

Certification of Folk Healers of Assam under the Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Healthcare Providers

The third certification cycle under the Voluntary Certification Scheme for the Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (VCSTCHP) was conducted in five districts – Jorhat, Golaghat, Sivasagar, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji in the state of Assam on June 12 -14, 2019. The VCSTCHP is owned jointly by the Quality Council of India (QCI), New Delhi and the Foundation for the Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore and had its national launch on 24th March 2017.



The 3-day evaluation for the assessment of the knowledge and skills was conducted by the QCI approved Third Party Personnel Certification Body (PrCB) – the North East Christian University (NECU), Dimapur, Nagaland as per the competence criteria laid down under the Scheme.

19 Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (TCHP) applied for certification from the above mentioned 5 districts of Assam. The evaluation was conducted by 2 teams of duly trained and empanelled senior TCHP evaluators from the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland and each team was led by an Ayurveda doctor - Dr Shanjamo Ezung, Govt. of Assam for Team A and Dr Imlikumba, North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM), Ministry of AYUSH, Arunachal Pradesh from Arunachal Pradesh for Team B. The Certification Head along with 2 supporting staff of the PrCB accompanied the evaluation teams.



It is noteworthy to mention that 19 applicant TCHPs raised the certification fee from their own resources and applied voluntarily for the assessment of their knowledge and skill to get certified under the ISO 17024 based Personnel Certification. Out of the 19 applicants, 15 were recommended for certification of which 2 were female and 13 were male TCHPs for Common ailment, Arthritis and Jaundice. Out of the 15 TCHPs certified, 7 TCHPs were trained and empanelled as evaluators as per Scheme criteria with the QCI approved PrCB – NECU.



This brings the number of certified TCHPs under the Scheme to 30 covering the states of Assam, Chhattisgarh and Tripura.