learning; our graduates are equipped to become masters in clinical management and research problem-solving.



Potentials of National Institute of Siddha to be declared as Deemed University

- **Academic excellence:** Most of Siddha undergraduate from all over the country has been ambitious to join National Institute of Siddha (NIS) for their postgraduate degree because of its academic excellence in Siddha higher education. More than Six hundred students had completed their postgraduate degree from NIS. Most of them well placed in various government/private academic and research institute of all over the world. NIS has unique pattern of Siddha and interdisciplinary faculty strength which includes Siddha faculty holding doctoral degree in Siddha, Interdisciplinary Siddha, Basic medical Science, and modern medicine. The faculties have been undergoing educational/research training program conducted by various academic/regulatory agencies and updated their knowledge and skill with current trend in medical science and technology.
- **Knowledge and Skill development activities:** To enhance the application oriented clinical and research skill of the post graduate student, National Institute of has conducted number of CME programs, workshops, webinars and National and International seminars and conferences. A Workshop on “Basic Research Techniques & Practices of Laboratory Animal Care” is organized by National Institute of Siddha every year for the postgraduate students who are conducting pre-clinical research studies on animal. The workshop is aimed to impart training in animal handling and basic research techniques to improve the practical skills of the postgraduate and research scholars of Siddha system of medicine. Furthermore, the workshop will be helpful for them to undertake research assignments in drug discovery and development.
- **Unmatched Clinical Services:** The institute has been catered health service to more than one million people for past fifteen years. The average patient foot fall per day is about 2000. The hospital was accredited with NABH in year 2018. The institute treats various disease condition in general OPD and also conduct special out-patient clinic for non communicable diseases such as Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension, Obesity and Cancer. A special OPD is conducted for Geriatric patients. The clinical data may be utilized to evaluate scientific basis of Siddha medicine by applying various scientific parameters.



The deemed to be university status will be helpful to develop a specialized curriculum and innovative teaching method to achieve above set goals.

- **Multi-disciplinary Collaborative Research:** National Institute of Siddha inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various reputed academic/clinical institutions and universities to undertake preclinical and clinical research and to impart skills/knowledge from multi/interdisciplinary field for the scientific validation of Siddha system of medicine. Currently, NIS in collaboration with various leading research and clinical institution in Tamil Nadu is conducting more than 5 research projects with approval of the specified regulatory body / authority.

Siddha and National Strategic Plan

The strategic health care plan of India includes advancing medical, educational, and research developments of Indian traditional system of medicine. The New India vision of government of India includes pluralistic and integrative scheme of health services. Siddha system of medicine can play an important role in realizing the dream of 'New India' by providing quality, cost effective health care and medical care for its citizens. Many reforms in administration, research strategies, nature of practice and education are already underway at the Ministry of AYUSH. The National Health Policy (NHP) has strongly advocated mainstreaming the potential of AYUSH within a pluralistic system of Integrative healthcare. It highlights the necessity of capacity building, and critical mass of competent professionals through quality education and training at national and international levels. It is crucial time for National Institute Siddha to develop a clear roadmap and strategy for effective implementation of NHP 2019.

Siddha Medicine-Cultural heritage

- Siddha is an ancient Indian traditional treatment system which evolved in Tamil Nadu, South India and is dated to the times of 3rd millennium BCE Indus Valley Civilization or earlier. According to ancient literature of Siddha, it is said that the system of this medicine originated from Lord *Shivan* who taught it to his consort *Parvathi*. Then, *Parvathi* passed the sacred knowledge to Nandi, from whom it was transmitted to the first of "Siddhars". Siddha system is one of the oldest systems of medicine in India.



- Siddha medicine is intrinsic historically, culturally and economically to societies. Siddha system of medicine consists of an immense body of knowledge, mainly derived from ancient philosophy. In addition, the unique therapies of siddha are also skills with cultural characteristics of India, handed down from our ancestors. So it is one of the intangible cultural heritages of India. This system of medicine is viewed as a brilliant facet of Indian culture, and comprehensive and effective protection of such a precious legacy can highlight the distinguishing features of our culture. It is an important integrated system of medicine in current health system of India. By demonstrating its cultural significance, it continues to flourish for future generations alongside the capacity to continue to evolve and adapt. Given the increasing interest in this system of medicine and the impact and interaction it has with social and economic development it is importance to sustain the growth of this system of medicine.

Siddha Medicine-Emerging area of knowledge

- Siddha, an emerging field in the health care may sound paradoxical but it is true. Siddha was meant to be open for new ideas, principles, and knowledge for continuous and systematic progress. Siddha as an ancient science of life has a long history, and its basic principles may be valid even in the modern era of medicines due to its unique unbeatable philosophy. However, essence of any science is a continuous quest for new knowledge through research, development, and newer applications. The mode of manifestation of disease has changed. The geo-climatic environment, plants, animals, and microbes have changed. Human behavior, lifestyle, and genetics have changed. Clearly, classical Siddha of yesteryears cannot be blindly practiced without contemporary modifications. Continuous research on safety, quality, and efficacy of Siddha drugs and procedures is needed. Systematic documentation and critical analysis of clinical practice are necessary.
- **Siddha-Predictive, preventive and personalized medicine**
The new philosophy of health care is moving from illness to wellness, from treatment to prevention and early diagnostics and from generalized approach to personalized medicine. Siddha is also a person-centered medicine (PCM), which deals with healthy lifestyle, health promotion and sustenance, disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment.



The holistic concepts of Siddha give emphasis to health promotion, disease prevention, early diagnosis and personalized treatment. There seem to be substantial similarities between the traditional systems like Siddha and the innovative approach of predictive, preventive and personalized medicine (PPPM). The Horizon 2020 initiative of the European Union rightly considers PPPM as the hardcore of its strategy.

- **New perspective-Drug discovery from traditional knowledge**

The pharmaceutical industry is one of the pillar industries for economic development worldwide. Considering the extremely high cost and long time of new drug development, as well as the high drug attrition rate, an imminent task for pharmaceutical companies is to explore new ways for drug R&D. Therefore, more and more attention in the field of drug discovery has been focused on discovery from traditional knowledge. An impressive number of new chemical entities are discovered from Indian traditional medicine, our system of medicine plays a lucrative role in drug development process of Pharma industries. So Siddha system of medicine is one such system of interest for pharma sectors

- **Designer Medicine:**

The 'Designer' Medicine (DM) is a pharmaceutical product that will give maximum therapeutic efficacy and high safety to the particular person with particular disorder, under specified conditions depending on individual constitution, properties of materials. This specific prescription also include supportive therapies, diet and life-style advice so as to regain the physiological balance finally resulting in alleviation of disorder. The fundamental principles of Siddha system involving body constitutional assessment called "*Thega Illakkanam*" based three humors *Vatha*, *Piththa* and *Kabam* and detailed guidance about food, nutrition, and diet as per the individual constitution as well as seasons can be used for creating DMs. The scientific value of these basic principles can be studied in context to biology and genomics.

- **Emerging area of Medical sciences in Siddha**

The field of medicine is becoming more and more interdisciplinary in nature in this modern era of medicine by incorporating the knowledge from different fields. Siddha has



vast opportunity to include more specializations like sports medicine, regenerative medicine, palliative care, neutrogenomics etc.,

- Its vast system is full of practical medical which can be gradually incorporated into modern medicine; it has knowledge that can impact the direction of future medical development, yet its knowledge is simple enough to fit changing times and varied cultures.

Challenges of conventional affiliation system

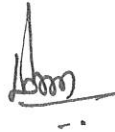
- Siddha has sound philosophical, experiential, and experimental basis which needs to be re-researched and reestablished along with. Development of high standards of education, research programs in Siddha, appropriate training, generation, and protection of Intellectual property of Siddha, Co-operation with International and regional organizations are essential to ensure the global recognition of Siddha system of medicine.
- In the current conventional university affiliating system, Graduates have real challenges in acquiring basic clinical skills, sufficient knowledge in basic medical sciences, quality teaching methodologies, training related to entrepreneurship, research skills, industrial practices and quality research publications.
- The current curriculum of Siddha education is definitely a cause of concern. The syllabi are required to be updated with certain relevant topics like laws governing the intellectual property rights, basic procedures of standardization of medicinal products, fundamental methods of evaluating the toxicity and efficacy of the medicinal products, conducting clinical trials, essentials of healthcare management, basics of pharmacovigilance and the basics of cultivation, and marketing of medicinal plants. Students should be given an opportunity to gain knowledge on industry practice for better job prospective.

Though our Institute has well qualified faculty with highest degree and infrastructure facility, it is difficult to follow international standards while planning the protocols of research projects and while writing research reports. Academicians are required to be trained in standard methods of research and documentation skills, and as an institution we have no adequate autonomy to perform to our potential and contribute our share in building up the evidence base for Siddha in the form of quality education and research.



Any science needs to remain relevant and this requires continuous innovation in its research, education, and training. Hence a university status for Siddha institute is the need of time to have major achievements in education development, student enrollment, research, publications, symbiotic relationship with modern sciences, consultancy, and public services. Once our institute is granted academic autonomy it will be able to achieve more in terms of globalization of this system of medicine, enrichment of traditional knowledge system and preservation of our cultural heritage of traditional knowledge. This autonomy will also pave the path to contribute to the strategic need of our country in health sector by improving the public health and bring a positive change in medical advancement and research.

Therefore, we believe National Institute of Siddha has all the requisites to be given the deemed to be University status in order to globalize the potential of this system of medicine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. S. S.', is written above a horizontal line.