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Review Article

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A literary review of Kaasam to treat with Siddha drugs and justified Siddha concept

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Abstract

From past many decades diseases is being increased in number with more severities. To treat the diseases ancient doctors called siddhars had a lot of simple and compound remedies to treat such cases for the betterment. Those medicines are mentioned in palm leaf manuscripts in ancient days. In siddha system the term *kaasam* refer to tuberculosis. Various other names are also available such as *Yasama, Rajayasma, ilaippunoi etc.* Beingan infective diseases it affects peoples with low immune power easily. Even children are affected to it mostly now a days. As mentioned in the siddha texts many siddha medicines are available with a better result. This paper deals with a remedy for*kaasam* with the justification in siddha concepts.

Keywords: Kaasam, infective diseases, siddha medicines.

Introduction

18 siddhars are the pillars of the siddha system in them father of this system is *Agathiyar*. Practicing siddha system of medicine as a traditional medicines are oldest system have gained a lot of importance towards people. Siddha system has external and internal medicines are 32 types in each category. All the medicines are available in various forms internal medicines in the form of *choornam*, *parpam*, *maathirai*, *legiyam etc.*,, and external medicines are in the form of *kalikam*,*pattru*,*otradam*,*kalikkam*,*nasiyam* *etc.* it is crystal clear that siddha medicines were there for several thousand of years.*kaasam* affects all the vitals in body such as seven constituents (*udalthaadhukkal*),three humours(*uyirthaadhukkal*),96 philosophies (96 *thathuvams*).Imbalance in all these causes a diseases. Our culture is blended with our system of medicine so it is considered as a holistic medicine and helpful in treating the diseases *kaasam*^[1]. Ka*asam*occurs with the raise in kabha from its own state (*thannnilai*) and it is compared with siddha aspect and modern aspect.

S.No	Characters of raise in kabha	Siddha aspect of Kaasam	Tuberculosis
1.	Agni manthapadal ^[2]	Hate towards food. ^[3]	Loss of appetite ^[4]
2.	Ookamkuraidhal ^[2]	Day by day body gets	Emaciation
		weaker. Lean stature ^[3]	Weakness or fatigue ^[4]
3.	Kulirchiadaithal ^[2]	Running nose	Chills ^[4]
		(Rhinorrhoea) Sputum with blood	
		(ĥemoptisis)	
		Hoarseness of voice ^[3]	
4.	Irumal ^[2]	Initially:mild cough	a bad cough ^[4]
		Later:severe cough ^[3]	

Table 1. Comparison of Kaasam with raise in Kabha In siddha concept and modern concept

From this comparison we understand that kaasam is purely a kabha diseases.

Siddha drugs used for Treating kaasam:

1.Swasakudorimaathirai.

2.Thaalagakaruppu.

3. Muthuchippiparpam.

Table 2.Swasakudori Mathirai: SVT^[5]

S.No	Plant name [5]	Botanical name	family	Part used
1.	Vellerukanpoo	Calotropis gigantea	Asclepiadaceae	Flower
2.	Pepper	Piper nigrum	Piperaceae	Fruit

Method of preparation

Dosage : kundri size (130 mg)

Both are taken in an equal ratio which are triturated and made into a tablets.

Adjuvant: Thalisadikudineer

Indications: cough ,Kaasam.

Table 3.Thaalaga karuppu: SVT ^[5]

S.No	Ingredients	Names	Ratio
1.	Thaalagam	Orpiment	1 part
2.	Nathai	Fresh water	2 parts
		snail	

Method of preparation:

Both the ingredients are triturated well and made into a single cakes and subjected topudam then it is made into a powder. Dosage:1-2 ulunthedai (130 mg)

Adjuvant: honey, thal is a dichoornam.

Indications: suvasakasam, kaasam, suram.

S.No	Name	Common name\Botanical	Family	Part used
		name		
1.	Muthuchippi	Pearl oyster shell	-	Shell
2.	Adathodai leaf juice	Justice beddomei	Acanthaceae	Leaf
3.	Nochi leaf juice	Vitex negundo	Lamiaceae	Leaf
4.	Nilapanai juice	Curculigo orchioides	Hypoxidaceae	Rhizome

Table 4.Muthu chippi parpam: SVT ^[5]

Method of preparation:

Muthuchippi is mixed with the juices one by one and subjected topandripudam (50 dung cakes).

S. No	Ingredients	Taste	Character	Digested taste	Actions
1.	Erukkanpoo	Bitter Pungent sweet	hot	pungent	Expectorant tonic
2.	Pepper	Bitter pungent	hot	pungent	stimulant
3.	muthuchippi	Bitter sweet	cold	sweet	expectorant
4.	Adathodai	Bitter	hot	pungent	Expectorant antispasmodic
5.	Nochi	Bitter Pungent astringent	hot	pungent	expectorant
6.	Nilapanai	sweet	cold	sweet	Tonic Diuretic emolient

Table 5: Taste and actions of the drugs: [6]

Table 6: Actions ^[7]

S.No	Name	actions
1.	Thaalagam	Tonic
		antipyretic
2.	Nathai	-

Table 7: Role of kabam in ^[2]

S.No	Raise in kabha from its own state	Kabha comes to its own position
1.	Intake of any kabhaporutkal	Herbs with the taste of fire (thee bootha) among the five elements are needed the most which is present in pungent taste.
	Exposed to any cold conditions which promotes the growth of kabha from its normal state.	Brings back the deranged kabha to the normal state.
2.	Tastes which promote kabha growth: Sweet	Taste which equalizes the deranged kabha: Bitter Pungent Astringent

Taste that icrease kabha	Taste that equalise the kabam	
Sweet	Pungent	
Sour	Bitter	
salt	astringent	

Table 8: Taste: ^[2]

From this to understand that drugs are choosen in order to equalize the increasedkabha.

As mentioned in Sadaga naadi: ^[2]

Increased kabha + seethalam—obstruction of the respiratory tract.

Table 9: Kabam own qualities with opposite qualities: [2]

Own qualities	Opposite qualities
Heavy	Light
Cold	hot
Moist	dry
Soft	rough
Sweet	pungent
Immobile	mobile

Discussion

As mentioned above kaasam is being a respiratory illness. Kaasam mainly occurs due to the development of kabam from its normal state. So to equalize the deranged kabam a medicines with the taste that equalizes kabam (thannilaiadaya) is needed as mentioned in table 7. As quoted in the tabular column 9 of own qualities and opposite qualities. Which denotes the own qualities as a medicines to be used to treat deranged kaba. The medicines being pungent and with a compositin of fire in it which acts on the phlegm which makes immobile kabha to a mobile on as expectorant. The drugs involved are similar to the characters of the opposite qualities of kabha. Hence it is choosen. With its elemental composition of air (vali) and fire (thee) where it paves the way for kabam or the accumulated phlegm (koolai) in the cells to breakdown them and clears the obstruction which promotes the normal breath. The above mentioned medicines with its properties in table 5 which has the pungent taste which is the one among the three equalizing taste with expectorant action acts well to maintain the homeostatsis of the body.

Conclusion

Here by I conclude that the above mentioned medicines for the respiratory illness that is kaasam a kaba diseases is cured by the herbs with the pungent taste (a main composition of fire-thee) with expectorant nature in it. It acts well on this conditions.

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