



The Case Witnessing Process: A Child-Centric Approach

“Sit down before fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion, follow humbly wherever or whatever abysses nature leads, or you will learn nothing.”

—Thomas H. Huxley

When we have to witness a child in a new case, the first articulation is, “Oh, my God!” We homoeopaths have this very strange perception that children’s cases are the most difficult cases to crack. We often succumb to this anxiety and develop a group of favourite remedies. As soon as the child enters the consulting room, we try to grid him or her.

*Very pleasant and communicative child, give Phosphorous.
Irritable, wants to be carried, give Chamomilla.
Fearful and clingy child, give Stramonium.*

But a child’s energy cannot be confined to such grids. Our whole science revolves around the concept of individualization. In previous chapters, we have concluded that the child, a storehouse of immense energy, is bound to cast its own shadow of presence. Thus, each child conveys his or her individuality in a perceptible way. It is we homoeopaths who need to be unbiased and open to the child’s experiences.

The most important aspect of reaching the core or essence of a child is how we understand the child through our case witnessing. As I started working and meditating on this part of case witnessing, certain questions surfaced in my mind:

- * Can there be a scientific case witnessing process in children?
- * Can case taking really be a “child-centric” approach?

A child is the director, producer, and actor in his or her own film. We homoeopaths are just spot boys who throw light on wherever the child wishes to take us. The whole process of Case Witnessing Process (C.W.P.) should be designed according to the child’s individuality. Case taking shapes up as a spontaneous response to each child. Step by step, we are led to enter inside the child’s being or core. The entire process is guided by the child. It cannot be



theoretical, i.e., we cannot mechanically proceed with case taking as written in texts. For "case taking" to be "case witnessing," it needs to be wholesome and spontaneous. Therefore, it is an *imperfectly perfect method*, which is reproducible.

The search for answers broadened my understanding of the case witnessing process. In this light, the whole process of case witnessing children can now be defined as follows:

Integrative; simple, yet scientific; child-centric; imperfectly perfect; reproducible; scientific, yet intuitive; wholesome experience.

There are two steps in the case witnessing process:

A] Passive Case Witnessing Process

(Scientific/General centric)

B] B(i) Active Case Witnessing Process

B(ii) Active-Active Case Witnessing Process

} Child-Centric/Individualised/
Scientifically intuitive

The more I fine tuned the process of case witnessing, the more I became totally engrossed in it. I began to see and feel it all around me throughout the universe. Things started unfolding on their own. I found that case witnessing was a concept which was scientific and was followed—unknowingly, yet practically—in every phenomenon. We just need to be aware and open our eyes to perceive, appreciate, experience and explore it and connect to it. Case witnessing is integrative; not only does it integrate homoeopathy, but it integrates all phenomena in the universe.

A] Passive Case Witnessing Process (P.C.W.P.)

(General/Scientific case witnessing process)

To help us clearly understand Passive case witnessing, let us use the symbol of the eagle and examine the way the eagle hunts its prey.

Initially, the eagle soars in broad circles high up in the sky. From this vantage point, it does not know anything about the prey, about where it is, or by what means it can be caught. The eagle simply soars passively, without even flapping a wing or making any movement. The eagle passively watches all the activities happening on the earth below. It might see a rabbit, snake, chicken, or any other prey. The eagle's scanning observation may continue for two, three, or even five hours, until it finally focuses on a prey. The passive phase of hunting is practiced by the eagle whenever it starts hunting its prey; thus, it is a universal practice found in eagles throughout the world.

In the Passive case witnessing process, we allow the natural flow of the case; the whole aim is to listen passively to the verbal and non-verbal language of the child without altering it.

