



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

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A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook

Statement on the introduction of a course on astrology in the Ayurveda curriculum

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The Indian education scenario has deteriorated so much that nothing seems impossible now. The most recent example is the National Council for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCISM), offering a course in medical astrology in the Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery programme. Newspapers report that more than 1000 students have registered for this ridiculous course.

According to Dr Sanjeev Sharma, the Vice Chancellor of the National Institute of Ayurveda, this course will help students because “the changes in planets and constellations according to a person’s natal chart have a direct effect on the health and mind of humans.” Mr Sunil Kumar Sharma, Chairman of the Indian Council of Astrological Sciences, Delhi Chapter, welcomed the move, saying, “Many diseases are caused by the imbalance of vata-pitta and cough, which can be identified by studying the planetary placements.”

The Breakthrough Science Society asserts that astrology is a set of beliefs that have no scientific basis. Distant objects like planets do not affect human physiology or psychology in any way, and the knowledge of planetary placements has no medical value. This sort of unscientific belief system incorporated into the curriculum will produce medical practitioners with an irrational bent of mind and will undermine the medical practice itself. While we favour serious scientific research to retrieve any scientific kernel that may be present within Ayurveda, mixing it with the totally unscientific belief system of Astrology will harm Ayurveda itself.

No wonder, the way Indian education is going under the present regime, many students are finding that the only chance of employment is learning such quackery, as the example of Dr Sharma attests.

We believe this downward spiral of Indian education will damage our nation irreparably. We urge citizens not to be mere onlookers of this absurd drama but to come forward to register strong protests to protect education and scientific thinking in our country.

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