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Review Article

CLINICAL ASPECT OF GUNA SIDDHANTA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TRISUTRA AYURVEDA Gupta Monika^{1*}, Gudipudi V.S.S.N Sarvabhouma¹, Pujar Rashmi², S Gopikrishna³

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda emphasises on maintaining the healthy life and curing the disease of diseased. Various *Siddhantas* (Principles) have been mentioned in Ayurveda Treatise. *Shatpadartha* is one among the *Siddhantas* which hold basis for *Dhatusamyata* (equilibrium in bodily humours). *Guna* (attributes) is one amongst *Shatpadartha* explained in classical texts, which is *Nischestyaa* (inactive) remains with *Samvayi Sambandha* (inseparable relation) in *Dravya. Acharya Charaka* has enlisted 41 *Guna* and classified them into *Sartha Guna, Paradi Guna, Gurvadi Guna* and *Prayatnadi Guna. Trisutra Ayurveda* shows marked relation with *Guna Siddhanta*. The concept of *Guna Siddhanta* forms an underlying source of principles in practice to infer the *Trisutra* i.e. *Hetu* (Etiological factors), *Linga* (Symptoms) and *Aushada* (Treatment). The present article aims to confer the clinical understanding of *Guna Siddhanta* based on *Samhita* to provide an insight by *Hetu, Linga, Aushada* and bring about *Dhatusamyata*.

INTRODUCTION

Karya Karana Siddhanta has been explained in Ayurveda treatise. Karanas which are defined as cause are required to bring out Karya i.e. Chikitsa and goal of Chikitsa is to attain Dhatu Samyata. To bring about *Dhatu Samayata*, Shatpadarthas (Karanas) are marked essential.[1,2] as Shatpadarthas have been mentioned as Samanya, Vishesha, Guna, Dravya, Karma and Samvaya. Among which Dravya is Pradhana and possesses specific property which are termed as Guna.[3] The word 'Guna' is derived from the Dhatu 'Guna Amantrane', which means it attracts towards itself.[4] Guna entity stands for both physical and chemical property^[5] and are classified under various categories as per various Acharyas (Table 1). Swasthasya Swasthya Rakshana and Aturasya Vikara Prashamanam is the objective of Avurveda. To attain this objective, Trisutra Ayurveda (Hetu,

Linga and Aushada) has been explained. [8] Guna entity is considered as the cause of Vriddhi of Doshas as well as Vyadhi of Shareera which depends upon Trisutra Ayurveda. The present study aims to elucidate the concept of Guna in perspective of its importance in Hetu, Linga and Aushada to attain Dhatusamyata.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To understand the *Guna Siddhanta* in clinical practice wsr to *Trisutra* Ayurveda.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Concepts related to *Gunas* are analysed in perspective of their clinical application from Ayurvedic literature, internet source and various journals. Further understanding has been proposed in regard to title.

Table 1: A Classification of Guna

Classification of Guna	Classification of Guna				
Acharya Charaka	41	Sartha Guna (5)			
		Paradi Guna (10)			
		Guruvadi Guna (20)			
		Prayatna Guna (6)			
Acharya Sushruta	20				
Acharya Vagbhatta	20				
Acharya Chakrapani [3]		Vaisheshika Guna (Adhibhoutika Guna), Samanya Guna			
		(Adhibhoutika Guna and Aatma Guna (Adhyatmika Guna)			
Yogendranath Sena [7]	42	41 Gunas +Mana			
Vedanta Nagarjuna [5]		Has mentioned Sheetoshnadi Dasa Karmanya Gunas			
Sidhanta Chandrodaya [6]		Has mentioned Aalasya as Guna			
Kanaada	17				
Nyaya Darshana	24				
Vedanta Darshana	innumerable				

DISCUSSION

In Ayurveda, Shatpadarthas (Samanya, Vishesha, Guna, Dravya, Karma and Samvaya) are responsible for every phenomenon so is termed as Karanas. Guna is one such entity which has inseparable relation with Dravya. Ayurveda affirmed Tri Sutra (Hetu, Linga and Aushada) as helpful components to treat disease. Karanatva of Guna depends upon Trisutra and there is marked relation between them. [8-9]

Guna and Tri Sutra Ayurveda Guna in Hetu

Hetu is defined as a cause or reason. Synonyms of Hetu are mentioned as Nimitta. Avatana. Karaka, Karta, Karana, Pratyaya, Samuthanam, Mulam and Yoni.[10] Chakrapani opines that successful treatment depends on proper understanding about Hetu of the disease. For example, intake of excess of Madhuradi Dravyas manifests with Kaphaja Vikara due to Guru, Sheeta and Snigdha Guna. To treat the disease the Nidana has to be evaluated and avoidance of those Nidana i.e. Nidana Parivarjana Chikitsa to be adopted as one of the treatment modality.[11]

Guna in Linga

Linga is defined as characteristic or sign. Linga, Akriti, Lakshana, Cinha, Samsthana, Vyanjana and Rupa are mentioned as synonyms. [11] Lakshanas are manifested based on increase or decrease in Gunataha, Dravataha and Karmataha of Doshas. [3]

For example; Reduction in *Chala Guna* of *Vata* causes *Alpa Chesta* as a symptom.

Guna in Aushada

Thorough examination of the patient is the initial step which is followed by planning appropriate therapeutics.[12] Before administration of any Dravya in treatment, details of Dravya (Nama, Rupa and Guna) should be known by physician.[13] Each *Dravya* possesses specific property without which it does not have its significance. For example, Vardamana Pippali Rasayana possesses Laghu-Tikshana Guna, Katu Rasa, Madhura Vipaka and produces Agnideepana, Amapachana, Vatashamaka and Rasayana effect and is marked as drug of choice in Amavata.[14] Gunas are not only helpful in curative aspect even also in preventive aspect.[15] As little fire kindled gradually with grass or cow dung becomes stable so in case of Agni after Shodhana following of Pevadi Krama makes the *Agni* to digest all types of food, it is based on Guna Prabhava. Even the Guna Karma of Anna Dravya has also been described in Annapana Vidhi.[16] Thus Guna in Aushada as well as in Ahara has its significance.

Enumeration of Guna

Acharyas has enlisted 41 Gunas into Sartha Guna, Paradi Guna, Gurvadi Guna and Prayatanta Guna (Table 2).

Table 2: Enumeration of Guna

Sartha Gunas (5)	Paradi Gunas (10)	Gurvadi Guna (20)	Prayatnadi Guna (6)
Shabda	Paratva	Guru-Laghu	Sukha
Sparsha	Aparatva	Sheeta-Ushna	Dukha
Rupa	Yukti	Manda-Teekshana	Buddhi
Rasa	Sanskara	Snigdha-Ruksha	Iccha
Gandha	Samyoga	Sthira-Sara	Dwesha
	Samkhya	Mridu-Kathina	Prayatna
	Vibhaga	Visada-Picchila	
	Parinama	Slakshna-Khara	
	Prithakatva	Sukshma-Sthula	
	Abhyasa	Sandra-Drava	

Sartha Guna: Sartha means having an object to serve the purpose. To serve the purpose or to acquire valid knowledge Pramanas have been mentioned in classics.[17] Pramanas are essential tool which are helpful in Roga and Rogi Pariksha. Pariksha is a Pramana by which objects are rightly known. Shabda, Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa and Gandha Guna are described as Sartha Gunas. With the help of Sartha Guna. Pariksha can be done and various Lakshanas (symptoms) of diseases can diagnosed (Table 2). Sartha Gunas are predominant of Panchamahabhutas and are perceived by Panchagyanendriyas. Specific finding of diseases can be perceived by utilising Shabda, Sparsha, Rupa and Gandha Guna and Pramana (Pratyaksha Pramana and Aptopdesha Pramana) except the Rasa Guna which has to be detected through *Prashana* Pariksha and Anumana Pramana.

Clinical Understanding of Sartha Guna

For instance Asatmendriyartha Samyoga of Karnaendriya as Hetu, Shabda Asehshnuta in Rasa Kshaya (symptom)^[18], Paravat Eva Kujana in Kshataja Kasa (sign)^[19] as Lakshana can be inferred with Shabda Guna. Various drugs have their specific morphological features such as Gunja, which makes rattling sound it can be identified easily with Shabda Guna. In view of Chikitsa, Yoga Nidra is based on sound effect.

Similarly some of the other examples have been discussed below (Table 2) to illustrate significance of *Sartha Guna*. Thus *Sartha Guna* has its significance in accessing etiological factors, signs and symptoms, identification and treatment of disease.

Table 2: Relation of Sartha Guna, Hetu, Lakshanas and Chikitsa

Artha Guna	Hetu	Linga	Dravyas	Chikitsa
Shabda (Sound)	Asatmendriyartha Samyoga of Karnaendriya	Paravat Eva Kujana in Kshataja Kasa	Gunja (Abrus precatorius) produces rattling sound	Yoga Nidra in Manasika Rogas
Sparsha (Touch)	Asatmendriyartha Samyoga of Twakendriya	Ushna Sparsha in Jwara	Kapikacchu (Mucuna pruriens) known by its touch	Vedana Sthapana Dravyas in pain management
<i>Rupa</i> (Visual)	Asatmendriyartha Samyoga of Chakshurendriya	Haridra Netra Mutra Twak in Kamala	Eranda (Ricinus communis) known for its appearance (Panchangula)	Trataka to maintain the concentration
Rasa (Taste)	Asatmendriyartha Samyoga of Rasanendriya	Tikta Amla Udgara in Amlapitta	Ikshu (Saccharum officinarum) is sweet in taste	Gandusha, Kavala in Mukhapaka, Gala Roga
Gandha (Smell)	Asatmendriyartha Samyoga of Ghranendriya	Kunapagandham in Kardama Visarpa	Gandhaprasarini (Paederia foetida) imparts bad odour	Dhupana, Nasya Karma in Urdwa Jatrugata Rogas, Sangyasthapana drugs

Paradi Guna: The word *Paradi* refers to *Para* and *Adi Guna. Para* means superior and *Adi* refers to other nine *Gunas. Paradi Gunas* are *Paratva, Aparatva, Yukti, Samkhya, Samyoga, Vibhaga, Prithakatva, Parinama, Samskara* and *Abhyasa*. There are many factors on which accomplishment of treatment depends; *Paradi Guna* is one among them.^[3]

Clinical Understanding of Paradi Guna

Acharya Charaka has opined that without prior knowledge of Paradi Guna, Chikitsa cannot be possible thus Paradi Guna has been mentioned as Chikitsa Siddha Upaya. [20] Upaya is an excellence of physician and pharmacist. Charaka has quoted Upaya is supremacy of Karta, Karana and Karya Yoni i.e., Bhisak, Aushada and Dhatu Vaishamya respectively. It can be interpreted as follows (Table 3).

Table 3: Clinical Aspect of Paradi Guna

S.No	Paradi Guna	Meaning	Example
1.	Paratva	Superior	Collection of drug depends on Paratva and Aparatva Guna. For
2.	Aparatva	Inferior	example Khadira as Kushtaghna (Paratva), Anupa Desha (Aparatva) ^[4]
3.	Yukti	Application/ intelligent weighing of circumstances	Selection or administration of specific drug to treat the disease depends on <i>Yukti</i> . For example Usage of <i>Taila</i> in <i>Vattika</i> diseases, <i>Ghrita</i> in <i>pattika</i> diseases, <i>Madhu</i> in <i>Kaphaja</i> diseases [21]
4.	Samkhya	Enumerate	Number of ingredients in formulation, combination of two or more drugs, no of times the drug has to be given, is carried out by <i>Samkhya Guna</i> . For example <i>Navayasa Loha</i> has 9 ingredients ^[22]
5.	Samyoga	Conjunction	Quality with two or more combination of drugs specifies <i>Samyoga Guna</i> . For example administration of <i>Mishraka Sneha</i> in <i>Kaphaja Gulma</i> .[23]
6.	Vibhaga	Apportionment	Differentiation between diverse objects. For example Three Vibhaga of Kukshi.
7.	Prithakatva	Widely Apart	Differential diagnosis of various diseases, <i>Amsha Amsha Kalpana</i> of <i>Doshas</i> , subtypes of diseases is application of <i>Vibhaga Guna</i> .
8.	Parimana	Measurement	Parimana Guna indicates weightage, dosage. To explain this, Matra has been explained in context of Ahara Matra, Aushada Matra by Acharya charaka.
9.	Sanskara	Preparation/ Refining	Modification of original property of drug and changing it into multiple forms to treat different diseases or increase/decrease in concentration of drug signifies the <i>Samskara Guna</i> . For example <i>Dadhi</i> is <i>Shotha Kara</i> but after <i>Manthana</i> is <i>Shotha Hara</i> . ^[24]
10.	Abhyasa	Doing act continuously	Acharya Charaka has explained Abhyasa in sense of practice. For example in Vaidya Guna. Also another word for Abhyasa in Samhita is Oka. Concept of Satmya and Oka Satmya is applied aspect of abhyasa guna. In treatment aspect, Sahastra Bhallataaka Prayoga in Rasayana Adhyaya is another example for Abhyasa Guna.

Gurvadi Guna: Gurvadi Guna refers to Guru and Adi Gunas. Guru means heavy and Adi refers to other 19 Gunas. Acharyas have mentioned classification of Gurvadi Gunas (Table 4). Kaviraja Gangadhara has mentioned it as Sharirika Guna. [5] Knowledge of Gurvadi Guna provides better way to diagnose and treat diseases.

Table 4: Gurvadi Gunas

Acharya Charaka ^[3] Acharya Vagbhata ^[25]	Guru (Heavy), Laghu (Lightness), Seeta (Cold), Usna (Hot), Snigdha (Oily), Ruksha (Dry), Manda (Dull), Tikshna (Sharp), Sthira (Firm), Sara (Moving), Mridu (Soft), Kathina (Hard), Visada (Clear), Picchila (Sliminess), Slakshna (Smoothness), Khara (Roughness), Sukshma (Subtle), Sthula (Gross), Sandra (Dense), Drava (Fluidity)
Acharya Sushruta ^[26]	Vyavayi Guna, Vikashi Guna, Ashukari (Chala), Sugandha (Manda), Daurgandha (Teekshana) can be accommodated under 20 properties.

Clinical Understanding of Gurvadi Guna

Table 5: Clinical Aspect of Gurvadi Guna

Gurvadi Guna	Meaning	Hetu	Linga	Aushada
Guru	Heavy	Intake of excess of Madhura Dravyas does Vriddhi of Kapha Dosha causes Sthoulya	Tandra in Kapha Jwara, Guruta in Pandu Roga	Guru Cha Apatarpana Chikitsa in Prameha
Laghu	Light	Laghu Ahara as Hetu in Vataja Jwara	Krushata in Apatarpanottha Vikara	Laghu Cha Santarpana Chikitsa in Karshaya
Sheeta	Cold	Sheeta Pana causing Swasa Roga	Sheeta Abiprayata in Pittaja Jwara	In <i>Daha, Sheeta Guna</i> <i>Dravyas</i> are used
Ushna	Hot	Excessive consumption of Ushna Bhojana causes Pittaja Jwara	Santapa in Jwara	Agruvadi Lepa in Jwara
Snigdha	Unctuous	Snigdha Bhojana causing Santarpana Janya Vikara	Snigdha Varchas in Sneha Siddha Lakshanas	Snehana therapy
Ruksha	Dry	Ruksha Pana causing Gulma	Twak Rukshata in Kushta	Baluka Sweda in Amavata
Manda	Dull	Manda Dadhi causing Raktapitta, Mandagni causative factor for all disease	Manda Vedana in Kaphaja Vrana	Manda Guna Dravyas for Dosha Shamana in Krsha and Daurbalya persons
Tikshana	Sharp	Teekshana Aushada as Hetu of Vataja Chardi	Daha in Kushta	Tikshana Guna of Madhya in Madyatya, Shodhana therapy
Sthira	Firm	Sthira Anna causing Granthi Visarpa	Alpa Cheshta in Apatantraka, Gatra Saada in Pandu Roga	Stambhana therapy, Bruhmana Dravyas
Sara	Moving	Atya ambupana in Udakodhara	Bahudrava Sarana in Atisara	Haritaki with Sara Guna helps in Anulomana Karma
Mridu	Soft	Due to improper administration of <i>Sneha</i> leads to manifestation of <i>Sneha</i> <i>Vyapad</i>	Mridu Sparsha in Pittodara	Mridu Sweda for Sthaulya patients
Kathina	Hard	Atikatina Ahara in Sannipatijja Atisara	Kathinya in Amavata, Kathinya in Visphota, Kathina Udara in Kaphodara	Langhaniya Dravyas, Rukshaniya Dravyas
Visada	Clear	Visada Guna of Apana Vata is affected in Anartava	Atopa in Pakwashaya Gata Vata, Anga Sphutana in Sarvanga Kupita Vata	Mudga having Vishada Guna and mitigates Pitta Kapha, Ropana Dravyas
Picchila	Slimy	Picchila Bhojana as Kaphaja Jwara Hetu	Picchila Mutra in Kaphaja Prameha	Madhura Rasa heals the wounds in Kshata Heena by its Picchila Guna
Slakshana	Smooth	Dadhi Sevana in Pitta Kapha Prakopaka Nidanas	Slakshanata in Mandala Kushta	Slakshna is useful for healing ulcers
Khara	Rough	Atikhara Ahara in Sannipataja	Khara Swara in Vataja	Vamana and Madhu

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		Atisara	Swarabheda	having <i>Visheshya Guna</i> as <i>Khara</i> causing alleviation of <i>Kapha Dosha</i>
Sukshma	Subtle	Rajas Dhuma as Hetu in Shwasa Roga	Vedana in Vata Vikaras	Swedana Karma, Madhu in Vamana Karma
Sthula	Bulk	Apathya Nimittija Ahara causing Madhumeha	Sthula Purusha in Prameha	Bruhmana Dravyas
Sandra	Dense	Sandra Guna as Hetu in Prameha	Sandra Srava in Mamsagata and Kaphaja Vrana	Sandra Guna in Kapha Kshaya, Sandra Guna in Takra in Udara
Drava	Fluid	Swadu-Amla Drava Pana in Krimi Roga	Drava pureesha in Grahani	Madhura Rasa due to its Drava Guna pacify Trishna

Prayatnadi Guna (Adhyatmika Guna)

Prayatnadi Gunas are attributed to Atman (knowledge of self). They are also termed as Adhyatmika Guna. The Manas, Mano Artha, Buddhi and Atman constitute Adhyatmika Dravyas and its Guna are regarded as Adhyatmika Guna. Prayatna, Buddhi, Iccha, Dwesha, Sukha, Dukha is Prayatnadi Gunas (Adhyatmika Guna).

Clinical Understanding of Prayatnadi Guna

Prayatnadi Guna is related to *Trisutra Ayurveda* and it specifies the metaphysical and spiritual qualities (Table 6).^[3] All these *Gunas* illustrate *Manasika Bhavas* and state of person.^[4, 27]

Table 6: Clinical Aspect of Prayatnadi Guna

December and	Mozninz		Label and	Anabada
Prayatnadi Guna	Meaning	Hetu	Lakshana	Aushada
Sukha	Happiness	Intake of Pathya	In <i>Dosha Paka Lakshana, Sukha Anubhuti</i> can be felt and is attributed to <i>Arogya</i>	By following <i>Upashaya</i> as per disease, <i>Sukha</i> can be achieved
Dukha	Unhappiness	Intake of <i>Apathya</i> or <i>Upadha</i> is root cause for <i>Dukha</i>	Dosha Dushti and manifestation of symptoms	Indulging in Anupashaya doesn't relieve from Dukha
Iccha	Desire	Anna na Akansha causing Udakodhara	Trishna	Fulfilling the desire
Dwesha	Aversion	Krodha in Ajeerna (Manasika Bhavas Dushti)	Bhaktadwesha in Krimi Roga, Deepa Dwesha in Pittaja Netraroga	Trasana in Unmada
Prayatna	Effort or Karma	Excessively indulging in intake of <i>Amla Dravyas</i> causing <i>Amlapitta</i>	Indigestion due to intake of excess of <i>Amla Dravyas</i>	Effect of the <i>Dravyas</i> which produce desired or undesired result
Buddhi	Intelligence	Helps in knowing about the cause of disease condition, conduct of person, behaviour of person.	Buddhi Bhramsha in Unmada	Required to plan appropriate treatment whether Daiva Vyapashraya, Yukti Vyapashraya, Satwavajaya Chikitsa to be adopted

CONCLUSION

Dravva means substratum which possesses both Karma and Guna. Independently Guna does not have its existence. Guna forms the underlying source of principles and shows marked relation with Trisutra Ayurveda. Sartha Guna shows its significance in Roga Rogi Pariksha, Dravya Pariksha and Chikitsa. Without Paradi Guna Chikitsa cannot be performed in a desired manner. Paradi Guna hold basis for proper arrangement by selecting and identifying drugs and the proper application of therapy. Knowledge of Gurvadi Guna is essential in accessing Nidana Panchaka of disease to prolong the well being of person and can also be considered as one of most important aspect of diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of disease. Pravatnadi Guna signifies the physical and mental status of person. All of these *Guna* when synergistically applied by Karta then become Karana for Dhatusamya. With the mere observation of fundamentals, interrelation of Guna and Trisutra Avurveda is appreciably signified which is required in normalcy of body constituents and management of diseases.

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