

Report on Certification of Folk Healers from Karnataka – First Batch

This is a brief report of the Provisional Approved Certification Body (PrCB-003), The University of TransDisciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU) on the Certification of folk healers of Karnataka under VCSTCHP Scheme.

The first batch of evaluation of the knowledge and skills of the folk healers from Karnataka was conducted by the QCI accredited Third Party Personnel Certification Body – The University of TransDisciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU), Bengaluru, as per Minimum Standards of Competence (MSC) criteria laid down under the scheme on 16th December 2019. The trained and empaneled evaluators conducted the evaluation. Four senior traditional healers, two Ayurveda doctor (BAMS), one public health professional (MPH) were part of the evaluation team. Head of the certification body facilitated the entire evaluation process. Mr. CS Sharma from QCI, New Delhi witnessed the evaluation of traditional community healthcare providers.

11 folk healers applied for certification from 7 districts namely Bengaluru, Davanagere, Chikkamagaluru, Ramanagara, Dakshina Kannada, Tumakuru and Dharwad. The oral evaluation was conducted on 16th December 2019 at TDU campus, based on MSC through multiple choice questions, case presentation and viva-voce. As part of practical demonstration, the candidates identified the medicinal plants and prepared the herbal formulations for selected health conditions. The evaluation was conducted for three streams namely, Common ailments, Jaundice and Arthritis.



Evaluation team during the process of oral assessment

Field verification

As part of the evaluation, a team of evaluators along with QCI representative and head of PrCB visited field sites of five folk healers (Bengaluru, Ramanagara, Tumakuru districts) on 17th December 2019, to understand the work environment, community feedback, facility for preparation of medicine, presence of herbal garden and hygienic. The field sites of remaining six folk healers were visited on 30th January 2020, 3rd and 5th February 2020. The entire certification process was conducted as per the prescribed procedure by the team of trained and empaneled evaluators.

Out of the 11 applicants, 7 were recommended for certification considering the fulfillment of MSC criteria laid down under the VCSTCHP scheme. These are the first batch of certified TCHPs under the scheme in South India. PrCB expected more certifications would follow shortly from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana.



Applicants with evaluation team members



Medicinal plants identification by an applicant

Preparation of herbal formulation by a folk healer



Folk healer presenting the preparation of herbal formulation to the evaluation panel



Field verification (3)