

Original Research

A Survey Regarding Awareness, Belief And Popularity Regarding Homeopathy Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Back ground: Homeopathy medicine is currently growing rapidly. The general opinion regarding medicines is tilting towards use of herbal drugs BECAUSE OF THE side effects and lack of the curative value in modern medicines.

Aim: to study awareness, belief and popularity regarding homeopathy medicine among common people.

Method: Study was conducted among common people. Sample selected was 500 subjects. A questionnaire was drafted in bilingual language. Questionnaire was based on questions related to awareness and popularity of homeopathy medicine among people.

Result: in present study 88% of current population was aware what homeopathy is. 25% said its better than other medicine.

Conclusion: people are familiar to homeopathy medicine

INTRODUCTION

In today's world homeopathy is a medical system that is growing rapidly and is being practiced in almost all the world.¹ Homoeopathy medicine is 200 years old and was first developed by the German physician Samuel Hahnemann in 1810.² In spite of its root being so deep in medicine homeopathy has appeared to divide the medical community between supporters and opponents, and its effectiveness is often discussed.³

Few authors in their study have mentioned about popularity of homeopathy among general public as well as among considerable proportion of medical professionals.^{4,5} based on Indian Government report, around 10% of India's population, i.e., more than 100 million people totally depend on homeopathy medicine.⁶ so we aimed to study the awareness, belief and

popularity regarding homeopathy medicine among common people.

AIM

To study regarding awareness, belief and popularity regarding homeopathy medicine among common people.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

A survey on public awareness, belief in Homoeopathy and its popularity was conducted in present study. A self-administered questionnaire was developed by the questionnaire was in English and Hindi and was short and simple. First part of Questionnaire consisted of demographic details of patient like age, sex, occupation, education etc. second part of questionnaire consisted of

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questions regarding awareness and popularity of homeopathy medicine.

Following questions were asked:

1. Do you know about homeopathy medicine
2. Do you think homeopathy is better than other medicine
3. Reason for using homeopathy
4. Do you know that homoeopathic medicines were used as preventive medicine
5. Do they prefer homeopathy in case of emergency

Those who participated in the survey were well explained regarding the purpose of the study and their participation was taken as consent.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The values obtained during each session will be assessed, tabulated and subjected to appropriate statistical analysis.

RESULT

A total of 500 subjects were selected for the current study. Of the 500 people included 425 i.e. 85% were males whereas 75 were females i.e. 15%. In present study majority of participants were males. Questionnaire consisted of questions regarding demographic details like education and occupation. In current study we found that of the 500 sample 28 were uneducated i.e. 5.6%, 50 completed primary educations i.e. 10%, 51 secondary education i.e. 10.2%, 76 completed higher secondary i.e. 15.2%. 194 out of 500 were graduate i.e. 38.8% and 100 were post graduate i.e. 20%. In present study majority of people were graduation. Occupation of the sample was recorded. Of the 500 people 112 were into private job i.e. 22.4%. 80/500 had government job i.e. 16%, 250/100

were students i.e. 50%. 58/500 i.e. 11.6% were farmers. In current study majority of the participants were students i.e. 50%.

When asked regarding awareness about homeopathy of the 500 people 88% said yes they know what it is and 22% said they don't know (Graph 1). Of the 500 participants 25% said homeopathy is better than other medicine, 35% said no its not better than other medicine whereas 40% said don't know (GRAPH 2). When asked why do you use homeopathy of the 500 participants 68% said they prefer it because it has no side effect, 59% said its cheap and 36% said it has no bitter taste. When asked Do you know that homoeopathic medicines were used as preventive medicine of the 500 participants 51% said yes and 49% said they don't know about its use in preventive medicine. Do they prefer homeopathy in case of emergency all of them said no.

DISCUSSION

Homeopathy medicine is a well recognized branch among people. Homeopathy medicine is often discussed for its popularity and effectiveness. Authors have suggested that in Switzerland homeopathy is integrated into national health systems and health plan.^{7,8} In present study we discussed about awareness and popularity of homeopathy in a small population. In current study majority of the participants were male i.e. 85% and most common age group based on our study was 25-35 years. In our study of the 500 people 88% said yes they are aware about homeopathy medicine and 22% said they don't know. Based on the result of current study we found that 5.6% of participants were uneducated and 38.8% were graduates. Sarangi MR et al in their study reported 3% participants were illiterate.⁶ Occupation of the sample was recorded. 22.4% were into private job, 16% government job, 11.6% were farmers and 50% were

students. 25% of the participants said homeopathy is better than other medicine, 35% said no its not better than other medicine whereas 40% said don't know. 68% said they prefer homeopathy because it has no side effect, 59% said it's cheap and 36% said it has no bitter taste. 51% were aware its use as preventive medicine. 100% said they don't prefer homeopathy in case of emergency. Sunil Jawla et al in their study reported that In case of medical emergencies 79% people prefer allopathy, 20% prefer ayurvedic and only 1% people prefer homeopathy. Singh et al in their study reported that more than 70% of population believed that

homeopathy is better than other medicine because it has no side effects; it's cheap and easy to take.¹⁰

Homoeopathy is better than other systems, reason for that being

no side effects, low cost of treatment and easy to take medicines,

which corresponds with the study of Singh et al

CONCLUSION

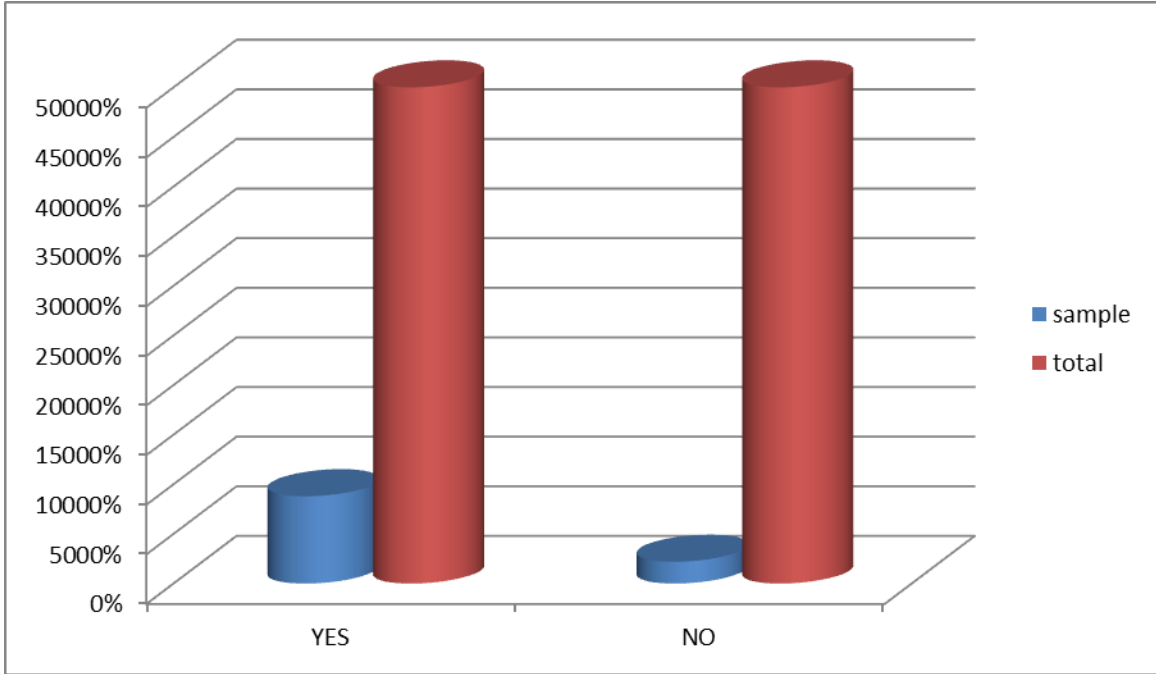
Based on result of our study common people have awareness about homeopathy medicine. Its popular among people and is well preferred due to lack of side effect and is less costly.

Table 1: Gender Distribution

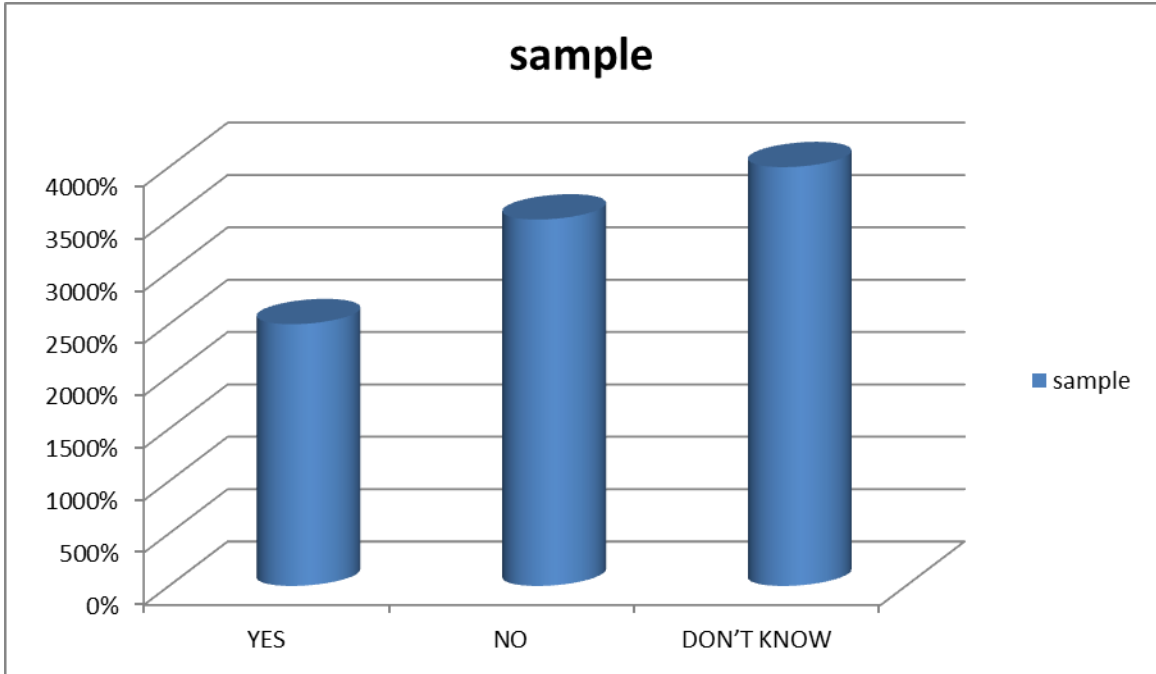
Gender	Sample	Percent %
Male	425	85%
Female	75	15%
Total	500	100%

Table 2: Demographic details of selected sample

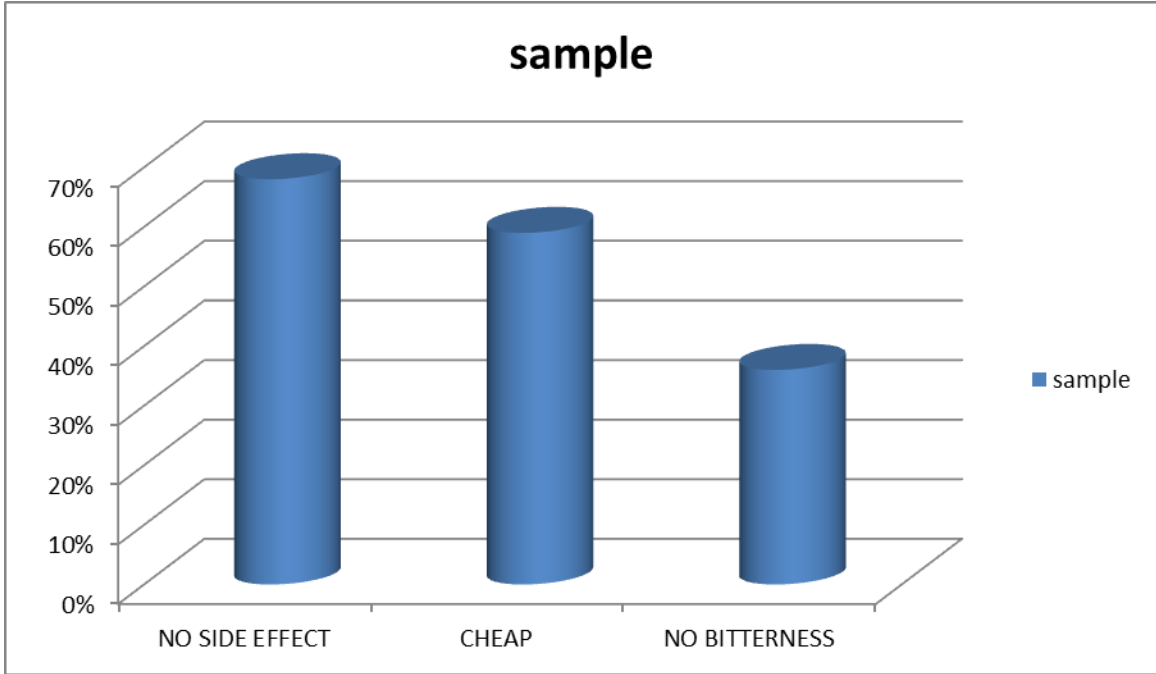
Education	Sample	Percent
None	28	5.6%
Primary	50	10%
Secondary	51	10.2%
Higher secondary	76	15.2%
Graduate	194	38.8%
Post graduate	100	20%
Occupation		
Private job	112	22.4%
Government job	80	16%
Farmers	58	11.6%
Students	250	50%



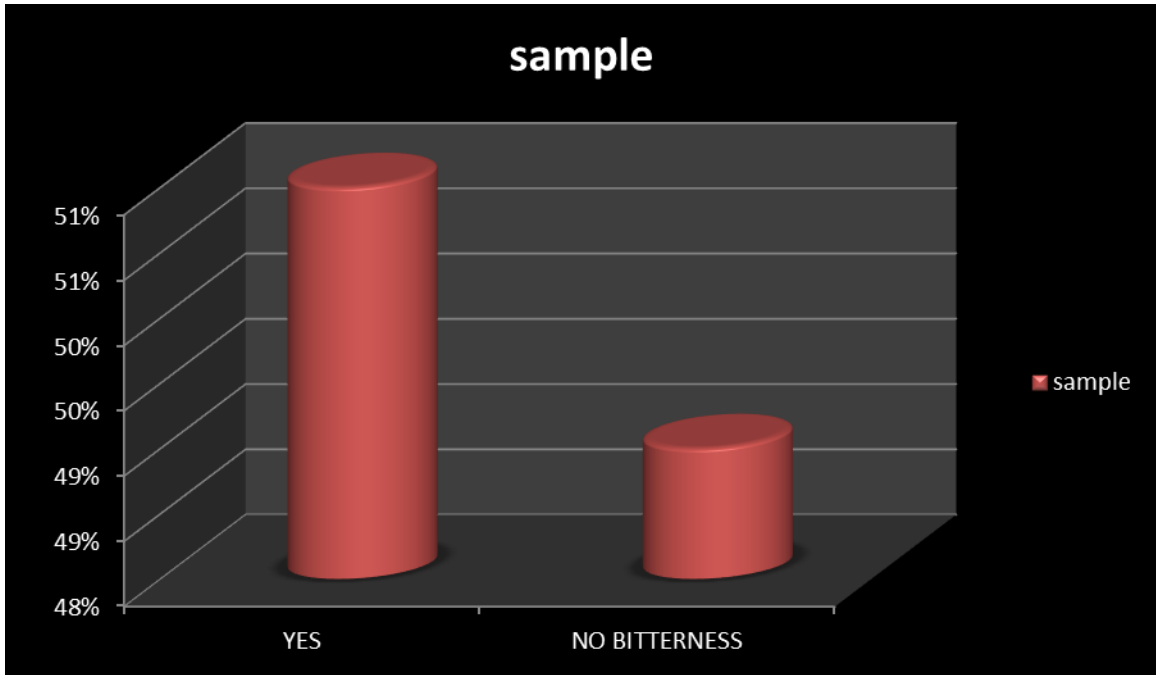
Graph 1: do you know about homeopathy



Graph 2: Do you think homeopathy is better than other medicine



Graph 3: Reason for Using Homeopathy



Graph 4: Do you know that homoeopathic medicines were used as preventive medicine

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