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PRAKRITI SPECIFIC DIETS: AN AYURVEDIC GUIDE TO WELLNESS

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is the science of life. Ayurveda's main goals are the prevention and treatment of disease. [1] Prakriti is one of the main concepts of Ayurveda. Prakriti is the term used to describe an individual's natural condition. Every person has a specific Prakriti. The Prakriti develops at the moment of sperm-ovum fertilization. The Dosha dominance at the moment of conception defines the foetus's Prakriti. [2] It is predetermined at birth and cannot be changed. Prakriti is determined by the predominance of any one, two, or all three Dosha. Therefore, the term "Prakriti" describes the physiological, and psychological constitution that is genetically determined for a particular person. If a person's Ahara and Vihara are determined according to Prakriti; adhering to this results in a good existence. "Today's generation tends to seek information from newspapers, TV,

and other media without questioning it is lack of knowledge in the field of nutrition and food." People believe that this specific diet offers them numerous benefits that improve their health. However, not every food is suitable for everyone because various people have different *Prakriti*, and these kinds of commercials are mostly used for marketing purposes. After eating a specific food, one should be conscious of how well it fits his body. Therefore, understanding *Prakriti* and the appropriate diet for each *Prakriti* is essential. The goal of this study is to assess how diet affects various constitutions (*Prakriti*) and how it contributes to overall health.

KEYWORD: Ahara, Dosha, Deha Prakriti, Diet.

INTRODUCTION

Prakriti is one of basic principles of Ayurveda. The foundation of the Prakriti constitution is the Dosha predominance that is determined at the time of conception which in turn also get affected by external factors, such as the nutrition and lifestyle of the mother. An individual's Prakriti is unchanged till death. Every person can be classified into different combinations of Vata, Pitta, and Kapha Prakriti depending upon the predominance of each Dosha and is independent of race, ethnicity, language, and geography, which will be specific to every individual. Vata, Pitta, and Kapha Prakriti's individuals have unique metabolic activities. Kapha is slow, Pitta is fast, and Vata has a variable metabolism. Various studies have been conducted to find a relationship between particular *Prakriti* types and various physiological and metabolic activities. Food is considered to be the basis of stability for every living being. There is nothing else except diet for sustaining the lives of living beings. Ayurveda defines Ahara, Nidra, and Brahmacharya as Trayaupastambha, which is essential to a healthy lifestyle. [3] Ahara has been considered the most important to an individual's healthy life. According to Acharya Kashyapa, Ahara is known as Mahabhaishaja, which means "the great medicine." The diet is considered the greatest medication by physicians since, without it, one cannot survive even with the best of medical care. Food is considered the basis of life, strength, complexion, Ojas, growth and development, alertness of Indriya, happiness, clarity of speech, lustre, pleasure, increase of Dhatu, intellect, health, etc. An entire person's life depends upon food, all the activities of this world, as well as efforts made for eternal emancipation, depend upon food. Cereals are therefore the best when compared to other items, but each person should consume this Ahara in accordance with his or her particular Prakriti. For one kind of Prakriti, what is Hitakara Ahara can be Ahitakara to another. Thus, maintaining one's health requires understanding *Prakriti*. An individual's *Bala* and *Ayu* can also be predicted by studying his *Prakriti*; for example, *Vataja Prakriti* persons have less strength and shorter life span. [4] The Agni and Kostha of an individual are also affected by Prakriti; therefore, knowledge of Prakriti determines an individual's Agni and Kostha. Knowledge of *Prakriti* is helpful in maintaining the health of an individual. If the diet is consumed by a person having opposite Guna to their Prakriti, that person can maintain their health for a long time. Today, to gain optimum health, a *Prakriti*-based diet and lifestyle are the first and prime need for society.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

- 1. To comprehend the different characteristics features of the different *Deha Prakriti*.
- 2. The present study is aimed at evaluating the diet according to different *Deha Prakriti*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Different classical *Ayurvedic* texts, viz., *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, and *Ashtang Hridaya*, with available commentaries, published research papers, indexed and listed in research gate, PUB Med, Google Scholar, and other subject-related online websites, are referred for review of literature.

Concept of prakriti

Etymologically, *Prakriti* word is derived from two *Sanskrit* terms, viz., "*Pra*" and "*Kri*."The word "Pra" means "first," and the word "Kri" means "creation." Prakriti is hence referred to as the "first creation." Prakriti refers to a person's "nature" or "natural constitution." Thus, the word conveys the meaning "one that is the principal factor in creation." Some other derivations include: "Pra" means "Sattvika," "Kru" means "Rajasika," and "ta" means "Tamasika," and the word "Prakriti" thus conveys the power of the three Guna. Prakriti, when put together, denotes "natural form." The word "Prakriti" comes from "Prakarotiiti." Prakriti refers to the development of unique traits brought on by the supremacy of Dosha (Vata, Pitta, and Kapha, the functional components of the body), and in this context, Prakriti denotes the preponderance of a particular *Dosha* in a person. The constitution of a body is also somewhat influenced by other elements. The nature of the season, the state of the uterus, the mother's diet throughout pregnancy, the various regimens adopted during pregnancy, the Shukra (Sperm), Shonita (Ovum), and Mahabhuta Vikara that are described in Charaka Samhita, which affect the Prakriti of an individual. [5] Some individuals have Samadoshaja Prakriti (All three Dosha in their equilibrium state). Some individuals have "Dwandavaja Prakriti," means they have a predominance of two Dosha. Some individuals will only have Vata, Pitta, or Kapha dominating their prakriti; this is referred to as Ekadoshaja Prakriti. Due to the equilibrium of all *Dosha*, those with *Sama Prakriti* are always wealthy and in good health, but those with "Dwandavaja Prakriti" are more prone to disease. As per the Vagbhatacharya, "Shrestha" is the one possessing Sama Prakriti, whereas Nindya has mixed of two *Prakriti*.^[6] Individuals with a predominance of *Pitta*, *Kapha*, or *Vata* are considered mediocre, good, or inferior, accordingly. Acharya Sushruta mentioned Prakriti according to Panchamahabhuta. The Prakriti of Vata, Pitta, and Kapha do include Vayu, Teja, and Jala

Mahabhuta, in the sequence. Nabhas Prakriti people are characterized by their pure nature, large cavities in the body and longevity. Parthiva Prakriti people have a strong, large body and an ability to forgive others. [7] Acharya Charaka and Acharya Sushruta described three types of Manas Prakriti as Sattvika Prakriti, Rajasika Prakriti and Tamasika Prakriti. It is subdivided into 16 types. Sattvika Prakriti is the greatest of all. Because of the prominence of Sattva, which is thought to be always pure and unvitiated, But Rajas and Tamas are regarded as Manasika Dosha. Therefore, compared to Sattvika Prakriti, Rajasika and Tamasika Prakriti individuals are more prone to a variety of illnesses and more difficult to treat.

Table No. 1: Different types of prakriti.

Type of prakriti	Type of <i>prakriti</i>				
Deha prakriti (7)	Panchabhautika ^[8] prakriti (5)	Manasika prakriti (3)			
		Sattvika (7) ^[9]	<i>Rajasika</i> (6) ^[10]	<i>Tamasika</i> (3) ^[11]	
1.Vataja	1.Vayu Mahabhutaja	1. Brahma	1. Asura	1. Pashava	
2.Pittaja	2. Agni Mahabhutaja	2. Arsha	2. Rakshasa	2. Matsya	
3.Kaphaja	3. Jala Mahabhutaja	3. Aindra	3. Paishacha	3. Vanaspatya	
4.Vata Pittaja	4. Akash Mahabhutaja	4. Yamya	4. Sarpa	-	
5.Vata Kaphaja	5. Pruthvi Mahabhutaja	5. Varuna	5. Praita	-	
6.Kapha Pittaja	-	6. Kaubera	6. Shakuna	-	
7.Vata Pitta Kaphaja	-	7.Gandharva	-	-	

Characteristics of different deha prakriti

Features of vata prakriti person^[12]

S. No.	Guna (Attributes)	Laksha (Features)	
1.	Ruksha (Dry	 Dry, thin and small bodies. They don't speak continuously; their voice is always rough, weak, broken, and indistinct. They are alert at all times. 	
2.	Laghu (Light)	They have light and fast motions, diets, and other works.	
3.	Chala (Mobile)	Their joints, eyes, eyebrows, cheeks, lips, tongues, heads, shoulders, hands, and feet are unstable.	
4.	Bahu (Abundance)	They have very talkative nature and have prominent network of tendons, ligaments, and veins.	
5.	Shighra (Swift)	 They have rapid mood swings and initiate action without delay. They quickly become frightened and make quick decisions about what they like and don't like. They grasp things very fast and forget them easily. 	
6.	Sheeta (Cold)	 They are unable to tolerate anything that is cold. They often get affected by cold, stiffness, and shivering. 	

7.	Parusha (Rough)	Their hair, beard, body hair, nails, teeth, face, hands, feet, and other limbs become rough
8.	Vishada (Non slime)	They have cracks in the limbs and organs, also cracking sounds in the joints while moving.
9.	Other	Less strength, short lifespan, less progeny, fewer wealth and means

Features of pitta prakriti person^[13]

S. No.	Guna (Attributes)	Laksha (Features)	
1.	Ushna (Hot)	 Unable to tolerate any kind of heat. The sensation of heat in the mouth. These people have beautiful organs and are delicate Those individuals will have a lot of freckles, moles, and pimples. They have excessive thirst and hunger. Those individuals will experience early ageing of the skin, greying hair, and baldness. They have soft, sparse, brown hair on their head, face, and other body parts. 	
2.	Tikshna (Sharp)	 They have keen bravery. They have strong capacity to digest food items. They consume a lot of water and food. They are unable to tolerate difficult situations and pain. They eat quickly. 	
3.	Drava (Liquor)	 Their muscles and joints become loose. Prolonged sweating and increased faecal and urine output. 	
5.	Visra (Fleshy smell) (smell like that of raw meat)		
6.	Amla/Katu (Sour/Pungent)	They have moderate sexual desire, scanty semen, and less progeny.	
7.	Others	Possesses a moderate lifespan, moderate strength, moderate intelligence, moderate knowledge, wealth, and means.	

Features of kapha prakriti person^[14]

S. No.	Guna (Attributes)	Laksha (Features)	
1.	Snigdha (Unctuous)	The person with predominance of Kapha possesses	
1.		unctuous organs.	
2.	Shlakshna (Smooth)	They have smooth organs.	
3.	Mridu (Soft)	They have a delicate and beautiful body.	
4.	Madhura (Sweet)	They have excessive sexual desire, a large quantity of	
		semen, and more progeny.	
5.	Sara (Firm) Their bodies are compact, solid, and stable.		
6.	Sandra (Dense)	They have fully formed and well developed organs.	
7.	Manda (Slow) Their eating, moving, and acting all indicate slowness.		
8.	Stimita (Stable)	Those people react slowly; they get neither upset nor	
		agitated easily.	

9.	Guru (Heavy)	They walk slowly, carefully, and firmly.	
10.	Sheeta (Cold)	They have low appetite, thirst, and body sweat.	
11.	Vijjala (Viscous)	The joints of them are compact and solid.	
12.	Accha (Clear)	Their voices are deep and clear, and they have pleasant appearance.	
13.	Other	Apart from this, these people have the best health, money, intelligence, vigor, immunity, longevity, and calm nature.	

Food according to different deha prakriti^[15,16]

A) Vata prakriti

S. No.	Type of food	Beneficial foods	Non-Beneficial foods
1.	Pulses	Mudga (Green gram), Tuvara (Red gram/pigeon peas) and Soybean.	Masha (Black gram), Makushtha (Aconite leaved kidney), Kalaya (Peas), and Nishpava (Pinkbeans).
2.	Cereals	Godhuma (Wheat) and Shali (Rice) (old).	Bajara (Pearl Millets), Nivara (one type of rice), Yava (Barley), Makka (Maize), Jowar (Sorghum), Shyamaka (Japanese barn yard millet), and Rajagiri (Buck wheat).
3.	Oils	Eranda Sneha (Castor oil), Tila Taila (Sesame oil), Sarshapa Taila (Indian mustard oil), Narikela Taila (Coconut oil), Karpas Bija Taila (Cotton seed oil), Suryamukhi Taila (Sunflower oil), Kusumbha Taila (Safflower oil), Rajika Taila (White mustard oil), and Atasi Taila (Linseed oil).	Bhunimbi Taila (Ground nut oil).
4.	Vegetables	Chukandara (Beet root), Shakarakanda (Sweet potato), Gobhi (Cabbage), Shigru (Drum stick), Kushmanda (White gourd), Turuyi (Luffa), Bhindi (Lady finger), Tamatara (Tomato), Paraval (Pointed gourd) and Palandu (Onion).	Karavellaka (Bitter gourd), Aluka (Potato), and Karkati(Cucumber) (unripe).
5.	Fruits	Kadali (Banana), Naspati (Pear), Santara (Orange), Amaruda (Guava), Singhada (Water chestnut), Papita (Papaya), Ama (Mango) (Ripe), Narikela (Coconut), Dadima (Pomegranate), Sahatuta (Mulberry), Annana (Pineapple), Bijapura/ Matulunga (Citrus medica), and Sev/Sinchitika (Apple).	Ama (Raw)(Mango), Kalinga/ Tarabuja (Water melon), and Jamboo (Rose apple/black plum).
6.	Dry fruits	Badam (Almond), Kaju (Cashew nut), Khajura (Date palm), and	Pugaphala (Betal nut/ areca nut), and Makhana (fox nut).

	Draksha (Grapes).	
7.	Ardraka (Ginger), Rajika (Mustard), Methika (Fenugreek), Dhanyaka (Coriander), Hingu (Asafoetida) and Jeeraka (Cumin seed).	Lavanga (Clove), and Lal

B) Pitta prakriti

S. No.	Type of food	Beneficial Foods	Non-Beneficial Foods
1.	Pulses	Mudga (Green gram), Rajama (Kidney bean), Chana (Pulse gram), Soya bean, Tuvara (Red gram) and Kalaya (Pea).	Masha (Black gram), Kali Dal (Black lentils), Kulattha (Horse gram), Makushtha (Aconite leaved kidney), Nishpava(Pink beans)
2.	Cereals	Godhuma (Wheat), Shali (old) (Rice), Yava (Barley), Shyamaka (Japanese barn yard millet)	Bajara (Pearl Millets), and Makka (Maize)
3.	Vegetables	Sakarkand (Sweet potato), Palaka (Spinach), Gobhi (Cabbage), Turuyi (Ribbed luffa), Lauki (Sponge gourd), Kushmanda (white gourd), Karavellaka (Bitter gourd), Gajara (Carrot), and Parval (Pointed gourd).	Mulaka (Radish), Vartaka (Brinjal), and Surana (Elephant's foot)
4.	Oils	Tila Taila (Sesame oil), Narikela Taila (Coconut oil), Bhunimbi Taila (Ground nut oil), and Kusumbha Taila (Safflower oil)	Eranda Sneha (Castor oil), Sarshapa Taila (Indian mustard oil), Suryamukhi Taila (Sunflower oil), Rajika Taila (White mustard oil), and Atasi Taila (Linseed oil)
5.	Fruits	Kadali (Banana), Nashapati (Pear), Amaruda (Guava), Singhada (Water chest nut), Papita (Papaya), Sev/Sinchitika (Apple), Narikela (Coconut), Draksha (Grapes), Kharbuja (Musk melon), Aloobukhara (Plum), Sweet lemon, Dadima (Pomegranate), Sahatuta (Mulberry), Ganna (Sugar cane) and Annanas (Pineapple).	Ama (Raw)(Mango), Strawberry, Nimbuka (Lemon), Bijapura/ Matulunga (Citrus medica), Kalinga/ Tarabuja (Water melon), Santara (Orange), Cherry plum (Ripe)
6.	Dry Fruits	Makhana (fox nut), and Kaju (Cashew nut).	Badam (Almond)
7.	Spices	Dhanyaka (Coriander), Lavanga (Clove), Dalchini (Cinnamon), Ela (Cardamom), Misreya (Fennel seeds), and Haridra (Turmeric).	Ardraka (Ginger), Rajika (Mustard), Methika (Fenugreek), Jeeraka (Cumin seed), Hingu (Asafoetida), and Lal Maricha (Red chillies)

C) Kapha prakriti

S. No.	Type of food	Beneficial Foods	Non-Beneficial Foods
1.	Pulses	Mudga (Green gram), Masura (Lentil), Makushtha (Aconite leaved kidney), Tila (Sesame), Tuvara (Pigeon/ Red gram), Chana (Pulse gram), Kalaya (Garden pea), Nishpava (Pink beans), and Kulattha (Horse gram).	Masha (Black gram).
2.	Cereals	Godhuma (Wheat), Yava (Barley), Bajara (Pearl millet), Makka (Maize), and Jowara (Sorghum).	Nivara (one type of rice).
3.	Oils	Eranda Sneha (Castor oil), Tila Taila (Sesame oil), Sarshapa Taila (Indian mustard oil), Suryamukhi Taila (Sunflower oil), Kusumbha Taila (Safflower oil), and Atasi Taila (Linseed oil).	Narikela Taila (Coconut oil), Bhunimbi Taila (Ground nut oil), and Rajika Taila (White mustard oil).
4.	Vegetables	Mulaka (Radish), Mulakapatra (Radish leaf), Vartaka (Brinjal), Karavellaka (Bitter gourd), Surana (Elephant's foot), Patha (Cissam pelospareira), and Shigru (Drum stick).	Gobhi (Cabbage), Aloo (Potato), and Changeri (Indian sorrel).
5.	Fruits	Naspati (Pear), Santara (Orange), Singhada (Water chestnut), Narikela (Coconut), Draksha (Grapes), Kalinga/ Tarabuja (Water melon), Kharabuja (Musk melon), Nimbuka (Lemon), Dadima (Pomegranate), Aloobukhara (Plum), Sahatuta (Mulberry), and Jamboo (Rose apple/black plum).	Ama (Mango) (Ripe), Papita (Papaya), Santara (Orange), Annanas (Pineapple), Sev/Sinchitika (Apple), Kadali (Banana), Strawberry, Cherry plum (Ripe), and Amaruda (Guava).
6.	Dry fruits	Pugaphala (Betal nut), and Makhana (fox nut).	Kaju (Cashew nut), and Badam (Almond).
7.	Spices	Maricha (Black Pepper), Shatapushpa (Dill seed), Haridra (Turmeric), Ardraka (Ginger), Methika (Fenugreek), Lavanga (Clove), Ela (Cardamom), Rajika (Mustard), Yavani (Celery leaves), Misreya (Fennel seeds), Pippali Mula (Roots of piper longum), Mishtha Nimba (Murraya koenigil), TajaPatra (Cinnamon), Jatiphala (Nutmeg) and Javitri (Mace), and Kumkum (Saffron).	Khasa-Khasa (Poppy seeds).

DISCUSSION

Every person's health is determined by the three *Dosha*. Understanding the different combinations of *Tridosha* provides the most beneficial guidelines for *Ahara* (foods and beverages). Knowing one's *Prakriti* helps one to follow or change one's *Ahara* (foods and beverages) in accordance with *Prakriti*, assisting each person in adjusting to changing lifestyles. Consuming a balanced diet that includes *Shad Rasa* helps to preserve one's health. Based on *Prakriti*, different *Rasa* combinations support the maintenance of health. A person with *Vata Prakriti* should avoid intake of too much bitter and spicy food because it aggravates *Vata Dosha*. A *Pitta Prakriti* person should stay away from consuming an excessive amount of spicy, sour, or salty foods because these foods aggravate *Pitta Dosha* and causes ulcers or irritability. A *Kapha Prakriti* person should refrain from consuming an excessive amount of sweet, sour, or salty foods because these foods aggravate *Kapha Dosha*. A thorough explanation of *Prakriti* is required for the prevention, treatment, and maintenance of health. One can achieve optimum health by means of following diet and dietary rules as per his *Prakriti*.

CONCLUSION

Healthy citizens are the foundation of any nation's development. Therefore, it is necessary to improve each person's health. Once the *Prakriti* is established, it doesn't change until the person's death. The doctor should treat the patient in accordance with their *Prakriti*; hence, the course of treatment will vary depending on *Prakriti*. Thus, when doing the *Chikitsa*, knowledge of *Prakriti* is very essential. It helps to live a healthy and peaceful life and also helps in the identification of disease. It is very important to have food on the basis of the respective *Prakriti* because it may improve one's physical, mental, social, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual health. If not, it worsens the condition of an individual. It is very important that every physician give proper guidelines for the consumption of *Ahara* on the basis of *Prakriti* to maintain a healthy life.

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