

**PRABHAV – A CONCEPTUAL VIEW****\*<sup>1</sup>Dr. Pooja Prasanna Purohit and <sup>2</sup>Dr Suraj Kumar Ramsukh Pathak**

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**ABSTRACT**

Some drugs act on the basis of their tastes, some on the basis of their attributes, some on the basis of their potency and some on the basis of their Vipaka. Actions of some drugs do not belong to any of these categories. They have specific actions to cure diseases which cannot be explained on the basis of Rasa, Guna, Virya and Vipaka. This specific action is called Prabhava. Two drugs may be similar in taste, attribute, potency and Vipaka, but their action might vary from each other. This is because of the Prabhava or specific action of the drug. According to Ayurvedic pharmacology the drug action is attributed to certain principles namely Rasa, Guna, Virya, Vipaka and Prabhava. It was observed that both the drugs as well as the living body have Panchabhutika composition in common and if the drugs are used sensibly, they can alter the body components accordingly. However if the Ayurvedic concepts are not properly understood and interpreted in

globally accepted language; the tremendous efforts in research would go meaningless and futile. It is therefore strongly needed to utilize the tools derived from the advancement in technology in the new millennium for re-establishing concepts of Ayurveda in current perspectives. Although many Ayurvedic concepts described in the Samhitas seem very easy, but they are actually very difficult to understand, as the Samhitas presented everything in a concise form. There are certain concepts which need to be explored and evaluated through their practical applicability. One of such concepts is the concept of Prabhava. In a nutshell there is an urgent need to develop a process and scientific method to understand these

principles. This review is an attempt to highlight the concept of Prabhava and its significance in present era.

**KEYWORDS:** Prabhav, Achintya Karma, Ayurveda.

### **Definitions**

Prabhava is the one which is specific and special power of the Dravya. The property which is responsible for the special or peculiar action of Dravya is known as prabhava. Prabhava may be defined as the special property which produces actions which are different from and contrary to those attributed to rasa, guna, virya and vipaka.

### **Synonyms**

Shakthi

Vichitra pratyarabdhatwa

Vikriti Vishama samaveta

Achinthya veerya

Achinthya

Anavadharaniya

Swabhava

### **Characteristics**

Prabhava is the property which is characterized by specific actions of substances which cannot be explained in terms of the pharmacological actions of various constituents of Dravya when they are considered individually in relation to each other. Though rasa, virya, vipaka are equal karma is mentioned specially because of one specific power. That specific property is known as Prabhava.

Prabhava is the unimaginable effect of the drugs as it happens in the case of Mani (precious stones), Manthra (sacred chantings) and celestial herbs. They act in a manner entirely different from the expected action without depending on taste, potency, quality and digested taste existing in them. The term shakthi or prabhava indicates the special or extreme capability of a drug this is always explained comparing two drugs, one with prabhava and one without.

### Concept of Prabhava

Prabhava has been explained while describing virya like, Dravya gatha shakthi of 2 types.

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Chinthya

Achinthya

Chinthya is one which has got base of karya karanabhava, hence it is called as chinthya other one is Achintya. It is told that due to sahaja dravya swabhava. i.e., Yukthipratipadya but not Buddhigamyā. Swabhava is Achintya hence prabhava also dravya-swabhavagatha hence that is Achintya. But it cannot be considered under the base of karyakaranabhava action of the Dravyagata rasadi padartha's will be changing because of prabhava and cause of this variation can not be predicted hence it is Achinthya. Prabhava as Achintya (unpredictable) generally from the constituents of a Dravya. It is also told the virya as Achinthya and chintya. The Achintya virya' is considered as prabhava. Prabhava can be explained through concept of Achintya virya' Prabhava janya karma is Achintya (unpredictable) and unquestionable.

On the basis of Panchanbhowtika composition dravya are divided into 2 groups: Samanya pratyarabdha dravya- Samanya pratyarabdha dravya are which exhibit structure related pharmacological activities and therapeutic effects. Vichitra prathyarabdha dravya - Vichitra prathyarabdha dravya are which do not have structural similarity among the constituents.

There is another classification.

1. Prakritisama samavet
2. Vikrit vishama samaveta

Basically there is no difference between samanya prathyarabdha dravya and prakritisama samaveta dravya but vikriti vishama samaveta differs from vichitra prathyarabdha dravyas. Vikriti vishama samaveta dravya will have similarity among the constituents but exhibits the special therapeutic effect independent of constituents. Thus prabhava may be tentavely divided into two categories.

Vikriti-vishama samaveta: structurally similar but functionally dissimilar Vichitra pratyarabdha: structurally dissimilar but functionally similar.

**Dravya prabhava:** Drug action independent of the constitution

Ex: Some of the drugs which are Dosha prashamana, dhatu pradushana, swastahitha.

Guna prabhava: Drug action depends upon the constituents.

Dravya-guna prabhava: Drug action depending upon the Dravya as well as guna.

The following actions are exhibited through Prabhava.

Agadiya karma (antidotal activity) Ex: Shirisha.

Virechana karma (Purgative property) Ex: Danthi

Rakshoghna karma (Antimicrobial property) Ex: Guggulu,

Jatamamsi- Manasa karma (Psychologic activity) Ex: Kushta,

Raktachitraka- Bhowtika karma (Physical activity)

### **Prabhava in modern pharmacology**

Prabhava: According to Modern Pharmacology: Prabhava can be explained in following ways: Prabhava is considered as non-specific activity of drugs. There are many pharmacological properties mentioned in Modern pharmacology which results in non-specific activity.

Usually it is believed that drugs with similar chemical structure will have similar pharmacological actions. But it is not possible to predict their activity on the basis of chemical structure alone. Some times drugs with similar chemical structure may have entirely different actions.

Ex: Morphine and papavarine are structurally similar but their pharmacological action is different, the former is narcotic and CNS dipresent while the later is non-narcotic and muscle relaxant. There are certain drugs like phenobarbitone chloral hydrate paraldehyde etc, which are structurally different but all are CNS depressants.

In pharmacology, the drug activity can be classified as.

- Structurally non-specific
- Structurally specific

Structurally Non-specific: This activity is dependent on physical properties like solubility partition coefficients and vapor pressure and not on the presence or absence of some chemical group. Substances such as alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, alcohols amides, ethers. ketones &

chlorinated hydrocarbons exhibit narcotic activity and potency of each substance is related to its partition coefficient structurally non-specific action results from accumulation of a drug in some vital part of a cell with lipid characteristics.

Structurally specific: This activity is dependent upon the factors such as the presence or absence of certain functional groups, intra-molecular distance and shape of molecule. Activity is not easily correlated with any physical property and small changes in structure often leads to changes in activity structurally specific activity is dependent upon interaction of the drug with a cellular receptor.

**Medicinal Dravya's which has prabhava.**

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Dhatu</b>	<b>Prabhav</b>
Swarna	Dhatu	Thridoshaghna
Abhraka	Dhatu	Thridoshaghna
Kshara	Kshar	Thridoshaghna
Mandukaparni	Medhyadi	Medhya