

RASA SHASTRA -A BOON IN AYURVEDA**Varun Sharma^{1*}, Dimple Jagpaul² and Raman Dhaliwal³**

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda medicine is one of the oldest holistic healing sciences it was developed around 3000 years ago. Different branches of science were nurtured by it like biology, genetics, microbiology, clinical medicine, surgery, astronomic, pharmaceutics and metallurgy etc. In Ayurveda system of medicine various formulations have been described in the traditional literature, which adopted the processes which are quite like the processes used today in modern medicine for formulation of various dosage forms to get the desired effect for the optimum period. Science and technology in ancient and medieval India covered all the major branches of human knowledge and activities. In any, early civilization, metallurgy has remained an activity central to all civilizations from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, to all other civilizations that followed. Various chemicals like common salt, alkali, borax, and compounds of elements Cu, Fe, Hg and Au were used as well as techniques for making of the alloys were also very common. The

applicability of natural preservatives like oil, sugar, salt was also very much known in ancient time. However, the terms used as stated in traditional literature were not like the modern times. Also, the acidic and alcoholic fermented products were prepared very commonly.^[1]

KEYWORDS:- Boon, Ayurveda, Science, Rasa shastra.

INTRODUCTION

India is the treasure trove of Ancient medical knowledge that is delineated in Ayurveda. Ayurveda uses all naturally occurring drugs which could be of animal, herbal, mineral and metallic preparations for treating diseases. The knowledge of Ayurveda is attributed to Bramha, the creator. This knowledge was passed on to Daksha Prajapathi, who taught this science to Aswinikumarau. They in turn imparted this knowledge to Indra. A group of sages including Bharadwaja and Dhanvantari learned Ayurveda from Indra. Later, the tradition of learning and imparting knowledge continued in the guru shishya parampara. Punarvasu Atreya's shishya, Agnivesa compiled his teachings. It was reacted by Caraka and today it is famously known as the Caraka Samhita. Dhanvantari's shishya, Sushruta compiled the Sushruta Samhita. These two classics along with Vagbhatta's Ashtanga Hridaya make up the Brihat Trayee of Ayurveda. Today Ayurveda is a living tradition in some countries outside India also. This is due to the transmission of knowledge by invaders, who carried back home not only physical wealth but also intellectual wealth of India.^[2]

In Ancient India, an important role in the development of chemistry was made by Ayurveda which used a variety of minerals. Chemistry in Ancient India was called *Rasayan Shastra*, *Rasatantra*, *Rasa Kriya* or *Rasa Vidya* roughly translating to 'Science of Liquids. Science and technology in ancient and medieval India covered all the major branches of human knowledge and activities, including mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medical science and surgery etc. The history of Indian civilization encompasses great knowledge of various approaches utilized for health management. The historical origin of Rasa Shastra evidenced from Buddha period. The Rasa Shastra is one of the main streams of Ayurveda which utilizes procedures like Murchana, Niyamana, Jarana and Samkramana, etc. for the preparation of Rasa formulations. These formulations prepared from specific procedures possess unique properties therefore can be employed in the treatment of enormous health ailments. The principles of Rasa Shastra help to convert noncompatible forms of metal and mineral into compatible/consumable forms for different therapeutic purposes

There are many ayurveda literatures which also described various perspectives related to the Rasa Shastra these literatures are as follows:

- Rasa Hridaya Tantra
- Rasendra Mangala
- Rasa Prakasha Sudhakara

- Rasendra Chudamani

The various processes of Rasa Shastra like purification, detoxification, particle size reduction and incineration, etc. not only convert incompatible elements into compatible elements but also enhances therapeutic properties, improves absorption and imparts palatability. Some unique formulations of ayurveda based on principles of Rasa Shastra depicted.^[3-5]

The concept of Rasa Shastra originates from the preparations of Parada which is considered as Rasa element. The presence of Parada or other metals and mineral in Rasa formulation make them drugs which are to be used or prepared with great care. The improper preparation and utilization of such formulations can lead adverse effects like; skin reactions, hypersensitivity, allergy and palpitations, etc. Therefore, it is recommended that physician should be very attentive while prescribing such drugs, similarly chemist should pay attention while preparing such drugs so that desired qualities achieved up to the optimum level. Manufacturing Techniques of Rasa Shastrai Shodhana Mineral and metal in raw forms purified by Shodhana which involves various procedures such as; Achushana, Shoshana, Bhavana, Bharjana, Galana, Prakshalana, Prithakikarana and Parishravana, etc. Bhavana Bhavana involves grinding of materials with liquid media. This process converts coarse compounds into finer state and qualities of liquid media transferred to the active components. Marana Marana mainly convert impure compounds like; Parada into pure compatible form. The metals or minerals components treated with herbal juices followed by heat treatment to obtain Bhasma like appearance.

Jarana

Jarana involves conversion of Parada like elements into their natural form without using Galena process. Properties of Parada get enhanced when it treated with Gandhaka. Murchhana Murchhana involves conversion of mercury into compatible, for this purpose sometimes sulphur may be employed for treating mercury.

Murchhana

Murchana are two types Sagandha and Nirgandha Murchhana, Sagandha murchhana involves utilization of Gandhaka for treating mercury while in Nirgandha murchhana mercury treated without Gandhaka. The advantageous properties of Rasa Shastra formulations

- } High potency
- } Diversified pharmacological activities

- Long shelf life
- Palatability
- Low dosing frequency Mineral/metals used as Rasa Dravyas

‣ Parad ‣ Gandhaka ‣ Suvarna ‣ Maakshika ‣ Rajata ‣ Loha Metal/mineral based Ayurveda formulations → Mandura Vataka → Muktaadya Churna → Navaayas Curna → Dwitiya Braahma Rasaayana Therapeutic Importance of Rasa Dravyas The Rasa Shastra provides health benefits in heart diseases since the formulations possess Laghu Guna therefore they enhance blood flow and strengthen heart muscles by virtue of their potency. The hot potency of Rasa Dravyas helps to reduce symptoms of cold & wheezing since these drugs not only liquefy cough but also facilitate its removal from respiratory tract. Madhura action of Rasa drugs helps to eradicate skin problems like; dermatitis, psoriasis, acne, and itching. Tikshna and Tikta properties of Rasa drugs possess Deepan and Pachana effects thus enhance appetite thereby potentiate Dhatus and maintain good physical and mental health.

The ayurveda properties of Rasa drugs control degenerative process of body thus prevent adverse effects of early aging. These drugs reduce formation of skin wrinkles, maintain elasticity and compatibility of skin texture therefore improve glow and physical appearance of body. The effect of Rasa drugs on metabolic and hormonal activities balances body fat and consumption of energy therefore reduces chances of obesity or other metabolic diseases. The detoxifying effect of drugs helps to eliminate toxins/Ama from body therefore provides relief in feeling of heaviness, lethargies, constipation and gastric troubles.

The vitalizing action of Rasa Dravyas imparts aphrodisiac activities therefore such types of medicines help to relieve sexual problems like; erectile dysfunction and infertility. Rasa Dravyas in the Management of Infectious Diseases Varnya effect of these drugs improves process of healing and regeneration, Brimhana effect imparts immunity while Ushna property helps to remove microbial toxins from body. Rucikara effects boost process of nourishment while Medhya effects provide strength therefore help in the management of microbial infections. Probable Mode of Action of Rasa Dravyas towards General Health Benefits Rasa Dravyas possess Varnya, Medhya, Brimhana and Dipana effect thus improve internal strength. Vrisya and Vayasthapana properties of these drugs prevent degenerative effects therefore restore stamina. Balya property of Rasa Dravyas improves immunity thus provides resistance against infections. Rucya action boost appetite thus maintains nutritional supply to

the body. Vatapitta Hara action prevents loss of enthusiasm, boosts digestive functioning, and relieves body aches. Krimighna effects prevent invasion of microorganism thus improves resistance against infectious diseases. Anxiolytic property of drugs suppresses mental stress and cures depression. Hepato-protective action reduces anorexia. The hormonal balancing capacity of Rasa Dravyas helps in metabolic diseases like diabetes. Analgesic property reduces pain and swelling caused by inflammatory consequences. Detoxifying property of Rasa Dravyas cleans body organs and clear passages of Srotas thus restore circulatory process of body. The antiallergic property of Rasa drugs prevent allergic manifestation and provide relief in skin ailments.

Toxic effects rasaushadhies

precautionary measures to be considered ∞ Inappropriate use of Paarada may lead skin allergy, burning sensation and vomiting. ∞ Gandhaka may cause adversity of skin irritation and hyperthermia.

∞ Hingula associated with kidney problems.

∞ Manasila can cause constipation and urinary calculi.

∞ Suvarna may lead symptoms of nausea, vomiting and dyspepsia.

∞ Taamra associated with problem like mental irritation.

∞ Vanga may cause cardiac trouble, polyuria, dyspnoea and hemorrhides.

∞ Yasada can lead symptoms of polyuria and skin problems.

∞ Loha may cause problems of renal calculi and skin disorders.

Rasa Dravyas in the Management of Infectious Diseases Varnya effect of these drugs improves process of healing and regeneration, Brimhana effect imparts immunity while Ushna property helps to remove microbial toxins from body. Rucikara effects boost process of nourishment while Medhya effects provide strength therefore helps in the management of microbial infections. Probable Mode of Action of Rasa Dravyas towards General Health Benefits Rasa Dravyas possess Varnya, Medhya, Brimhana and Dipana effect thus improves internal strength. Vrisya and Vayasthapana properties of these drugs prevent degenerative effects therefore restore stamina. Balya property of Rasa Dravyas improves immunity thus provides resistance against infections. Rucya action boost appetite thus maintains nutritional supply to the body. Vatapitta Hara action prevents loss of enthusiasm, boosts digestive functioning and relieves body aches. Krimighna effects prevent invasion of microorganism thus improves resistance against infectious diseases. Anxiolytic property of drugs suppress

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- ⊗ Yasada can leads symptoms of polyuria and skin problems.
- ⊗ Loha may causes problems of renal calculi and skin disorders.^[8]

CONCLUSION

Rasashastra is fundamental aspect of Indian medical system Ayurveda, Rasashastra deals with Rasa formulations which offer many therapeutic benefits. These formulations possess palatability, compatibility and long shelf life. Rasa Aushadhis offers health benefits in various diseases such as arthritis, obesity, anemia, skin problems, gastric trouble, stress, sexual dysfunction, respiratory diseases and allergy, etc. The vitalizing and rejuvenating effects of these drugs helps to mental normal health status and prevent manifestation of early ageing. The article suggested that if Rasa Aushadhis prepared and prescribed appropriately then they can offers beneficial effects in many acute as well as chronic diseases.

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