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Concept of *Dravya* (drug) and its classification: A brief review

Umakant N Rabb *

Department of Dravyaguna Vijnana, Shri Ravi Patil Health and Education Society's, Dr Ravi Patil Ayurvedic Medical college, Hospital and Research Centre, Honaga, Belagavi, Karnataka, India.

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Abstract

To eradicate the disease the drugs play a vital role in the treatment management. The *Dravya* or the drug placed in second prime important place in the *Chikitsa Chatushpada* (Four limbs of treatment) in Ayurveda viz; *Bhishak* (Physician), *Aushadha* (Drug), *Upasthata or Paricharaka* (Nurse or attender), *Rogi* (Patient). There are four branches of *Dravya* as per Ayurvedic classics. Viz; *Nama Rupa Jnana* (Pharmacognosy), *Guna Karma* (Pharmacology), *Prayoga Jnana* (Pharmacotherapeutics), *Sanyoga Jnana* (Pharmacy). According to Charaka Samhita the *Guna* (Properties) and *Karma* (Actions) are present in inseparable relationship called *Samavayi Karana*. All the drugs in the universe are made up of five proto elements. These proto elements called as *Panchamahabhuta*. The drug is made up of five factors are called as *Karana Dravyas*. These are nine in number. Viz; *Akasha* (Sky element), *Vayu* (Air element), *Teja* (Fire element), *Prithwi* (Earth element), *Jala* (Water element), *Mana* (Mind factor), *Kala* (Time factor), *Disha* (Direction), and *Atma* (Soul factor) factors. According to *Rasa Vaisheshika* (One of the Indian alchemy book) the drugs contain *Rasa* (Taste), *Guna* (Qualities), *Virya* (Active potency), *Vipaka* (Post digestive effect), *Prabhava* (Specific effects) five factors. Most of the time the drug is administered in an empty stomach to achieve the larger amount of absorption. But in some cases like *Asthama*, *Hikka* (Hiccough), *Atisara* (Diarrhea), *Trishna* (Excessive thirst), the drug should be administered on and often to achieve desired effects. There are 11 types of time of administration is mentioned. Viz; *Abhakta* (Empty stomach), *Pragbhakta* (Before meal), *Madhyabhakta* (During meal), *Adhobhakta* (After meal), *Samabhakta* (With food), *Antarbhakta* (Between two meal), *Samudga* (Before and after meals), *Muhurmuhu* (On and often), *Sagrassa* (Mith first morsel of food), *Grasantara* (Between morsels), *Nisha* (Bed time). The present work is dealt with the detail information about the drug, the drugs acting on various body systems and the some of the drugs with its classification based on various Ayurvedic texts.

Keywords: *Dravya*; Drug classification; *Ayurvedic* classical texts; *Charaka Samhita*; *Sushruta Samhita*; *Asthanga Hridaya*

1 Introduction

There are four branches of *Dravya* (Drug) as per *Ayurvedic* classics. Viz; *Nama Rupa Jnana* (Pharmacognosy), *Guna Karma* (Pharmacology), *Prayoga Jnana* (Pharmacotherapeutics), *Sanyoga Jnana* (Pharmacy). These factors embrace the knowledge of identification of the drug, collection, classification of and metabolic activities of the drugs, their usage, therapeutic actions, compatibility, toxicity etc. The drugs emerge their actions through the *Rasa*, *Guna*, *Virya*, *Vipaka*, *Prabhava* actions. The *Rasa* and *Vipaka* are the chemical structure of the drug. Therefore a drug performs its actions *ie* the local actions by the *Rasa* and *Guna* and the therapeutic actions *ie* systemic actions performed by *Vipaka* and *Virya*. Whereas the *Prabhava* is isomerism (More than one compounds have the same chemical formula but different chemical structures), and isomerides. The time also plays an important role in the drug metabolism.

* Corresponding author: Umakant N Rabb

Department of Dravyaguna Vijnana, Shri Ravi Patil Health and Education Society's, Belagavi, Karnataka, India.

Aims and objectives

- The aim of the present work is highlighted concept of Dravya (Drugs)
- The objective is to elaborate the concept of Dravya (Drug) and it's classification according to different Ayurvedic texts.

2 Material and methods

- The different concepts were selected to highlight the drug and it's classification on the basis of various Ayurvedic texts along with the pharmacological actions.
- Literary survey was done strictly through various Ayurvedic classical texts.

3 Discussion

The literal meaning of *Dravya* is *Gati* or *Jnana*, or *Gamana* or *Prapti*, *Dravati*, *Gacchati*, *Parinamakari* or *Samyoga-Vibhagakari*. *Dravya* is a substance in which the *Guna* and *Karma* are in *Samavaya Sambandha* (Inherent relationship) [1]. *Chakrapani* the commentator of *Charaka Samhita* mentioned the *Guna* in this context include *Rasa*, *Virya*, *Vipaka*, *Prabhava*. The *Vaisheshika Darshana* and *Sushruta Samhita* accepted the same definition ie the *Kriya* and the *Gunas* have the *Samavaya Sambandha* (Inherent relationship) with the *Dravya*[2]. In the treatment, the *Dravya* (Drugs), *Guna* (Qualities) and *Virya* (Active potency) are essential. When there is in-equilibrium or variations in the *Doshas* leads to unhealthy state of the body. To heal the body and to maintain the equability of the *Dosha*, *Dhatu* the *Dravyas* given in the form of food or in the form of medicine. This is based on the *Samanya-Vishesha Siddhanta*. In the depletion of the body tissues the *Samana Dravyas* are to be given whereas the aggravation of body tissues *Vishesha Dravyas* are used to maintain the equilibrium.

3.1 Panchamahabhuta in Dravya- Proto Elements of Drug

According to *Acharya Charaka* all the *Dravyas* in the universe are composed of *Panchamahabhuta* viz; *Akasha*, *Vayu*, *Agni*, *Aap*, *Prithwi*. By these factors the actions take place named as *Karya Dravyas*[3]. This can be clarified by the verse from *Sushruta Samhita* ie the conversion of food which is *Panchabautika* in nature undergoes digestion by the action of *Agni Mahabhuta*[4]. The creation begins with *Avyakta* or *Prakriti* which is impercievable in nature. In the field of Biochemistry it is noted as unknown cosmic energy ie radiation coming from the Galaxy. The entire energy in the universe is a result of radiation coming from the Galaxy only. The next phase is *Mahat* which can be compared to virtual particles and these are highly charged energy particles like Meson, Positron, and Neutron. But these particles are highly unstable and cannot have active participation in the formation of *Karya Dravyas*. The next phase comes *Ahamkara* which is three fragments viz; *Satwa*, *Raja* and *Tama*. The *Satwa* is *Vaikarika*, *Raja* is *Taijasa* and *Tama* is *Bhutas* respectively. The three are more stable energy particles which take part in the atom ie *Satwa* is Proton, *Raja* is electron, and *Tama* is Neutron. These all three together known as *Trividha Ahankaras*. The *Satwa* is considered as the source of positive charge, *Raja* considers itself as the source of negative charge and *Tama* considers itself as the source of neutrally charged particle. From these stable particles the material world is begin to form. From *Satwa* and *Raja* components there will be an emerge of *Ekadasha Indriyas* (*Pancha Jnanendriya*- *Karna* (Ear), *Twacha* (Skin), *Chakshu* (Eyes), *Jivha* (Tongue), *Ghrana* (Nose), *Panchakarmendriya*- *Vaak Tatwa* (Speech or voice), *Pani Tatwa* (Grasping or hands), *Pada Tatwa* (Walking or feet), *Payu Tatwa* (Excretion or anus), *Upastha Tatwa* (Procreation or genitals) and *Manas* (Mind or Consciousness)[5]. Whereas from *Raja* and *Tama* components there will be an emerge of *Panchatanmatras* viz; *Shabdha* (Sound or orbit), *Sparsha* (Touch or electrons involved in the chemical bond formation), *Rupa* (Shape or electron activity), *Rasa* (Taste or proton activity), *Gandha* (Sense of smell or neutron activity). These *Trividha Ahankara* (*Satwa*, *Raja* and *Tama*) and *Panchatanmatras* (*Shabda*, *Sparsha*, *Rupa*, *Rasa*, *Gandha*) together called as *Astha Prakruti* ie eight natural factors. The *Panchajanaendriya* (*Karna*, *Twacha*, *Chakshu*, *Jivha* and *Ghrana*), *Panchakarmendiya* (*Vaak*, *Pani*, *Pada*, *Payu*, *Upastha*) and *Manas* these *Ekadashendriya* factors and *Panchamahabhuta* (*Akasha*, *Vayu*, *Agni*, *Apa*, *Prithwi*) known as *Shodasha Vikruti* (16 modified factors)[6]. These 24 factors together known as *Chaturvinshati Tatwas*. In this 24 factors when *Atma* (Kinetic energy) is entered then the entire universe becomes alive and hence called as *Pancha Vimshati Tatwatmaka Pusrusha* (25 factors). The *Pancha Tanmatras* indicate the Physical Properties of the matter or Atom, whereas the *Pancha Mahabhutas* are the Chemical Properties of an Atom along with physical properties. It can be tabulated as follows;

Table 1 Pancha Tanmatras

| Pancha Tanmatras | Shabda | Sparsha | Rupa | Rasa | Gandha |
|------------------|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| Physical | Orbit | Valence | Electron | Proton | Neutron |
| Chemical | ----- | H+ | O- | P+ | N-, C+ |

Table 2 Pancha Mahabhuta

| Pancha Mahabhuta | Akasha | Vayu | Agni | Jala | Prithwi |
|------------------|----------|--------|------------|----------|---------------------|
| Physical | ----- | Vacuum | Gas | Plasma | Liquids, and solids |
| Chemical | Hydrogen | Oxygen | Phosphorus | Nitrogen | Carbon |

These *Shabda Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa, Gandha* are inherent in *Panchamahabhuta*. The *Avyakta* is inactive state, whereas *Atma* is in active state. This may be noted in the form of Kinetic energy of an Atom. There are three activities or three types of *Atma* viz; *Bhutatma*- Activity in the inorganic matter, *Jeevatma*- Activity in the organic matter, and the *Paramatma*- Activity in the Galaxy which is impercievable. The *Panchabhautika* configuration leads to the pharmacological action of the drug. These *Panchabhautika* configuration are *Rasa, Virya, Vipaka*.

3.2 Prashastha bhashaja- an ideal drug ^{[7],[8]}

An ideal drug possess four qualities viz;

3.2.1 Bahuta

Abundantly available

3.2.2 Yogyatwa

Maximum utility

3.2.3 Aneka Vidha Kalpana

Made in to different forms

3.2.4 Sampat

Possess the best qualities, superior quality.

3.3 Importance of dravya (drug) ^{[9],[10]}

3.3.1 Vyavasthitatwa- Stability

Dravya is stable in nature, but the components like *Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka* are unstable. Ex: The taste of ripe mango fruit is *Madhura* where as unripe mango fruit is sour. In between the taste, colour, smell, changes but the Mango is a fruit till the end.

3.3.2 Nityatwa- Eternity

Certain properties of *Dravya* may lost after some time. But the original *Dravya* will remain as it is. Ex: *Kalka* (Paste), *Swarasa* (Juice) may loose taste and smell but still they will be called as *Kalka* or *Swarasa* of the given *Dravya*.

3.3.3 Swajati Avasthanatwa- Geno-specificity

No substance belonging to one genus or group into another. Ex: *Prithwi Dravya* remains to be *Prithwi Dravya* till the end. Similarly milk will become curd but not salt or honey, not other form. During the process only certain characters and properties will change but not the whole *Dravya*.

3.3.4 *Panchendriya Grahyatwa*

Perceived through the sense organs- *Dravya* is perceived through all the senses viz; Taste through *Rasanendriya*, *Rupa* by *Chakshu Indriya*, *Sparsha* by *Twacha* or *Sparshanendriya*, *Shabdha* through *Karnendriya* and *Gandha* through *Nasa* or *Ghranendriya*.

3.3.5 *Ashrayatwa*

Host for properties- The *Dravya* can host for the components like *Rasa*, *Guna*, *Virya*.

3.3.6 *Arabhasamarthya*

Action initiation- The initiation of specific pharmacological action is possible only through using the *Dravyas*.

3.3.7 *Shastra Pramanya- Classical references*

Ancient *Ayurvedic* texts have mentioned different medicines or drugs on the basis of *Dravya* only. Different group of drugs mentioned on the basis of *Dravya* only but not *Rasa*, *Guna*, *Virya*. Even though some classical texts mentioned the *Rasa Skandha* drugs based on the dominant *Rasa* (Tastes).

3.3.8 *Karma Apekshitatwa- Degree of maturity and qualities*

The properties depend upon the state of the *Dravya*. When the drug is tender then the properties will differ. When matured, possess all the qualities.

3.3.9 *Ekadesha Sadhyatwa- Utility through Part used*

Dravya can be used in the treatment by using a part of it. Ex: Latex of *Snuhi (Euphorbia neriifolia)* plant.

3.3.10 *Taratama Yoganupalabdhi- Non availability of grading*

The *Gunas* and *Rasas* can be used according to the grading like mild, moderate and severe (*Taratama Yoga*), but the drug remains same.

3.3.11 *Vikalpa Samarthya- Possibility of pharmaceuticals*

Dravya can be made in to different forms of pharmaceuticals. Ex: *Kalka* (Paste), *Kashaya* (Decoction), *Swarasa* (Juice), *Choorna* (Powder) etc. But the components like *Rasa*, *Guna* cannot be utilized for pharmaceuticals.

3.3.12 *Pratighata Samarthya- Capability of being shape*

Dravya is visible as it has shape, colour and structure. But not the *Rasa*, *Guna*, *Virya*.

3.4 *Dravya vargikarana- classification of drugs*

Classification on the basis of *Karya-Karana-*

3.4.1 *Karya Dravyas*

Which are Anitya- The *Karya Dravyas* can be again classified in to 2 types[11].

3.4.2 *Chetana Karya Dravyas*

The *Dravyas* with *Indriya* or life. Ex: Humans, Plants, Animals etc. The *Chetana Karya Dravyas* again divided into *Antahchetana* also called *Sthavara* which are life present inherently but cannot be expressed out. Ex: Plants. *Bahirantahchetana* also called *Jangama Dravyas-* The life can be exhibited out. Ex: Human, Animals etc. The *Antahchetana* further divided into 4 type viz; *Vanaspati- Phalair Vanaspatihi-* Contain hidden flowers and visible fruits. Ex: *Vata* (*Ficus* group of plants). *Vaanaspatti- Pushpair Vaanaspattya-* Contain visible flowers and fruits. Ex: *Amra*, *Guawa* etc.. *Aushadha- Oshadha Phalapaakanta-* Plant destroys after ripening of fruit. Ex: *Godhuma*, *Yava* etc.. *Virudha- Prataanaai Virudha-* The climbers and creepers. Ex: *Guduchi*.

The *Bahir Antahchetana* is again divided into 4 types. Viz;

3.4.3 *Jarayuja*

Placental origin Ex: Humans, Animals like lion, tiger, cow, goat etc

3.4.4 *Andaja*

Egg origin Ex: Birds, Serpents, fish etc.

3.4.5 *Swedaja*

Sweat origin. The creatures which have their birth in Sweda or dirty water. Ex: Insects, Yukaa, Laksha, mosquitoes, ants, worms in fecal matter.

3.4.6 *Udbhija*

Soil origin. Born from the mud or clay. Ex: Frogs, Indragopa insects.

3.4.7 *Achetana Karya Dravyas*

The Dravyas without Indriya, Nirjiva or without life force. Ex: Swarna, Rajata, Mukta etc.

3.4.8 *Karana Dravyas*

Which are Nitya [12]- The Karana Dravyas are 9 in number. Viz; Akasha, Vayu, Agni, Jala, Prithwi, Atma, Manas, Kala, Dik. These Karana Dravyas are responsible for the production of innumerable Karya Dravyas. Among these 9 Karana Dravyas, Prithwi, Jala, Agni, Vayu, are Anitya in Karyarupa but Nitya in Pramanurupa. The Akasha, Kala, Dik, Manas and Atma are Nitya. These 9 Karana Dravyas are also responsible for the production of Murta and Amurta Dravyas of the universe. Panchamahabhuta gives Physical body, Atma gives Chetana, Manas gives the activating capacity, Kala and Dik are responsible for Transformation (Parinama).

3.5 **Classification of dravyas on the basis of utpatti/yoni utpatti or source (origin)-**

The Dravyas can be divide in to three types on the basis of its Utpatti (Origin) Viz; Jangama, Bhauma and Audbhida[13].

3.5.1 *Jangama Dravyas [14]*

The Dravyas of animal origin or animal source or the creatures which are able to walk or crawl are considered as Jangama Dravyas. The Jangama Dravyas further divided into four types viz; Jarayuja- Placental origin Ex: Humans, Animals like lion, tiger, cow, goat etc Andaja- Egg origin Ex: Birds, Serpents, fish etc. Swedaja- Sweat origin. The creatures which have their birth in Sweda or dirty water. Ex: Insects, Yukaa, Laksha, mosquitos, ants, worms in fecal matter. Udbhija- Soil origin. Born from the mud or clay. Ex: Frogs, Indragopa insects.

3.5.2 *Bhauma or Parthiva Dravyas [15]*

The Dravyas are obtained from the beneath the earth. Ex: Minerals, and metals like Gold, Silver, Copper, and Iron etc

3.5.3 *Audbhida Dravyas [16]*

The Dravyas obtained from the above the earth. Ex: Plants. It is further divided in to four types and also termed as Antashchetana Dravyas. Viz; Vanaspati- Phalair Vanaspatihi-Contain hidden flowers and visible fruits. Ex: Vata (Ficus group of plants). Vaanaspati- Pushpair Vaanaspatya- Contain visible flowers and fruits. Ex: Amra, Guawa etc. Aushadha-Oshadha Phalapaakanta- Plant destroys after ripening of fruit. Ex: Godhuma, Yava etc. Virudha- Prataanai Virudha- The climbers and creepers (Lata and Gulma). Ex: Guduchi.

3.6 **Classification of dravyas on the basis of proyoga (usage) [17]**

The Dravyas are classified on the basis of Prayoga ie usage are two types Viz; Aushadha Dravyas and Ahara Dravyas. The Aushadha Dravyas are Virya Pradhana, used as medicine to treat the diseases and can be consumed when required. The Ahara Dravyas are Rasa Pradhana, used as food to nourish the seven Dhatus and can be consumed regularly.

3.7 **Classification of dravyas on the basis of rasa (taste) [18]**

The Dravyas are classified on the basis of six tastes Viz; Madhura Skandha (Sweet group of drugs), Amla Skandha (Sour group of drugs), Lavana Skandha (Salt group of drugs), Katuka Skandha (Pungent group of drugs), Tikta Skandha (Bitter group of drugs), Kashaya Skandha (Astringent group of drugs).

3.8 Madhura Skandha Dravyas- Sweet group of drugs

Jivaka, Rishabhaka, Jivanti, Vira, Tamalaki, Kakoli, Kshirakakoli, Mudgaparni, Mashaparni, Shalaparni, Prishnaparni, Asanaparni, Madhuparni, Meda, Mahabheda, Karkatashringi, Shringatika, Chinnaruha, Chatra, Atichatra, Shrivani, Mahashravani, Sahadeva, Vishwadeva, Shukla, Kshirashukla, Bala, Atibala, Vidari, Kshiravidari, Kshudrasaha, Mahasaha, Rishyagandha, Ashwagandha, Vrischira, Punarnava, Brihati, Kantakari, Urubuka, Morata, Swadamshttra, Samharsha, Shatavari, Shatapushpa, Madhukapushpa, Yasthimadhu, Madhulika, Mridvika, Kharjura, Parushaka, Atmagupta, Pushkarabeeja, Kasheruka, Rajakasheruka, Rajadana, Kataka, Kashmiri, Sheetapaki, Odanapaki, Talamastaka, Kharjuramastaka, Ikshu, Ikshuvalika, Darbha, Kusha, Kasa, Shali, Gundra, Itakta, Sharamula, Rajakshavaka, Rishyaprokta, Dwarada, Bharadwaji, Vanatrapusi, Abhirupatri, Hamsapadi, Kakanasika, Kulingakshi, Kheeravalli, Kapolavalli, Somavalli, Gopavalli, Madhuvalli.

3.8.1 Amla Skandha Dravyas

Sour group of drugs. Fruits- Amra, Amrataka, Lakucha, Karamarda, Vrikshamla, Amlavetasa, Brihat Badara, Badara, Dadima, Matulunga, Gandira, Aamalaka, Nanditaka, Shitaka, Tintidika, Dantashatha, Airavataka, Koshamra, Dhanvana.

3.8.2 Leaves

Amra, Amrataka, Changeri, Four kinds of Amla Patra, Rajakola, Kola, Gramya and Aranya Amlika.

3.8.3 Asava Dravyas

Sura, Souvira, Tushodhaka, Maireya, Medaka, Madira, Madhu, Sukta, Sindhu, Dadhi, Dadhimanda, Udaswita, Dhanyamla.

Lavana Skandha Dravyas- Salt group of drugs

Saindhava Lavana, Souvarchala Lavana, Krishna Lavana, Vida Lavana, Pakya Lavana, Anupa Lavana, Kupya Lavana, Valuka Lavana, Aila Lavana, Maulaka Lavana, Samudra Lavana, Romaka Lavana, Audhbidha Lavana, Aushara Lavana, Pateyaka Lavana, Pamshu Lavana.

3.8.4 Katu Skandha Dravyas

Pungent group of drugs

Pippali, Pippalimoola, Gaja Pippali, Chavya, Chitraka, Shringabera, Maricha, Ajamoda, Ardraka, Vidanga, Dhanyaka, Peelu, Tejovati, Ela, Kustha, Bhallatakasthi, Hingu Nirayasa, Devadaru, Mulaka, Sarshapa, Lashuna, Karanja, Shigru, Madhu Shigru, Kharapushpa, Bhustrina, Sumukha, Surasa, Kutheraka, Arjaka, Gandira, Kalamalka, Pudina (Parnasa), Kshavaka, Phanijjaka, Ksharas (Alkalies), Mutra, Pitta.

3.8.5 Tikta Skandha Dravyas

Bitter group of drugs

Chandana, Nalada, Kritamala, Naktamala, Nimba, Tumburu, Kutaja, Haridra, Daruharidra, Mustha, Murva, Kiratatikta, Katukarohini, Trayamana, Karavellaka, Karira, Karavira, Kebuka, Kathillaka, Vasa, Mandukaparni, Karkotaka, Vartaku, Karkasha, Kakamachi, Kakodumbara, Susavi, Ativisha, Patola, Kulaka, Patha, Guduchi, Vetragra, Vetasa, Vikantaka, Bakula, Somavalka, Saptaparna, Sumana, Arka, Avalguja, Vacha, Tagara, Agar, Balaka, Ushira.

3.8.6 Kashaya Skandha Dravyas

Astringent group of drugs

Priyangu, Ananta, Amrasthi, Ambasthaki, Katvanga, Lodhra, Mocharasa, Samanga, Dhatakipushpa, Padma, Bharangi, Amra, Plaksha, Vata, Kapitana, Udumbara, Ashwattha, Bhallatakasthi, Ashmantaka, Shirisha, Sinshipa, Somavalka, Tinduka, Priyala, Badara, Khadira, Saptaparna, Ashwakarna, Synadana, Arjuna, Arimeda, Elavaluka, Paripelava, Kadamba, Shallaki, Jinghini, Kasa, Kaseruka, Rajakasheruka, Katphala, Vamsha, Padmaka, Ashoka, Shala, Dhava, Sarja, Shana, Kharapushpa, Pura, Shami, Devadaru, Varaka, Tunga, Ajakarna, Sphurjaka, Vibhitaka, Kumbhi, Pushkarabeeja, Bisa, Mrinala, Tala ankura, Kharjura ankura.

3.9 Classification of dravya based on drug effect (prabhava bheda) [19]

3.9.1 *Dosha Shamaka*

To subside Doshas (Vata-Pitta-Kapha)

3.9.2 *Vata Shamaka Dravyas*

Madhura, Amla, Lavana Rasas, Ushna, Snigdha Gunas, Ushna Virya, Madhura Vipaka or Guru Vipaka, Devadaru, Varuna, Dadima, Amalaki etc[20]

3.9.3 *Pitta Shamaka Dravyas*

Madhura, Tikta, Kashaya Rasas, Sheeta, Mridu, Picchila Gunas, Sheeta Virya, Guru or Madhura Vipaka, Chandana, Ushira, Murva, Sariva, Manjistha[20]

3.9.4 *Kapha Shamaka Dravyas*

Katu Tikta Kashaya Rasas, Ushna, Ruksha Gunas, Ushna Virya, Laghu, Amla or Katu Vipaka, Agar, Langali, Rasna, Haridra[20]

3.9.5 *Dosha Prakopaka*

To increase Doshas (Vata-Pitta-Kapha)

3.9.6 *Vata Prakopaka Dravyas*

Sushka Shaka, Shushka Mamsa, Shyamaka, Mudga, Masura, Jambu, Tinduka, Kalaya etc[20].

3.9.7 *Pitta Prakopaka Dravyas*

Tila Taila, Kulatthya, Sarshapa, Matsya Mamsa, Aja Mamsa, Mustha, Sura, Kshara, Mutra, Kanjika, Peelu, Langali, Maricha etc[20].

3.9.8 *Kapha Prakopaka Dravyas*

Yavaka, Masha, Godhuma, Dadhi, Dugdha, Ikshu Vikara, Anupa mamsa, Shringataka, Pruthuka, Bhavya, Kharjura, Narikela etc[20].

3.9.9 *Swasthyakara Dravyas*

To maintain health or preventive measures. It has divides into two types viz; Rasayana and Vajikara. Apart from these the Ahara (Food) and Aushadha (Drugs or medicine) also be considered. Ex: Rakta Shali, Mudga, Antarikshdaka, Saindhava, Jivanti, Shaka, Ena Mamsa, Lava Mamsa, Godha Mamsa, Rohita Matsya, Goghrita, Tila Taila, Varaha Vasa, Paka Hamsa Vasa, Kukkuta Vasa, Aja Medas, Shringavera, Mridvika, Sharkara, Dadima, Amalaka etc.

3.10 Classification of dravyas on the basis of ahara dravya [21]

- Shuka Dhanya Varga- Shali, Yava, Godhuma etc
- Shami Dhanya Varga- Masha, Mudga, Kulattha etc
- Mamsa Varga- The flesh of animals, birds
- Shaka Varga- Vegetables like Kushmanda etc
- Phala Varga- Fruits like Draksha, Kharjura etc
- Harita Varga- Green leafy vegetables like Ardraka, Dhanyaka leaves,
- Madya Varga- Medicated liquors like Sura, Madira, etc
- Jala Varga- Different types of water
- Gorasa Varga- Cow milk, Ghee, Curd etc
- Ikshu Varga- Sugarcane and sugarcane products like sugar, jaggery etc
- Katrina Varga- Rice preparations like Manda, Peya, Vilepi, etc
- Aharaopayogi Varga- Taila, Hingu, Lavana etc.

3.11 Classification of dravyas on the basis of ahara dravya according to sushruta samhita a [22]

3.11.1 *Drava Dravya Varga*

Jala Varga, Ksheera Varga, Dadhi Varga, Takra Varga, Ghrita Varga, Taila Varga, Madhu Varga, Ikshu Varga, Mutra Varga, Madya Varga

3.11.2 *Anna Dravya Varga*

Shali Varga, Kudhanya Varga, Mudgadi Varga, Mamsa Varga, Phala Varga, Shaka Varga, Pushpa Varga, Kanda Varga, Lavana Varga, Kritanna Varga, Bhakshya Varga, Anupana Varga

3.12 Classification of dravya based on karma- according to charaka samhita 50 mahakashayas [23]

Viz; Jivaniya Gana, Brimhaniya Gana, Lekhaniya Gana, Bhedaniya Gana, Sandhaniya Gana, Dipaniya Gana, Balya, Varnya, Kanthya, Hridya, Triptighna, Arshoghna, Kusthaghna, Kandughna, Krimighna, Vishaghna, Kasahara, Swasahara, Swayathuhara, Jwarahara, Shramahara, Dahaprashamana, Sheetaprashamana, Udardaprashamana, Angamarda Prashamana, Shoolaprashamana, Shonitasthapana, Vedanasthapana, Sanjnasthapana, Prajasthapana, Vayasthapana, Chardinigrahana, Trishnanigrahana, Hikka Nigrahana, Mutrasangrahaniya, Purisha Sangrahaniya, Purisha Virajaniya, Mutravirajaniya, Mutravirechaniya, Stanyajanana, Stanyashodhana, Shukrajanana, Shukrashodhaka, Snehopaga, Swedopaga, Vamanopaga, Virechanopaga, Asthapanapaga, Anuvasanapaga, Shirovirechanopaga

3.13 According to sushruta samhita 37 ganas [24]

Viz; Vidarigandhad Gana, Aragwadhadi Gana, Salasaradi Gana, Varunadi Gana, Viratarwadi Gana, Rodhradi Gana, Arkadi Gana, Surasadi Gana, Mushkakadi Gana, Pippalydi Gana, Eladi Gana, Vachadi Gana, Haridradi Gana, Shyamadi Gana, Brihatyadi Gana, Patoladi Gana, Kakolyadi Gana, Ushakadi Gana, Sarivadi Gana, Anjanadi Gana, Parushakadi Gana, Priyangwadi Gana, Ambasthadi Gana, Nyagrodhadi Gana, Guduchyadi Gana, Utpaladi Gana, Musthadi Gana, Triphala Gana, Trikatu Gana, Amalakyadi Gana, Trapyadi Gana, Akshadi Pancha Gana, Laghu Gana, Brihat Panchamula, Valli Panchamula, Kantaki Panchamula, Trina Panchamula, Urdhwabhagahara, Adhobhagahara, Ubhayabhagahara, Shirovirechanopaga, Vata Sanshamana, Pitta Sanshamana, Kapha Sanshamana

3.14 Classification on the basis of pancha mahabhuta- five prto elements [25] viz;

3.14.1 *Akashiya*

The Akashiya substances are Mridu (Smooth), Laghu (Light), Sokshma (Minute), Vyavayi, (Stimulant first) and depressant later), Shlakshna (Glistening), Vishada (Clear), Vivikta (Separate) and Avyakta Rasa (Unknown taste), provides smoothness to the skin. Shabda is characteristic feature of Akasha Mahabhuta.

3.14.2 *Vayaviya*

The Vayaviya substances are Laghu (Light), Sheeta (Cold), Ruksha (Dry), Khara (Rough), Vishada (Clear), Sookshma (Minute), astringent in taste. The Sparsha (Touch) is the characteristic feature of Vayaviya Mahabhuta.

3.14.3 *Agneya*

The Agneya Mahabhuta is Ushna (Hot), Teekshna (Stimulating), Sookshma (Minute), Ruksha (Dry), Khara (Rough), Vishada (Clear). The drugs act as Dipana (Appetizer), Pachana (Digestives), which improves colour, complexion are known as Agneya Dravyas. Roopa is the characteristic feature of Agni Mahabhuta. This may be Katu (Pungent), bit salt and sour taste. It exhibits the property of upward direction.

3.14.4 *Jaliya or Apya*

The substances which have Drava (Liquidity), Snigdha (Demulcent), Sheeta (Cold), Manda (Slow acting), Mridu (Smooth), Picchila (Sticky), Sandra (Turbid), Guru (Heavy), properties. Rasa is the characteristic feature of the Jaliya Mahabhuta. It provides Snehana, Alhadana (Nourishment), Kledana (Moistness), Bandhana (Brings about liquidity), Vishyandana (Liquidity). The drugs will be sweet in taste with little in astringent, sour and salty tastes.

3.14.5 *Parthiva*

The substances which are Guru (Heavy), Khara (Rough), Kathina (Hard), Manda (Slow acting), Sthira (Stability), Vishada (Clear), Sandra (Turbid), Sthoola (Bigger), provides Bala (Strength), Sthairya (Tonicity), Sanghata (Attachments),

Upachayakara (Growth), Gandha is the characteristic feature of Parthiva Dravyas. They will be Madhura (Sweet) with mild astringent in taste and are responsible for downward movement.

3.15 Classification of the dravyas on the basis of virya [26]- viz;

3.15.1 Sheeta Virya Dravyas

Ativisha, Arjuna, Ashoka, Amalaki, Aragwadha, Udumbara, Ushira, Ela, Kanchanara, Katuka, Karpura, Kiratatikta, Kutaja, Kupilu, Kushmanda, Khadira, Gokshura, Chandana, Jambu, Jatamansi, Nagabala, Nimba, Patha, Ardra Pippali, Bala, Bramhi, Mandukaparni, Madhuyasthi, Mishreya, Musthaka, Yavasa, Lavanga, Lodhra, Vasa, Shankhapushpi, Shatavari, Sariva, Shala, Shalmali

3.15.2 Ushna Veerya Dravyas

Agaru, Agnimantha, Ajamoda, Ativisha, Apamarga, Arka, Ashwagandha, Ahiphena, Indravaruni, Eranda, Kantakari, Kapikacchu, Karanja, Karavira, Karkata Shringi, Kupilu, Kustha, Krishna Jiraka, Gandhaprasarini, Gambhari, Guggulu, Guduchi, Changeri, Chitraka, Jati Phala, Jeeraka, Jyotishmati, Talisa Patra, Tulasi, Tuvaraka, Tejovha, Trivrutta, Twak, Danti, Dadima, Dariharidra, Devadaru, Dronapushpi, Dhattura, Dhataki, Dhanyaka, Nagakeshara, Nimbuka, Nirgundi, Patala, Palasha, Patola, Patha, Parasika Yavani, Shushka Pippali, Punarnava, Pushkaramula, Prishniparni, Bakuchi, Bilva, Brihati, Bhanga, Bhallataka, Bharangi, Bhringaraja, Manjistha, Madanaphala, Maricha, Yavani, Rasna, Latakaranja, Vacha, Vatsanabha, Varuna, Vidanga, Vibhitaki, Shatapushpa, Sharapunkha, Shalaparni, Shigru, Shyonaka, Saptaparna, Sarpagandha, Haridra, Haritaki, Hingu, Kutaja, Shirisha.

3.16 Classification of dravyas on the basis of vipaka (post digestive effect) [27] - viz

3.16.1 Madhura Vipaka Dravyas

Ashwagandha, Amalaki, Aragwadha, Ardraka, Eranda, Ela, Kapikacchu, Kushmanda, Guduchi, Gokshura, Dadima, Dhanyaka, Nagabala, Pippali, Prishniparni, Bala, Bramhi, Bhallataka, Mandukaparni, Madhuyasthi, Mishreya, Vibhitaki, Shankhapushpi, Shatavari, Sariva, Shalaparni, Shalmali, Haritaki.

3.16.2 Amla Vipaka Dravyas

Changeri, Dadima, Nimbuka, Bhavya

3.16.3 Katu Vipaka Dravyas

Agaru, Agnimantha, Ajamoda, Ativisha, Aparajita, Apamarga, Arka, Arjuna, Ashoka, Ahiphena, Indravaruni, Udumbara, Ushira, Kantakari, Kanchanara, Katuka, Karanja, Karavira, Karkatashringi, Karpura, Kiratatikta, Kutaja, Kupilu, Kumari, Kustha, Krishna Jiraka, Khadira, Gandha Prasarini, Gambhari, Guggulu, Chandana, Chitraka, Jamu, Jatamansi, Jatiphala, Jiraka, Jyotishmati, Talisapatra, Tulasi, Tuvaraka, Tejovha, Trivrutta, Twak, Danti, Daruharidra, Devadaru, Dronapushpi, Dhattura, Dhataki, Nagakeshara, Nimba, Nirgundi, Patola, Palasha, Patala, Patha, Parasika Yavani, Punarnava, Pushkaramula, Bakuchi, Bilva, Brihati, Bhanga, Bharangi, Bhringaraja, Manjistha, Madanaphala, Maricha, Ustha, Yavani, Yavasa, Rasona, Lavanga, Latakaranja, Lodhra, Vacha, Vatsanabha, Varuna, Vasa, Vidanga, Shatapushpa, Sharapunkha, Shala, Shigru, Shirisha, Shyonaka, Saptaparni, Sarpagandha, Haridra, Hingu.

3.17 Classification of dravya on the basis of effects on the doshas [28]

3.17.1 Dosh Shamaka

Drugs used to subside the aggravated Doshas. Viz; Vata Shamaka- Madhura, Amla, Lavana Rasas, Ushna Snigdha Guna, Ushna Virya, Guru (Madhura Vipaka), Devadaru, Varuna, Shallaki, Dadima, Amalaki etc drugs. Pitta Shamaka- Madhura, Tikta, Kashaya Rasas, Sheeta, Mridu, Picchila, Gunas, Sheeta Virya, Guru or Madhura Vipaka, Chandana, Ushira, Murva, Sariva Manjistha etc drugs. Kapha Shamaka- Katu Tikta Rasas, Ushna, Ruksha Gunas, Ushna Virya, Laghu or Amla or Katu Vipaka, Agaru, Langali, Rasna, Haridra etc drugs.

3.17.2 Dosh Prakopaka

Drugs used to aggravate the Doshas. Viz; Vata Prakopaka- Shushka Shaka, Shushka Mamsa, Shyamaka, Mudga, Masura, Jambu, Tinduka, Kalaya etc drugs. Pitta Prakopaka- Tila Taila, Kulattha, Sarshapa, Matsya Mamsa, Aja Mamsa, Mustha, Sura, Kshara, Mutra, Kanjika, Peelu, Langali, Maricha etc drugs. Kapha Prakopaka- Yava, Masha, Godhuma, Dadhi, Dugdha, Ikshu Vikara, Anupa Mamsa, Shringataka, Pruthuka, Bhavya, Kharjura, Narikela etc drugs.

3.17.3 *Swasthahita*

Drugs used in the preventive measures. Viz Rasayana and Vajikarana. Rakta Shali, Mudga, Antarishodaka, Saindhava, Jivanti Shaka, Ena Mamsa, Lava Mamsa, Godha Mamsa, Rohita Matsya, Goghtita, Tila Taila, Varaha Vasa, Paaka Hamsa Vasa, Kukkuta Vasa, Aja Meda, Shringavera, Mridvika, Shrakara Dadima, Amalaki etc drugs.

4 Conclusion

By the above discussion the drugs play an important role to eradicate the disease. Hence in Ayurveda four factors viz; *Bhishak, Aushadha/Drug, Upasthata, Rogi* are known as *Chikitsa Chatushpada* (Four limbs of treatment). There are four branches of *Dravya* as per *Ayurvedic* classics. Viz; *Nama Rupa Jnana* (Pharmacognosy), *Guna Karma* (Pharmacology), *Prayoga Jnana* (Pharmacotherapeutics), *Sanyoga Jnana* (Pharmacy). According to *Charaka Samhita* the *Guna* (Properties) and *Karma* (Actions) are present in inseparable relationship called *Samavaya Sambandha*. All the drugs in the universe are made up of five proto elements. These proto elements called as *Panchamahabhuta* (*Akasha, Vayu, Teja, Prithwi, Jala*). The drugs emerge their actions through the *Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka, Prabhava* actions. The *Rasa* and *Vipaka* are the chemical structure of the drug. Therefore a drug perform its actions *ie* the local actions by the *Rasa* and *Guna* and the therapeutic actions *ie* systemic actions performed by *Vipaka* and *Virya*. Whereas the *Prabhava* is isomerism (More than one compounds have the same chemical formula but different chemical structures), and isomerides. The time of drug is also plays an important role in the drug metabolism. The drugs and its classification is briefly highlighted with examples on the basis of through *Ayurvedic* classical texts. Further scope of study is to highlight the unidentified drugs and must update in the drug data.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest.

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