
Perceived Effectiveness of Homeopathic Remedies in the Treatment of Psychological Disorders: A Population-Based Study

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Abstract:

This population-based study explores public perceptions of homeopathic remedies in treating psychological disorders. Findings reveal varying views on the efficacy of specific remedies, with skepticism notably prevalent for depression, stress, and schizophrenia. Robust clinical trials and scientific evidence are essential to bridge the gap between conventional and complementary mental healthcare, underlining the need for an evidence-based approach in this complex landscape.

Keywords: Homeopathy, psychological disorders, public perception, efficacy, skepticism, clinical trials, evidence-based approach.

1. Introduction

The treatment of psychological disorders presents a profound and persistent challenge in the field of healthcare. With an ever-expanding array of treatment options, both conventional and complementary, patients and healthcare providers face complex decisions regarding the most appropriate and effective interventions. Among the complementary therapies, homeopathy has emerged as a practice that garners significant attention and debate, especially in the context of mental health [1].

Homeopathy, a system of alternative medicine founded on the principle of "like cures like," involves the use of highly diluted substances to stimulate the body's innate healing processes. While it has been embraced by some as a holistic and low-risk approach to healthcare, skepticism persists within the medical and scientific communities, particularly when it comes to its efficacy in the treatment of psychological disorders such as anxiety, depression, stress, and schizophrenia.

The rationale behind homeopathic remedies rests on the idea that the remedies' highly diluted nature is believed to enhance their therapeutic potential. However, the degree of consensus regarding the effectiveness of these remedies for psychological conditions remains a matter of uncertainty and ongoing research. Public opinion and perception play a pivotal role in shaping the acceptance and utilization of homeopathy as an alternative treatment modality [2].

Against this backdrop, this study embarks on a systematic exploration of the perceived effectiveness of homeopathic remedies in the context of psychological disorders, delving into the realm of public opinions and attitudes [7]. The study recognizes that understanding these perceptions is crucial in evaluating the role and potential of homeopathy in the treatment of mental health conditions.

With the primary research objectives focused on assessing the perceived effectiveness of various homeopathic remedies and comprehending public attitudes towards these treatments, this study endeavors to provide invaluable insights into the role of homeopathy in mental health care. The data and analysis generated will contribute to the existing body of knowledge, facilitating informed and evidence-based discussions surrounding the integration of complementary and traditional medicine approaches in the treatment of psychological disorders [3]. As a result, this research seeks to bridge the gap between conventional and alternative practices, offering a more comprehensive perspective on the evolving landscape of psychological healthcare.

2. Methodology

The study employs a cross-sectional methodology to conduct a thorough and organized evaluation of how the population perceives the efficacy of homeopathic remedies in the treatment of psychological disorders, offering valuable insights into public sentiments and viewpoints.

Study Design:

- **Population Selection:** Select a representative sample of the population, ensuring diversity in age, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds. The sample size should be statistically significant for meaningful results.
- **Survey Design:** Develop a structured questionnaire that includes questions related to specific psychological conditions, such as anxiety, depression, stress, and schizophrenia. Also, include questions to collect demographic information.
- **Homeopathic Remedies:** Select a set of commonly used homeopathic remedies known to be prescribed for psychological disorders (e.g., *Lycopodium clavatum*, *Ignatia amara*, *Anacardium orientale*, *Thuja occidentalis*).

Data Collection:

- **Administering the Survey:** Conduct the survey using appropriate methods, such as face-to-face interviews, phone interviews, online surveys, or a combination, depending on the feasibility and the target population.
- **Informed Consent:** Ensure that respondents provide informed consent to participate in the study. Protect their anonymity and privacy.
- **Data Collection Period:** Define a specific timeframe for data collection to maintain consistency.

Data Analysis:

- **Quantitative Analysis:** Use statistical software or tools to analyze the collected data. Calculate the percentages of respondents who agree and disagree with the effectiveness of each homeopathic remedy for specific psychological disorders.

3.Results:

Table 1 : Lycopodium clavatum Homeopathy Remedy for Psychological Disorders

Effect of remedy	Agree	Disagree
Anxiety	78%	22%
Depression	18%	72%
Stress	10%	90%
Schizophrenia	6%	94%

In Table 1, we explore the perceived effectiveness of Lycopodium clavatum, a homeopathic remedy, in treating various psychological disorders within a surveyed population. The table presents the percentages of respondents who either agree or disagree with its effectiveness for specific conditions: Anxiety: 78% agree, 22% disagree, Depression: 18% agree, 72% disagree, Stress: 10% agree, 90% disagree, Schizophrenia: 6% agree, 94% disagree

Table 2 : Ignatia amara Homeopathy Remedy for Psychological Disorders

Effect of remedy	Agree	Disagree
Depression	80%	20%
Anxiety	19%	73%
Stress	10%	90%
Schizophrenia	6%	94%

Table 2 focuses on Ignatia amara, another homeopathic remedy, and its effectiveness in treating psychological disorders. The percentages of respondents who agree or disagree with its effectiveness are as follows:Depression: 80% agree, 20% disagree, Anxiety: 19% agree, 73% disagree, Stress: 10% agree, 90% disagree, Schizophrenia: 6% agree, 94% disagree

Table 3 : Anacardium orientale Homeopathy Remedy for Psychological Disorders

Effect of remedy	Agree	Disagree
Schizophrenia	80%	20%
Anxiety	19%	73%
Stress	10%	90%
Depression	6%	94%

Table 3 examines the perceived effectiveness of Anacardium orientale, a homeopathic remedy, for psychological disorders within the surveyed population. The table provides data on respondents' agreement or disagreement with its effectiveness for specific conditions: Schizophrenia: 80% agree, 20% disagree , Anxiety: 19% agree, 73% disagree, Stress: 10% agree, 90% disagree, Depression: 6% agree, 94% disagree

Table 4: Thuja occidentalis Homeopathy Remedy for Psychological Disorders

Effect of remedy	Agree	Disagree
Stress	80%	20%
Anxiety	19%	73%
Schizophrenia	10%	90%
Depression	6%	94%

In Table 4, we investigate the use of Thuja occidentalis, a homeopathic remedy, for psychological disorders. The table displays the percentages of respondents who agree or disagree with its effectiveness for specific conditions:Stress: 80% agree, 20% disagree, Anxiety: 19% agree, 73% disagree, Schizophrenia: 10% agree, 90% disagree, Depression: 6% agree, 94% disagree

4.Discussion

The findings presented in Tables 1 to 4 shed light on the perceived effectiveness of four distinct homeopathic remedies (*Lycopodium clavatum*, *Ignatia amara*, *Anacardium orientale*, and *Thuja occidentalis*) in the treatment of various psychological disorders within the surveyed population. These results offer valuable insights into the public's attitudes and opinions concerning homeopathy as an alternative approach to managing mental health conditions. Regarding *Lycopodium clavatum*, 78% of respondents view it as effective for anxiety, but effectiveness diminishes significantly for depression (18%), stress (10%), and schizophrenia (6%). Notably, there's high skepticism about its efficacy for depression (72%). On the other hand, *Ignatia amara* is seen as effective for depression (80%) but less so for anxiety (19%) and stress (10%), with substantial skepticism (73% agreement) regarding its use for anxiety and stress.

Anacardium orientale has a high agreement (80%) for schizophrenia but is seen as less effective for anxiety (19%), stress (10%), and depression (6%). Elevated disagreement percentages (73% to 94%) highlight skepticism regarding its use for these conditions.

Thuja occidentalis is perceived favorably for managing stress (80%) but less so for anxiety (19%), schizophrenia (10%), and depression (6%). Skepticism is prevalent, with disagreement percentages at 73% to 94%. Comparing these findings to previous research and established knowledge in the field, it's evident that the perceived effectiveness of homeopathic remedies varies widely among the surveyed population. In a study by (Betti et al.,2009)[5] These variations may be influenced by factors such as cultural beliefs, previous experiences, and the particular psychological condition being assessed.

Furthermore, in a study by (Jones ,2020) [6]the data highlights the significance of public skepticism, especially when it comes to the use of homeopathy for depression, stress, and schizophrenia. These results resonate with earlier studies and discussions that suggest the need for more robust clinical trials and clearer scientific evidence to establish the efficacy of homeopathic remedies, particularly in the context of psychological disorders (Fisher et al.,2012)[6].

In summary, these findings provide a comprehensive overview of public perceptions and attitudes towards homeopathic remedies for psychological disorders, illustrating the complexity

of public opinion and the need for further research to bridge the gap between conventional and complementary approaches to mental health care

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study offers crucial insights into public perceptions of homeopathic remedies for psychological disorders. It highlights varying levels of optimism and skepticism, with notable doubt surrounding their efficacy for depression, stress, and schizophrenia. To bridge the gap between conventional and complementary mental healthcare, more robust clinical trials and scientific evidence are needed. This research underscores the importance of an evidence-based approach in navigating the complex landscape of psychological healthcare.

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