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# CONCEPT OF WET NURSING IN AYURVEDA & CONTEMPORARY **SCIENCE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

In old study of ayurveda the idea of dhatri (a wet medical attendant) is referenced by numerous Acharyas like Charaka as Sushruta and Kashyapa. In insufficiency of bosom milk, the idea of dhatri-a wet medical caretaker to take care of the child acquires significance. As per Ayurveda bosom milk is considered as nectar to the youngster and there is no other option or substitute for the bosom milk. A wet attendant is a lactating lady who bosom feeds and really focuses on another's kid. In case mother isn't live or incapable to bosom feed her child because of her ailment or picking not to take care of as a result of her tasteful awareness. In Ashtanga hridya Vagbhatta has encouraged to delegate two wet medical attendants while others has not indicated

the number. Presumably in ayurvedic texts kid the executives is educated remembering the kids regarding rulers and rich individuals as these creators were propped by the lords and the sovereigns probably won't like for the breastfeeding. That is by wet attendants were sorted out for something similar, Sushruta advices not to change the wet edical caretaker too much of the time as this training will be not harmonious for the kid and he might experience the ill effects of different issue as he get milk of various quality. Ayurvedic classis underscores on arrangement of wet medical caretakers after exhaustive physical and mental assessment.

**KEYWORDS:** Dhatri, wet medical attendant, breast milk.

#### INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda being probably the most established study of life which clarifies exhaustively the sustenance of new conceived and baby. Ayurveda considers bosom milk is framed by the substance of rasa dhatu(first of seven dhatus) and is called as upadhatu. As indicated by Ayurveda bosom milk is considered as nectar to the youngster and there is no other option or substitute for the bosom milk. In case mother can't take care of her youngster because of physical and mental problems, elective game plan for the wet medical attendant has been prompted in Ayurveda. In such circumstances giving human milk which is species explicit rather than creature milk was suspected long back since Vedic period. [1] Although creature milk is promptly accessible, Ayurveda accentuates on dhatri as a quick next decision of taking care of for infant and newborn child in the non accessibility of moms bosom milk. Ayurvedic researchers were very much aware of child explicit and species explicit nature of the bosom milk. Giving dhatris milk is the most ideal choice as it satisfies species explicit nature of bosom milk which a creature milk cannot give. She is additionally called the upamata or step mother, who takes care of the child without even a trace of mother and become the second mother of the kid. By examining the significance given to the dhatri in the Ayurvedic works of art, one can gather that the job of dhatri isn't simply restricted to taking care of the baby, however conveys considerably more liabilities. Presumably one who cares for the child and plays out the essential day by day needs identified with the child like washing, playing, caring likewise alluded as a Dhatri. Master Krishna was additionally taken care of with the dhatri milk of Yashoda, as his mom Devaki was in prison. [2]

The word Milk sibiling was utilized to address relations of such kids and families have a one of a kind relationship of milk connection. Moms who nurture each other's children are taking part in a complementary demonstration known as cross-nursing or co-nursing. Before the improvement of newborn child recipe in the twentieth century, assuming moms milk was not accessible, wet attendant is the hero for that baby. Mother can't take care of her newborn child because of different reasons like no lactation, deficient milk, serious, constant and mental ailments, brief hardships, moms drugs, working mother and hesitant to breastfeed. As a substitute to the moms milk there will be appeal for the wet attendants in the event of maternal demise, surrender by moms and even moms of higher efficient foundations who are not ready to take care of their baby because of social reasons. There was likewise an expanded requirement for wetnurses when the paces of baby relinquishment by moms, and maternal passing during labor, were high. A few ladies decide not to breastfeed for social

reasons. Likely for such moms consider bosom taking care of unfashionable as their actual excellence might get demolished by which they cant ready to wear in vogue dress of their time and choice.<sup>[4,5]</sup>

#### HISTORY AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

Wet nursing is an antiquated practice, normal to many societies. It has been connected to social class, where governments, the privileged, honorability or high societies had their youngsters wet-breast fed to assist the kid's wellbeing, and some of the time in the desire for becoming pregnant again rapidly. Elite breastfeeding restrains ovulation in certain ladies (Lactational amenorrhea). Helpless ladies, particularly the individuals who experienced the shame of bringing forth an ill-conceived kid, now and then needed to surrender their child briefly to a wet attendant, or forever to another family. The lady herself may thus become wet attendant to a more affluent family, while utilizing some portion of her wages to pay her own youngster's wet medical caretaker.

In the western world wet nursing started as right on time as 2000 BC and was rehearsed till twentieth century till bottle taking care of was advocated. In this period need of wet attendant changed to decision with planned administrative laws and set up as a profession. Bosom taking care of was considered as a strict commitment in Israel before 2000BC however the lactation was impractical because of maternal passing and lactation failure.

In antiquated Egyptian occasions lactation disappointment was predominant and wet nursing was the substitute to this problem.<sup>[8]</sup> Wet medical attendants had higher responsibility and legitimate over slaves as they were sought after from ladies of higher society in Greece around 950 BC<sup>[9]</sup> Archives of Disease in Childhood.

The Bible has a few references of wet medical attendants, most popular being the lady recruited by Pharaoh's little girl to nurture Moses, whom she found in the bulrushes.<sup>[10]</sup>

Soranus of Ephesus, Galen of Pergamus and Oreibasius clinical creators from approximately100AD-400 AD had set a few capabilities for the arrangement of wet medical attendants. Soranus in his obstetrical and gynecological settlements comprising of 23 parts gave model to newborn child taking care of which incorporates system for wet attendant. A test to survey the nature of bosom milk was portrayed in the arrangements. At the point when a drop of breastmilk was put on a fingernail and the finger moved, the milk shouldn't be

watery to the point that it ran all around the outer layer of the nail. At the point when the fingernail was rotated toward the ground, the milk was not to be sufficiently thick to stick to the nail. The consistency of the milk should run between the two limits. He additionally set some actual guidelines to distinguish great moms milk like, ought to have wonderful scent; smooth, having homogeneous arrangement; reasonably caves, taste ought to be sweet and charming, modestly white in shading; and it doesn't handily go bad whenever put away. This measure to test breastmilk was utilized for next 1500 years to survey the quality. [11,12]

Ibn al-Jazzar al Qayrawania muslimarab doctor in his compositions on Islamic medication has expressed that the quality milk contain the three components watery, messy and sleek ought to be in balance state, moderate amount, great tone, smell and taste. [13]

The Roman doctor Oribasius (325 AD to 403 AD) exhorts wet medical caretaker ought to be engaged with crushing, strolling and weaving sort of actual work were their shoulder and chest are involved by which the milk stream is improved. He likewise makes reference to wet attendant ought to have conveyed male kid as of late and she ought to be of 25-35 years. [14]

Bartholomeus Anglicus, a Franciscan monk, (1220 AD and 1250 AD) thought of certain characteristics and obligations of wet medical attendant likeA nurture cheers with a kid when it cheers and sobs with him when he sobs, actually like a mother. She gets him when he falls, gives the little one milk when he cries, kisses him as he lies, holds him tight and accumulates him up when he spreads, washes and cleans the little one when he ruins himself. [15]

Notwithstanding these proposals naming wet attendants was gone against in this period interestingly. In the Middle ages there was a conviction that the physical and mental attributes of wet medical attendant will be moved to the youngster because of otherworldly characteristics in bosom milk. In light of which by and by there was a dissent against selecting wet attendants for the bosom taking care of and the moms who are bosom taking care of their own kids are profoundly esteemed in the society. [16]

However the moms bosom taking care of their kids were regarded in the general public contrasted with wet medical attendants in the medieval times of Renaissance period, wet nursing was stayed best substitute to moms milk in the event of non-availability. [17]

An Italian Omnibonus Ferrarious wrote the Treatise on kids, distributed in 1577 was recommended moms milk is the most ideal decision for her kid and if there should be an

occurrence of her sickness or then again assuming she can't bosom feed, no one but, one can pick wet nursing. He thinks that the holding between wet medical attendant and newborn child will be a lot more grounded than that with mother.<sup>[18]</sup>

Jasques Guillemeau a French obstetrician of seventeenth century in his book prelude The Nursing of Children counsel to select a wet medical attendant in unavoidable conditions and the female ought to be solid, glad, calm, polite, tireless to bosom feed can be named. He determines she ought not have reddish hair as it is belived that such ladies have hot demeanor which influences the breastmilk. He protested the arrangement of wet medical attendant in light of the fact that as he accepted that kid might be exchanged, mother and youngster holding might be decreased, kid might acquire the terrible condition from wet attendant and substantial flaws of wet medical attendant can be communicated to kid and afterward to parents.<sup>[19]</sup>

Notwithstanding the proposals, wet nursing stayed a famous, generously compensated, and profoundly coordinated calling during the Renaissance time frame. Accordingly, the occupation turned into an excellent decision for some helpless ladies. A typical practice among youthful, unmarried or wedded ladies was to have a youngster and afterward dispose of it before looking for work as a wet medical caretaker. Therefore, in France, wet medical caretakers were enlisted at a metropolitan business agency, and laws were created and upheld to control their work. The laws required a wet attendant to go through a clinical assessment and prohibited her to breastfeed one more kid until her own newborn child was 9 months old. [20]

During a similar time span, cultural class would in general direct breastfeeding rehearses. It was strange for distinguished ladies to breastfeed on the grounds that the training was viewed as unfashionable and on the grounds that the ladies stressed it would destroy their figures.<sup>[21]</sup>

From the finish of the eighteenth century through the nineteenth century, the act of wet nursing moved away from rich families to working, lower-pay families. With the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, whole families migrated from provincial to more metropolitan regions. The expanded average cost for basic items and helpless wages constrained numerous ladies to look for work and contribute monetarily to their family, which made it essentially unimaginable for some moms to breastfeed and take care of their kids. Therefore, a significant number of these youngsters were cultivated out to dejected worker ladies. By law,

laborer wet medical caretakers were needed to acquire a permit from neighborhood specialists and to report the demise of any newborn child accepting their consideration. Tragically, the laws were overlooked and made little change as to the high baby death pace of all infants.<sup>[22]</sup>

Albeit wet nursing kept on existing toward the finish of the eighteenth century, the normal mother was as yet liked for breastfeeding and bringing up her kids. In 1779, William Buchan distributed Domestic Medicine, which showed an open doubt of wet attendants and their utilization of home cures. Sedatives, for example, Godfrey's Cordial were among the home cures. Wet medical caretakers alluded to sedatives as Quietness. Buchan composed that the utilization of narcotics as a tranquilizer for babies was an extraordinary issue among wet medical caretakers. In the nineteenth century, fake taking care of turned into a practical substitute for wet nursing. Headway in the taking care of container and the accessibility of creature's milk. [23]

#### JAPANESE BUDDHIST

In the Edo time frame (1603-1867) Buddhist of japan had a custom of breastfeeding their youngsters till the age of 6-7 years, as they thought that expanding breastfeeding will work on their childrens wellbeing. In case mother couldn't improve to breastfeed the child wet attendant was employed when the child was of two years old. So the child till 7 years will be breastfed by the wet medical caretaker. For the various kids equivalent number of wet attendants were delegated. This was reasonable by the rich people groups. In the edo time frame there was a custom to assess the bosom milk of wet attendant prior to designating her.[24]

Roman occasions to work present day, rationalists and masterminds believe that enthusiastic holding among mother and kid is in danger because of wet nursing. [25]

#### Pali writing

The word Dhati is found in pali language. Its obligation is said to deal with youngster and feed without even a trace of mother milk. In buddist period, there was arrangement of delegating four kinds of dhatris.

- 1. Dhatri for bosom taking care of(khiram payenti)
- 2. Dhatri for giving shower(Nhapeti)
- 3. Dhatri for general nursing care(Dharenti)

4. Dhatri for holding child in her lap(Ankenna Pariharandi)

# Muggapakkha jataka

In muggapakkha jataka (No. 538) characteristics of good dhatri are portrayed. In the story, it has been referenced that the ruler of Varanasi has named 500 dhatris for care of his child. In a similar story deformities of dhatris and its impact on the kid are referenced.

Jain writing has referenced around five kinds of dhatri, for nursing of child. These are ksira dhatri, majjana dhatri, mandana dhatri, kridana dhatri, anka dhatri.

- 1. Ksira dhatri:- Color of Ksira dhatri ought to be like that of youngster. As a rule, dhatri of dull tone has been viewed as great, while milk of dhatri having dark appearance has not been viewed as great. The bosom milk of the dhatri having whitish composition has been considered of less strength.
- 2. Majjana dhatri:- crafted by the dhatri is to keep the youngster clean.
- 3. Mandana Dhatri:- The obligation of mandana dhatri is to dress the youngster.
- 4. Kridana dhatri:- She plays with youngster. Her voice and character influence the youngster. Kridana dhatri has the amicable voice has been viewed as great. The obligation of this dhatri is likewise to take care the kid from putana.
- 5. Anka dhatri: Any deformity of anka dhatri may influence the youngster. The kid might be of twisted foot in case she is greasy; feels great in case she is lean and flimsy and may creates timid behavior. [26]

## COMMERCIALISATION OF WET NURSING

During Renaissance period however there was an opposition in the general public for designating the wet medical attendant, it became famous, efficient occupation with great pay for some helpless ladies. Because of which helpless youthful, unmarried or wedded ladies were having the kid then, at that point, by leaving it they use to land the position. As a result of this in France law was made to manage the work and in which wet attendants should get enrollment in Muncipal business department and as indicated by the law the ladies ought to have baby of over 9 months old and she ought to go through clinical examination. [27]

The privileged directed breastfeeding rehearses during the 16th and seventeenth hundreds of years. Ladies of the high society wouldn't breastfeed, in spite of the prior admonitions of, for dread that it was unfashionable and would demolish their figures. It meddled with social

exercises, like playing a card game and going to theater exhibitions, and diverted ladies from her homegrown obligations. The spouses of dealers, attorneys, and specialists additionally didn't breastfeed in light of the fact that it was more affordable to utilize a wet medical caretaker than it was to employ a lady to maintain their significant other's business or deal with the family in their place. Such prevailing difficulties incited most of blue-blooded ladies to hirewet-nurses.<sup>[28]</sup>

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, wet nursing was used by individuals from lower classes. More so than privileged societies. Expanded expenses of living and brought down compensation during the Industrial Revolution, provoked numerous ladies to look for extra wellsprings of income. Wet nursing turned out to be such a source. Wet attendant empowered two ladies to be utilized simultaneously: one lady was utilized by a mother and a mother was utilized in an industrial facility setting.<sup>[29]</sup>

With propels in bottle taking care of and the availability of nutritious and baby friendly animal milk, the utilization of wet medical caretakers proceeded to decline. [30]

The fighting of wet-medical caretakers proceeded all through the Renaissance time frame. In 1577, in the Treatise on Children, Italian Omnibonus Ferrarious further focused on the significance of moms breastfeeding their own children. Worrying that babies would savour of the nature of the individual by whom they are suckled(Stevens,2009)<sup>[31]</sup> Ferrarious was convinced that wet breast fed youngsters would come to adore a wet attendant because she had supported and minded for them more than their own mother.<sup>[32]</sup>

## AYURVEDA VIEW-DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

#### WET NURSE (UPAMAATHA) AND THEIR SELECTION

In the event that adequate amount of moms milk are not accessible, awet medical caretaker ought to be chosen from among the ladies of its own station and had of these important capabilities. She ought to be of the center height, neither too old nor excessively youthful, of sound wellbeing, of good person, not flighty, ungreedy, neither too meager nor excessively heavy, with lips unprotruded, and with solid and unadulterated milk in her bosom. The bosoms ought to nor be too pendulent nor drawn up. Her skin ought to be solid and liberated from moles and stains and so on Being liberated from any kind of wrongdoing. She ought to be of a tender heart and every one of her youngsters living. S he ought to be decent parentage and thus had of good qualities. [33] She ought to be gorgeous, liberated from substantial

deformities. She ought to be of dim complexion(shyamavarna). She ought to have male kids, brought into the world in a similar spot or country, unadulterated in body and psyche: she ought to be additionally most serviceable.<sup>[34,35]</sup> The bosoms of the wet medical attendant ought not be erect or upwards, too long over hanging, extreme bulky, excessively gaunt and ought to have fitting areola which are agreeable for sucking.<sup>[36]</sup>

Kid face or mouth will become awful if he sucks over erect bosoms, neck inflexibility will be by chubby bosoms and kid might kick the bucket or suffocated or passing can occue due to over hanging bosoms which cover face and nose.<sup>[37]</sup> Aside from the attributes of the bosoms ayurvedic works of art clarifies the necessary characteristics of wet medical caretaker with an outrageous minuteness.

Wet medical caretaker ought to be of comparative standing, center aged(nor to youthful nor to old) humble, liberated from eagerness, not having shortage or frill body parts not fiend, delightful, liberated from disdain, living in same topographical region having a place with same sub rank, neither one of the means disapproved, nor enjoying mean demonstrations, brought into the world in high family, friendly to the youngster, liberated from illnesses, having great measure of bosom milk and having alive male kid, over wary not acclimated of dozing, not wedded in low position, master in nursing, devout, clean and having contempt from unpiousness or messiness and having great nature of bosom and milk.<sup>[38]</sup>

Sushruta Samhita gives comparable portrayal of characteristics of wet medical caretaker as depicted previously. Aside from that she ought not have too long or protuberant lips, liberated from flightiness, non-voracious, neither too slight nor excessively hefty. Sushruta determines that she ought to be of dull complexioned lady as such lady have plentiful milk.<sup>[39]</sup>

Kashyapa Samhita being just accessible traditional text of Kaumarbhritya (Pediatrics) exhorts that wet medical caretaker ought to purificatory gauges day by day. The wet medical caretaker with comparable satwa (mental elements) that off kid must be chosen, as the inverse satwa is illegal on the grounds that she will create disquiet and inconveniences the youngster. The bosom milk of wet medical attendant with indistinguishable satwa will give sustenance, life span, strength and joy to the child.<sup>[40]</sup>

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