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# CONCEPT OF GURVADI GUNA & APPLICATION OF TIKSHNA, STHIRA, SARA, MRUDU, KATHINA, VISHADA, PICCHIL GUNAS IN AYURVEDA

Vd. Pranauti P. Milkhe<sup>1</sup>\*, Vd. M. B. Shende<sup>2</sup>, Vd. R. S. Kharat<sup>3</sup> and Vd. S. S. Shekokar<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Presentor, PG Scholor, Dravyagun Vigyan, Government Ayurved College, Nanded. Pincode. 431601.

<sup>2</sup>Guide & Associate Professor, Department of Dravyaguna, Government Ayurved College Nanded.

<sup>3</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Dravyaguna, Government Ayurved College Nanded.

<sup>4</sup>Head of Department, Government Ayurved College Nanded.

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\*Corresponding Author Vd. Pranauti P. Milkhe

Presentor, Pg Scholor,
Dravyagun Vigyan,
Government Ayurved
College, Nanded. Pincode.
431601.

#### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of Ayurveda is to avoid diseased condition and to attend dhatusamya avastha. For that, karya -karan siddhnta, samanya-vishesh sidhdhanta are used for treatment aspect. Guna is mentioned as a karana in classics with the purpose of performing function of chikitsa. i.e. karya. Gunas are divided into certains subtypes, out of that gurvadi guna is one. The gurvadi guna are present in the dhatus of our body. These Gunas are also present in the Ausadha & Ahara. Gunas are most practically use as they denoted the different properties of dravyas. The existence of guna & dravya depends upon each other. Guna form the base of ayurvedic principles. So a clear understanding of them in the context of different references will provide a better way to diagnose

and treating the diseases. In this study, *Tikshna*, *sthira*, *sara*, *mrudu*, *kathina*, *vishada*, *picchil gunas* are mainly studied. The Ayurvedic texts were Use for reviewing the topic.

**KEYWORDS**: Gurvadi guna, dravya, Tishna, Sthira, Sara, Mrudu, Kathina, Vishada, Picchila.

#### INTRODUCTION

The word 'Guna' is derived from the dhatu "guna amantrane" which means the basic property which attracts towards itself. Guna is used to denote qualities, properties, attributes. In charaka samhita, it is said that guna remains samavayi (inherent property) with dravya, it is nischesta (motionless), akarana(reasonless).

Ayurveda is basically a vast science which focuses not on symptoms, disease only, it focuses on *Doshasamya & Dhatusamya*. The word specifies the status of healthy well-being. *Dhatusamya* can be brought back by *chikitsa*. The *chikitsa* is done with *shadavidha upkramas*. The *Shadavidh upkramas* mentioned in *Charaka* are – *Langhan*, *Brimhana*, *Stambhana*, *Swedana*, *Snehana* & *Rukshan*.

''लंघनं बृहणं काले रुक्षणं स्नेहनं तथा।

If we analysed the definition of *gurvadi gunas*, these can be summarized as: *Laghu* – *langhane laghu*, *Guru* – *brimhane guru*, *Seeta* – *stambhane seeta*, *Ushna- swedane ushna*, *Ruksha - shoshane ruksha*, *Snigdha* – *kledane snigdha*. So, it can be said that the treatment is also based upon the *gurvadi gunas* only.

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

- 1. To understand the concept of guna.
- 2. To identify *Vikruta dosh-dushya*, with the help of *gurvadi gunas*.
- 3. How gunas are use in Vikruta doshavastha. (i.e. in diseased condition)

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the classical texts of Ayurveda (*samhitas* along with their commentaries) were referred for conceptual study. The discussion was made on the basis of concepts & conclusions were drawn considering the conceptual study & discussion.

#### **CONCEPT OF GURVADI GUNAS**

As a property:- All the *Dravyas* are made up of *panchmahabhutas*, in other words one can say that the *Mahabhutas* are smallest unit of *Dravyas*. The *Gurvadi gunas* are the combination of these *mahabhutas*. When word *Gunas* is used in the context of action drugs, the meaning can be indicated as a property. For any kind of treatment *Ausadha* is required,

this *ausadha*(drug) works on the basis of five fundamentals called as *Rasapanchaka*. They are *Rasa*, *Guna*, *Virya*, *Vipak* & *Prabhava*. *Raspanchaka* can be collectively called as *guna* i.e. property.

As *hetu* i.e cause of disease:- *Ahara* plays an important role in maintenance of health, at the same time it also leads to vitiation of *Doshas* if not taken properly.

e.g. *Ushna gunatmak ahara* increased condition of *raktapitta, pandu, udarrog, Tikshna gunatmak ahara* vitiates *pittajatisara.Guru guna* developed *kaphaja grahani, sthaulya* & other *santarpanottha vyadhi*.

In diagnosis of disease:- All disease is outcome of *doshas*. The amalgmation of *three doshas* & *seven dushyas* lead to number of permutation and combinations resulting into infinite disease. Though, diseases are innumerable but their characteristics could not be beyond the three *Doshas*. One of the *samprapti* called *vikalpa samprapti* is based upon *gunas* of *Doshas*. "समवेतानां पुनर्दोषाणामंशांश बल विकल्पो विकल्पो ऽस्मिन्नर्थे। "<sup>[३]</sup> (च.नि. १/११-५)

The *doshas* are also described by the *Gurvadi Guna* and the disease is the vitiation of *gunas* only. e.g. In *bahushosh, mukhashosha & padadari* is increased due to *ruksha guna* of *vata dosha*.

In treatment of diasease: Gurvadi gunas are being mentioned in pair, one is opposite of other. If gunas of doshas are identified while diagnosis, the treatment can be planned by using drugs having opposite properties. The shadavidha upkrama also planned according to gurvadi gunas. Pittavruddhi with ushna, tikshna gunas. There Gruta is use having guna shita & manda. [4]

### APPLICATION OF TIKSHNA, STHIRA, SARA, MRUDU, KATHINA, VISHADA, PICCHIL GUNA IN AYURVEDA

Tikshna guna is opposite of manda guna. Sthira guna is opposite of sara guna. Mrudu guna is opposite of kathina & vishada is opposite to picchil guna. These guna are rarely explain but they are also important for diagnosis & treatment aspect, so in this study they studied here. Acharya Hemadri has stated particular karma for a particular Guna.

TIKSHNA GUNA - 'यस्य शोधने शक्तिः स तीक्ष्णः।' (अ.ह्र.सु.१/१८ – हेमाद्री टीका)

"दाहपाककरस्तिक्ष्णःस्त्रावणः।" (स्.स्.४६/५१८)

"तीक्ष्णं पित्तकरं प्रायो लेखनं कफवातहृत्।" (भा.प्र.पु.मि.६/२०४)

Shodhane tikshna. Tikshna is a property which exerts immediate, strong & painful effect also vitiates pitta. The property of sharpness is considered to be tikshna. This property acts very fast. That which does shodhana of the body & makes the body to act sharply is called tikshna. It is formed predominantly by Agni Mahabhut. Tikshna guna is karmanumeya guna. Rasapradhanya:- katu ras.

SR NO.	GUNA	PROPERTY	ACTION
1.	Tikshna	Shodhana	Dosha, dhatu, malashodhaka
		Dahakara	Twakadahakara, sphotakar, Antardahakar by increasing pitta.
		Pakakar	Vranapakakar
		Lekhana	Dosha, dhatu, mala lekhana karma by doing srotomukhshodhana.
		Kaphavatahar	
		pittakara	
		Dhatunashak	

#### Functions of Tikshna guna

- 1. Shodhan -E.g.In vamana & virechan karma use madanphala(randia dumatorum), jayapal (myristica fragrance) having tikshna guna. In pradhaman nasya, katphal, vacha, shunthi like dravya use for shodhan property.<sup>[8]</sup>
- 2. Dahakar Twakadahakar, Antardahakar. e.g. chitraka, bhallatak due to increasing condition of Tikshna & ushna guna in Rasa-Rakta dhatu. It develops burning condition.
- 3. Pakakar-Vranapakakar. e.g. Arkapatra, Nagvel patra
- 4. Lekhan- Dosha, dhatu, mala lekhan karma, if tikshna dravya use internally. e.g. purana guggula
- 5. kaphavatahar, pittakar.

#### Types of tikshna dravya

- 1. Dahak (Rubifacients):- e.g.rajika, bhallatak, lawang, pushkarmoola, kuth.
- 2. Tikshna dahak /sphotakar (vasicants or postulants):-e.g. Snuhikshira, Arkakshira.
- 3. Tivra pradahak :- Ajwayan satva, piparmant, jaypal tail.
- 4. Dhatunashak: Kshar, amla, somal, yawakshar, haratal, manashila. These all are tikshna gunatmaka drugs which have dhatushoshak & dhatunashak property. e.g. Vatsanabha, Gunja are the toxic drug which act as Dhatunashak in our body.

STHIRA GUNA:- ''यस्य धारणे शक्तिः स स्थिरः।''<sup>[९]</sup> (अ.ह्र.सु.१/१८–हेमाद्री टीका)

''स्थिरो वातमलस्तम्भी।''<sup>[१०]</sup> ( भा.प्र.पु.मि. ०६/२०७)

Dharane sthira. Sthira guna does not have the capacity to move, which causes immobilisation of mutra(urine), mala(stool), vata(apanavayu) etc. of the body. Some elements of our body are immobile, i.e. kesh(hair), smashru(beard), loma (hair), asthi(bone), nakha(nails), danta(teeth), sira & dhamani (channels) etc.

Acharya sushrut does not accept sthira guna separately but at various places he defines the word sthira variously such as kathina(hard), Avisarpi(that which does not spread) & also motionless. It is formed predominantly by Prithvi mahabhuta. Sthira guna is karmanumeya.

SR NO.	GUNA	PROPERTY	ACTION
2.	Sthira	Dharane	<i>Dhatu</i> portion remains constant.
		Vatamalastambhi	Cease the action of <i>vata</i> (apanavayu) & mala.
		Gatisthairyakruta	Decreases the action of <i>vata</i> .

#### Functions of sthira guna

- 1. Dhatusthairyakruta:- e.g. Bala, Shatavari are examples of sthira guna which are act as dhatusthirkar.
- 2. Malastambhaka :-.e.g. Jambu acts as malastambhaka in condition of loose motion, Mutrasangraniya & Vatakara also.
- 3. Gati sthirakruta: Jatiphala act as gatisthairyakruta. e.g. Jatifaladi churna used as sedative, antispasmodic & astringent, used in Asthma & respiratory diaseases.

E.g. *jatiphal*, *sudha*, *praval*, *khadira*, all *niryas*(resin), *ashwagandha*, *shatavari*, *bala*, *atibala*. These all drugs have a *sthira guna*.

Prerane sara. Sara guna having spreading nature & Anulomana activity, that which causes mobility called sara. It causes mobilization of vata & mala of the body. It composed of Aap Mahabhut. It is kaphavardhak. By the property of sara it acts as anulomana mobilises mala. It also acts as lekhana for Dhatu. e.g. Aragvadha.

The drugs which enhances intestinal motility, Increase the motion of various actions of body that having *sara guna*. It observes by naked eye(i.e.*darshana pariksha*).

Raspradhanya: - Madhura, Amla, lavana & occasionaly in katu & tikta rasa.

SR NO.	GUNA	PROPERTY	ACTION
3.	Sara	Prerane	Make active to body parts.
		Anulomana	It moves to dosha dhatu & mala in their own area.
		Pravartaka	Inducement of <i>mala &amp; mutra</i> .
		Shleshmavardhana	

#### Functions of Sara Guna

- 1. Anulomana: e.g. Haritaki used as mrudu virechaka in Amaja atisara condition.
- 2. Prerana: e.g. Trivrutta used for sukha-virechana. It acts by prerana karma.
- 3. Pravartaka :- Mala & Mutra pravartana. e.g. Saptala
- 4. *Shleshmavardhan*:- Increase the quantity of *shleshma*.

Examples of Sara gunatmaka dravya:-Haritaki, Amlaki, Bibhitaki, Aragvadh, kutaki, kasturi, keshar, gorochan, Trivrutta, Saptala, Shankhini etc.

MRUDU GUNA:- ''यस्य ३लथने शक्तिः स मृदुः।''<sup>१३</sup>](अ.ह्र.सु.१/१८–हेमाद्री टीका)

Shlathane Mrudu. The dravya which causes Mansashaithilya these dravyas called Mrudu dravya. Mrudu means softness. That which the feeling of tenderness & softness are said to be mrudu. Mansa-flesh, Shonita -blood, Meda -fat, Majja -marrow, Hridaya - Heart, Nabhi - Umbelicus, Yakrita-liver, Pliha- spleen, Antra - Intestines & Guda -Anus, all these substances are said to be having the property of softness. This property causes body parts to be soft & loose. Akash & Aap is the predominant Panchmahabhuta present in this property. It is kaphavardhaka & Vatapittashamaka. It makes the mala loose. It causes softness of the Dhatu. It relieves daha(burning), paka, srava. It helps in digestion & Srava to flow. e.g. Eranda Taila. It feels in body with the help of sliminess & softness of body.

#### Raspradhanya:- Madhura, Amla & lavana.

SR NO.	<b>GUNA</b>	PROPERTY	ACTION
4.	Mrudu	Shlathana	Softning of <i>dhatu</i>
		Mrudukriyatwa	Functions of body element easily happens.
		Apachana	Avoid condition of cell digestion
		Dahahara	Decrease burning sensation by
		Dananara	managing Ushna & tikshna guna of pitta.
		Sravanashana	Decreases the secreting action or discharge
		Stavanasnana	condition
		Kaphakruta	Increases kapha dosha

Dridhatanasha	ka It relieves hardness of body elements & dhatu
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#### Functions of Mrudu guna

- 1. Softness of Dhatu. e.g. Taila, Ghruta.
- 2. Maintain *Mruduta* in *Dhatu*:- It happens by two ways a) In *Dhatugata kala rukshata* is relieved by *mrudu guna*.b) At the level of *kala*, *twak & mansa Snigdha dravya* maintain *mruduta*. *e.g.Majja*
- 3. *Mrudukriyatwa*:-In body elements i.e. *dhatugata kriya* are happens easily, by creating *mruduta* at *srotasa* level. e.g. *Eranda taila in Amvata*
- 4. *Shlathana* :- It relaxes to *Mansa dhatu*.In *sthaulya*, *medoroga* due to *mrudu guna*, increases *shaithiya*. To treat this condition use the opposite *gunatmaka dravya i.e. kathina dravya* for recover it.
- 5. Apachana:- It avoid the condition of paka (digestion) at cellular level. e.g.Lodhra( Symplocos Recemosa).
- 6. Dahahar: It decreases the burning action. e.g. Goghrita
- 7. Sravanashana:- e.g. Amraharidra (Curcuma amada) works as a sravanashan on wound.
- 8. Kaphakruta:- It increase to kapha dosha.e.g. Dadhi
- 9. *Dridhatanashaka* (*kadhinyanashaka*) :- e.g. In spasmodic condition of muscle use *Tailabhyanga* for reliving spasmodic pain.

Mrudu Gunatmaka dravya :- Godhuma, Vrihi, Shali, shashtika, dwidala, Taila, Ghruta, Vasa, Majja, Navneeta, Eranda taila, Vatada taila (Almond oil), Aragvadha, Madhuyashti, Rumimastagi.

KATHINA GUNA:- ''यस्य दृढने शक्तिः स कठिनः।''<sup>[१४]</sup> (अ.ह्र.स्.१/१८ – हेमाद्री टीका)

Drudhikarane kathina. Commonly this property is known as Hardness. That which is hard & strong to touch is known as kathina. That which causes hardness & Strongness of body is known as kathina guna. The kathina guna predominantly composed of Prithvi mahabhuta. It is Vata-vardhaka, causes hardness & dryness of the mala. It gives strength to dhatu.e.g. Pravala, Mukta. Kathina guna is feel hard by Sparshanendriya, so kathina guna is murta guna.

SR NO.	GUNA	PROPERTY	ACTION
5.	Kathina	Dridhane	It causes strongness of <i>Dhatu</i> & body.
		Vatakara	It increases <i>vata dosha</i> in our body
		Mutra-poorisha	It causes hardness to mala & increase
		shoshana	concentration of urine.

#### Functions of kathina guna

- 1. Dridhatwakar: In condition of dhatushaithilya, kathina gunatmaka dravyas are use for drudhikarana treatment. Commonly it develops hardness, drudhtva to the mansa-peshi. E.g. In sthaulya & medoroga shilajita, Abraka, Loha are used. Kathina guna causes dridhtva in Sira-kandara, snayu & asthi. In Amashaya shaithiya praval, mauktika bhasma is used. In antrashaithiya & gudashaithiya vangbhasma, musali are used.
- 2. Vatakara:- Long time use of Kashaya rasatmaka dravya having kathina guna increses vata dosha. e.g. khadira, arjuna, shirish etc.
- 3. Mutra-poorisha Shoshana: e.g. Long term use of Guggul. It causes mutra poorish-shoshana.

Examples of Kathina guna: - Pravala, Mukta, shankha, shukti, guggula, karkatshrungi Dravya which contain Calcium, kakolyadi varga, Ashwagandha, shatavari, musali, Ashtavarga etc.

Raspradhanya :- Kashaya rasatmaka

VISHADA GUNA:- "यस्य क्षालने शक्तिः स विशदः। [१५] (अ.ह.सु.१/१८ – हेमाद्री टीका)

विशदो विपरीतोऽस्मात् क्लेदाचुषण रोपणः। [१६] (सु.सु.४६/५१७)

kshalane vishada. This property is generally known as clearness. It may be pure or impure but it should have clearness. That which does not possesses any unclearness (devoid of dirt), which is clean to appearance is said to be vishada. It has got the property to kshalana that which remove the sliminess or picchilatva. According to charaka, Vishada guna is composed of mainly by Prithvi, Vayu, Tejasa & Akasha Mahabhuta & According to sushruta, vishada guna is composed of Akasha Mahabhuta. It is vatavardhaka & dries up the mala. It causes Vranaropana & Lekhana of Dhatu also. e.g. kshara.

The drug which causes clearness of *Dosha*, *Dhatu* & *mala* called *vishada gunatmaka dravya*. Detoxification of *dhatu* & cleanliness of Outer skin are the functions of *vishada guna*.

SR NO.	GUNA	PROPERTY	ACTION
6.	Vishada	Kshalana	It expel-out the <i>dosha</i> of body
		Ajivana	It decreases the components of body.
		Balaharaka	It reduces the strength of body
		Asandhana	It reduce the binding capacity of <i>dhatu</i>
		Asananana	or body components
		Kledochushana	It suck <i>kleda</i> of body
		Shoshana	It suck drava-dhatu (liquid
		Shoshana	component) of body
		Vranaropana	Healing of wound
		Anulanakana	It reduces the development of body
		Anulepakara	building units.
		Kaphakruta	It decreases to kapha dosha
		Vatakruta	It increases to vata dosha.
		Laghutwakruta	It causes lightness to body

#### Functions of vishada guna

- 1. *Ajivana* :- It is harmful to body. e.g Toxic substances like *vatsnabha*, *jayapal*, *somal*, *haratal*, it decrease *oja dhatu*. So, it is harmful to body.
- 2. Balaharak :- E.g. Incresing use of Madya causes severe weakness in body due to vishada guna.
- 3. Asandhana: E.g. Puga (Areca Catechu) is mention in vikasi karma, which causes joints shaithilya by vishada guna.
- 4. Kledachushana: E.g. Kadamb with Jiraka use as kledachushana in Atisara.
- 5. Shoshana:- E.g. Priyangu due to tikta, kashaya ras, shita virya & mainly by vishada guna act as shoshaka dravya in raktatisar.
- 6. Vranaropana: E.g. Tambul use as vranaropana in Granthi, Vrana & Shoth condition.
- 7. Anulepakara :- E.g. Arjuna (Teminalia arjuna) use in cardiac disorder like dislipidemia by its Anulepakara karma.
- 8. Kshalana: E.g. Taila is use as snehana dravya in Medoroga for kshalana karma.
- 9. *Kapharuta*:- E.g. *Katutumbi*(*Lagenaria vulgaris*). It decreses to *kapha dosha*.
- 10. Vatakruta:-E.g. Nimba (Azadirachta indica) has vishada guna. So it causes Vatvardhana in body.
- 11. Laghutwakruta :- E.g.Mudga (Phaseolus Radiatus)

Examples of Vishada guna :- Taila, Madya, Laukifala, mudga, Shashaka- mansa, Keluta mansa, Kadamb, Nimba etc.

PICCHILA GUNA :-" यस्य लेपने शक्तिः स पिच्छिलः।" (अ.ह.सु. १/१८)

"पिच्छिल जीवनो बल्यः संधानः ३लेष्मलो गुरुः।" (सु.सु.४६/५१७)

Commonly the word *Picchila* means Sliminess. That which has got sticking nature is known as *picchila*. The property which causes *lepana* in body called as *picchila guna*. There is difference between *Snigdha guna & Picchila guna*. Both are soft, if *Snigdha dravya* rubbed into two fingers. Then after separate them fibers not coming out but if we rubbed *picchila dravya* in two fingers, then fibers come out, So they are different from each other. Unctuous & sliminess, softness all are present in *Picchila guna*. It causes union of the parts of body & heaviness of body. This property is due to the predominance of *Apa Mahabhuta*. It is *Kaphavardhaka*. It causes Sliminess of *Srotas* & helps the *mala* to passes easily. It increases *Dhatu* & helps in fracture Healing. This is *Balya* for *dhatu*.

SR NO.	GUNA	PROPERTY	ACTION
7.	Picchila	Upalepkara	It covers internal body elements
		Jivaniya	Essential for life
		Sharira-gaurava utpadaka	Produce heaviness in body
		Kaphavardhaka	Increases to kapha dosha.
		Dhatuvardhaka	Increases to dhatu.
		Balya	

#### Functions of Picchil guna

- 1. *Upalepakar*:- It does *Mansadhatu lepana karma & dhatu vruddhi karma* of body. It also increase *dhatugata kala &* covered to *dhatu. e.g. Mansaras. jangal mansa.*
- 2. Jivaniya: It gives power to each cells of body. e.g. Dugdha
- 3. Sharira-gaurava utpadaka: By enhancing dhatu, it gives heaviness to body. e.g. Mash
- 4. Kaphavardhaka, Dhatuvardhaka, Balya. e.g. Musali.
- 5. Asthibhagna-sandhankaraka: It maintains binding capacity of bones & muscles of our body. e.g. Mash (phaseolus mungo)
- 6. Malotsarga-sahayaka. e.g. Ashwagolam.
- 7. *Vatahara*:- It maintain sliminess of body & reduce extra activities of *vata dosha*. *e.g. Mashparni*(*Teramnus labialis Spreng*)
- 8. Shitata:- It maintain coldness in body functions. e.g. Mudgaparni(Phaseolus Trilobus)
  Examples of picchila guna:- Ashwagolam, Shleshmataka, Kokilaksha-beej, Kshira, Fanita,
  Babbula-niryas, jaggery, Mash, Mudgaparni, Mashparni, Musali, Ikshurasa etc.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Guna and Dravya are in an inseparable relationship i.e. Guna is present in Dravyas since its origination till its end. Guna is most important of six Karanas (Dravya, Guna, Karma, Samanya, Vishesh, Samavaya) used in chikitsa So, Guna Pradhana Chikitsa is widely used in

practice. *Gurvadi –Gunas* can be said as property of substances by virtue of its acts. These *Gunas* are present in their self- form, in the form of *Rasa*, *Vipaka*, *Virya*. These properties are deduced by *Pratyaksha & Anumana Pramana*. <sup>[18]</sup>

These *Gunas* are present in pairs opposite to each other. The vitiation of either of these twenty *Gunas*, present in either *Doshas* also responsible for occurrence of disease, At the same time the *dravyas* are also possessing these *Gunas*, Thereby helping in Treatment. Identification of vitiated *Dosas* identified with the help of *gunas* of present symptoms & opposite quality of drugs are being selected.

The *gurvadi guna* are present in the *dhatus* of the body. These *Guna* are also present in *Ausadha & Ahara*. The *Dravya* having *Guru Guna* should increase the *Dhatu* having same *guna*. The *Dravya* having Opposite *guna* should decrease the *dhatu*. On this Phenomenon, when there is *Mansakshaya & mansa* is given & when there is *Raktakshaya*, *Rakta* is given.

If there is an any exceptional cases or condition then depending upon the circumstances the proper *dravya* according to *Guna* is to be given.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Guna is most important karana, which is used in chikitsa. It stands for property as well as quality. Gurvadi Guna is most important for diagnosis & treatment of disease. Tikshna, Sthira, Sara, Mrudu, Kathina, Vishada, picchil these gunas are also importants in clinical practice so these are discussed according to clinical view. Thus it can be concluded that the Gurvadi gunas holds an important position in the field of Ayurveda.

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