

## **Justification for Grant of Deemed to be University Status under De Novo Category**

### **Deserving upscale process**

Everything in this universe has a potential growth journey path which it can attain by performing to the desired level. National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore was established in the year 2004. In 16 years of its existence, the Institute has performed exceedingly well to deserve an upscale for a status of Deemed to be University. Such an upgradation will add another feather in the cap of the institute, moving towards the expansive and higher goal of education set by the Institute for imparting quality education in Unani Medicine while emancipating from the constraints of academic dependency.

### **Strengths of NIUM to be declared as Deemed to be University**

1. **APEX LEARNING CENTRE:** NIUM has been able to establish itself as the apex centre for learning and training in Unani Medicine from its inception. It does not only provide high quality Unani medical Education and Research but also perform as role model for other institutions and colleges of the country to follow.
2. **PAN INDIA & GLOBAL PRESENCE:** As a National Institute in its true sense, students from almost all states of India have studied in this Institute and gone back to improve Unani Medicine and research in their respective states. Similarly, several pass-outs of this Institute are working in various countries and contributing to the cause of Unani Medicine both at international and national level.
3. **SUSTAINED HIGH QUALITY HIGHER LEARNING:** NIUM has been providing excellence in higher learning in Unani Medicine for the last 16 years which can be inferred from the fact that the alumni of this Institute have been frequently selected for a gamut of posts with high decorum and serving as faculty members, Professors, Physicians, Researchers, Entrepreneurs and so on in various institutes and organization.
4. **UNMATCHED KNOWLEDGE & SKILL DEVELOPMENT:** NIUM imparts knowledge and skills in a manner which is unmatched in the country. This enables its alumni to perform at a different level than their peers. NIUM adopts a very unique way of Unani Medicine training wherein current scientific revalidation and thoughts are incorporated and students are encouraged to imbibe neo-scientific thought process, while



the core essence of Unani remains uncompromised. This enables the alumni to spread Unani Medicine in globally acceptable way. At the same time NIUM believes that knowledge needs to be supplemented by skills to elicit a desirable outcome. Thus, we at NIUM train our students in such a manner by adding real time required skills like clinical, teaching, public management, personality management, entrepreneurial skill, pharmaceutical manufacturing, medicinal plants cultivation etc. for all round development of the students. These skills enable our products to easily carve their own way to be successful even in non-conventional job works.

5. **UNHINDERED FLOW OF R & D:** Research and Development is a sine qua non for further progress of any science. For the last 16 years, NIUM is engaged in unhindered target based R & D. It has successfully provided many unique and new health care measures and products based upon the in-house research. The formulae developed by NIUM for degenerative joint disorders, hemiplegia, Diabetes mellitus, non-healing ulcers, chronic skin ailments etc., are used extensively for successful management of these diseases. NIUM produces 57 MD/MS (Unani) researchers per annum and PhD scholars as per the availability of guide, maximum six in each department who engage themselves in various research activities and programs in different organizations and institutes. NIUM is also engaged in intra-disciplinary research with other systems of medicine and basic sciences etc.
6. **EDUCATION POLICY & PLANNING:** The faculties of NIUM are the leaders in the education policy and planning, both at national and state levels. The faculties contribute to policy making process of the Government of India and other State Governments as technical experts in various important committees. Its faculties are members in board of studies and experts in the Curriculum framing process of the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), the regulatory body of Unani medical Education in India. The inputs of faculties are thus sought in all important processes of the Government.
7. **GLOBAL PLACEMENT OF UNANI MEDICINE:** The faculties of NIUM have also been invited or deputed as Delegation to various countries for globalisation of Unani Medicine. Ministry of AYUSH has established a Unani chair in South Africa for promotion and establishment of Unani system of medicine. Students from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, come to study here to pursue the quality and higher Unani education to replicate and disseminate the same knowledge in their countries. Delegates from Srilanka,

Iran and South Africa have visited the institute to discuss and know about Unani system of medicine.

### **Unani Medicines a Cultural Heritage and an Emerging Field**

1. Almost entire human civilization throughout the history became the basis of evolution of Unani system of Medicine. I-em-hetep, a celebrated Physician of third dynasty (4500 BC), worshiped at Memphis with a temple erected in his honour in Island C. Philae, was the earliest known physician. Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, considers himself indebted to Egypt for much of his knowledge. Some ethical precepts of the ancient Egyptian physician resemble Hippocratic Oath, sentiments and expression; and this alone would point to the fact that pre-Hippocratic medicine in Greece had an origin closely connected with Egyptian Medicine. The origin of Unani Medicine harks back to Asclepius but its scientific era started from Hippocrates (370 BC). Unani Medicine has an impressive effect on cultural heritage of India. This cultural heritage and the knowledge of Unani Medicine is still effectively functional because it has been protected, preserved and practiced by Unani physicians of all era even during the most adverse conditions.
2. Unani Medicine is a complete and functional way of life following which one can remain healthy. The knowledge and practice of Unani Medicine was known formally to Hakeems but the practice of Unani Medicine in day to day life was known traditionally to all Indians. This was the main reason which enabled the Indians of yesteryears to remain healthy and achieve excellence in all fields. Therefore, the practice of Unani Medicine in day to day life needs to be promoted so that the general status of health in population improves by strengthening the immunity status of the body working against the diseases.
3. Unani Medicine is an ancient science. Despite the best efforts by the modern scientists and generous government support, the modern practice of medicine is not able to provide the desired health to global population. Thus the modern world is looking towards the traditional systems of medicine with great hope in order to assist and assimilate them in government promoted health programmes in control of diseases of high prevalence and major health concerns to provide the public desired health status as mandated by WHO as well as central and state governments.



4. Unani Medicine was one of the most advanced medical practices prevalent in the ancient world. After a period of eclipse during the British occupation in India, the Unani medicine has emerged as one the most relevant system of medical practices. It is a fact that Unani Medicine is millennia old systems of health care. But the gap in practice and knowledge that came during last 3 centuries, particularly during the British rule pushed Unani Medicine to the periphery. Thus, the continuous development and enrichment of Unani Medicine was halted, rendering its practices and understanding incomprehensible to the larger population. But the masses still have acceptance for Unani medicine and consider it relevant in the present medical scenario prevailing in the world. Therefore, Unani Medicine has become the emerging field in health care. After independence, once again, the Unani system started flourishing rapidly and after the establishment of ministry of AYUSH, this system is developing by leads and bounds.

#### 5. UNANI MEDICINE AND NATIONAL STRATEGIC GOAL

1. Health of its citizens is critical to the development and progress of any country. A sick population not only leads to reduced effective output but also drags down the economy of the country. Thus, all countries, whether rich or poor, are genuinely worried about the escalating national health budget and trying to curtail it by adopting various parallel and supplementary system of medicine.
2. Unani Medicine is contributing to the minimisation of Indian health budget, though this is not adequately recognised. By following Unani way of life of a significant proportion of Indian population remains healthy, which reduces the health care expenditure. By adopting Unani Medical Pregnancy Care (*Tadabeer-e-hamila*), the chances of normal vaginal delivery become higher and healthy children are born which is basically reducing the Child and maternal Mortality Rate. Similarly, it is seen that the children receiving paediatric care according to Unani principles suffer less from diseases and tend to remain healthier. Similarly, people following the principles of *Asbab-e Sitta Zarooriyaas* advocated by Unani medicine for healthy life style, have much better health in old age. All these factors are reducing the health budget of the country and improving the average work efficiency of the population.
3. The basic tenet of Unani Medicine says that death cannot be prevented but sickness can be. And if sickness is reduced and wellness is increased, naturally the health budget of the country will not escalate.



**CHALLENGES OF CONVENTIONAL AFFILIATION SYSTEM OF EDUCATION**

1. The ancient nature of Unani Medicine and contemporary research validation process needs a delicate balance so that the global acceptance of Unani Medicine is enhanced but the original ancient uniqueness remains uncompromised. NIUM has achieved this objective with a fair degree of success. NIUM has been successfully preserving and enhancing the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge strength of India.
2. Any science needs to remain time relevant and this requires continuous innovations in its research, education and training. NIUM has been successfully integrating innovations in its pursuits to keep its men and methods highly relevant in contemporary era. This Institute adds more in its teaching and training – both in terms of content and methodology, to the conventional degree curricula (MD / MS / PhD) so that its students acquire more than the rest. At the same time NIUM has developed the curricula of several short-term courses in various departments and is all set to launch them shortly for the benefit of moderately educated but unemployed youth, rendering them employable after successful completion of the courses. The NIUM has intentions to start short term PG diploma courses in several specialities for upgradation of knowledge in aspiring graduates of Unani medicine.
3. NIUM has many rational ideas in Unani medical Education for effective increase in awareness and practice of Unani Medicine for the betterment of health of the humanity and contribute to the strategic requirement of the country by minimizing the health budget of the country through prevention – preservation – promotion of health. But, owing to the fact that because NIUM belongs to the conventional university affiliation system and lacks academic autonomy it has not been able to perform to its true potential in the field of Unani Medical Education and Training. If NIUM is granted academic autonomy, it will be able to achieve much more than present in terms of enrichment of cultural heritage and Indian knowledge system. Such autonomy will also pave the path for NIUM to effectively and more meaningfully contribute to the strategic needs of the country by improving the health status of the population.

Therefore, we believe NIUM has all the requisites to be conferred the Deemed to be university status in order to liberate it and spread its wings throughout the globe. By obtaining the Status, the Institute will be able to join hand with the Govt. of India in its



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF UNANI MEDICINE, BENGALURU**

---

initiatives of globalization of Unani Medicine as many countries are showing great interest in adopting Unani Medicine as one of their medical care systems. This will also help NIUM in better preservation of Indian Traditional Knowledge Heritage and contribute more meaningfully to the strategic health goals of the nation.

