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# A CRITICAL STUDY OF NIRDESHA CHATUSHKA W.S.R. TO USE OF TANTRAYUK-TI

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### **ABSTRACT**

Ayurveda is a science of life. It is an upaveda of Atharvaveda. It is a science for healthy living resources which deals with the physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being of human beings and covers all aspects of human life. It has various philosophical and fact full truth subjects, which improved by our great sages like Acharya Charaka, Sushruta, Vagbhata etc. through their knowledge, wisdom and experience. With the knowledge gained by sages, they compose treaties in a concise and precise manner. Acharya used some methodology. These methodologies help us understand the treatise well. The aim of this dissertation is to study Nirdesha Chatushka and Tantrayuktis.

Keywords: Nirdesha Chatushka, Tantrayuktis

## INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is an ancient medical science. It is known from the *Vedic* era. It deals with diseases' preventive and curative aspects and promotes health by its prin-

ciples and approach. It evolved in the forms of Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga sangraha, Ashtanga hridya, etc. Charaka Samhita is a

collection of various basic principles, healthy advice, directions and teaching, pharmacological actions of multiple drugs, and description of various diseases' preventive, promotive and curative aspects. It is a foundational text of *Ayurveda*. It is classified into eight *Sthanas*. These eight *Sthanas* include one hundred and twenty chapters. *Acharya Charaka* has talked about the two objectives of *Ayurveda*, i.e., maintaining and promoting the positive health of healthy individuals and curing diseased ones. It is completed in 3 levels. *Acharya Punarvasu Atreya* was the advisor, and *Acharya Agnivesha* was the main author of *Charaka Samhita*. In contrast, *Acharya Charaka* was the actual redactor, and *Acharya Dridhbala* was the completer of this *Samhita*.

Sutra sthana is foremost among the eight sthanas. It consists of thirty Adhyayas. It is divided into seven Chatushka. Each has four Adhyayas; the last two Adhyayas are grouped as Sangrahadvaya adhyayas.

These Chatushkas are as follows -

- Aushadha Chatushka
- Swastha Chatushka
- Nirdesha Chatushka
- Kalpana Chatushka
- Roga Chatushka
- Yojana Chatushka
- Annapana Chatushka

Sutra Sthana deals with various important fundamental principles of Ayurveda. It is the brain of the whole Samhita. Here, a collection of important Sutras related to various contexts is described. Therefore, this Sthana is also known as Sutra Sthana.

Chatushka means a division comprising four chapters relating to the same topic. The third Chatushka is Nirdesha Chatushka, comprising chapters nine to twelve. This Chatushka is about the guidelines of healthcare management, the components of healthcare management, and their standard qualities; denotements are given for the well-being of Swastha and Aatura. The definition of diseases, their prognosis, and treatment, Sapta Trika with three Eshana's, and symposium for Tridosha's are described in detail. Tantrayuktis have been described at the end of Charaka and Sushruta Samhitas. These are the sys-

temic approaches to studying the Shastra and interpreting its correct definite meaning. Tantra or Shastra means to govern, control and rule, an order scriptural injunction on any particular section of knowledge or science. They provide the controlling guidelines for treatises. It provides a framework for a theory and its practical application, and Yukti stands for devices. Tantrayukti means the device or plan of shastra<sup>2</sup>, which clarifies the meaning of any science. Because Shastra is as light and intellectual as eyes, a physician possessed with both of these would never be misapprehended.<sup>3</sup> Ayurveda is a science. It deals with healthy living resources, philosophical and factful truth and covers all the aspects of human life. It is necessary to know about the methodology for understanding Samhita.

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The *Sutrasthana* has acquainted the critical position of head or *Uttamanga* for the *Samhita*.<sup>4</sup> In this verse, the *Chatushka* are denoted as *Mahartha* (*maha+ artha*). The *Maha* and *Artha* both terms elaborate the vitality of *Chatushkas* more than that the *Maha* and *Artha* are synonyms of heart<sup>5</sup>; this word appropriately narrates the exact position and importance of *Chatushka* in *Samhita*. These *Chatushkas* are at the heart of this treatise, nourishing the rest of *Samhita*.

The *Sutra* is the power of words endowed to humanity to express his thoughts in a short and suitable form. These *Sutras* are the conclusions of a thorough survey of several years corroborating the experiences of sages. The *Sutra sthana* is acquainted with the critical position of the head or *uttamanga* for the *Samhita*.

The Sutrasthana lies as the Madhusanchaya of the Samhita. This nectar of knowledge has been excellently stored by Acharya Charaka, i.e., in the form of Chatushka methodology. This methodology is unique, the meaning of the word Chatushka is it is a collection of four different subjects led by one group, a hall resting on four pillars, a set of four<sup>6</sup>. It indicates that knowledge of a subject in different forms reveals deep thinking of a particular subject through Chatushka. It is present only in the Sutra sthana of Charaka Samhita. In this, each Chatushka gives an

individual aspect of *Ayurveda* teaching methodology. The methodology of *Chatushka* is adopted only in *Sutra sthana* because *Sutra Sthana* is the first *Sthana*; it is the collection of various *Sutras* which are to be applied to all over the *Samhita*, but each sthana explains some of its parts, so it is not possible and also not necessary to divide each *Sthana* in that manner. Its objective is to enlighten the other *Sthanas* because it presents the outline of the whole *Samhita*. *Sutra sthana* is divided into seven *Chatushkas*; each *Chatushka* possesses with its prime subject as follows:

- 1. *Bhesaja Chatushka* Provides the knowledge to select appropriate drug therapeutics
- 2. *Swastha Chatushka* Provides the knowledge to decide probable etiological etiogenesis (*Viparyaya*) factors
- 3. Nirdesh Chatushka- Provides the knowledge to make a perfect diagnosis of Dhatu Samya / Vaishamya
- 4. *Kalpana Chatushka* Provides the knowledge to select appropriate formation and procedure
- 5. *Roga Chatushka* Provides the knowledge to understand the pathogenesis
- 6. *Yojana Chatushka* Provides the knowledge to determine the principle of management
- 7. *Annapana Chatushka*-Provides the knowledge to decide wholesome diet, Dietetics and regimens
- 8. *Sangraha Dvaya Adhyaya* Provides the knowledge to evaluate the Prognosis condition.

Chatushkas present the unique methodology and are also evidence of the practical approach of Charaka Samhita as a therapeutic text.

Each *Chatushka* explains aspects of medical science and the methodology of teaching. *Chatushkas* are very important in their places, but *Nirdesh Chatushka* offers enlightenment on scriptural knowledge and one's mental ability. It is a base of *Sutrasthana* and is collected in four chapters with different aspects related to a common theme. In *Chatushka*, the first chapter gives basic concepts associated with a particular subject. The second and third chapters provide more information about the previous subject, and the fourth chapter gives concluding remarks. Each chapter is linked with the other chapter.

#### NIRDESHA CHATUSHKA:

After finishing Swastha Chatushka (tetrad on health), The Nirdesh Chatushka is placed in the third position; Chakrapani comments that for the benefit of both Swastha and Atura, this Chatushka is being described. This Chatushka describes all the aspects of therapeutics for a healthy person and those afflicted with diseases.<sup>7,8</sup> These aspects are physician, drug, etc., called the Chatushpaad. Among these four aspects, a physician is given prime place, and all the desirable qualities for Vaidhya are as follows: The main theme of this Chatushka is to discuss the benefits for Swastha and Atur; it gives information about pathology. Ayurveda physiology and pathology are not individually but are common as pathophysiology, and how the physiology changes to pathology and pathology are brought again to physiology.

Remarkably, *Chatushka* is initiated with instructions from the hospital and health care management. All the instructions are made with the physician in mind. Along with this prognostic classification of diseases, *Asta Trika*, the pathophysiology of *Ayurveda*, is given. *Nirdesh Chatushka* gives the complete diagnostic methodology and pathophysiology, qualities of *Chatushpada*, and features of *Prakrita* and *Vikrita Dosha*. The principal subject of *Nirdesha Chatushka* is how the condition is reached from *Swasthavastha* to *Aturavastha*.

In the foregoing *Swastha Chatushka*, health is maintained by observing the rules of *Dincarya*, *Ritucarya*, and *Sadvritta*. In the subsequent *Nirdesh Chatushka*, the diseased state is elaborated upon. Thus, *Nirdesh Chatushka* steps into the field of *Atura* (Pathology) but does not leave *Swastha* (Physiology), as *Nirdesh* is equally beneficial for *Swastha* and *Atura*.

*Nirdesh Chatushka* lies as the bridge between its foregoing and subsequent *Chatushka*, keeping its view over the entire *Sutra Sthana* and, thus, the whole *Samhita*.

The *Chatushka* starts with *Khuddaka Chatushpada* with the *Nirdesh* of *Shodasha Kala Bheshaja*.

At first, *Khuddak Chatushapaad* shows interest in four types of therapeutics: physician (*Vaidya*), Medicine (*Dravya*), Attendant (*Upasthata*), and Patient

(*Rogi*). Each of these abilities is a natural and cardinal necessity of the physician.

The following chapter, *Mahachatushpada*, describes the illnesses based on the forecast. This chapter explains that treatment should be started only by the physician after diagnosing and recognising the disease. The physician should prevent himself from treating incurable illnesses.

The third chapter (*Tisraishaniya*) connects with topics like three types of intent, potency, factors for illness, illness themselves, ways of diseases, physicians and therapies.

The last chapter (*Vatakalakaleeya*) deals with the appropriate and inappropriate nature or work of *Vata*, *Pitta*, and *Kapha*. To succeed, a physician must have an intensive intellect of the guidelines provided.

**REVIEW OF** *TANTRAYUKTI*: In *Ayurveda*, the first direct reference to the word *Tantrayukti* is available in *Charaka Samhita*; *Acharya Dridhabala* enlists 36 *Tantrayuktis* in the *Siddhi sthana* 12th chapter and also talked about the importance and necessity of *Tantrayukti* and. *Acharya Chakrapani* described them.

Bhattara Harishchandra has described Tantrayuktis in his commentary Charaknyaas on Charak Samhita four additional Tantrayuktis viz. Pariprasna, Vyakarana, Vyutkrantabhidhana and Hetu. Pariprasna is included in Uddesa, Vyakarana is included in Vyakhyana and Vyutkrantabhidhana is included in Nirdesh. Hetu (according to Chakrapani) includes different premises (mode of acquiring knowledge), like Pratyaksa or direct observation.

Commentator *Acharya Dalhana* has separately explained each *Tantrayukti* in his commentary *Nibandha Samgraha Vyakhyana*.

In Astanga Samgraha, Acharya Vagbhata mentions only the name of Tantrayukti, which its commentator Indu elaborately explains in Shashilekha Vyakhya as Tantraguna.

In Astanga Hridaya, Arunadutta mentions Tantrayukti in his commentary, but there is no direct reference to Tantrayukti; he uses Tantra Guna in the 40th chapter of Uttaratantra.

Artha shastra of Kautilya is a very important text in Sanskrit literature. In 15thAdhikaran Kautilya, Tantrayuktis are mentioned 32 Tantrayuktis and mention that the Tantrayuktis are very useful in reading and understanding this text.<sup>9</sup>

# **Definition of** *Tantrayukti*:

The word *Tantrayukti* is made up of two words: *Tantra* and *Yukti*.

- 1) The word "*Tantra*" is derived from "*Tan*" *Dhatu* with the suffix "S*htran*". <sup>10</sup>(Va), (S.K.D.) Tan for capacity to elaborate, extend, stretch, compose, etc. *Shtran* means an instrument tool. <sup>11</sup> (M.W)
- 2) By Vyutpatti, "\_Tantra" means an entity which is instrumented for the ability to get expansion as per the necessity, and it is helpful to maintain and hold different aspects concerned with the subject.<sup>12</sup>

Acharya Dalhana indicates the term Tantra as Tatri Dharane here the meaning of the term Dharane suggests protecting the body from the diseases. So, the treatise that protects the body is called Tantra or Shastra.<sup>13</sup>

"निरुक्तं तन्त्राणात् तन्त्रं स्थानमर्थप्रतिष्ठया " (Ca. Su.30/70)

"Tantra" is considered as a concise treatise; in that sense; which protects (Trayate) from un-necessary elaboration (Tananat).

*Tantra* is a systemic composition that holds and sustains many concepts that are capable of necessary elaboration. It protects *Shastra* from unnecessary extension and protects a body by beneficially advocating rules and regulations.

**Synonyms of the** *Tantra***:** *Shakaha*, *Vidhya*, *Sutra*, *Jnana*, *Shastra*, *Ikshana* and *Ayurveda*. All these words are synonyms of *Tantra*. These synonyms are different, but according to *Aptopadesha*, all these words are synonyms of *Tantra*. *Ayurveda* – A scientific knowledge of life. <sup>14</sup>

*Shakha* - Branch of science concerning a particular subject in detail.<sup>15</sup>

*Vidhya* - Knowledge and skill, scholarship incantation, spell, philosophy (concept), science. <sup>16</sup>

*Sutra* - With minimal usage of words, covey, maximum meaning is Sutra. In aphoristic form, i.e. concise nature, which may elaborate its concepts.<sup>17</sup>

Jnana - Knowledge, cognisance, learning. 18

*Lakshana* - Symbolic or, again, concise yet accurate description or definition. <sup>19</sup> *Shastra*—A scripture, in this Systemic arrangement of subjects, Scripture Thus, all these aspects are expected to be taken comprehensively while interpreting the word "*Tantra*". <sup>20</sup>

### **Definition of** *Yukti***:**

The word *Yukti* is derived from the Sanskrit *Dhatu* '*Yuj*', which means to connect, combine, reason, or connect words.

*Yukti* is the coordination between two factors, *Vakya* and *Artha*. From the above reference, it can be said that *Yukti* is the coordination between two factors, *Vakya* and *Artha*.<sup>21</sup>

According to *Acharya Chakrapani*, *Yukti* is the process by which the given events are combined. It selects the correct possibility through the aggregation of many components of an event.<sup>22</sup> *Yukti* is the source of knowledge. It helps in the right judgement or appropriate decision concerning context when various circumstances are to be faced.

In Samhita, Tantra and Yukti are both independent. Tantra means conceptual textual knowledge, and Yukti means practical applications. All commentators of Samhita explain the Tantrayukti word as Yuktis of the Tantra. They are conjugated with the words Yukti of Tantra; therefore, Yukti in Tantra is Tantrayukti. Thus, Tantra means an aggregation of concepts, and Yukti means application methods. Therefore, the principal word Tantrayukti means methods of application for aggregate concepts in a scientific treatise.

Tantrayuktis according to Acharyas: In Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtang Hridayam, Ashtang Sangrah and their commentators like acharya Dalhan, Chakrapani, Indu, Bhattarharishchandra have mentioned types of Tantrayuktis with different opinions. Name of Tantrayuktis are Adhikarana, Yoga, Hetvartha, Padartha, Pradesh, Uddesha, Nirdesh, Vakyashesha, Prayojana, Updesha, Apdesha, Atidesha, Arthapatti, Nirnaya, Prasanga, Ekanta, Anekanta, Apvarga, Viparyay, Purvapaksh,

Vidhaan, Anumata, Vyakhyana, Samsaya, Atitavekshana, Anagatavekshana, Swasangahya, Uhya, Samuchaya, Nidarshanam, Nirvachana, Niyoga, Vikalpa, Pratyutsaar, Uddhara, Sambhava, Pariprasna, Vyakarana, Vyutkrantabhidhana, Hetu.

# **DISCUSSION**

The entire *Charak Samhita* is consisting of eight *sthanas*. The *sutra sthan* comes first. It includes seven *Chatushka* chapters, and the last two are *Sangrahadvaya* chapters. *Chatushka* in *Sutrasthana* of *Charaka Samhita* is one of the prime and novel methodologies used in *Ayurveda*. It presents all the objectives of *Ayurveda* systematically. *Nirdesh Chatushka* is third in order of the seven *Chatushka*. The prime objective of this *Chatushka* is to describe useful topics that benefit healthy and diseased people.

- 1. *Nirdesh Chatushka* discusses the importance of *Chatushpada* and disease prognosis. *Chatushpada* is the first concept explained in the *Samhita*. It provides a unified approach to healthcare management and addresses how the healthy state changes into the diseased state.
- 2. *Chaturvidha pramana* is essential for diagnosing, researching, experimenting, and treating diseases.
- 3. Ashta trik is a unique concept of this Chatushka which covers all the aspects (principles) of Ayurveda.
- Vata Kalakaliya Adhyaya is an example of a symposium. This symposium exchanges opinions related to Tridosha and establishes the principles.
- Tantrayuktis are the tools for understanding a Shastra, as mentioned. It is a special writing methodology accepted by authors. By keeping this in mind, subjects can be easily described in Shastra
- 6. Vakyayojana and Arthayojana are the aims of *Tantrayuktis*, which help acknowledge the subjects mentioned in any *Shastra*.
- 7. In *Nirdesha Chatushka*, *Upadesha Tantrayukti is* mainly used because *Acharya* has given instructions for a healthy and diseased state and emphasised the role of *Vaidya* in getting rid of diseases.

- 8. Examples were given to help understand the meaning of concepts. Therefore, *Nidarshan Tantrayukti* applied. *Vyakhyana Tantrayukti* used to describe concepts such as *Eshana's*, *Chaturvidha Pramana*, and *Trividha Rogayatan* and explain qualities of *Vaidya*.
- 9. In this *Chatushka*, there are so many reasons mentioned by philosophers in rebirth, but all these are refused by *Atreya* with a valid reason. So, *Pratyutsara Tantrayukti* is applied. But *Acharya* also established rebirth with the help of *Pramanas* after denying the other's opinions. So, *Uddhar Tantrayukti* is applied.
- 10. In this Chatushka, Uddesha Tantrayukti was also applied to many concepts to make them precise and then describe them. So, Nirdesha Tantrayukti is used.

Other *Tantrayuktis* were also applied, such as *Adhikarana*, *Padartha*, *Samsaya*, *Vikalpa*, *Hetvartha*, *Prayojana*, *Nirnaya*, *Atitavekshana*, *Anagatavekshan*, *Viparyaya*, *Ekanta* and *Vidhana*.

# CONCLUSION

Nirdesh Chatushka contributes to hospital management, research, and education. Tantrayuktis are described at the end of Charaka and Sushruta Samhita. They provide guidelines for Tantra or Shatra and help the writer to make a format. In which the material or subject of choice can be composed and form the basis on which all aspects of the shastra stand.

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