

Introduction to Chagpori Tibetan Medical Institute Darjeeling, West Bengal India

Chagpori was one of the premier medical colleges in Lhasa, Tibet. Established in accordance with the explicit wish of the Fifth Dalai Lama in 1696 by the regent Desi Sangay Gyatso. It remained an important medical institution and was responsible for the spread of practice of Tibetan medicine in central Asia. The speciality of the Chagpori lineage is the blend of medicine and spirituality.

Chagpori Tibetan Medical Institute no longer exists in Lhasa, but was re-established in 1992 in Darjeeling, West Bengal India under the direction of our founder Dr. Trogawa Rinpoche.

Chagpori acts as a non-profit charitable organization, registered under the West Bengal Societies Act XXVI of 1961 as Chagpori Tibetan Medical College Society (Registration no. S/76336 of 1993-1994).

Mission

The main aim of Chagpori Tibetan Medical Institute is to teach, preserve and promote the science of Tibetan medicine recognized as Sowa Rigpa system, so that this rich knowledge can be passed on to the younger generations.

Chagpori has three pillars: the College, the Pharmacy and the Clinic.

College

Chagpori Tibetan Medical College is presently situated at Takdah Cantonment, near Darjeeling. The College offers Menpa Kachupa course since 1992. The students have to complete five years extensive course followed by one year internship. Most of the



students are provided sponsors for free education, boarding and lodging for the entire six year course. Till date around eighty doctors have graduated from Chagpori and at present thirteen students are currently enrolled in the 5 year coursework.

As per the Gazette notification S.O. 1672(E) dated 5th April 2018, with the amendment in the Second Schedule of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act 1970, recognition is given to the medical qualification in Sowa Rigpa to the graduates of Chagpori Tibetan Medical Institute.



Current Dormitories for Chagpori students (above & left) are too small to accommodate the changes in enrollment required under new expanding regulations.

Chagpori has the land to build the much needed classroom and dormitories located next to the pharmacy and just needs to secure the funds to build and expand the college.

Students at the institute come from different places of trans-Himalayan region, such as Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Darjeeling, Arunachal Pradesh, Nepal, Bhutan and also from the Tibetan community.

Currently, only 7 institutions in India are conducting Tibetan Medicine coursework.

Pharmacy Department

Chagpori's pharmacy manufactures the different herbal medicines which are used in the clinics and some herbal products. It is located at Salugara, near Siliguri at West Bengal. We give the highest priority to the quality of our medicines and herbal products.



Clinics

At present we have four clinics. Located at Darjeeling, Kurseong, Takdah and Salugara. The amount that we charge is the bare minimum, just enough to help us to cover the costs. These services are offered on a sliding scale to patients depending on their means and are free of charge to the real needy. We plan to open more clinics in the near future. We also conduct free medical camps and mobile camps in the regions



Future

With the amendment of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 by the Parliament in the year 2010 the Sowa Rigpa system of medicine is brought within regulatory control of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

This recognition of Sowa Rigpa will facilitate legal security, quality control and accreditation of doctors and medical colleges. It also means that Chagpori has to upgrade its entire existing infrastructure in order to get the government certification. We will shift our College at Salugara, so that we can fulfill all the requirements. With unstinted help from our supporters, dedication of our committed staff, and with help from government, we feel, we can do it.

If you would like to donate to this important cultural and religious preservation of living Tibetan Buddhist Medicine, you may donate directly to Chagpori, or through Chagpori US which can provide tax deductible receipts and 100% of your donation will go to the designation of your choosing at the Institute.

For further information please see: www.chagpori.org
