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Thesis Topic : *Hindustan Mein Tibb-i-Unani Ki Ibteda Aur Uska Farogh Chaudahween Sadi Iswi Se Beeswin Sadi Iswi Tak*

ABSTRACT

In present India, indigenous systems of medicine are governed by the Department of 'AYUSH' under the aegis of Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. AYUSH stands for Ayurveda & Naturopathy, Yoga, Unani medicine, Siddha and Homoeopathy. This topic covers the establishment of Unani medicine in India, its development and reform in accordance with time up to the 20th century. The story spreads on eight chapters and one appendix as follows:

Unani medicine came into existence at Greece (*Yunan*). Renowned Greek philosopher and physician Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.) was the founder of this healing art who planted its seeds on Greek soil. Then with the collaboration of Greek and Roman physicians this system was rooted deeply and up to the medieval period its branches spread over Middle East. It was developed to zenith in the countries like Syria, Iraq and Persia and was accepted internationally. On these grounds it is also termed as Greco-Arab medicine.

This healing art was introduced and primarily practiced in India by outsiders, mostly by the physicians of Turkish and Persian origin; they came in India with the establishment of Muslim empires. In no time in the era of Delhi Sultanat (14th cent.) they became familiar with traditional medicines of India and expand their system by amalgamation. Some of them learned Sanskrit to understand Indian medicines in depth to use for healing benefits. Then they produced such medical notes, which proved groundbreaking for Unani medicine to be practiced here as an indigenous system till date.

In the reign of Mughal Emperors from 16 to 19th century this healing art was put on its zenith. The same had happened under the kingship of other Muslim rulers of south India. There were Unani hospitals in each city of the country with all medical facilities. The physicians had been honored and some historic

medical works came into existence, which proved worthy to make this system alive even after the hold of Europeans on India.

When British ruled over India, with other settlements they established their own medical school for teaching and training of western medicine. Then Unani medical practitioners faced a tough time to survive. In early twenties Hakim Ajmal Khan of Delhi played an important role to save the interests of Unani medicine. On one hand he took steps to antagonize such medical policies of the Government which would be harmful for Unani Medicine, and on another he took pain to reform the teaching and training methodology of his system. By his efforts Unani medicine crossed that critical face safely and survived by the time of independence.

After independence Unani medical family succeeded in taking recognition for their system as one of the indigenous parallel to Ayurveda. By keeping in view public interest the government gave full support to Unani medicine. Different government bodies were formed to take care of teaching, training and research in the system. The believers of Unani medicine also worked hard to fulfill the need of public health sector. Up to 20th century Unani medicine became well settled medical system of India and India is known its leader on global level.

In the appendix statistical datum are shown to show setup of the system throughout the country. That is in respects of the strength of Unani colleges, Hospitals & Dispensaries, research councils, administrative bodies and registered Unani practitioners.