

LIFESTYLE ACCORDING TO AYURVEDA IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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ABSTRACT

Background: The current covid-19 Pandemic situation has affected many lives, their health and well-being. This pandemic situation undoubtedly contribute to sudden change in daily routine like social distancing, isolation leads to emotional distress and increased risk for psychiatric illness. Day by day increase in number of patients of covid-19 put all of us in great fear, stress, uncertainty about life, loss of will power, loss of positivity about life. Ayurveda does not only deal with physical wellness but mental wellness also. Ayurveda, the science of life dealing with maintenance of everyones health and eliminating rogas From body. Ayurveda will definitely help us out from this worst situation by some easy lifestyle hacks. Ayurveda has already gifted us with lots of easy going daily routine Concepts for betterment of life. Now it is the time to when we should understand importance of Ayurveda and pick some lifestyle hacks according to Ayurveda such as Dinacharya, Ratricharya, Ritucharya, Ahara, Rasayana, Yoga, pranayama etc.

Objectives: An overview of Dinacharya and Ahara in covid-19 pandemic situation for physical and mental health improvement.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Ayurveda” is the system designed to distinctly explained the merits and demerits, state of happiness or otherwise good and bad for life and the life itself within their parameters. [1] The purpose of Ayurveda is to procure a good health to accomplish constituted duty, acquisition of wealth, contentment of desires and salvation. So, these four factors constitute the objective of the 'Purusha'. [2]

Sushrutacharya describes the features of a healthy man, *Doshas (Vata, Pitta, Kapha)*, *Agni* (digestive fire), *Dhatus, Malas* (waste products) and *Kriyas* are normal, *Atma* (soul), *Indriya* (sense organ) and *Manas* (mind) are peaceful is said to be healthy. One should regularly follow healthy lifestyle, diet and regimen, which keep good health and prevent diseases, which are not manifested [3]

According to word health organization Health is clearly defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely absene of disease or infirmity.” [4]

The current guidelines of AYUSH Ministry, Government recommend personal hygiene guidelines for preventive measures and boosting immunity. These guidelines recommend Ayurvedic tea and Decoction (kadha). Ingredients are *Tulsi*, *Dalchini*, *kalimirch*, *shunthi*, (Dry ginger), and *Manuka* (Raisin) jaggery or fresh lemon for better taste as immunity promoting measures against COVID-19. Cold, frozen, heavy junk food and other *Rajasic* and *Tamsik* food

should avoid for healthy lifestyle. Recommendations such as to take appropriate rest, timely sleep, exposure to sunlight, and practice of Yogasana and Pranayama also help to balance our body, mind, and lifestyle. [5]

1.1. IMPORTANCE OF DINACHARYA AND AHARA

The concept of *Dinacharya* is so important and useful in today's Era that our Ancient Acharya also wrote all principles in Brihatrayi about *Dinacharya*. All life style disorders can be prevented by adopting *Dinacharya*. It also helps to establish balance in one's constitution. It also regularises a person's biological clock.

Ahara is considered as *Mahabhaishajya* (the superior medicine). [6] The healthy body as well as the disease are nothing but the outcome of *Ahara* and daily routine (*Dinacharya*). In Ayurveda, *Ahara* and method of cooking, method of eating has equal Importance. The one who consumed food according to given principles will always blesses with satisfaction of life. *Oja, Teja, bala,,Dhatu and senses that is Health is totally depend Upon Food.* [7] *Ahara* is main fuel for *Agni* (fire inside the body) that body is sustained upon. According to *Charak Samhita* All living things are totally depend upon food. Good voice complexion long and healthy life happiness, satisfaction, growth, strength, and intelligence are all outcomes of food. [8] In present era we don't care of Nutritional value of food and only take cares of our taste buds which is harmful for our life,. *Ahara* is the most Important factor for sustenance of life. It is described as foremost pillar among the three pillars of life that is *Ahara, Nidra* and *Bramhacharya*. When body is supported by the *Trayopstamba*. [9] It is endowed by growth, strength and complexion.

1.2. OBJECTIVES

- 1) Overview of *dinacharya* according to Ayurveda in covid pandemic situation.
- 2) Importance of *ahara* in covid pandemic situation.
- 3) Physical and mental health improvement by Ayurveda.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

2.1. STUDY DESIGN – OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

The present work is primarily based on theoretical research. The material were collected from the classical Ayurvedic literatures, magazine and research journals.

- **Dinacharya**

Rulls which should followed by the one who always desires for Good health and betterment of life are included in *Dinacharya*. [10]

- 1) ***Brahmmuhurte Jagrana*** [11]

One should always Wake up Early in the morning always gifted with health. Morning's calm, quite and positive vibes helps in meditation, Study, yoga, feeling of happiness and freshness in *Brahmmuhur* It is considered as the apt time for waking up. It is approximately two *muhurtas* i.e. 96 minutes before sunrise in that region.

- 2) ***Usha jalapaan*** [12]

Drinking water in brahmuhurt called *ushajalapaan*.

Luckwarm water is indicated in this pandemic situation, as this stimulates hunger and improve digestive fire, helps digestion, help in throat pain, hepels in hiccups reduction and regulates *Dushta vata* and *Kapha*

- 3) ***Malotsarga Vidhi*** [13]

Complete concentration with silence helps in complete evacuation of *mala* (stool and urine)

Evacuation of *Malas* should be done when *veg* (urge) is felt. These *Vegas* should not be suppressed, will cause *shira shoola* (Head ache), *Apanvayu urdhva gati, pain* (cutting type). That means the one should not supress *Adharniya veg* otherwise it will cause different type of pain and discomfort. Also, evacuation should not be done forcefully otherwise it will cause *Arsha* (piles), Fissure, Rectal prolapse etc.

4) **DantDhawan, Jivha Nirrlekhana and Achamana [14], [15]**

Dantadhavan should be done with *katu, Tikta, kashay Ras*, as they are helpful to prevent *Kahaj* oral diseases. After brushing powdered *kushta, Trikatu, Triphala* and *Trijataka* with honey should be applied to tooth and gum. *Madhur rasa* helps to prevent *vataja* and *pittaj* disease. *Acharya shushruta* mention *Madhur rasa*. Tongue cleaning should be done after brushing it prevents *Mukha Daurgandha* (halitosis), *vairasya* (faulty taste) and *Aruchi* (tastelessness) *Amalaki kwath* (decoction) is used for face and eyes cleaning after brushing.

Main entry for many disease is mouth passage. It should be cleaned and germfree for goodhealth.

5) **Anjana [16], [17]**

Two types of *Anjana* are below -

- 1) *Souvira Anjana*
- 2) *Rasa Anjna*

Souviraanjana has advised for daily use. it helps in maintaining healthy eye and vision. It prevents *Daha* (burning), *kandu* (itching), *Mala* (eye debris), *vedana* (pain), *klinnata* (watery eye) etc.

Rasanjana has advised for every 5th or 8th day at night to evacuate excessive *kapha dosha*. *Teja* in eye should be protected from excessive *kapha* or *kleda*.

6) **Nasya**

There are 5 types of *Nasya*

1. *Navana*, 2. *Avpeedan*, 3. *Dhyapana*, 4. *Dhoom*, 5. *Pratimarsha* [18]

Pratimarsha nasya has advised for daily use, *Anu taila* is usually used for this *nasya*.

7) **kavala and Gandusha [19]**

Kavala of *khadira, kshiri* tree prevents mainly *Kaphaja disorders* like *Aruchi* (Tastelessness), *Mukhvairasya* (faulty taste) *Daurgandha* (halitosis). Luckwarm water is best for *Gandusha*, luckwarm water provides *laghuta* (lightness) in mouth.

Sneha Gandush prevents *vataja* disorders of mouth like crack lips, dryness of mouth and *swarabheda* (loss of voice)

8) **Dhoomapana [20]**

There are 3 types of *Dhoomapana*-

1. *Prayogika* 2. *Snahik* 3. *Vairechik*

Prayogika dhoomapana has advised for daily use. It prevents head and neck region disorders caused by *vata* and *kapha* like *shirogaurava, shirashoola, kasa, shwas, hikka, karna, nasya and netra srav Tandra* etc.

Smoke should be taken from nose and expelled from mouth otherwise it cause harm to eyes.

9) **Abhyanga [21]**

It provides strength to the body, also repairs and regenerates tissue. It pacifies *vata*, relieves tiredness.

Shiroabhyanga is useful for hair, provides nourishment for sense organs also improves sleep.

Padabhyanga provides strength to the feet and legs. It Relieves from stiffness, crack and dryness. It improve vision and sleep. *Ushna abhyanga* is useful in *sheeta Ritu*. And *sheet abhyanga* in *ushna Ritu*.

10) **Vyayama [22]**

Any kind of physical activity which causes tiredness or sweating is *Vyayam*. This can include any physical activity such as walking, running any cardio workout. Specially in this lockdown situation yoga is the best exercise which provide us physical as well as mental health.

11) **Udwartan [23]**

Massage with *Triphala churn, Yava churn* That is *kaphahara* drugs helps for opening of skin pores, improves complexion, reduce itching, skin eruption and fat reduction also.

12) *Snana* [24]

Warm water is usually used for bathing. Temperature of water changes according to seasons. It is very important part of personal hygiene. Hot water should not use for head bath, as it causes harm to hairs and eye. Bath should not be taken after meals, it causes improper digestion.

13) *Bhojana Vidhi - Ahara*

Ahara is considered as *Mahabhaishajya* (the superior medicine). Various life style disorders and numerous diseases occur due to faulty dietary habits. Which may be prevented by proper *Ahara* and eating habits. *Acharya charak* explained 8 *Aharvidhi vishesh ayatan* (rules) for good health.

Aharvidhivisheshayatan [25]

1) *Prakriti*

Considerations of *Prakriti* is very important to pacify *Doshas* and *Agni*, one should consume food as per his/her internal constitution.

2) *Karana*

Action of food also needs to be consider since specific diet offers particular health benefits.

3) *Samyoga*

Appropriate combinations of ingredients lead health benefits while incompatible combinations cause health problems.

4) *Rashi*

Ahara should be consumed in proper amount since less food causes malnutrition while excess food leads indigestion and felling of heaviness.

5) *Desha*

The place of meal affect process of digestion and particular meal required to take in specific demographic region.

6) *Kala*

Time of meal also affects nutritious value of food thus time and season should be consider befor taking meal

7) *Upyoga sanstha*

Food for specific purpose sometimes required to take in particular conditions.

8) *Upayokta*

One who follow all above rules called *Upayokta*. *Upayokta* also play vital role towards achieving health benefits of consumed food.

One should not eat without hunger. For healthy life 2 times of meal is advised. One should follow all principles of eating. Water should not be taken immediately after meal. Also, exercise, sleep, sexual activity should not be done after meal. late night food, heavy food at night should be taken. *Virudhha Anna* (opposite properties).

14) **Sleep**

Adequate amount of sleep always play important role in mental and physical health balance.

DISCUSSION

Ayurveda mainly focus on prevention of diseases. person should perform such a action which are good for his body as the officer in charge of city and charioteer in charge of the chariote protect city and the chariot respectively. *Dinacharya* Ideal way of daily regimen These principles are very beneficial in current era. but in this era everyone is always busy and in hurry that they can't pay full attention for maintenance of healthy lifestyle. Nobody has little time even for themselves. So, In this lockdown period we should definitely think about small changes in daily routine for healthy life. In this Pandemic situation only, physical wellness is not concern but mental health also. everyone is really depressed and negative about life. We should really work on our mental health by adapting ayurvedic principles of Ayurveda. Principle of *Dinacharya* and *Ahara* is basically related with nutrition and building of human body and also related to mental stability. balancing of *Dosha* is due to good *Ahara* which ultimately results in good health. Adaptation of some small healthy changes or habits will definitely improves health. One should definitely adapt healthy habits even in very busy schedule. One who always desires good health should follow all principles like early bed, early rise, Exercise, Yoga, prayer meditation, pranayama, brushing, bathing, nasal oil drops, body massage,

proper diet will improve physical as well as mental health. These are not big changes that one can not adapt, these are very small changes but definitely play a very big role in maintaining health.

According to AYUSH, *Guduchi, Amla, Haridra, Tulsi, ashwagandha* in single drug and some formulations like *chyavanprash, drakshavaleha, Indukantam ghrutam, Aravindasava, Balachaturbhadra churna, Haridra* gands will play a great role as immunity booster in this pandemic situation.

One should regularly follow diet and regimen which keep good health and prevent diseases, which are not manifested. This article is an effort to present Ayurvedic concepts of Dinacharya and Ahara, specially fight against covid-19 pandemic by following ayurvedic rules for healthy lifestyle.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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