

# Concept of Dravyaguna and Contribution towards Drug Action: An Ayurveda View

Dr. Rimi Singh<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Rinky Jatav<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Dravyaguna Department, Kritika Ayurvedic Medical College, Bareilly, U.P., India

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Dravyaguna Department, SRM Govt Ayurveda College, Bareilly, U.P., India

**Abstract:** *The ancient Ayurveda philosopher described the concept of Dravyaguna which deals with the properties of drugs and also establishes correlation between Ayurveda properties of Dravya and their biological action. The concept of Dravyaguna related with the nature, nomenclature, actions and properties, etc. of Dravyas. The Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka, Prabhava and Karma of Dravya play major role towards their biological action. The Ayurveda Samhitas put great emphasis on the concept of Dravyaguna. The Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka and Prabhava affects Doshas and Dhatus thus exhibited pharmacological actions. These attributes of Ayurveda drugs also alter Agni and Srotas, thus affects physiological functioning significantly. The properties of drugs considered responsible for specific therapeutic responses including pacification of Dosha, potentiating Dhatus, curing vitiation of Agni and relieving obstruction of Srotas, etc. These all-therapeutic properties of Dravya can be attributed to their Guna, Virya, Rasa and Vipaka. The knowledge of Dravyaguna Vigyan is very essential not only for therapeutic utilization of drugs but also for suggesting appropriate Ahara for diseased person since particular qualities of Ahara imparts specific responses which can either cause or treat diseases.*

**Keywords:** Ayurveda, Dravya, Dravyaguna, Ahara, Properties

## 1. Introduction

Dravyaguna is science described by Ayurveda philosopher with respect to the properties of substances especially Aushadhi (drug substances) and Ahara (dietary substances). The properties of substances play role towards their biological action. Similarly, substances like Visha exhibited fatal action by virtue of their properties that can be explained by the concept of Dravyaguna. The properties of Dravyas (drugs) are responsible for therapeutic action but also responsible for harmful effects if consumed inappropriately. The adverse effects of drug overdosing can be attributed to their Dravyaguna. Similarly, the harmful effect of Virudha Ahara is due to their inherent properties. The Dravyaguna contributed towards Panchabhutas (Akasha, Vayu, Agni, Jala and Prithivi). Inherent properties of drug substances alter states of Vata, Pitta and Kapha thus helps to synchronize their balances in pathological conditions. Dravyaguna of Aushadhi and Ahara affects Dhatus, Agni and Srotas thus imparts some biological actions.

The somatic Guna of substances are as follows:

- 1) Guru: Heavy
- 2) Laghu: Light
- 3) Shita: Cold
- 4) Ushna: Hot
- 5) Snigdha: Unctuous
- 6) Ruksha: Rough
- 7) Manda: Dull
- 8) Tikshna: Sharp
- 9) Shlakshna: Smooth
- 10) Khara: Course
- 11) Sandra: Solid
- 12) Drava: Liquid
- 13) Mridu: Soft
- 14) Kathina: Hard
- 15) Sthira: Stable
- 16) Sara: Unstable
- 17) Sukshma: Minute

- 18) Sthula: Gross
- 19) Vishada: Non slimy
- 20) Pichhila: Slimy

### RASA

Rasa is the object of sense organ responsible for particular type of taste. Rasa is combination of Bhutas in Dravya.

Rasas of Dravyas:

Madhura Sweet Amla Sour Lavana Salty Katu Pungent Tikta Bitter Kashay Astringent.

Madhura Rasa pacifies Pitta and promotes strength.

Amla Rasa pacifies Vata and offers Dipana-pachana effects.

Lavana Rasa pacifies Vata, it imparts carminative, digestive and appetizer properties, etc.

Katu Rasa pacifies Kapha aggravation, stimulates digestive fire and cure constipation.

Tikta Rasa pacifies Kapha and facilitates process of detoxification.

Kashaya pacifies Pitta, cure diarrhoea and stop discharge.

### Vipaka

Vipaka represents final transformed state of drugs after complete digestion. Vipaka determines future course of drug action after biotransformation.

Madhura vipaka helps in excretions and pacifies Pitta.

Amla vipaka offers carminative effect and improves digestion.

Katu vipaka helps to cure anorexia and relieves nausea/vomiting.

Volume 15 Issue 4, April 2026

Fully Refereed | Open Access | Double Blind Peer Reviewed Journal

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

**Virya**

Virya is Shakti that can be described as potency of substance. Drug acts as instrument by virtue of its Virya. It is believed that Virya decides onset and intensity of action of Dravyas.

Shita Virya produces contentment and gives soothing effect. Ushna Virya offers digestive and purgative properties.

- Snigdha Virya gives pleasantness and Vaajikaran effect.
- Ruksha Virya is good for Sangrahana.
- Guru Virya fills cavities and gives Sanshleshana action.
- Laghu Virya offers Kledaachushana and Lekhana effects.

**Prabhava (Specific Power)**

Prabhava can be described as specific property of substances or something being different from common qualities. This specific power of Dravyas depends upon their Bhautika composition. Ergot is analgesic drug but by virtue of Prabhava action it helps in pain and migraine. Similarly, Colchicine is useful for pain in case of gout but it is ineffective in other conditions of pain like; osteoarthritis. Its analgesic action in gout only can be attributed to its Prabhava.

**Karma (Action)**

Karma (action) of substances is defined as the cause of conjunction and disjunction that results movement and some activities. As like Guna the Karma is also located in Dravya, Karma does not require any other factors for creating the effects. Karma also not requires any other Karma for its operation since it is considered as Vaisheshikasutra means Karma does not caused any another Karma.

**Dravyaguna and mode of drug action:**

The drug action is related with following basic fundamentals:

- Concept of Loka-purusha-samyak.
- Similar/dissimilar properties increase or decreases effects of substances inside the body.
- The internal Prana of combined with the qualities of external Prana of five Bhutas to exert some biological action.
- When Rasa is of in equal strength, then Rasa is subdued by Vipaka and Virya.
- When Rasa are in unequal strength the potent one overcomes the weaker one.
- When there is inequality of strength of Rasa then their own action arises due to their inherent property.

**2. Conclusion**

The Ayurveda concept of Dravyaguna deals with properties of drugs and food stuffs, etc. This branch dedicated to the identification, nomenclature and descriptions of Dravya. The biological action of Dravya attributed to their properties including; Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka and Prabhava. As per Ayurveda the Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka and Prabhava of Dravya affect Doshas, Dhatus, Agni, Srotas and Mala, etc. thus exhibited biological actions inside the human body when these Dravya consumed as Aushadhi (drug substances) and Ahara (dietary substances). The properties of drugs are considered responsible for their specific therapeutic responses. Similarly, health benefits of Ahara can be

attributed to their properties. Dravyaguna contributed towards Panchabhutas constitution (Akasha, Vayu, Agni, Jala and Prithivi) and inherent properties of drug substances alter states of Vata, Pitta and Kapha thus helps to synchronize their balances in pathological conditions. The pharmacokinetic of Aushadhi inside the body merely depends upon their properties. Similarly, absorption, assimilation and elimination of Ahara depend upon their Guna, Rasa and Vipaka, etc. The Dravyaguna not only provides health benefits but also causes harmful effects if Dravya (Aushadhi and Ahara) consumed inappropriately. The knowledge of Dravyaguna Vigyan is very important not only for therapeutic utilization of drugs but also for suggesting Pathya Ahara for diseased person.

**References**

- [1] Sri Dalhana Acharya, Vaidya Jadvji Trikamji Acharya and Narayan Ram Acharya Kavyatirtha editor. Nibandha Sangraha commentary on Sushruta Samhita: Uttar Tantra 26/46, Shiroroga Pratishedha Adhyaya. Varanasi: Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan; reprint 2014. P.659.
- [2] Acharya P.V. Sharma. Dalhana and his comments on Drugs. New delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd.; First edition 1982. P.4.
- [3] Sri Dalhana Acharya, Vaidya Jadvji Trikamji Acharya and Narayan Ram Acharya Kavyatirtha editor. Nibandha Sangraha commentary on Sushruta Samhita: Chikitsa sthana 28/27, Medha Ayushkamiya Rasayana Chikitsa Adhyaya. Varanasi: Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan; reprint 2014. P.502.
- [4] Sri Dalhana Acharya, Vaidya Jadvji Trikamji Acharya and Narayan Ram Acharya Kavyatirtha editor. Nibandha Sangraha commentary on Sushruta Samhita: Sutra sthana 46/187, Anna-pana Vidhi Adhyaya. Varanasi: Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan; reprint 2014. P.228.
- [5] Sri Dalhana Acharya, Vaidya Jadvji Trikamji Acharya and Narayan Ram Acharya Kavyatirtha editor. Nibandha Sangraha commentary on Sushruta Samhita: Sutra sthana 46/163, Anna-pana Vidhi Adhyaya. Varanasi: Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan; reprint 2014. P.227.
- [6] Sri Dalhana Acharya, Vaidya Jadvji Trikamji Acharya and Narayan Ram Acharya Kavyatirtha editor. Nibandha Sangraha commentary on Sushruta Samhita: Uttar Tantra 55/43, Udavrata pratishedham Adhyaya. Varanasi: Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan; reprint 2014. P.780.