

Contribution of Ancient Ayurveda Texts in Agadtantra: A Review

ABHAY ARJUN LAHANE¹, DR. VIJAY PATIL²

¹PG Scholer, Agadtantra Evum Vidhivaidyak Department, Yashwant Ayurved College Post Graduate Training & Research Centre, Kodoli.

²Guide & HOD Agadtantra Evum Vidhivaidyak Department, Yashwant Ayurved College Post Graduate Training & Research Centre, Kodoli.

Abstract— Ayurveda is considered as one of the ancient health care system. atharva veda is mainly deals with extensive ayurvedic information. Agada tantra is branch of Ayurveda toxicology under the heading of Ashtang Ayurveda which encompasses science of poisons, types of poison from plants, minerals, animal kingdom as well as artificial poisons prepared from poisonous drugs and their treatment. The Agada tantra or ancient toxicology mainly founded by Kashyapa who was the great saint of ancient time. The disciple of Kashyapa was treated as royal Vaidyas since they used to saves life of royal family members from the poisonous conditions. Ayurveda advocated uses of many antidotes against the symptoms of poisoning resulting from the insects, snakes, spiders and rodents bites, etc. The information about poisons and their management carried forward from the ancient time and knowledge has been updated time by time. Considering this fact present article put an emphasis on contribution of ancient ayurveda texts towards the evolution of Agada tantra. This article summarized key points of Ayurveda Samhitas W.S.R. to Agada tantra.

Indexed Terms- Ayurveda, Agada tantra, Samhitas, Toxicology, Vedic, Texts.

I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, Ayurvedic scholars have extensively documented their knowledge and experiences in Agadatantra. Classical texts such as Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridaya contain detailed descriptions of toxins, their properties, symptoms of poisoning, and treatment modalities. These ancient texts serve as foundational resources for contemporary practitioners and researchers in Agadatantra. In ancient India, toxic substances were prevalent in various forms, including natural toxins from plants, animals, and minerals, as well as toxins arising from environmental factors [1]. Agadatantra emerged as a distinct branch of Ayurveda

to address the prevention, identification, and treatment of poison-related conditions [2]. Ayurveda also mentioned poisoning of incompatible Ahara and its treatment. The right and wrong food, physical appearance, likes and dislikes related to the Ahara are given in detail in third chapter of Ashtaanga Hridaya. The accumulation of morbid Doshas and Mala acts as toxins and Ama itself produces noxious effects thus Ayurveda elaborated clinical view related to the external toxins as well as internal elements that can act as toxins in some specific circumstances. Ayurveda texts also encompass term Gara for specific poison which occurs due to the mere combination of non-poisonous substances [3-5].

Agada tantra described different types of poisons-

1. Natural Poison

2. Artificial Poison

Natural poison divided as Sthavar and Jangam .

Artificial poison is divided as Synthetic or Toxic Products.

The Vedic system possesses some information related to the poison and their treatment and spiritual therapy was recommended strongly at that time to fight against poison. Samhita came in practice in later stage and elaborated description of different aspects of Ayurveda toxicology with the development of other branches of Ayurveda.

AIM & OBJECTIVES -

1. TO STUDY THE CONTRIBUTION OF ANCIENT AYURVEDA TEXTS IN AGADATANTRA.

2. TO STUDY THE DIFFERENT AYURVEDIC LITERATURE .

Material and Methods-

Information is collected from different ayurvedic medical textbooks, samhitas, magazines, internet etc

The Charak, Sushrut and Ashtang Hridaya described key aspects of Visha-Upavisha in separate manner. The Laghutrayee like Sharangdhara Samhita also presented description of Agad tantra as Ayurveda toxicology in scattered manner. These all Ayurveda texts mentioned various information related to the poisons including definition and classification of Visha, Shodhana of Visha, Upvisha, effects of Visha, formulations of Visha-UpaVisha and treatment of poisoning, etc ^[5-7]

Charak Samhita –

Acharya Charaka has given prime importance to Visha and disease originated from Visha. In this regard Acharya Charaka included one separate chapter (23rd chapter of Chikistha sthan) for describing symptoms and treatment of conditions arising due to the Visha. Acharya Charaka has described Utpatti, Vega, Guna and Lakshana of Visha along with its treatment options.

Charak Samhita contains classification; symptoms and treatment of various types of Keeta visha. Charaka Samhita also encompasses details about Dooshivisha that it vitiate Rakta dhatu and may produce skin manifestations like Arunshika and Kitibha, etc. Acharya Charaka has mentioned the treatment of Dushivisha present in Rakta with the help of Raktamokshana. The Raktamokshana was mentioned for treating Dushivisha as given in Brihatrayee granthi. Charaka described role of Panchkarma therapy in the management of environmental poisons. Vamana, Virechana, Niruha and Anuvasanam, etc. Acharya Charak described Rasayan therapy for reducing effect of chronic or delayed poison. He also mentioned some fuming process to detoxify environments and environmental poisons (Chikitsa sthan 23rd chapter). Charak Samhita described anti-toxic effects of herbs against the environmental poisons. Yellow Mustard, Chandana, Kusthha, flower of Shirisha, Usheer, Tejpatra, Guggula, Bhallatak and white Aparajita, etc. were mentioned as fuming agent that helps to detoxify toxins.

Kashyap Samhita-

Agada tantra anciently originated from the school of toxicology founded by Kashyapa. The knowledge

about poisons and their management circulated by Kashyapa followed by his disciples to serve the humanity. The Visha vaidyas originated from school of Kashyapa scattered all around and saved many lives. The Visha vaidyas also used to administer poison to their king's enemies in ancient time. The different families of Visha vaidyas specialists in toxicology served in war also to save lives from the bite of poisonous animals in forest area especially. Kashyapa Samhita contains information regarding several Agadas such as; Dashanga agada and Narkesadi dhoopana, etc. The uses of these Agadas were also mentioned in conditions of Jangama visha. However Kashyapa samhita does not contain any chapter that directly deals with Jangama vish.

Susruta Samhita-

Susruta Samhita also described many important information related to the Visha and their therapeutic management. Acharya Susruta incorporated one section of eight chapters for toxicology branch as 'Kalpa Sthana'. The description of Keeta visha was mentioned in eight chapter of Kalpa Sthana including classification, symptoms and treatment of Keeta visha. Acharya Sushruta has mentioned Swedana Karma followed by Vaman & Virechana Karma in the management of Dushi visha as first line of treatment, however here consideration of Dosha predominance also suggested before initiating Visha-Chikitsa. Furthermore use of Agadapaan (anti-toxic drug) like Dushi vishari Agada was advised along with honey after the Shodhan procedure.

Bhel Samhita

Bhel Samhita mentioned Visha dushta conditions in the 18th chapter of Sutra Sthana. Here Visha dushta conditions such as; Vatra or Aavarana, etc. were mentioned with reference to the Visha, however this text not described any chapter related to the Jangama visha ^[7-10]

Astanga Hridaya-

Vagbhata systematically presented separate chapters regarding the Visha especially Keeta visha. The 37th chapter of Uttara sthana in Astanga hridaya contained information about the symptoms and treatment of different types of Keeta visha. The 43rd chapter also contains similar descriptions along with other information. Vriddha vagbhata compiled the

description of Keeta visha mentioned in Charaka and Susruta Samhita.

DISCUSSION

The ancient text mainly categorizes Samhita into two types; Brihatrayee and Laghutrayee. The broad and wide informative texts such as; Charak Samhita, Sushrut Samhita and Ashtang Hridaya comes under the heading of Bruhatrayee while Madhav Nidana, Sharangdhar Samhita and Bhavprakash comes under the heading of Laghutrayee. The Brihatrayee as well as Laghutrayee both contains details about the toxins and their management.. These all Ayurveda texts mentioned various information related to the poisons including definition and classification of Visha, Shodhana of Visha, Upvisha, effects of Visha, formulations of Visha-UpaVisha and treatment of poisoning.

CONCLUSION

Agada tantra anciently described by Kashyapa and the practitioner who followed Kashyapa's toxicology known as Visha vaidyas and disclosed several information related to the Agada tantra. The basis of Agada tantra mainly established by Kashyapa and his school of toxicology also contributed greatly. Acharya Charaka put prime focus on Visha and diseases originated from the Visha along with their treatment options. Acharya Charaka in 23rd chapter of Chikitsa sthan mentioned symptoms and treatment of Visha. Charak Samhita described Utpatti, Vega and Lakshana of Visha and treatment of Keeta visha. Susruta Samhita encompasses the description of Keeta visha in eight chapter of Kalpa Sthana, here classification, symptoms and treatment of Keeta visha was elaborated.

REFERENCES

- [1] Dr. Ambikadatta Shshtri; Sushrut Samhita; 7th edition; Varanasi; Choukhamba sanskrit sansthan; Sutrasthan; chapter, 1989; 1(7): 3.
- [2] Chaudhary Anubha, Garud Sandeep, Jaiswal Mohanlal; International journal of Ayurvedic and Herbal Medicine, 2017; 7(6): 29-77.

- [3] K. R. Srikanta Murthy; Sarangdhar Samhita; 2 nd edition; Varanasi; Chaukhamba Orientalia; Purvakhanda; chapter, 1995; 1(13): 4.
- [4] Dr. Nitin Urmaliya Text Book Of Agad Tantra Chaukhambha Orientalia Varanasi, Edition 1st, 2011. (pg-161).
- [5] Dr. P.V.N.R. Prasad Agad Tantra, Chukhambha Sanskrit Sansthan, Varanasi Third Edition 2016, Pg -224.
- [6] Dr. S. R. Inchulkar, Agada Tantra Evum Visha Vighyan 1stEdition 2017, Published By Vaibhav Prakashan Raipur, Page -138.
- [7] Acharya Vriddha Vagbhata Astanga Samgraha By Kaviraja Atrideva Gupta Published By Chaukhambha Prakashan Varanasi Reprint 2016.(Pg -363,43/2).
- [8] Maharsi Susruta -Susruta Samhita By Kaviraj Ambika Dutta Shastri, Part -1 Published By Chaukhambha Sanskrit Sansthan Varanasi Reprint -2015.(Pg - 80).
- [9] Acharya Vriddha Vagbhata Astanga Samgraha By Kaviraj Atrideva Gupta Published By Chaukhambha Prakashan Varanasi Reprint 2016.(Pg -364).
- [10] Dr. Anita sharma Agad Tantra Vigyan Chaukhambha Orientaliya Varanasi Edition.