

25. Treasure of Chemistry from Ancient India should Amalgamate Traditional & Modern Science in New Education Policy

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ABSTRACT

India has a rich heritage of being one of the world's foremost suppliers of natural dyes in ancient times. Literature review imparts utilization of mineral pigments or plant extracts, certain fungi or insects. Protection and preservation of traditional knowledge reflected in Ayurveda have been a matter of concern in India. Report by the Task Force carried out on international patent data bases shows that more than thousand patent references on medicinal plants belonging to traditional knowledge system of Indian Origin. Ancient Sanskrit literature was deep rooted with medicinal importance of plants. This data base is the strong evidence for medicament of disease. It promotes the course structure based on these points database banks where Sanskrit and Sciences will work together, evident based research with regard to all sciences. Standardization of medicines and patent filling of the content is need to inculcate in syllabus of new education in India.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Dyes, Medicinal plant, Sanskrit, Science

Introduction:

Ayurveda is renowned for its medicinal knowledge since ancient time. Herbs have a great medicinal nature & are a natural form of life. The term “Natural Dye” refers to dyes obtained from natural resources such as plants, insects and mineral Substrates.

Utilization of Natural dye reflected from the Vedic Period. In this period people may knew different methods of dyeing the clothes. Vedic Literature mentions several dye-stuffs and cloths of different colours, but they do not shed any light on the technique of dyeing.

The Brhidaranyak Upanisad suggests that clothes used to be dyed with various colours such as yellow scarlet and red.

The compilers of the Grhya sutras were also acquainted with the art of dying. It states the details of the garment at the time of upanayana. So, it appears that vegetable and stone dyes have been widely used from the very early times. While explaining the Upanayan Samskar, Ashvalayana states that Brahmana should wear reddish yellow (काषायं), a kshatriya's garment should be manjistha (माजिष्ठं dyed with madder), and a vaisya should put on yellow garment (हारिद्रं charindra) at the time of upanayana.

The famous Sanskrit Grammarian Panini also indicates about the colours known to the then people. It is reflected in his famous book Ashtadhyayi. They were raga, red, black, laksha also called jalu, madder (majistha) and orpiment (rochana). It is confirmed that by the time of Panini people were well familiar with the knowledge of colours.

Following Sūtras from Astadhyayi of Panini clearly stated the information about colours

रज्जेश्च, रक्ते रक्त- लाक्षादिना रक्ते यो लोहितशब्दः तस्मात् कन्प्रत्ययो भवति। लोहितकः कम्बलः। लोहितकः प्रटः लोहितिका शाटी -सिद्धान्तकौमुदी), लोहितान्मणौ लोहित-red, लाक्षा-रोचना-शकल-कर्दमाट्क, लाक्षिकः रौचनिकः शाकलिकः कर्दमिकः

नील्या अन् नील्या रक्तम्- नीलम्- वार्तिक

पीतात् कन्- पातकम्

हरिद्रामहारजनाभ्याम् अञ्

हारिद्रम् माहारजनम्

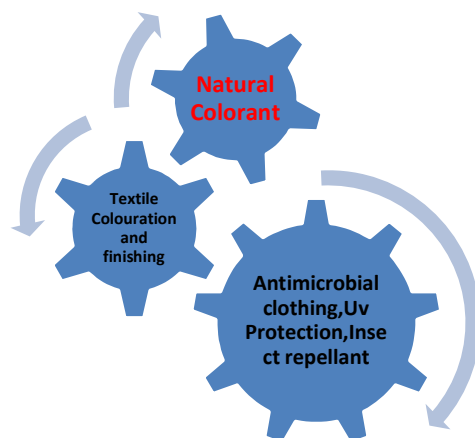
Rasarnava, a famous text known as repository of ancient chemistry, throws light on various types of Rasas. Here the glimpses related to dying technique have been stated in brief. Interestingly, in the second chapter it has mentioned that one who knows the technique of Colour should be known as Guru. Here, one gets the reference of ‘Ranjana, Varnotkarsa etc.’ though the direct reference of dying on clothes is not stated over here but changes in seed colours and reactions of chemicals in the form of colours are well described (Rasarnava Patala 8).

With the influx of synthetic dye substitutes for natural dyes in 18th & 19th century, the natural dye has ceased in most part of the country. This is due to the fact that synthetic dyes were cheaper and the dyeing process was simpler. Looking at the interest in global market for 100% Natural Textile material in which various natural dyes are used to impart color. Color has always played an important role in the formation of different cultures of human being all over the world. In the past, painters had used natural dyes extracted from plants, insects, and molluscs and minerals for their paintings. Incorporation of natural dye in cosmetic industry (Henna, Catechu), pharmaceutical industry (Saffron, Rhubarb) and in food industry (Annatto, Curcumin and Cochineal).

In the Ancient Stone Age, descriptions impart that utilization of various powders made up of colored minerals, and applied to their hair and body parts to confer magic powers while hunting as well as occasional dressings. Ancient North African dyers used bio-colorants derived from madder (*Rubia tinctoria*), cochineal (*Dactylopius coccus*) and kermes (*Kermes vermilio*) as sources for dyeing and in medieval miniature paintings as well as in cosmetics. The Egyptians were conscious as they excelled in weaving for many inscriptions extol the garments of the gods and the bandages for the dead, principally dyed with archil, a purple color derived from certain marine algae found on rocks in the Mediterranean Sea; alkanet, a red color prepared from the root of *Alkanna tinctoria*, *Rubia tinctorum*, which generates red colored materials, wood (Isatis tinctoria), a blue color obtained by a process of fermentation from the leaves, and indigo from the leaves of the *Indigofera* species. Natural originated bio-colorants have been discovered through the ingenuity and persistence of our ancestors, for centuries and may be found veiled in such diverse places as the plant roots (i.e. *Rubia tinctorum*), rhizomes (*Rheum emodi*, *Curcuma longa*), insects (*Lacifer lacca*, *Kermes*) and the secretions of sea snails. However, in Mediterranean civilization, the most valuable colors were indigo for the blues, madder for the reds and 6,60-dibromo indigo for purple. The nails of Egyptian Mummies were dyed with the leaves of henna, *Lawsonia inermis*. Chemical tests of red fabrics found in the tomb of King Tutankhamen in Egypt show the presence of alizarin, a pigment extracted from madder. *Kermes* (*Coccus ilicis*/*Kermes vermilio*) which flourished on evergreen Oak (*Quercus coccifera*) in Spain, Portugal and Morocco is identified in the Book of Exodus in the Bible, where references are made to scarlet colored linen. Sappan wood was exported from India to China as early as 900 BC. The relics from excavation at Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa (Indus Valley Civilization), Ajanta Caves Painting and Mughal dyeing, printing and painting, show the use of natural dyes such as Madder, Indigo and Henna. The most famous and highly

prized color through the ages was Tyrian purple, noted in the Bible, a dye obtained from the hypo branchial glands of several marine gastropod molluscs of the genera *Murex*, *Bolinus*, *Purpura*, *Plicopurpura* and *Thais* and it is probably the most expensive dye in the history of mankind. As now public's awareness for eco-preservation, eco-safety and health concerns, environment benign and non-toxic sustainability in bio resourced colorants, have created a revolution in textile research and development.

As a result, eco-friendly non-toxic naturally occurring bio colorants have gained re-emergence as a subsequent alternative through green chemistry approaches with wide spread applicability to textile coloration and other biomedical aspects. We would like to propose here to incorporate this knowledge to have skill based courses.



Approximately 90% of Ayurveda preparations are plant based. Ayurveda plants have a stronger action on the body than either food or spices. Polyherbal combinations have also proven lastingly effective than single herbs. The supporting herbs will each have different actions, acting as catalysts to help proper absorption, transportation, and to reduce toxicity. If an ideal combination is delivered, then the result can be excellent. The Sanskrit classics *Atharvaveda*, *Charak Samhita* and *Sushrut Samhita* together describe more than 700 medicinal herbs, cataloguing everything from their taste, appearance and digestive effects to safety, efficacy, dosage and benefits. The traditional Ayurvedic text Sarangdhar Samhita, which dates from 1300 AD, highlights the concept of polyherbal is an ancient medical system. Most Ayurveda formulations are polyherbal. While the active phytochemical constituents of individual plants are well established, they are usually present only in minute amounts and are, thus, insufficient to achieve the desired therapeutic effects. Ayurveda Pharmacopoeia of India sets standards of drugs/ingredients mentioned in different formulations of Ayurveda Formulary of India. There are also 56 referral texts described under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Future Prospective IKS in New education and Conclusion:

Thus we see that the art of dyeing was as old as human civilization. From historical records, it is learnt that natural colorants were available to people from ancient times. The early Vedic Aryans did not practice so much techniques of dyeing because they were a pastoral and migratory people. In the present scenario, the growing concerns among the communities globally against the use of synthetic dyes due to their carcinogenic. More experimental

implementations should be focused to adopt novel technologies for making natural colorants as a compatible as well as eco-safe alternative with synthetic colorants in different spheres of our life to make a greener world.

We here like to propose the greener route of utilization of skill enhanced courses for preparation of dyes and its bio medical approach to textile industry.

Secondly we like to focus on point of official data collection medicinal plants belonging to traditional knowledge system of Indian Origin, Courses based on patenting information of IKs Ayurveda, as Ancient Sanskrit literature was deep rooted with medicinal importance of plants. The Ayurvedic database in classical texts can be used for bioprospecting and new drug discovery. India can benefit enormously if it can build a golden triangle between traditional medicine, modern medicine and modern science,”

This is possible, if we have central data bank, standardization of active ingredients, and biological study data then the task of patent filling will be easier. These things promote the course structure based on these points database banks where Sanskrit and Sciences will work together, evident based research with regard to all sciences, Standardization of medicines and patent filling of the content is need to inculcate in syllabus of new education in India

Acknowledgement: The authors are grateful to Dr. Sunil A. Gaikwad, Principal, S.P. College, Pune 411030, India for providing the necessary facility.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests:

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest.

Funding:

The authors received no financial support for the publication of this article.

Ethical Approval:

As no human subjects were involved, this study does not require ethical approval.

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उप प्र जिन्वन्नुशुतीरुशन्तं पतिं न नित्यं जनयः सनीळाः ।

स्वसारः श्यावीमरुषीमजुप्रञ्चित्रमुच्छन्तीमुषसं न गावः॥ (ऋ.१.७१.१)

(ऋग्वेदसंहिता सायणाचार्यविरचितभाष्यसमेता VOL1, Mandal 1, Vedic Samshodhan Mandal, 1933,

Page 463) तत्र दृष्टान्तः ।”श्यावीं श्याववर्णां रात्रिसंबन्धात् कृष्णां ततः “उच्छन्तीं सूर्यकिरणसंबन्धात् तमो वर्जयन्तीं अत एव शुभ्ररूपयुक्ताम् यद्वा आरोचमानां अरुषीं” “उषसं” न उषोदेवतां “गावः रश्मयो यथा सेवन्ते तद्वत् । यथा रश्मय उषसा नित्यसंबद्धा एवं सर्वेषु यज्ञेष्वग्निपरिचरणेनाङ्गुलयो नित्यसंबद्धा इति तात्पर्यार्थः ॥

यथा माहारजनं वासः, यथा पाण्डुवाविकम्, यथेन्द्रगोपः। (बृहदारण्यकोपनिषद् २.३.६)

माहारजनम् –dyed with turmeric पाण्डुवाविक-grey sheep’s wool इन्द्रगोपः (deep red) insect called Indragopa (The Bṛhadaranyakopaniṣad, Ramakrishana Math, Chennai, India 1951)

यदि वासंसि वसीरन् रक्तानि वसीरन् काषायं ब्राह्मणो माञ्जिष्ठं क्षत्रियो हारिद्रं वैश्यः। (आश्वलायनगृह्यसूत्र १.१९.९) (Aśvalāyana Gṛhyasūtra Edited by Swami Ravi Tirtha Voll- Adhyaya 1, The Adyar Library 1944)

अष्टाध्यायी VI. 4.26.

अष्टाध्यायी V. 4.32

अष्टाध्यायी V. 4.30.

अष्टाध्यायी IV. 2.2

(रागसंख्यां बीजकलां ... रञ्जनं ... वर्णोत्कर्षं मृदुत्वञ्च ... यो वेत्ति स गुरुर्मतः। Rasarnav. 2.5)

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