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Abstract

This research dissertation composed with the title “A Study on Ayurvedic Principles in Agni Purāṇa” studies Purāṇa literature and Ayurveda literature and examines Ayurvedic information in Agni Purāṇa in accordance with the details of Sanskrit Purāṇa literature focusing mainly on Agni Purāṇa. The study has been carried out as a literary survey focusing on headings such as Ayurvedic principles composed in Agni Purāṇa, applicability of these principles, comparison of these principles with the principles of fundamental three Ayurvedic texts, (vṛddhatrāya) the light these details shed on Ayurveda etc. and comparing Ayurvedic principles of Agni Purāṇa with three classics of Ayurveda.

First chapter includes Purāṇa literature, Ayurveda literature and schools of Ayurveda as well as their branches and sub-branches; second chapter is about the content of Agni Purāṇa whereas third chapter delineates Pasu Chikīthṣā, Vriksa Chikīthṣā, Kāya Chikīthṣā Vājīkarana miscellaneous medications (nānā Chikīthṣā) for the illness related to serpent-bites and planetary affections. In fourth chapter, there is a comparative examination of details provided by third chapter with those details of three fundamental texts (vṛddhatrāya) in Ayurveda. Since these fundamental texts have no records about Pasu Chikīthṣā and Vriksa Chikīthṣā this comparison is not possible. Even in physical medication, there is no comparison about child medication because these fundamental texts do not supply them.

Fifth chapter is devoted for conclusion. Here, conclusion is drawn considering all previous chapters. It concludes that Agni Purāṇa contains more information about veterinary, botanical and child medication than any other text has; though there are minor occurrences of similarity about medication between Agni Purāṇa and fundamental three classics there is no adversity in principles even in dissimilar cases; teachings of Agni Purāṇa are of independent writer and not directly quoted from fundamental classics; though medications are not totally similar to each other they are not totally dissimilar as well; there is a similarity of materials used for medications in Agni Purāṇa and fundamental texts to some extent; there are more details about magic spells (mantra) and planets (graha) in Agni Purāṇa than that in fundamental texts; Agni Purāṇa has no information about basic details on symptoms of diseases, analysis of them etc., which are available in fundamental texts.

Key Terms: Agni Purāṇa, Ayurveda, vṛddhatrāya, Ayurvedic principles, medication