ABSTRACT

Importance of namarupavigyana is a basic need of practitioners to identify the exact drug or plant, they should be very selective and accurate to about the plant *nama* and *rupa*. In this universe every object has a specific name through which it is identified. Without this we can't introduce anything to anybody. *nama* and *rupa* are linked with each other like word and its meaning in order to distinguish objects. The synonymous word in ayurveda for drug identification is "Namarupagyana" which includes name and features and properties and action of the drug.

Keywords: Namarupavigyana, Synonyms, Plant, Name, Nomenclature.

INTRODUCTION

In ancient and medieval times, there was no system of morphological description of plants as done now days. This object, however was fulfilled by coining names and synonyms which indicate the salient features of plants. In old days, plants were like family members participating with the people mutually on occasions of joy and grief.

Acharyacharak has emphasized that the best physician should know proper identification of plants, administration of these plants according to exact place and time keeping in view the individual constitution.

If drug is not identified properly by their name, form, properties and actions (uke#ixq.kSfoHk%) and improperly administered even if known, both conditions are responsible for complications.

So identification of drug or a plant is one of the important factor in drug research and clinical research.

RELATION BETWEEN NAMA AND RUPA-

In recent times "Namarupa"has been designated as a distinct branch of Dravyaguna Vigyana. The word Namarupavigyana may be interpreted in three ways:

1. That by which names and forms are known.
2. That which imparts knowledge of the forms of substances on the basis of names.
3. That which deals with proper correlation of names and forms so that the entity can be identified correctly.

CONCEPT OF BASONYMS AND SYNONYMS-

Basonym is basic name of a plant.

e.g.-Guduchi, Haritaki, Kutajetc.

Synonyms are the different alternative names defined for particulars in various parts.

e.g.-Amrita,Dhatrietc.

*Rupais* specific character which defines *swaroop* or *prakriti*It includes morphology(*akriti*)as well as properties and actions (*guna dharma*).Study of *nama* and *rupa* together of medicinal plants constitute the branch known as pharmacognosy which deals with identification of medicinal plants.

Here are few examples of basic name and paryay-

- Apamarga- Adhahsalya, Kharmanjari, Pratyakpuspa.
- Arka-Ganarupaka,Sadapuspa, Kshiraparna,Kshirkandaka.
- Aragvadha-Svarnanga,Rajavrksha,Dirghaphala.
- Eranda-Uttanapatraka,Dirghadanda,Panchangula.
- Guduchi-Tantrika, Amrita, Chinnaruha, Chakralaksanika.
Ancients were keen observers of nature and coined exact synonyms to designate specific character of plants. For example karbudara for kanchanara coined by charaka suggests the variegated character of one of the petals, on which the latin name Bauhinia variegata is based. In nama-rupavigyana, nama is a part of differences in opinion i.e. for Haritaki-Abhaya and Pathya are used as synonyms by Charaka while Chetaki and Pranada are seen only in Astangahrdaya, which proves their later development.

**NAMARUPA VIGYANA IN NIGHANTUS**

There is scattered knowledge about namarupain Nighantus. Dhanvantrinighantu says names one or many are assigned to plants according to habitat, form, colour, potency, taste, effect & efficacy etc. Many synonyms indicate the original source of plants while some are reminiscent of the place of their commercial transaction.

Example:

- Kasmiraka – Kumkum
- Kirata – Kiratakitka
- Dravidi – Ela
- Malayaja – Chandana
- Madri - Ativisha

Correlation of name and form is very important as without this one cannot identify the plant even if seeing it. According to DhanvantariNighantu- "vukefou~~ eksgeqiSfroS|kS u osfÙki';UufiHks"ktkfu " Raj Nighantu classified the names of plants according to seven different categories viz. -

- Rupabodhak: • Jatamansi, Punarnava.
- Avayavabodhak: • Patra- Gandhapatri • Pushpa-Hemapuspa
- Phala- Amritphal•Beeja-Chitrabeeya
- Kanda- Granthiman • Ksheer- Ksheerdrum
- Kantak- Gokshur • Sara-Peetsara
- Gunabodhak: • Shabda-Gunja• Rasa-Katuka
- Sparsha-Kharmanjari • Gandha-Ashwagandha
- Rupa-Kanchuka • Veerya-Hima
- Prabhavbodhak: • Krimighna
- Karmabodhak: • Medhya, Vamak
- Udabhavbodhak: • Yoni-Krimijma
- Rohana- Kandaruha
- Adhishthan- Jalaj
- Lokopyogbodhak: • Yagyang
- Akhyanbodhak: • Amritsambhava

9. Itihaspradhi: • Bodhidrum
10. Prashastibodhak: • Mangalya

**IMPORTANT OF NAMA-RUPA VIGYANA**

By nama-rupavigyanawe can gain the knowledge of name, features, properties and actions of the drug. With the help of various synonyms of plants, one can know its prominent characters that are morphology i.e. bhashajaswaroop and pharmacology i.e. bhashaja prayoga Chakrapanidho emphasizes on namarupavigyan as- jhr% Lo%iKkualHks "ktnzO;L; nzO;fyxKkua A nks" kr% p Hks"ktiz;ksxf"k; foKkua AAP0lw026/27(pdz0 )

- Synonyms of Guduchi explain clearly its names, features, and properties of the drug as the synonyms: Amritavalli, Kundali, Tantrika. These synonyms suggest that Guduchi is a rope like perennial climber ascending on the host in a circular way.
- Kandodhava, Chhina, Chhinarudha- These suggests guduchi is generated from stem and from where it cuts, it regenerates.
- Chakralakshanika suggests transverse section of stem show circular structure.
- Chandrahasa- suggests its semi-lunar seeds i.e. moon seeds which is a character of menispermiaceae family.
- Madhuparni- suggests viscid juicy honey like leaves.

**NAMA RUPA VIGYANA AS A SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY**

In the medieval period, a large number of synonyms accumulated which denoted more than one plant and thus lost accuracy-

- Samanga and Manjishtha are enumerated separately in different mahakashayas in Charaksamhita.
- Amrita which originally denoted guduchi but gradually was extended to Haritaki and Amalki by Dhanwantairnighantu and Raj nighantu respectively.
- Vijaya which initially meant Haritaki but later on Bhanga and many other plants.

As synonyms were the only tools for describing the plants the process was continuous and new synonyms were coined from time to time. Hence, working on the nomenclature is very interesting and a challenging task. It is very important to derive the exact meaning of the synonyms suitable to the plant. These synonyms are having specific meaning which gives an idea about the-

- Morphological features.
- Pharmacological properties.
- Ethno-botanical use.
- Toxicity indication
- Traditional use.
- Mythological information.
- Occurrence of the plant.

**CONCLUSION**

The stability of nomenclature can be possible in future only when "Authoritative lists" of accepted name are prepared and made widely available by an internationally recognized body. One should be very selective and cautious and choose only those synonyms which are meaningful and significant to
identification. Thus nomenclature provides a means of communication and is an unambiguous reference system about the elements that constitute biodiversity.

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