

SCIENTISTS OF AYURVEDA

ANCIENT SCIENTIST “THE ASHVINI KUMARAS”: HISTORICAL REVIEW

¹*Yanpallewar S.U.*¹Associate professor and HOD, Dept. of Sanskrit Samhita Siddhanta. Vidarbha Ayurved mahavidyalaya Amravati.**ABSTRACT:**

Ayurveda the oldest life science on earth which was invented by *Bramha* a creator of universe. As mentioned in *Brihat-trayis*, *Bramha* recalled Ayurveda and transferred his knowledge to *Daksha-Prajapati* who further passed this knowledge to *Ashwinikumara*. By him to *Indra*, by *Indra* to *Atreya Bharadwaj*, *Dhanvantari* etc there are no other details found in any form about these scholars.

Many creator, inventors or author of various researches done in the field of Ayurveda is still unknown, In Sanskrit literature there is no tradition to give information about author or inventor is found, this is the only reason behind the unavailability of details of researcher, authors and inventor. There are very few references found in scattered and brief status. Present article deals with such brief and scattered information and references about *the Ashvinikumars* and organized systematically so as to get maximum information about *Ashvinikumars*.

KEYWORDS: *Ashvinikumars*, formulaes, Books, references, ancient scientists, instruments.

INTRODUCTION:

Ayurveda has very large tradition of Sanskrit literature but in very few of them have information about author, about inventors of different fundamental principles, medicines, formulae's, etc this may be because of all of them believes that Ayurveda is an eternal science and created or recalled by *Bramha*, so the credentials of any invention in this field are given traditionally to creator of universe only, this is the main cause behind the unavailability of details about various inventors in this field, but in some treatise or literature very few brief references are found in scattered form *Ashvinikumars* are good examples of them.

AIMS

1. To know the details about creator, inventors, contributors of Ayurveda w.s.r to *Ashvinikumars*.

OBJECTIVES

Compile, gather, and organize scattered data about the contributors of Ayurveda especially related to *Ashvinikumars*.

MATERIALS

References about *Ashvinikumars* from, Archeological catalogue of *Ashvinikumars*, Internet or websites related to the subjects, Sanskrit Literature, Manuscripts, Museum,

Sangraha grantha,

Tantra grantha ,

Treatises, and other available literature,

Sculptures.

METHODS

Brihat trayis, Laghutrayis , Sangraha granthas , and all other Sanskrit literature available in the library of *Vidarbha Ayurved Mahviyalaya Amravati.* is taken in to consideration for present study. Archeological reports, catalogues of different museums were referred to obtain details about *Ashvinikumars.*

various formulation described in different literature have been screened and documented for references about *Ashvinikumars,* various catalogues of manuscripts ,museums, archeological catalogues, article on tourists places have been screened for details about *Ashvinikumars* and documented in comprehensive manner and original references are quoted for the benefit of readers.

LITERATURE RIVIEW

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND-

- 1) **References about *Ashvinikumars* in the form of sculpture, statue etc.**

**Painting by artist in temple of Tanjavur
1200 AC**



**Ashvinikumara from lepakshi temple
Karnataka 400 AC**



**Paintings of Ashvinikumara by
Unknown Artist as a horse head twin
gods**

1960 AC



Drawing of Ashvinikumara by unknown artist



2) References in the form of literature

According to Rigveda *Ashvinikumars are the twin sons of Vivasvat and Sharanyu.*(10.17.2)

They are also called as sons of sky or the offspring of sea and also known as Dastra and Nastya. (1.116.1-23)

In Rigveda so many references are found giving descriptions about *Ashvinikumars* viz, The Ashvins are long handed, were ever young, knows everything, can go everywhere, had ship, and golden chariot runs without horses, they know about earthly and heavenly medicine, skilled in surgery etc.

Incidents in their Medical practices as described in Rigveda-

1. Restored Chyavan rishis youth and beauty by giving Rasayan chikitsa to him.(1.116.10)
2. Rendered the old Kali young.(1.112.15)
3. When Vispalas leg was severed in battle they substituted an iron leg instead. (1.112.10)
4. Cured Rijrasvas of his blindness ,(1.112.8)

5. They treated Paravajras blindness and lame.(1.112.8)
6. They revived Rasi reva who was drowned in water.(1.112.5)
7. They treated Vadrimitis infertility and delivered her with ease(1.116.13)
8. Treated kustha of princess Ghosha ,daughter of Kakshivana.(1.117.7)
9. they treated deafness and blindness of kakishvat and weak knees of sage Shrona (1.112.8)
10. Delivered Vamadeva from his mothers womb(1.119.7)
11. Learned Madhuvidya or techniques of plastic surgery from Maharishi Dadhichi and performed whole horse head implant surgery on him.(1.116.12)
12. They performed surgery on Shyava who was cut in three pieces and later on cured his kushtha also.(1.117.24)
13. They are also known as best physician and surgeons of that time (1.34.6)
14. Treated Vadhramati for vandhyatva/infertility and easy labour. (1.112.7)
15. Treated princess Ghosha, daughter of king kakswana for leprosy.

In Rigveda following synonyms are used for Ashvinikumaras

1. Shatakratu- (1.112.23)
2. Nara (1.46.4)
3. Dhananjayas (7.74.3)
4. Rudras(2.41.7)

5. Madhuvidya Visharada(1.116.12)
6. Prachetas(7.15.20)
7. Maghava (8.26.7)
8. Bhisaj.(1.116.16)
9. Paura (5.74.4)
10. Aamara(5.77.5)
11. Vidhata. (1.181.7)
12. Pusha (1.184.3)

In Atharvaveda *Ashvinikumars* are described as physicians of Gods.(7.53.1)

According to Charaka samhita *Ashvinikumaras* hold rights of having havibhaga i.e. share of offerings and sacrifices of different yadnyas performed because of

1. Treated broken teeth of pushna
2. Treated torn out eye, and stupefaction of arm of Bhaga.
3. Treated pthisis of Soma or Chandra.
4. Restored youth of Chyavana son of Bhrigu. (ch. Su. 1.)

According to Sushrutasamhita *Ashvinikumaras* performed following supernatural cures

1. They reunited served head as a sacrifice by king *Yadnya* to *Indra* .

BOOKS WRITTEN BY ASHVINIKUMARAS

1. Chikitsa sarantantra.- According to *Bramhavaivartapyrana* this book is written by *Ashvinikumaras*

2. *Haritaki Kapla-* mentioned in *Bower Manuscripts*
3. *Ashvinisamhita-* mentioned in *Bhavaprakasha*
4. *Dhaturatnamala-* a book on *Ayurvediya Rasashastra –MSS 1393 samvat 1717*
5. *Nadi vidnyana-* Abook on *ayurveiya pulse diagnosis methods –MSS GOML 13069*

MEDICINES INVENTED BY ASHVINIKUMARAS

1. *Ashvina haridra churna - BM p.251*
2. *Amrita taila- BM p.109*
3. *Ashvin haritaki kalpa-Harit samhita 3/29 p.139*
4. *Amruta guggulu- G N 2/p.240*
5. *Amrutadi Ghrita- bhavaprakasha 2/21 p.610*
6. *Amruta prasavavleha - bhavaprakasha 2/21 p.388*
7. *Ashvinrasayana- Harit samhita 3/29 p.148*
8. *Ashvagandhadi Basti - Harit samhita 3/29 p.139*
9. *Ayalapatti Rasa- Ch SA Sang. P.*
10. *Ayoraja yoga- Bhavprakasha -2/3 p.37 chakradatta – p.384*
11. *Brihat Narikela Khanda-Bhavprakasa- 2/8 p. 368-9*
12. *Brihat Gudapippali –R.s.s. 401*
13. *Brihat Agnimukha Churna –GN-1.p.83*

14. Chitraka avaleha- GN 1.- p. 156
15. Jwarahara churna – BM p.102
16. Vishahara churna BM p.100
17. Vardhamanapippali rasayana HS 3/29 p.142
18. Gulmahara churna – BM p. 88
19. Raktastambhak yoga – BMp. 117
20. Kshirayoga – CD 33 p. 497
21. Ohalaghrita G N 1.p. 15
22. Punarnavaguggulu CD 2/2 p. 152
23. Kumkumadyataila. CD. 2/2. P.274
24. Mahasugandhadi taila VM p.527
25. Kushmadaka Rasayan – GN p.840
26. Dadimadya navanita – CD p.199
27. Shatavari navanita – GN 1. P. 14
28. Hingvdy churna -. Ashvinsamhita p.69
29. Dashanga taila- GN1p. 45
30. Haritaka Avaleha – GN 1. P.150
31. Martanda rasa – GOML 13140
32. Swalpakadalikhandaghrita- Sanshkipasara p. 44
33. Matulunga vati CD.p.251
34. Lashuna navanita CD p.100

All of us in Ayurveda world believe the science of life that is Ayurveda is divine in origin.

ब्रह्मा स्मृत्वाऽऽयुषो वेदं प्रजापतिमजिब्रह्म ।

सोऽश्विनौ तौ सहस्राक्षं सोऽनिपुत्रादिकान्मुनीन् ॥ अ ह सू १/३⁽²⁰⁾

According to *Ashtanga Hridaya Samhita*, *Bramha* is the creator of the universe; he recalled Ayurveda and gave its knowledge to *Prajapati* who further gave this knowledge to *Ashvinikumars*.

Discussion:

Shatakratu, Nara, Dhananjayas , Rudras, Madhuvidya Visharada, Prachetas, Maghava, Bhishaj, Paura, Amara, Pusha are synonyms used for quoting contribution of Ashwinows in different treatises. References of five books found in various Sanskrit literature are said to be written by *Ashwins* Though these literature was written in different time period, this may be mere extracts of *Ashwin Samhita* a treatise on Ayurveda by Ashwinows . This is also a indication of availability of that *Samhita* to the referring author though it is not available in this era. Ashwins *seems* to be first surgeon, inventor who made this science as a science of life and written book on this science. They could be a physician and surgeon both as some of surgical implants and treated diseases are elaborated in various Sanskrit texts.

The first ever whole head implant surgery was reported in Rigveda was performed by Ashvins, whole body reunion microsurgery and first ever artificial steel implant was also performed by Ashwins, this is indicative of advanced knowledge and skills developed in the field of artificial implants and plastic surgery techniques practiced in ayurveda at that time.

As references were scattered and were from different era, no conclusion about

time period could be drawn. A sculpture of Ashwinikumaras found in Indian subcontinent is indication of Ayurveda is being practiced in very large area of population i.e. Indian subcontinent. The oldest sculpture found is calculated as 2500 years old and found at lepakshi, Karnataka, India. As they are twin brothers and performed first ever implant of horse head surgery on human being giving tribute to these brothers various artists used two headed human idol of horse headed human for indication of Ashvins.

Conclusions

- 1) *Ashvins* were renowned physician, surgeon, researcher, author, in the field of Ayurveda.
- 2) The first ever whole head implant surgery was reported in Rigveda was performed by Ashvins, whole body

References:

1. Bramhavaivarta purana ch xvi ,Editor ramachandra Sharma shastri,published by Dharma grantha Prakashan New Delhi Edition 1,1990
2. History of Indian medicine, vol.1 By- G.Mukhopdhyaya. publisher – Munshiram manoharlal publication new delhi 2nd edition 1974
3. Rasa sara sangraha, Rasachandrika Commentary, By Shri Gopalkrishna,Choukhabha Amarbharti Prakashan Varanasi ,6th Edition 1981
4. Rigveda, The Vedas, Compiled by the Dharmic Scriptures Team November 24, 2002

reunion microsurgery and first ever artificial steel implant was also performed by Ashwins.

- 3) *Ashwin samhita* is treatise on Ayurveda which is now not available.
- 4) Sculptures of *Ashvins* found in Indian subcontinent are suggestive of geographical developmental pattern of Ayurveda.
- 5) 34 formulations were found in different Ayurvedic literature, which are attributed, ascribed to *Ashwinikumaras* .
- 6) References of five books found in various Sanskrit literatures are said to be written by *Ashwins*.

Nadi pariksha in Ayurveda is supposed to be introduced and developed by *Ashwins* .

5. Bower manuscripts, History of Indian medicine, vol.1 By- G.Mukhopdhyaya. publisher –Munshiram manoharlal publication new delhi 2nd edition 1974
6. Bhavaprakasha Vidyotini Tika, by Ramashankar Shastri, Publisher – Choukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan Varanasi, edition 8 ,1984
7. Governments official manuscripts list
8. Harit Samhita , Editor- Ramanand Shastri, publisher- Prachya Prakashan Varanasi, edition 1, 1986
9. Chakradutta By Jagadishwar Tripathi Publisher Choukhambha Sanskrit Series First Edition

10. Gada nigraha vol Rasa sara sangraha, Rasachandrika Commentary, By Shri Gopalkrishna, Choukhabha Amarbharti Prakashan Varanasi ,6th Edition 1981
11. History of Indian medicine, vol.1 By- G.Mukhopdhyaya. publisher – Munshiram manoharlal publication new delhi 2nd edition 1974
12. www.wikipedia.org/ashwins. last assed on 15/6/20156
13. Charaka Samhita –Shruti Tika By Dr Sushil Yanpallewar , Publisher Shantanu Prakashan Pune 2nd Edition 2015
14. Ashtanga Hridayam Sutrasthanam – Shruti Tika By Dr Sushil Yanpallewar, Publisher Shantanu Prakashan Pune 1st Edition 2009
15. Sushrut Samhita Hindi Vykhya By A.Vidyalankar ,Publisher Choukhambha Sanskrit Sansthan Varanasi 6th Edition 1987