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Review Article

IMPORTANCE OF NAMARUPA VIGYANA & CONCEPT OF BASONYMS AND SYNONYMS OF DRAVYA

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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

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tkursfgvtikousAvfoik'pSoxksik'p ; s pkU; souokflu%AA
p0 lw0 1-121

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 constitution¹.

If drug is not identified properly by their name, form, properties and actions (uke#ixq.kSföfHk%) and improperly administered even if known, both conditions are responsible for complications². „foKkrapkfinq;qZDravuFkZk; mii|rs„

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.
ukeHkh #iaKk;rs ·ususfr A
3. That which deals with proper correlation of names and forms so that the entity can be identified correctly.
uke;i;kslkeatL;aKk;rs ·ususfr A

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.

Rupa is specific character which defines *swaroop* or *prakriti* it includes morphology (*akriti*) as well as properties and actions (*guna dharma*)³. 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.
- Aragvadhya-Svarnanga, Rajavrksa, Dirghaphala.
- Eranda-Uttanapatraka, Dirghadanda, Panchangula.
- Guduchi-Tantrika, Amrita, Chinnaruha, Chakralaksanika⁴.

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 based⁵.

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 trade or commercial transaction.

Example:

- Kasmiraka – Kumkum
- Kirata – Kiratatiktka
- 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 it⁶.

According to *DhanvantariNighantu*-

"vukefou~~ eksgeqiSfros|kS u osfÜki";UufiHks"ktkfu "

Raj Nighantu classified the names of plants according to seven different categories viz. -

ukekfuDofpfnq :f<r% izHkkokn~~
ns';ksDR;kDopu p ykaNuksiekH,ke~~A
oh;Zs.kDofPkfnrjkg~~O;kfnns'kkn~~
nzO;k.kka /kzqofefr|Ir/kksfnrkfuaa AA
jk0fu0izLrkouk 13

- Rudhi- Tuntuka, Guduchi
- Prabhav- Krimighna, Vatar
- Deshyokti-Magadhi, Kalinga
- Lanchan-Chitraparni
- Upama- Varahkarni
- Veerya- Ushana, Katuka
- Itarahvya- Kakahvya, Shakrahvya⁷.

In *Nighantus* synonyms are categorized in following ways-

1. Rupabodhak: • Jatamansi, Punarnava.
2. Avayavabodhak: • Patra- Gandhapatri • Pushpa- Hemapuspa
 - Phala- Amritphal • Beeja- Chitrabeeja
 - Kanda- Granthiman • Ksheer- Ksheerdrum
 - Kantik- Gokshur • Sara- Peetsara
3. Gunabodhak: • Shabda- Gunja • Rasa- Katuka
 - Sparsha- Kharmanjari • Gandha- Ashwagandha
 - Rupa- Kanchuka • Veerya- Hima
4. Prabhavbodhak: • Krimighn
5. Karmabodhak: • Medhya, Vamak
6. Udbhavbodhak: • Yoni- Krimija
 - Rohana- Kandaruha
 - Adhishthan- Jalaj
7. Lokopyogbodhak: • Yagyang
8. Akhyanbodhak: • Amritsambhava

9. Itihaspasidhi: • Bodhidrum

10. Prashastibodhak: • Mangalya⁸.

IMPORTANCE OF NAMA-RUPA VIGYANA

By *nama-rupavigyana* we 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. *bheshajaswaroop* and pharmacology i.e. *bheshaja prayoga*⁹ *Chakrapanialso* emphasizes on *namarupavigyana* as-

jlr% Lo#iKkuaHks "ktnzO;L; nzO;fyxKkua A nks" kr% p Hks"ktiz;ksxfo"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.

Kandobhava, Chhina, Chhinarudha- These suggests guduchi is generated from stem and from where it cuts, it regenerates.

- Chakralakshnika-suggests transverse section of stem show circular structure.
- Chandrasaha- suggests its semi-lunar seeds i.e. moon seeds which is a character of menispermaceae family.
- Madhuparni- suggests viscid juicy honey like leaves¹⁰.

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 *Dhanvantarinighantu* and *Raj nighantu* respectively¹¹.
- 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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