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RESEARCH ARTICLE

An Open Clinical Evaluation of Kaliyanamurukku Ilai Kattu in the Management of Azhal Keelvaayu (Osteoarthritis - Knee) : A Pilot Study

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ABSTRACT

Knee osteoarthritis, referred to as *Azhal Keelvaayu* in Siddha medicine, is one of the degenerative joint disorders which is quite common in the elderly. The objective of this pilot study was to assess the clinical effectiveness of *Kaliyanamurukku Ilai Kattu*, which is a Siddha external therapy, for treating knee osteoarthritis. Ten patients with clinical features of *Azhal Keelvaayu* were registered at Government Siddha Medical College, Chennai, and were treated. The treatment comprised of *Erythrina variegata* leaves being applied as a warm paste (*Kattu*) on the affected knee joint for a total of seven applications over 21 days. Clinical symptoms as well as WOMAC scores and the range of motion were assessed prior to and after treatment. Marked improvements in pain, swelling, tenderness and stiffness, along with complete resolution of symptoms in many cases were noted. Furthermore, WOMAC score decreased significantly from 69.28 to 29.28 and range of motion also improved. Good improvement was noted in 70% of patients, 20% moderate and 10% poor. The study concluded that *Kaliyanamurukku Ilai Kattu* is useful in management of osteoarthritis knee pain by improving joint function. It is recommended to conduct more extensive studies with larger participant pools and extended follow-up durations in order to confirm these findings.

Keywords: Knee osteoarthritis, *Azhal Keelvaayu*, Siddha medicine, *Kaliyanamurukku Ilai Kattu*, *Azhal Keelvaayu*, *Erythrina variegata*

INTRODUCTION

Osteoarthritis (OA), which the Siddha system of medicine calls *Azhal Keelvaayu*, breaks down joints and affects older people. Many see it as a condition caused by use over time. OA stands as the most common type of arthritis in countries with high and low incomes. This long-term worsening disorder causes joint cartilage to wear away, bone edges to grow, the layer under the cartilage to harden, and changes in the joint lining and capsule. These changes lead to pain, stiffness less flexibility, and joint shape changes [1,2]. Around the world, OA ranks as a top reason for disability in older folks. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that about 9.6% of men and 18% of women over 60 have OA symptoms. Globally, knee OA affects an estimated 16.0% of people 15 and older, and 22.9% of those 40 and up. In 2020, knee OA impacted 654.1 million people aged 40 and over worldwide. From 2000 to 2020, knee OA stayed very common putting a lot of strain on healthcare systems. In Asia, OA affects 19.2% of the population making it the region with the highest prevalence. Europe follows at 13.4%, with North America coming in third. Looking at individual countries, Thailand tops the list at 46.3%, with Japan (39.6%), Korea (36.1%), and India (21.0%) also showing high rates. OA ranks as the second most common rheumatologic problem in India impacting 22% to 39% of the population. The condition hits women harder than men, with symptoms appearing in 45% of women over 65, while X-rays reveal OA in 70% of this group. The disease starts when the cartilage in the knee joint breaks down bit by bit causing the bones to rub against each other. This leads to pain, swelling, and trouble moving around [3]. Siddha medicine, an old healing system from South India, sees *Azhal Keelvaayu* as a type of *Keelvaayu* disease. This traditional approach looks at the whole person when treating humans and animals. It helps manage long-term health issues, including OA. Siddha doctors use both internal and external treatments tailoring their approach to how bad the disease is and what works best for each patient. *Kattu* stands out as a key external therapy for managing *Azhal Keelvaayu*. It's one of 32 external treatments in Siddha medicine. This method involves putting a medicinal paste on the affected area. The paste contains herbs and sometimes inorganic substances (pashanam). After application, the area gets wrapped with a cloth. People often use *Kattu* to treat trauma open wounds, muscle spasms, sprains, abscesses, dislocations, and fractures. It helps heal by keeping the area still giving support, applying pressure, and boosting recovery [4,5]. Classical Siddha texts, like "Theraiyar Tharu," talk about *Kattu* as a straightforward but powerful way to treat joint problems such as arthritis. The *Kaliyanamurukku Ilai Kattu* formula plays a big role in treating *Azhal Keelvaayu*[6]. This study wants to see how well *Kaliyanamurukku Ilai Kattu* works to ease knee osteoarthritis symptoms.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted after getting IEC Approval in both the Inpatient and Outpatient Departments of Pura Maruthuvam (Siddha External therapy) Govt. Siddha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai-106. IEC NO: GSMC-CH- 1243/ME-II/041/2023, this trial was also registered in the Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI), CTRI NO: CTRI/2023/09/057733.

Study Design
Pilot study

Study site
Departments of Puramaruthuvam (Siddha External therapy) Govt. Siddha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai-106.

Sample size
10 Patients

Trial duration
Based on the literature, the duration of 21 days was fixed for interventional drug administration.

Total study period
3 months.

Eligibility criteria
There were 10 patients included in this study, and subjects were enrolled based on inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria
People aged between 30 and 60 years of all genders will be included in this pilot study. Participants should have symptoms of osteoarthritis such as pain in the knee joint—especially during movement or while bearing weight—which improves with rest. Other common symptoms include early morning stiffness lasting less than 15 minutes, swelling in the knee joint, reduced range of motion, joint crepitus (a crackling or grating sound during movement), and occasional warmth over the joint. These features are consistent with early to moderate stages of *Azhal Keelvaayu*.

Exclusion Criteria
Participants with other joint disorders such as Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Psoriatic Arthropathy, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Gouty Arthritis, or Septic Arthritis will be excluded. Those with a history of fracture or any other serious systemic illness will also be excluded, either based on clinical examination or available medical reports.

Source of Raw Drug
The trial drug, *kaliyanamurukku* leaves are collected from Arumbakkam area and the drug was authenticated by the "Department of Gunapadam, Government Siddha Medical College, Chennai".

Ingredients of *Kalyana murukku ilai kattu*
The components of KMK are presented in Table 1

***Kattu* Preparation and Application**
Purified *Kaliyanamurukku* leaves were cut into small pieces and boiled in water. The warm, boiled leaves were then placed over the affected knee joint and gently secured with a compressive bandage cloth. The bandage was kept in place for 3 hours and then removed. This procedure was carried out for 7 sessions, with an interval of 3 days between each application.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

The clinical efficacy of the intervention was systematically assessed through various outcome measures. Table 1 highlights the clinical prognosis of the subjects, indicating a notable improvement in symptom relief over the treatment period. Statistical evaluation of the WOMAC (Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index) scores, as presented in Table 2, showed a significant reduction in pain, stiffness, and improvement in physical function, suggesting the therapeutic potential of the formulation. Table 3 illustrates the statistical analysis of joint Range of Movements (ROM), which demonstrated measurable enhancement in mobility, further validating the clinical progress. An integrated interpretation of the findings, compiled in Table 4, provides an overall analysis confirming the positive impact of the treatment regimen on the patients' clinical status.

DISCUSSION

Kalyanamurukku (*Erythrina variegate*), commonly known as the Indian coral tree is attributed to its rich phytochemical composition, including flavonoids, alkaloids, and phenolic compounds. Previous studies demonstrate that crude extract of *Erythrina variegate* possess notable radical scavenging properties [7]. Also, In vitro studies using RAW 264.7 macrophage cells revealed that ethanolic bark extracts significantly inhibited nitric oxide production and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) activity, with IC_{50} values of 47.1 ± 0.21 μg/mL and 9.27 ± 0.72 μg/mL, respectively

[8].Additionally, in vivo experiments demonstrated that ethanolic leaf extracts at doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg effectively reduced inflammation in both acute (carrageenan-induced paw edema) and chronic (cotton pellet-induced granuloma) models in rats.Further, the ethanolic leaf extract exhibited significant membrane-stabilizing activity in the human red blood cell (HRBC) membrane stabilization method, providing over 90% protection against hypotonicity-induced lysis at a concentration of 1600 μg/mL, comparable to the standard drug Diclofenac sodium[9].
The present pilot study evaluates Siddha external therapy *Kaliyanamurukku ilai kattu* for *Azhal Keel Vaayu* (knee osteoarthritis) demonstrated significant therapeutic benefits. The study involved 10 patients, predominantly females over 40 years old, reflecting the global trend of higher osteoarthritis prevalence in this demographic. Co-morbidities such as diabetes mellitus (50%) and obesity (20%) were common among participants, aligning with known risk factors for osteoarthritis. Pre-treatment symptoms included universal pain and crepitation, with swelling in 60%, tenderness in 70%, and increased joint temperature in 40% of cases. Post-treatment assessments showed complete relief from pain, swelling, tenderness, and temperature in all patients, while crepitation persisted in only 30%.The Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) scores significantly decreased from a mean of 69.28 to 29.28 ($p<0.001$), and improvements in range of motion were statistically significant ($p<0.05$).Overall, 70% of participants experienced good improvement, 20% moderate, and 10% poor, suggesting that *Kaliyanamurukku ilai kattu* therapy may be effective in managing knee osteoarthritis symptoms. These findings are consistent with other Siddha-based interventions, such as the use of *Avuri Karpam* and *Vatha Noikku Ennai*, which have shown efficacy in managing *Azhal Keel Vaayu*. However, the small sample size necessitates further research with larger cohorts to validate these results and establish the efficacy conclusively. The small sample size of 10 patients restricts the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, the absence of a control group and blinding introduces potential biases, making it challenging to attribute improvements solely to the therapy.The short duration of the study (21 days) limits the assessment of long-term efficacy and safety. Reliance on subjective outcome measures, such as patient-reported symptoms, without objective biomarkers or imaging, may affect the robustness of the results. To strengthen the evidence base, future research should involve larger, randomized controlled trials with extended follow-up periods, incorporate objective assessment tools, and ensure standardized treatment protocols. Such studies would provide more definitive conclusions regarding the efficacy and safety of *Kaliyanamurukku ilai kattu* in managing knee osteoarthritis.

CONCLUSION

Thus, Participants experienced significant relief from symptoms such as pain, swelling, and tenderness, with notable improvements in WOMAC scores and range of motion. These findings align with the known antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of *E. variegata*, attributed to its rich phytochemical composition, including flavonoids and alkaloids. Future studies should involve larger, randomized controlled trials with extended follow-up periods and objective assessment tools to conclusively establish the efficacy and safety of *Kaliyanamurukku ilai kattu* in managing knee osteoarthritis.

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Patient Perspectives

The patients expressed great satisfaction with the treatment, reporting significant relief in pain. They were particularly impressed with the effectiveness of *Kaliyanamurukku ilai kattu* in alleviating their symptoms.

Informed Consent

Written informed consent was obtained from the patients. The patients had given their consent for their images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patients understood that their names and initials would not be published, and due efforts would be made to conceal their identity, but anonymity cannot be guaranteed

ABBREVATIONS

OA: Osteoarthritis; **KMK:** Kaliyanamurukku Ilai Kattu; **ROM:** Range of Movements; **WOMAC:** Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index; **RA:** Rheumatoid Arthritis; **SLE:** Systemic Lupus Erythematosus; **HRBC:** Human Red Blood Cell; **COX-2:** Cyclooxygenase-2; **NCDs:** Non-Communicable Diseases; **IC_{50}:** Half Maximal Inhibitory Concentration; **p-value:** Probability value

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Ethical Approval

The study was approved by the Institutional Ethical Committee (IEC), Government Siddha Medical College, Chennai – 600106 (IEC No: GSMC-CH 1243/ME-II/041/2023). It was registered with the Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI No: CTRI/2023/09/057733), and initiated only after obtaining CTRI registration.

Conflict Of Interest

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

Author Contribution

Conceptualization: NP; Data collection and compilation: NP and NK; Manuscript Writing: NP and NK; Proofreading and editing: NP, NK, MK

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Table 1: Ingredients of KMK

S. No	Vernacular name	Botanical name	Family	Quantity
1.	Kalyanamurukku ilia	*Erythrina variegate L.*	Fabaceae	10-15 leaves

Table 2: Assessment of Clinical Prognosis

Symptom	Before Treatment		After Treatment	
	Participants with Symptoms	Percentage	Participants with Symptoms	Percentage
Pain in the joints	10	100%	0	0%
Swelling in the joints	6	60%	0	0%
Tenderness	7	70%	0	0%
Crepitation	10	100%	3	30%
Temperature	4	40%	0	0%

Table 3: Womac scale statistical analysis

Paired Samples Statistics

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
WOMAC scale-Pain statistical analysis				
Before Treatment	16.20	10	2.09762	.66332
After Treatment	6.60	10	2.45855	.77746
WOMAC scale-Stiffness statistical analysis				
Before Treatment	4.40	10	1.57762	.49889
After Treatment	.70	10	.67495	.21344
WOMAC scale–Physical function statistical analysis				
Before Treatment	46.20	10	8.49575	2.68659
After Treatment	20.90	10	8.54335	2.70165
WOMAC scale – Overall statistical analysis				
Before Treatment	69.28	10	10.32072	3.26370
After Treatment	29.28	10	11.10764	3.51254

Table 4: Range of Movements Statistical Analysis

	Mean	N	Std.Deviation	Std.ErrorMean
Flexion				
Before Treatment	112.20	10	8.86692	2.80397
After Treatment	123.50	10	10.87556	3.43915
Extension				
Before Treatment	6.70	10	2.83039	.89505
After Treatment	3.10	10	2.92309	.92436

Table 5: Prognosis Assessment of Participants

Results	No.of cases	Percentage(%) Reduction
Good	7	70%
Moderate	2	20%
Poor	1	10%


A


B


C

Figure- 1 A, B, C – Represent The Bandage Procedure

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Eco-Safe Approaches to Combat Sucking Pests in Summer Green Gram

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ABSTRACT

Investigation on eco-friendly management of sucking pests in green gram, *Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek was carried out at Agronomy Instructional Farm, C. P. College of Agriculture, S. D. Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar- 385 506 during summer, 2019. Among various eco-friendly pesticides, *Lecanicillium lecanii* 1.15 WP 0.5% was the most effective treatment as it recorded lowest number of sucking pests *viz*., aphid (0.89/3 leaves), jassid (0.52/3 leaves), whitefly (0.99/3 leaves) and thrips (0.17/3 flowers) without interfering predatory fauna and also recorded with highest seed yield (978 kg/ha), increase in yield over control (82.12%) and highest gross realization (₹53790/ha) followed by azadirachtin 10,000 ppm 0.3% and *Beauveria bassiana* 1.15 WP 0.5%.

Keywords: Eco-Safe, Green Gram, Sucking Pests, Summer

INTRODUCTION

Green gram, *Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek (Family: Leguminoseae) is third most important pulse crop of India after chickpea and pigeon pea, commonly known as *mung, moong, mungo, mung bean, golden gram, Chickasaw pea, oreganpea etc.* Area occupied by pulses in India is 29.03 million hectares with 23.40 million tonnes production and productivity of 806 kg/ha. Major green gram growing states are Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Bihar. In Gujarat, total area under cultivation of green gram is 153000 ha with 86000 tonnes production and 561 kg/ha productivity (Anon., 2018). Sucking pests *viz.,* aphid, *Aphis craccivora* Koch; jassid, *Empoasca kerri* Pruthi; whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* Gennadius; flower thrips, *Megalurothrips usitatus* Bagnall are known to cause significant damage to

green gram foliage and flowers besides causing damage to other related legumes. The annual yield loss due to the insect pests has been estimated to the tune of 30 per cent in green gram (Soundararajan and Chitra, 2011). Since, natural pesticides are less toxic to the environment and non-target organisms as well as easily biodegradable; use of eco-friendly pesticide can be an effective tool in sustainable management.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to evaluate the efficacy of various eco-friendly pesticides (Table 1) against sucking pests in green gram, an experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with three replications having gross and net plot area 4.00 m × 1.50 m and 3.60 m × 0.90 m, respectively during Summer season of 2019. Green gram cultivar, GM-4 was grown at a spacing of 30 cm between two rows and 10 cm within the rows. The first spray was applied at the appearance of pests and subsequent two sprays were given at 10 days interval**.** Observations on various sucking pests (aphid, jassid and whitefly) were recorded before spray as well as at three, five and seven days after spraying from three leaves (top, middle and bottom) on five randomly selected plants from each net plot. Number of natural enemies (*viz*., ladybird beetle, green lacewing and spider) was also recorded from same selected plant. At harvest the seed yield was recorded separately from each net plot. The data thus obtained were statistically analyzed. On the basis of yield the increase in yield over control and economics were calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Evaluation of eco-friendly pesticides against sucking pest in green gram

Aphid, *A. craccivora*

Looking to the data (Table 2) it is clear that the lowest (0.89/3 leaves) aphid population was registered in the plot treated with *L. lecanii*1.15 WP 0.5% and it was at par with azadirachtin 10000 ppm 0.3% (0.99) and *B. bassiana*1.15 WP 0.5% (1.01). Plots treated with cow urine 10% + neem leaf extract 10%, cow urine 10% + custard apple leaf extract 10% and cow urine 10% + *L. camera* leaf extract 10% registered 1.81 to 1.93 aphids per three leaves and grouped as mediocre treatments in terms of efficacy against *A. craccivora.* Among the evaluated treatments, the highest (3.26) aphid population was recorded in custard apple leaf extract 10% and it was at par with neem leaf extract 10% (3.00), cow urine 10% (3.07) and *L. camera* leaf extract 10% (3.22).

Saranya *et al.* (2010) in laboratory bioassay and Saranya and Ushakumari (2011) in urdbean reported higher effectiveness (100% mortality) of *B. bassiana* and *V. lecanii* @ 10^8 spores/ml against *A. craccivora*. Khade *et al.* (2014) reported higher effectiveness of neem oil 1% and *V. lecanii* (2×10^9cfu/ml) against *A.craccivora* in cowpea.

Jassid, *E. kerri*

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that *L. lecanii* 1.15 WP 0.5% was most effective treatment in reducing jassid population to 0.52 per three leaves as compare to untreated control (3.54). It was at par with azadirachtin 10000 ppm 0.3% (0.60) and *B. bassiana* 1.15 WP 0.5% (0.62). Application of leaf extracts (neem, custard apple and *L. camera*) 10% as well as cow urine 10% alone were proved to be less effective as they recorded significantly higher population of jassids (2.26 to 2.42) in green gram.

Khade *et al.* (2014) reported higher effectiveness (57.89 and 41.83% reduction over control) of neem oil 1% and *V. lecanii* (2×10^9cfu/ml) against *E. kerri* in cowpea. Kumar (2022) found that emamectin benzoate 5 SG was the most effective treatment against jassid, *E. kerri* infesting green gram followed by Azadirachtin 5%, Pongamia oil, *V. lecanii* at 1×10^8 spores/ml and *B. bassiana* at 1×10^8 spores/ml.

Whitefly, *B. tabaci*

The data on whitefly population presented in table 2 revealed that *L. lecanii* 1.15 WP 0.5% was most effective treatment in reducing whitefly population (0.99/3 leaves) as compared to untreated control (4.70). Although, *L. lecanii*

1.15 WP 0.5% was at par with azadirachtin 10000 ppm 0.3% and *B. bassiana* 1.15 WP 0.5% which recorded 1.11 and 1.19 whiteflies per three leaves, respectively. On the other hand, sole application of leaf extracts (neem, custard apple and *L. camera*) 10% as well as cow urine 10% were proved to be less effective as they recorded significantly higher population of whiteflies (3.00 to 3.30) in green gram.

Jat and Jeyakumar (2006) reported that *B. bassiana* in cotton was found highly effective as it reduced 39.7 to 72.6% whitefly population whereas neem products *viz.,* neem oil and NSKE proved to be mediocre in their effectiveness against whitefly. Ahirwar *et al.* (2010) mentioned that neem oil and NSKE in sesame were mediocre in their effectiveness against whitefly, *B. tabaci*. Higher efficacy of *B. bassiana* against whiteflies in black gram was reported by Soundarajan and Chitra (2011). Sujatha and Bharpoda (2017) reported that *B. bassiana* (1 x 10^{10}cfu/g) found more effective against whitefly, *B. tabaci* (1.22/3 leaves) in green gram. Singh and Singh (2018) revealed that from three microbial treatments, *L. lecanii* recorded lowest (2.67/cage) mean population of whitefly per cage as compared to *M. anisopliae* (2.88) and *B.bassiana* (2.83).

Thrips, *M. usitatus*

The data presented in Table 2 clearly revealed that *L. lecanii*1.15 WP 0.5% found most effective treatment in reducing thrips population (0.17/3 flowers) as compared to untreated control (2.74). Although *L. lecanii*1.15 WP 0.5% was at par with azadirachtin10000 ppm 0.3% and *B. bassiana* 1.15 WP 0.5% which recorded 0.27 and 0.33 thrips per three flowers, respectively. Further, the combination of cow urine (10%) with leaf extracts of neem, custard apple and *L. camera* 10%found to be mediocre in their effectiveness with 0.78 to 0.94 thrips per three flowers. On the other hand, sole application of leaf extracts (neem, custard apple and *L. camera*) 10% as well as cow urine 10% as sole were proved to be less effective as they recorded significantly higher thrips population (1.46 to 1.90) in green gram.

Khade *et al.* (2014) reported higher effectiveness (59.60 and 46.61% reduction, respectively) of neem oil 1% and *V. lecanii* 2×10^9 cfu/ml against *M. usitatus* in cowpea. Nadeem *et al*. (2024) reported the higher effectiveness of *B. bassiana* at 7.5% concentration for the management of mungbean thrips (*M. usitatus)*, resulting in a 59.42% reduction per flower which closely supported the findings of present investigation. Sujatha and Bharpoda (2017) reported that *B. bassiana* (1 x 10^{10} CFU/ g) @ 0.1% found more effective against *A. craccivora* (2.56/3 leaves), *E. kerri* (1.84 /3 leaves), *B. tabaci* (1.22/3 leaves) and thrips (11.61/3 leaves) in green gram. Hence, the earlier reports are more or less in conformity with present findings.

Impact on natural enemies

The population of coccinellids (grubs + adults), *Chrysoperla* spp. (grubs) and spiders in different treatments were homogenous in all the treatments (Table 3) which clearly indicated that all the treatments were relatively safer to predatory population in green gram.

Impact on seed yield

Plots treated with different eco-friendly treatments yielded significantly higher seed yield (658 to 978 kg/ha) than untreated control (537 kg/ha). The highest (978 kg/ha) green gram yield was obtained from the plots treated with *L. lecanii* 1.15 WP 0.5% and it was at par with azadirachtin 10000 ppm 0.3% (910 kg/ha) and *B. bassiana* 1.15 WP 0.5% (896 kg/ha). Highest (82.12%) increase in yield over control was recorded in the treatment of *L. lecanii* 1.15 WP 0.5%. Treatments *viz.*, azadirachtin 10000 ppm 0.3% and *B. bassiana* 1.15 WP 0.5% recorded 69.45 and 66.85 per cent increase in yield over control, respectively. The economics of various eco-friendly treatments (Table 4) revealed that the highest (₹ 53790/ha) gross realization was obtained from the treatment *L. lecanii* 1.15 WP 0.5% followed by azadirachtin 10000 ppm 0.3% (₹ 50050/ha) and *B. bassiana* 1.15 WP 0.5% (₹ 49280/ha). Remaining treatments exhibited gross realization of ₹ 42790 to ₹ 36190 per hectare as compared to untreated control (₹ 29535/ha).

Sujatha and Bharpoda (2017) reported higher yield (9.72 q/ha) from the plots treated with tobacco decoction (hot water) which was at par with *B. bassiana* (8.95 q/ha) and neem oil (8.64 q/ha) in green gram crop. Chavan *et al*. (2020)

reported that the treatment with *Lecanicillium lecanii* 1.15% WP at 7.5 g/L resulted highest yield of green gram. Hence, the earlier reports are more or less in conformity with present findings.

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Table 1: Detail of treatments evaluated against sucking pests of green gram

Sr. No.	Treatments	Concentration (%)	Dose (g or ml per 10 litre of water)
1	Cow urine	10	1000
2	Neem leaf extract	10	1000
3	Custard apple leaf extract	10	1000
4	*Lantana camera* leaf extract	10	1000
5	Cow urine + Neem leaf extract	10 + 10	1000 + 1000
6	Cow urine + Custard apple leaf extract	10 + 10	1000 + 1000
7	Cow urine + *Lantana camera* leaf extract	10 + 10	1000 + 1000
8	Azadirachtin 10,000 ppm	0.3	30
9	*Beauveria bassiana* (1×10^9 cfu/g) 1.15WP	-	50
10	*Lecanicillium lecanii* (1×10^9 cfu/g) 1.15WP	-	50
11	Untreated control	-	-

Table 2: Evaluation of eco-friendly pesticides against sucking pests in green gram during summer, 2019 (pooled over periods and sprays)

Tr. No.	Treatments	Conc. (%)	No. of sucking pests/3 leaves			Thrips /3 flowers
			Aphids	Jassids	Whiteflies	
T_1	Cow urine	10	1.89^{c}	1.69^{c}	1.90^{c}	1.48^{cd}
			(3.07)	(2.36)	(3.11)	(1.69)
T_2	Neem leaf extract	10	1.87^{bc}	1.66^{c}	1.87^{c}	1.40^{c}
			(3.00)	(2.26)	(3.00)	(1.46)
T_3	Custard apple leaf extract	10	1.94^{c}	1.69^{c}	1.93^{c}	1.50^{d}
			(3.26)	(2.36)	(3.22)	(1.75)
T_4	*Lantana camera* leaf extract	10	1.93^{c}	1.71^{c}	1.95^{c}	1.55^{d}
			(3.22)	(2.42)	(3.30)	(1.90)
T_5	Cow urine + Neem leaf extract	10+10	1.52^{b}	1.30^{b}	1.57^{b}	1.13^{b}
			(1.81)	(1.19)	(1.96)	(0.78)
T_6	Cow urine + Custard apple leaf extract	10+10	1.55^{b}	1.33^{b}	1.60^{b}	1.16^{b}
			(1.90)	(1.27)	(2.06)	(0.85)
T_7	Cow urine + *Lantana camera* leaf extract	10+10	1.56^{b}	1.35^{b}	1.63^{b}	1.20^{b}
			(1.93)	(1.32)	(2.16)	(0.94)
T_8	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm	0.3	1.22^{a}	1.05^{a}	1.27^{a}	0.88^{a}
			(0.99)	(0.60)	(1.11)	(0.27)
T_9	*Beauveria bassiana* (1×10^9 cfu/gm) 1.15WP	0.5	1.23^{a}	1.06^{a}	1.30^{a}	0.91^{a}
			(1.01)	(0.62)	(1.19)	(0.33)
T_{10}	*Lecanicillium lecanii* (1×10^9 cfu/gm) 1.15WP	0.5	1.18^{a}	1.01^{a}	1.22^{a}	0.82^{a}
			(0.89)	(0.52)	(0.99)	(0.17)
T_{11}	Untreated control	-	2.28^{d}	2.01^{d}	2.28^{d}	1.80^{e}
			(4.70)	(3.54)	(4.70)	(2.74)
S.Em.±	Treatment(T)		0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Period(P)			0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
T×P			0.09	0.08	0.08	0.06
C.V.%			9.08	9.20	8.54	8.63

Note: Figures in parentheses are retransformed values; those outside are $\sqrt{X+0.5}$ transformed values; Treatment means with the letter(s) in common are not significant by DNMRT at 5 per cent level of significance.

Table 3: Impact of eco-friendly pesticides on natural enemies in green gram during summer, 2019 (Pooled over periods and sprays)

Tr. No.	Treatments	Conc. (%)	No. of natural enemies/plant		
			Ladybird beetle	Green lacewing	Spider
T_1	Cow urine	10	1.66^{a}	1.08^{a}	1.56^{a}
			(2.26)	(0.67)	(1.93)
T_2	Neem leaf extract	10	1.65^{a}	1.07^{a}	1.56^{a}
			(2.22)	(0.64)	(1.93)
T_3	Custard apple leaf extract	10	1.65^{a}	1.11^{a}	1.56^{a}
			(2.22)	(0.73)	(1.93)
T_4	*Lantana camera* leaf extract	10	1.68^{a}	1.10^{a}	1.58^{a}
			(2.32)	(0.71)	(2.00)
T_5	Cow urine + Neem leaf extract	10+10	1.66^{a}	1.08^{a}	1.55^{a}
			(2.26)	(0.67)	(1.90)

T_6	Cow urine + Custard apple leaf extract	10+10	1.68[a]	1.10[a]	1.57[a]
			(2.32)	(0.71)	(1.96)
T_7	Cow urine + *Lantana camera* leaf extract	10+10	1.65[a]	1.11[a]	1.55[a]
			(2.22)	(0.73)	(1.90)
T_8	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm	0.3	1.71[a]	1.10[a]	1.57[a]
			(2.42)	(0.71)	(1.96)
T_9	*Beauveria bassiana* (1×10^9 cfu/gm) 1.15WP	0.5	1.56[a]	1.01[a]	1.44[a]
			(1.93)	(0.52)	(1.57)
T_{10}	*Lecanicillium lecanii* (1×10^9 cfu/gm) 1.15WP	0.5	1.55[a]	0.99[ab]	1.41[a]
			(1.90)	(0.48)	(1.49)
T_{11}	Untreated control	-	1.71[a]	1.12[a]	1.57[a]
			(2.42)	(0.75)	(1.96)
S.Em.±		Treatment(T)	0.03	0.02	0.03
Period(P)			0.02	0.02	0.03
T×P			0.09	0.06	0.08
C.V.%			9.53	9.46	9.56

Note: Figures in parentheses are retransformed values; those outside are $\sqrt{X + 0.5}$ transformed values; Treatment means with the letter(s) in common are not significant by DNMRT at 5 per cent level of significance.

Table 4: Impact of eco-friendly treatments on seed yield, increase in yield over control and gross realization in green gram

Tr. No.	Treatments	Conc. (%)	Seed yield (kg/ha)	Increase in yield over control (%)	Gross realization (₹/ha)
T_1	Cow urine	10	664[bc]	23.64	36520
T_2	Neem leaf extract	10	672[bc]	25.13	36960
T_3	Custard apple leaf extract	10	660[bc]	22.90	36300
T_4	*Lantana camera* leaf extract	10	658[c]	22.53	36190
T_5	Cow urine + Neem leaf extract	10+10	778[b]	44.87	42790
T_6	Cow urine + Custard apple leaf extract	10+10	764[bc]	42.27	42020
T_7	Cow urine + *Lantana camera* leaf extract	10+10	752[bc]	40.03	41360
T_8	Azadirachtin 10000 ppm	0.3	910[a]	69.45	50050
T_9	*Beauveria bassiana* (1×10^9 cfu/gm) 1.15 WP	0.5	896[a]	66.85	49280
T_{10}	*Lecanicillium lecanii* (1×10^9 cfu/gm) 1.15 WP	0.5	978[a]	82.12	53790
T_{11}	Untreated control	-	537[d]	-	29535
S.Em.±			35.82	-	-
C.V. %			8.25	-	-

Note: Treatment means with the letter(s) in common are not significant by DNMRT at 5 per cent level of significance.

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REVIEW ARTICLE

Critical Review of *Stanyashodhan Dashemani* based on its *Rasapanchaka* and Pharmacological Actions

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ABSTRACT

Breast milk, or *Stanya*, is recognized in Ayurveda as a vital *Upadhatu* of *Rasa Dhatu* essential for infant growth, immunity, and overall development. The concept of *Stanya Dushti* vitiation or impurity of breast milk due to maternal doshas based on diet, lifestyle, or health. *Stanya-shodhan Mahakashaya*, a group of ten Ayurvedic herbs with detoxifying and restorative properties aimed at purifying breast milk. Classical Ayurvedic literature and modern pharmacological evidence, the research identifies and analyzes the chemical constituents and therapeutic actions of these herbs. Results indicate these herbs exhibit properties as a best galacto-purifier like *Deepana* (digestive stimulant), *Pachana* (metabolic enhancer), and *Shodhana* (purification), with notable antimicrobial, antioxidant, hepatoprotective, and immunomodulatory effects. The pharmacodynamics of these herbs contribute to balancing doshas, supporting healthy*Dhatu* formation, and ensuring the qualitative and quantitative integrity of breast milk. It indicates the relevance of *Stanya-shodhan Mahakashaya* in managing *Stanya Dushti* and promoting maternal and neonatal health through Ayurvedic intervention.

Keywords: Stanya shodhan dashemani, Stanyadushti Breastmilk purification, Ayurveda.

INTRODUCTION

In Ayurveda, breast milk, referred to as stanya, is viewed as the crucial source of nourishment for newborns, notably contributing to their growth, immunity, and ordinary improvement. Breast milk is an incredibly nutritious, living

fluid produced by mothers to nourish their babies, especially all through the first six months of life. It includes a perfect balance of carbohydrates, fat, and proteins, along with essential vitamins, minerals, and immune-boosting additives like antibodies and enzymes. The composition of breast milk modifies over time to fulfill an infant's evolving needs, starting with colostrum within the first few days, which is rich in protein and immune elements, observed by way of transitional milk and finally mature milk, which is made up of foremilk (watery and thirst-quenching) and hindmilk (creamier and extra strength-dense). Beyond presenting whole vitamins, breast milk supports mind development, strengthens the immune machine, and reduces the hazard of various illnesses for the infant, at the same time as also presenting fitness blessings to the mom, including aiding postpartum recovery and reducing the hazard of positive cancers. Its dynamic nature and tailor-made composition make breast milk uniquely desirable for toddler growth and development. The quality and purity of breast milk are crucial. The term "sudhastanya" pertains to healthy breast milk, which possesses qualities such as Shankhapramane shweta (shell-like white or light yellow), Madhur, Laghu, Pathykar, Deepan, Jeevaniya, Snehan, Bruhaniya, Shareeropchya, Balarudhikar, Pushtikar, and Aarogyakar[1]. Which means ideal breastmilk should be sweet in taste, easily digestible, beneficial, enhances digestion, possess life, and essential for all over nourishment. The Charak Samhita describes eight types of Stanya-dusti and provides detailed insights into the conditions caused by it and their treatments. Stanya forms within the mother's body, the quality of her milk can vary based on her Ahar-vihar (diet and lifestyle), a novel and significant concept in Ayurveda. The unique notion of Stanya dusti[2], or milk vitiation, suggests that a mother's food and activities directly influence the quality and quantity of her milk. Stanya Dushti refers to abnormalities in breast milk, Vataja, Pittaja, Kaphaja, Tridoshaja, Vairasya, Phena Samghata, Ruksha, and Vaivarnya. Vataja Stanya Dushti arises from an imbalance of the Vata dosha and is characterized with the aid of a slightly astringent flavor, reddish-black coloration, frothy texture, dryness, and adjusted flavor. Pittaja Stanya Dushti is due to an imbalance of the Pitta dosha, offering a sour, bitter, or stinky flavor, discoloration, and an ugly smell. Kaphaja Stanya Dushti, due to an imbalance of the Kapha dosha, has capabilities of an overly sweet or salty taste, a very white color, and a thick, sticky texture. Tridoshaja Stanya Dushti takes place from an imbalance of all 3 doshas, displaying a combination of symptoms from each. Vairasya Stanya Dushti is marked by way of an altered taste, leading to bitterness or sourness. Phena Samghata Stanya Dushti entails immoderate frothing inside the milk, giving it a bubbly appearance. Ruksha Stanya Dushti is because of excessive dryness, resulting in a loss of the standard creamy texture. Vaivarnya Stanya Dushti is characterized by extraordinary discoloration of the milk. When breast milk becomes impure because of factors inclusive of maternal food plan, lifestyle, or fitness conditions, it may cause fitness issues in toddlers, which include indigestion, skin issues, or developmental delays. Unhealthy breast milk manufacturing can arise from an expansion of physiological, pathological, and environmental reasons, each affecting the quantity, fineness, or protection of the milk[3]. Hormonal imbalances, including low prolactin, hypothyroidism, or situations like PCOS, can cause inadequate milk delivery, while structural issues like inadequate glandular tissue may additionally bring about number one lactation failure. Infections together with mastitis or breast abscesses can contaminate milk with microorganisms or pus, and viral infections like HIV, CMV, or hepatitis B/C can doubtlessly transmit through breast milk if not managed. Publicity for dangerous materials like tobacco, alcohol, certain medicinal drugs, recreational capsules, pesticides, or heavy metals can introduce pollution into the milk, compromising its safety. Maternal malnutrition or deficiencies in nutrients, which include vitamin D, B12, or iodine, may lessen the nutritional value of the milk, while in uncommon cases, excessive lipase ranges can modify its flavor [4]. Moreover, toddlers with metabolic problems like galactosemia may be unable to process breast milk, making it unsuitable for them despite being, in any other case, healthful. These issues underline the importance of monitoring maternal health, environment, and infant conditions to ensure safe and effective breastfeeding.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Material related to Stanyashodhan mahakashaya is collected from Ayurvedic texts, including Brihatriye, Laghutrye, and textbooks of modern medicine. The index of non-index medical journals has also been referred to collect information on relevant topics.

Charaka Samhita classifies medicinal plants into Mahākaṣāyas based on their therapeutic properties, including the Stanyashodhan mahakasay [5]. Table 01. Drugs of Stanyashodhan Mahakashaya with botanical name, family and part used. It consists of ten specific herbs: Patha, Shunthi, Devdaru, Musta, Murva, Guduchi, Vatsakphal, Kiratatikta, Katurohini, and Sariva. These drugs induce proper formation of Rasadi Dhatu, ensuring the appropriate development of Uttarrotar Dhatu and Updhatu Stanya. As stanya dushti can be treated by applying and orally takingthese 10 drugs. Table-03, Rasapanchak and Rogaghnata of Stanyashodhan Mahakashaya, which elaborate their rasa, guna, virya, and vipak in detail. Also mentioned are the acts on tridosha and the specific karmas of each drug. It helps in the production of hygienic and uncontaminated feed, which is a source of nutrition, containing numerous anti-infective properties that safeguard infants from infections. Lactation is influenced by an individual's psychosomatic health and lifestyle choices. Breast milk is recognized as the optimal nourishment for a healthy newborn, and the most significant gift a mother can offer her child is her own milk. Breastfeeding is the preferred method for infant feeding and is vital for lifelong health and well-being. Ayurvedic practices include specific herbs and formulations aimed at detoxifying breast milk, with Acharya Charaka highlighting the Stanya-shodhan Mahakashaya for this purpose. Also, Ashtang Hruday and Sushrut Samhita have explained Balarog Chikitsa, including these drugs.

Therapeutic uses:

In Ashtang Hridaya Balamaya Adhikar, treatments according to doshas are mentioned, which include these drugs widely. Powder of Murva, Vyosha, Vara, Kola, bark of Jambu, Dāru, Sarshapa, and Pātha licked with honey cures diseases caused by vitiated breast milk [6]. In vitiation of Vata, the mother should drink Dasamula Kashāya for 3 days or the Kashaya of Agni, Vacā, Pātha, Katuka, Kushta, Dipyaka, Bhārngi, Dāru, Sarala, Vrchikāli, Kanā, and Ūshana. Mother should drink any other medicated fghee that alleviates Vāta, followed by scum of Sura Madya, after being oleated. Then a mild purgative should be given, followed by an enema and sudation, which mitigates Vata. Powder of Rasna, Ajamoda, Sarala, and Devadaru mixed with ghee should be given to lick, or ghee prepared with these drugs should be given to lick mixed with Sitopala. In Pittaja vikar, both mother and child should drink the Kashāya of Amrutha, Abhiru, Patoli, and Nimba. Candana and Sariva, or Kashāya of Triphala, Musta, Bhunimba, and Katurohini, or drugs of Sarivadi, Patolādi, or Padmagādigana. Medicated ghee prepared with the above drugs can be used. Purgatives that decrease Pitta, massaging, and application of pastes that are coolants to the body should be used. For Kaphaj vikar, the child should be given to lick ghee mixed with the powder of Yashtyāhva and Saindhava, or of Saindhava and Pippali, or a paste of flowers of Ratha made with honey. It should be applied on the breast of the mother and lips of the child. By this the child will easily vomit. The mother should be made to vomit by strong drugs. After emesis and a regimen of diets, she should drink the Kashaya of drugs of Mustādi Gana or Tagara, Prthvika, Suradāru, and Kalinga or of Ativisha, Musta, Sadgrantha, and Panchakola. [7] While some research has been conducted in this area, a comprehensive examination of all aspects has not been achieved. This work seeks to gather and provide a thorough review of the information available regarding the concept of Stanya dusti and the role of Stanya-shodhan Mahakashaya in its management.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An overview of these drugs shows 43% tikta, 29% katu, 19% kashay, and 9% madhura rasa. Guna distribution is 27% laghu, 14% of guru, 14% snigdha, 14% ruksha, 14% ushna, and 9% teekshna. 4% Sara, 4% Grahi. Vipak is 70% katu and 30% madhura, and Virya is categorized by 50% ushna, 30% sheeta, and 10% anushna virya. Which is mentioned in charts. Elements of the body that originate from Dhatus and are not subject to further transformation are referred to as Upadhatus. Upadhatus represent the finest product of dhatu metabolism, with breast milk (Stanya) considered an upadhatu of Rasa Dhatu. In Ayurveda, ingested food (Aahara) is transformed into vital essence known as Aahara Rasa through the action of Jatharagni, which nourishes the Dhatus. Each of the seven Dhatus possesses its own Agni to metabolize nutrients. When Aahara Rasa reaches the Rasa Dhatu through Srotas, it is nourished by Rasdhatvagni, supporting Rasa Dhatu and its Upadhatus, Stanya and Raja, as well as facilitating the formation of subsequent Dhatus. Therefore, Jathargni and Dhatwagni are crucial for the metabolism of Dhatus and Upadhatus. Any

disruption in Jathargni, Dhatwagni, or Srotas can lead to improper formation of Rasa Dhatu and its Upadhatus. Stanya Shodhana Mahakashaya, a galacto purifier, includes ingredients like Shunthi, Devdaru, Mustak, Murva, and Guduchi, which possess Tikta and Katu Rasa, as well as Laghu and Ruksha Guna, contributing to Deepana and Ama Pachana properties. These properties enhance Agni function and support effective Aahara Pachana Kriya. Proper formation of Rasadi Dhatu is essential for the correct production of Uttarrotar Dhatu and the Upadhatu Stanya. Sariva is also recommended for conditions of Agnimandya and Aamvisha. Acharya Charak has emphasized the significance of Stanya Shodhana Karma with Tikta Rasa. Katu Rasa also offers benefits such as Deepana, Pachana, Shodhana, and Srotas Vivronti properties, which facilitate proper formation of Stanya. These drugs have anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antifungal, antimicrobial, antioxidant, and immunomodulatory activities, aiding in the detoxification of compromised breast milk. Analysis of these herbs shows that those in Stanya-shodhan Mahakashaya assist in eliminating Doshas and enhancing milk quality, as most have a predominance of Tikta Rasa or Rakta Shodhaka effects. It contains active principles that improve milk quality, making them suitable for addressing Stanya-dusti and promoting healthy Stanya, which supports strotoshodhan, Dhatu poshan, and accurate formation of each Dhatu and Upadhatu. Stanyashodhan, these remedies help maintain the balance of other Doshas and Dhatus affected by pregnancy and labor. Stanya-shodhan Mahakashaya impacts on both quantitative and qualitative parameters, making it more efficient for better child growth.

CONCLUSION

Breast milk, recognized as an Upadhatu of Rasa Dhatu, plays a crucial role in the nourishment and growth of infants, closely aligning with Ayurvedic principles. The notion of Stanya-dushti illustrates how a mother's health, nutrition, and lifestyle choices significantly influence the quality of breast milk, which in turn affects the well-being of the infant. Treatment of breast milk vitiation through medicinal preparations such as Stanya-shodhan Mahakashaya formulation comprises ten herbs known for their effective Deepana, Pachana, and Shodhana properties, which aid in detoxifying and restoring the inherent purity of breast milk. The pharmacological characteristics of these herbs, including antimicrobial, antioxidant, hepatoprotective, and immunomodulatory effects, not only address Stanya-dushti but also enhance the overall health of both mother and child. By prioritizing preventive measures, tailored treatments, and natural remedies, the Ayurvedic methodology offers a thorough approach to ensuring the quality of lactation.

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Table 01. Drugs of Stanyashodhan mahakashaya with botanical name, family and part used.

Sr.No	Sanskrit Name	English Name	Latin name	Family	Part Used
1.	*Patha[8]*	Indian Valerian	*Cissampelos pareira* Linn.	Valerianaceae	Root
2.	*Mahaushadh[9]*	Ginger root	*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome
3.	*Suradaru[10]*	Deodar trees	*Cedrus deodara (Roxb.)* Loud	Pinaceae	Heart wood, bark
4.	*Musta[11]*	Nut grass	*Cyperus rotundus* Linn.	Cyperaceae	Root
5.	*Moorva[12]*	White nishoth	*Marsdenia tenacissima* W. and A	Asclepiadaceae	Root
6.	*Guduchi[13]*	Indian tinospora	*Tinospora cordifolia* Wall. Ex Seringe	Menispermiacae	Stem
7.	*Vatsakphala[14]*	Conessi tree	*Holarrhena antidysenterica* (Linn.) Wall.)	Apocynaceae	Bark, Seed, Root
8.	*Kirattikta[15]*	Bitter gentian	*Swertia chirayita* (Roxb. Ex Flem Karst.)	Gentianaceae	Whole plant
9.	*Katurohini[16]*	Picrorrhiza	*Picrorhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth	Scrophulariaceae	Root and Rhizomes
10.	*Sariva [17]*	Indian sarsaparilla	*Hemidesmus indicus* R.Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Root

Table. 02 Chemical constituents and pharmaceutical action of drugs of *Stanyashodhan Mahākaṣāya*

S.No.	Dravya	Chemical constituents	Pharmaceutical Action
1.	Patha[18]	Deyamittin ,Cissamine, Menismine, mono Di-glucosides Pareirine, Hayatinine, ,Tetrandin Rhizomes-Hayatine, Hayatidine, L- bebeerines, Dehydrodicentrine, insularine.,Kaempferol cycloanine	Antioxidant, Anti-inflammator Analgesic, Antimicrobial, Anthelmintic, Hepatoprotective, Gastroprotective, Cardioprotective, Antidiabetic, Anti-obesity, Wound Healing, Anti-allergic
2.	Mahaushadh[19]	Zingiberenes Curumene, B- Citronellol, D- Curcumene, Zingiberol ,B-Bourbornene, d-Borneal, , D-Camphene, Geraniol, Gingerol,a- and b-, Zingerone, Gingerols, Paradol, Gingerone	Antioxidant, Bronchodilator, Anti-asthmatic, Diuretic Anti-inflammatory, Expectorant, Antimicrobial, Hepatoprotective,
3.	Suradaru [20]	Cedrene, Cedrol, Widdrol Himachalene (α, β, γ), Atlantone Deodarin, Matairesino, Tannins. Flavonoid, Phenolic compounds	Anti-inflammatory ,Analgesic Antihyperglycemic, Antispasmodic Antimicrobial , Hepatoprotective and Gastroprotective, Cardioprotective ,

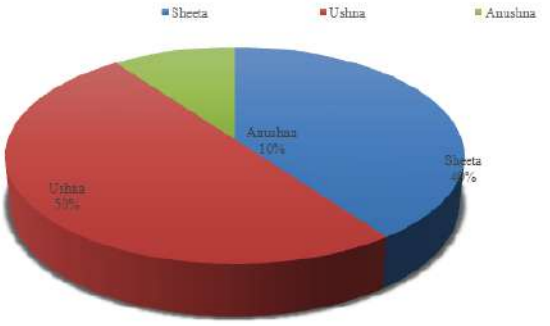
4.	Musta[21]	Cyperene (major constituent) Cyperotundone Patchoulenone , α-Cyperone, Rotundene ,Selinene, Caryophyllene Sitosterol, Quercetin, Kaempferol, Luteolin, Apigenin,Stigmasterol , Lupeol.	Antioxidant , Antimicrobial, Antidiabetic Hepatoprotective , Antispasmodic Anticonvulsant , Antidepressant
5.	Moorva [22]	Caoutchouc, Pregnane Glycosides Tenacissimosides A-E, Marsdenin ,D-Cymarose, Asclepobiose ,D-Canaros, Cissogenin	Anti-tumorerous , Immunomodulatory, Diuretic, Hepatoprotective, Skeletal Muscle Relaxant Antiamoebic
6.	Guduchi[23]	Berberine, Chlorogenic acid Magnoflorine, Jatrorrhizine, Temberatine Diterpenoid, Tinosporide, Ecdysterone, Giloinsterol Rutin Phenolics, Syringin ,Catechin,	Immunomodulator, antioxidant Anti-inflammatory action Hepatoprotective, Anticancer, Antimicrobial, Anti-ulcer, Cardioprotective Anti-allergic , Renoprotective actions.
7.	Vatsakphala [24]	Conessine, Conimine, Conessimine, Isoconessimine, Conarrhimine, Flavonoids, Triterpenoids.	Antidiarrhea, Antidysenteric Antimicrobial, Anti-inflammatory, Hepatoprotective, Immunomodulatory, Antidiabetic, Antiulc, Anticancer
8.	Kirattikta [25]	Xanthones ,Amarogentin, Mangiferin , Bellidifolin, Iridoid , Glycosides,Swertiamari,Fattyacids, Sweroside , Saponins, Steroids,	Ant-inflammatory, Analgesic, Immunomodulatory, Antimicrobial, Hepatoprotective, Anti-diabetic properties.
9.	Katurohini [26]	Iridoid Glycosides Picroside I, II, and III: Kutkoside , Cucurbitacins Phenolic Compound, Apocynin, Drosin, Flavonoids, Sterols	Hepatoprotective , Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant, Immunomodulatory, , Antidiabetic Digestive Stimulant Antiviral, Neuro- Nephroprotective
10.	Sariva [27]	Alkaloids: Tylophorine, Indicine, Glycosides: Hemidesmin I-II, Saponins, Rutin, Hyperoside, Sterols, β-Sitosterol, α-Amyrin Phenolic Compounds, Vanillin,	Anti-inflammator, Antioxidant, Hepatoprotective, Immunomodulatory, Antimicrobial, Anticancer, Antipyretic, Antidiabetic, Diuretic, Skin Protective

Table-03, Rasapanchak and Rogaghnata of Stanyashodhan Mahakashay

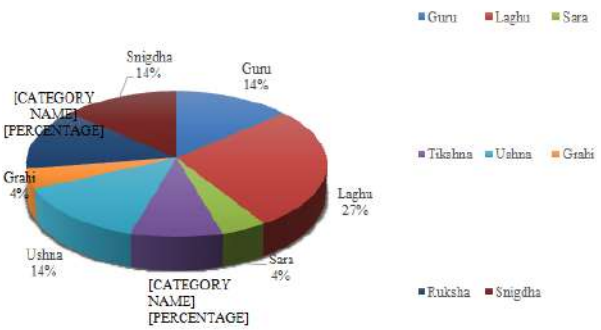
S.No.	Dravya	Doshaghnata and Karma	Rasapanchaka	Rogaghnata And Karma
1.	Patha[28]	Kapha-pitta hara Vrushya,Grahi Dahahar,Kandughna, Bastishodhak, Balya,	Rasa : Katu, Tikta, Kashaya Guna :Tikshna, Ushna, Laghu Veerya: Ushna Vipaka: Katu	Visha, Kushtha, Kandu Gulama, Vrana, Swasa, Krumi, Chhardi, Atisara, Jwara, Shula
2.	Mahaushadh[29]	Kapha-vat har Ruchya, Vrushya, Swarya, Bhedan Aampachan, Deepan, Grahi.	Rasa : Katu, Tikta Guna : Laghu,	Aamvata,Vami, Shwas, Shula, Kasa, Hrudroga, Slipada, Shoth, Aanah,

			Snigdh,Ushna Veerya: Ushna Vipaka: Madhura	Udara, Arsha.
3.	Suradaru[30]	Tridosh shamak Kanthya,Netrya. Rakshoghna, Koshthashodhak,	Rasa : Tikta, Katu, Kashay Guna : Laghu, Snigdha Veerya: Ushna Vipaka: Katu	Kasa, Aam, Tandra Adhman, Hikka, Shwas, Prameha, Jwara, Krumi, Kushtha,
4.	Musta[31]	Kaph-pittasra har Deepan, Pachan , Sangrahi, Kantida, Medhya,	Rasa : Tikta, Kashay,Katu Guna : Laghu, Ruksha Veerya: Sheeta Vipaka: Katu	Jvara, Trishna, Arochaka, Jantu, Atisara, Visarpa, Kandu,
5.	Moorva[32]	Kaph-pitta har Hrudya, Sangrahi, Vrushya, Balya, Sarak	Rasa : Madhura, Tikta Guna : Guru, Sara, Ushna Veerya: Ushna Vipaka: Madhura	Kandu, Kushth, Jvara, Trishna, Hrudroga, Vami, Prameha, Gulma, Bhrama
6.	Guduchi[33]	Tridosh shamak Rasayana, Deepana ,Pachana Amapachaka Medohara, Varnya, Vayahsthapana, Vrishya, Hrudya Balya	Rasa : Katu , Tikta, Kashay Guna :Guru, Teekshna Veerya: Ushna Vipaka : Madhura	Jvara, Trishna, Meha Kushtha, Kasa , Shwas, Krimi, Shoth Vatarakta
7.	Vastakpahal[34]	Tridosh har Dipan, Pachan, Shramahara, Lohitnashana	Rasa : Tikta Guna : Grahi, Veerya: Anushna Vipaka: Katu	Kushth, Jwara, Visarpa, Shula, Vatarakta, Gudakilak, Kapha, Trushna.
8.	Kirattikta[35]	Kapha-Pittahara Sarak,Dipan,Pachan, Dahahara	Rasa : Tikta, Katu , Guna : Laghu, Ruksha Veerya: Sheeta Vipaka: Katu	Sannipatajwara Shoth,, Meha, Kushta Vrana Trusha
9.	Katurohini[36]	Kapha pitta har Bhedan, Dipan, Hrudya	Rasa : Tikta, Guna : Laghu, Ruksha, Veerya: Sheeta Vipaka: Katu	Jwar, Prameh, Shwas, Kasa, Daha, Arsh, Krimi ,Kushth, Arochaka.
10	Sariva[37]	Tridosh shamak Sangrahi,Shukrala Mutrajanan,	Rasa : Madhura Guna : Guru, Snidha	Kandu, Kushth, Meha, Aamdosh, Agnimandya, Shwas, Kasa, Pradar,

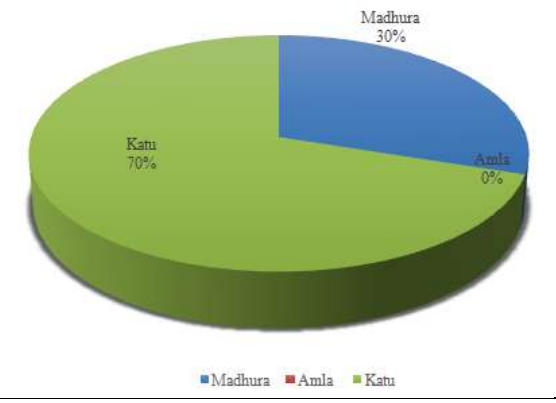
			Veerya: Sheeta Vipaka: Madhura	Atisar, Jwar,



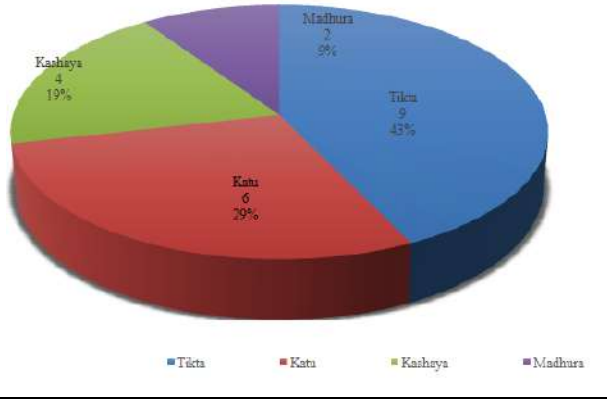
Viry Distribution



Guna Distribution



Vipak Distribution



Rasa Distribution

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CASE STUDY ARTICLE

Oral Lipoma - A Rare Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Adipose tissue that has reached adulthood is where lipomas, which are benign soft tissue tumors, form. Seldom is the oral cavity impacted. Most of them develop in the subcutaneous tissues, while deeper tissues may occasionally be affected as well. A two-year follow-up following a protracted surgical excision showed excellent healing and no recurrence. The head and neck region is home to only 1-5% of all lipomas, or oral lipomas, which make up around 20% of all lipomas. Oral lipomas are most commonly found in the mouth floor, buccal mucosa, tongue, palate, vestibule, and major salivary glands. Even though the tumor is benign, its continuing growth could make it difficult to masticate and speak. . The current study describes a rare instance of intraoral lipoma in a patient who is a 50-year-old male.

Keywords: oral lipoma, oral cavity, benign, buccal mucosa.

INTRODUCTION

Lipomas make up between 0.1 and 5% of all benign tumors of the oral cavity, making them the most prevalent soft tissue neoplasm. 1 to 4 %of cases—about 15 to 20 %—involve the head and neck, but lipomas are uncommon in the

oral cavity [1, 2]. Oral lipomas are more commonly seen in men than in women (1.5: 1), despite the fact that the gender split for all lipomas is 2:1 [3]. The tumor's propensity to float when submerged in a 10% formaldehyde solution is a crucial characteristic (8). They are typically observed as long-lasting, asymptomatic soft nodular swellings covered by normal mucosa. Particularly the cheek, the floor of the mouth, the tongue, the buccal vestibule and gingiva, and the sites of fat storage are where they tend to accumulate [4].

Due to the extensive nature of the lesion, the occurrence of this tumor seems to be correlated with the amount of adipose tissue present in that region. Due to its proximity to the buccal fat pad, the buccal mucosa has a lot of adipose tissue, where lipomas are more frequently detected.[6] Mandibular intra oral lipomas typically develop in the symphysis, body, and ramus of the mandible. Maxillary involvement is also observed. [8]
Oral lipoma's genesis is unknown. Oral lipomas can form due to mechanical causes, the endocrine system, obesity, inflammation, mucosal infections, chromosomal abnormalities,radiation, and persistent irritation, according to certain research.[10] Histologically, lipomas are classified as simple lipoma or variants, such as fibro lipoma, intra-muscular or infiltrating lipoma, spindle cell lipoma, sialolipoma, angiolipoma, pleomorphic lipoma, chon-droid lipoma, osteoid lipoma, and atypical lipomas.[15]

Case Presentation
50 year old male patient reported to the OPD in department of oral medicine and radiology[OMDR] with chief complain of swelling in right buccal mucosa. on clinical examination presented with a pink diffuse, painful, slight cheek swelling on the middle third of right side of his face. The pain and swelling consistently increased in size just before and during meals. The painful area was well defined and the pain confined with no radiation. Swelling cause difficulty in mastication. Patient was hypertensive and on medication for the same .No significant dental history On examination . The right parotid area was tender on palpation with no obvious change in the skin color. on intra oral examination single diffuse swelling on right buccal mucousa of size 2-3cm approximately . The intraoral lesion have normal color with the adjacent soft tissue which was normal in color, texture, and consistency . The swelling is of soft in consistency non tender with pedunculated base swelling was non compressible and non-reducible. The diascopy test was performed it was negative.on the basis of clinical examination soft tissue benign tumor provisional diagnosis was given. Investigation like IOPA and OPG was done. Under local anesthetic, an excision biopsy was scheduled. After a blunt dissection, the mucosal membrane was compromised, revealing a lobulated, uneven, and poorly encapsulated pale-yellow mass (Figure 2). The removed material, which measured two to three centimeters (Figure 3), was sent for histological analysis. After seven days, a review revealed uneventful healing, therefore the sutures were taken out. After six months, there was no recurrence. The soft tissue section's histology revealed an encapsulated lesion made up of several mature adipocytes organized in lobules. Septa of fibrous connective tissue divide the lobules. The adipocytes had a polygonal appearance, with a nucleus positioned eccentrically and compressed against the cell membrane, and transparent cytoplasm. The deeper portion of the cut showed muscle fibers, dilated blood capillaries, extravasated RBCs, and a small number of inflammatory cells. Alongside the lesional tissue, lobules of mucous salivary acini were also observed (Figure 6).

DISCUSSION

Lipomas are benign adipose tissue-derived soft tissue neoplasms that are frequently found in the head and neck region. Only one to four percent of people in the United States have intraoral lipomas, according to data. [1, 2] In 1848, Roux reviewed alveolar tumors that he referred to as "yellow epulis" and gave the first description of an oral lesion [8]. Lipomas are referred to as "universal tumors" since they can develop everywhere in the body. One of these regions is the head and neck region, where lipomas account for 15-20% of all lipomas. The buccal mucosa, which is the most favourable site of involvement for oral lipomas. We believe that the buccal area's fatty pads are to blame for its frequent involvement.The site of the lesion may be connected to the clinical characteristics of an intraoral lipoma[IOL]. They frequently relate to slow-growing tumors connected to fatty tissue that fluctuate in diameter, which increases the chance of a false positive.[7]Simple cysts, aneurysmal bone cysts, giant cell granulomas, post-

traumatic cysts ,ameloblastomas, osteoblastomas, arteriovenous malformations AV, hemangiomas, chondrosarcomas, and liposarcomas, infarcted bones are all included in the differential diagnosis of IOL[11].

Under a microscope, lipomas and normal adipose tissue are identical; yet, because lipomas are not transformed into energy like normal adipose cells are, they differ metabolically. This fact pertains to the functioning of lipoprotein lipase. Under a microscope, lipomas and normal adipose tissue are identical; yet, because lipomas are not transformed into energy like normal adipose cells are, they differ metabolically. This fact is related to the activity of lipoprotein lipase, which is notably elevated in lipomas. [12,13] Patients with lipomas are most likely to be obese and between the ages of 40 and 60, per the most recent World health organization classification. The intra-oral region is only found in a tiny number of cases in the literature, according the same classification. Steroid injections can cause fat atrophy leads to reducing the size of lesion.injecting combination of triamcinolone acetonide and lidocaine at 1:1ratio in to the lesion leads to shrink lesion. Oral lipomas are treated with a straightforward surgical excision. Although intra-oral lipomas seldom recur, the risk of intra-muscular lipomas is higher. Oral lipomas are treated with a straightforward surgical excision. Because of their infiltrative development style, intra-muscular lipomas have a greater recurrence rate than intra-oral lipomas[IOL] but are less common in the oral and maxillofacial region (14).

CONCLUSIONS

The differential diagnosis of lesions originating from the buccal mucosa of the oral cavity should include lipomas. Lipomas with a benign nature and sluggish development patterns are capable of growing to enormous sizes. We advise having them removed as soon as feasible, particularly in older individuals because they might lead to nutritional issues. This tumor has a bright outlook. The prognosis for this malignancy is favorable. Total resection should be emphasized in the initial surgical operation since it is crucial to preventing recurrence. They readily shell out with no chance of recurrence or damage to the surrounding structures when well-encapsulated lipomas are present, as they are in this instance.

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Fig.1.Extra oral view



Fig.2.Intraoral view

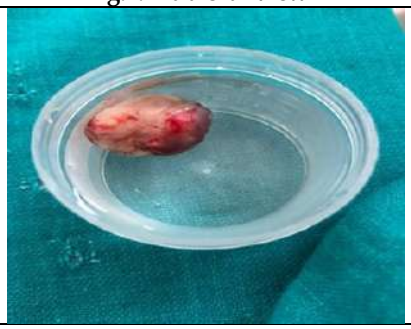


Fig.3.Excisied specimen



Fig.4.Lesion During Excision



Fig.5.After excision

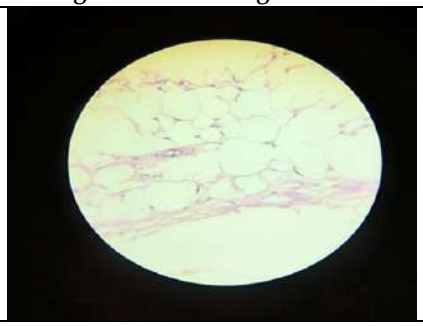


Fig.6. Histopathology Slide under 40x

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Mapping Trends in E-Learning : A Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

"E-learning is not just a substitute for traditional education it's a revolution in how knowledge is accessed and applied."- Anand Agrawal. This study reviews several referred papers to gain some understanding about how educational technology scholars have been dealing with e-learning. Its main objectives are to identify key research topics, most frequently cited database, frequently studied e-learning formats country wise and prevailing research methodology. The study focuses on Bibliometric techniques to explore the data retrieved from Scopus and WOS database for metadata analysis such as Key word wise, country wise, author wise and citation wise analysis. Using the Open Alex data based, the report examines1452 articles from 2021-2024 and identify the research gaps and novel study using VOS Viewer software.The investigation reveals three main areas of interest: how interactive learning environments are designed, how instructors function on digital platforms, and how students experience online surroundings. Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs, seem to be the most researched e-learning model.

Keywords: E-learning, MOOCs, VOS Viewer, bibliometric analysis, students, teachers

INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-paced technological landscape, education has embraced ICT to provide flexible and efficient ways of enhancing knowledge, learning and literacy. E-learning platforms allow individuals to upgrade their skills anytime, anywhere, breaking the barriers of traditional classroom settings. Schools that adopt digital learning methods have a clear advantage over those relying solely on conventional teaching approaches. Studies suggest that visual and

auditory learning especially through videos helps the brain retain information more effectively. The education sector has undergone a massive transformation, driven by shifting demographics, evolving industry demands and a new generation eager to leverage knowledge to reshape their futures, regardless of geographical limitations. While in-person learning remains valuable, it is no longer the sole method of education. The internet has levelled the playing field, making distance learning and self-paced programs far more impactful than in the past. Universities and educators now have countless creative ways to deliver instruction, tailoring technology to fit diverse needs. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this shift, shutting down physical classrooms globally and pushing over 1.5 billion students and 63 million teachers to adapt quickly to remote learning wherever feasible.

Definition of E-Learning

In the last few years, especially since 2020, the education sector has undergone a dramatic transformation with the integration of technology into learning environments. E-learning, often defined as electronically supported teaching and learning through digital platforms and the internet, has become central to modern education. According to[1], e-learning is a dynamic concept that evolves with technological advancements and educational needs. In India, [2]describes e-learning as a digital method of delivering education using resources like internet connectivity, video tutorials, and online assessments to reach students beyond traditional classrooms. One of the most prominent innovations within e-learning is the rise of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). These courses are designed to be open to all, typically free or low-cost, and accessible from anywhere in the world. During the pandemic and in its aftermath, MOOCs played a key role in ensuring continuity in higher education. Platforms like Coursera and edX saw record-breaking enrollments. For example, Coursera reported over 37 million registered users by the end of 2018, which increased significantly during 2020–2021[3]. MOOCs now support professional certifications, Micro Masters programs, and even stackable credentials that are recognized by universities and employers globally[4].

LITERATURE REVIEW

The global education system has been disrupted by the widespread closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both educators and learners have faced challenges in adapting to the constraints of online learning. This research sheds light on key student perspectives regarding digital education, offering valuable insights that can help refine teaching methods, tackle specific obstacles, and ensure long-term sustainability in learning[5]. As MOOCs proliferate in global education at an astounding pace, there has been increased attention paid to how participation and access in higher education, particularly in developing contexts are impacted by these platforms. However, MOOCs overstretch flexibility and cost factor and open can of worms in terms of learner engagement, digital preparedness and pedagogical transition. Research has indicated that while the enrolment is high, the completion rates are low, and this is attributed to the reduction in interaction and lack of motivation, alongside the strange learning environment that is online. Yet these platforms are considered good competitors for classical learning, particularly in the context of lifelong learning and professional development at large[6]. Bibliometric mapping tools have received considerable attention in education and science research in recent years because they can characterize the complex literature network in a visual manner. One of these tools, VOS viewer, has proved to be very effective to build and visualize large-scale bibliometric maps. (2010) Unlike most conventional software, VOS viewer is designed to maintain graphical clarity, which is especially helpful in enabling researchers to see patterns, links and trends within large datasets. Its power enables the mapping of thousands of co-cited journals, which give guidance to the intellectual structure of a research discipline. Such features makeVOS viewers particularly valuable as a tool in systematic literature reviews and bibliometric research[7].The COVID-19 pandemic drastically disrupted education systems worldwide, leading to widespread school closures that affected students globally. Due to the virus's highly infectious nature, social distancing measures were implemented, severely limiting face-to-face interactions between teachers and students. As digital learning emerged as a key alternative, social media platforms could play a vital role in enhancing its effectiveness. The findings of this study can guide policymakers and educational institutions in refining online learning strategies for better outcomes[8]. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted countless global operations, including education, creating significant challenges for society. Faced with this sudden shift, academic

institutions had no choice but to adopt digital learning through available online platforms to help contain the outbreak. Our analysis of the data revealed encouraging insights, highlighting both the advantages and challenges of using e-learning systems as an alternative to conventional in-person classes not just during crises but for higher education as a whole[9] Participants said in the open comments that these online lessons were a smart use of time, broke up tedious routines, and made the material easily accessible. They were inspired to read about those subjects, and it allowed them to sleep soundly and avoid thinking about COVID. In addition to information acquisition, the current study demonstrated how online learning affects students' morale by providing a distraction from the ongoing pandemic. We conclude that, despite the current lockdown, online instruction is practical, affordable, and must be included in postgraduate education in India[10].

OBJECTIVES

- To Find the Most prominent authors in the E- learning area in high-impact international scientific publications between 2020 and 2024."
- To systematically analyze and identify the leading countries contributing to high-impact scholarly research on the design of interactive learning environments.
- To Identify the most frequently employed e-learning modalities examined in high-impact international scientific publications between 2020 and 2024.

METHODOLOGY

Firstly, a specific preliminary documentary search was conducted with the aim of identifying Previous SLRs about the concept of E-learning. The research output on E-learning from 2020 to 2024 is examined in this study using bibliometric analysis. It focuses on the design of interactive learning environments, the role of instructors on digital platforms, and the online experiences of learners, especially in relation to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Authors, institutions, and nations' contributions, citation impact, and publishing trends are all quantitatively evaluated using bibliometric techniques. Because it covers a large amount of high-impact, peer-reviewed literature, the Scopus and Web of Science (WOS) database was chosen. This method identifies the top researchers in the subject and provides insights into how important research themes have developed.The search strategy query includes the combination of key words such as “E learning, Students, Teacher, Teaching, Learning in India.”

Tools and software
VOS Viewer: For constructing and visualizing bibliometric network (e.g., co-authorship, co-citation)
Microsoft Excel: For data cleaning and descriptive statistics

RESULT ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The term "e-learning" is central, highlighting its multidisciplinary significance in sectors such as the arts, social sciences, technology, and medicine. New concepts like "blended learning" and "technology acceptance model" reflect changing pedagogy. Key research trends are depicted in the visual map, where node size indicates keyword value and connections demonstrate thematic correlations. This reveals the adaptability and usefulness of e-learning, particularly in the post-pandemic context.

Figure :1 Authors Wise
Link for the Real Visualization from VOS Viewer: https://tinyurl.com/25l33yty
The VOS viewer co-authorship map reveals three key clusters of author collaboration. The red cluster, led by Laurent Suppan, Mélanie Suppan, and Philippe Cottet, shows strong internal collaboration, indicating a closely connected research team. The green cluster, with authors like Stephan Harbarth and Eric Golay, reflects another active group with frequent mutual publications. The blue cluster, including Robert Larribau and Eduardo Schiffer, forms a smaller

but coherent team. Authors such as Eric Golay and Laurent Suppan serve as bridging links across clusters, enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration. The size of each node represents research output, while the connecting lines indicate the strength of co-authorship. Overall, the map highlights an active and interconnected research community.

Figure 2: Keywords Wise
Link for the Real Visualization from VOS Viewer: https://tinyurl.com/255rku6f
A bibliometric keyword co-occurrence analysis was conducted using VOS viewer to map the thematic landscape of the literature. The visualization reveals five main clusters, each representing a core research area.
Cluster 1 (Blue): Focused on *computer science*, this cluster includes keywords like *e-learning*, *multimedia*, *teaching method*, and *world wide web*, indicating strong research in digital education and computing.
Cluster 2 (Green): Centered around *psychology* and *social psychology*, this cluster connects with *statistics*, *biology*, and *medical education*, highlighting interdisciplinary links between behavioral science, health, and education.
Cluster 3 (Yellow): Dominated by *COVID-19*-related terms such as *disease*, *pathology*, and *virology*, this cluster reflects the pandemic's significant research impact, especially in medicine and public health.
Cluster 4 (Red): Contains keywords like *political science*, *sociology*, *law*, and *pedagogy*, representing research on policy, education systems, and social sciences.
Cluster 5 (Purple): Comprising *humanities*, *art*, and *philosophy*, this smaller cluster shows the presence of humanistic inquiry within broader interdisciplinary research.

Figure 3: Country Wise
Link for the Real Visualization from VOS Viewer: https://tinyurl.com/2a8nv8d2
The VOS viewer map illustrates international collaboration in the research domain, with countries grouped into distinct clusters based on co-authorship and co-publication links. Indonesia emerges as the most central and dominant node, indicating its significant contribution and extensive collaboration with other countries, particularly within the green cluster (e.g., China, India, Pakistan, UAE, and Philippines). The red cluster includes highly active countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, and France, showing strong interconnections among Western and African nations like Nigeria and South Africa. The blue cluster comprises countries such as Turkey, Brazil, Portugal, and Bangladesh, while the yellow cluster includes Jordan, Oman, and Malaysia, reflecting regional collaboration patterns. A smaller purple cluster, led by Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago, shows niche but significant participation. Node size reflects publication volume, while the thickness of links indicates the strength of collaborative ties. The map highlights an increasingly global and interconnected research landscape, with Asia, the Middle East, and Western countries forming the major axes of collaboration.

Figure 4: Field wise citation
The data shows that research in fields like Medicine, Engineering, and Computer Science has received the most attention, with several papers having high citation counts especially in Medicine, which includes one paper cited 75 times. Social Sciences had the most entries, but many had zero citations, suggesting lower impact or newer publications. Other fields like Environmental Science, Biochemistry, and Materials Science also showed moderate influence, while disciplines such as Psychology, Business, and Mathematics had fewer and less-cited papers. Overall, the impact varies, with Medicine clearly leading in research visibility.

Findings

Research on e-learning has shown notable patterns in authorship, geography, and collaboration, according to bibliometric analysis. With constant publication of papers with a significant impact, Laurent, Avinash Koka became a prominent contributor. Geographically speaking, research production is primarily concentrated in the Indonesia, India, and US with Malaysia and China following closely behind. Active academic involvement in the development of E-learning is seen in several regions. The Chinese Academy of Sciences, State University of Padang, and the University of London were recognized as key universities with strong international cooperation and central nodes in global research networks. This suggests that an academic community that is becoming more networked is promoting

e-learning research through collaboration and knowledge sharing. Most of the literature consists of peer-reviewed articles and review papers, with books and book chapters playing a secondary role. This publication trend suggests a preference for disseminating findings through scholarly journals, emphasizing empirical studies and comprehensive literature reviews. Overall, the field shows dynamic growth, regional diversity, and expanding global collaboration.

Future Scope of Research

The potential for researchers to employ instruments such *1) Citespace* augmented cluster summarization creates a multi-level synthetic review to improve research insights and expedites the literature survey procedure. *2) Harzing's Academic citations* can be retrieved and analyzed by the software tool Publish or Perish. A range of citation measures, such as the number of papers, total citations, and the h-index, are shown after the raw citations are analyzed using a variety of data sources. Theoretical frameworks such as the Community of Inquiry and the Technological Acceptance Model were identified as central to understanding the dynamics of e-learning, offering a foundation for future studies

CONCLUSION

This research provided a thorough bibliometric analysis of the literature on e-learning, identifying recurring themes pertaining to educators, online learners, and interactive courses. Since MOOCs have a transformative role, they have become a major focus. The study highlights developing theoretical and methodological patterns that continue to influence the global landscape of educational technology.

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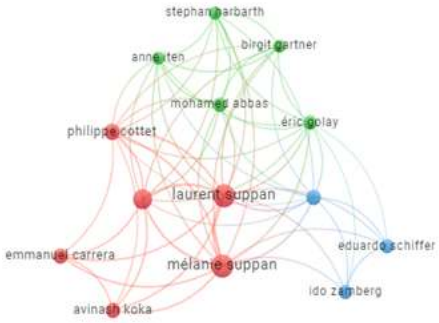


Figure 1: Author wise. Source: Author's Contribution using VOSViewer

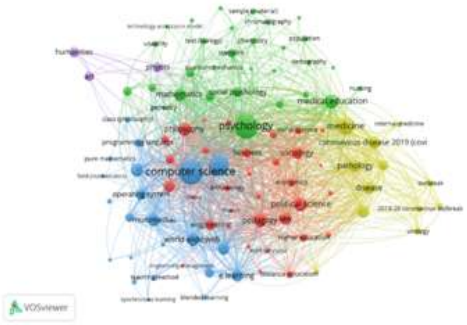


Figure 2: Keywords wise. Source: Author's Contribution using VOSViewer

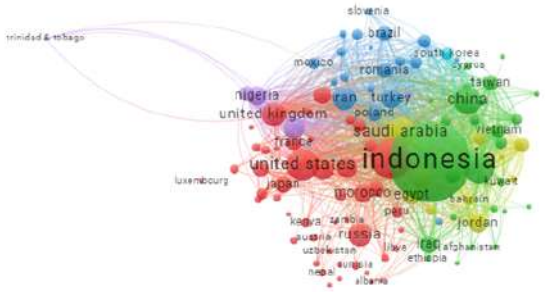


Figure 3: Country wise.Source: Author's Contribution using VOSViewer

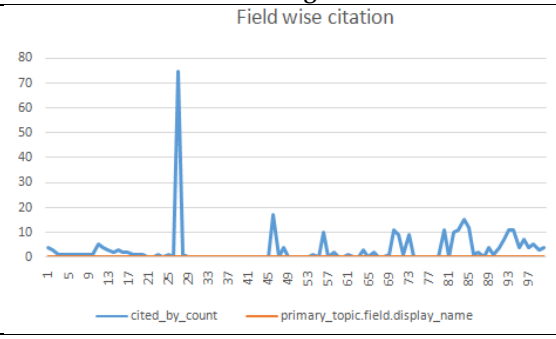


Figure 4: Field wise citation

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Implementation of Thermophotovoltaic Cells on Efficient Conversion of Waste Burning into Electricity

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ABSTRACT

A novel approach is proposed to address the environmental and energetic consequences of uncontrolled combustion processes. This innovative method integrates solar cell technology with thermophotovoltaic systems to efficiently capture and utilize the energy released during burning. By optimizing solar cell

designs for both light and heat absorption, while incorporating thermophotovoltaic elements, the system can harness energy from flames to generate electricity, even under adverse weather conditions. This integrated solution offers a sustainable means of recovering energy from wasteful combustion practices, enabling facilities to power electrical appliances and operations independently. By tapping into previously unused energy sources such as open-air burning, industrial boilers, and household fireplaces, this approach not only reduces environmental impact but also promotes resource efficiency and energy autonomy. The research contributes to advancing renewable energy technologies and developing innovative strategies for mitigating energy waste across various sectors. This breakthrough has the potential to transform how we approach energy recovery from seemingly inefficient processes, paving the way for more sustainable and self-sufficient operations in industries and households worldwide.

Keywords: Energy wastage Management, Thermal Energy, Renewable energy, Solar panels, Thermophotovoltaic Cells

INTRODUCTION

Thermal power plants, boilers, and furnaces are essential components in global energy production, but they also generate substantial amounts of waste heat. Recent studies and industry reports estimate that between 20% and 50% of the thermal energy produced by these systems is lost as waste heat annually. The International Energy Agency (IEA) conducted a study that revealed alarming statistics on global energy waste. According to their findings, industrial processes worldwide generate approximately 20% to 50% of their energy input as waste heat. This staggering figure underscores the significant inefficiencies inherent in modern industrial practices. In the United States alone, the situation is particularly concerning. Each year, American industries waste roughly 20 quadrillion British thermal units (BTUs) of energy. To put this in perspective, this amount of wasted energy is equivalent to the annual consumption of over 100 million homes. This substantial energy waste has profound implications for both the environment and the economy. It contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions, strain on natural resources, and unnecessary expenses for businesses and consumers alike. The IEA's research emphasizes the pressing need for improved energy efficiency in industrial processes to mitigate these negative impacts and foster more sustainable practices in the global energy sector. In the context of thermal power plants specifically, the U.S. Department of Energy reports that conventional coal-fired power plants typically operate at efficiency levels of around 33% to 40%, meaning that 60% to 67% of the energy content of the coal is lost as waste heat. Similarly, natural gas-fired power plants have efficiencies ranging from 40% to 60%, resulting in significant waste heat generation. Boilers and furnaces in industrial settings also contribute to waste heat. According to data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), industrial boilers in the United States alone emit over 300 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, much of which is attributable to energy losses in the form of waste heat. These statistics underscore the magnitude of the issue and highlight the urgent need for improved efficiency measures and waste heat recovery technologies. By harnessing and utilizing this otherwise wasted thermal energy, industries can not only reduce their environmental footprint but also improve their operational efficiency and competitiveness in an increasingly resource-constrained world. There are no organised approaches exist to tackle wasted thermal energy which aim to enhance efficiency and mitigate environmental impact. These strategies typically begin with comprehensive energy audits, which systematically assess energy consumption patterns, identify sources of waste heat, and quantify potential energy savings. Following this initial assessment, businesses and industries can implement waste heat recovery systems, leveraging technologies. Various technologies exist to capture and utilize waste heat from industrial processes. Heat exchangers, organic ranking cycle systems, and combined heat and power (CHP) plants are commonly employed to convert waste heat into useful forms of energy like heating, cooling, or electricity. District heating networks provide an efficient means of distributing excess thermal energy from central sources to multiple buildings or facilities. This approach optimizes energy utilization by sharing the burden of energy production and distribution. Industrial

symbiosis promotes cooperation among neighbouring industries, enabling the exchange of resources and energy to enhance efficiency and minimize waste. This collaborative approach fosters a more circular economy within industrial clusters. Policy support plays a crucial role in encouraging waste heat recovery initiatives. Governments often offer financial incentives, set energy efficiency standards, and establish emissions targets to stimulate investment in waste heat recovery projects. Continuous research and development drive innovation in waste heat recovery technologies, leading to more efficient and cost-effective solutions over time. By combining these organized approaches - including technological advancements, policy support, and industrial collaboration - stakeholders can effectively harness wasted thermal energy, improve overall energy efficiency, and contribute to a more sustainable energy future.

Thermophotovoltaic Cell

Thermophotovoltaic (TPV) systems convert thermal energy from temperature gradients or radiative heat sources—such as fuel combustion, industrial waste heat, concentrated solar radiation, or nuclear energy—into electricity. While fossil fuels remain the dominant global energy resource, their non-renewable nature and rapid depletion due to unsustainable extraction practices underscore the urgency of transitioning to alternative solutions. For instance, Panayiotou *et al*. estimated that European industries generated 358.47 TWh/year of waste heat in 2017. This staggering volume highlights both the environmental burden of inefficient energy use and the critical need to enhance waste heat recovery and conversion technologies. In this context, TPV systems emerge as a promising technology to address these challenges. Unlike solar photovoltaic systems, TPV systems operate continuously under lower radiator temperatures. A typical TPV setup consists of four key components: (1) a heat source (e.g., fuel combustion) to supply thermal energy, (2) an emitter to radiate photons, (3) an optical filter to tailor the emitted spectrum for optimal cell absorption, and (4) a TPV cell to convert photon energy into electricity. Extensive research has focused on optimizing each component to improve system efficiency. Among these, the TPV cell—the core element responsible for direct photon-to-electricity conversion—plays the most critical role. Key materials for TPV cells include narrow-bandgap semiconductors such as gallium antimonide (GaSb) and indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs), as well as emerging candidates like germanium (Ge), indium arsenide (InAs), and ternary/quaternary alloys (e.g., InGaAsSb, InAsSbP, InGaAsSbP). These materials enable efficient photon harvesting at infrared wavelengths, aligning with the thermal radiation spectra of industrial waste heat sources. By advancing TPV cell design and material engineering, researchers aim to boost energy conversion efficiency, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and promote sustainable industrial practices Schematic diagram of TPV cell (Fig 1). TPV cell changes over the photon radiation into power and offer comparative head as PV cell. The all-out current thickness course through the heap, J is communicated as

$$J = J_0\left(e^{\frac{e_0 V}{kT_{cell}}} - 1\right) - J_{ph}$$

Voltage and current characteristics of a TPV cell (Fig 2). Under dark conditions, a photovoltaic cell generates no current per unit area, resulting in a photocurrent density (J_{ph}) of zero. The Shockley diode equation, which governs the relationship between current and voltage in semiconductor devices, illustrates this behaviour. When the cell is exposed to light, photons with energy exceeding the material's bandgap (hvg) contribute one elementary charge (e_0) each, generating J_{ph}. This illumination shifts the current-voltage (IV) curve into the fourth quadrant, where critical parameters such as the maximum current density (J_m), voltage at maximum power (V_m), and maximum power output ($Pmax$) can be determined. The external load (RL) then utilizes this peak power output. The thermophotovoltaic (TPV) system's efficiency (η_{TPV}), representing its ability to convert radiative heat into electrical energy, is defined by the ratio of the maximum extracted electrical power to the incident thermal energy. This efficiency depends on the optimal operating point derived from the IV characteristics under illumination.

$$\eta_{TPV} = \eta_{sp}\eta = \frac{P_{out}}{P_{radiant}}$$

Advantages of TPV Cell over Other Green Energy Resources

Industrial activities contribute significantly to global warming by generating substantial amounts of waste heat that escapes into the environment, contributing to the greenhouse effect. Thermophotovoltaic (TPV) cells represent a

promising technological solution to address this issue. These innovative devices have the capability to capture the wasted thermal energy emitted by industrial processes and convert it into usable electricity. By harnessing this previously lost energy, TPV cells offer a potential pathway towards reducing industrial carbon footprints and mitigating climate change impacts associated with industrial operations. From table 2, we have observed that there is a vast amount of gap between the hydropower and other renewable resources. The several factories out there we can tap in on them for approximately 1GWh per factory if the TPV cells are worked optimally with suitable conditions. This will help us to tap in more resources as the technology improves which will further aid in creation of electronic vehicle (EV) charging stations which will add up the revenue generated by the industries and also add up in better connectivity to remote areas with EV since the effective range of those cars will increase with more charging stations**.** Fig 3. Total renewable electricity capacity in the world. Fig 4. Total renewable electricity capacity by technology. In 2023, thermal power, primarily from coal, accounted for approximately 75.9% of India's electricity generation. Despite the high output, thermal power plants are notoriously inefficient, often converting only about 33% of the energy from coal into electricity. This means that roughly 67% of the energy is lost as waste heat. The following table is given just to show that how much thermal energy is being produced every year (2020-2022) and how much is wasted. And we can use that wasted heat energy and convert it to electricity by using TPV cell. Electricity generation approximation considering the amount of heat energy produced and wasted in Indian industries across the given years Table 1. An approximate house EV charger uses roughly 11Kwh per day hence the discussed setup will be sufficient enough to run a EV charging hub which will further result in vast EV promotion enhancing green technology and also improve transportation capabilities. In isolated locations with limited or no access to the traditional grid, TPV systems can be used to generate electricity. TPV systems can generate power for off-grid villages, distant military sites, or research stations by utilizing waste heat that is readily available in the area, such as biomass or natural heat sources. This is because the systems are able to function on heat from a variety of sources. The technique known as thermophotovoltaics (TPV) holds promise for use in space exploration. RTGs, or radioisotope thermoelectric generators, may produce heat from radioactive decay, which can be converted into electricity for spacecraft. This could offer a more effective way to generate power for extended space missions, particularly those that travel to frigid and dark locations like the outer planets or their moons. Estimated breakdown of wastage of heat energy by various appliances common in major industries Table 2. Thermophotovoltaic (TPV) cells offer an innovative solution for capturing and converting waste heat from industrial processes into usable electricity. Industries such as steel production and power generation generate significant amounts of energy as heat, which is currently lost. TPV cells can efficiently operate at high temperatures typical of industrial waste heat, converting it into electricity. By placing TPV systems near these heat sources, this otherwise wasted energy can be harnessed to power applications like charging electric vehicles (EVs). Electric vehicles typically consume about 30 kWh of electricity for every 100 miles driven. Utilizing TPV cells to convert industrial waste heat into electricity could help reduce the carbon footprint of EVs by decreasing reliance on grid-based electricity for charging. This approach could connect energy-intensive industries with the growing need for sustainable energy in the transportation sector. The potential impact is substantial, as industrial waste heat recovery could contribute significantly to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. By leveraging this previously wasted energy source, we can move towards more sustainable and efficient operations in various sectors while supporting the transition to cleaner transportation methods. To determine how many electric vehicles could be powered by the waste heat from a coal-fired power plant using TPV cells, we need to establish some assumptions and carry out relevant calculations.

Energy Wasted in a Coal Power Plant

A typical coal power plant has an efficiency of around 35-40%, meaning 60-65% of the energy is wasted as heat. Let's assume a typical coal power plant has a power output of 1 gigawatt (GW) of electricity. This is fairly standard for large power plants. The energy input required to produce 1 GW of electricity at 40% efficiency would be

$$EnergyInput = \frac{1\ GW}{0.4} = 2.5\ GW$$

Therefore, 1.5 GW of energy is lost as heat (since 2.5 GW total input – 1 GW output = 1.5 GW wasted heat). TPV cells typically have an efficiency of 20-40% in converting heat to electricity, depending on the technology. For this estimate, we'll assume a 30% conversion efficiency for the TPV cells. The amount of electricity recoverable from the wasted heat

$$ElectricityRecovered = 1.5\ GW * 0.3 = 0.45\ GW = 450\ GW$$

A typical electric vehicle (EV) uses around 30 kWh per 100 miles. If we assume each EV drives 100 miles per charge, it will use 30 kWh. The total energy available per hour from the recovered heat is 450 MWh (or 450,000 kWh). If one EV requires 30 kWh to travel 100 miles, then the number of EVs that can be powered for 100 miles from the recovered heat per hour is

$$\frac{450{,}000\ kWh}{30\ kWh/Ev} = 15{,}000\ EVs$$

So, 15,000 EVs could drive 100 miles on the electricity recovered from the waste heat of a 1 GW coal plant each hour. Predicted outcome: If we assume the plant operates 24 hours a day for 365 days a year, the total number of EVs powered annually would be

$$15{,}000\ EVs/hour\ * 24 * 365 = 131.4\ millionEVsperyear$$

Therefore, the waste heat from a coal plant could theoretically power 131.4 million EVs to drive 100 miles each year. Using TPV cells to capture and convert waste heat from a 1 GW coal-fired power plant could provide enough energy to power approximately 7,500 EVs per hour, or 65.7 million EVs per year for 100 miles of driving. This demonstrates the potential for integrating waste heat recovery into energy systems to support the growing demand for electric vehicle charging in a sustainable way.

CONCLUSION

After conducting research on thermophotovoltaics, we've discovered that these devices hold great potential for use in industrial furnaces. With minimal modifications, TPVs can be adapted to capture the heat that has been lost and convert it into electricity. We strongly advocate for the use of TPVs not only for electricity generation but also to create a self-sustaining industrial environment. Additionally, we propose utilizing TPVs to establish electric vehicle charging stations, which would further promote the adoption of green technology throughout various sectors. In (*Fig* 5, we can see marked locations which indicate the location of the major industrial hubs. Most of them are situated near the cities but just out of range of the site of operations, causing logistical issues and unavailability of manpower. This can be changed and industries can be relocated to remote areas with the energy generated from TPV supporting the electric vehicles. This will help us to locate industries on-site directly to be evacuated and processed which then can be transported easily through EV powered hubs powered by the electricity generated from Thermophotovoltaic cells. Major Industrial Locations of India (Fig 5).

$$\eta_{TPV} = \eta_{sp}\eta = \frac{P_{out}}{P_{radiant}}$$

By this method we can estimate the amount of electricity generated and how efficient it is. Efficiency is a critical factor in determining how much energy a TPV system can produce. Typical efficiencies for TPV systems are in the range of ~40%, though there are ongoing research efforts to improve this. We studied the average cost of electricity working of a furnace and found TPVs produce a certain amount of energy whereas the surplus goes to promote the EV drive. This type of innovation can in turn reduce the amount of coal consumption by 30% since the waste is now converted into useful electricity.

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Table 3. Total renewable electricity capacity (GW)

	2021	2022	2023	2024
World	3101	3296	3508	3721
Europe	690	725	765	804
China	967	1044	1132	1219
United States	349	370	391	411
India	176	197	216	235

Table 4. Total renewable electricity capacity by technology (GW)

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hydropower	1357	1373	1394	1 411
Bioenergy	152	159	165	171
Wind	744	799	857	917
Geothermal	16	17	18	18
Marine	1	1	1	1

Table 5. Electricity generation approximation considering the amount of heat energy produced and wasted in Indian industries across the given years

Year	Heat energy produced (Kj)	Wasted heat energy (Kj)	Electricity produced(MW)
2020	1,332,381,600,000	799,331,760,000	88,814.64
2021	1,375,743,600,000	825,446,160,000	91,716.24
2022	1,438,189,200,000	862,913,520,000	95,879.28

Table 6. Estimated breakdown of wastage of heat energy by various appliances common in major industries

Source	Energy Consumption (TBtu/yr)	Assumed Average Exhaust Temp. (°C)	Waste Heat 25°C (TBtu/yr)	Waste Heat 150°C (TBtu/yr)	Carnot Efficiency	Work Potential (TBtu/yr)
Coke Oven	**65.5**					
Gas		980	15.8	13.9	0.8	12.1
Waste Gas		200	11.2	10	0.4	4.1
Blast Furnace	**642.3**					
Gas		430	5.3		0.19	1
Stove Exhaust						
no Recovery	36.2	250	10.6	1.9	0.4	4.6
with Recovery	34.1	130	3.2	0.8	0.3	0.8
Basic Oxygen Furnace	**49.7**	**1700**	**27.1**	**26**	**0.8**	**23**
Electric Arc Furnace						
no Recovery	57.7	1200	5.8	5.4	0.4	4.6
with Recovery	13.3	204	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	**828.6**		**79.1**	**57.3**		**49.2**

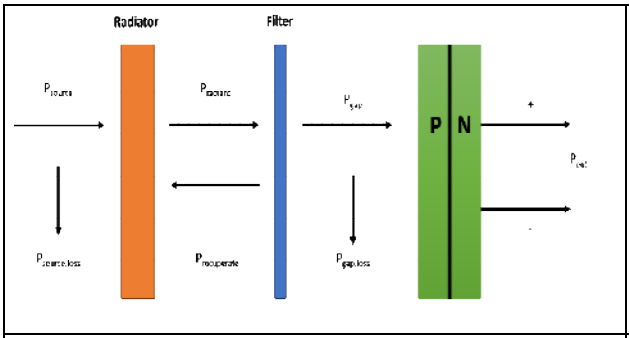


Fig 6. Schematic diagram of TPV cell

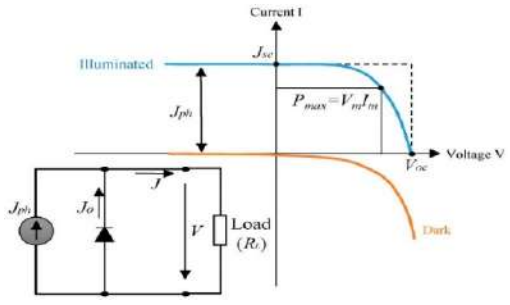


Fig 7. Voltage and current characteristics of a TPV cell

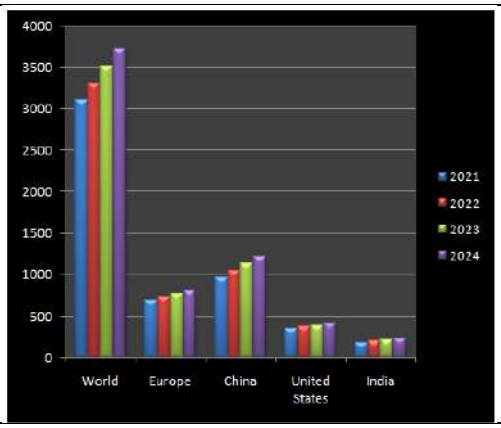


Fig 8. Total renewable electricity capacity in the world

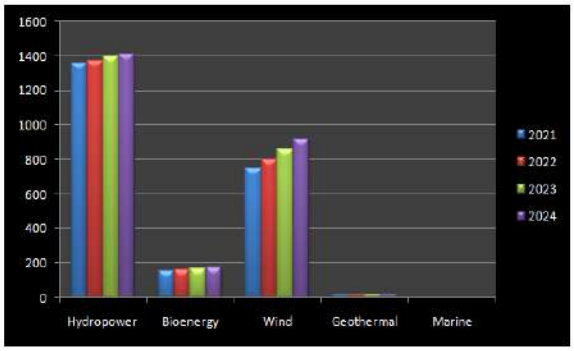
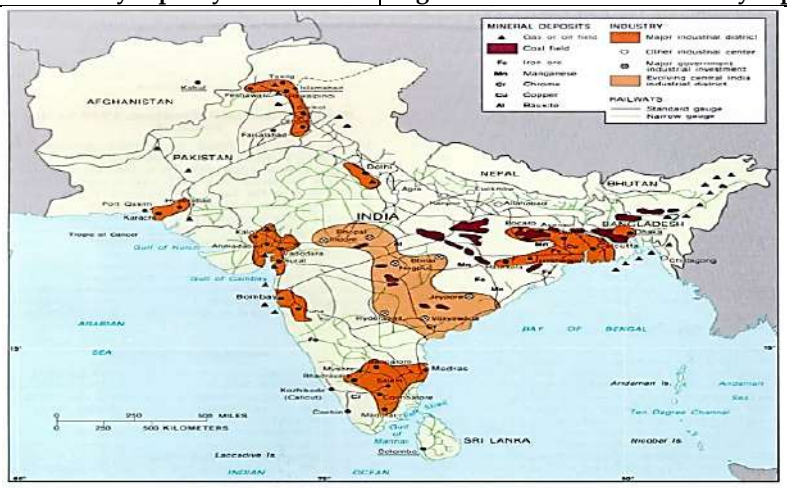


Fig 9. Total renewable electricity capacity by technology



Major mineral and industrial regions of South Asia. Although poor, the subcontinent has a well-developed surface transportation network, inherited in part from British colonial investments.

Fig 10. Major Industrial Locations of India

REVIEW ARTICLE

Relationship of Menopause, Heart Rate Variability and Health : A Narrative Review

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ABSTRACT

Menopause is a natural process of aging. There are four different stages of menopause: Premenopause, Perimenopause, Menopause, and Postmenopause. The effect of menopause on the Autonomic Nervous System (ANS) is frequently disregarded. Heart Rate Variability (HRV) is a reliable indicator of ANS function. HRV is a measure of the variation in time between consecutive heartbeats and is an indicator of ANS function. This narrative review aims to provide an insight in the state of the art in the literature about the relationship between menopause, HRV and health and to identify knowledge gaps as an input for further research. The databases that were searched on ScienceDirect, CINAHL, MEDLINE, and PubMed. The final collection consists of 36 scholarly publications, 27 more topic-related pieces, and 6 other sources. Research on menopause, HRV and health is scarce. Results are grouped thematically as follows: (1) Menopause and Not recognizing menopausal symptoms (2) Menopause and Cardiovascular efficiency (3) Changes in HRV in menopause (4) Association of HRV with ANS (5) Association of HRV with Cardiac abnormality (6) Perimenopause as a neurological transition state (7) Menopause and coping intervention. Menopause is still not acknowledged or discussed in an organizational setting since it is taboo. New theoretical and methodological approaches towards research on menopause, HRV and health is required in order to match the variety of the work contexts world-wide.

Keywords: Menopause, Autonomic Nervous System, Heart Rate Variability, menopause and Health

INTRODUCTION

Menopause is a natural process of aging. When there is no monthly menstruation for a continuous twelve months and the ovaries totally stop producing reproductive hormones. There are different four stage of menopause: Premenopause, Perimenopause, Menopause, and postmenopause[1]. Menopause which marks the end of a woman's reproductive years and is characterized by the cessation of menstrual periods and a decrease in ovarian hormone production, usually occurs between the ages of 45 and 55 years[2]. Although frequently linked to symptoms including mood swings, hot flashes, and insomnia, the effect of menopause on the ANS is frequently disregarded. When it comes to identifying changes in the body that occur during menopause, HRV is a reliable indicator of ANS function. The greater sympathetic and lower parasympathetic activity, which has important consequences for cardiovascular health, is highlighted by the decline in HRV linked to menopause. Comprehending and tracking HRV in women going through menopause can direct measures to reduce these hazards and enhance general health[2–4]. The impact of menopause on the ANS is a crucial but often neglected aspect of women's health. So, aim of this narrative review is to provide an insight in the state of the art in the literature about relationship between menopause, HRV and health and to identify knowledge gaps as input for future research. Menopausal women are known to have hot flashes, giddiness in response to changes in posture, and palpitations, which are likely caused by an imbalance in hormones. These are examples of ANS function abnormalities[5]. But during menopause, the ANS, which controls automatic body activities, also experiences alterations that can have a variety of health implications. Historically, menopause research has focused on reproductive hormones and their direct physiological effects, often neglecting the role of the ANS. This oversight can lead to incomplete understanding and management of menopausal symptoms[2].

Menopause and menopausal complaints

Menopausal status was defined in the following way. Premenopausal women were identified as those who reported regular and current menstruation. Women classified as perimenopausal included those who said their period had not ceased at one phase but had by the next, as well as those who said it had not stopped but had been less regular over the previous 12 months. Women who reported that their periods had stopped were defined as postmenopausal[6]. Globally, the average age of natural menopause is roughly 51 years old, while regional differences exist. The perimenopausal phase lasts for around 4–8 years and usually starts in the mid–to–late 40s. Individual differences exist in the length and intensity of menopausal symptoms[7]. Common menopausal symptoms include vasomotor symptoms, sleep disturbances, genitourinary symptoms, psychological symptoms, musculoskeletal symptoms, cardiovascular symptoms, dermatological symptoms, metabolic changes etc[8]. Menopause can lead to a variety of nonspecific complaints that may not be immediately attributed to hormonal changes. These symptoms can affect overall well-being and include fatigue, headache, joint and muscle aches, weight gain, dizziness, digestive issues, etc[9].

Menopause and Autonomic Nervous System

Along with the immune and endocrine systems, the ANS is the portion of the nervous system that is in charge of preserving homeostasis. The ANS is essential to day-to-day functioning. It regulates autonomously, that is, without the conscious mind getting involved. Through several brain structures, the central autonomic network, which includes the insular cortex, hypothalamus, amygdala, periaqueductal grey matter, Nucleus tractus solitarius, and ventrolateral medulla, governs a variety of bodily functions, including the respiratory, cardiovascular, digestive, and endocrine systems[10]. The ANS and menopause have a complicated and multidimensional interaction. The ANS controls involuntary body processes such as blood pressure, digestion, respiration rate, heart rate, and body temperature. The parasympathetic nervous system (PNS), which encourages relaxation and restorative processes, and the sympathetic nervous system (SNS), which controls the body's "fight or flight" response, are its two primary branches. A decrease in ovarian hormones raises the risk of cardiovascular illnesses and results in an autonomic imbalance. The ANS has a direct role in regulating cardiac output by regulating a number of cardiovascular parameters, including blood pressure, heart rate, myocardial contractility, and venous capacitance[11]. There may be

an increase in sympathetic activity during this period of life, according to research on the relationship between menopause and SNS activity, especially in relation to specific physiological activities[12]. HRV and muscle sympathetic nerve activity are two examples of sympathetic indicators that are elevated during menopause and indicate increased sympathetic activity and a reduction in parasympathetic activity, as seen by a drop in vagal tone and a decrease in parasympathetic heart rate regulation.

Menopause as a life phase

Although menopause is a normal biological process, women's lives can be significantly impacted by its physical, emotional, and psychological impacts. Menopause is a stage of life that entails both psychological and physiological changes. Changes in the body include Hormonal variations, specifically a decrease in the ovaries' production of progesterone and estrogen, are what define menopause[13]. Numerous physical problems may result from these hormonal alterations. In addition, some women may develop weight gain, thinning or lost hair, and changes in the suppleness of their skin. Women may experience major psychological and emotional effects from menopause[14]. Menopause-related hormonal changes may be a factor in mood swings, irritability, anxiety, and sadness. Furthermore, leaving the reproductive phase of life can cause emotions such as loss, grief, or doubt about one's identity and purpose. Osteoporosis, cognitive impairment, and cardiovascular disease are among the illnesses for which menopause is linked to an elevated risk. Menopause may be embraced as a normal change in some cultures, while it may be stigmatized or seen negatively in others[15]. Women can benefit greatly from social support from friends, family, and medical professionals as they negotiate the opportunities and challenges of menopause. All things considered, the menopause is an important stage of life that has social, emotional, and physical aspects. Women may move through menopause with resilience, self-compassion, and a sense of empowerment if they recognize and treat its many facets[16].

Complex interaction of Menopause with HRV

HRV is a measure of the variation in time between consecutive heartbeats and is an indicator of ANS function. The ANS is divided into the SNS and the PNS, which work together to regulate heart rate. During menopause, changes in HRV reflect the complex interconnections between hormonal changes, ANS function, and cardiovascular health[17]. Menopause is characterized by a decline in estrogen and progesterone levels. Estrogen has protective effects on cardiovascular health and influences ANS balance. Decreased estrogen levels can lead to an increase in sympathetic activity and a decrease in parasympathetic activity, reflected in changes in HRV[18]. Increased sympathetic activity (fight or flight response) and decreased parasympathetic activity (rest and digest response) during menopause can result in lower HRV. Lower HRV is associated with higher cardiovascular risk and poorer autonomic regulation. Menopausal women are at a higher risk of developing cardiovascular diseases, partly due to changes in HRV and ANS function. Monitoring HRV can provide insights into the cardiovascular health and autonomic function of menopausal women[19]. Menopause is often accompanied by psychological stress, anxiety, and depression, which can further influence HRV. Stress and emotional factors can exacerbate sympathetic dominance and reduce HRV[20]. This lead us following research question

Do fluctuations in estrogen and progesterone levels during perimenopause correlate with changes in HRV?

How does the presence or absence of menopausal symptoms (e.g., hot flashes, night sweats) correlate with HRV changes?

METHODS

We used studies of different complexity and design to address a wide variety of issues in this literature review through a narrative analysis. Our search was conducted between January 2024 and September 2024 in the databases PubMed, CINAHL, MEDLINE and ScienceDirect, originally using the MeSH terms ‘Menopause AND HRV’. Our choice for the MeSH terms instead of the author’s key words was deliberate, because MeSH terms are assigned by the database specialists and function as stronger identifiers of the content. MEDLINE is a subset of PubMed; however, while PubMed (1996) is a more recent database than MEDLINE (1946), we choose to include the searches in both

databases due to the low rate of search hits in PubMed. Many doubles were produced as a result of this method, and these were eliminated in the fourth search step. The English language, empirical research, and review papers were inclusion criteria. Articles with a medical exclusion were filtered and eliminated. Articles that didn't meet our selection criteria like different language, women other than menopause, all were eliminated. After removing duplicates, both researchers looked over the abstracts of the remaining papers. Lastly, we examined the 36 articles that made up the subset. Both researchers have read the chosen publications. The notes have been compared and organized according to themes. In addition to the 36 papers that were chosen, we interpreted and contextualized our findings using 27 more articles in our results section. Through snowballing, other papers were discovered, some of which were included in the references of other publications. These articles were added when they provided context for the findings. The correlation between menopause and HRV was frequently insignificant or incidental in these investigations. Search engine was used to locate a few sources, such as union surveys.

RESULTS

Unaware of menopausal symptoms

It has long been the case that menopausal symptoms are not adequately recognized and addressed[21]. Many women do not recognize menopausal symptoms because they often attribute them to other causes, such as aging or stress. Menopausal symptoms can be varied and affect different parts of the body, leading to misinterpretation. Many women are unaware of the menopause and how it affects their health, which frequently results in the misinterpretation of symptoms for other factors like age or stress. According to a Monash University study, women are aware of the short-term effects of menopause, such as mood swings and hot flashes, but they frequently are unaware of the long-term health consequences, like as increased risk of osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease. Furthermore, a study conducted by Jean Hailes for Women's Health revealed that many women lack the confidence to discuss menopause with their healthcare providers and that there is a sizable knowledge gap in this area[22]. Inadequate education on menopause, both in terms of general understanding and specialized symptom management, exacerbates this lack of awareness. The Mayo Clinic also stresses the importance of early education on menopause, advising women to begin discussing the transition and its symptoms with their medical professionals by the time they are in their mid-30s to early 40s[23]. One of the biggest obstacles to getting treatment was found to be ignorance about the variety of symptoms. The following symptoms—which almost all women experience—were not universally accepted as being caused by the menopause: decreased libido, dryness and pain in the vagina, headaches, mood swings, palpitations, joint stiffness, decreased muscle mass, fatigue, and weight gain. These symptoms were mistakenly linked to different issues[24].

Menopause and Cardiovascular efficiency

Menopause has a significant impact on cardiovascular efficiency due to hormonal changes, particularly the decline in estrogen levels. These changes can lead to increased risks for various cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Estrogen is known to have a protective effect on the cardiovascular system. It supports healthy blood pressure, controls cholesterol levels, and preserves blood vessel elasticity. The decline in estrogen during menopause diminishes these protective effects, leading to a higher risk of developing CVD[25]. Our understanding of the connection between the Menopause Transition (MT) and CVD risk has greatly benefited from long-term studies of women going through menopause. These studies have documented distinct patterns of alterations in endogenous sex hormones and adverse changes in body fat distribution, lipids, and lipoproteins, as well as structural and functional measures of vascular health over the MT. Women who have gone through menopause are more likely to develop atherosclerosis, a disorder in which plaque accumulates in the arteries, reducing blood flow and raising the risk of heart attacks and strokes. This elevated risk is partly due to the loss of estrogen's anti-inflammatory and vasodilatory properties[26]. Bad lipid profile alterations, such as elevated LowDensity Lipoprotein (LDL) (bad cholesterol) and decreased High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) (good cholesterol), are frequently associated with menopause. These modifications increase the chance of cardiovascular illnesses much more[27]. Due to hormonal changes that raise the risk of cardiovascular disorders, menopause has a substantial impact on cardiovascular efficiency. Cardiovascular health

can be managed and improved during and after the menopausal transition by being aware of these risks and putting relevant lifestyle modifications, medical interventions, and possibly hormone replacement therapy (HRT) into practice[2].

Changes in Heart Rate Variability in menopause

The difference in the time interval between successive heartbeats, or RR intervals the period of time between two successive R waves of the ECG QRS complex—is known as HRV, or HRV. It is a crucial physiological marker of how the sympathetic and parasympathetic branches interact. The intervals vary from beat to beat and are not always the same: In essence, better overall health is indicated by a higher HRV[28]. This means that HRV actually gives information on two quantities: HR and its variability[29]. Having a higher HRV is a sign you are fit, well rested, and recovering well. A reduced HRV indicates that you might be ill, stressed out, or burned out. Here are the average HRV measurement for a few different age ranges for women[30].

The average HRV measurement for a few different age ranges for women (Table 1).

Low HRV is considered a sign of current or possible health problems because it shows that your body is less resilient and has a harder time adjusting to changing conditions. Additionally, it is more prevalent in those with greater resting heart rates. This is because there is less time between beats when your heart beats more quickly, which lowers the possibility of variability[31]. HRV and heart rate are two distinct indicators; HRV varies in time with each recorded heartbeat, whereas heart rate is determined by counting the number of heartbeats in a minute. In both heart disease patients and the general population, a lower HRV is a strong and reliable indicator of a poor prognosis[32]. Akiyoshi *et al*. (2011)[33] explored the relationship between estrogen levels, vasomotor symptoms, and HRV in menopausal women. The findings indicated that women with severe vasomotor symptoms (e.g., hot flashes) had significantly lower HRV, suggesting a strong link between menopausal symptoms and ANS dysfunction. Lee *et al*. (2011)[34] examined middle-aged women and found that those experiencing menopausal symptoms had reduced HRV compared to premenopausal women. The study highlighted that HRV could serve as a useful marker for cardiovascular risk in menopausal women. Hautamaki *et al*. (2011)[35]reported that postmenopausal women with hot flashes had impaired cardiovascular autonomic responsiveness, demonstrated by lower HRV, compared to those without hot flashes. The decline in HRV during menopause reflects significant changes in the ANS, primarily due to decreased estrogen levels. This reduction in HRV is associated with increased cardiovascular and mental health risks. Understanding these changes can help in developing effective management strategies to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for menopausal women.

Association of Heart Rate Variability with Autonomic Nervous System

One method for evaluating the condition of neurocardiac physiology is HRV. It assesses the variables that affect heartbeats as well. One way to determine the ANS's condition is through HRV. The parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous systems regulate body temperature in response to variations in the physiology of essential organs. The ANS stimulates the heart's variability in the usual range, which may be measured by measuring HRV, by sending a signal to the heart's sinoatrial node via the vagus nerve and stellar ganglion. Peripheral nerve system sensory neurons communicate any variations in heart rate to the central nervous system, which then adjusts the ANS to correct for the condition. Communication between the heart and brain is the neurological pathway that is responsible for producing HRV[28,29]. Normal aging processes cause impairment of cardiac autonomic control and manifest as reduced parasympathetic modulation of the cardiovascular system[29]. This parasympathetic modulation can be indexed as HRV, a non-invasive measure describing beat-to-beat variations of the time intervals between successive heart beats[36]. HRV is known to have a strong, inverse relationship with heart rate[37]. HRV reflects the balance and interplay between the sympathetic and parasympathetic branches of the ANS. Parasympathetic Activity increased PNS activity generally leads to higher HRV. The PNS, through the vagus nerve, exerts a calming effect on the heart, promoting variability in the heart rate. Sympathetic Activity increased SNS activity usually results in lower HRV[38]. The SNS prepares the body for action by increasing the heart rate and reducing the variability between beats. HRV reflects the dynamic balance between SNS and PNS activities[39]. Different HRV metrics can indicate the relative dominance of either branch of the ANS[40].

Time-Domain Measures

Standard Deviation of Normal to Normal intervals (SDNN): Indicates overall HRV and reflects both SNS and PNS activity.

RMSSD (Root Mean Square of Successive Differences): Primarily reflects PNS activity.

Frequency-Domain Measures:

LF (Low Frequency, 0.04-0.15 Hz): Represents a mix of sympathetic and parasympathetic influences but is often associated with sympathetic activity.

HF (High Frequency, 0.15-0.40 Hz): Reflects parasympathetic activity, specifically vagal tone.

LF/HF Ratio: Used to assess the balance between sympathetic and parasympathetic activity, although its interpretation can be complex and context-dependent.

Non-Linear Measures:

Provide additional information on the complexity and variability of heart rate dynamics, which are influenced by autonomic regulation.

Association of Heart Rate Variability with Cardiac abnormality

Cardiac abnormalities refer to a wide range of conditions that affect the heart's structure and function, including arrhythmias, ischemic heart disease, heart failure, and more.

Arrhythmias

HRV can help predict the onset and recurrence of arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation and ventricular arrhythmias. Lower HRV is associated with a higher risk of these conditions due to decreased parasympathetic activity and increased sympathetic dominance[41].

Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD)

Reduced HRV is a predictor of mortality and adverse outcomes in patients with ischemic heart disease. It indicates impaired autonomic regulation, which can exacerbate myocardial ischemia and lead to arrhythmic events[42].

Heart Failure

HRV is a significant prognostic marker in heart failure patients. Lower HRV is associated with worse outcomes and higher mortality rates, reflecting diminished vagal activity and heightened sympathetic activity[43].

Post-Myocardial Infarction:

HRV analysis post-myocardial infarction can identify patients at high risk for subsequent cardiac events. Reduced HRV post-MI is linked to increased mortality and arrhythmic complications[44].

Perimenopause as a Neurological transition state

Human transition stages, like the perimenopause, which can last for several years, depend on a coordinated set of phase-dependent changes that include the successive activation and deactivation of intricate regulatory mechanisms[45]. The term "the change" is frequently used to describe perimenopause, and this is a fitting description given the increasing diversity of physiological and neurological symptoms that accompany the transition toward reproductive senescence. In comparison to other systems that are otherwise healthy, the female reproductive axis—which consists of the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian-uterine axis—undergoes focused, rapid alterations[46]. The menstrual cycle's duration and hormone levels in the blood are more variable during the perimenopause. While physiological alterations in the reproductive system are the main emphasis of the clinical definition of perimenopause, the symptoms of perimenopause are primarily neurological in origin with documentation spanning continents, civilizations, and ethnicities[47]. Neurological symptoms ranging from temperature dysregulation to depression, insomnia, pain and cognitive dysfunction illustrate the complexity of the perimenopausal transition[48]. In terms of frequency and intensity, neurological symptoms frequently occur in clusters[49]. Same neurological symptoms frequently continue well beyond menopause[50,51]. The neurological symptoms of the perimenopausal

transition are brought on by uterus removal prior to menopause, although these symptoms can be avoided or reversed by estrogen restoration. Hot flushes often co-occur with other neurological symptoms in women, such as hot flushes co-occur with other neurological symptoms, including decline in cognitive function[51–55], insomnia, pain and depression[56]. The hot flush is a brief occurrence that can last up to 60 minutes. It begins suddenly and quickly and ends in a matter of seconds to minutes. Hot flashes can vary in severity from mild to severe, occurring up to 50 times every night, and sometimes more frequently during the sleep cycle. These episodes can be extremely stressful and anxiety-inducing, interfering with daily activities and sleep[57]. When a woman experiences a hot flash, her anterior cingulate cortex and insula are activated. This is linked to activation of the superior frontal gyrus and is linked to perspiration, according to functional Magnetic Resonance Imagine (MRI) examinations of perimenopausal women[58].

Menopause: Coping strategies and intervention

Individual coping strategies

The literature describes a variety of individual coping techniques[59–61]. Solutions for sleep issues and their potential side effects, such weariness, are not easy to come by. Many people find that wearing "layers," packing extra clothing, or carrying a small fan helps them cope with hot flashes. Women occasionally rehydrate themselves in bathrooms or open windows. Making lists or double-checking one's work are two strategies for dealing with concentration issues and forgetfulness. Task modifications and schedule adjustments are also mentioned. Other coping mechanisms that are more lifestyle-focused include dietary adjustments, more exercise, or longer sleep[59–61]. Women themselves cite humoring themselves and discussing menopause with others the least[60]. Less advantageous coping mechanisms that Women sometimes employ strategies such as working longer hours or masking menopausal symptoms, putting in extra effort to make up for these "shortcomings," or taking sick days or vacations without disclosing their true reasons[59-61]. In summary, techniques aimed at workplace adjustment and transparency appear to be employed less frequently than those that concentrate on handling or downplaying the complaints. Because of the uncertainties surrounding long-term health effects and contraindications, Hormone Suppletion Therapy is a contested issue[56–60]. Non-hormonal treatments received for increasing interest as a means of reducing Vaso Motor Symptoms (VMS) or depression include lifestyle modifications, such as dietary changes or non-hormonal medicine. Menopause-related health issues, including depression symptoms, are still treated using cognitive and behavioral therapy and mindfulness-based therapy[62,63]. A study protocol for a randomized controlled trial examining the benefits of a self-help intervention based on cognitive behavioral therapy for menopausal symptoms was published by Hunter *et al*. in 2016[64]. They anticipated that declining VMS and evening perspiration. A four-week program centered on psychoeducation, breathing and relaxation techniques, cognitive exercises, and other recommendations. The findings of a later study by Hardy *et al*. were published, and they did in fact demonstrate that cognitive behavioral therapy was beneficial for VMS and night sweats. Geukes *et al*. examined the link between working women's ability to work and the amelioration of severe menopausal symptoms in retrospective cohort research[65]. When the women first went to a menopausal clinic, they were for a duration of 3–9 months. Initially, a 60-minute intake regarding menopausal symptoms and lifestyle with a specialist nurse, a visit with a gynecologist to support treatment decision-making, and a brief follow-up consultation with the gynecologist comprised the intervention offered to them. The nurse saw the patient again in the ensuing three to nine months. During follow-up, the majority of women reported increased job abilities and a decrease in complaints. Following six months of aerobics training, the women who participated in the study had reduced physical demands and better mental health outcomes when compared to the control group. Research on these kinds of therapies is few. Ariyoshi (2009)[66] carried out assessment research (case study and survey) involving female sales agents, administrators, and journalists who were employed by or had previously worked for a Japanese media organization. The motivation for taking part in the research was menopausal problems. Three case studies, information on nurse consultations, and the quantity of menopausal sick days were gathered and evaluated. Menopause-related sick leave and turnover has decreased following the intervention. The study demonstrated the significant role that human resource management and specialized nurses may play in creating and providing customized interventions for women going through menopause. Various interventions can help increase HRV in menopausal women, including exercise, biofeedback, and mindfulness-based practices. Different relaxation techniques, aerobic exercise, resistance exercise, Tai Chi,

flexibility and balance exercises, Mind Body Technique, High- Intensity interval Training, Water – Based Exercise, Recreational activities can all contribute to increasing HRV in menopausal women. Regular physical activity, such as aerobic exercise, has been shown to improve HRV by enhancing autonomic function. Studies indicate that even moderate-intensity exercise can significantly boost HRV, likely due to increased parasympathetic activity and reduced sympathetic dominance[62]. HRV biofeedback is an effective method to enhance HRV. This technique involves real-time monitoring of HRV and teaching individuals how to control their physiological responses. Studies have demonstrated that HRV biofeedback can improve autonomic regulation and increase HRV in various populations, including those with cardiovascular conditions and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder[63]. Mindfulness practices, including yoga and meditation, can also enhance HRV. These practices promote relaxation and reduce stress, thereby improving parasympathetic activity. A randomized controlled trial showed that yoga-based interventions significantly improved HRV in participants, highlighting its potential benefits for menopausal women[64]. This study explores the impact of various relaxation techniques, including Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR) and mindfulness meditation, on autonomic function and HRV in menopausal women. Results show significant improvements in HRV and overall quality of life[67]. A randomized controlled trial examines the effects of aerobic exercise on HRV in postmenopausal women. The study finds significant increases in HRV, highlighting the cardiovascular benefits of regular aerobic exercise[65]. Results indicated that resistance training can positively influence HRV and overall cardiovascular health[68]. One study explores the effects of Tai Chi on HRV in postmenopausal women. Findings show that Tai Chi practice significantly improves HRV and contributes to better autonomic balance and cardiovascular health[74]. These interventions, when combined or practiced consistently, can help mitigate the decline in HRV associated with menopause and improve overall cardiovascular health and well-being[62–64].

DISCUSSION

The end of a woman's reproductive years is marked by the normal biological process of menopause. It typically occurs between the ages of 45 and 55 and is characterized by a decline in ovarian function, leading to a decrease in estrogen and progesterone levels. This hormonal change can have a significant impact on a woman's health, including her HRV (HRV). HRV, the variation in time between heartbeats, is an important indicator of ANS function and overall cardiovascular health. In this study, we discussed the relationship between menopause, HRV and health, and explore various interventions to improve HRV during menopause. Menopause is associated with various physiological changes that can affect HRV. The decline in estrogen levels during menopause can lead to an imbalance in the ANS, often resulting in reduced HRV. Lower HRV is associated with a higher risk of cardiovascular diseases, which are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in postmenopausal women[69]. Studies have shown that postmenopausal women tend to have lower HRV compared to premenopausal women, indicating a decline in autonomic function[70]. Reduced HRV is linked to several health issues, including increased stress, anxiety, depression, and a higher risk of cardiovascular events. It reflects a reduced ability to adapt to stress and maintain homeostasis. For postmenopausal women, maintaining a healthy HRV is crucial for reducing the risk of heart disease and improving overall well-being[2]. Therefore, understanding the factors that influence HRV during menopause and identifying effective interventions is essential for promoting health in this population. Regular physical exercise is one of the most effective ways to improve HRV. Aerobic exercises, such as walking, jogging, cycling, and swimming, have been shown to enhance autonomic function and increase HRV[71]. Strength training and flexibility exercises, such as yoga and Pilates, can also contribute to improved HRV by reducing stress and enhancing overall cardiovascular health[72]. Mindfulness practices, including meditation, deep breathing exercises, and progressive muscle relaxation, can significantly improve HRV by promoting parasympathetic nervous system activity. These practices help reduce stress and anxiety, which are common during menopause, and enhance overall autonomic balance[73]. Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) can help alleviate menopausal symptoms and improve HRV by restoring hormonal balance. Studies have shown that HRT can positively impact autonomic function and increase HRV in postmenopausal women[74]. However, the decision to use HRT should be individualized and based on a thorough evaluation of risks and benefits. A balanced diet rich in antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and essential

vitamins and minerals can support cardiovascular health and improve HRV. Hydration is also crucial, as dehydration can negatively impact autonomic function and reduce HRV. Consuming a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats can help maintain optimal HRV during menopause[75]. Good sleep quality is essential for maintaining healthy HRV. Menopausal women often experience sleep disturbances, which can negatively impact HRV. Establishing a regular sleep routine, creating a conducive sleep environment, and addressing sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea, can help improve HRV and overall health[76].

Implications in physiotherapy practice

Menopause is a significant life transition that can have a profound impact on a woman's health, including her HRV. Reduced HRV during menopause is associated with increased cardiovascular risk and overall decline in health. However, various interventions, such as regular physical exercise, mindfulness practices, HRT, proper nutrition, and good sleep quality, can help improve HRV and promote health in postmenopausal women. Understanding and addressing the factors that influence HRV during menopause is essential for enhancing the quality of life and reducing health risks in this population.

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Table 1: The average HRV measurement for a few different age ranges for women.

25 - 26 years old	57 ms
30 - 31 years old	53 ms
35 - 36 years old	47 ms
40 - 41 years old	42 ms
45 - 46 years old	37 ms
50 - 51 years old	34 ms
55 - 56 years old	33 ms
60 - 61 years old	31 ms

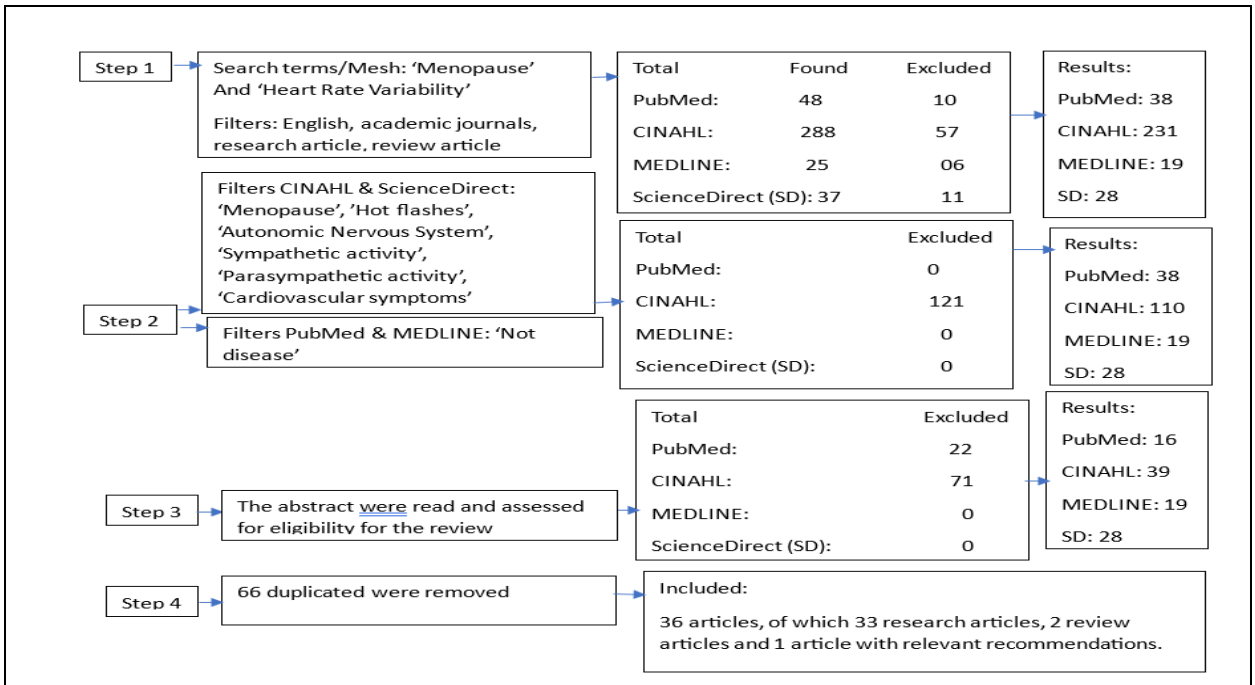


Fig. 1: Methods

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Protecting Sensitive Healthcare Data : Securing Bio-Medical Images and Pharmacy Data in Telemedicine

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ABSTRACT

Access and convenience for both patients and providers have been significantly improved as a result of rapid development of telemedicine, which has revolutionized the delivery of healthcare. The growing reliance on digital technologies for patient interactions, on the other hand, leads to significant concerns related to confidentiality and security of patient information. With a particular emphasis on a variety of privacy-protecting strategies and multi-layered security solutions, this study investigates critical need for robust security measures in field of telemedicine. At the same time that it discusses the fundamental security principles of confidentiality, integrity, and availability, the research highlights the vulnerabilities that are associated with the transmission and storage of sensitive medical data, like biomedical images and pharmacy records, through an in-depth analysis.

Keywords: Telemedicine, Confidentiality, Biomedical Images, Digital Technologies

INTRODUCTION

With ability to diagnose, treat, and manage patients remotely, telemedicine has completely transformed the delivery of healthcare. In spite of this, there are significant concerns regarding the confidentiality of sensitive data, such as

images of biomedical procedures and information about pharmacies. With the goal of preserving the trust of patients and adhering to ethical and legal standards, it is essential to guarantee the safe transmission of this information. In the process of being transmitted between patients and healthcare providers, biomedical images, which include X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs, contain sensitive personal health information (PHI) that must be safe-guarded. Data breaches, interception by unlawful parties, and tampering are examples of common types of threats. The protection of this data is largely dependent on the utilization of encryption methods, including symmetric and asymmetric encryption, particularly. Beginning with the sender and continuing all the way through to the receiver, end-to-end encryption (E2EE) ensures that the data is protected from any unauthorized access by a third party. In addition, secure transmission protocols such as SSL/TLS offer additional layers of protection by establishing secure communication channels (Sheela, M.S. *et al*.,2025) between different electronic systems. Due to the fact that pharmacy data is connected to patient records, prescriptions, and medical history, it is also necessary to implement stringent security measures. Encryption, access control, and compliance with regulations like HIPAA and GDPR are all necessary components in the process of protecting sensitive data. Through the provision of immutable records that improve data integrity and security, blockchain technology (BCT) is emerging as a powerful solution for securely sharing pharmacy data. Secure application programming interfaces (APIs) guarantee that only authorized systems and personnel are able to access and share pharmacy data, thereby reducing the likelihood of data breaches (Satheesh, N. *et al*., 2025).

The Expanding Role of Telemedicine in Patient Care

The provision of medical services via digital communication technologies, known as telemedicine, allows patients and healthcare professionals to communicate remotely. It includes a broad range of services, such as follow-up care, diagnosis, treatment, virtual consultations and remote monitoring. Telemedicine has grown in importance as a component of contemporary healthcare due to the quick development of communication technologies and healthcare systems (Kumar, M.S.*et al*., 2025). It addresses major issues with efficiency, cost, and accessibility. The demand for better access to healthcare, particularly in underserved or rural areas where medical facilities are frequently limited, has led to a significant increase in the importance of telemedicine. Patients no longer need to take lengthy trips to see specialists in order to receive care using telemedicine. Patients with chronic conditions who need regular monitoring and consultations will particularly benefit from this. Telemedicine eases the workload for medical facilities and expedites the process for patients and providers by enabling virtual visits. Telemedicine uptake was sped up by the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted its significance in preserving healthcare delivery while lowering the risk of disease transmission. Many patients found that telemedicine was their lifeline during lockdown and restrictions, enabling them to receive care while following social distancing protocols. It also showed

Ensuring Safe Transfer of Confidential Medical Information

In telemedicine, where patients and healthcare providers exchange personal health information (PHI) like medical records, biomedical images, and pharmacy data, the safe transmission of sensitive medical data is essential. Safe-guarding this data is crucial to upholding patient privacy (Pandey, B. K., and Pandey, D., 2025), fostering trust, and adhering to legal requirements as healthcare relies more and more on digital communication technologies. Since medical data is so sensitive, any compromise or illegal access may have dire repercussions. Identity theft, insurance fraud, or the unauthorized use of personal data may result from the disclosure of private information such as diagnosis, treatment plans, or prescription details. Medical data breaches have the potential to damage patient confidence in the healthcare system and discourage people from using telemedicine services, in addition to the legal and financial ramifications. The efficacy of remote care is compromised, and patients may be disinclined to divulge crucial health information, which could have an adverse effect on their course of treatment. In addition to protecting patient privacy, secure transmission is required by law. The protection of personal health data is subject to stringent regulations, encompassing General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in United States. Utilizing strong encryption techniques, secure transmission protocols, and access control mechanisms for preventing unwanted access, healthcare providers and telemedicine platforms must ensure that data is transferred securely. Secure data transmission relies heavily on encryption. Encryption ensures that medical data cannot be read or altered by unauthorized parties, even if it is intercepted, by

encoding the data during transmission. By guaranteeing that the data can only be accessed by the intended sender and recipient, end-to-end encryption, or E2EE, further improves security. Preventing cyber attacks, phishing, and data breaches requires the use of secure communication channels like multi-factor authentication (MFA),SSL/TLS protocols, and strong password policies. Telemedicine platforms need to put these safeguards in place to guard against internal risks like employees accidentally exposing patient data and external threats like hackers (Vora, J. *et al*., 2018).

Essential Data Protection Protocols in Telemedicine

Bio-Medical Images and Pharmacy Records

In telemedicine, the transmission of sensitive data is a primary concern, with biomedical images and pharmaceutical records being among the most critical types of information managed. These data sets encompass sensitive information regarding a patient's health, rendering confidentiality and security paramount in any telemedicine platform. Biomedical images, encompassing CT scans, X-rays, MRIs, and ultrasound images, are essential for precise diagnosis and treatment planning. These images frequently include identifiable patient information and comprehensive visuals of patient's condition, which must be safe-guarded against unauthorized access or alteration (Konapure, C.G.*et al*.,2025).The substantial volume and considerable file sizes of medical images complicate their secure transmission, necessitating robust encryption techniques and secure communication channels stop reserve data integrity throughout the process. In the absence of sufficient safeguards, these images may be intercepted, modified, or exploited by unauthorized individuals (Singh, S. etal.,2025),resulting in privacy infringements and possible detriment to the patient. Pharmacy records constitute a sensitive category of data within telemedicine. This documentation encompasses prescription specifics, dosage data, and a patient's pharmacological medical history. The security of pharmacy records, which are frequently linked to a patient's comprehensive treatment plan, is essential to avert misuse. Unauthorized access to these records may result in medication fraud, illicit prescription modifications, and identity theft (Sharma, M.*et al*, 2025).Inadequate management of pharmacy data may lead to violations of health regulations, thereby exposing healthcare providers to legal liabilities. The secure transmission of bio-medical images and pharmaceutical records is essential for preserving the integrity and confidentiality of telemedicine services. Inadequate encryption, access control, and secure communication protocols elevate the risks of data breaches (Pandey, B.K. *et al*. 2024a), jeopardizing patient privacy and trust. As telemedicine advances, the emphasis on safeguarding sensitive data will persist as a primary concern for healthcare providers and technology developers (Mbonihankuye, S. *et al*., 2019).

Basic Security Principles

Protecting sensitive medical data and guaranteeing safe healthcare delivery are made possible by the three main telemedicine security principles: confidentiality, integrity, and availability (Pandey, B.K.*et al*.,2024b).When we talk about confidentiality, we mean keeping any sensitive medical data safe from unwanted access. This idea is crucial to the field of telemedicine because patient data, such as medical histories, biomedical images (Basha, A.J.*et al*., 2024), and prescription records, must be kept confidential. Strict user authentication procedures, robust access controls, and encryption are all necessary to achieve confidentiality (KVM, S.*et al*. 2024).Telemedicine platforms make sure that only patients and authorized healthcare providers have access to or exchange sensitive data by putting these safeguards in place. Prioritizing confidentiality is crucial because a breach can result in serious privacy violations (Lakshmi, K.V.N.*et al*., 2024) and erode patient trust in telemedicine services. The goal of integrity is to keep medical data accurate and consistent during storage and transmission. Maintaining data integrity in telemedicine is essential to avoiding unauthorized changes that might lead to inaccurate diagnosis, ineffective treatments, or medication mistakes. Telemedicine platforms use digital signatures, encryption, and secure communication protocols that identify any unauthorized changes or tampering during transmission for protecting data integrity (Saravana Kumar, R. *et al*., 2024). Healthcare professionals can improve the safety and dependability of patient care by making sure the information they receive is exactly as intended. Availability guarantees that authorized users can always access medical data and telemedicine services. Continuous access to vital data is necessary for the efficient delivery of healthcare, including pharmacy data, biomedical images, and medical records. Redundancy, data backup programs, and secure cloud services all contribute to availability by reducing the effects of disruptions, cyber attacks, and

system failures. High data and service availability are crucial, particularly in emergency scenarios where having instant access to patient data can save lives (Qayyum, A. *et al*., 2020).

Secure Communication Protocols for Medical Imaging Systems

Vulnerabilities during Image Transmission

Numerous vulnerabilities exist in the transmission of biomedical images during telemedicine, which may jeopardize the security and privacy of private patient information. Interception and tampering are two major threats that seriously jeopardize accuracy of medical data (Kumarganesh,S.etal.,2024).Unauthorized access to data during transmission between locations is referred to as interception. In the context of telemedicine, this might happen when biomedical images are transferred between various healthcare systems or from a patient to a healthcare provider. Cyber criminals may obtain sensitive patient data by intercepting data packets carrying these images through the use of network security flaws (Muralidhar, L. B. *et al*.,2024). Identity theft, unapproved disclosure of medical records, and serious legal and financial fallout for healthcare institutions are all possible outcomes of such breaches. It is essential to use secure communication protocols (like SSL/TLS), strong authentication procedures, and encryption techniques to reduce the possibility of interception. Data tampering is the act of making unwanted changes to data while it is being transmitted or stored (Pandey,B.K.etal.,2024c).Modified biomedical images in telemedicine can have detrimental effects, possibly resulting in incorrect diagnosis or treatment choices. The consequences for patient care could be disastrous, for example, if a radiologist receives an image that has been altered to hide serious medical conditions. Insider threats, malicious software, and even unsafe storage techniques are some of the ways that tampering can happen. Digital signatures and check sums that confirm the integrity and validity of the transmitted images should be used by healthcare providers to reduce the possibility of tampering. These steps aid in preventing unauthorized data modifications from occurring and ensuring that any effects on patient care are avoided (Agbo, C.C.*et al*., 2019).

Image Storage/Retrieval Issues

The storage and retrieval of images in telemedicine pose considerable challenges, owing to the substantial file sizes and the sensitive nature of medical images. Robust storage solutions are imperative to avert unauthorized access, necessitating encryption and stringent access controls. Moreover, effective retrieval systems are essential for facilitating rapid access to images by authorized healthcare professionals while maintaining security. Nonetheless, the administration of extensive databases, preservation of image quality, and assurance of data integrity during retrieval remain persistent issues. Inadequate security measures render stored images susceptible to breaches, which may result in data leaks, privacy infringements, or alterations during retrieval processes.

Data Security

Biomedical images (Elarmathi, S. *et al*., 2024) contain sensitive patient information, rendering them prime targets for cyber criminals. Unauthorized access to these images may result in significant privacy infringements and identity theft. The potential ramifications encompass not only detriment to the individual but also considerable legal and financial consequences for the healthcare organization accountable for the data. Consequently, implementation of robust security measures is essential. Efficient data security necessitates the implementation of sophisticated encryption techniques for both archived images and those being transmitted (Pandey, B.K.*et al*., 2024d).Encryption guarantees that, even if data is intercepted or accessed without permission, it remains indecipherable. Moreover, implementing stringent access controls ensures that only authorized individuals can access or manage sensitive images. Performing regular security audits and offering employee training on data protection practices can enhance data security measures in healthcare organizations.

Data Integrity

Maintaining the integrity of biomedical images is essential, as any corruption or modification of these files can significantly impact patient care. If an image is modified due to a technical malfunction or interference, healthcare providers may rely on erroneous information for their diagnoses, which could result in unsuitable treatment plans. Ensuring data integrity requires the implementation of measures to promptly identify and correct such issues

(George, W. K. *et al*., 2024). An effective method for ensuring data integrity is the implementation of checksums, which confirm that data remains unaltered during transmission as well as storage. Regular backups are crucial, enabling healthcare organizations to restore images to their original condition in the event of corruption. Furthermore, implementing stringent data validation procedures during image upload and storage can facilitate the early detection and rectification of errors in the workflow, thereby ensuring that healthcare providers utilize precise and dependable data (Abdullahi, M. *et al*., 2024).

Scalability

The swift expansion of telemedicine has led to a considerable rise in the quantity of biomedical images produced. Healthcare organizations must be equipped to handle the increasing data influx without sacrificing performance or accessibility. Neglecting to implement scalable storage solutions may result in system deceleration, diminished efficiency, and potential data loss, thereby adversely impacting patient care. Cloud-based storage systems present an efficient means of managing substantial data volumes, offering flexibility and scalability (Kumar, B. *et al*., 2024). These systems can adapt dynamically to the evolving storage requirements of healthcare organizations, facilitating seamless expansion as necessary. Cloud storage generally incorporates inherent redundancy, guaranteeing the preservation of images despite hardware malfunctions or other interruptions. By utilizing cloud technologies, healthcare providers can adequately address escalating data requirements.

Efficiency of Retrieval

Immediate access to biomedical images is essential for healthcare providers, especially in critical situations where prompt diagnoses can influence patient outcomes. Prolonged retrieval of medical images can obstruct clinical work flows, resulting in increased patient wait times and potentially jeopardizing care quality (Khadka, M. *et al*., 2025).Consequently, enhancing retrieval efficiency is crucial for effective telemedicine practices. One method to improve retrieval efficiency is the implementation of sophisticated indexing protocols that classify and arrange images according to diverse parameters, such as patient demographics or medical conditions.

Intuitive interfaces can markedly enhance the search experience for healthcare professionals, enabling them to swiftly and effortlessly locate essential images. Investing in high-performance storage solutions can expedite retrieval times, guaranteeing that healthcare professionals have prompt access to essential patient information (Pandey, D. *et al*., 2024).

Compliance with Regulations

Adherence to legal and ethical standards concerning data privacy and security is a critical issue for healthcare organizations. The storage and retrieval of biomedical images must comply with regulations like HIPAA in United States and GDPR in Europe, which impose stringent guidelines for safeguarding sensitive health information. Non-compliance may result in significant legal repercussions, including substantial fines and harm to the organization's reputation. Healthcare organizations must formulate and execute thorough policies and procedures for the management of biomedical images to ensure compliance (Shahul, A. *et al*.,2024). Consistent training for personnel on compliance mandates and optimal data management practices is imperative. Performing regular audits to evaluate compliance with regulatory standards enables organizations to detect potential vulnerabilities and implement corrective measures. By emphasizing compliance, healthcare providers can preserve patient trust and sustain the integrity of their telemedicine services.

Pharmacy Data Confidentiality Concerns

Transmission Risks to Pharmacies

Modern healthcare, especially telemedicine, relies on pharmacy data transmission to pharmacies and healthcare providers. This process may compromise patient data confidentiality, integrity, and availability (Muniandi, B. *et al*., 2024). These risks must be understood to develop effective pharmacy data transmission security measures. Interception of pharmacy data is a major risk. Man-in-the-middle attacks and packet sniffing are used by cybercriminals to steal data from unsecured networks. When healthcare providers send prescription details and

patient identifiers to pharmacies, this can happen. Data intercepted can be used for identity theft or unauthorized medication dispensing. Healthcare organizations must encrypt all data transmissions to reduce this risk. Data intercepted by unauthorized parties is unreadable with encryption. VPNs and TLS can improve data in transit security. Regular network security audits and employee threat awareness training help prevent interception (Singh, S.etal, 2025).Tampering with pharmacy data is another concern. Unauthorized individuals may change prescriptions, dosages, or patient Identifiers, posing risks. Changing a prescription to increase dosage or medication can pose serious health risks. Tampering data can also lead to misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatment plans, endangering patients. Healthcare organizations should use digital signatures and checksums to prevent tampering. Digital signatures verify data authenticity and integrity, preventing change in transit. Monitoring data logs can help identify transmission discrepancies for quick investigation and correction. Another pharmacy data transmission risk is inadequate access controls. Failure to enforce access controls can compromise patient confidentiality by allowing unauthorized access to sensitive information. In healthcare data-sharing environments, this risk increases the risk of unintentional exposure or malicious access. This risk must be reduced by strong access control .RBAC restrict data access to authorized users based on their roles (Vinodhini, V.*et al*. 2022).To prevent unauthorized access, review and update access permissions regularly. MFA adds another layer of security by asking users for verifying their identity via multiple methods before accessing sensitive data. The pharmacy data transmission infrastructure can add risk. Cybercriminals exploit network hardware or software vulnerabilities to steal data during transmission. Attacks can exploit outdated software or unpatched systems. Public Wi-Fi networks lack security, making them vulnerable. Healthcare organizations need regular system updates and patches to mitigate these vulnerabilities. Network vulnerabilities can be found and fixed by regular vulnerability assessments. Secure, private networks are essential for transmitting pharmacy data to reduce outside threats. Another pharmacy data transmission risk is human error. Healthcare providers who enter incorrect patient or prescription information can harm patient care. Miscommunication between healthcare providers can also complicate patient treatment. Healthcare organizations should standardize data entry and transmission to reduce human error (Rai, P.K.*et al*., 2024).Data handling best practices training for healthcare staff can reduce errors. User-friendly interfaces and error-checking in software systems can improve data transmission accuracy. Pharmacy data transmission must comply with US regulations like HIPAA. Healthcare organizations can suffer legal and financial penalties for non-compliance. Regulatory violations can damage patient trust and the organization's reputation. Staying current on regulations and best practices helps healthcare organizations comply. Staff training on compliance requirements and regulatory-compliant policies and procedures is essential. Audits of compliance can help organizations improve and comply with laws. Pharmacy data transmitted across multiple systems or platforms can fragment, causing inconsistencies and gaps in information. Communication between healthcare providers and pharmacies can be hampered by fragmentation, causing medication delays or treatment errors .Interoperable systems that enable cross-platform data sharing can help healthcare organizations reduce data fragmentation. Creating data transmission standards can also improve take holder communication and reduce inconsistencies (Kumar Pandey, B. *et al*., 2021).

Impacts of Data Leaks on Patient Privacy

Data leaks can severely impact patient privacy, affecting individuals, healthcare organizations, and the healthcare system. Understanding these consequences emphasizes the need for strong data protection for providers and patients. Patient confidentiality is immediately affected by data leaks. Patients lose privacy when medical histories, prescriptions, and personal identifiers are exposed. Vulnerable people may suffer significant emotional distress and anxiety from this breach. Patients worry about how their data will be used, who has access to it, and whether it will be misused, which can damage trust in healthcare providers. Trust fosters open communication and honesty about medical conditions, which is crucial for patient-provider relationships. Patient safety can also be compromised by data leaks. Criminals can use exposed data to commit identity theft or fraud. Example: Personal health information can be used to forge prescriptions and dispense unauthorized medications. This can harm the healthcare system and patients, especially those with chronic conditions who need accurate prescriptions and medical histories for treatment. Patients may avoid medical care out of concern for data misuse. Data leaks can harm healthcare organizations as well as patients. Organizations may face legal and financial consequences from data breaches. Patient lawsuits for breach damages may result in costly legal battles and settlements. For violating data protection

laws like HIPAA in the US, regulators may fine companies. Financial train can detract from patient care and lower service quality. Data breaches make patients wary of seeking care from firms that may compromise their personal data. This decline in patient trust can reduce patient retention and business, threatening the organization's finances. In an age of word-of-mouth and online reviews, a single breach can damage a healthcare provider's reputation. Clinical research and studies use patient data to improve healthcare. Patients may fear privacy breaches and be less willing to share their data for research after data leaks. This reluctance can stifle medical progress and new treatment development, lowering patient care.

Image Compression and Encryption Techniques

Image Encryption for Secure Storage and Transmission

Image encryption is essential for digital images to rage and transmitt, especially in healthcare, finance, and personal privacy. Encrypting images prevents data breaches by preventing unauthorized users from viewing or manipulating them. Data confidentiality is one of image encryption's main goals. Telemedicine images often contain patient identifiers, medical history, and diagnostic images. Intercepted transmission or unsecured storage of these images can lead to identity theft, fraudulent claims, and privacy violations. By using strong encryption, organizations can restrict access to sensitive data and images to intended recipients. Images are encrypted during storage and transmission using various methods. Most people use symmetric key encryption, which employs same key for encryption as well as decryption. Fast encryption and decryption of large image files are possible with this method. High-security and efficient algorithms like AES are widely used. AES can meet different security needs by supporting key lengths. In contrast, asymmetric key encryption uses two keys—public and private. This method eliminates the need to share the decryption key, making it ideal for secure transmission. Common asymmetric encryption algorithms are RSA and ECC. Although slower than symmetric encryption, these methods offer better security for exchanging encryption keys or signing images to verify their authenticity. To accommodate image data's unique structure, specialized image encryption methods have been developed. Block-based encryption and pixel shuffling make it difficult for unauthorized users to reconstruct the original image without the key. These image-specific methods can improve security without affecting image quality. A comprehensive security strategy must include encryption and other data protection measures. Encryption with TLS or SSL secures images during network transmission. Data in transit is encrypted by these protocols to prevent interception and unauthorized access. Encryption key management is crucial for security. Organizations need regular key rotation, secure key storage, and strict access controls. This protects encryption keys from unauthorized access, ensuring encryption integrity.

Methods for Balancing Compression and Security

Achieving equilibrium between image compression and security is vital in telemedicine applications, where it is imperative to maintain data integrity and confidentiality while enhancing storage and transmission efficiency. Several methods exist to attain this equilibrium. Attaining equilibrium between compression and security in image management necessitates a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes data integrity and confidentiality. Organizations can improve the efficiency of image storage and transmission, while ensuring strong data protection, by utilizing methods such as selective compression, hybrid techniques, adaptive algorithms, and user-controlled settings. This equilibrium is essential in fields like telemedicine, where privacy and precision of patient data are essential. In telemedicine, striking a balance between image compression and security requires the application of cutting-edge methods that give equal weight to data protection and efficiency. One method is to use lossy compression to reduce file size in less important areas of an image and loss less compression for sensitive areas of the image to ensure no detail is lost. Security is largely dependent on encryption, and contemporary algorithms make sure that even compressed images are safe for transmission and storage. New hybrid models that simultaneously combine encryption and compression are starting to appear. These models allow for real-time processing without sacrificing the security or integrity of the image.

Targeted Compression Methods

The utilization of selective compression techniques makes it possible to compress specific regions of an image in accordance with the significance of those regions. When it comes to critical domains that require high fidelity, such as

diagnostic information in medical imaging, it is possible to compress them in a less aggressive manner or to preserve them in lossless formats. On the other hand, regions that are not as significant may undergo more intense lossy compression, which maintains the functionality of the image as a whole while simultaneously improving the efficiency of the file size.

Hybrid Encryption Methods

There is the potential to achieve a successful equilibrium through the utilization of a hybrid approach that incorporates both compression and encryption strategies. By first compressing images and then encrypting the data that has been compressed, businesses are able to reduce the amount of information that needs to be encrypted, which in turn improves the speed at which they process information. On the other hand, encrypting data before compressing it can be inefficient because encryption can produce data that is less amenable to compression.

Adaptive Compression Algorithms

Image content and transmission context are taken into consideration by adaptive compression algorithms, which then dynamically adjust compression levels accordingly. It is possible for these algorithms to improve compression ratios while simultaneously protecting sensitive information. This is accomplished by analyzing the significance of various image attributes. This method makes it possible to manage file sizes more effectively without compromising the information that is essential to the image.

Error-Correction Protocols

The utilization of error-correction mechanisms can make it easier to retrieve data that was lost during the compression process, particularly when lossy compression techniques are utilized. It is possible for organizations to ensure that the fundamental content will be preserved even in the event that certain parts of the image are lost or compromised if they integrate redundant information. In circumstances where image precision is of the utmost importance, this is of extremely great significance.

Secure Compression Protocols

With the implementation of secure compression protocols that incorporate encryption during the compression process, it is possible to ensure the safety of data while simultaneously facilitating efficient compression. Establishing a secure channel for the transmission of compressed images is made possible by protocols such as Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), which protects data from being intercepted while it is being transmitted.

Assessment and Appraisal

The identification of potential vulnerabilities and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the techniques that are being utilized are both made easier through the consistent testing and evaluation of compression and security methodologies. The results of trials can shed light on the effects that different compression levels have on data security, which offers businesses the opportunity to improve their strategies in order to achieve the highest possible level of performance.

Multi-Layer Security Implementation

Today's digital landscape requires multi-layered security solutions, especially for sensitive sectors like healthcare, finance, and government. Defense in depth, or a multi-layered approach, combines multiple security measures to mitigate risks and protect against diverse threats. If one layer is compromised, other layers protect critical assets, improving security. Multi-layered security often starts with perimeter defenses like firewalls as well as IDS. Firewalls monitor and control incoming and outgoing traffic based on security rules for separating trusted internal and external networks. Intrusion detection systems monitor network traffic for threats and suspicious activity. These perimeter defenses protect against unauthorized access and cyber attacks as the first line of defense. After perimeter security, end-point security comes next. Computers, smartphones, and servers that access the network must be secured. End-point protection solutions like antivirus, anti-malware, and EDR tools help identify and eliminate device threats. Protecting all end-points prevents malware spread and reduces attacker vulnerabilities. Data

protection is another important part of multi-layered security. Confidential data is encrypted at rest and in transit to prevent unauthorized access. DLP solutions can also monitor and control data transfers to prevent sensitive information from being shared or leaked. Organizations can reduce data breaches and comply with data protection laws by securing data throughout its lifecycle. Protecting sensitive data and systems requires user authentication and access control. MFA improves security by asking users to verify their identity multiple times. RBAC reduces insider threats by restricting access to data and systems to roles. To meet changing staff and organizational needs, access controls must be reviewed and updated regularly. Employee security awareness training is another important step. Human error is major cause of security breaches, so staff must be trained to recognize phishing and social engineering attacks. Staff training can help employees make informed data handling and security decisions, fostering a security-conscious culture. A multi-layered security solution needs continuous monitoring and incident response. Companies should invest in SIEM systems for collecting and analyzing security data in real-time for proactive threat detection along with response. Organizations quickly mitigate security incidents and resumes normal operations with well-defined incident response plan.

CONCLUSION

The security and confidentiality of patient data in telemedicine are essential, particularly as the healthcare sector progressively adopts digital solutions. Our investigation into privacy-preserving techniques, multi-layered security strategies, and the particular vulnerabilities linked to telemedicine underscore the urgent necessity for stringent measures to safeguard sensitive information. The findings highlight that although telemedicine provides considerable benefits in accessibility and convenience, it also poses distinct challenges that require resolution through robust security measures. Anticipating the future, numerous trends are poised to influence the domain of telemedicine security. A significant trend is the implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) powered security measures, which can improve threat detection and response efficacy. AI can evaluate extensive data sets in real-time, detecting patterns as well as anomalies that may present potential security breaches. The advancement of quantum encryption offers the potential to greatly improve data security, delivering unparalleled protection through the principles of quantum mechanics. As these technologies advance, they possess the capacity to transform security protocols in telemedicine, facilitating more secure and efficient patient care. To guarantee data confidentiality in telemedicine, healthcare providers must adopt several essential recommendations. Organizations should implement a multi-faceted security strategy that integrates encryption, access controls, and on-going monitoring. Investing in user education and training is crucial for enhancing awareness pertaining to potential threats in addition to optimal data protection practices. Moreover, adherence to pertinent regulatory standards, including HIPAA and GDPR, must be prioritized to guarantee the responsible management of patient data. By proactively mitigating security issues and adopting emerging technologies, healthcare providers can improve protection of patient information, thereby cultivating trust and facilitating the ongoing expansion of telemedicine.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

From Forest to First Aid : Documenting Kerala's Traditional Antivenom Plants against Arachnid and Ophidian Bites in Idukki, Kerala

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ABSTRACT

Kerala's rich biodiversity and traditional medical systems have long served as a vital resource for treating venomous bites from spiders, snakes and scorpions, a significant public health concern in tropical regions. This study documents and analyzes the ethnomedicinal knowledge of Kerala's indigenous communities regarding plant-based antidotes for arachnid (spider, scorpion) and ophidian (snake) envenomation. Through interdisciplinary fieldwork across Idukki District, 28 antivenom plants were identified, with their preparation methods and administration routes were recorded. For snakebite treatment, 15 plant species were recorded followed by 6 plant species for spider bites and 7 species for scorpion stings. The research highlights how these remedies are often administered as fresh extracts, poultices or decoctions. The study advocates for integrating validated traditional knowledge into mainstream emergency care, particularly in remote areas where antivenom access is limited, while calling for urgent conservation of Kerala's ethnomedicinal flora. By bridging ethnobotanical heritage with biomedical research, this work underscores the potential of Kerala's plant-based first aid to complement conventional antivenom therapies, offering a culturally resonant, cost-effective strategy for tackling envenomation in tropical ecosystems.

Keywords: Ethnomedicine, Antivenom Plants, Kerala, Traditional Knowledge, Snakebite, Spider Bite, Scorpion Sting, Biodiversity Conservation

INTRODUCTION

Kerala, nestled in the Western Ghats of India, has long been recognized for its rich tradition of herbal medicine and indigenous knowledge systems. Among its most critical applications is the treatment of venomous bites from spiders, snakes and scorpions, a persistent public health challenge in tropical regions where human-wildlife interactions are frequent (Warrell, 1993; Gutiérrez *et al.,* 2021). The state's forests and rural landscapes harbour a wealth of medicinal plants used for generations by tribal communities to counteract the life-threatening effects of envenomation. These plant-based treatments, which are frequently transmitted orally, demonstrate a profound knowledge of botanical antidotes that target the cytotoxic, hemotoxic and neurotoxic components of venom (Shreevanitha, 2022; Liaqat *et al.,* 2022). Kerala's ancient methods are still essential even with the advent of contemporary antivenom treatments, especially in isolated locations with slow or restricted access to healthcare services (Rao and Thomas, 2023). The importance of this study is highlighted by the frequency of poisonous bites in Kerala. In India, snakebites alone are a major cause of death and morbidity; Kerala reports many cases each year, especially from species like the krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*), viper (*Daboia russelii*) and cobra (*Naja naja*). A total of 65 human death and 547 human injuries were recorded during 2021-22 period (KFD, 2022) while 2022-23 period recorded 48 human deaths and 871 human injuries by snakes (KFD, 2023). Similarly, although they are less common, spider bites and scorpion stings can be extremely harmful to one's health, particularly in rural areas and forest adjoining areas. Conventional antivenom therapies, while lifesaving, face challenges such as high costs, storage limitations, and species-specific inefficacy. In contrast, Kerala's traditional remedies offer a decentralized, cost-effective and often rapid-response alternative, utilizing locally available plants like *Aristolochia indica* for snakebite management, *Ocimum sanctum* for scorpion stings, and *Curcuma longa* for wound healing. These practices are deeply embedded in the state's cultural fabric, reflecting a holistic approach to health that integrates ecological sustainability with therapeutic efficacy. Thus the study highlights the potential for integrating traditional antivenom practices into modern healthcare frameworks. Moreover, it advocates for a symbiotic relationship between biomedicine and traditional knowledge, where science validates and refines ancestral remedies while respecting their cultural origins. As Kerala navigates the pressures of development and ecological change, preserving and leveraging its herbal antidote traditions becomes not just a medical imperative, but a cultural and environmental one. The study, therefore, serves as both a documentation of fading wisdom and a call to action for conservation, collaboration and for equitable healthcare solutions that honour the synergy between humans and their ecosystems.

METHODOLOGY

The indigenous communities in Idukki District, who mainly depend on natural resources for their medicinal requirements, participated in an ethnobotanical study. With an emphasis on antivenom plants to prevent arachnid and ophidian bites, they have created a comprehensive pharmacopeia of plant-based remedies for a variety of injuries. For the current study, major tribal communities such as the Mannan, Malampandaram, and Malaaraya communities were chosen. Ethnobotanical data were gathered using organized questionnaire surveys and conversations. Herbal remedies for ophidian and arachnid bites have been studied and recorded. Simple random sampling was used in the ethnobotanical study across the district. The field techniques used to carry out ethnopharmacological data collection as enshrined in Heinrich *et al.,* (2018).

RESULTS

The ethnobotanical survey documented a total of 28 plant species traditionally used by local communities across Idukki District, Kerala for treating envenomation from snakebites, spider bite and scorpion stings. These species, spread across various plant families, demonstrate the depth of indigenous knowledge systems in managing venom-related emergencies using locally available flora. For snakebite treatment, 15 plant species were recorded (Table 1). The most commonly used plant parts included roots, tubers, bark and leaves. Notably, species such as *Aristolochia indica* (Garudakkodi), *Glycyrrhiza glabra* (Irattimadhuram) and *Alstonia venenata* (Analivegam) were administered

either as internal decoctions or applied topically. Combined therapies involving multiple species such as *Glycyrrhiza glabra* with *Zingiber officinale* and cow urine were also observed. In the case of spider bites, 6 plant species were identified (Table 2). Most remedies involved leaf pastes or crushed plant matter applied directly to the affected site. Commonly used species included *Curcuma longa* (Manjal), *Ocimum basilicum* (Thulasi) and *Achyranthes aspera* (Vankadaladi), which are readily available in local home gardens. For scorpion stings, 7 species were reported (Table 3). The majority of these remedies also involved the use of paste made from fresh roots, leaves or seeds, applied topically. Prominent among these were *Leucas aspera* (Thumba), *Gloriosa superba* (Menthonni) and *Tamarindus indica* (Valam Puli). Roots were the most frequently used plant part across all three envenomation types, followed by leaves and tubers. The primary mode of administration was topical application, either alone or alongside oral administration in severe cases. The data highlights the rich traditional knowledge prevalent in rural Idukki in Kerala regarding venom treatment and underscores the importance of documenting, preserving, and scientifically validating these practices. The effectiveness and safety of these remedies call for further pharmacological investigation and clinical studies.

DISCUSSION

The present ethnobotanical survey highlights the wealth of traditional knowledge that exists among rural communities in Kerala for the treatment of envenomation caused by snakes, spiders and scorpions. The documentation of 28 plant species used in folk remedies reveals not only the biodiversity of the region but also the deep-rooted reliance on nature-based solutions for emergency healthcare in Idukki, Kerala. The findings are consistent with earlier studies that emphasize the role of indigenous knowledge in providing accessible and cost-effective alternatives where modern healthcare facilities may be limited or unavailable. The predominance of root and leaf-based preparations reflects a common trend observed in ethnobotanical practices across South Asia, where the pharmacologically active components are often concentrated in these plant parts. Sulochana *et al.* (2015) recorded the ethnomedicinal use of plants (24 plant species belonging to seventeen families) for snake envenomation by folk traditional practitioners from Kallar forest region of South Western Ghats in Kerala. Raj *et al.* (2022) recorded the use of 523 plant species from 122 families for neutralizing property against toxic venom among both humans. The frequent use of *Aristolochia indica*, *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, *Leucas aspera*, and *Gloriosa superba* in the treatment of envenomation is particularly noteworthy, as these species have been historically referenced in Ayurvedic texts and previous ethnomedical literature for their anti-inflammatory and detoxifying properties. The use of combination therapies, such as the blending of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* with *Zingiber officinale* and cow urine, suggests a sophisticated understanding of synergistic effects among traditional practitioners. This aligns with the holistic approach often found in traditional medicine systems, where plant combinations are designed not only to counteract venom but also to reduce inflammation, manage pain and promote healing. Another interesting observation is the reliance on locally available and easily cultivated plants, many of which are found in home gardens which are unique in Kerala. This indicates a sustainable and community-based approach to healthcare, where people are empowered to treat minor or moderate envenomation cases using accessible resources. It also points to the ecological knowledge embedded in local cultures, which could be precious for developing region-specific, plant-based antidotes. Previous studies both *in vitro* and in *vivo* reported that the efficacy of the plants mainly depends on dosage, lethal duration, body mass, the time interval of administration and safety factors of the antivenom drug (Saganuwan, 2020). The herbal constituents of *Andrographis paniculata, Curcuma longa, Emblica officinalis, Euphorbia hirta, Leucas aspera, Pergularia daemia, Rauwolfia serpentina, Tylophora indica* and *Vitex negundo* are reported to be effective against *Naja naja* (Indian cobra) venom (Senthilkumar *et al.,* 2018). In another study, the antivenom potential of *Acalypha indica* (Euphorbiaceae) against *Viper russelli* venom was well documented (Shirwaikar *et al.,* 2004). Upasani *et al.* (2018) portrayed the infrequent use of medicinal plants across India for snakebite treatment. While Deshpande *et al.* (2022) highlighted the traditional Indian snake envenomation therapies. Nataraj *et al.* (2024) reported the Ayurvedic management of spider bite. Among the insect bites, scorpion bite is most common in the area. While Ratnam and Raju (2008) recorded the use of *Anogeissus latifolia, Cassia auriculata, Celosia argentea, Chloroxylon swietenia, Dioscorea oppositifolia, Gmelina arborea* and *Strychnos potatorum* to cure scorpion bite and also *Gyrocarpus americanus* stem bark as remedy for itching after

spider bite. While the widespread use of these plant remedies underscores their perceived efficacy, there remains a critical need to bridge traditional knowledge with scientific validation. Few of the plants documented have undergone detailed phytochemical or toxicological studies to confirm their effectiveness and safety against various venom types. Moreover, the lack of standardized preparation methods and dosage forms introduces variability in treatment outcomes, underscoring the importance of integrating ethnobotanical research with modern pharmacological studies. Thus, the study reaffirms the significance of traditional medicinal practices in rural Idukki in Kerala, particularly in the context of envenomation. It also highlights the urgent need for documentation, preservation and scientific evaluation of these practices to ensure their safe and effective application in modern integrative healthcare systems.

CONCLUSION

The documentation of traditional antivenom plants used by the tribal communities of Idukki, Kerala, reveals a profound integration of ecological knowledge and medicinal practice, offering vital insights into natural remedies for arachnid and ophidian bites. The study underscores the significance of ethnobotanical wisdom in addressing venomous bites, which remain a critical public health concern in rural and forested regions. The tribal healers of Idukki employ a diverse array of plant species, each selected for their specific therapeutic properties, including anti-inflammatory, analgesic and neuroprotective effects. These plants are often administered as pastes, juices or decoctions, with precise methods of preparation and dosage honed over generations. The reliance on such remedies highlights not only the accessibility of these plants in local ecosystems but also the deep-rooted trust in traditional healing systems, even in the absence of immediate modern medical facilities. The findings of this study emphasize the potential of these traditional antivenom plants to complement conventional treatments, particularly in remote areas where medical aid is delayed. In conclusion, the invaluable ethnobotanical knowledge of Idukki's tribal communities, documenting potent traditional antivenom plants that offer scientifically validated, accessible and culturally preserved remedies against arachnid and ophidian envenomation, bridging forest wisdom with modern first-aid applications.

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Table 1: Common ethnobotanical treatments for snakebite

No.	Local name (Malayalam)	Scientific name	Part used	Administration
1.	Garudakkodi	*Aristolochia indica*	Root	• Paste of these ingredients (10 gm) takes internally with an interval of one hour
2.	Alpam	*Thottea siliquosa*	Root	
3.	Kaypanarachi	*Cipadessa baccifera*	Leaf	• 30 ml of juice give internally with an interval of one hour
4.	Analivenga	*Pittosporum dasycaulon*	Stem bark	• 15 gm of the bark paste take internally with milk in every two hours
5.	Keerikjzhangu	*Arisaema tortuosum*	Tuber	• Tuber paste is applied on bite site and take the juice thrice a day
6.	Analivegam	*Alstonia venenata*	Bark	• Paste is applied on bite site and take the juice twice a day
7.	Karalayam	*Polygala chinensis*	Root	• Chew the root and swallow the juice
8.	Irattimadhuram	*Glycyrrhiza glabra*	Root	• 10 g root of *G. glabra*, 5 g dried rhizome of *Z. officinale* and 10 ml Cow urine was crushed and consume and apply the paste over the affected area twice daily till it cures
9.	Inchi	*Zingiber officinale*	Rhizome	
10.	Anapparuva	*Pothos scandens*	Leaf and stem	• Leaf and stem are crushed and applied to reduce pain and swelling
11.	Erikku	*Calotropis gigantea*	Whole plant	• 3 to 4 leaves are grinded and filtered with a cotton cloth and pour juice into the nose one time
12.	Kiriyathu	*Andrographis paniculata*	Leaf	• *A. paniculata* leaf powder along *with Evolvulus alsinoides*, roots of *Aristolochia indica, Cryptolepis buchananii*, *Ichnocarpus frutescens* and *Rauvolfia serpentina* is administered orally
13.	Amruth valli	*Tinospora cordifolia*	Root	• Roots are grinded and 10g of pepper powder is mixed with 5ml of freshly prepared juice. Pour the content into 250ml of water in a separate glass and use it to drink once

14.	Cheruthekku	*Clerodendrum serratum*	Root	• A single dose of 2-3 g root powder is given to the patient instantaneously after a snake bite
15.	Menthonni	*Gloriosa superba*	Tuber	• Tuber paste over the affected area thrice daily

Table 2: Common ethnobotanical treatments for spider bite

No.	Local name (Malayalam)	Scientific name	Part used	Administration
1.	Manjal	*Curcuma longa*	Tuber	• Paste of *C. longa* in *O. basilicum* leaf juice was applied on bite site
2.	Thulasi	*Ocimum basilicum*	Leaf	
3.	Edana	*Olea malabarica*	Leaf	• Leaf paste is applied over the affected area for 3 days
4.	Vankadaladi	*Achyranthes aspera*	Whole plant	• Paste made from the whole plant is applied to the bite site
5.	Thudali	*Ziziphus xylopyrus*	Leaf	• The juice obtained by crushing fresh leaf is applied locally on-site of scorpion sting and kept for a day
6.	Karinechi	*Vitex negundo*	Fresh leaf	• Paste of fresh leaves is applied to the sting site

Table 3: Common ethnobotanical treatments for scorpion sting

No.	Local name (Malayalam)	Scientific name	Part used	Administration
1.	Thumba	*Leucas aspera*	Leaf	• Paste the crushed leaf at the bite site
2.	Kanjiram	*Strychnos nux-vomica*	Root	• Apply root paste at the bite site
3.	Menthonni	*Gloriosa superba*	Tuber	• Tuber paste over the affected area
4.	Chamatha	*Butea monosperma*	Root	• Paste of freshly collected root is applied to the sting site
5.	Karthotti	*Capparis zeylanica*	Root	• Paste of freshly collected root is applied to the sting site
6.	Neela ummam	*Datura metel*	Leaf	• Leaves are squeezed and applied on bite portion
7.	Valam Puli	*Tamarindus indica*	Seed	• Seeds are crushed and made into a paste and applied on the sting site

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Decolourization of Textile Azo Dyes by using Effective Bacterial Consortium Isolated from Textile Dye Effluent

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ABSTRACT

Azo dyes are the largest group of synthetic dyes, with over 3,000 varieties widely used in textile, paper, food, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical industries. In the present study, bacterial isolates such as *Bacillus* sp., *Escherichia coli*, and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* were obtained from textile dye effluent samples through preliminary tests, plating on selective media, and biochemical characterization, and were tested for their ability to decolourize three dyes—Malachite Green, Reactive Red MSB, and Reactive Pink MB. Experimental treatments included *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (T1), *E. coli* (T2), *Bacillus subtilis* (T3), a bacterial consortium (T4), and a control (T5). A decrease in optical density during the incubation period indicated effective decolourization, with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* showing the highest efficiency, followed by *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*. All isolates were effective in degrading Reactive Pink MB, achieving 78.5%, 72.5%, and 70% decolourization respectively within 16 days, while for Reactive Pink MB specifically, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Bacillus* sp., and *E. coli* recorded 78.5%, 52%, and 50% decolourization, respectively. The bacterial consortium also led to a marked reduction in biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and chemical oxygen demand (COD) levels. These results indicate that economical and eco-friendly bacterial treatments can be effectively applied for the biodegradation of azo dyes, providing a sustainable alternative to chemical methods.

Keywords: Decolourization, Azo dyes, Textile dye effluent, Bacterial Consortium and *Pseudomonas fluorescens*.

INTRODUCTION

The textile industry generates a high volume of wastewater, with the strong coloration of textile effluent being one of its most serious environmental problems. Discharging such effluent into receiving water bodies can cause significant ecological damage, as dyes may reduce light penetration and thereby impair photosynthetic activity in aquatic habitats, and can also be toxic to aquatic life due to the presence of aromatic compounds, metals, chlorides, and other toxic substances (Husseiny, 2008). Among textile dyes, azo dyes represent the largest and most versatile class, with over 3,000 varieties extensively used in the textile, paper, food, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical industries (Chanwala *et al.,* 2019). However, their structural stability makes them resistant to chemical and microbial degradation, preventing their removal through conventional wastewater treatment systems. Azo dyes, particularly reactive dyes, are designed to withstand light, washing, and degradation, resulting in effluent streams with intense and persistent coloration. The removal of these dyes from effluents is critical due to their mutagenic and carcinogenic properties in addition to their environmental impact. In this context, the present study focused on the decolourization of textile azo dyes using an effective bacterial consortium isolated from textile dye effluent.

Sample collection and preservation

Dye house effluent samples were collected from a textile dyeing industry located in the Tirupur region, Tamil Nadu, India. Samples were collected in sterilized, screw-capped brown glass bottles to prevent light-induced changes in dye composition. Prior to sampling, the bottles were thoroughly rinsed with the effluent to avoid dilution or contamination. The collected samples were transported to the laboratory as quickly as possible and immediately subjected to various microbiological analyses.

Collection of dyes

The textile dyes Malachite Green, Reactive Red MSB, and Reactive Pink MB were procured from the Tirupur region, Tamil Nadu, India. The dyes were stored at 4 °C under refrigeration and used directly in the experiments without any preliminary treatment.

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Isolation and identification of bacteria from the textile dye effluent (Willet *et al.,* 2019)

Nutrient agar medium was used for the isolation of bacteria from the dye effluent. All distinct colonies obtained were isolated, sub-cultured, and subjected to morphological and biochemical characterization. The tests performed included Gram's staining, motility test, indole test, methyl red test, Voges–Proskauer test, citrate utilization test, starch hydrolysis, gelatin hydrolysis, casein hydrolysis, and urease test. Identification of the bacterial isolates was carried out using standard microbiological manuals.

Analysis of physicochemical parameters of the dye effluent (Ali *et al.*,2021)

The physicochemical characteristics of the effluent were analyzed before and after bacterial treatment by measuring various parameters, including colour, odour, temperature, pH, total solids (TS), total dissolved solids (TDS), total suspended solids (TSS), total hardness (TH), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), calcium, magnesium, and chloride concentrations.

Determination of effluent decolourization

.Different aliquots of textile effluent (20, 40, 60, and 80 mL) were dispensed into Erlenmeyer flasks in triplicate. To each flask, 2.5 mL of a 12-hour-old bacterial culture was added, the flasks were cotton-plugged, labeled, and mixed thoroughly. A parallel set of flasks containing the same volumes of effluent but without bacterial inoculation served as controls. All flasks were incubated at room temperature for 24–48 hours to allow decolourization. Following incubation, the cultures were centrifuged, and the absorbance of the cell-free supernatant was measured at 700 nm using a spectrophotometer (ELCO SL150) to determine the decolourization potential of the bacterial isolates.

Screening of Bacterial Isolates for Textile Direct Azo Dye Degradation

Inoculum preparation

Two-day-old bacterial cultures were used to assess their ability to decolourize dyes. A loopful of each bacterial culture was inoculated into 50 mL of sterile saline solution and incubated at 37 °C for 3 hours to prepare the inoculum.

Decolourization experiment

Samples were centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes, and the decolourization was assessed by measuring the absorbance of the resulting supernatant at the wavelength maxima (λmax) specific to each dye using a spectrophotometer. Two control flasks were maintained throughout the experiment: one containing dye and medium without inoculum, and another containing medium with inoculum but without dye.

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Decolourization assay

Decolourization assay is measured in the terms of percentage decolourization using UV-Spectrophotometer. The percentage decolourization was calculated from the following equation,

$$\% \text{ Decolourization} = \frac{\text{Initial OD - Final OD}}{\text{Initial OD}} \times 100$$

Effect of effective bacterial consortia

Based on the effect of pure inoculums on each of the three dyes, 4 different consortiums were used: T_1 -*P. fluorescence* (Malachite green, Reactive red MSB.,and Reactive pink MB)

T_2 – *E.coli*(Malachite green, Reactive red MSB.,and Reactive pink MB)

T_3 – *Bacillus subtilis* (Malachite green, Reactive red MSB.,and Reactive pink MB)

T_4 – Bacterial consortium (Malachite green, Reactive red MSB.,and Reactive pink MB)

T_5 - Control

Identification of selected bacterial strains (Mortadi *et al.*,2020)

Four bacterial stock cultures were isolated from textile effluents and enriched in nutrient broth medium. After 24 hours of incubation, the isolates were streaked onto nutrient agar plates using the streak plate technique to obtain single colonies. Pure colonies were then picked and subjected to identification based on morphological characteristics, Gram staining, biochemical tests, and reference to standard microbiological manuals.

Optimization of the decolourization process (Al-Tohamy *et al.*, 2020).

To optimize the decolourization conditions, experiments were conducted under two different incubation conditions: static (no shaking) and shaking. The effects of pH, temperature, inoculum volume, and dye concentration were evaluated following the methods described by Mohanty *et al.* (2021). The influence of different carbon and nitrogen sources on dye decolourization was assessed as per Mishra *et al.* (2019). Optimization experiments were carried out only for the most effective bacterial consortium.

Statistical Analysis

All experiments were performed in triplicate, and the results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation. Data analysis was carried out using Microsoft Excel software.

RESULTS

Azo dyes are widely used in many industries and are known to be reductively cleaved by a wide range of microorganisms. Both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria from various environments possess the ability to reduce azo dyes into less complex compounds. In the present study, dye degradation was carried out using mineral salt medium, and the decolourizing ability was assessed by measuring the optical density of the solution.

The results showed that *Pseudomonas fluorescens* exhibited the highest degradation efficiency for Reactive Pink MB (78.5%), followed by Reactive Red MSB (71.5%) and Malachite Green (49%). *Escherichia coli* showed maximum degradation of Reactive Red MSB (72.5%), followed by Reactive Pink MB (52%) and Malachite Green (38.1%). *Bacillus subtilis* displayed comparatively lower degradation efficiencies, with Reactive Pink MB at 50%, Malachite Green at 35%, and Reactive Red MSB at 20%. The bacterial consortium demonstrated the maximum overall degradation ability, particularly for Reactive Pink MB, followed by Malachite Green and Reactive Red MSB. Optimization experiments were conducted only for Reactive Pink MB degradation by *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, as it showed the highest decolourization potential among the individual isolates.

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DISCUSSION

From the present study, it can be concluded that the isolate *Pseudomonas fluorescens* exhibited the highest decolourization efficiency (Sen *et al*., 2019) when compared with other treatments. This strain is recommended for application in the decolourization of textile dyes. The bacterial consortium treatment was comparatively more effective for textile dye removal and resulted in a significant reduction in BOD and COD levels. Since the viability of the consortium was maintained for up to 30 days, it is suggested as a cost-effective and eco-friendly option for the treatment of dye effluents. Among the three dyes tested, Reactive Pink MB showed the highest degradation efficiency compared to the other reactive dyes. Azo dyes are widely used in many industries and are known to be reductively cleaved by a wide range of microorganisms. Both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria from diverse environments have the ability to reduce azo dyes into less complex compounds. Further research is recommended to isolate indigenous microorganisms with enhanced dye removal capabilities and to explore their application in large-scale wastewater treatment.

CONCLUSION

A consortium of these bacterial strains was comparatively more effective in decolourizing both crude and textile dyes, while also achieving an appreciable reduction in BOD and COD levels. Since the viability of the consortium was maintained for up to 30 days, it is recommended for use in the treatment of dye effluents as a cost-effective and eco-friendly approach.

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Table 1: Screening of bacterial isolates for dye degradation by plate assay

Zone of inhibition (mm)				
S.No	**Bacterial isolates**	**Malachite green**	**Reactive red M5B**	**Reactive pink MB**
1.	*P. fluorescence*	34	26	36
2.	*E. coli.*	21	18	28
3.	*B. subtilis*	20	12	22

Table 2: Dye decolourization of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* in MSM medium

S.No	Dye	Initial OD	Final OD	Percentage of Degradation
1.	Malachite green	0.58	0.40	49%
2.	Reactive red M5B	0.74	0.43	71.5%
3	Reactive pink MB	0.68	0.89	78.5%

Table 3: Dye decolourization of *Escherichia coli* in MSM medium

S.No	Dye	Initial OD	Final OD	Percentage of degradation
1.	Malachite green	0.48	0.28	38.1%
2.	Reactive red M5B	0.35	0.69	72.5%
3	Reactive pink MB	0.67	0.89	52%

Table 4: Dye decolourization of *Bacillus subtilis* in MSM medium

S.No	Dye	Initial OD	Final OD	Percentage of degradation
1.	Malachite green	0.38	0.26	35%
2.	Reactive red M5B	0.31	0.55	70%
3	Reactive pink MB	0.66	0.75	50%

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effect of Tailored Nursing Intervention on Participants Suffering from Metabolic Syndrome in Selected Rural Areas of Anand District, Gujarat: A Randomized Controlled Trial Protocol

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ABSTRACT

Metabolic syndrome is a group of health conditions that include increased waist circumference, high blood pressure, raised blood sugar, high triglycerides, and low HDL cholesterol. These factors raise the risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Unhealthy lifestyle habits and genetic predisposition are key contributors. This study will be conducted in two phases in rural areas of Anand district, Gujarat. In Phase I, 300 adults aged 40 years and above will be screened using NCEP ATP III criteria to determine the prevalence of metabolic syndrome. From the identified cases, 40 participants will be selected for Phase II through random sampling and equally divided into experimental and control groups. The experimental group will receive a four-week tailored nursing intervention, which includes health education, a weekly meal plan, guided walking routines, daily SMS reminders, and weekly follow-up calls. The control group will receive the same care after the post-assessment. The purpose is to assess how effective a structured nursing approach is in managing metabolic syndrome in a rural setting. This intervention focuses on promoting sustainable behavioural changes through health education, dietary guidance, and physical activity. The outcomes of this study are expected to contribute valuable insights for developing future strategies focused on the prevention and management of MetS, particularly among underserved rural populations.

Key words: Metabolic syndrome, Rural health, nursing intervention, Tailored nursing intervention, cardiovascular risk, insulin resistance, dietary habits, physical activity, randomized controlled trial, NCEP ATP III

INTRODUCTION

Metabolic syndrome (MetS) represents a cluster of interrelated risk factors—including central obesity, elevated blood pressure, dyslipidaemia, and impaired glucose regulation—that collectively increase the likelihood of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus (1). It is a group of interrelated health conditions that include abdominal obesity, high blood pressure, elevated blood sugar levels, increased triglycerides, and reduced levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol. These factors collectively raise the risk of developing heart disease and type 2 diabetes. The primary underlying cause is insulin resistance, which often results from excess body fat—particularly around the abdomen—and a lack of physical activity. Additional contributors include poor dietary practices, smoking, alcohol consumption, and hereditary factors. Although MetS was initially considered more prevalent in urban settings due to sedentary lifestyles and dietary changes, recent trends indicate a growing incidence in rural areas as well. Shifting lifestyle patterns, reduced physical labor, and the increasing availability of packaged and unhealthy foods have led to an emerging burden of lifestyle-related diseases in rural populations. This shift is especially concerning in low-resource settings, where awareness, screening facilities, and access to timely healthcare remain limited.

According to the National Cholesterol Education Program – Adult Treatment Panel III (NCEP ATP III) criteria, Metabolic Syndrome is diagnosed when an individual meets at least three of the following five conditions:

1. Waist circumference exceeding 40 inches (102 cm) in men or 35 inches (88 cm) in women.
2. Blood pressure greater than or equal to 130/85 mmHg, or on antihypertensive medication.
3. Fasting triglycerides (TG) above 150 mg/dL.
4. High-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol below 40 mg/dL in men or below 50 mg/dL in women.
5. Fasting blood sugar (FBS) greater than 100 mg/dL, or undergoing treatment for elevated glucose levels (2).

In India, nearly one-fourth of the adult population is estimated to be affected by MetS, Nearly half of older adults were found to have metabolic syndrome, with urban rates notably higher—peaking at 63.1% in those aged 65–74(3). The high rate of undiagnosed comorbidities in rural adults highlights an urgent need for targeted public health interventions in this underserved population.with a noticeable rise among women and older adults. However, in rural regions, the condition often remains undiagnosed until complications develop. Addressing MetS in these communities requires not only early identification and treatment but also preventive measures through lifestyle education, awareness programs, and community-based interventions. As per a recent rural-based cross-sectional study involving 410 adults aged 18 years and above reported a prevalence of MetS close to 40%. The study found that individuals over 40 years of age, those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds, people engaged in skilled work, physically inactive individuals, and those who were obese had a significantly higher likelihood of developing MetS. These findings underline the importance of early screening and lifestyle modification strategies to address the issue effectively in rural populations (2).As per one research study conducted in Sourashtra region of Gujarat 2018, prevalence of MetS among studied population was found to be 41.01% (females 44.21% and males 37.91%). Abdominal obesity (66.38%), LDL (64.69%), and high blood pressure (40.59%) high prevalence of MetS shows that population of Saurashtra is at an increased risk of cardiovascular prevalence of (CVD) and diabetes. This highlights the need for extensive diabetes and CVD prevention and control program in this region (4).Another study conducted in Valsad Gujarat (2020) researcher found Overall prevalence of metabolic syndrome was estimated as 3.8% ,Low High-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol was the most prevalent individual risk factor observed in the study(5).There is currently a lack of research in Anand district, Gujarat, specifically focused on assessing the prevalence of metabolic syndrome and implementing tailored nursing interventions for affected individuals. This gap highlights the need for localized evidence to inform targeted healthcare strategies. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to address this need. While several studies have shown that supervised lifestyle interventions significantly improve health outcomes for individuals with metabolic syndrome and help prevent the progression of multiple risk factors into chronic diseases (6), region-specific interventions tailored to rural populations remain underexplored.

METHODOLOGY

Hypothesis

H_{01}-There will not be a significant difference in metabolic characteristics before and after nurse tailored intervention.

H_{02} – there will be significant association between demographic characteristic and metabolic syndrome.

Research Design

This research will be conducted in two phases. In the initial phase, a cross-sectional survey will be carried out to determine how common metabolic syndrome is among adults living in specific rural areas. Participants will be screened using established NCEP-III diagnostic criteria. Individuals diagnosed with metabolic syndrome in this phase will form the sampling frame for the second phase. In the second phase, a randomized controlled trial (RCT) will be conducted to assess the impact of a nurse-led intervention. The sample size for the RCT will be revised based on the findings from the cross-sectional phase to ensure adequate statistical validity. Eligible participants will be randomly allocated into intervention and control groups using a 1:1 ratio.

Study Setting

The study will be carried out in selected rural areas of Anand district, including PHC Bandhani, PHC Changa, and CHC Mahlav

Sample

The participants diagnosed with metabolic syndrome as per NCEP-III criteria will be included for tailored nursing intervention trial.

Sample Size

The sample size for the randomized controlled trial (Phase 2) was calculated using the following formula for comparing two means:

$n = ((\alpha_1^2 + \alpha_2^2) \times (Z_1\text{-}\beta + Z_1\text{-}\alpha/2)^2) / d^2$

N=18 each group, considering 10% dropout sample

N=20

Sampling criteria

Inclusion criteria

To be included in RCT

Participants included having at least three high risk metabolic criteria out of five like FBS, Central obesity, HTN would be included in this research study.

participants those are available at the time of study.

Exclusion Criteria

Participants would not be included in study those are having less than three criteria of metabolic syndrome.

participants having difficulty in walking / paralyzed will not be included in this research study.

Description of the tool:

A structured questionnaire will be utilized to collect baseline data from participants. The tool is organized into three sections. Section I covers socio-demographic details such as age, gender, and monthly family income. Section II gathers information on clinical and lifestyle-related variables, including the presence of a medical history, family history of chronic illnesses (such as hypertension, diabetes, or cardiovascular disease), smoking habits, level of physical activity, and frequency of fast-food consumption. Section III involves the assessment of five biochemical parameters associated with metabolic syndrome for each participant. This comprehensive tool ensures a standardized approach to data collection, facilitating accurate baseline profiling prior to the intervention.

Validation of the Tool and Booklet

The data collection tool and the tailored nursing intervention booklet were validated independently by a panel of 15 experts from fields such as internal medicine, dietetics, community health nursing, medical-surgical nursing, and statistics. The tool, consisting of two sections—socio-demographic and clinical variables—was evaluated for clarity, grammar, relevance, response scaling, and consistency with the research objectives. Separately, the intervention booklet was assessed for its content accuracy, cultural suitability, clarity, and relevance to rural participants. Special attention was given to the appropriateness of overview of metabolic syndrome and dietary guidance, recommended exercises, and accurate caloric values. This expert validation ensured that both the tool and the booklet were appropriate, reliable, and aligned with the study's goals.

Assessment of reliability of the tool

The tool's reliability will be tested during the pilot phase with 6 participants diagnosed with metabolic syndrome. Item analysis and internal consistency will be performed. Cronbach's alpha will be used to assess reliability. Based on the results, necessary revisions will be made before using the tool in the main study with 40 participants.

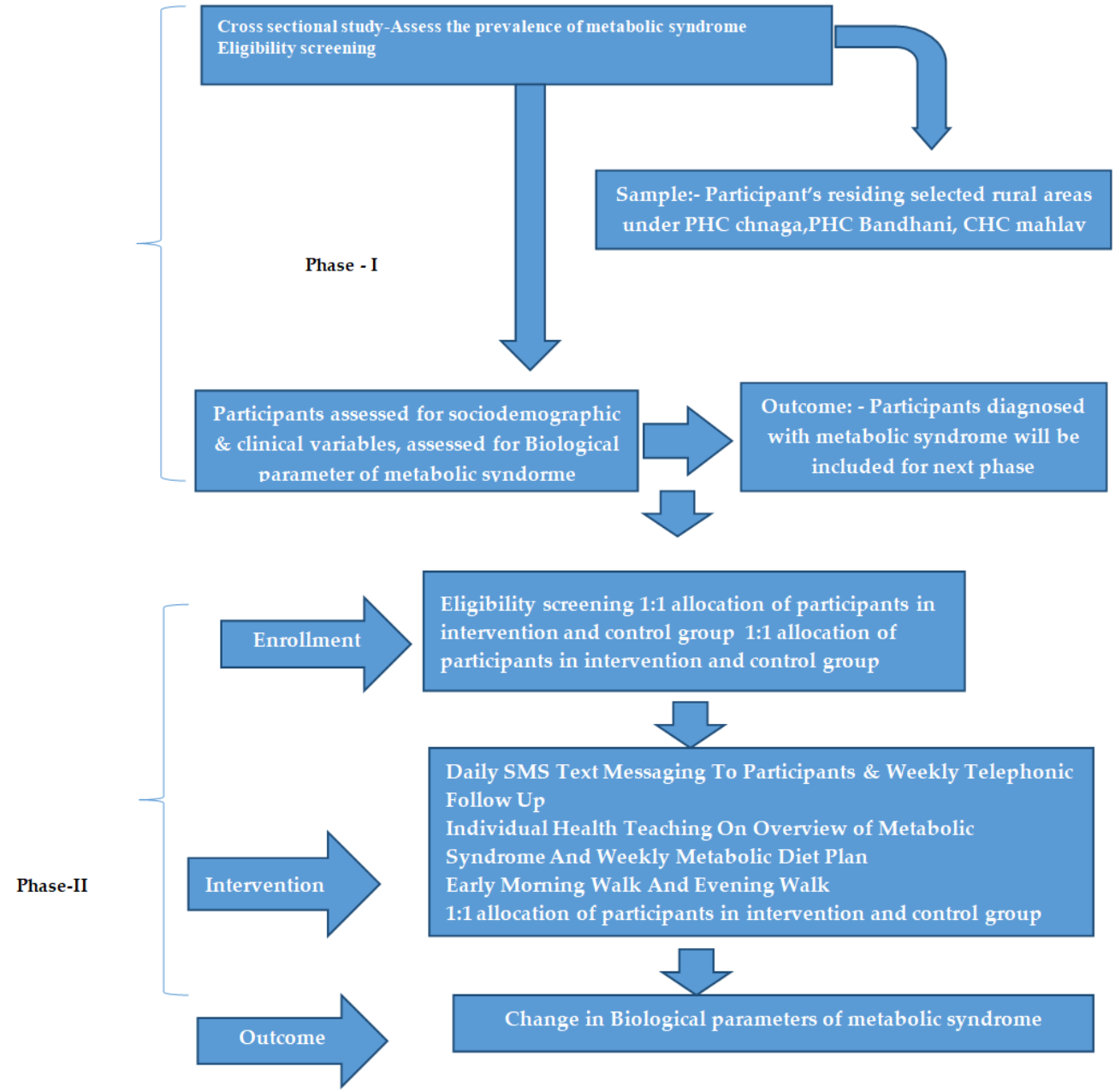
Randomization and Allocation Concealment

Participants in this study will be randomly allocated to either the experimental group or the control group through block randomization, maintaining a 1:1 ratio. The randomization sequence will be generated through www.randomizer.org by an independent statistician before the start of data collection. To ensure allocation concealment, group assignments will be managed using the Sealed Envelope online platform**,** which provides secure, tamper-proof allocation. The assignment will be revealed only after the participant completes the baseline assessment.

This trial will adopt a single-blind design, in which participants will not be informed about their group allocation to ensure unbiased behavior and responses. The principal investigator will provide general instructions to all participants regarding the next steps of the study without revealing whether they belong to the experimental or control group. Additionally, the individuals responsible for collecting data and assessing outcomes will remain unaware of group assignments throughout the duration of the study. This approach is intended to minimize observer bias and enhance the validity of the findings.

Intervention Protocol

This randomized controlled trial will be conducted among adults from three selected villages in Anand district, Gujarat. In Phase I, 300 participants will be screened using consecutive sampling to assess the prevalence of metabolic syndrome. Based on diagnostic criteria, eligible participants will be identified. In Phase II, 40 participants will be selected through block randomization and equally assigned to experimental and control groups (20 each). Allocation concealment will be ensured using the Sequentially Numbered, Opaque, Sealed Envelope (SNOSE) method, with a single-blind procedure. The experimental group will receive a four-week tailored nursing intervention, including a structured health education session, a specially designed booklet on metabolic syndrome, and a leaflet with a weekly diet plan. Participants will be encouraged to walk twice daily for 30 minutes (approximately 2,500 steps per session). To support adherence, daily SMS reminders and weekly telephonic follow-ups will be provided. A post-test will assess changes in five core metabolic parameters. The control group will receive the same intervention after post-testing. Previous studies have shown that daily walking significantly improves waist circumference, triglycerides, glucose levels, and diastolic blood pressure in individuals with metabolic syndrome (7). Additionally, large trials like the Diabetes Prevention Program have demonstrated that lifestyle modifications involving regular exercise enhance insulin sensitivity and delay the onset of type 2 diabetes (8). These findings support the effectiveness of physical activity as a key preventive strategy in managing metabolic syndrome.



Data collection Procedure

This randomized controlled trial will be conducted in three selected villages of Anand district. A total of 300 participants aged 40 years and above will be screened using a consecutive sampling method. All participants will be assessed for baseline data, including demographic details, clinical history, and biological parameters related to metabolic syndrome. Based on the prevalence of metabolic syndrome, 40 eligible participants will be selected for Phase II through computer-generated randomization using www.randomizer.com. These participants will then be equally assigned to experimental and control groups (20 in each) using block randomization. Allocation concealment will be ensured through the Sequentially Numbered, Opaque, Sealed Envelope (SNOSE) method, and a single-blind design will be maintained.

The experimental group will receive the intervention as outlined in the study protocol. Post-intervention data will be collected after four weeks to assess changes in metabolic parameters. The control group, acting as a waitlist control, will receive the same intervention after the completion of the post-test in the experimental group.

Statistical analysis

The entire set of gathered data will be compiled and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). In Phase I, the clinical and demographic characteristics of the participants will be compiled using descriptive statistics. Frequencies and percentages will be used to represent categorical variables, whereas means and standard deviations will be used to represent continuous data. To identify any significant baseline differences between the experimental and control groups, independent sample t-tests will be employed for continuous data and chi-square testing for categorical data. To evaluate the impact of the intervention, the results of each group will be compared before and after using pairwise t-tests. Additionally, between-group comparisons will be performed using independent t-tests or analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) to control for initial differences. Analyses will be carried out with a 95% confidence level, and a p-value of less than 0.05 will be interpreted as statistically significant.

Ethical Considerations and Participant Safety

This study has received ethical clearance from CHARUSAT University, and permission has been granted by the concerned community centres. The randomized controlled trial has also been registered with ClinicalTrials.gov under the registration number CTRI/2025/03/083234**.** Participants who meet the eligibility criteria will be approached and given a clear explanation about the study, including its purpose, what it involves, and what will be expected from them. They will be allowed enough time to think it over and ask questions, and only those who give written informed consent will be enrolled in the study. Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. Participants may refuse or stop their involvement at any time without facing any pressure or penalty. They have been clearly informed that their personal details and answers will remain confidential and will be used only for research-related purposes. During the pre-test, the actual intervention period and the post-**test** the researcher will stay in close contact with participants to make sure they are comfortable and safe. In case any participant feels discomfort during the intervention—such as during walking or other activities—immediate support will be provided, and necessary steps will be taken to manage the situation.

Study Limitations

There are a few expected limitations in this study. One potential challenge is participant recruitment, as most individuals visiting the selected community centers are older adults. This may limit the representation of younger or working-age adults in the sample. Since participation is completely voluntary, there is also a possibility of participation bias, as those more health-aware or motivated may be more likely to take part.Reaching out to working adults with metabolic syndrome may be particularly difficult due to their professional and personal commitments. Additional strategies may be needed to engage participants actively in the study. Another concern is ensuring that participants remain involved throughout the 4-week follow-up period. Although this is a relatively short duration, there is still a chance of dropouts. To address this, the researcher will maintain regular contact with participants and provide timely reminders to support ongoing engagement and reduce attrition.

DISCUSSION

Metabolic syndrome (MetS) is a significant risk factor for the development of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Its rising prevalence, especially among rural and elderly populations in India, where shortage of basic health care services and poor transportation services underscores the urgent need for community-based preventive interventions. Non-pharmacological approaches such as structured health education, dietary modification, and physical activity remain the cornerstone for managing MetS, particularly in resource-limited settings. The proposed randomized controlled trial aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a tailored nursing intervention among participants aged above 40 years diagnosed with MetS in selected rural areas of Anand district,

Gujarat. The intervention spans four weeks and includes structured health education, a culturally adapted metabolic diet plan developed by a senior dietitian, and regular physical activity in the form of walking for at least 60 minutes per day, five days a week. In addition, participants will receive a health education booklet that provides a detailed overview of metabolic syndrome, its risk factors, and preventive measures. To further enhance adherence, the study incorporates daily SMS reminders, weekly telephonic follow-up, and the use of a personalized logbook for tracking diet, physical activity, sleep, and substance avoidance. A previous studyreported that a nurse-led lifestyle intervention significantly improved blood pressure, fasting blood sugar, and waist circumference. Similarly, a recent three-arm randomized controlled trial in Hong Kong compared the effectiveness of mobile application-based and booklet-based interventions among adults with MetS. Both intervention arms showed significant improvements in physical activity levels, body weight, and metabolic indicators[3]\. These findings support the current study's approach, which uses a booklet supported by SMS reminders and follow-up calls as a feasible and accessible method in rural communities where mobile app use is limited (9).

A major strength of this study is its use of a nurse-led, low-cost, and culturally appropriate intervention tailored to the needs of the rural community. The integration of a printed booklet, frequent motivational contact, and a simple logbook supports both learning and sustained behavioural change. However, compliance may be a challenge, particularly in relation to lifestyle modification in populations with low health literacy or limited motivation. The inclusion of daily reminders, a weekly follow-up system, and an easy-to-understand logbook is intended to strengthen adherence and promote participant accountability throughout the 4-week intervention period. If successful, this study could serve as a model for implementing nurse-led, booklet-supported lifestyle interventions for MetS management at the primary healthcare level in underserved rural populations. A structured nursing intervention study based on the Health Promotion Model was carried out, which included a face-to-face educational session, distribution of a health education booklet, and six telephone follow-ups over a period of three months. The intervention helped enhance self-efficacy and encouraged the adoption of healthy behaviours among participants, especially in relation to diet and stress management. These outcomes reflect the usefulness of nurse-led interventions in promoting lifestyle changes among individuals with metabolic syndrome in rural areas (10).

This study also correlated with my RCT protocol in which many interventions like face to face health education about metabolic syndrome risk factors, clinical symptoms, diagnostic criteria and management an prevention of metabolic syndrome along daily walking exercise which was helpfulin many previous studies so same rct based protocol I am going to use for this studye in which percipients already diagnosed in selected rural area of Anand district. A documented case study highlighted the successful application of a health education approach grounded in the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) framework for managing a young female diagnosed with metabolic syndrome alongside acute pancreatitis. The intervention, which aligns with the components of the current RCT protocol, included individualized dietary and exercise regimens, regular educational sessions, and collaborative care involving multiple disciplines. Over a span of two months, the patient exhibited significant clinical progress, including weight loss, improved lipid profile, better glycemic control, and a decrease in glycated hemoglobin from 9.0% to 5.4%. These outcomes underline the effectiveness and practicality of structured, nurse-led educational strategies in enhancing the health of individuals with metabolic syndrome (11).

In this study, obese middle school girls who participated in walking exercise training (WET) six days a week for 12 weeks had their metabolic syndrome risk variables assessed. Similar to our study, which follows a 5-day schedule. The experimental group showed significant improvements in waist circumference, triglycerides, body weight, fat mass, and body fat percentage. These findings support the effectiveness of regular physical activity as a nursing intervention to reduce obesity-related risks (12). Another study on a nurse-guided low-carbohydrate meal plan led to notable health improvements in people with metabolic syndrome. Participants showed reductions in body weight, BMI, waist measurement, blood lipids, and HbA1c. These findings support the role of nursing professionals in delivering effective dietary guidance to manage metabolic health (13). In low- and middle-income countries, cardiovascular disease remains a leading health issue due to poor awareness and limited screening. Evidence from Kenya showed that a nurse-led lifestyle program significantly enhanced public knowledge about preventable CVD

risk factors. This shows that nurse-led health education can be a valuable tool in community heart health promotion (14). An investigation based on data from nearly 9,900 rural adults in India found a higher occurrence of metabolic syndrome among women (20.3%) compared to men (10.7%). Advancing age, excess weight, and physical inactivity—especially among women—were major contributing factors. These findings highlight the importance of targeted health strategies focusing on weight control and active lifestyles in rural populations (15). A recent scoping review on nurse-led care models for MetS identified only seven eligible studies out of 926 screened, highlighting the limited research available, especially in primary care settings. The review emphasized the need to strengthen nurse-led strategies in managing MetS (16). This highlights a critical research gap in India. Despite the increasing burden of MetS, few studies have developed and implemented affordable, nurse-led lifestyle interventions tailored for rural Indian populations. The present study attempts to bridge this gap through a feasible, structured, and culturally relevant intervention that, if successful, can serve as a scalable model for primary healthcare systems across similar underserved settings.

CONCLUSION

A increasing public health concern is metabolic syndrome, especially for Indian communities living in rural areas with limited access to medical resources. This study protocol outlines a structured, nurse-led, and culturally appropriate intervention aimed at promoting lifestyle modifications through health education, diet planning, and physical activity. By integrating low-cost tools such as booklets, SMS reminders, and follow-up calls, the intervention seeks to enhance adherence and foster sustainable behavioral changes among adults diagnosed with MetS. If successful, this model can be replicated across primary healthcare settings to address the unmet need for community-based MetS management in underserved regions. Moreover, the study contributes to bridging the existing gap in rural health research by evaluating an affordable, feasible, and nurse-driven strategy for improving metabolic health outcomes.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Antibacterial Activity of *Spirulina platensis* Isolated from the Aquaculture Farms

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ABSTRACT

The blue-green microalga Spirulina is well known for its many therapeutic uses and high nutritional content. Because of its abundance of proteins, essential fatty acids, vitamins, minerals, and bioactive substances including phycocyanin and phenolics, *Spirulina platensis* is one of its species that is the subject of much research. Extracts from *S. platensis* have antibacterial properties against a variety of bacterial species, including *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Pseudomonas sp*., *Vibrio cholera*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, *Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is investigated in the present study using the disc diffusion method. Significant antibacterial effects were recorded, with different inhibition zones based on the extraction solvent and bacterial strain.Gram-positive bacteria were more vulnerable to *S. platensis* extracts than gram-negative strains because of differences in cell wall structure. The results demonstrate that*S. platensis* potential as a natural antibacterial agent that might be used to fight microbial infections and antibiotic resistance in the food and pharmaceutical industries. To identify and describe the active ingredients causing its antibacterial qualities, more investigation is required.

Keywords: Antibacterial activity, Inhibition zone, Bacterial strains, Aquaculture, Spirulina.

INTRODUCTION

Spirulina platensis and *Spirulina maxima* are the two most significant species of Spirulina. Spirulina contains significant levels of both macro and micronutrients. 60–70% of its dry weight is composed of proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals (iron, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, chromium, copper, magnesium, manganese, and zinc), (provitamins A, C, and E). Together with important fatty acids like α-linolenic acid (GLA), there are additional pigments like carotenes, phycocyanin, and chlorophyll a. Additionally, Spirulina is utilized in waste water treatment, medicine, and cosmetics. All of the necessary vitamins, minerals, fatty acids, amino acids, and colours are present in spirulina, which is high in protein. It has been demonstrated that Spirulina possesses probiotic and antioxidant qualities. As a result, spirulina is added to both human and animal diets. (1). Spirulina's capacity to serve as a source of critical fatty acids like α-linolenic acid (GLA), proteins, and vitamins, particularly B12 and provitamin A (β-carotene) were the primary causes of the early interest in the plant. More focus has recently been placed on researching its medicinal effects, which include lowering cholesterol and heavy metal-induced nephrotoxicity, possessing anticancer capabilities, shielding against radiation, and boosting immune function. Other biological properties of Spirulina include antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, and antiparasitic.

Spirulina platensis and its extracts exhibit remarkable medicinal properties, including protection against radiation-induced oxidative damage. Recent pharmacological research underscores a growing interest in cyanobacteria as sources of antibiotics and other bioactive compounds, driven by the escalating threat of antibiotic-resistant pathogens (2) identified numerous bioactive polysaccharides from *Spirulina platensis* with antiviral, immune-modulatory, enzyme inhibition, and antibacterial effects. Protein makes up 50% to 70% of the dry weight of spirulina. These amounts are highly remarkable even for microbes. Moreover, only half of these values are reached by the best vegetable protein sourcesfor instance, soy flour only has 35% crude protein. *Spirulina platensis* is becoming more well-known for its culinary and nutritional uses as well as its potential for creating low-toxicity medications. It has been associated with anti-anaemic, anti-tumour, and anti-malnutrition effects, making it valuable in both preventive and therapeutic health strategies. Recent studies have demonstrated that Spirulina supplementation significantly improves protein and iron status, alleviating malnutrition and iron-deficiency anaemia in animal models (3). Additionally, Bioactive substances including phycocyanin and sulphated polysaccharides, which are abundant in Spirulina, have antiviral, anticancer, antioxidant, and immunomodulatory effects (4).

Notably, it has been demonstrated that the sulphated polysaccharide calcium,Spirulina has the ability to stop the spread of enveloped viruses, including the measles virus, herpes, influenza, human cytomegalovirus (HCMV), and simplex virus (HSV-1). A virus by blocking viral entry into host cells (5). These findings highlight Spirulina's promise as a multifunctional agent in modern medicine, particularly in addressing microbial resistance and nutritional disorders. Recent investigations have confirmed that *Spirulina platensis* and its bioactive extracts possess a broad spectrum of therapeutic properties. These include anticancer effects, cholesterol-lowering capabilities, immune system enhancement, and protective actions against nephrotoxicity caused by certain drugs and heavy metals. Additionally, Spirulina has shown promise in safeguarding cells from radiation-induced damage. These beneficial effects are largely attributed to its rich composition of phycocyanin, polysaccharides, vitamins, and antioxidants (6).These characteristics have been associated with a variety of chemicals, such as phenolics, phycobiliproteins, carotenoids, organic acids, sulphated polysaccharides, and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Spirulina is also being added to a range of food products to increase their nutritious content. These formulations have shown promise in the management of long-term conditions such diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and. Due to its higher phenolic compound content, Spirulina extract has demonstrated superior antioxidant activity compared to other commercial algae like chlorella (7).

Microbial infection has a high mortality rate in human populations and aquaculture organisms. Antibiotic use has increased significantly in recent years due to heavy infections, and pathogenic bacteria becoming resistant to drugs is common as a result of indiscriminate antibiotic use. The nutritional benefits of Spirulina have long been recognized,

but in the Indian context, less emphasis has been paid to C-phycocyanin's antibacterial properties. Cyanobacterial exudates contain antimicrobial compounds called polyphenols, fatty acids, glycolipids, terpenoids, alkaloids, and several as-yet-unidentified bacteriocins. There are poisonous, hormonal, antibacterial, and antitumor effects associated with secondary Cyanobacterial metabolites. *Spirulina platensis* represents one of the most promising microorganisms capable of synthesizing novel therapeutic agents, including both extracellular and intracellular metabolites with potent biological activities. Recent studies have highlighted its antifungal (8), antiviral (9), and antibacterial properties (10), suggesting its wide potential in pharmaceutical and biomedical applications. In recent years, scientists have become more interested in the edible blue-green alga *Spirulina platensis* because of its positive nutritional effects on domestic animals and humans.

Its high protein content, vitamins, vital amino acids, and bioactive substances that promote immunity and health have all been documented in numerous research (11-13). The scientific study of Spirulina began in 1827 when Turpin isolated it for the first time from a freshwater stream. Numerous biological characteristics of *Spirulina platensis* and its extracts have been demonstrated, such as anticancer potential, cholesterol-lowering effects, immune system stimulation, mitigation of nephrotoxicity from toxic metals and medications, and defence against radiation-induced damage. Recent studies have reaffirmed these health-promoting effects, highlighting Spirulina's therapeutic potential in both preventive and adjunctive medicine (14). These characteristics have been connected to a variety of bioactive compounds, such as phenolics, phycobiliproteins, carotenoids, organic acids, sulphated polysaccharides, and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Spirulina is being added to more and more food products to increase their nutritional content, and its preparations have demonstrated promise in the treatment of chronic illnesses such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Due to its higher phenolic content, Spirulina extract has demonstrated significantly greater antioxidant activity compared to other commercial algae like Chlorella (15).

Photosynthetic Pigment

The multicellular, filamentous, blue-green microalgae *Spirulina platensis* works in tandem with symbiotic bacteria to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. *Spirulina platensis* can be rod-shaped or disc-shaped. The arrangement of multicellular trichomes is *Spirulina platensis* morphological characteristic. Phycocyanin is the pigment used in photosynthetic processes. With probiotics, phytonutrients, antioxidants, and nutraceuticals, Spirulina is the most nutrient-dense food that humans have ever encountered. It is one of the main nutrients that can be cultivated on long-duration space missions, according to NASA and the European Space Agency. The food business recognizes Spirulina as a prominent member of the algae family due to its exceptional medicinal qualities, which include a high protein content, vital minerals, vitamins, amino acids, and fatty acids. It is a useful component of functional foods and nutraceutical compositions due to its rich nutritional makeup (16). Spirulina is thought to be most suited to these circumstances because to its rapid growth. Spirulina, a multicellular photosynthetic cyanobacterium belonging to the Oscillatoriaceae family, can withstand strong sunshine, high temperatures, and alkaline conditions. Spirulina's development is characterized by rapid growth, which makes it ideal for these circumstances (17). Among the different Spirulina species, *Spirulina platensis*, *Spirulina maxima*, and after undergoing extensive investigation, *Spirulina fusiformis* is recognized as a food source with significant nutritional and therapeutic potential. *Spirulina platensis* is a widely used and accessible species that is being extensively studied in a number of fields, including medicine and the food sector (18). Spirulina sp extraordinary macro and micronutrient composition, as revealed by chemical analysis, contributes to a number of health advantages, including immunostimulant, anticancer, antioxidant, antiviral, and antibacterial properties. Spirulina prevents toxicity from chemicals and heavy metals, anaemia, obesity, hyperlipidaemias, inflammatory allergic reactions, and malnutrition (19).NASA highlights the nutritional density of Spirulina and its potential for space travel, which states that it is equivalent to 1000 kg of fruits and vegetables (20). Thus, an effort has been undertaken to investigate *Spirulina platensis* antimicrobial properties.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The Golden Fish Farm in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India (10°48'37"N 79°8'2"E) is where the *Spirulina platensis* was found. The antibacterial activity was conducted using the disc diffusion method (21). They made Muller Hinton agar plates (22). The microbial type culture collecting centre (MTCC) in Chandigarh provided the bacterial strains, which included *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Pseudomonas sp*., *Vibrio cholera*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The appropriate microbial suspension was applied to the media-containing plates using a sterile brush. Each Petri plate included a disc containing extracts of different solvents, including acetone, ethanol, and methanol, and a control was added with a standard dose of 300 mg of nitrofurantoin. The discs were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours following their impregnation. The Zone's diameter was measured and reported after incubation.

Sample Collection

S. platensis, a blue-green alga, was taken from its natural habitat and isolated in order to identify it. It was then kept in Zarrouk's medium for 30 days at 30°C and 500 LUX light intensity.

Isolation and Characterization of Spirulina

Under a microscope, the multicellular, filamentous cyanobacterium known as Spirulina appears as blue-green filaments with cylindrical cells grouped in unbranched, helicoidal trichomes. Although the trichome's helical shape can be used to identify different Spirulina genera, individual species may differ in the helical parameters including area length and helix dimensions. Nonetheless, variations have been noted in these characteristics even within the same species, which could be brought about by altering environmental factors such growth temperature (23). The existence or lack of septa is one of the markers that can be utilized to classify and assign these organisms to a generic group. The cytoplasm of the smaller species is homogenous, devoid of inclusions or gas vacuoles, and the septa are not readily visible.*Spirulina platensis* and *Spirulina maxima* are two of the most well-known species of Spirulina. With pitches of 60 μm and 80 μm, respectively, *S. platensis* and *S. maxima* have helix diameters of 35 to 50 μm and 50 to 60 μm. Conversely, *S. platensis* had larger cells than *S. maxima*, with a diameter of 6 to 8 μm in the former and 4 to 6 μm in the latter. These species, in contrast to smaller ones, have granular cytoplasm that is visible septa and gas vacuoles. Ultrathin sections of *S. platensis* examined under an electron microscope revealed that the cell wall was made up of four layers. It is believed that the trichome axis-like elements that comprise the outer layer (L–IV) are similar to those present in gram- negative bacteria's cell walls. Protein fibrils that are coiled helically around the trichomes are most likely present in Layer III. Nonetheless, layer 2 (L-II) of the peptidoglycan contains a bend that faces the filament's interior, forming the septum that divides the cells together with a presumed fibrillar inner layer 1 (LI). The septum is partially folded and resembles a tiny floppy.The extent of this fold, which covers a section of the septum surface, appears to be correlated with the trichome's pitch. The folded area decreases as the pitch increases and vice versa. In different species, the entire septum area's fold coverage varies. For instance, the fold encompasses 5% of the entire septum area in *S. platensis* but only 3% in *S. laxissima* (23).

Preparation of Extract of Spirulina

Microwaves are electromagnetic waves that have frequencies between 300 MHz and 300 GHz. Ionic conductivity and dipole rotation are necessary for the microwave heating process to function. When heated by a microwave, any moisture in the algal material will evaporate, generating pressure that will cause the algal cell wall to rupture. Consequently, the active components are absorbed from the algal cell by the solvent used. The appropriate solvent was combined with fifty millilitres of one gram of powdered algae. After being microwave-heated (at 720 W for 300, 120, 50, 70, and 180 seconds, with occasional cooling to prevent overheating), the extracted materials were chilled, centrifuged for 15 minutes at 10,000 rpm, and filtered through Whatman #1 filter paper (Whatman International Ltd., England). At the respective boiling points of the solvents, the supernatant evaporated. The proper solvents were then used to reconstitute the dried extracts.

The targeted bacteria

The bacterial species included in the study include *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Pseudomonas sp*., *Vibrio cholera*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Each microbe was suspended in a loop filled of around 10 millilitres in a test tube. After being streaked onto the proper culture slants, each of them was incubated for 24 hours at 37°C.

Antivibrio Activity (Bauer *et al*., 1962)

Disc diffusion method

This method is sometimes referred to as the disc diffusion method or the agar diffusion method. All that needs to be done is place an antibiotic-impregnated filter disc over the surface of an agar plate and incubate it for 24 to 28 hours at 37 °C. The concentration falls as a function of the square of the diffusion distance when the substance diffuses into the agar from the filter paper. At the antibiotic is diluted at a specific distance from each disk, the antibiotic is diluted to the degree that its effects on microbial growth are known to remain longer. Growth inhibition zones show how effective a certain antibiotic. These zones of inhibition (ZOIS), which are evident as transparent areas surrounding the disk, are where the substances with antimicrobial activity spread. An antibiogram is the result of this experiment, and a ruler can be used to measure the ZOI's diameter. Commercially available filter paper discs with a particular antibiotic at a predetermined concentration are used in the agar diffusion method. The foundation of an organism's sensitivity spectrum is the relative efficacy of various antibiotics. In addition to other pharmacological considerations, the data is used to select an antibiotic for treatment. It is important to note that the selection of chemotherapeutic drugs is not based solely on which drug produces the widest ZOI. This is because of the properties of the substances that restrict growth. The size of the zone can be influenced by a number of factors, including the antibiotic's diffusion velocity, concentration on the filter disc, organism susceptibility to the antibiotic, density or viscosity of the culture media, and the interaction between the antibiotic and the medium. Furthermore, a medication that has been shown to have a strong antibacterial effect could not be beneficial for treatment because it might also have a strong negative impact on the system it is meant to treat. A straightforward way for figuring out whether a drug has strong antibiotic effect is the disc diffusion method.

Minimal Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC)

The agar dilution method was used to calculate the antibiotics' Minimal Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) (24). First, sterilized, double-distilled water was used to dissolve each antibiotic. Sterile distilled water was used to make serial dilutions. One microliter (104 cells) of culture (4-6 hours old) was spot injected into plates containing several antibiotics at varied doses. The plates either showed no growth or were incubated. The minimum concentration (μg/ml) that did not demonstrate any increase after 24 hours was identified as the MIC.

RESULTS

Antibacterial activity

In the present analysis in following observation were recorded. The antibacterial activity of *Spirulina platensis* reviewed that the standard Nitrofuration (300μg) showed the value of 21.66±1.549 mm, 26.33±1.247 mm, 18.33±2.054 mm, 25.66±2.869 mm, 26.33±1.247 mm, 24.66±1.699 mm, 23.33±1.247 mm and 25.66±2.869 mm was observed (Fig 6). Sample A1 exhibited antibacterial activity with inhibition zones measuring 23.66 ± 1.247 mm for *Bacillus subtilis*, 17.66 ± 1.816 mm for *Staphylococcus aureus*, 19.33 ± 2.494 mm for *Escherichia coli*, 18.33 ± 2.054 mm for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, 19.66 ± 2.494 mm for *Vibrio cholerae*, 10.33 ± 1.247 mm for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, 22.66 ± 1.699 mm for *Aeromonas hydrophila*, and 13.66 ± 1.247 mm for *Pseudomonas sp*., respectively. Sample A2 exhibited inhibition zones measuring 23.33 ± 1.462 mm for *Bacillus subtilis*, 20.66 ± 2.033 mm for *Staphylococcus aureus*, 10.33 ± 1.247 mm for *Escherichia coli*, 15.66 ± 2.033 mm for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, 21.33 ± 1.247 mm for *Vibrio cholerae*, 18.33 ± 2.054 mm for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, 22.66 ± 1.247 mm for *Aeromonas hydrophila*, and 20.66 ± 2.033 mm for *Pseudomonas* sp. Similarly, Sample A3 recorded inhibition zone diameters of 22.66 ± 1.247 mm against *Bacillus subtilis*, 16.52 ± 1.699 mm against *Staphylococcus aureus*, 18.33 ± 2.054 mm against *Escherichia coli*, 19.33 ± 1.247 mm against *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, 23.66 ±

1.699 mm against *Vibrio cholerae*, 19.66 ± 1.247 mm against *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, 25.33 ± 2.054 mm against *Aeromonas hydrophila*, and 25.66 ± 2.054 mm against *Pseudomonas* sp. Among the three samples tested in A1 sample showed the maximum zone of inhibition in *Bacillus subtilis* (23.66±1.247 mm) and was followed by *Aeromonas hydrophila* (22.66±1.699 mm). The sample A2 showed the maximum zone of inhibition in *Bacillus subtilis* (23.33±1.462 mm) and was followed by *Aeromonas hydrophila* (22.66±1.247 mm). In A3 sample showed the maximum inhibition zone was observed against *Pseudomonas sp.* (25.66±2.054 mm) and was followed by *Aeromonas hydrophila* (25.33±2.054 mm).
The study revealed that the A3 sample showed maximum zone of inhibition and among the three test samples tested. *Bacillus subtilis* showed the maximum zone of inhibition in A1 and A2. The A3 sample showed the maximum zone against *Pseudomonas sp.* (Table 1-4; Fig 1-3). The results obtained from the present study concerning the antibacterial activity of *S. platensis* extract against different species of bacteria are recorded in. It is clear from study that the diameter of the inhibition zone depends mainly on the type of the solvent used and the tested anti-bacterial activity.

MIC

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) value of *Spirulina platensis* against tested bacteria was ranged between 31.3±0.125 mg/ml to 99.1± 0.082 mg/ml and the results were showed in Table-5. The lowest MIC 31.3± 0.125 mg/ml value of methanol crude extract was recorded against *Bacillus subtilis, Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae*(Table 5; Fig 5).

DISCUSSION

Spirulina has long been used as a functional additive in a number of animal feeds and health food. Therefore, the commercial production of Spirulina has gained importance worldwide due to its multiple benefits. The antibacterial of Spirulina has long been a question of great interest in a wide range of fields during the last decades. Spirulina can suppress several microorganisms' growth due to its rich content of bioactive ingredients with antimicrobial activity. An objective of this study was to investigate the antimicrobial activity of Spirulina against two gram-positive, two gram-negative bacteria. The present study results revealed that Spirulina extracts had a higher potential to inhibit gram-positive bacteria's growth than gram-negative bacteria. This effect may be attributed to the complicated structure of the cell wall (the outer membrane) of gram-negative bacteria (25). Elshouny *et al*.,(26) reported that Spirulina had stronger antimicrobial activity against *S.aures, E.coli, P.aeruginosa, Salmonella spp*., and *shigella spp.* Than *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Saragassum wightii*, and *Saragassum latifolium*. Additionally, Spirulina methanolic extract was the most effective against tested microorganisms (27).Depending on the extraction solvent used, algal chemicals from algae have varying levels of antibacterial activity.The present study revealed that the use of organic solvents in the preparation of algal extracts provide more consistent antibacterial activity. This observation clearly indicates that the polarity of antimicrobial compounds makes them more readily extracted by organic solvents and using organic solvent does not negatively affect their bioactivity against antibacterial and antifungal species. The antimicrobial activity of methanolic extract of *S.platensis* was also explained by(28). Usharani *etal*.,(29)reported that the antimicrobial activity of *Spirulina platensis* solvent extracts against bacteria was ranged between 10mm to 20mm at 5.0 mg/ml. The methanol crude extract of *Spirulina platensis* (5.0 mg/ml) showed highest mean zone of inhibition (20±0.4mm) againt gram positive cocci such as *Streptococci pyogens* followed *Staphylococcus aureus* (19±0.3mm), *Streptococci epidermis* (18±0.6mm) and *Bacillus cereus* (18±0.2mm). The Gram-negative bacteria, maximum zone of inhibition was observed in methanol extract of *Spirulina platensis*. The minimum zone of inhibition was observed in hexane crude extract of *Spirulina platensis*. Usharani *et al*.,(29)reported that the minimal Inhibitory concentration (MIC) value of *Spirulina platensis* against tested bacteria was ranged between 1.25 mg/ml to 80 mg/ml. Metekia and Ulusoy reported that the antimicrobial activity of *Spirulina platensis* revealed that the presence of phenolic phytochemicals. Antimicrobial compounds found in cyanobacterial exelutes include polyphenols, fatty acids, glycol lipids, terpenoids, alkaloids and especially the C-Phycocyanin(30). Usharani *et al*.,reported that the small concentrate phycocyanin effectively acts against many pathogens. Usharani *et al*., (29)studied the antibacterial activity of *Spirulina platensis* solvent extracts against pathogenic bacteria and fungi. Elshouny *et al*., (31) analysed the antimicrobial activity of *Spirulina platensis* against aquatic bacterial isolates. Mostafa *et al*., studied the antibacterial activity of

Spirulina platensis extracts against isolated from broilers (32). Metekia and Ulusoy (30)studied the antimicrobial activity of *Spirulina platensis* against mesophilic and psychrophilic bacteria of freshwater Tilapia fillet. Ilieva *et al*., analysed the antimicrobial activity of *Arthrospira dunaliella* (33). Elshouny *et al*., (31) reported that the methanolic extracts exhibited higher degree of inhibitory activity than other used solvents. Saharia*et al*., reported that the *Spirulina platensis* extracts revealed that inhibition of growth in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*(34). Sdiq*et al.,* reported that the multidrug resistance *Streptococcus pyogens* and *Salmonella typhi* are Selected for the antibacterial assay against ethanol crude extract of *Spirulina platensis*. However, *Candila albicans* is selected to test the extract efficiency against yeasts. The extracts Show varying degrees of antibacterial activity against both pathogenic bacteria tested, the diameter of inhibition zone is 8.7mm, 19.3mm and 19.5mm for *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Candida ablicans,* respectively (35). Omayma *et al.,* reported that the antibacterial activity of *S.platensis* was determined against bacteria and the findings were furnished. The zone of inhibition of *S.platensis* extracts against bacteria was ranged between 5 mm to 45mm at 200 µl. The N-citrate extract of *S.platensis* showed the highest mean zone of inhibition (20mm) against the gram-positive cocci *Staphylococcus aureus*, followed by *Enterrococcus faecalis*(15mm),in comparison to other organic solvents. The minimum zone of inhibition obtain deed from from the acetone extract of *S.platensis* against bacterial pathogens was comparatively very less when compared to the other solvent extracts (36). Asady reported that the methanolic crude extract yield obtained for *S.plantensis* was 1.43 g. The presence of antibacterial activity in the crude extract was tested at concentrations of 12.5, 25.50 and 100 mg/ml. The smallest diameter of inhibition zones was observed at a concentration of 12.5 mg/ml against both Gram-negative bacteria and Gram-positive bacteria ranging 5-7mm, while the highest biological inhibitor activity was observed at doses of 100mg/ml. Among the microorganisms tested, *Micrococcus spp* exhibited the highest susceptibility to the treatment with 20mm, followed by *Clostridium spp, Enterobacter* sp. and *Shigella spp* with 17,16 and 13mm respectively (37). Shahriari *et al.,*(34)reported that the exposure to *S.platensis* extract in an LB *algae* medium resulted in growth inhibition of *P.aeruginosa*. Three repetitions of the phenotypic diffusion test for aqueous and ethanol extract demonstrated that the aqueous extract did not affect *P.aeruginosa* conversely the ethanol extract exhibited growth inhibition of *P.aeruginosa.* Thus, the study revealed that the *Spirulina platensis* showed antibacterial activity against various gram positive and gram-negative bacteria.

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Table-1: Antibacterial activity of acetone extracts of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens

S.No	BacteriaName	Zone of Inhibition(mm in diameter)		
		Control	Standard*	A1
	Gram Positive			
1	*Bacillus subtilis*	-	21.66±1.549	23.66±1.247
2	*Staphylococcus aureus*	-	26.33±1.247	17.66±1.816
	Gram Negative			
3	*Escherichia coli*	-	18.33±2.054	19.33±2.494
4	*Klebsiella pneumoniae*	-	25.66±2.869	18.33±2.054
5	*Vibrio cholera*	-	26.33±1.247	19.66±2.494
6	*Vibrio parahaemolyticus*	-	24.66±1.699	10.33±1.247
7	*Aeromonas hydrophila*	-	23.33±1.247	22.66±1.699
8	*Pseudomona ssp.*	-	25.66±2.869	13.66±1.247

Values are expressed in mean±standard deviation.

Note:

C- Control

S- Standard

A1-Acetone

Table-2: Antibacterial activity of ethanol extracts of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens

S.No	Bacteria Name	Zone of Inhibition (mm indiameter)		
		Control	Standard*	A2
	Gram Positive			
1	*Bacillus subtilis*	-	21.66±1.549	23.33±1.462
2	*Staphylococcus aureus*	-	26.33±1.247	20.66±2.033
	Gram Negative			
3	*Escherichia coli*	-	18.33±2.054	10.33±1.247
4	*Klebsiella pneumoniae*	-	25.66±2.869	15.66±2.033
5	*Vibrio cholera*	-	26.33±1.247	21.33±1.247
6	*Vibrio parahaemolyticus*	-	24.66±1.699	18.33±2.054
7	*Aeromonas hydrophila*	-	23.33±1.247	22.66±1.247
8	*Pseudomona ssp.*	-	25.66±2.869	20.66±2.033

Values are expressed in mean±standard deviation.

Note:

C- Control

S- Standard

A2-Ethanol

Table-3: Antibacterial activity of methanol extracts of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens

S.No	BacteriaName	Zone of Inhibition (mm indiameter)		
		Control	Standard*	A3
	Gram Positive			
1	*Bacillus subtilis*	-	21.66±1.549	22.66±1.247
2	*Staphylococcus aureus*	-	26.33±1.247	16.52±1.699
	Gram Negative			
3	*Escherichia coli*	-	18.33±2.054	18.33±2.054
4	*Klebsiella pneumoniae*	-	25.66±2.869	19.33±1.247
5	*Vibrio cholera*	-	26.33±1.247	23.66±1.699
6	*Vibrio parahaemolyticus*	-	24.66±1.699	19.66±1.247
7	*Aeromonas hydrophila*	-	23.33±1.247	25.33±2.054
8	*Pseudomona ssp.*	-	25.66±2.869	25.66±2.054

Values are expressed in mean±standard deviation.

Note:

C- Control

S- Standard

A3-Methanol

Table- 4: Antibacterial activity of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens with various extracts

S. No	Bacteria Name	Zone of Inhibition (mm in diameter)				
		Control	Standard*	Acetone	Ethanol	Methanol
	Gram Positive					
1	*Bacillus subtilis*	-	21.66±1.549	23.66±1.247	23.33±1.462	22.66±1.247
2	*Staphylococcus aureus*	-	26.33±1.247	17.66±1.816	20.66±2.033	16.52±1.699
	Gram Negative					
3	*Escherichia coli*	-	18.33±2.054	19.33±2.494	10.33±1.247	18.33±2.054

4	*Klebsiella pneumoniae*	-	25.66±2.869	18.33±2.054	15.66±2.033	19.33±1.247
5	*Vibrio cholera*	-	26.33±1.247	19.66±2.494	21.33±1.247	23.66±1.699
6	*Vibrio parahaemolyticus*	-	24.66±1.699	10.33±1.247	18.33±2.054	19.66±1.247
7	*Aeromonas hydrophila*	-	23.33±1.247	22.66±1.699	22.66±1.247	25.33±2.054
8	*Pseudomona ssp.*	-	25.66±2.869	13.66±1.247	20.66±2.033	25.66±2.054

Table-5: Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)

Sample (µl)	Control	*Bacillus subtilis*	*Escherichia coli*	*Staphylococcus aureus*	*Klebsiella pneumoniae*
20µl	0.10	39.4±0.249	38.3±0.125	31.3±0.125	36.4±0.125
40µl	0.10	60.3±0.125	59.2±0.125	55.9±2.001	55.2±0.082
60µl	0.10	71.4±0.294	74.5±0.125	76.1±0.082	73.1±0.205
80µl	0.10	95.3±0.125	92.1±0.125	97.2±0.082	98.2±0.125
100µl	0.10	99.1±0.082	98.1±0.047	99.0±0.047	99.1±0.047

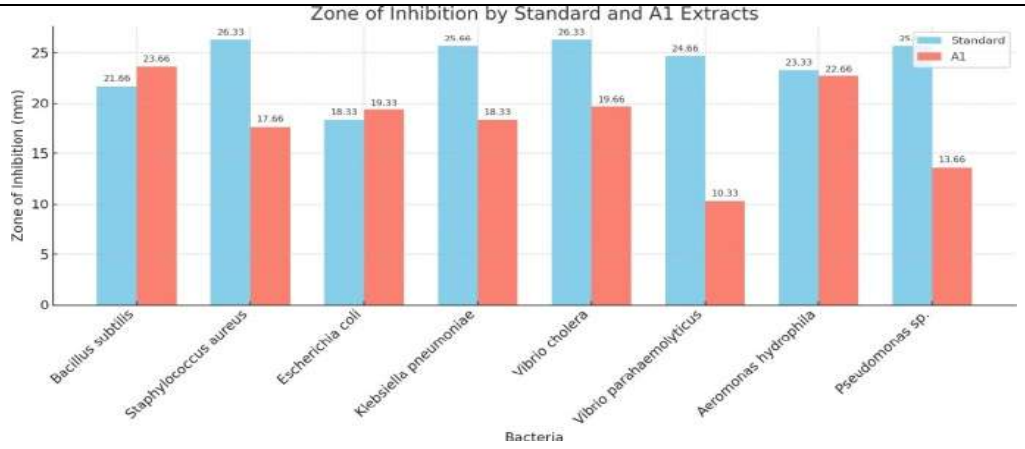


Fig.1: Antibacterial activity of acetone extracts of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens

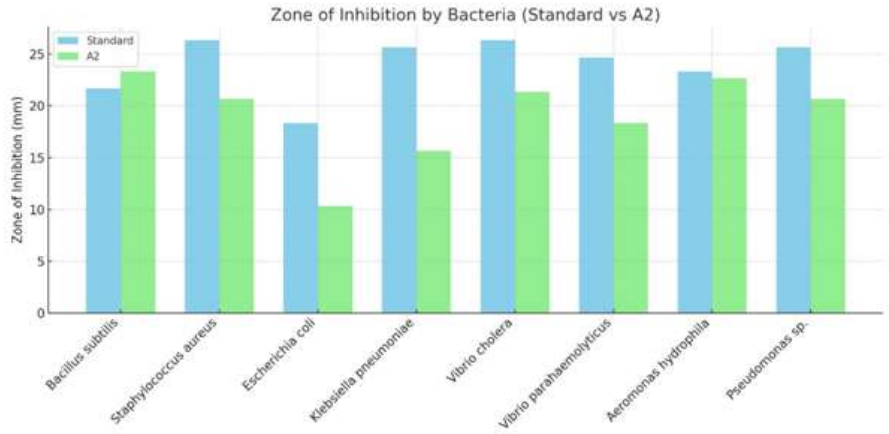


Fig.2: Antibacterial activity of ethanol extracts of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens

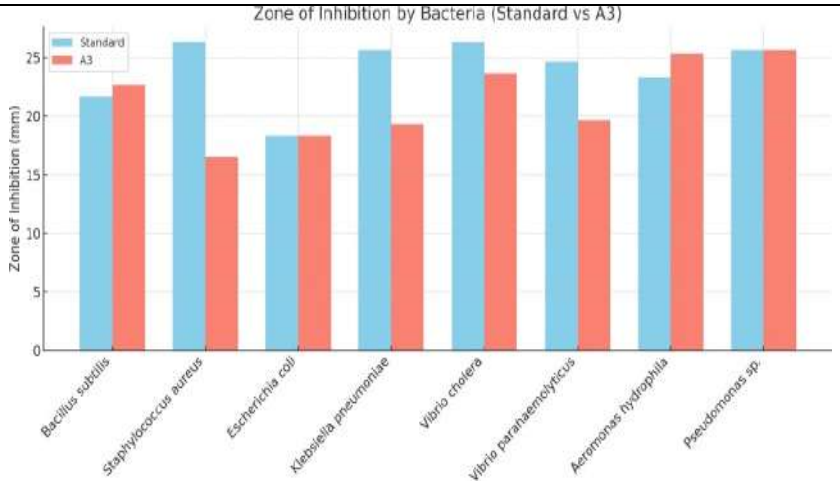


Fig.3: Antibacterial activity of methanol extracts of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens

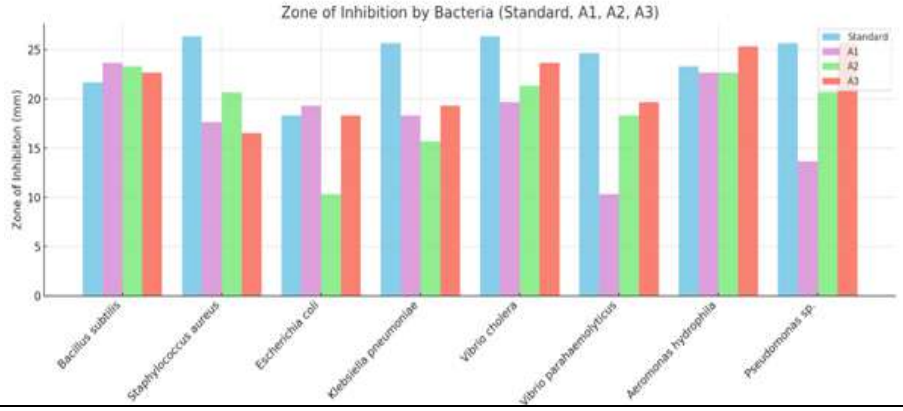


Fig.4: Antibacterial activity of *Spirulina platensis* against fish pathogens with various extracts

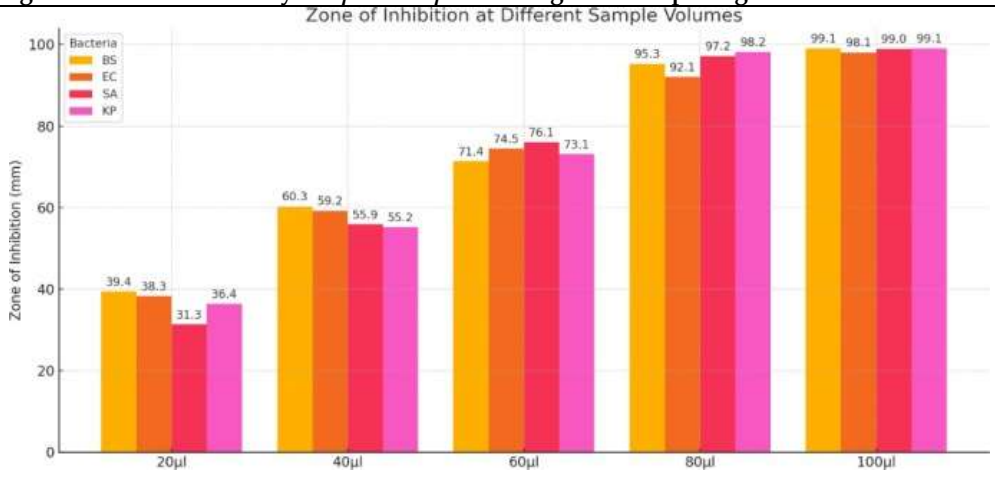


Fig.5: Minimum Inhibitory Concentration(MIC)

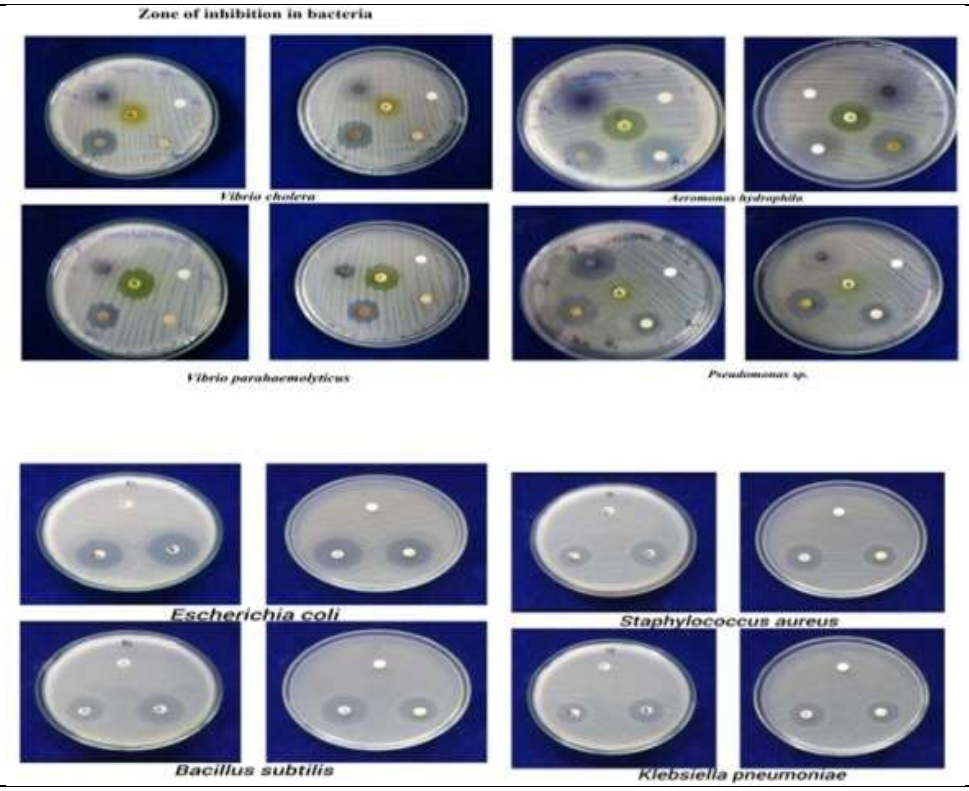


Fig.6: Zone of Inhibition against Bacterial stains

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REVIEW ARTICLE

Limnological Assessment of Various Water-Bodies of Rajasthan, India : A Comprehensive Review

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ABSTRACT

Current review paper aimed to classify the previous information like location of water body, key findings, limnological parameters etc. studied during recent limnological work done in Rajasthan. For this purpose, 45 research papers were reviewed which concluded that waterbodies of district Udaipur and Ajmer were among most studied districts. Also, the pattern of previous studies revealed that work on limnological parameters was centralized to southern and central Rajasthan mainly; and only confined to 16 districts out of 41 districts. Current review work suggests detailed analysis of biological parameters mainly planktons. Moreover, future studies must leave the basic research pattern and adopt advance assessment techniques for limnological parameters, and plan long-term study with proper conservation and management strategies.

Keywords: Rajasthan, Waterbodies, Limnology, Water Conservation.

INTRODUCTION

Water being the essential life element shapes the landscape through attributes like weather, wind, temperature, humidity, vegetation, etc. Water also decides the expanse and density of human settlement of the particular area hence conservation of water bodies become necessary. Rajasthan is the largest state of India owning 3,42,239 Km2 (10.41%) area of India. It is located in the North-West region of India which receives very less rainfall (≤100 cm) and also owns vast 'Thar Desert', which increases the importance of water in this region manifolds. Rajasthan having

largest area and very low rainfall faces the issues of water scarcity very often, hence proper assessment and maintenance of water quality of all water resources like lakes, rivers, ponds, dams, along with practicing rain water harvesting become very important. Moreover, Rajasthan has 15838 water bodies which provides water for drinking, domestic, irrigation, industrial purpose and are essential for sustenance of life and local ecosystem. Beautiful water bodies like Lake ecosystem of Udaipur, Ana Sagar Lake Ajmer, Pushkar Lake Ajmer, Sambhar Lake Jodhpur (Salt water lake), Nakki Lake Mount Abu of Rajasthan provides scenic beauty to landscape and attracts tourists from all over the world. In order to keep the water ecosystem and water body healthy, timely assessment of limnological parameters (physical, chemical, and biological) is necessary but proper reviewing of old studies and implication of their recommendation is also crucial. Current review paper aims to classify the previous information like location of water body, key findings, limnological parameters studied etc. which will prepare a bigger picture of water bodies studied, is water body studies are centralized to few locations or are they dispersed all over Rajasthan, patterns of limnological parameters studied and time period of the study. This pattern will help in making proper conservation plans and redirect future limnological studies towards better assessment of real conditions rather than focusing only on traditional pattern.

RESULTS

Major limnological studies carried out in Rajasthan are compiled in Table: 1.

Sharma and Gupta (1994) investigated shallow ponds of Udaipur and observed that high levels of alkalinity, nutrient load, and DO, in addition water body were moderately eutrophic. Pandy and Verma (2004) worked on the chemical and biological parameters of two freshwater tropical lakes (Baghdara and Udaisagar) of southern Rajasthan which showed that levels of DO was above the optimal range, they also performed biological analysis which revealed the phytoplankton density, chlorophyll concentration and primary productivity of both lakes. Mathur *et al*. (2007) estimated the physico-chemical parameters of Pushkar Lake, Ajmer and the result shows that water was alkaline with high chloride and electrical conductivity. This study also concluded that due to addition of excess calcium and magnesium through surface runoff water has become hard. Srivastava *et al*. (2009) conducted physicochemical analysis of Lakes around Jaipur, and found that levels of endosulfan and zinc were highest in Jalmahal Lake and highest polluted water was of Jalmahal Lake and best water was of Ramgarh Lake. Physicochemical parameters of Ramgarh lake were superior and Jalmahal lake were inferior.

Nama and Kuldeep (2011) estimated water quality of Jalamand reservoir, Jodhpur and concluded that all limnological parameters like temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and alkalinity, free carbon-dioxide, nitrate, and phosphate were in their optimal range. Sharma *et al*. (2011) investigated limnological parameters, planktonic diversity and fish diversity in lake Picchola, Udaipur. They observed that lake Picchola was eutrophic with high levels of nitrate, phosphate, and fluoride. They also reported 58 species of phytoplankton 64 species of zooplankton. Sharma *et al*. (2012) in a long-term study on Madar Tank, Udaipur concluded that water body is organically rich and of mesotrophic nature but in contrast presence of some Zooplankton species indicates eutrophic and oligotrophic status of Madar. Mishra *et al*. (2012) studied Phytoplankton diversity, Primary Productivity and Certain Physico-chemical Parameters of Govardhan Sagar Lake of Udaipur. The results showed that free CO2 was in moderately high levels. The mean phytoplankton density was 36.71 individuals per milliliter, encompassing 29 genera were also reported. Verma *et al*. (2012) estimated seasonal distribution of phytoplankton of Laddia Dam Sikar and reported 16 taxa and 24 species of phytoplankton. Estimation of the limnological parameters - Nitrate, Inorganic phosphorous, Temperature, pH, Conductivity, Dissolve oxygen, Chloride, Total hardness, Calcium and Sodium fluctuated between optimal ranges.

Jain and Singh (2013) reported high levels of nutrients, nitrate, BOD, and phosphate in Lake Anasagar, Ajmer mainly due to industrial and agricultural runoff;also,coli form counts were above limit. Kumar and Yadav (2014) worked on

11 water quality parameters of Jodhpur Lakes and estimated that only 5 parameters were primary stressors which exceeds optimal limits. Lakes of Jodhpur were having high levels of BOD and COD, which makes them mesotrophic. Balai *et al*. (2014) worked on diversity and seasonal variations of zooplankton in Jaisamand Lake, Udaipur and results showed that DO and pH was high, the high pH indicated that water was alkaline, was also high. They also reported 51 species of zooplankton belonging to 17 species of Rotifera, 18 species of Cladocera, 5 species of Ostracoda and 4 species of Copepoda. Gaur *et al*. (2014) correlated water quality to Trophic Status of the Rana Pratap Sagar Dam and the Chambal River. DO was found above the optimal range in the Chambal and RPS. They also reported 30 forms of phytoplankton, 18 forms of zooplankton and 22 forms of benthos in the Rana Pratap Sagar dam whereas in the Chambal River total 26 forms of phytoplankton, 21 forms of zooplankton and 23 forms of benthos were found. Study pointed out the value of high dissolve oxygen favourable for plankton productivity. Sarang and Sharma (2014) investigated water quality and benthic diversity of Kota barrage, Kota. Physicochemical analysis of water parameters revealed that Kota Barrage had low levels of DO, which makes it eutrophic. Whereas 27 Species of Macro invertebrates were also reported.

Singh (2015) estimated that physical and chemical parameters of pond in Bharatpur and reported that DO, alkalinity and salinity was low. They also reported 36 taxa of plankton, belonging to 5 families of phytoplankton and 3 families of zooplankton, The most abundant phytoplankton was the blue-green algae and zooplankton Copepods was also recorded. Choudhary and Nama (2016) studied waters of Kota Barrage Dam and concluded that it is more polluted in summer due to high concentration of COD, BOD, and Chloride. Barupal and Gehlot (2016) investigated the limnological profile of Kolayat Lake (Bikaner) with special reference to seasonal fluctuations and correlation among the parameters. Due to high levels of Hardness, Nitrate and Phosphate Kolayat lake was moderately polluted and eutrophicated. Nair *et al*. (2016) pointed out ecological research gaps in limnological studies carried out at lakes of Udaipur, and identified that eutrophication is major problem of Udaipur's Lake system; authors also suggested continuous and extensive research on the lakes of Udaipur for monitoring and maintaining ecological balance of lake ecosystem. Sharma *et al*. (2016) investigated the physicochemical parameters of Mansagar lake, and observed high levels of Nitrogen, phosphorus, and BOD. Lake is significantly deteriorated, marked by elevated nutrient concentrations (specifically nitrogen and phosphorus), organic contamination (high biochemical oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand), reduced levels of dissolved oxygen.

Choubisa and Dubey (2017) analysed physical, chemical, and biological parameters of Kishor Sagar Lake, Kota which revealed that physical (Turbidity, pH) and chemicals (TSS, COD) parameters were at high levels, and biological parameters included 33 phytoplankton belonging to Chlorophyceae (n=8), Cyanophyceae (n=17), and Bacillariophyceae (n=8). Sharma and Choudhary (2017) investigated water quality parameters of Man Sagar Lake Jaipur and found that levels of COD and BOD were above optimal range. The results also revealed that lake was polluted. Dangi and Sharma (2017) worked on Lake Picchola water quality parameters and found that lake was nutrient rich, alkaline, and have hard water. The study recorded high amount of orthophosphate, high EC and high TDS in the lake and it was also observed that all parameters were suitable for fish production. Suman *et al*. (2017) studied water quality and fish growth in micro-water sheds of Banswara and result showed that pH and dissolve oxygen was above permissible limits that is controlling factor for fish growth. Patel *et al*. (2018) worked on certain physico-chemical parameters of Mahi Bajaj Sagar dam to conclude that water body was having very low pollution, moderate levels of nutrients, alkalinity, and hardness. Gothwal and Gupta (2018) worked on Limnology of Nakki Lake-Mount Abu and showed that levels of alkalinity, TDS and chloride were in permissible limits, but Nakki Lake was eutrophic.

Sisodiya *et al*. (2018) studied that Fish diversity in relation to physico-chemical characteristics of Haro Reservoir of Ghatol, Banswara. Results revealed that levels of Dissolved oxygen and water alkalinity were high. They also reported 15 fish species belonging to 5 families, moreover on the basis of DO, Alkalinity, and water quality this reservoir was found optimal for fish production. Kavindra *et al*. (2019) observed that waters of Jawai Dam Pali had low levels of orthophosphate, nitrate-nitrogen range. Jawai Dam was moderately alkaline with mesotrophic conditions prevailing.

Gothwal and Gupta (2019) investigated Limnology, Planktonic diversity and Ichthyofauna of Sant-Sarovar Pond, Mount Abu and found that levels of BOD were high. They also reported 8 species of fish and four types of different species of Phytoplankton. Mishra *et al*. (2019a) studied Zooplanktonic fauna in relation to physico-chemical characteristics in Lake Picchola, Udaipur. Estimation of physicochemical parameters revealed that low levels of alkalinity but other limnological parameters were in the optimal range. They also reported total 32 species of zooplankton belonging to four different groups like Protozoa, Rotifera, Cladocera and Copepoda. Mishra *et al*. (2019b) investigated seasonal dynamics of phytoplankton population and water quality in Bidoli reservoir, Sikar and identified 44 genera of phytoplankton with maximum density of Cyanophytes. Estimation of physicochemical parameters of reservoir showed that Total Hardness, pH, TDS, and BOD were above optimal level. The study also concluded that Bidoli reservoir was eutrophic and water was not suitable for drinking purpose.

Shivani *et al*. (2019) studied physicochemical parameters of Picchola lake and found that all water parameters were in optimal range, but DO and pH was above the range. The study also concluded that Lake Picchola is conducive for fish growth and irrigation. Ojha *et al*. (2019) worked on physical, chemical, and biological parameters of micro-water sheds of Udaipur and Pratapgarh and found that levels of DO and pH were above the optimal range, although micro-water sheds were of alkaline nature. The study concluded that water was highly suitable fish growth. Vashishtha *et al*. (2020) observed pollution, high BOD, high COD, and heavy bacterial load in Goverdhan Sagar Lake of Udaipur. Rawat *et al*. (2020) studied waters of Anasagar Lake, Ajmer along with purification using seaweed derived graphene nanosheets. Presence of high sulphate content in water is because of oxidation of sulphur containing municipal sewage and salts. Shwetanshumala *et al*. (2020) studied waters of the Nandeshwar Dam, Udaipur and revealed that physical and chemical parameters of dam was suitable for fish farming and dam was eutrophic. Choubisa and Dubey (2020) analyzed the influence of thermal power plant on diversity of cyanobacteria in Kota and reported that total 8 genera of cyanobacteria like *Merismopedia*, *Synechococcus*, *Chroococcus* was dominant under the influence of thermal power plant. Physicochemical parameters results showed high value of COD and other parameters in specific areas only. The study concluded that high temperature of the heated water from thermal power plant supports the growth of cyanobacteria.

Chauhan *et al*. (2020) in a comparative study on limno-chemical parameters of two water bodies Varanda and Ankarsol Ka Naka of district Dungarpur summarized that limnological parameters of the reservoir were under the optimal range. The research also marks the usage of reservoirs for culture-based fisheries as well as for domestic purpose and agriculture. Singh (2020) investigated zooplankton diversity in river water near to industrial area of Pali, Rajasthan. The study analyzed the water quality parameters including pH, temp, hardness, DO, BOD, COD, TDS, TSS, electrical conductivity, nitrate, phosphate, chloride, carbonate, bicarbonate etc. and found that BOD and COD value fluctuates between optimal range and value of pH was high. They also reported Rotifer group was more abundant and Ostracod group was less abundant. Choudhary *et al*. (2021) studied desmid diversity in different water bodies of district Nagaur and reported 16 species of desmids. Moreover, water bodies of Nagaur were Alkaline due to high pH; and Jhada Talab is polluted from urban sewerage. Qureshi and Dubey (2021) studied seasonal variations in Physico-chemical Parameter of Chandrasarovar Pond of Jhalawar and observed TDS, conductivity, sodium, and potassium were above permissible limits.

Pachori (2022) studied Varanda and Ankarsol Ka Naka, Dungarpur, which are rain-fed waterbodies, and summarized that both water bodies was contaminated by Fluoride, Calcium, and Chloride but Ankarsol Ka Naka is more favourable for fish production due to high DO. Sunil *et al*. (2022) studied water quality and primary productivity of Anasagar lake, Ajmer. The analysis revealed that limnological parameters were in optimal range but Alkalinity and DO was in good range. The studyalso concluded that lake is leading remains to conditions of eutrophication. Gothwal (2023) estimated the physico-chemical parameters of Nakki Lake Mount Abu and inferred that water parameters ranged in-between optimal levels except TDS, also Nakki Lake is eutrophic annually but showed mesotrophic characteristic in winter season. Vyas *et al*. (2023) estimated the water quality of Chacha Kota (Banswara) and result shows that high BOD, high Nitrate, and low DO was a sign of organic pollution, which makes the water unsafe for drinking purpose. Singodia *et al*. (2024) observed that agricultural runoff, domestic sewerage,

and waste disposal in water were the main reason behind high levels of DO, Phosphates, and Nitrates in Kot Dam Rajasthan. Rakesh and Chishty (2025) reviewed papers from year 2001 to 2024 related zooplankton diversity, which showed the presence of 273 zooplankton species belonging mainly to Protozoa, Rotifers, Copepods, Cladocerans, and Ostracods. Moreover, the most abundant order was Cladocera and similarly most dominant genera were Daphnia and Keratella. Frequency of different attributes of waterbodies and limnological studies carried out in Rajasthan Figure: 1 . Water quality parameters of different districts of Rajasthan Figure:2 .

DISCUSSION

- Highest physical limnological parameters studies were carried out in district Udaipur (12) and no study was done in Jhunjhunu (0).
- Highest chemical limnological parameters studies were carried out in district Udaipur (12) and only one study was done in Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, and Pratapgarh.
- Highest biological limnological parameters studies were carried out in district Udaipur (8) and no study was done in Bikaner, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, and Jodhpur.
- Only 5 studies were carried out on reservoirs of Rajasthan with highest in Dungarpur (2), followed by Ajmer (1), Banswara (1), and Sikar (1).
- Only 8 studies were carried out on dams of Rajasthan with highest in Kota (3), followed by Ajmer (1), Banswara (1), Jhunjhunu (1), Pali (1) and Udaipur (1).
- Only 3 studies were carried out on rivers of Rajasthan one each in districtBanswara (1), Kota (1), and Pali (1).
- Highest 22 studies were carried out on Lakes of Rajasthan with highest in Udaipur (9), followed by Ajmer (4), Jaipur (3), Sirohi (2), Banswara (1), Bikaner (1) Jodhpur (1), and Kota (1).
- Only 9 studies were carried out on ponds of Rajasthan with highest in Udaipur (2), followed by Banswara (1), Bharatpur (1), Jhalawar (1), Nagaur (1), Pratapgarh (1), Sikar (1), and Sirohi (1).
- Highest 33 long term studies (1 to 2 year) were carried in Rajasthan with highest in Udaipur (11), followed by Jaipur (3), Kota (3), Sirohi (3), Ajmer (2), Banswara (2), Sikar (2),Bharatpur (1), Bikaner (1), Jhalawar (1), Jhunjhunu (1), Nagaur (1), Pali (1) and Pratapgarh (1).
- Also 11 short term studies were also carried out in Rajasthan with highest in Ajmer (2), Banswara (2), Dungarpur (2), Kota (2), Jodhpur (1), Pali (1), and Udaipur (1).
- Highest number of studies that estimated high pH were in Udaipur (2), Highest number of studies which estimated highDO were in Udaipur (4), similarly TDS = 2 (Sirohi), TSS = Ajmer (1), and Kota (1), Alkalinity = Udaipur (3), BOD = Jaipur (2) and Kota (2), COD = Kota (3), Hardness = Banswara (1) and Sikar (1), EC = Banswara (1) and Jhalawar, Nitrate = Udaipur (1), Phosphate = Udaipur (2), Sodium = Jhalawar (1),Potassium = Jhalawar (1), Turbidity = Kota (1), Calcium = Ajmer (1) and Dungarpur (1), Magnesium = Ajmer (1), Chloride = Dungarpur (1) and Udaipur (1), Fluoride = Dungarpur (1) and Udaipur (1), Free CO_2 = Udaipur (1), Salinity = Bharatpur (1), Organic matter = Udaipur (1), Sulphate = Ajmer (1), Nitrogen = Jaipur (1), Phosphorous = Jaipur (1) (Table:1, Figure:1, Figure:2).

Only selected water bodies of Ajmer, Banswara, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Pratapgarh, Sikar, Sirohi, and Udaipur district of Rajasthan were studied properly; remaining districts named Alwar, Balotra, Baran, Barmer, Beawar, Bhilwara, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dausa, Deeg, Didawana-Kuchaman, Dholpur, Hanumangrah, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Karauli, Khairthal-Tijara, Kotputli-Behror, Phalodi, Rajsamand, Salumber, Sawai Madhopur, Sriganganagar, and Tonk are yet to be studied. Moreover, limnological studies must be more frequent as like zooplankton studies (Rakesh and Chishty, 2025). More of the limnological studies we relocated in southern and central Rajasthan mainly, other parts of Rajasthan need to be studied as well. All studies follow old pattern of indicating levels of parameters and need for conservation. However, in present time requirement is to prepare proper management plan for different water-bodies, which included regular estimation of all limnological parameters, maintaining proper water level, stopping encroachment in the periphery of water body, putting check on dumping of sewage and industrial effluents into water bodies.

Researchers need to be focused on long-term study and specially on under studied biological parameters (Planktons) of water body, which have long-term and greater impact on the aquatic ecosystem.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest regarding this review paper.

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Table. 1: Brief review on limnological studies carried out in Rajasthan State

S. No.	Author	Water Quality Assessment Method	Abundant parameter	Water Body Type	Geographic Location	Temporal Trend	Key Findings
1	Gothwal (2023)	Physical and Chemical	TDS	Lake	Mount Abu (Sirohi)	Long term	Limnological parameters fluctuates in between optimal ranges and Nakki Lake was eutrophic majorly but mesotrophic in winter season.
2	Sharma *et al.* (2012)	Physical, Chemical and	Organically rich	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	Madar tank majorly mesotrophic but

		Biological					some zooplankton related to eutrophic and oligotrophic water bodies were also found in Madar tank.
3	Choubisa and Dubey (2017)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	TSS, Turbidity, pH, BOD and COD	Lake	Kota	Short term	Authors reported 33 phytoplankton species belonging to Chlorophyceae (n=8), Cyanophyceae (n=17) and Bacillariophyceae (n=8). All the limnological parameters were under permissible limits except the parameters like TSS, Turbidity, pH, BOD and COD which were much higher than the permissible limits by APHA (2017).
4	Choudhary and Nama (2016)	Physical and Chemical	Chloride, BOD, and COD	Dam	Kota	Long term	Kota barrage was more polluted in summer due to high concentration of chloride.
5	Pachori (2022)	Physical and Chemical	Fluoride, Calcium, Chloride	Reservoir	Dungarpur	Short term	Both reservoirs were rain-fed with seasonal fluctuations, but Ankarsol ka Naka was found to be more productive for fish culture due to high value of

							DO.
6	Mathur *et al.* (2007)	Physical and Chemical	Calcium and magnesium	Lake	Puskar, Ajmer	Long term	Chloride and conductivity concentrations were high and the lake water was alkaline. The water quality was found to be hard which was due to excess addition of calcium and magnesium through surface run-off.
7	Vyas *et al.* (2023)	Physical and Chemical	BOD and DO, Nitrate	Pond	Banswara	Long term	Elevated levels of BOD combined with low DO indicate the presence of organic pollution, rendering the water inappropriate for direct human consumption.
8	Barupal and Gehlot (2016)	Physical and Chemical	Nitrate and Phosphate	Lake	Bikaner	Long term	Kolayat Lake was moderately polluted and eutrophicated due to hardness, phosphate and nitrate-nitrogen.
9	Choudhary *et al.* (2021)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	-	Pond	Nagaur	Long term	Reported 16 species of Desmid from the different waterbodies and also observed that the Jhada Talab was polluted due to pollution from urban settlement.
10	Nair *et al.* (2016)	Physical, Chemical and	Nitrate and Phosphate	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	The limnological study show eutrophication

		Biological					was major problem for lake ecosystem in Udaipur. Authors suggested continuous and extensive research on the lakes of Udaipur for monitoring and maintaining ecological balance of Udaipur's Lake ecosystem.
11	Nama and Kuldeep (2011)	Physical and Chemical	Nitrate and Phosphate	Reservoir	Jodhpur	Long term	Nitrate and phosphate fluctuated in optimal range.
12	Sharma and Gupta (1994)	Physical and Chemical	High alkalinity	Pond	Udaipur	Short term	All limnological parameters were in optimal range and levels of DO were very high, water body was moderately eutrophic due to high nutrient level of inorganic components.
13	Vashishtha *et al.* (2020)	Physical and Chemical	High alkalinity	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	Lake water exhibits a significantly elevated bacterial load, as indicated by the high levels of biochemical oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, and most probable number (MPN). These metrics reflect a severe pollution condition, confirming that

							the lake's water was heavily contaminated.
14	Jain and Singh (2013)	Physical and Chemical	Nitrate and phosphate	Lake	Ajmer	Long term	Pollution from agriculture and industrial area along with overloaded of nutrients is affecting water quality and causing lake eutrophication.
15	Singodia *et al.* (2024)	Chemical analysis	Nitrate and Phosphate	Dam	Jhunjhunu	Long term	Increase in parameters like DO, Nitrates and Phosphates are subjected to anthropogenic activities.
16	Srivastava *et al.* (2009)	Chemical analysis	-	Lake	Jaipur	Long term	Highest polluted water was of lake Jalmahal lake and best water was of Ramgarh lake.
17	Kavindra *et al.* (2019)	Physical and Chemical	Low orthophosphate and nitrate-nitrogen	Dam	Pali	Long term	All limnological parameters were in optimal levels and the orthophosphate, nitrate- nitrogen range was low. The dam was found to be moderately alkaline which supports good water productivity and mesotrophic condition.
18	Rawat *et al.* (2020)	Physical and Chemical	High sulphate	Lake	Ajmer	Short term	Physico-chemical parameters are found in permissible limits but high sulphate content in water was

							because of oxidation of sulphur containing municipal sewage and salts.
19	Qureshi and Dubey (2021)	Physical and Chemical	TDS, conductivity, sodium, and potassium	Pond	Jhalawar	Long term	TDS, conductivity, sodium, and potassium was not found in permissible limits.
20	Kumar and Yadav (2014)	Physical and Chemical	BOD and DO	Lake	Jodhpur	Short term	Author measured total 11 WQP but only five parameters identified as the primary stressors, exceeding permissible limits for human utilization.
21	Patel *et al.* (2018)	Physical and Chemical	-	Dam	Banswara	Short term	On the basis of limnological parameters the water body had moderate levels of nutrients, water body was alkaline with moderately hard water.
22	Sharma *et al.* (2011)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	Nitrate and Phosphate and fluoride	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	Nitrate, Phosphate and fluoride was not found in optimal range. 58 species of phytoplankton 64 Species of zooplankton were also reported.
23	Mishra *et al.* (2012)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	Free CO_2	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	Physico-chemical parameters were found to be moderate. The mean

							phytoplankton density in lake was recorded at 36.71 individuals per millilitre, encompassing 29 genera.
24	Gothwal and Gupta (2019)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	High BOD	Pond	Sirohi	Long term	Limnological parameters of top and bottom water samples were under permissible limits.
25	Gothwal and Gupta (2018)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	Low alkalinity, TDS	Lake	Sirohi	Long term	The levels of alkalinity, TDS, and chloride were low, due to which the lake was eutrophic.
26	Mishra *et al.* (2019a)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	Low alkalinity	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	All limnological parameters were under optimal range and total 32 species of zooplankton belonging to four different groups were reported by the authors.
27	Singh (2015)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	Low alkalinity and salinity	Pond	Bharatpur	Long term	Author reported 36 taxa of plankton, belonging to 5 families of phytoplankton and 3 families of zooplankton. The levels of alkalinity and salinity were also low.
28	Balai *et al.* (2014)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	DO	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	Author reported 51 Species of zooplankton, levels of all physicochemical parameters was in optimal range

							and level of DO was found in high range.
29	Sharma *et al.* (2016)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	Nitrogen, Phosphorus and High BOD	Lake	Jaipur	Long term	The lake displayed significant deterioration, marked by elevated nutrient concentrations (specifically nitrogen and phosphorus), organic contamination (high biochemical oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand), reduced levels of dissolved oxygen.
30	Sunil *et al.* (2022)	Physical and Chemical	Alkalinity and DO	Lake	Ajmer	Short term	Alkalinity and DO was found in good amount.
31	Shivani *et al.* (2019)	Physical and Chemical	DO and pH	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	Levels of physicochemical parameters were in optimal range but pH and DO was above the optimal range.
32	Sharma and Choudhary (2021)	Physical and Chemical	BOD and COD	Lake	Jaipur	Long term	Levels of BOD and COD were above optimal value.
33	Dangi and Sharma (2017)	Physical and Chemical	High orthophosphate .	Lake	Udaipur	Short term	High amount of orthophosphate and EC and TDS was recorded above the optimal range.
34	Shwetanshumala *et al.* (2020)	Physical and Chemical	–	Dam	Udaipur	Long term	Levels of all the physicochemical parameters of lake were under the optimal

							range.
35	Choubisa and Dubey (2020)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	COD	River	Kota	Short term	Total 8 genera of Cyanobacteria were observed by author, limnological parameters were under the optimal range, but COD value was high.
36	Suman *et al.* (2017)	Physical and Chemical	DO	Pond	Banswara	Short term	All physico-chemical parameters fluctuated in between optimal range but levels of DO was found to be higher.
37	Chauhan *et al.* (2020)	Physical and Chemical	–	Reservoir	Dungarpur	Short term	Limnological parameters of the reservoir were under the optimal range and reservoirs were used for culture-based fisheries as well as for domestic purpose and agriculture.
38	Pandey and Verma (2004)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	DO	Lake	Udaipur	Long term	Levels of DO were above optimal range and phytoplankton density, chlorophyll concentration and primary productivity was also observed in two different lakes.
39	Singh (2020)	Physical, Chemical and Biological	BOD and COD	River	Pali	Short term	Value of pH was highest, COD and BOD value fluctuated between optimal

							range. Rotifer group was most abundant and Ostracod group was least abundant.
40	Sisodiya *et al.* (2018)	Physical, Chemical, and Biological	DO and Alkalinity	Reservoir	Banswara	Long term	Authors reported total 15 fish species belonging to 5 families. On the basis of DO and Alkalinity water quality condition of this reservoir were optimal for fish production.
41	Verma *et al.* (2012)	Physical, Chemical, and Biological	–	Pond	Sikar	Long term	Total 16 taxa and 24 species of phytoplankton was reported. Levels of water quality parameters fluctuated in-between optimal range.
42	Ojha *et al.* (2019)	Physical, Chemical, and Biological	pH and DO	Pond	Udaipur and Pratapgarh	Long term	The levels of DO and pH were above the optimal range which was useful for fish culture.
43	Mishra *et al.*(2019b)	Physical, Chemical, and Biological	Total Hardness, pH, TDS, and BOD	Reservoir	Sikar	Long term	44 genera of phytoplankton were identified and maximum density of Cyanophytes was observed. Due to seasonal fluctuations in physico-chemical parameters and plankton diversity reservoir was generally eutrophic but

							water was not suitable for drinking purpose.
44	Gaur *et al.* (2014)	Physical, Chemical, and Biological	DO	Dam and River	Kota	Long term	Author reported total 30 forms of phytoplankton, 18 forms of zooplankton and 22 forms of benthos in the Rana Pratap Sagar Dam whereas in the Chambal River total 26 forms of phytoplankton, 21 forms of zooplankton and 23 forms of benthos were identified. Levels all the limnological parameters were in permissible limits but levels of DO was found above the optimal range in the Chambal and RPS.
45	Sarang and Sharma (2014)	Physical, Chemical, and Biological	Low DO	Dam	Kota	Long term	27 Species of Macro invertebrates were identified and low level of DO in the Kota Barrage was reasons for its moderately eutrophic status.

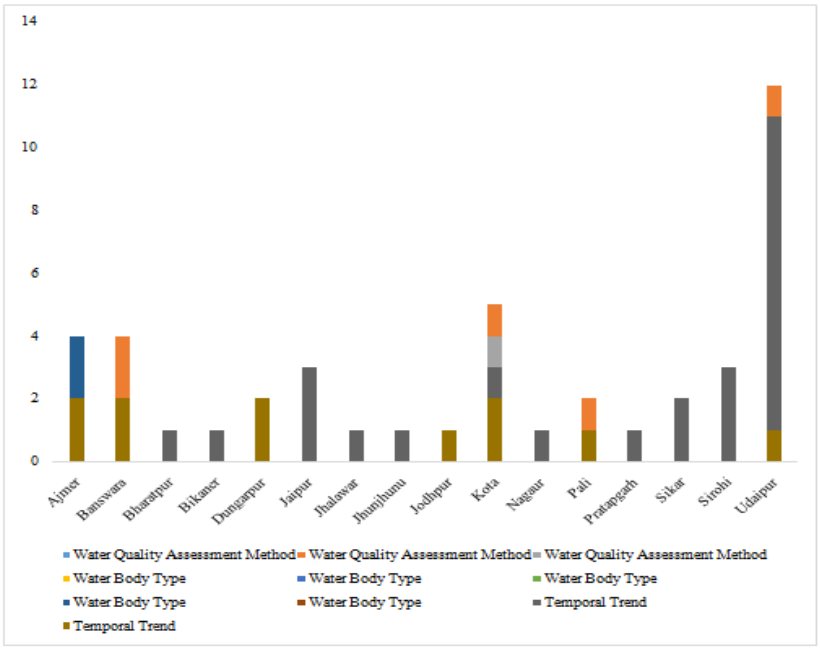


Figure: 1 Frequency of different attributes of waterbodies and limnological studies carried out in Rajasthan.

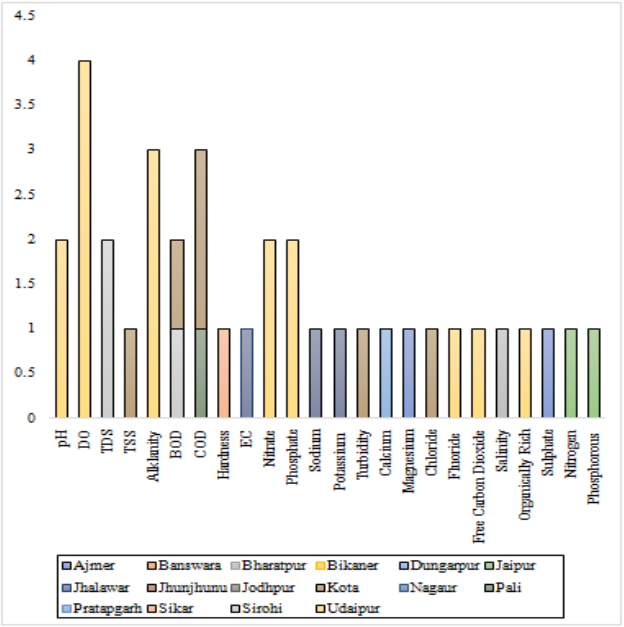


Figure:2 Water quality parameters of different districts of Rajasthan.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Methods for Identifying *Candida albicans* in the Sputum of Pneumonia Patients

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ABSTRACT

Mycosis in co-morbidity is an anticipated characteristic of co-infections in immune compromised patients with several ailments. These infections are hard to diagnose and treat due to inconsistent diagnostic tests. The study aimed to detect *Candida albicans* in the sputum of patients with clinically correlated pneumonia symptoms, a previous medical history of *Candida* pneumonia, and comorbidities such as diabetes, influenza, and COVID-19. In this study, six *C. albicans* strains were isolated from 32 sputum samples. The study used mycological culture methods to isolate *C. albicans* from sputum andemployed conventional mycological and molecular approaches to confirm the presence of *C. albicans*. For molecular detection, singleplex and multiplex PCR were performed based on novel sets of primers. The multiplex panel directly detected *C. albicans* presence in sputum by amplification of all 4 specific DNA bands observed at the correct size. To ascertain the identity of all 6 isolates, the hyper variable region between ITS1 and ITS4 of the 18S rRNA gene was PCR amplified, and the fragments were sequenced. Both traditional

mycological methods and the new molecular method confirmed the presence of *C. albicans*in sputum. This study provides a novel approach for rapidly detecting *C. albicans* directly from the sputum sample. This avenue for improved rapid detection also holds the promise for future advancements in the diagnosis of *C. albicans*.

Keywords: Multiplex PCR, *Candida* Pneumonia, Conventional PCR, Sputum-PCR.

INTRODUCTION

Candidiasisis an opportunistic infection caused by pathogenic *Candidaspp. Candida albicans* is a dimorphic, gram-positive, yeast-like fungus, an opportunistic pathogen, and a regular member of the human body's microflora. It stays in the human body as an asymptomatic colonizer of gastrointestinal, oral, and genital tracts. It is associated with bronchopulmonary pneumonia and secondary infections, particularly in individuals with comorbidities[1].Based on the host's immune response and the disruption of barrier integrity, the fungus migration may colonize the other parts of the system, which could cause infections [2], [3], [4], [5], [6]. Upon pathogenesis and drug stress, it exhibits an array of functional modifications, viz. nutrient acquisition, temperature adaptation, adhesion, invasion, immune response, and drug tolerance; the collective response is termed invasive candidiasis [2], [7], [8], [9]. Being commensal, *C. albicans* is more likely to be associated with co-infections, superinfections, or latent infections with other pathogens in cases of comorbidities and systemic, life-threatening diseases, such as HIV, tuberculosis, influenza, diabetes, COVID-19, and cystic fibrosis, respectively[1].*Candida* pneumonia and invasive mycoses exhibited a prevalence of *C. albicans* among immune-compromised patients [10], [11], [12], [13]. Epidemiologically, infections and co-infections with *C. albicans* indicate a prevalence of approximately 67.6% in invasive mycoses of *Candida spp*. Literature suggests the mortality rate of Influenza-associated mycoses is 34.85%, and among them,the prevalence of *Candida* co-infection is about 84.62% [14]. A corroboration describes an array of clinical diagnosis,*viz.* bronchogenic carcinoma, tubercular sequelae, bronchiectasis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD),with the presence of*C. albicans* co-infection ata prevalence ratio of 42.9% in the northern Indian subcontinent [15]. Not only the evidence of *Candida* infections observed in patients with co-morbidities, but also 23% of the prevalence has been reported as invasive fungal infections (IFIs) in patients with lung transplants (LT) through nosocomial sources. The incidence range for *Candida spp.*is about 3-11% globally[15]. Phenotypes such as ovoid/ellipsoid cells with septa/hyphae and the switching tactics of yeast to hyphal growth dimorphism, respectively, define its polymorphism [13]. Adherence of the yeast form to the substratum and biofilm formation, accumulation of extracellular material on mucosal cell surfaces, and medical implants like catheters and dentures, followed by proliferation to the dispersal of the yeast cells, are the step-by-step mechanisms of *C. albicans* invasive pathogenesis[16], [17]. Regulations of genes for adhesion (adhesins) and invasion (invasins) define the mechanical approach of interactions with the host [16]. As a consequence of phenotypic polymorphism, the formation of biofilms and upregulation of adhesins and invasins are crucial intermediates that lead to virulence [2]. In the clinical pathogenesis of *C. albicans*, the crucial steps are adhesion, propagation, and defense against host proteins/ factors. It has been reported that the Repressed by TUP-5 (RBT5)gene and Agglutinin-Like Sequence-1 *(ALS1)* gene contributes towards host-pathogen interaction and growth promotion. Epidermal Growth Factor-like 1 *(EED1)* has also been shown as a critical factor for yeast-to-hyphal transition and germ tube formation. Secreted aspartyl proteinase *(SAP1)* through degradation of IgA, haemoglobin, and human albumin, and *ALS1* through biofilm production contribute to the defense for growing *C. albicans* inside the host. Henceforth, we chose these four genes for the characterization of *C. albicans*in this study [16], [18], [19], [20]. The current study uses sputum samples from patients with defined co-morbidities as well as symptoms of respiratory infections. The samples were subjected to culture and sensitivity testing. Conventional mycology and biochemical methods were adapted to isolate and characterize the isolated *C. albicans*. The species-level identification was done through PCR-amplified 18S ribosomal RNA gene sequencing. This study presents a novel molecular detection method using a multiplex PCR panel of *SAP1, RBT5, ALS1*, and *EED1* primers. The devised panel was simultaneously tested with DNA from isolated *C. albicans*, whole sputum DNA, and

homogenized sputum samples. Our method of multiplex PCR provides a means of rapid detection of *C. albicans*directly from infected sputum samples without isolation of DNA or organism.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design and sample collection

The study was conducted in a biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) secondary care teaching hospital and research center facility. Ethical clearance was obtained from the host institution before proceeding with the study. The samples were collected from nearby hospitals, primary healthcare centers (PHCs), and community healthcare centers (CHCs). According to the inclusion criteria, sputum samples were collected from patients with a history of Candida pneumonia and comorbidities such as diabetes, influenza, COVID-19, acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (AECOPD), and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Negative acid-fast staining was also considered for further procedure. Expectorated sputum samples were collected from the patients in sterile, wide-mouthed sample containers according to guidelines approved by the IEC for sputum culture tests. Sputum samples, upon microscopy, showed presence of budding yeast cells and hyphal growth and were further considered for culture, sensitivity testing, and PCR detection. The samples were aliquoted into sterile 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes and stored at -80 °C prior to DNA isolation.

Isolation and biochemical characterization

Direct microscopy (BIOLUX-N-COM, Serial No.: 13056, Lenses: 40X & 100X) was done on the specimen to observe gram-positive budding yeast cells. Further, the positive samples were cultured by four flame streaking over two sabouraud dextrose agar (SDA) (Cat. No.: MH033-100G, Himedia, India) plates and each inoculated plate was incubated at two different temperatures, 25°C and 37°C, respectively, for 24-48 h[21]The isolated colonies were observed and noted for its morphological and microscopic features. A series of biochemical tests were conducted to further confirm them.

Sugar fermentation test

The prepared culture inoculum using single colony on SDA plate was inoculated into sterile 2% Phenol red sugar broth (pH 7.4 ± 0.2) containing an inverted Durham's tube and incubated at 37 °C for 24-48 h. After overnight incubation, the colour change of the phenol red indicator from bright red (pH 8.2) to yellow (pH 6.8) indicated acid production and gas production was observed within Durham's tube. The sugar broth used to study sugar fermentation activity consisted of glucose, maltose, lactose, and mannitol. *C. albicans* differentiates from other *Candida* species by representing glucose and maltose sugar fermentation with acid and gas formation [21].

Urease test:

The culture inoculum was inoculated on a sterile slant (pH 6.8 ± 0.2) prepared using urea agar base (Cat. No.: M112-500G, Himedia, India). The urease activity was interpreted by the change in color of the phenol red indicator from yellow (pH 6.8) to pink (pH 8.4) due to the hydrolysis of urea. No color change indicated no urease activity, signifying *Candida* species(Seeliger', 1955).

Germ tube test

A singlecolony was suspended in 500 µL ofhuman serum and incubated at 37°C for 2 h. After incubation, a slide was mounted with a drop of the above mentioned serum using a pasture pipette and observed under a microscope at 40X magnification for germ tube formation. A long tube-like projections extending from yeast cells with no constriction at the point of attachment[23] suggests the presence of germ tube.

Chlamydospore staining

The isolates were grown on cornmeal agar (Cat. No.: M146-500G, Himedia, India) and incubated at 25°C for 48-72 h.The spore formation was determined bylactophenol cotton blue (LPCB) wet mount slide culture method. Presence

of highly refractile, thick-walled chlamydo spores would be indicative of *C. albicans*it also differentiate *C. albicans* from other *Candida* species[24], [25], [26].

Coagulase test

100µL of overnight grown individual culture of six isolates were separately inoculated in a sterile tube containing 500 µL of human plasma and incubated for 24 h at 37°C to observe the clot formation [24], [27].

Evaluation of antifungal susceptibility of the isolates

According to Kirby & Bauer's disc diffusion assay method, overnight-grown fungal cultures were compared with a 0.5 McFarland standard. A lawn culture was then prepared on Mueller-Hinton agar (MHA) plates (Cat. No.: M173-500g, Himedia, India), supplemented with 2% additional glucose. The plates were subjected to a 6mm disc of seven antifungals (Himedia, India). Fluconazole (Cat. No: SD114-IVL,10µg/disc), Voriconazole (Cat. No: SD277-1VL, 1µg/disc), Amphotericin B (Cat. No.: SD233-1VL,20 µg/disc), Ketoconazole (Cat. No.: SD274-1VL, 50 µg/disc), Itraconazole (Cat. No.: SD221-1VL, 10 µg/disc), Clotrimazole (Cat. No.: SD115-1VL, 10 µg/disc), Nystatin (Cat. No.: SD271-1VL, 50 µg/disc) and the plates were incubated at 30°C for 24-48 h and further observed for zone of inhibition [28], [29], [30].

Fungal DNA PCR

Fungal DNA was isolated according to Danis Vijay et al., 2019, with suitable modifications. The quality (260/280) and quantity (OD260)of isolated DNA was confirmed by measuring the OD at 260 and 280 nm using a Nanodrop spectrophotometer (ND-1000, Thermo-Fisher Scientific). To optimize the individual PCR condition for each primer pair the isolated genomic DNA was subjected to singleplex polymerase chain reaction with a reaction system of 25µL {2µL of template DNA, 1µL of forward primer (10 pM/µL), 1 µL of reverse primer (10 pM/ µL), 8.5 µL of nuclease water and 12.5 µL of EmeraldAmp GT PCR Master Mix is a 2X premix, Cat. No.: RR310B}. The PCR amplification was performed using a Bio-Rad T-100 Thermal cycler as per the following program: Initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min, denaturation at 95°C for 30 s, annealing at 58°C for 30 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min with 35 cycles and Final extension at 72°C for 10 min. The multiplexPCR amplification was performed with a reaction mixture of 50 µL {4 µL of DNA template, an equimolar mixture of *RBT5, EED1, ALS1, SAP1* genes forward primer 4 µL (10 pM/ µL), an equimolar mixture of *RBT5, EED1, ALS1, SAP1* genes reverse primer 4 µL (10 pM/ µL), 17 µL of Nuclease free water and 25 µL of EmeraldAmp GT PCR Master Mix is a 2X premix} using the following program: Initial denaturation 95°C for 5 min, denaturation at 95°C for 30 s, annealing at 58°C for 30 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min with 35 cycles and final extension at 72°C for 10 min. Post PCR the products were assessed using 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis with a 100 bp ladder (Pure Gene-Next-Gen) in 1x Tris-acetate buffer at 70 V for 1 h, and documentation was done using the GelDoc system (Bio-Rad, USA).

Sputum DNA PCR

Sputum homogenization used cyclomixture, and further enzymatic methods were used according to [32], [33], [34] with suitable modification for isolation of sputum DNA. The isolated DNA used as template for the PCR reaction. The total volume of the PCR reaction mixture was 25µL with 2µL Sputum DNA as template and other Ingredients {2 µL of forward primer (10 pM/ µL), 2 µL of reverse primer, 8.5µL of nuclease-free water, and 12.5 µL of EmeraldAmp GT PCR Master Mix is a 2X premix} the PCR reaction was performed at Initial denaturation 95°C for 5 min, denaturation at 95°C for 30 s, annealing at 58°C for 30 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min with 35 cycles and final extension at 72°C for 10 min. After PCR, the products were assessed using 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis in 1x Tris-acetate buffer at 70 V for 1 h and imaged through the GelDoc system (Bio-Rad, USA).

Sputum PCR

The aliquoted sputum samples were thoroughly homogenized by vortexing and used directly as a template for the multiplex PCR reaction. The total volume of reaction mixture was 25µL {3µL homogenized sputum, 2 µL of forward primer (10 pM/ µL), 2 µL of reverse primer, 7.5 µL of nuclease-free water, and 12.5 µL of Emerald Amp GT PCR Master Mix is a 2X premix} with program optimized at Initial denaturation 95°C for 5 min, denaturation at 95°C for

30 s, annealing at 58°C for 30 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min with 35 cycles and Final extension at 72°C for 10 min. After the PCR reaction, the products were assessed using 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis in 1X Tris-acetate buffer at 70 V for 1 h, and imaged through GelDoc system (Bio-Rad, USA).

Species-level identification of fungal isolates using 18S sequencing

Fungal DNA was subjected to PCR with inter-transcribed sequence primers ITS1 (5′- TCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGG-3′) and ITS4 (5′- TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC -3′), [35], [36], with a reaction system of 25µL {2µL of template DNA, 1µL of forward primer (10 pM/µL), 1 µL of reverse primer (10 pM/ µL), 8.5 µL of nuclease water and 12.5 µL of EmeraldAmp GT PCR Master Mix is a 2X premix}. The amplification of genes was performed using a Bio-Rad T-100 Thermal cycler with a program optimized for initial denaturation at 95 °C for 5 min, denaturation at 95 °C for 30 s, annealing at 58 °C for 30 s, and extension at 72 °C for 1 min, with 35 cycles, followed by afinal extension at 72°C for 10 min. The PCR product was assessed on 1.5% agarose gel, with a 100 bp ladder (Pure Gene-Next-Gen), in 1x Tris-acetate buffer at 70 V for 1 h, and documentation was done using the GelDoc system (Bio-Rad, USA)[37]. The PCR amplicons were subjected to Sanger sequencing. The sequence obtained was blasted against the NCBI non-redundant nucleotide database and was submitted to NCBI GenBank. Phylogenetic analysis was conducted using MEGA 11 software and the Unweighted Pair Group Method with Arithmetic Mean (UPGMA) statistical method. The phylogeny test was performed using the bootstrap method, based on 1000 replicates.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All the sputum samples were subjected to classical conventional mycological methods based on direct gram staining of sputum and the presence of budding yeast cells, and sputum samples were streaked on SDA plates and incubated. The pure cultures were prepared for characterization after multiple colonies with similar colony characteristics were obtained. A total of 32 expectorated sputum samples of patients with a previous history of fungal infections and comorbid conditions were considered and subjected to further experimentation. Six *C. albicans* were isolated from sample no. 2209, 2210, 2215, 2218, 2221, and 2223. CA02DB, CA03DB, CA04DB, CA05DB, CA06DB, and CA07DB were isolated from the mentioned sample number.

Isolation & biochemical characterization

The colony characteristics, such as oval-shaped, convex, elevated, smooth, and glistening, were observed as medium-sized, creamy-white, opaque colonies with even margins on Sabouraud dextrose agar plates after incubation at 25 °C and 37 °C for 24-48 h (Figure 1A). Upon gram staining, gram-positive budding yeast cells were observed under the magnification of a 100X oil emersion lens (Figure 1B). On the biochemical prospects, the sugar fermentation test after incubation at 37 °C for 24- 48 h, an evident colour change was observed from red to yellow in 2% maltose and 2% dextrose, respectively, with bubble formation in 2% mannitol and dextrose as an indicative of acid gas formation (Figure 1C) in all CA02DB-CA07DB isolates. The isolates were grown on cornmeal agar (Figure 1D) at 25 °C for 48-72 h for the chlamydospore detection procedure. All the isolates exhibited large, thick, double-walled, highly refractive spores, with a thick depression observed at the centre. In all the isolates, a depression in the centre of the individual cell was observed, a characteristic of the chlamydospore, as indicated by the arrow markings in Figure 1E. A wet mount of lactophenol cotton blue reverified the presence of chlamydospores in the isolates (Figure 1F). Upon mounting and observation at 40X magnification, germ tubes (Figure 1G) were observed developing in all isolates. The arrow marked the presence of germ tubes, which showed no constrictions at the point of attachment to the yeast cells, as seen in the case of pseudo-hyphae. All the isolates showed no color change upon growth on Sabouraud dextrose agar slants containing urea, confirming negative urease activity (Figure 1H). Upon incubation with human plasma, all six isolates (CA02DB-CA07DB) exhibited clots at the bottom of the tube, confirming positive coagulase activity, as no clots were observed in the control tube (Figure 1I).

Evaluation of antifungal susceptibility

The disc diffusion assay exhibited the nature of the activity of all seven antifungals used against six clinically isolated *C. albicans* (Figure 2). Among all the isolates, CA04DB exhibited the highest sensitivity to fluconazole, voriconazole, ketoconazole, itraconazole, and clotrimazole, as indicated by the zone of inhibition. However, CA03DB and CA04DB showed similar sensitivity against amphotericin B and nystatin. Nevertheless, the trend of lowest sensitivity varied among all the antifungals. Isolate CA02BD exhibited the lowest sensitivity against fluconazole, voriconazole, itraconazole, and amphotericin B, respectively. All the cultures exhibited moderate to high sensitivity in their zone of inhibition on an overnight-grown lawn culture based on the cell count compared to 0.5 McFarland standards according to Kirby Bauers method for fluconazole, voriconazole, and ketoconazole, respectively [28].

Fungal DNA PCR

DNA from isolated *C. albicans* was subjected to singleplex and multiplex PCR reactions independently in a five-reaction set, where each isolate provided specific amplification in every singleplex and distinct amplicons in the multiplex reaction, similar to the independent singleplex amplicons. These results were compared with a 100 bp ladder visualized in 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis. The host-pathogen interactions of *C. albicans* have vivid mechanisms such as adhesions, invasions, formation of germ tubes, phenotypic switching, and hyphal growth, which describe its subsequent active penetration in the host cells by *C. albicans* in invasive candidiasis[2], [38]. Henceforth, the genes were explicitly targeted for detection, aligning with the mechanisms of the host-pathogen interactions. The panel of genes, namely *RBT5*, which describes functions in adhesions by modifying the cell wall proteins, *EED1*, determines the formation of germ tubes and filamentous growth, which is crucial for the host-pathogen interaction [19] The host-pathogen interaction is a unique feature of any pathogen's interaction with its host; therefore, this parameter was considered for the specific identification of *C. albicans.* Nas T. *et al*. and Al-abide et al. independently defined genes encoding agglutinin-like sequences *(ALS1)* and secreted aspartyl proteinase 1 *(SAP1)* demonstrate its abilities of host-pathogen interactions are even the biomarkers for invasions and biofilm productions respectively in case of *C. albicans* infection[16], [20]. *SAP1,* which functions as a secreted proteinase, has been described as a critical molecule for phenotypic switching specific to *C. albicans* for the appearance of opaque white colonies, which aligns and affirms the colony characteristics observed in our study (Figure 1A) [39]. Singleplex PCR reactions were performed to systematically analyze the four chosen primers for identification purposes, initially considering the DNA from the *C. albicans* isolates (CA02DB-CA07DB), and specific amplification was observed (Figures 3A to F, Lanes 1-4). A multiplex PCR was performed in the same experiment to detect all the genes simultaneously (Figure 3, A to F, Lane 5). Furthermore, to reduce turnaround time and minimize interference from host nucleic acid, sputum DNA and homogenized sputum were used directly as templates for multiplex PCR (Figure 3, G&H).

Sputum DNA PCR

The sputum DNA positive for *C. albicans* alongside isolated *C. albicans* DNA as positive control and sputum DNA of sample with negative *C. albicans* presence as negative control were subjected to multiplex PCR reaction where despite the complex composition of sputum DNA, the multiplex panel provided positive amplification in sputum DNA of sample number 2209, 2210, 2215, 2218 in all four marker genes, however, sputum DNA samples 2221 and 2223 showed amplification in *ALS1* (318 bp), *EED1* (228 bp), and *RBT5* (176 bp) apart from *SAP1* (480 bp) (Figure 4A). Sputum DNA has a complex architecture; multiple nucleic acids, including host DNA, can be present in the sample, defining its metagenomic nature [40]. The multiplex panel for detection in reaction with sputum DNA selected the specific genes for amplification, which simultaneously establishes the specificity of the primers as well as the presence of *C. albicans* in the sputum DNA (Figure 3G).

Sputum PCR

The homogenized sputum was considered as a template and was subjected to multiplex PCR reaction with the typical positive and negative control as sputum DNA multiplex reaction. Sputum sample no. 2209, 2221, and 2223 showed positive amplification of all four genes used in the multiplex detection panel with primer dimers in sputum no. 2210, 2215, and 2218 (Figure 3H) upon visualization on 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis. Meanwhile, the sputum PCR performed revealed the specific amplification in samples 2209, 2221, and 2223 (Figure 4. B); nonetheless, in the

other three samples (sample no. 2210, 2215, and 2218 isolated CA03DB, CA04DB, and CA05DB respectively), there was no amplification despite, presence of *C. albicans* as evidenced by mycological culturing. However, the negative PCR results could be due to low cell count in the sputum or the presence of endonuclease, DNases, benzonases, and lysostaphins, which could degrade the nucleic acids in the samples or reaction mixtures support the negative results obtained in sputum DNA PCR and sputum PCR [34], [40], [41], [42]. A similar line of work was carried out by Attraqchi et al., who used *ALS1* and *SAP1* genes alongside *18S rRNA* to compare *C. albicans* distinguishing with *Candida parasitosis* in bovine mastitis. This also defines the pattern of virulence that remains the same as the function-specific for *C. albicans* in vivid systems for systemic infections [20], [43], [44]. In the current study, ALS1 and SAP1 were considered for detecting only *C. albicans* in respiratory infections. Mohammed AB et al. used multiplex PCR for the detection of *Candida* species, used a kit-based DNA isolation procedure, and used the sputum DNA with three sets of Multiplex panels to detect different species of *Candida* [45]

Species-level identification of fungal isolates using 18S ribosomal RNA gene sequencing

Inter-transcribed sequence 1 *(ITS1)* and Inter-transcribed sequence 4 *(ITS4)* were amplified according to methods mentioned by Fujita et al., 2001, and Hashizume et al.,2022[35], [36]. Amplified products were subjected to Sanger's dideoxy sequencing. After sequencing, the data were analyzed and submitted to NCBI with accession numbers from OR353742.1 to OR353747.1. All isolates were confirmed to be *C. albicans* based on partial sequences of internal transcribed spacers 1 and 2 of the ribosomal RNA gene. The sequences compared to other fungal strains used maximum likelihood (Figure 4) to show the position in the genera. Xu X. et al. worked on *Candida* detection by comparing conventional mycology alongside fluorescent real-time PCR. They devised a methodology that significantly reduced the detection time from 24 to 48 hours to 3 hours. Their method fundamentally used kit-based DNA isolation from sputum followed by a pan-candida detection kit (Fluorescent PCR), a real-time PCR method for detection [46]. Higashi Y. et al. used mismatched probes based on the nearest neighbor thermodynamic theory and principle of high-resolution melting curve analysis to develop imperfect matched-real time (IM-Q) probes for the detection of *Candida* species from the whole blood samples of Candidemia patients[47]. Carvalho et al. used multiplex PCR to identify eight clinically relevant *Candida* species. Within intraspecies, bifurcation, irrespective of any diagnostic procedures [48]. However, in our study, multiplex PCR—a variant of multiplex PCR for directly detecting *C. albicans* from sputum and sputum DNA—can be used as a rapid method for detection and provides scope for further development in diagnostics.

CONCLUSION

Pulmonary candidiasis and its association with *Candida albicans* in respiratory infections are most likely to be linked to co-infections. Detection and characterization using classical methods are time-consuming, which can delay mitigation or appropriate treatment, potentially leading to patient mortality in such cases. The intervention of molecular detection for identifying organisms in such mycosis is a sustainable approach for early detection. According to available evidence, no studies have defined or explained the direct detection of C. albicans using the conventional PCR method from sputum without prior nucleic acid extraction. The results of the current study also provide a footprint for a direct sample PCR reaction, which can be further studied for optimization and development of single-reaction pathogen detection, thereby bypassing empirical methods. This would result in a specific patient mitigation process.

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Contribution of Authors

DB, HK, and DP conceived and designed the idea of the study with discussion and deliberations; DB obtained the ethical clearance; DB, KJP, and HK validated the primers for the molecular studies and mined them from the genome; AT suggested the microbiological experimentation and validated the data; DB, PGanalyzed the samples and performed all the experiments in triple blindfold to confirm the data; DB performed the molecular experiments; DB, KJP, HK curated the sequencing data, phylogenetic analysis and submitted to NCBI; DB mined and curated the literature; DB wrote the original draft of the manuscript; HK provided valuable suggestion reviewed the manuscript.All the others read and consented to the paper for publication.

Ethical Approval

Ethical clearance was approved from IEC CHARUSAT- IEC/CHARUSAT/EX/22/93

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Consent for Publication

All authors have read the final manuscript and consented to publish it.

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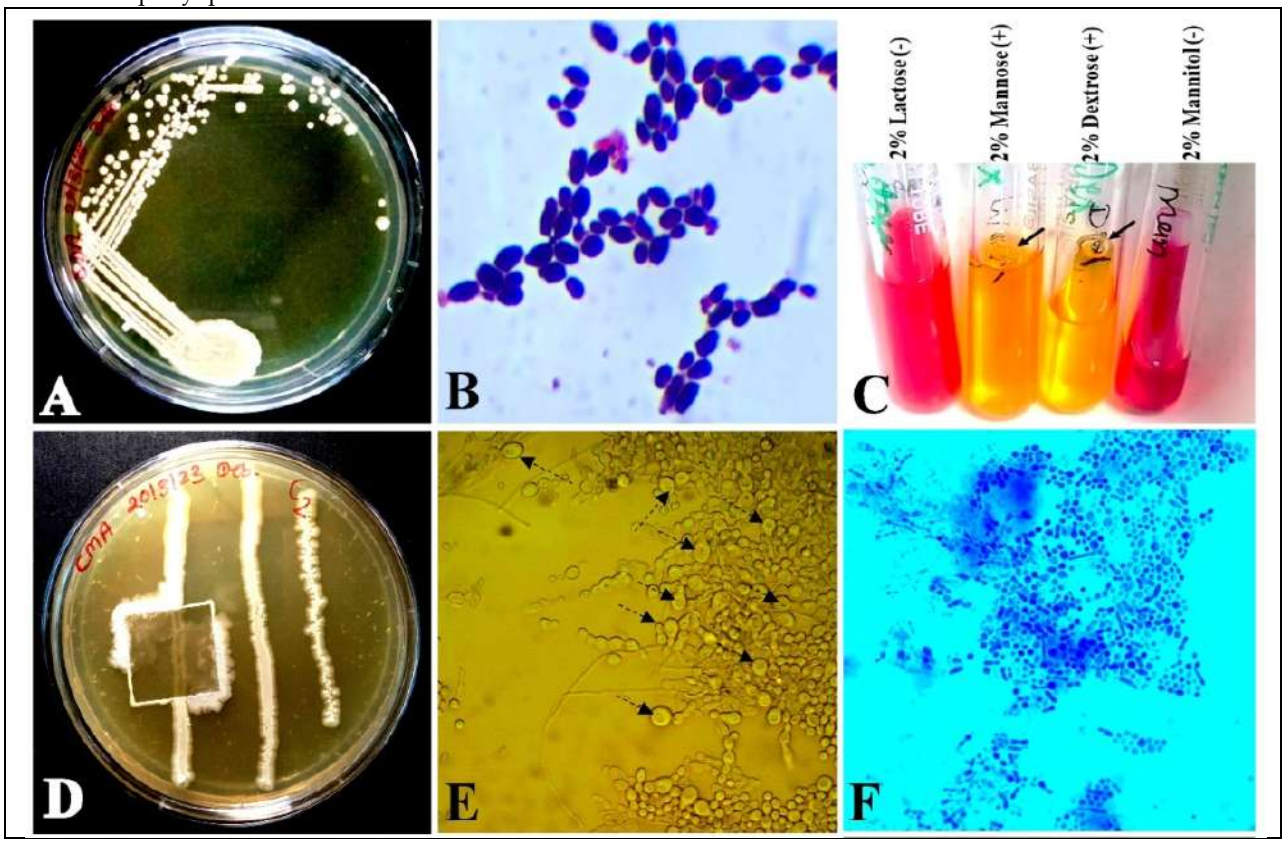
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Table 1: Details of primers for singleplex and multiplex PCR reactions.

Panel	Name	Primer Sequence		Gene Size	Amplicon Size	References
Gene 1	[a]RBT-5	FP	5′ CTG CTA AAG AAA CCA CTG CTG 3′	726 bp	176 bp	[19]
		RP	5′ GCT TCA ACG GAA ACA GAA GC 3′			
Gene 2	[b]EED-1	FP	5′ AGC AAC GAC TTC CAA AAG GA 3′	2264 bp	228 bp	[19]
		RP	5′ CGG TTT CTG GTT CGA TGA TT 3′			
Gene 3	[c]ALS-1	FP	5′ GAC TAG TGA ACC AAC AAA TAC CAG A 3′	1176 bp	318 bp	[16]
		RP	5′ CCA GAA GAA ACA GCA GGT GA 3′			
Gene 4	[d]SAP-1	FP	5′ GCT TTT GCT GGT TGA TGC CA 3′	3783 bp	480 bp	[20]
		RP	5′ TGC TGA TTG ACC AGG ACG AG 3′			

[a]RBT5: Repressed by TUP-5; [b]EED1: Epidermal Growth Factor-like 1; [c]ALSI: Agglutinin-Like Sequence-1; [d]SAP1: Secreted aspartyl proteinase.



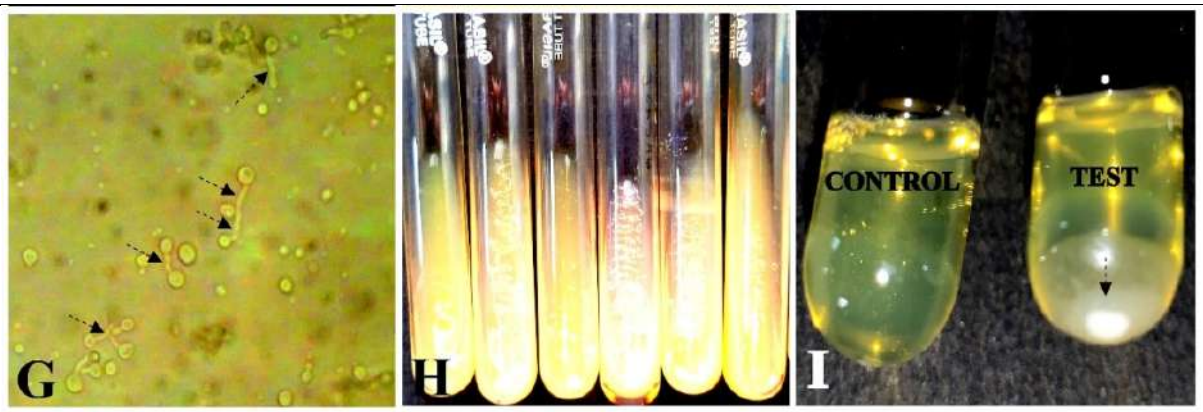


Figure 1: Morphological and enzymatic characterization of the *C. albicans* isolates, A. Colony characteristics of *C. albicans* on saboraud dextrose agar(SDA) plate; B. Gram staining of the colonies visualized under 100Xmagnification on oil immersion lens; C. 2% Sugar fermentation test; the arrow mark indicates gas production; D. *C. albicans* growth on corn meal agar, for chlamydospore detection; E. Slide culture method for chlamydospore detection, arrow shows a depression in the center to indicate the chlamydospore; F. Lactophenol cotton blue (LPCB) representation; G. Germ tube test (GTT), the arrow represents the germ tube of the isolate under 40X magnification; H. Urease activity; I. In the coagulase test, the arrow indicates clots of coagulase-positive in comparison to the control tube.

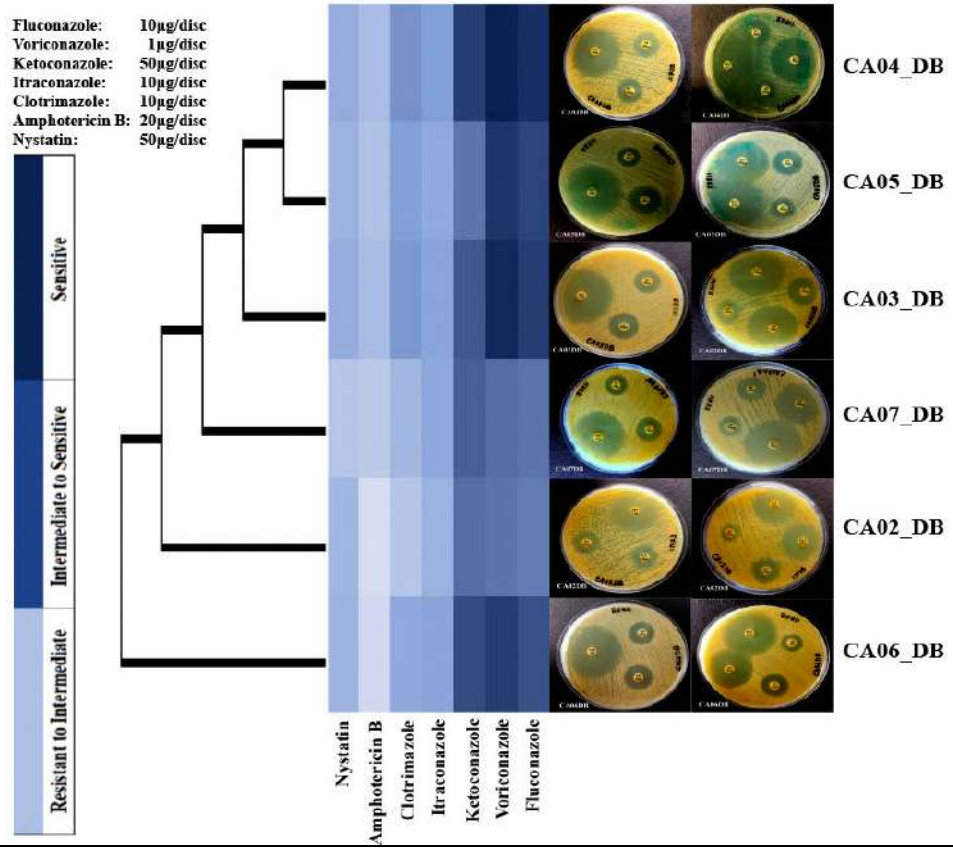


Figure 2:Antifungal susceptibility testing by disc diffusion assay of all the isolates (CA02DB-CA07DB); the heatmap represents the sensitivity patterns of seven antifungals, as per the different color codes mentioned in the scale describing the resistance to intermediate, intermediate to sensitive, and sensitive, respectively.

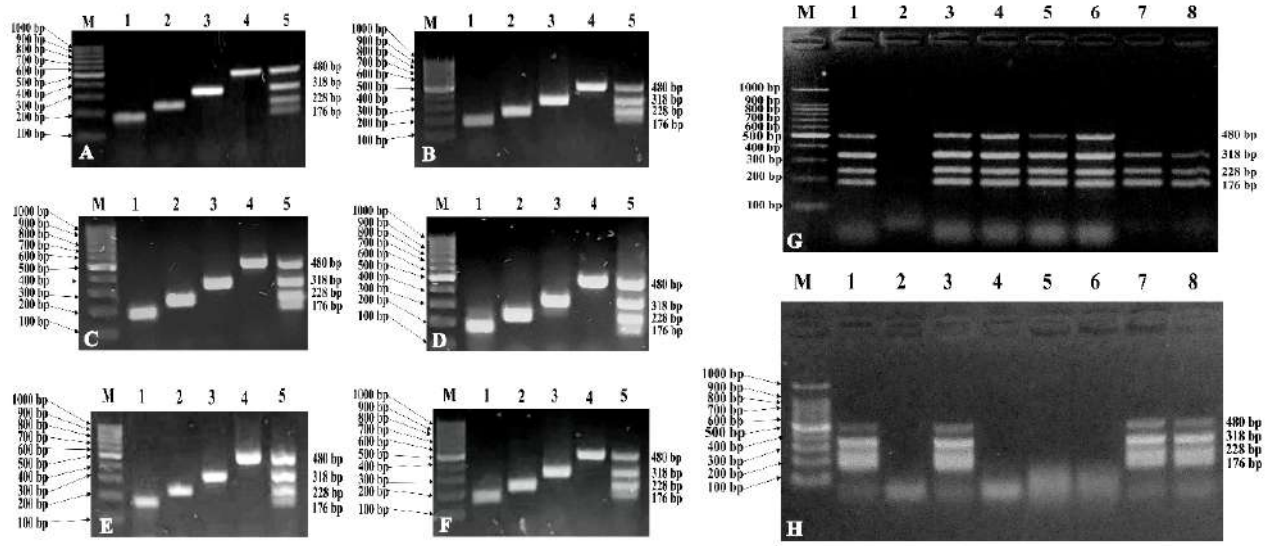


Figure 3: Singleplex and Multiplex Profiles of Fungal DNA PCR (A. CA02DB; B. CA03DB; C. CA04DB; D. CA05DB; E. CA06DB; F. CA07DB), M: 100 bp Marker/ Ladder; 1:RBT5 gene singleplex amplification with 176 bp amplicon size; 2: EED1 gene singleplex amplification with 228 bp amplicon size; 3. ALS1 gene singleplex amplification with 318 bp amplicon size; 4. SAP1 gene singleplex amplification with 480 bp amplicon size; 5. Multiplex PCR contains all 4 genes, starting with SAP1 (480 bp), ALS1 (318 bp), EED1 (228 bp), and RBT5 (176 bp); ; G.Reaction Profiles Sputum DNA isolated from Sputum Samples, Where M. 100 bp Ladder;1, Positive Control- *Candida* DNA; 2. Negative Control- Sputum DNA was reported to have the absence of *C. albicans*; 3. Sputum DNA Sample number 2209; 4. Sputum DNA Sample no. 2210; 5. Sputum DNA Sample no. 2215; 6. Sputum DNA Sample no. 2218; 7. Sputum DNA Sample no. 2221; 8. Sputum DNA Sample no. 2223; H. Reaction Profiles of Sputum Multiplex PCR, Where M. 100 bp Laddar; 1. Positive Control- *C. albicans* DNA; 2. Negative Control- Sputum with No *C. albicans* reported; 3. Sputum no. 2209; 4. Sputum no. 2210; 5. Sputum no. 2215; 6. Sputum no. 2218; 7. Sputum no. 2221; 8. Sputum no. 2223; The lane mentioning the amplicon size of all multiplex genes in descending order SAP1(480 bp), ALS1 (318 bp), EED1 (228 bp), and RBT5 (176 bp).

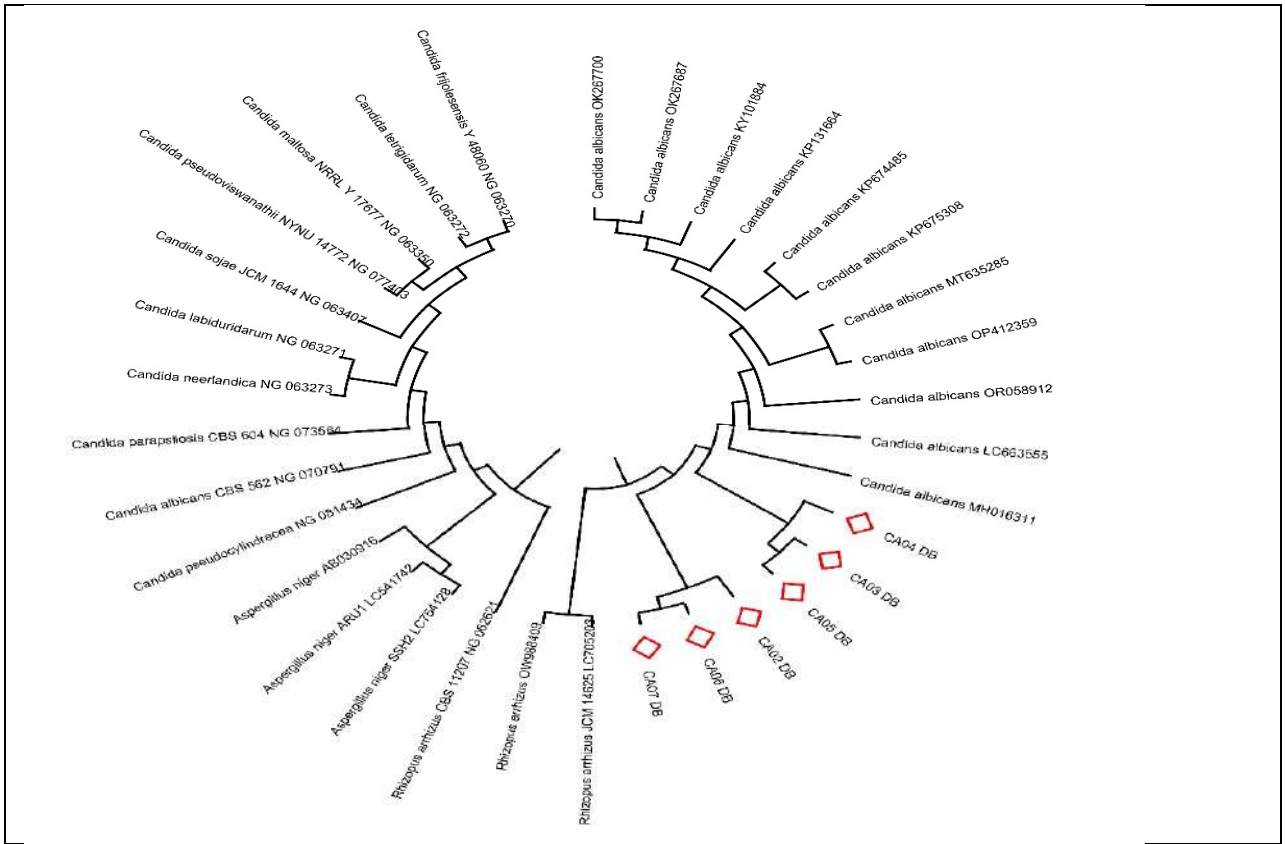


Figure 4: Maximum Likelihood of CA02DB-CA07DB in a circular view phylogenetic tree based on UPGMA defining the relationships with other fungal isolates constructed using MEGA 11.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Sentimental Analysis for Social Media using Lexicon based Model

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ABSTRACT

Social media platforms are the medium to communicate with other over the globe, platforms like Facebook and Twitter enable users to express views on public topics, and sentiment related to events, can help predict potential disruptions. This paper introduces a new sentiment analysis algorithm specifically designed for real-time Twitter analysis. It includes features like sentiment normalization and an evidence-based combination function that measures the intensity of sentiment, rather than just labeling it as positive or negative. It also supports mixed sentiment classification. The paper examines the connection between negative sentiments in Twitter posts about the level of disorder during related events. Social media platforms are big ways to communicate with others and is significant way to exchange information. In this century. People of different age groups use social media and connect to others. Apps like Face book, Twitter, etc. provide very efficient ways to share their opinions publicly. Consequently, the role of social media in crime investigation and its prevention is increasing rapidly [1].

The Sentimental Analysis has already been applied in a number of different non-security domains for monitoring and forecasting public opinions. The authors applied a domain specific lexicon in order to classify customer reviews of hotels, movies and places. This analysis performed on twitter as it is applied to forecast of Box-office revenues for movies and its ratings [2].

Keywords: Sentiment analysis, social media, Security

INTRODUCTION

Sentimental Analysis is a way of teaching computers about human emotions. As people share their topics thoughts online about different topics, whether it is a review of a product, review of places visited or rating a movie and etc. This analysis goes through the emotions and its tone through the texts and messages containing emoji's and various slangs. This analysis provides scores according to the emotions like Happy, sad or neutral of the text. At its core, it all about making technology friendly to humans. Computers need extra help to understand and process the emotions through text. By using extra-ordinary algorithm and language-processing techniques it can be easy for the computers, sentimental analysis allows machine to score the vast amount of text on the basis of its emotion. This makes a very useful tool across different fields whether it's for customer feedback, public opinions, or online discussions to prevent potentials risks.[3]

LEXICON Based Analysis

Lexicon-based sentiment analysis employs a simple and effective technique for sentiment evaluation. Instead of dealing with complex machine learning models, it uses a dictionary comprising positive and negative words; while parsing the text, the system scans for words, computes their values, and merges them which, most of the time, is summing or averaging, to determine the sentiment value of the text. Some of these words can be created in multiple ways. Some dictionaries are built by hand, but some can also be automatically created. One key benefit is that there is no need to have large labelled datasets, which is something that is often hard to collect and organize. Example-based approaches to machine learning often rely on well-defined labelled examples, which are not always accessible. On the other hand, lexicon-based approaches have less transparency and are harder to filter out which makes them more perceivable. In the paper, the selected strategy was lexicon-based because it is simpler and less rigid. Most sentimental analysis techniques are in English, yet they find ways to modify sentiment dictionaries to make the system language-independent.[4] Lexicon Model (Figure 1)

Combining Function

Once all context is verified and the positivity and negativity of the word in the sentence is verified a combining process is done to obtain the final sentiment score. Or it aggregates the sentiment from the words. In this the simplest approach is the sum function, the sum function refers to the scoring the words as positive, negative or neutral individually and add them together to provide the final score of the sentence. But as a drawback it could sometime get influenced by the number of words in the text. As its modification or we can say that to balance this drawback there is average function which divides the total score by the number of words considered, to provide more normalized and accurate values. There is more refined approach where are assigned different weights based on their importance this approach is called weighted sum or average. Some models use max/min function to consider only extreme sentiment scores(either highest positive or lowest negative) to determine the overall score. And at last, there is a rule-based approach is often used for special cases like negation, intensification, and mixed emotion. Using combining function, sentiment analysis becomes more accurate and provide true emotion of the text.[5]

Sentiment Classification

It is a process of determining the overall sentiment of the given text, whether it is positive, negative, or neutral. It is a key task in this analysis and helps businesses, researchers, and organizations to understand public opinions from social media platforms for reviews and ratings.

T Sentiment Score Generator through Different Models (Figure 2).

The lexicon-based approach relies on predefined lists of words with assigned their sentiment values. Each word in the text is analyzed, and the combining function aggregates words from the sentences and give them scores so that after aggregation the sentence gets their final score. The scores are generated according to the words and their preference. There are many words or slangs which many times machine gets hard to score so in case they go through the history and get all the scores which were given before and analyze them and give them scores. In case when there is a mixture of positive and negative words, the message is classified as positive or negative, depending on which, positive or negative, words are stronger. First, the difference between positive and negative evidence is calculated. If one piece of the evidence is much higher than the other, then the positive or negative sentiment is returned, respectively. In case when there is no evidence available or they do not differ strongly enough from each other, the final decision is made based on the difference between positive and negative sentiment. If the positive sentiment is greater than the negative sentiment the sentence is classify as positive and vice versa.[6]

Related Work

Research community has done many researches on the sentiment prediction of social media, some of them are in Table 1

Data Augmentation Algorithms

In Lexicon based model, the Data Augmentation Algorithms are used to increase the size and diversity of the dataset, and it also improves model performance and improves handling data imbalance. Data Augmentation can be used to or can be helpful in generating diverse text patterns, enhancing sentiment coverage, and dealing with mixed sentiments.

Algorithms are stated below

Synonym Replacement (SR): This technique involves randomly replacing certain words in the text with their synonyms which are pre scored Which helps in scoring.

Random Insertion (RI): This technique inserts random synonym of certain words to the sentence without actually changing its meaning.

Random Deletion (RD): This technique deletes random words from the text while keeping its meaning intact. This helps reducing text size and helps in testing model's ability.

Random Swap (RS): This method involves swapping two randomly selected words within the sentence to create new structures of the sentence to reduce sentence size.

Back Translation: This method translates the text to other language and then translates it back to original. It naturally creates variations in sentence structure and word choice.

Text Paraphrasing: This method rephrases the input text using paraphrasing models while keeping the meaning intact.

Sentiment Flip (Polarity Inversion): This inverts the sentiment of the text by reversing the polarity of sentiment words. This tests the robustness of the sentiment.

Emoji Replacement: In social media data, replacing text expressions with emojis (or vice-versa) can increase dataset diversity.

Text Noise Injection: It introduces noise like typos, abbreviations, or informal language to make model robust to spelling errors.

Contextual Augmentation: This method replaces a word with another contextually similar word based on language models like BERT.

Tools for Data Augmentation in Sentimental Analysis

Text Attack (for NLP Data Augmentation)
NLTK and Text Blob (for Synonym Replacement)
Google Translate API (for Back Translation)
DeepMoji (for Emoji Mapping)

BERT/GPT-3 (for Contextual Augmentation)
Sentiment Flip Function
Pegasus Model for Text Paraphrasing
Random Word Swap Function
Random Index Selection
Word Embedding Models (Word2Vec, GloVe)

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

It follows a structured approach to extracting, processing, and classifying sentiment from textual data. Its workflow consists of data collection, preprocessing, lexicon-based sentiment analysis, sentiment classification, and evaluation.

Data collection
First step of this model is gathering textual data from different sources. As the Lexicon Based model does not require labeled data training, it focuses on collecting raw text data from SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, REVIEW SITES, NEWS ARTICLES AND BLOGS.

Data preprocessing
The raw text often contains noise, irrelevant data, and unnecessary symbols. This step filters and purifies only meaningful text from the data collected. This process involves several steps such as
Text cleaning: Removing special characters, URLs, numbers, and extra spaces.
Tokenization: Splitting sentences into words.
Stopword Removal: Eliminating common words (e.g., "is", "the", "and").
Lemmatization/Stemming: Converting words to their root forms.
Negation Handling: Identifying negation words (e.g., "not good" → reversed polarity).

Tools Used
NLTK, spaCy (for tokenization, stopword removal, lemmatization).
Regular Expressions (RegEx) for text cleaning.

Lexicon Based Analysis
A sentiment lexicon is a dictionary where many words have predefined scores.

Sentiment Lexicon Used
SentiWordNet.
VADER (for social media text).
AFINN (for numerical sentiment scores).

Sentiment Classification
After analysis based on the computed sentiment score, the text is classified into one of the following categories
Positive
Negative
Neutral

Techniques
Threshold-Based Classification: Directly assign sentiment based on score ranges.
Rule-Based Classification**:** Consider word positioning and intensifiers.
Hybrid Approach: Combine lexicon-based classification with machine learning.

Tools used
NLTK, SCIKIT-LEARN.

Evaluation
To assess the effectiveness of the lexicon-based sentiment analysis model, the following metrics are used
Accuracy: Percentage of correctly classified sentiments.
Precision: How many positive predictions were actually correct.
Recall: How many actual positives were identified correctly.
F1-Score: Balance between precision and recall.
Figure 3 Processed Workflow.

Formula used

$$Accuracy = \frac{Correct\ Prediction}{Total\ prediction} \times 100 \quad \textbf{(1)}$$

METHODOLOGY (Figure 4)

Formula Used For Sentiment Score Calculation
Sentiment Score=∑ (positive word scores) −∑ (negative word scores)
…….. (2)
If score > 0 → Positive sentiment
If score < 0 → Negative sentiment
If score = 0 → Neutral sentiment

IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULT

Lexicon based model which uses predefined dictionaries to assess sentiment or emotion of texts, have demonstrated varying levels of accuracy across different applications. Evaluators typically achieved approximate of 80% agreement when assessing emotions. Which indicates that system having 70% accuracy is performing comparably to human judgment. this model highlight that Lexicon based model offers transparency and ease of implementation But these could be influenced by many factors such as context, domain specificity, and the handling of nuances like negations or sarcasm. Accuracy Achieved by Different Lexicon-Based Sentiment Analysis Models (Figure 5).

Here is a bar graph showing
Accuracy achieved by different lexicon-based sentiment analysis models
SentiStrength:72%
SentiWordNet: 65%
AFINN: 68%
TextBlob: 70%
VADER: 74%
My models accuracy compared to others:
Real-Time analysis with VADER: 85%
Analysis of dataset: 96%
Analysis of input text: 80%
Output of Real-Time Analysis with VADER (Figure 6)
Output of Dataset Analysis with VADER (Figure 7)
Output of User Input text Analysis with VADER (Figure 8)
Output Bar Graph of Real-Time Analysis with VADER (Figure 9)

CONCLUSION

In summary, lexicon-based models of sentiment analysis offer a powerful and comprehensible approach that is computationally inexpensive, especially when there is no labeled data available. Further advances can possibly be made by way of data augmentation methods, lexicon extension with contemporary referents, and multilingual adaptability. Lexicon approaches, in tandem with deep learning models (LSTM, BERT), form a credible future track on the rise toward more accurate, contextually aware, and scalable sentiment analysis. However, in spite of their simple yet effective process, lexicon-based systems are marred by certain impediments: they have yet to crack contextuality, detect sarcasm, and cover long texts. Language dependency is another aggravation because the dictionaries of lexicons are usually precarious to English, which limits or prevents construction of new ones for other languages, thus requiring manual adaptation. Future attempts could work on fusion models applying lexicon-based approaches in combination with machine learning models against such limitations to gain improved accuracy.

Declaration of Interests

I declare that no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper. The author is not involved in the editorial review or the decision to publish this article.

Competing Interests

No competing interests in this section.

Funding

No funding for the research reported.

Authors' Contributions

This paper focuses on using important features of text with lexicon based model for Sentiment Emotion Recognition (SER). To effectively handle the complexity of complex data in text, we utilized a VADER (Valence Aware Dictionary and sEntiment reasoned) technique.

Availability of Data And Material

Data supporting the results reported in the article and found in the paper. By data we mean the minimal dataset that would be necessary to interpret, replicate and build upon the findings reported in the article.

Research Involving Human and or Animals

Not Applicable

Consent for Publication

If manuscript contains any individual person's data in any form (including individual details, images or videos), consent to publish must be obtained from that person, or in the case of children, their parent or legal guardian. All presentations of case reports must have consent to publish.

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Table:1 Summary of literature studies on lexicon model.

S. NO.	REFERENCES	DATASET	TECHNIQUES	ACCURACY ACHIEVED
1.	Taboada *et al*. (2011) LINK	Customer reviews from domains like movies, cars, and hotels.	Lexicon-based method with a dictionary of polarized words and a set of linguistic rules.	Achieved competitive results compared to machine learning methods.
2.	Ribeiro *et al*. (2010) LINK	Amazon product reviews and TripAdvisor hotel reviews.	Lexicon-based approach using Senti Strength for sentiment detection.	Accuracy varied across datasets; SentiStrength showed robust performance.
3.	Thelwall *et al*. (2010)	Myspace comments.	SentiStrength tool to detect sentiment strength in short	Reported high correlation with human evaluations of

	LINK		informal text.	sentiment strength.
4.	Augustyniak *et al*. (2015) LINK	IMDB movie reviews and Amazon product reviews.	Ensemble classification combining multiple lexicon-based classifiers.	Improved accuracy over individual classifiers; specific accuracy figures not provided.
5.	Cambria *et al*. (2016) LINK	Various datasets including customer reviews and social media posts.	SenticNet 4, a concept-level knowledge-based resource for sentiment analysis.	Demonstrated enhanced accuracy in detecting nuanced sentiments.
6.	Araújo *et al*. (2014) LINK	Twitter data.	iFeel system integrating multiple lexicon-based and machine learning approaches.	Achieved higher accuracy by combining methods; specific accuracy figures not provided.
7.	Medhat *et al*. (2014) LINK	Survey of various datasets including movie reviews and product reviews.	Comprehensive survey of sentiment analysis techniques, including lexicon-based methods.	Reported that lexicon-based approaches are effective but may lack context sensitivity.
8.	Hemmatian and Sohrabi (2017) LINK	Review of multiple datasets used in sentiment analysis research.	Survey of classification techniques for opinion mining, highlighting lexicon-based methods.	Noted that lexicon-based methods are straightforward but may struggle with context and sarcasm.

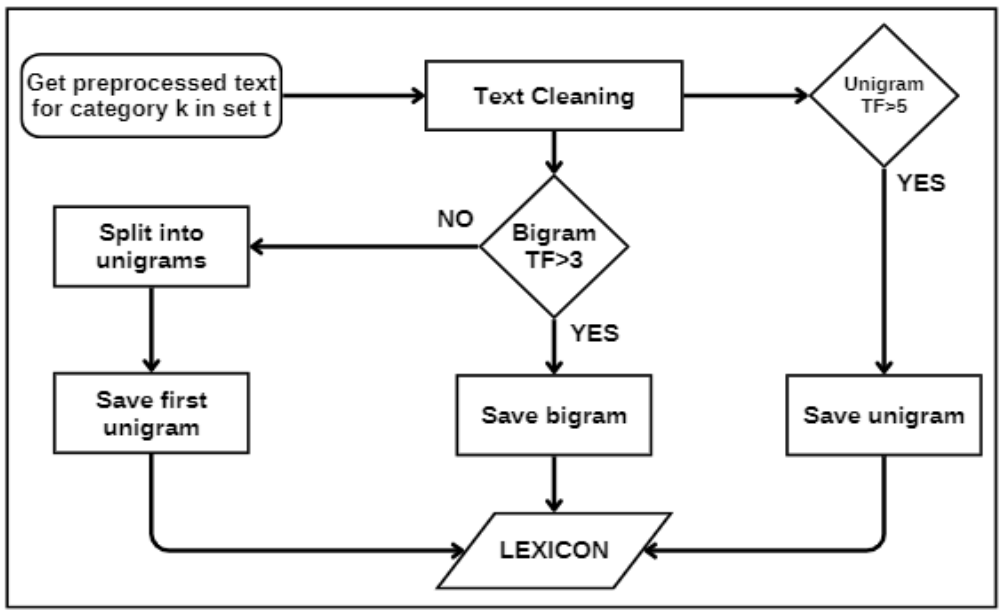


Figure 10 Lexicon Model

1. Simple Sentiment Score (Sum-Based):

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} score(w_i)$$

Where:

- S = Sentiment score of the text.
- n = Total number of words in the text.
- w_i = Sentiment score of the i-th word from the lexicon.
- $score(w_i)$ = Sentiment value of word w_i (positive, negative, or neutral).

2. Average Sentiment Score:

To normalize the score regardless of the text length, the **average sentiment score** is calculated as:

$$S = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} score(w_i)}{n}$$

Where:

- S = Average sentiment score.
- n = Total number of words with sentiment in the text.
- $score(w_i)$ = Sentiment value of word w_i.

3. Weighted Sentiment Score (Considering Intensity):

If some words have higher sentiment intensity (e.g., *excellent, disgusting*), a **weighted sentiment score** can be calculated:

$$S = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} weight(w_i) \times score(w_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} weight(w_i)}$$

Where:

- $weight(w_i)$ = Weight of word w_i based on intensity or importance (like adjectives or strong opinion words).
- $score(w_i)$ = Sentiment value of word w_i.

4. Sentiment Score with Negation Handling:

To account for **negation words** like *not, never, hardly*, etc., the formula is modified:

$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} score(w_i) \times (-1)^{negation(w_i)}$$

Where:

- $negation(w_i)$ = Binary value (1 if a negation word is present before w_i, otherwise 0).
- $score(w_i)$ = Sentiment value of w_i.

Figure 11 T Sentiment Score Generator through Different Models.

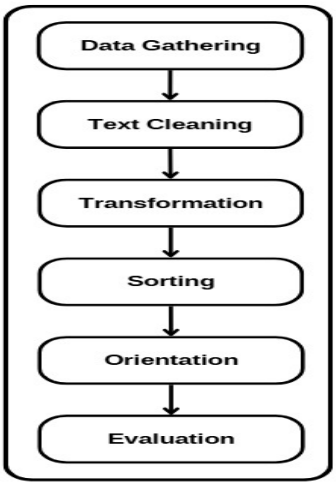


Figure 12 Processed Workflow.

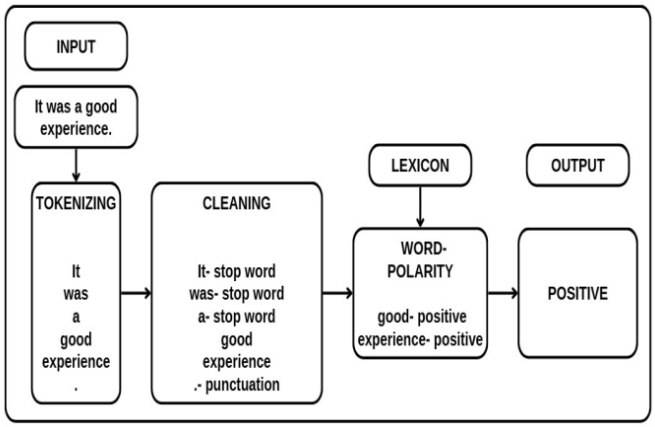


Figure 13 Methodology

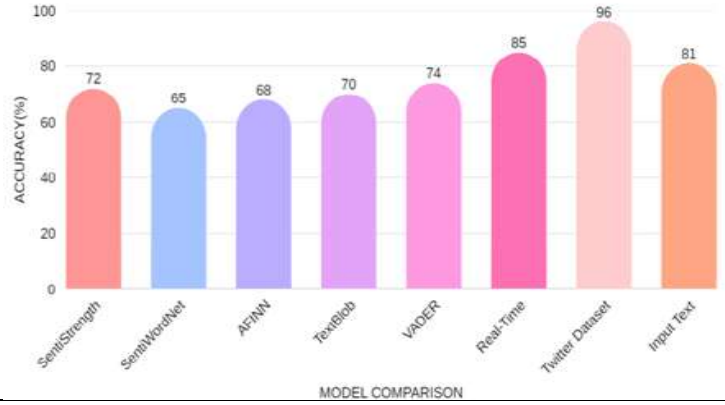


Figure 14 Accuracy Achieved by Different Lexicon-Based Sentiment Analysis Models.

```
C:\Users\prana\PycharmProjects\sentimental_analysis_VADER\.venv\Scripts\python.exe C:\Users\prana\PycharmProjects\sentimental_analysis_VADER\real_time_sa.py
[nltk_data] Downloading package punkt to
[nltk_data]     C:\Users\prana\AppData\Roaming\nltk_data...
[nltk_data]   Package punkt is already up-to-date!
Enter a keyword or hashtag to search for: duck
                                                Tweet Sentiment
0    @Duck_029 @ryu_wing1122 https://t.co/fQq991RE22   Neutral
1  RT @mufaddal_vohra: Ishan Kishan said, "hats o...  Positive
2  RT @TukTuk_Academy: ROHIT GURUNATH SHARMA, REM...  Negative
3  RT @IshanMK32: Ishan Kishan said, "hats off to...  Positive
4  RT @HPhobiaWatch: Rohit Sharma now has highest...   Neutral
5  RT @thezoxxy: 🍃Duck to faltu me badnaam h.\n\n...   Neutral
6  RT @Rosh_met_Sanju: Riyan Parag made some stup...  Negative
7  Mumbai Indians to thala dhoni 💛💛\n#Sikandar\n#...  Positive
8  @URT_duck_burner マジでクルカイさん(1凸&amp;餅武器)入れたがる世界...   Neutral
9  RT @hyperkohli: 4 hour ad shoot for 4 ball duc...  Negative

Process finished with exit code 0
```

Figure 15 Output of Real-Time Analysis with VADER

```
C:\Users\prana\PycharmProjects\sentimental_analysis_VADER\.venv\Scripts\python.exe C:\Users\prana\PycharmProjects\sentimental_analysis_VADER\sentiment_analysis2.py
      Tweet_ID  ... Sentiment
0            1  ...  Positive
1            2  ...  Positive
2            3  ...  Positive
3            4  ...  Positive
4            5  ...  Positive
...        ...  ...       ...
9995      9996  ...  Positive
9996      9997  ...  Positive
9997      9998  ...  Negative
9998      9999  ...  Positive
9999     10000  ...  Positive
```

Figure 16 Output of Dataset Analysis with VADER

```
C:\Users\prana\PycharmProjects\sentimental_analysis_VADER\.venv\Scripts\python.exe C:\Users\prana\PycharmProjects\sentimental_analysis_VADER\input_text_sa.py
[nltk_data] Downloading package punkt_tab to
[nltk_data]     C:\Users\prana\AppData\Roaming\nltk_data...
[nltk_data]   Unzipping tokenizers\punkt_tab.zip.
Enter a sentence for sentiment analysis: the accuracy test was awesome.

🔍 Sentiment Analysis Result:
→ Sentiment: Positive
→ Scores: {'neg': 0.0, 'neu': 0.494, 'pos': 0.506, 'compound': 0.6249}

Process finished with exit code 0
```

Figure 17 Output of User Input text Analysis with VADER

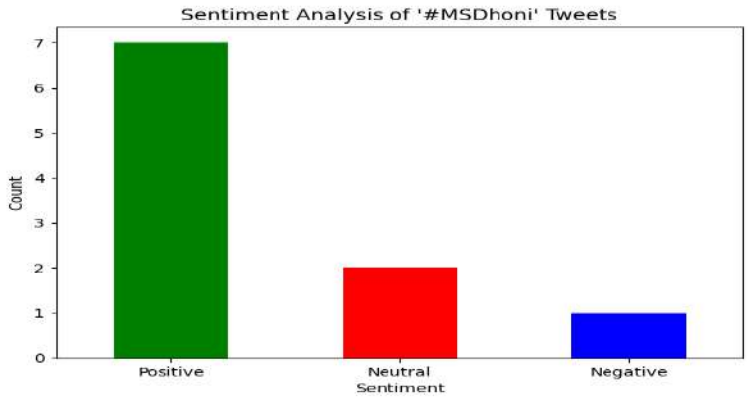


Figure 18 Output Bar Graph of Real-Time Analysis with VADER

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Bi-Subdivision Edge Domination in Graphs

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ABSTRACT

This paper introduces the concept of a bi-subdivision edge dominating set by imposing an edge distance condition on an edge dominating set of the line graph of a graph G. Let $S(G) = (V_s, E_s)$ be a subdivision graph of G. A bi-subdivision edge dominating set X subset of $E_s$is said to be a bi–subdivision edge dominating set $(bsed - set)$ of Gif for every edge e in $E - X$, there exists at least one f in X such that its edge distance is 2. The minimum cardinality taken over all $bsed - sets$ of G is called the bi-subdivision edge domination number of G and it is denoted by $\gamma'_{bs}(G)$.The exact value of this number is obtained for line graphs of some standard classes of graphs.

Keywords: Bi-subdivision edge dominating set, Bi-subdivision edge domination number.
AMS(MoS) Subject Codes: 05C50, 05C69

INTRODUCTION

Let$G$ = (V, E) be a finite, simple and undirected graph. The subdivision graph$S(G$is obtained from G by subdividing each edge of G exactly once. Throughout this paper, we consider G has$p$ - vertices and q - edges and $S(G)$ has p_s - vertices and q_s - edges.The graph terms not defined here are used in the sense of Harary[2]. All the graphs are referred from Joseph A. Gallian[4]. The edge domination is a well-known factor in graph theory, in which the distance between two edges is one of the essential tool to measure various edge domination parameters. A set F of edges in$G$ is called an edge dominating set (ed-set) of G if every edgein E-F is adjacent to at least one edge in F. The edge domination number $\gamma'(G)$ of G is the minimumcardinality of the edge dominating sets of G. An edge walk in a

graph is an alternating sequence of edges and vertices beginning and ending with edges. The edge walk between the edges e_1 and e_k is denoted by $w'(e_1, e_k)$.An edge walk $w'(e_1, e_k)$ is said to be an edge path if no two edges in it is traversed more than once and it is denoted by $p(e_1, e_k)$.The number of occurrence of vertices in the sequence of an edge walk $w'(e_1, e_k)$ is called the edge length of $w'(e_1, e_k)$ and it is denoted by $l'(e_1, e_k)$.The edge distance between two edges e and f denoted by $d'(e, f)$ is the smallest edge length of all $p(e, f)$in G. An edge dominating set A of a graph $G = (V, E)$ is said to be an bi-edge dominating set $(bed - set)$ if for every edge e in $E - A$, there exists at least one $f$in A such that $d'(e, f)$=2.The minimum cardinality taken over all $bed - sets$ of G is called the bi-edge domination number and it is denoted by $\gamma'_b(G)$.In this paper, the bi-subdivision edge dominating setis introduced by posting the edge distance condition on an ed-set of $S(G)$. The bi-subdivision edge domination number is defined by studying the minimum cardinality of the above sets of S(G). The exact values of this number are obtained for some standard classes of subdivision graphs.

Bi- Subdivision Edge Domination Number

Definition 2.1.

Let $S(G) = (V_s, E_s)$ be a subdivision graph of a graph G. A subdivision edge dominating set X subset of $E_s$is said to be bi–subdivision edge dominating set $(bsed - set)$ of Gif for every edge e in $E - X$, there exists at least one $f$in Xsuch that $d'(e, f)$=2.The minimum cardinality taken over all bsed − sets of G is called the bi-subdivision edge domination number of G and it is denoted by $\gamma'_{bs}(G)$.

Example 2.2.

For the graph $S(G)$ in Figure 1, the edge sets $X_1 = \{e_1, e_4\}$ and $X_2 = \{e_2, e_5\}$ are respectively a minimum subdivision edge dominating set and bi-subdivision edge dominating set and hence $\gamma'_S(G) = 2$ and $\gamma'_{bs}(G) = 2$.

Remark 2.3. For the existence of bi–subdivision edge domination number, we assume that G is a connected graph with at least three edges.

The exact values of the bi– subdivision edge domination number for several graphs are given below.

Theorem 2.4. For any path P_n , $n \geq 3$

$$\gamma'_{bs}(P_n) = \begin{cases} n-1 \ ; \ n = 3 \\ \dfrac{2n}{3} \ ; \ n \equiv 0 \ (mod 3) \\ \dfrac{2n+1}{3} \ ; \ n \equiv 1 \ (mod 3) \\ \dfrac{2n+2}{3} \ ; \ n \equiv 2 \ (mod 3) \end{cases}$$

Proof

Let G be a graph $S(P_n)$ with at least five vertices and$E_s = \{ e_i / i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \ldots (2n-2)\}$ be the edge set of G. When $n = 3$, the edge set $X = \{ e_{3i+1} / i = 0, 1\}$ is a minimum $bsed - set$ of G. Hence $\gamma'_{bs}(G) = n - 1$.

$\boldsymbol{Case\ (i): n \equiv 0\ (mod 3)}$, In this case, the edge set $X = \left\{e_{3i+1} / i = 0, 1 \ldots . \left(\frac{2n}{3} - 1\right)\right\}$ is a minimum $bsed - set$ of G. Therefore $\gamma'_{bs}(G) \leq |X| = \left(1 + \left(\frac{2n}{3} - 1\right)\right) = \frac{2n}{3} \rightarrow (1)$

Conversely, let Y be a $bsed - set$ of G with minimum cardinality $\gamma'_{bs}(G)$. Then ithas at least one edge from every three consecutive edges in $S(G)$. Hence $\gamma'_{bs}(G) = |Y| \geq \frac{2n}{3} \rightarrow (2)$

Then from equations (1)and(2), we have$\gamma'_{bs}(G) = \frac{2n}{3}$.

$\boldsymbol{Case\ (ii): n \equiv 1\ (mod 3)}$, In this case, the edge set $X = \left\{e_{3i+1}/i = 0, 1 \ldots \left(\frac{2n-5}{3}\right)\right\} \cup \{e_{2n-3}\}$is a minimum$sbed-set$of G. Therefore $\gamma'_{bs}(G) \leq |X| = \left(1 + \left(\frac{2n-5}{3}\right)\right) + 1 = \frac{2n+1}{3} \rightarrow (3)$

Conversely, let Y be a $sbed-set$ of G with minimum cardinality $\gamma'_{bs}(G)$. In this case, Y has at least one edge from every three consecutive edges and the edge e_{n-1} in $S(G)$. Hence $\gamma'_{bs}(G) = |Y| \geq \frac{2n+1}{3} \rightarrow (4)$. Then from equations (3)and(4), we have $\gamma'_{bs}(G) = \frac{2n+1}{3}$.

$\boldsymbol{Case(iii): n \equiv 2\ (mod 3)}$, In this case, the edge set $X = \left\{e_{3i+1}/i = 0, 1 \ldots \left(\frac{2n-4}{3}\right)\right\} \cup \{e_{2n-2}\}$is a minimum$sbed-set$of G. Therefore $\gamma'_{bs}(G) \leq |X| = \left(1 + \left(\frac{2n-4}{3}\right)\right) + 1 = \frac{2n+2}{3} \rightarrow (5)$

Conversely, let Y be a $sbed-set$ of G with minimum cardinality $\gamma'_{bs}(G)$. Then$Y$ has at least one edge from every three consecutive edges and the edge e_n in $S(G)$. Hence $\gamma'_{bs}(G) = |Y| \geq \frac{2n+2}{3} \rightarrow (6)$. Then from equations (5)and(6), we have $\gamma'_{bs}(G) = \frac{2n+2}{3}$.

The following example illustrate the above Theorem

$\boldsymbol{S(P_5)}$

For the graph $S(P_5)$ in Figure 2, the edge set $X = \{e_1, e_4, e_7, e_8\}$ is a minimum $bsed-set$ of P_5. Hence, $\gamma'_{bs}(P_5) = 4$.

Proposition 2.5. For the graph P_n^+ , $n \geq 2$

$$\gamma'_{bs}(P_n^+) = \begin{cases} 2n\ ;\ n = 2 \\ \frac{5n}{3}\ ;\ n \equiv 0\ (mod 3) \\ \frac{5n+1}{3}\ ;\ n \equiv 1\ (mod 3) \\ \frac{5n-1}{3}\ ;\ n \equiv 2\ (mod 3) \end{cases}$$

Proposition 2.5. For the graph C_n, $n \geq 3$

$$\gamma'_{bs}(C_n) = \begin{cases} \frac{2n}{3}\ ; n \equiv 0\ (mod\ 3) \\ \frac{2n+4}{3}\ ; n \equiv 1 (mod\ 3) \\ \frac{2n+2}{3}\ ; n \equiv 2\ (mod\ 3) \end{cases}$$

Proposition 2.6. For the graph C_n^+, $\gamma'_{bs}(C_n^+) = 2n\ ; n \geq 3$.

Proposition 2.7. For wheel graph W_n, $\gamma'_{bs}(W_n) = n,\ n \geq 3$

Proposition 2.8. For the graph W_n^+, $\gamma'_{bs}(W_n^+) = 2n + 1\ ; n \geq 3$

Proposition 2.9. For the fan graph $F_{(1,n)}$, $\gamma'_{bs}\left(F_{(1,n)}\right) = n + 1\ ; n \geq 1$

Proposition 2.10. For the graph $F_{(1,n)}^{(+)}$, $\gamma'_{bs}\left(F_{(1,n)}^{(+)}\right) = 2n + 3\ ; n \geq 1$

Proposition 2.11 For the star graph S_n, $\gamma'_{bs}(S_n) = n, n \geq 2$

Proposition 2.12. For any graph (S_n^+) , $\gamma'_{bs}(S_n^+) = 2n + 1; n \geq 2$

Proposition 2.13. For the graph $C_n^{(t)}$, $\gamma'_{bs}\left(C_n^{(t)}\right) = \begin{cases} 2n;\ n \geq 2 \\ n + 1\ ;\ n = 1 \end{cases}$

Proposition 2.14. For the$\text{graph}\left(C_n^{(t)}\right)^+$, $\gamma'_{bs}\left(C_n^{(t)}\right)^+ = 4n + 1\ ;\ n \geq 1$

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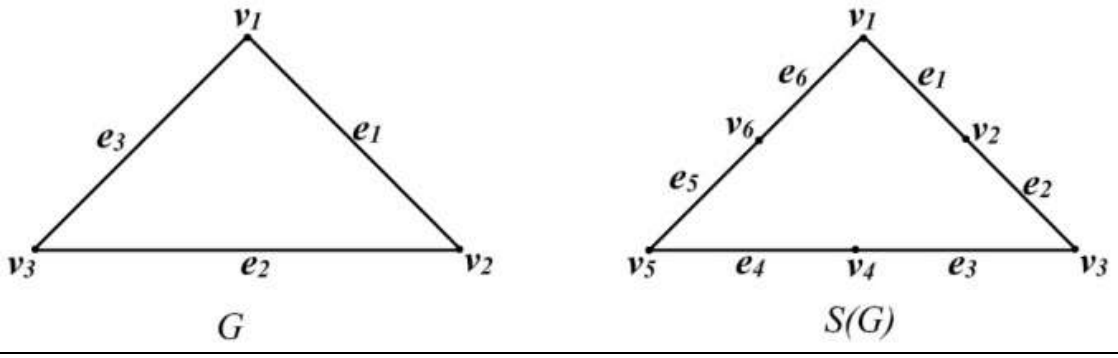


Figure 1

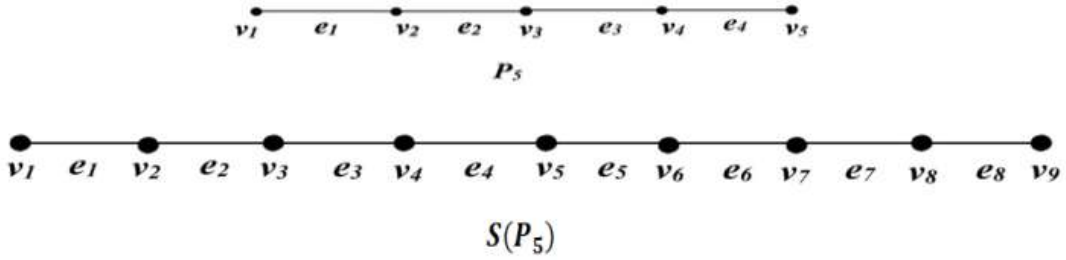


Figure 2

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Mathematical Approach to Controllability Analysis of Bird Human Influenza using SI Model

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ABSTRACT

Wild birds, domestic birds, humans, and a wide range of animal species, including pigs and cats, are all susceptible to avian influenza. Although humans are a non-host for H5N1, domestic birds can transmit the virus to people. It is highly contagious in birds and is endemic to poultry populations in various countries. Mathematical epidemiology of disease-induced mortality in the transmission within poultry can be studied through theSI model. The mathematical modeling of Bird-Human Avian influenza model was articulated into a first order nonlinear differential equation. The Homotopy Perturbation Method (HPM) is employed in this study to get the model's analytical solution as well as simulation results. Finally, the analytical solution is compared to the simulation results to ensure a good agreement.

Keywords: Avian Influenza(H5N1), Simple SI model, Poultry, Domestic birds, Humans, transmission.

INTRODUCTION

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)[12,16,17] is a zoonotic retrovirus birds, pigs, and people from around the world [1, 2]. Influenza A viruses, namely strains H5 and H7, induce HPAI [3]. HPAI outbreaks are most likely caused by these influenza virus subtypes spanning Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, where they cause huge chicken death and disturbance on fields and in wildlife [4, 5]. The H5N1[14] flu strain has been identified as the most

prevalent in Africa [2] and the most serious public health hazard [2, 4].Its H5N1[14] virus produces a broad spectrum of symptoms in infected poultry. Among them are[4] abrupt Nasal discharges, dyspnea, coughing, sneezing, defecation, shank hyperemia and bleeding, problem sitting, ataxia, and torticollis are among the symptoms; in layers, egg significant problems, shell-less eggs, for instance, are quite common. There were also white eggs and soft eggs, as well as circulatory system abnormalities such congestion and comb cyanosis. Necropsy may reveal pulmonary airsacculitis and pneumonia, as well as ecchymoses of the competences and digestive membrane, petechiation characterized by gastrointestinal tract enteritis [4]. Integumentary system lesions (particularly cyanosis, edoema, and ecchymotic blood clots) as well as inflammatory, degenerative, and necrotic musculoskeletal system lesions could be seen in necropsy [4]. Fever, cough, severe pneumonia, breathlessness, shock, and fatality are some of the clinical symptoms of human infections with the avian influenza H5N1 virus [6, 7].

Introduction ofHomotopy perturbation method (HPM)

The Homotopy perturbation methodology (HPM)[16,17] is moderately solution for finding nonlinear integrals differential equations. This technique can also be used to solve a system of interrelated both linear and nonlinear differential equations. Using the current method, it is possible to solve a nonlinear ordinary and partial differential equation, and a related nonlinear system of partial differential equations. It's worthy of note that the HPM [18,20] could solve both ordinary and partial differential equations in linear system. The series normally converges as the number of terms increases; however, the compact form solution is not always expected.

Mathematical formulation of the problem

Iwami [14] developed one of most basic avian influenza models (AI)**.** In this experiment, we simulate transmission in poultry and the spread of disease to people. Poultry are particularly vulnerable to the H5N1[13] virus. Mortality rates usually exceed within 48 hours, 90%–100% of the time has passed. As a result, a basic SI model is required containing affliction deaths could be used to simulate transmission of pathogens in poultry.The simple SI model of Avian Influenza virus in birds is formulated [14] as follows:

Domestic Birds

$$S_d'(t) - \wedge_d + \beta_d S_{Sd} I_d + \mu_d S_d = 0 \quad (A1)$$

$$I_d'(t) - \beta_d S_{Sd} I_d + (\mu_d + v_d) I_d = 0 \quad (A2)$$

Parameters	Biological Meaning
S_d'	Number of Susceptible Birds
I_d'	Number of Infected Birds
$\wedge_d$	Recruitment Rate
μ_d	Poultry Natural Death Rate
v_d	Disease-Induced death rate
β_d	Transmission Coefficient Among Poultry

Humans are infected with the virus, whenever they come into contact with polluted raw poultry items.The human spillover model is formulated [14] as follows:

Humans

$$S'(t) - \wedge + \beta S I_d + \mu S = 0 \quad (A3)$$

$$I'(t) - \beta S I_d + (\mu + v) I = 0 \quad (A4)$$

Parameters	Biological Meaning
S'	Number of Susceptible Humans
I'	Number of Infected Humans
$\wedge$	Recruitment Rate for Humans
β	Transmission Coefficient from infected poultry to Humans
μ	Humans Natural Death Rate
v	Disease-Induced Death Rate for Humans

Establishing proper parameter values for the model is one of the most critical components of modeldevelopment. Years are used as the time unit. The cause for this will be disclosed in due course. A typical approach for identifying parameters is fitting. The model (A1-A4) has eight unknown parameters and four uncertain starting circumstances. The World Health Organization's[11] total number of H5N1 human reported occurrences considered to be the most critical data source.[10]. Livestock information are provided from both the World Health Organization[11] and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [1]. According to the FAO, there were 24 billion poultry units in the world in 2012 [1]. The world's poultry population is projected to be 2400×10^7. The typical lifespan of poultry is two years, according to Iwami[14]. Is identical to $\mu_d = 0.5$. Because the current populationΛ_d/μ_d is 2400, Λ_d = 1200 in units of 10^7 year increments. The overall infectious duration for domesticated birds, according to Iwami[11], is 10 days, with $v_d = 36.5 years^{-1}$.

People's typical lifespans vary widely from country to country. We'll assume that the average human lifetime is 65 years. As a result, $\mu = 1/65$. Over the last ten years, the global human population has averaged around 6.5 billion. This yields a value of $\Lambda = 1000$ births in units annually of 10^5 people. Moreover, a few of the boundary conditions are excessive:

$S_d'(0) = 2400$, $I(0) = 0.0007$ and $S(0) = 65000$.
Alternatively, the poultry and big populations of the 16 impacted nations can be purchased separately.

The parameters are
$\beta_d = 0.015489; \beta = 0.000000035327; \Lambda_d = 0.0012; \Lambda = 0.0001; v_d = 0.0365; v = 0.6 \quad \mu_d = 0.5; \mu = 0.01538$

With initial condition
$S_d'(0) = 2400$; $I(0) = 0.0007$; $S(0) = 65000$; $I_d'(0) = 0.3936$

Analytical Solution of the Avian Influenza Model using the Homotopy perturbation method (HPM)
The Homotopy Perturbation approach[9] combines topology and traditional perturbation methods. It is used to approximate the solution of a set of nonlinear differential equations that are coupled. The success of the Homotopy Topology and classical perturbation techniques are combined in the Homotopy Perturbation approach[9] perturbation strategy in dealing with and addressing a variety of non-linear structural challenges can be found in. The Plot issue, the Duffing equation, and the Blasius equation are all solved using the Homotopy perturbation approach[10]. Because the homotopy perturbation approach employs a tiny imbedding parameter p, just a few rounds are necessary to produce an accurate result. The homotopy perturbation methodology is being used to solve nonlinear differential equations (A1-A4).

Numerical Simulation
The homotopy perturbation procedure (A1-A4) with said provided starting conditions is often used to calculate nonlinear differential equations. To solve these equations numerically, the function pdex 4 in MATLAB software, which is a tool for solving boundary value problems, was used, and the MATLAB programme is presented below.Our analytical results from this study are contrasted to the numerical results in the figures below.

RESULT AND DESCRIPTION

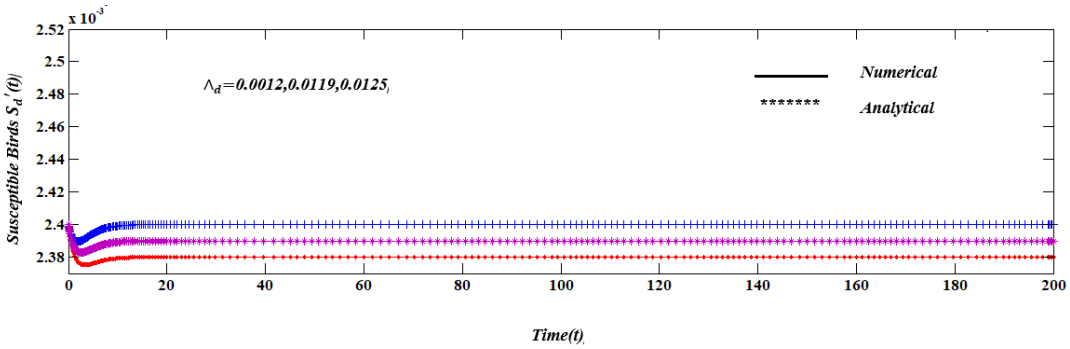


Figure 1. Plot of Susceptible Birds S_d'(t) vs Time(t). The ratio is derived by altering the value of parameter Λ_d as well as a few fixed factors β_d = 0.015489;β = 0.000000035327;Λ= 0.0001; v_d=0.0365; v=0.6 ; μ_d = 0.5; μ = 0.01538 in (A1).The parameters values are taken in [1,11].

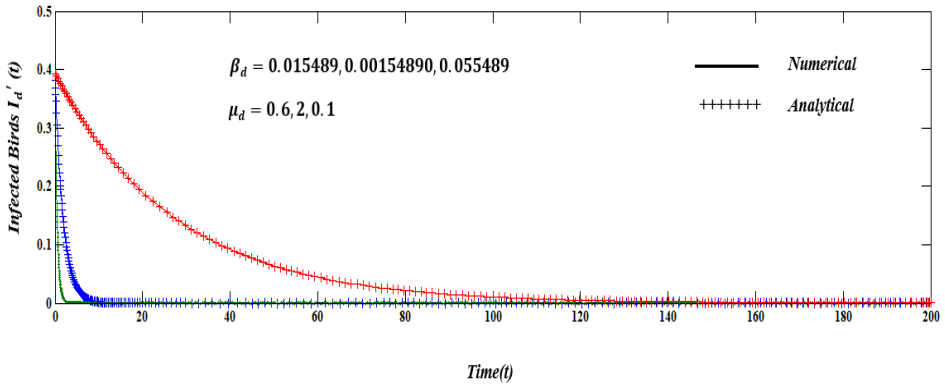


Figure 2. Plot of Infected Birds I_d'(t) vs Time(t). The ratio is derived by altering the value of parameter β_d, μ_d as well as a few fixed factors β = 0.000000035327;Λ_d= 0.0012; Λ= 0.0001; v_d=0.0365; v=0.6 ;μ = 0.01538 in (A2).The parameters values are taken from [1,11].

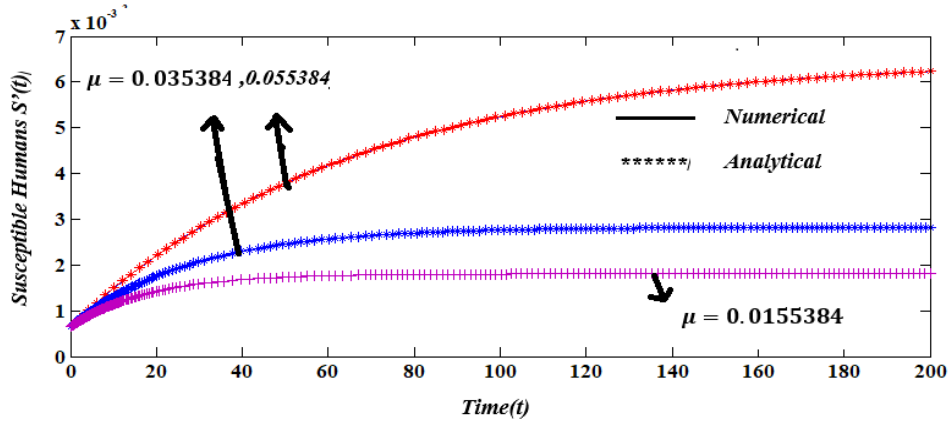


Figure 3. Plot of Susceptible Humans S′(t) vs Time(t). The ratio is derived by altering the value of parameter μ as well as a few fixed factors β_d = 0.015489;β = 0.000000035327;Λ_d= 0.0012; Λ= 0.0001; v_d=0.0365; v=0.6 ; μ_d = 0.5 in (A3). The parameters values are taken from [1,11]

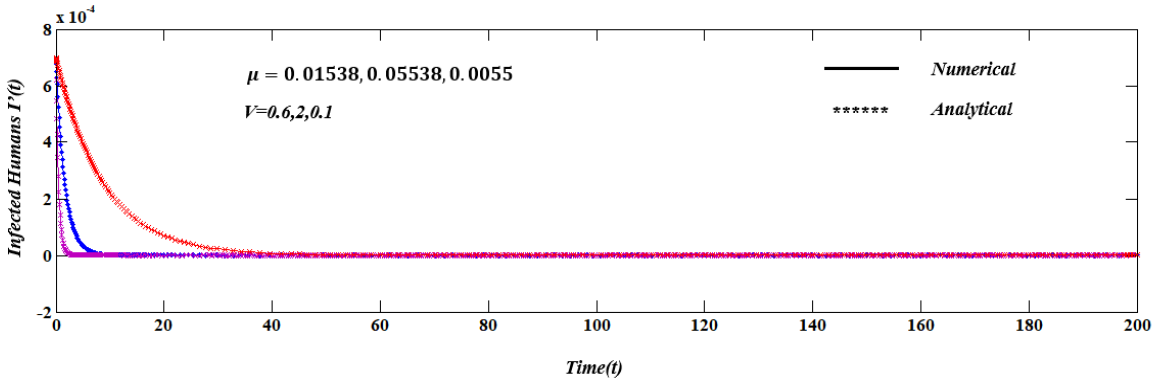


Figure 4. Plot of Infected Humans I′(t) vs Time(t). The ratio is derived by altering the value of parameterμ,v as well as a few fixed factors $\beta_d = 0.015489;\beta = 0.000000035327;\Lambda_d = 0.0012;\ \Lambda = 0.0001;v_d = 0.0365;\ \mu_d = 0.5$ in (A4).The parameters values are taken from[1,11].

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Homotopy Perturbation method (HPM) was used to solve the system of nonlinear differential equations on the Susceptible Birds $S'_d(t)$ Susceptible Human S(t), Infected Bird $I'_d(t)$ and Infected Human I′(t) Cases was solved using the Homotopy Perturbation method (HPM), the approximate analytical solution was validated by comparing it to its numerical simulation. As a consequence, the analytic result helps us understand the influence of numerous parameters on the Avian Influenza model. Furthermore, a set of criteria is used to analyze the extensive simulation results.

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Ethical Clearance: This was taken from AMET University in Chennai.
Source of funding: Self
Conflict of interest: Nil

Approximate analytical solutions using Homotopy Perturbation Method

To discover the solution to equations (1) to (6), we build the homotopy as shown below.

$(1-p)(S'_d(t) - \Lambda_d + \mu_d S_d) + p(S'_d(t) - \Lambda_d + \beta_d S_d I_d + \mu_d S_d = 0$ (B1)
$(1-p)(I'_d(t) + (\mu_d + v_d) I_d) + p(I'_d(t) + \beta_d S_d I_d + (\mu_d + v_d) I_d) = 0$ (B2)
$(1-p)(S'(t) - \Lambda + \mu S) + p(S'(t) - \Lambda + \beta S I_d + \mu S) = 0$ (B3)
$(1-p)(I'(t) + (\mu + v)I) + p(I'(t) - \beta S I_d + (\mu + v)I) = 0$ (B4)

Assume the approximate answers to Eq(A1-A4) have the following form:

$S_d = S = S_0 p^0 + S_1 p^1 + S_2 p^2 + S_3 p^3 + \cdots$ (C1)
$I_d = I = I_0 p^0 + I_1 p^1 + I_2 p^2 + I_3 p^3 + \cdots$ (C2)

Substituting the Eq (C1 and C2) respectively into Eq.(A1-A4)

$$(1\text{-}p)\left[\left(\frac{d(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)-\wedge_d+\mu_d(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)\right]+p\left[\left[\left(\frac{d(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)-\wedge_d+\beta_d[(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)]+\mu_d(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)\right]\right]=0$$

(A1.1)

$$(1\text{-}\ p)\left[\left(\frac{d(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)+(\mu_d+v_d)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)\right]+p\left[\left(\frac{d(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)-\beta_d[(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)]+(\mu_d+v_d)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)\right]=0$$

(A2.1)

$$(1\text{-}\ p)\left[\left(\frac{d(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)-\wedge+\mu(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)\right]+p\left[\left(\frac{d(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)-\wedge+\beta[(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)]+\mu(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)\right]=0$$

(A3.1)

$$(1\text{-}\ p)\left[\left(\frac{d(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)+(\mu+v)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)\right]+p\left[\left(\frac{d(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)}{dt}\right)-\beta[(S_0p^0+S_1p^1+S_2p^2+S_3p^3+\cdots)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)](\mu+v)(I_0p^0+I_1p^1+I_2p^2+I_3p^3+\cdots)\right]$$

(A4.1)

To provide an analytical solution, the Homotopy Perturbation Method is applied.

$$S_d(t)=0.002400000+0.000003670171361e^{(0.5365000000t)}-0.000003670147087e^{(0.5000000t)}+0.000000003567923354e^{(1073000000t)}-0.000000003810661849e^{(1.036500000t)}+0.000000001362946721e^{(0.5365000000t)}t$$

$$I_d(t)=0.003599999e^{(0.00000000040888t)}+0.00000013382499600e^{(0.5365000000t)}t-0.00000000038106618e^{(1.073000000t)}+0.000000004088840164e^{(1.036500000t)}+0.000000000002487377767e^{(0.5365000000t)}t^2$$

$$S(t)=0.0065002450-0.00584359e^{(0.01538400000t)}-0.000006654677416e^{(0.6307680000t)}$$

$$I(t)=0.001031667911e^{(0.6153840000t)}+0.000000000373156-0.000331668284e^{(0.5518840000t)}$$

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Optimization of Cadmium (II) Removal from Aqueous Solution using Activated Carbon Prepared from *Anisomeles malabarica* Leaves: Charact erization and Taguchi Approach

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ABSTRACT

Activated carbon has recently been produced from agro-industrial waste to reduce the cost of adsorption systems. In this study, *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves were used to prepare activated carbon (AMC), and its cadmiumion removal capacity was analyzed. The activated carbon was produced by a phosphoric acid chemical activation process using H_3PO_4:char ratios (w/w) of 1:2 at 450 °C in an inert atmosphere. The surface area of the AMC was determined as 489.3 $m^2 g^{-1}$ by the BET method. The BJH pore size distribution showed an average pore diameter of 2.43 nm, indicating the presence of mesopores and macropores. XRD results showed a broad peak indicating the amorphous nature of carbon. SEM analysis revealed that most of the particles in the synthesized AMC were agglomerated, and the EDS spectrum confirmed the presence of carbon and oxygen elements. The Taguchi design method was employed to analyze the adsorption capacity of metal ion Cd (II) onto AMC. Main adsorption factors such as initial metal ion concentration, pH, temperature, adsorbent dose, and contact time at four levels with an orthogonal array layout of L16 had been optimized. Maximum sorption for Cd (II) metal ions was found to occur at pH = 7.0, temperature = 30 °C, concentration of metal = 50 mg L^{-1}, adsorbent dosage = 50 g L^{-1}, and contact time = 30 min. The results demonstrate AMC's effectiveness as a biosorbent for cadmium, offering a sustainable method for heavy metal remediation.

Keywords: Activated Carbon, *Anisomeles malabarica*, Cadmium Removal, Agro-industrial Waste, Mesoporous Carbon, Heavy Metal Adsorption.

INTRODUCTION

Water pollution is one of the key issues addressed by UN Sustainability Goal 6. Wastewater from industries and household sources enters water resources and causes major metal pollution. Due to rapid urbanization and industrial development, developing countries face major problems with wastewater treatment and heavy metal pollution. Consequently, the ill-effects of wastewater entering the ecosystem have caused public fear [1]. It is especially possible to cause severe pollution of water bodies if traces of toxic heavy metals are found in poorly treated wastewater. This leads to environmental impacts on aquatic life, plants, and ecology. Though traditional treatment processes such as electrochemical removal, chemical precipitation, and ion exchange can remove heavy metals from inorganic effluents, the significant disadvantages of these processes include incomplete removal, high energy requirements, and toxic sludge production [2]. Currently, researchers are working on developing methods for treating wastewater and improving water quality. Several advantages of adsorption make it superior to traditional methods of wastewater treatment, such as cost-effectiveness, ease of use, and effectiveness in removing dyes and metal ions [3,4]. It is possible to adsorb many organic pollutants, including pesticides, fertilizers, greases, medicines, etc., in addition to metals and dyes, from pharmaceutical industries and agricultural runoff. Researchers have shown that carbon-based adsorbents such as activated carbon, graphene, and carbon nanotubes have a wide range of adsorption capabilities [5]. Activated carbon produced from agro-industrial waste, however, is significant due to its low cost. Phosphoric acid is commonly used to activate lignocellulosic materials, and activated carbon produced from plant parts often shows excellent adsorptive properties and a large surface area with a porous structure [6–8]. A large surface area, porous structure, and surface chemistry that interact with molecules with functional groups are all characteristics that make activated carbons useful for adsorption [9–11].

A study on Ni (II) ion adsorption from wastewater using acid-activated *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves revealed superior adsorptive properties [12]. In the present study, *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves were used to prepare activated carbon, and their Cd (II) ion adsorption capacity was analyzed. In our earlier project, we used fresh *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves, free from disease, that were collected from Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu, India, to explore the presence of phytochemicals. The leaves were identified and authenticated by the Centre for Conservation of Medicinal Resources, University of Transdisciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU), Karnataka, India. The GC-MS results of organic extracts of *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves indicated that the extracts are rich in alkaloids, saponins, tannins, flavonoids, and glycosides [13].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals: Analytical grade reagents and chemicals were used.

Preparation of activated carbon: *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves were collected from Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu, India (Fig. 1). The leaves were washed, dried at room temperature (25–27 °C), and ground into a coarse powder.

Phosphoric acid activation processes: Dried powdered leaves were impregnated with 20% (w/v) of phosphoric acid at 100 °C for 8 h. The impregnation ratio was estimated as the ratio of the weight of the activating agent to the weight of the raw material used. The sample was carbonized in a muffle furnace after being activated with phosphoric acid. The furnace temperature was maintained at 450 °C for 4 hours. Following carbonization, activated carbon was crushed into powder and washed several times with hot distilled water to remove excess phosphoric acid. The washed activated carbon was then dried at 110 °C for 1 hour. After weighing the dried product, the percentage yield was calculated and stored in airtight containers. The percentage yield of the activated carbon was calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Yield (\%)} = \frac{W1}{W2} X\ 100$$

Where W1 is the dry weight (g) of final activated charcoal and W2 is the dry weight (g) of precursor.

Characterization of prepared activated carbon: Using the surface area analyser (BEL Sorp II, Japan), surface area and pore structure of prepared activated carbons from *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves (AMC) were measured. Prior to the measurement, the sample was degassed for three hours at 300 °C under vacuum. The BET (Brunauer–Emmett–Teller) method was used to estimate the surface area (SBET) of AMC and the BJH (Barrett–Joyner–Halenda) method was used to determine the pore diameter from the isothermal adsorption branch. The amount of gas adsorbed at relative pressure, $p/p_{\cdot} = 0.99$, was used to estimate the pore volume.

X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis was performed on AMC using a Rigaku Smart Lab instrument (Japan) with Cu Kα radiation (wavelength = 0.154056 nm), operated at 20 kV and 30 mA. The XRD patterns were recorded over a 2θ range of 20° to 55°, with a scanning step size of 0.04°. Using SEM (ULTRA 55) facility at Centre for Nano Science Engineering (CeNSE), Indian Institute of Science, the surface morphology and elemental composition of AMC was measured. Sample was desiccated overnight before analysis. SEM (ULTRA 55) is coupled with material spectroscopy representing the most recent advancement in GEMINI technology. An image of high quality is generated by the specific detector, which provides precise measurement of size.

Optimization of Adsorption Studies

Preparation of adsorbents: A stock solution of Cd (II) (1000 mg/L) was prepared by dissolving accurately weighed spectral pure grade chemicals Cd $(NO_3)_2{\cdot}2H_2O$ in deionized water. The stock solution was further diluted with deionized water to obtain working standard metal ion concentrations in the range of 20, 30, 40, and 50 mg/L.

Optimisation studies and design of experiment: The Taguchi method was used to optimize the process conditions for Cd (II) adsorption. This statistical approach could help to identify the most influential factors with a minimal number of experiments. An L16 orthogonal array was selected to study five parameters such as pH, temperature, initial metal concentration, adsorbent dosage, and contact time, with each at four different levels. In Table 1, factors considered, and their values are presented, while Table 2 presents the experimental plan as an orthogonal array of L16. However, this design allowed for the efficient evaluation of how each factor and its levels affect the removal of cadmium. The experimental results were analysed using signal-to-noise (S/N) ratios to determine the best combination of conditions for maximum Cd (II) removal efficiency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The percentage yield of the activated charcoal:

The calculated percentage yield of the prepared activated charcoal was found to be 43%.

Characteristics of the activated carbon:

XRD Studies

Synthesized AMC was identified from the XRD result (Figure 2), which showed broad peaks around 23° to 26°, 2θ degrees corresponding to (002), suggesting the disordered structure of the layer. The broad peaks also indicated the amorphous nature of carbon.

SEM with EDX

Commonly, Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDS) are two complementary techniques often used together for materials characterization. Not only can SEM/EDS provide information about the surface structure of various materials, but it can also measure their elemental composition. The

morphology of the synthesized AMC was studied with the help of electron microscopy. Most of the particles were agglomerated. The typical size of the particles is in hundreds of nanometres (Fig. 3). EDS measurements identified that the activated carbon from *Anisomeles malabarica* leaves contains mainly carbon (81.33 wt%) and oxygen (13.95 wt%). Henceforth, the spectrum confirms the presence of carbon and oxygen elements (Fig. 3).

Surface Area Characterization by BET Method

As shown in Figure 4, the nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherm of AMC exhibited a hysteresis loop at relative pressure (P/Po) close to unity, which indicates the presence of large mesopores and macropores, which can be classified as type II according to IUPAC classification [14]. This isotherm exhibited an H3 hysteresis loop associated with slit-like pores. BET analysis showed that the specific surface area of AMC is 489.3 $m^2 g^{-1}$ (Fig. 4). The BJH pore size distribution showed an average pore diameter of 2.43 nm, indicating the presence of mesopores and macropores, as shown in Figure 5.

Process Optimization of Cd (II) Adsorption Parameters via Taguchi Approach

A set of 16 different experiments was conducted according to the L16 orthogonal array given in Table 2. Each experiment was done twice, which resulted in 32 experiments.

Analysis of signal/noise ratio

In general, Minitab software is used to convert and report the findings of experiments designed and recommended by the Taguchi method in the form of the signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio. According to Taguchi, the S/N ratio is a quantifiable figure that may be used to gauge how much a quality feature deviates from the intended values.

The S/N ratio is classified into three forms based on the nature of the attribute being studied. However, the larger-the-better performance characteristics equation was chosen to determine the removal efficiency of Cd (II) ions using AMC.

$$\frac{S}{N} = -10 \log \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{y_i^2}, \text{ larger is better}$$

The S/N ratios of four tests at any level were averaged to establish the mean S/N ratio for each adjustable parameter. Table 3 reports the S/N ratio values and the experimental findings for the removal of cadmium ions. Additionally, Figure 6 illustrates how the averaged S/N ratios are affected by four modifiable factors. The results presented in Figure 6 indicate that the optimal conditions for Cd (II) removal were achieved at a contact time of 30 minutes and a temperature of 30°C (both level 2). Maximum removal efficiency was observed when the adsorbent dosage was 50 mg/L and the solution pH was 7.0 (both level 3), while the optimal initial Cd (II) concentration was 50 mg/L (level 4). These conditions suggest that a moderate temperature and short contact time are sufficient for effective adsorption, possibly due to enhanced kinetic activity at 30°C, which facilitates faster ion diffusion. The near-neutral pH (7.0) favours Cd (II) adsorption by minimizing competition from H^+ ions and promoting surface ion exchange. A higher initial metal concentration (50 mg/L) increases the driving force for mass transfer, allowing more Cd (II) ions to interact with active sites on the adsorbent surface. This trend is consistent with previous studies that reported similar optimal conditions for Cd (II) removal using phosphoric acid-activated carbon derived from plant-based materials [15]. Furthermore, the efficient removal within just 30 minutes highlights the potential of the prepared biosorbent for rapid and cost-effective treatment of heavy metal-contaminated water.

CONCLUSION

The major issues faced by developing countries is wastewater treatment and heavy metal pollution, which results from industrial activities and rapid urbanization. It is possible to cause severe pollution of water bodies if traces of toxic heavy metals are found in poorly treated wastewater. This leads to environmental impacts on aquatic life, plants, and ecology. Designing the carbon-based adsorbent to treat poor quality water before consumption or letting

it into water bodies may save human life as well as aquatic ecosystems. In the present study, activated carbon was prepared from plant material and characterized as mesoporous, shows significant capacity for cadmium ion adsorption. Further confirmation experiments will validate the study.

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Table 1: Selected experimental parameters and their assigned levels.

Symbol	Factors	Unit	Levels			
			1	2	3	4
A	Concentration of Metal	mg. L^{-1}	25	30	40	50
B	pH	-	5	6	7	8
C	Contact Time	min	30	60	90	120
D	Temperature	^{o} C	25	30	40	50
E	AMC dose	mg. L^{-1}	25	50	100	125

Table 2: Orthogonal array of L16 for Cd (II) sorption by AMC powders.

Experiment No.	Main factor				
	A	B	C	D	E
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	2	2	2	2
3	1	3	3	3	3
4	1	4	4	4	4
5	2	1	2	3	4
6	2	2	1	4	3
7	2	3	4	1	2
8	2	4	3	2	1
9	3	1	3	4	2
10	3	2	4	3	1
11	3	3	1	2	4
12	3	4	2	1	3
13	4	1	4	2	3
14	4	2	3	1	4
15	4	3	2	4	1
16	4	4	1	3	2

Table 3: The removal percentage of Cd (II) ions and the mean S/N ratio

Experiment No.	Cd (II) ions adsorbed		S/N ratio
	1	2	
1	4.03	8.08	14.15
2	38.43	45.5	32.36
3	54.092	53.198	34.58
4	39.67	59.264	33.37
5	9.55	13.16	20.77
6	21.81	28.96	27.83
7	60.39	69.202	36.17
8	71.672	71.606	37.10
9	9.87	11.66	20.55
10	17.66	37.96	27.09
11	77.54	80.356	37.94
12	3.18	72.57	13.05
13	59.84	11.58	24.12
14	59.84	71.82	36.26
15	84.27	67.87	37.47
16	97.743	97.355	39.78

Table 4: The optimum condition for the maximum removal of Cd

Symbol	Controllable Factor	Unit	Optimum level
A	Concentration of Metal	$mg.L^{-1}$	50
B	pH	-	7
C	Contact Time	min	30
D	Temperature	^{o}C	30
E	AMC dose	$mg.L^{-1}$	50



Figure 1: Leaves of *Anisomeles malabarica*

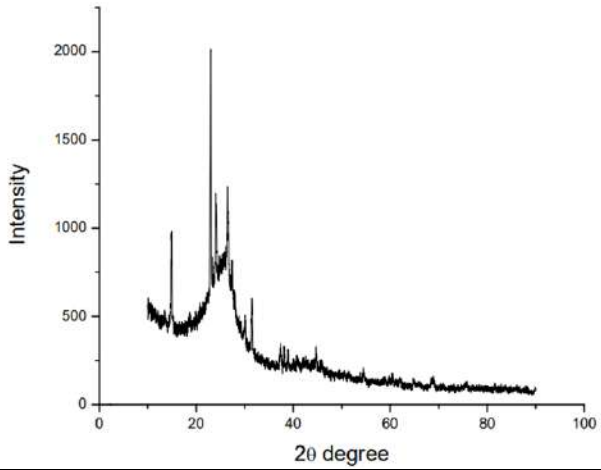
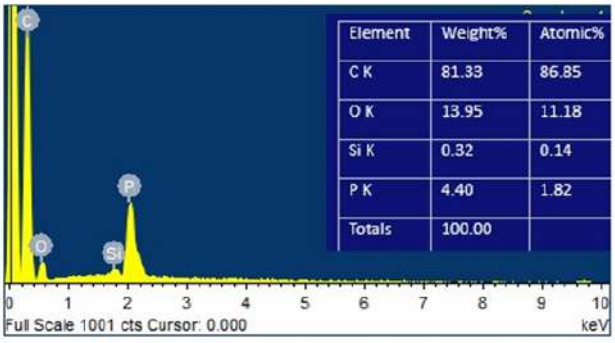


Figure 2: X-ray diffraction pattern of *Anisomeles malabarica* activated carbon (AMC)



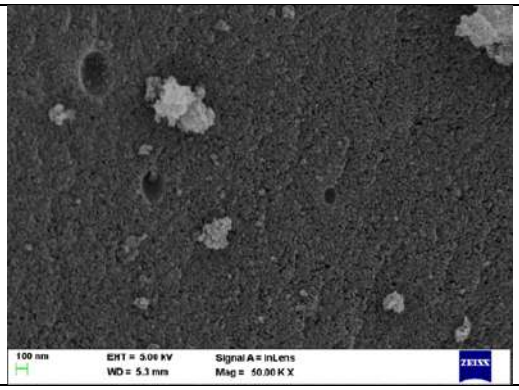


Figure 3: Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy of AMC

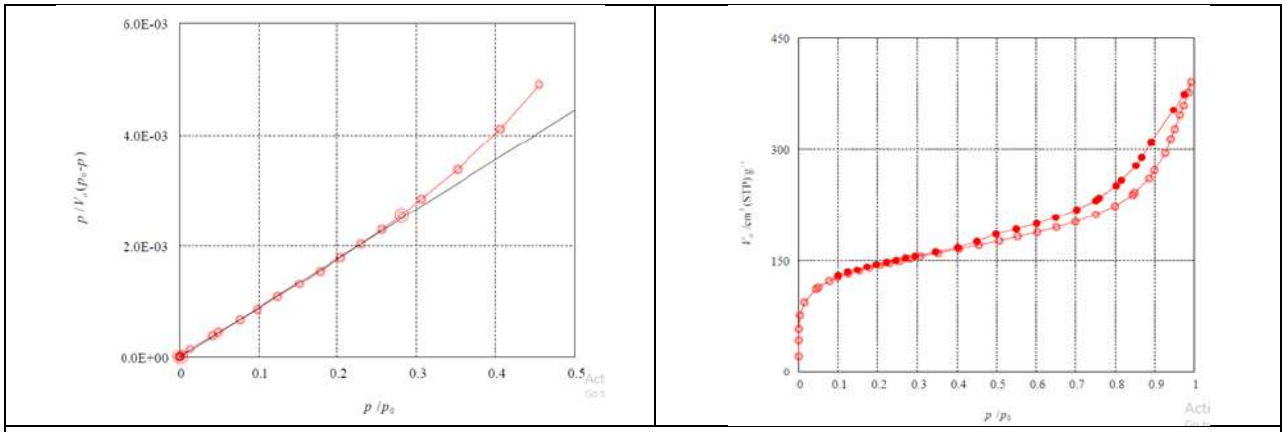


Figure 4: Isotherm and BET plot for AMC

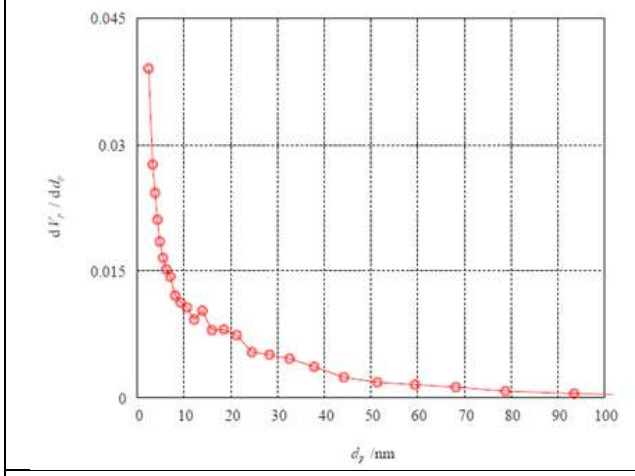


Figure 5: BJH plot for AMC

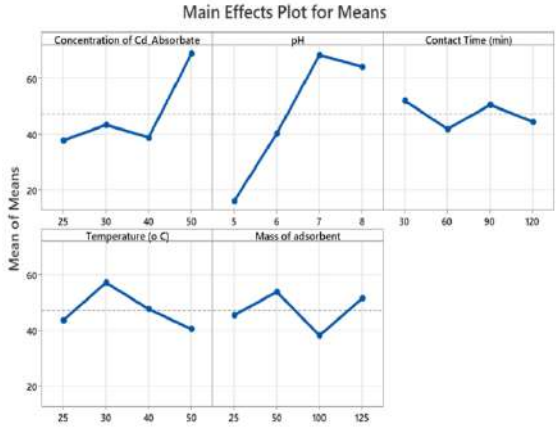


Figure 6: Variation of S/N of Cd (II) ions removal versus controllable factors

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Predicting the Factors of Pregnancy Induced Hypertension using Feature Selection Techniques

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ABSTRACT

Machine Learning techniques are making significant strides in healthcare, enabling early detection and diagnosis of various pathologies. Development of some diseases could be predicted by Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) and Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP) in pregnant women is indeed a significant concept in health data analysis, as it can provide valuable insights into maternal and fetal health. Blood pressure changes during pregnancy can indicate conditions such as Gestational Hypertension (GH) and Preeclampsia, which can result in serious problem for both the mother and the child. This paper uses Feature Selection Techniques (FST) to evaluate the causes for GH and Preeclampsia. Apart from SBP and DBP levels of the pregnant women, various other parameters viz. age, blood sugar, body temperature, heart rate and numerous other features were also to taken to identify whether these features have got potential impact on GH and Preeclampsia. For this, the present work utilizes some of the algorithms of the Filter, Wrapper and Embedded techniques of FST. A novel hybrid algorithm referred to as the Integrated Ensemble Selector has also been proposed in this study to identify the underlying causes.

Keywords: Feature Selection Techniques, Gestational Hypertension, Preeclampsia.

INTRODUCTION

This study investigates the use of dimension reduction methods and time-series summary techniques to predict preeclampsia from proteomics data. A notable number of pregnant women are nowadays affected with preeclampsia which is a serious pregnancy complication and it's early prediction can thus help improve maternal and fetal outcomes *et al.* [1].On considering the health of the gestational women and her fetus, the Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy (HDP) and Preeclampsia persist as a big challenge. This could be overcome by detecting the problem at an earlier stage, proper monitoring of the condition and providing suitable interventions. By improving our understanding of their causes, developing better screening and diagnostic tools, and advancing treatment options, ongoing research promises to offer more effective ways to prevent and manage these potentially life-threatening complications. Machine learning offers a wide array of techniques that can enhance the management of preeclampsia and HDP, from early risk prediction and monitoring to personalized treatment recommendations. By leveraging advanced models, healthcare providers can improve the accuracy and efficiency of diagnosing these conditions, predicting complications, and providing timely interventions. As ML models continue to improve and evolve, they have the ability to minimize both the mother and the fetal illness and other high risks associated with these serious pregnancy complications. The Feature Selection Techniques allow us to focus on the most influential factors that contribute to predicting Gestational Hypertension (GH) and Preeclampsia, the two serious conditions during the gestational period which may produce adverse effects on the health of them both. FST in general allows us to reduce the dimensionality and thereby helps to focus on the most relevant variables related to the issue. Thus, it significantly improves accuracy, reduce overfitting, and optimize computational efficiency. Henceforth, in the present study FST facilitates healthcare providers can better identify high-risk pregnancies, offering more timely and effective interventions, ultimately improving better health outcomes. It helps to look after the most relevant features for predicting and diagnosing GH and Preeclampsia. By using the suitable methods such as Filter, Wrapper, and Embedded approaches of feature selection, most relevant features pertaining to the problem have been extracted. Also, a hybrid novel method has been designed to analyze the problem and the performance. This allows for the creation of more accurate prediction models and may assist in identifying at-risk pregnancies earlier. To effectively predict GH (Gestational Hypertension) and PE (Preeclampsia) at different gestational weeks, a well-structured approach can be used. This involves leveraging hospital database records, incorporating feature selection techniques, and developing predictive models.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In developing ML models, FST continues to be a most important step since it assists to find out the essential features in the dataset thereby eliminates the features that are not relevant. Thus, it progresses the accuracy of the model, lessens the computational cost and increases the interpretability of the model. As discussed earlier, FST possess three primary approaches which one can utilize for building the model. The review of literature for the present work focuses on identifying the studies which were underwent by various authors (i) for the problem of identifying GH and preeclampsia using numerous methods and (ii) the utilization of the afore mentioned FSTs for various healthcare related problems. The following literatures utilized FSTs in the prediction of various disorders and helped in diagnosing the problem easily, quickly and accurately.

Jonet louise Wesson *et al.*[1] Produced a model which used the gestational dataset in which the model's training was accomplished with the available data taken earlier than the sixteenth week of pregnancy. Eight risk factors were identified by the authors which are SBP, DBP, age, BMI, diabetic condition, history of hypertension and any other maternal disease associated with the pregnant women. Finally, two models were developed, which as per their outcomes accurately predicted the development of preeclampsia. Both models produced similar and better results as expected by the authors.

Jong Hyun Jhee *et al*.[2] Proposed a study in which their learning investigated the use of ML to predict late-onset preeclampsia (PE) by analyzing maternal data from electronic medical records (EMRs). The authors illustrated that preeclampsia which is marked by high blood pressure is a dangerous condition at the stage of pregnancy, from which the GH women and the babe could face extreme complications. They concluded that their work could help physicians by predicting the condition earlier, healthcare providers could intervene more effectively, potentially improving maternal and fetal outcomes.

Guan Wang *et al*.[3] Suggested a study which focused on using ML for improving the accuracy of prediction for cardiovascular risk assessments in postpartum women who have had preeclampsia. The model provides a convenient and efficient way for physicians in finding patients with potentially greater risks, thereby leads to premature intervention and better health outcomes. The authors concluded that by enabling early interventions and providing better long-term management, the tool could lead to excelled health benefits and hence will provide a better quality of life for these women.

Yi-xin Li *et al*. [4] Decided to diagnose the hazard of preeclampsia in pregnant women. Early identification of high-risk patients is crucial as it enables timely interventions that can significantly reduce complications associated with preeclampsia. This approach has the potential to transform the management of preeclampsia by moving from reactive to proactive care, ensuring that high-risk women are identified before symptoms become severe. Their model analyzed various parameters such as blood pressure, lab results, and patient earlier health status, for predicting which women are more likely to develop preeclampsia later in pregnancy.

Sofonyas Abebaw Tiruneh *et al*. [5] Focused on a study which sought to exploit ML algorithms to evaluate numerous wellbeing data such as age, BMI, blood pressure, and medical history to predict which women are most at risk of developing preeclampsia during pregnancy. By identifying high-risk women early, the study aimed to enable timely interventions that could prevent or mitigate the complications associated with PE. This early identification could improve both mother and baby health outcomes by providing proactive care and monitoring.

Sirinat Wanriko *et al*.[6] Proposed a work where the occurrence of (Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension) PIH in pregnant women has been predicted using ML algorithms. This could aid for identification of the problem on time, helping to reduce complications such as pre-term-birth or organ failure. They concluded that the exact cause of PIH continues to be strange and thus could not be prevented, but early detection can significantly help to lessen the brutality of the problem and mitigate associated risks. The following literatures used the various methods of FSTs for identifying healthcare problems.

In a study by Saba Bashir *et al*.[7], FST was used, in which the major goal was to find a lesser best selection of feature subsets on medical dataset thereby they tried to improve the accuracy of detection. They believed that effective FST algorithms could serve for better accuracy and hence they focused on analyzing and identifying those algorithms.

Jing fang Liu *et al*.[8] Demonstrated a study which utilized the potential use of FST algorithms to identify depressed users on social media. The authors suggested that with further refinement and ethical considerations, this approach could be a transformative tool for early intervention, helping those at risk receives support before their condition worsens.

In a study by S.Usha *et al*.[9], Heart disease prediction system was developed by the authors in which they used ML classifiers along with FSTs since the authors identifies that this could increase the accuracy and efficiency of the problem. By utilizing classifiers like AdaBoost, along with the wrapper feature selection method, the study demonstrated an effective approach to enhance model performance in predicting heart disease. They suggested that AdaBoost, in particular, outperformed well than the remaining classifiers with respect to accuracy and efficiency, making it a promising method for healthcare diagnostic applications.

Jose F Carreno *et al*.[10] Suggested a learning that demonstrated a study in which proteomics data, when analyzed with effective dimension reduction and time-series summarization methods, can offer promising predictive models for preeclampsia. The high prediction accuracy achieved in this study indicates the potential for early identification of preeclampsia, particularly through analyzing the proteomics data from the first and second trimesters. They reported that the challenges of classifying preeclampsia into distinct stages (Normal, Early, Late) suggest a need for further refinement in predictive modeling, which could be addressed in future research. Fathania Firwan Firdaus *et al*.[11] Investigated on FST and classification approaches for predicting cardiac issues. They discovered that the increasing global prevalence of this disease has fueled significant advancements in computer-assisted systems for heart disease diagnosis. These systems are designed to improve diagnostic efficiency, potentially lowering both time and costs associated with detecting heart conditions. They suggested that by focusing on the most significant features in a large dataset, feature selection enhances model accuracy, reduces computational complexity, and minimizes the risk of overfitting, resulting in more reliable and cost-effective heart disease prediction models.

Muhammad Salman Pathan *et al*.[12] demonstrated a study which focused on how feature selection effectively rises the efficiency of the prediction models in the diagnosis of heart disease. As per their work, the resulting refined models, which focus on the most important variables, are better equipped to make informed and effective predictions, leading to more reliable diagnostic outcomes and improved performance in real-world applications. The authors finished that their approach contributes to more accurate and timely heart disease diagnosis, ultimately benefiting healthcare decision-making processes. Kaushalya Dissanayake *et al*.[13] Developed a study in which the models were trained with different subsets of features selected using various techniques and the objective of this work was to highlight the most appropriate approaches to feature selection for the prediction of heart problems. They remarked that findings from this analysis could contribute to more precise and competent diagnostic tools in the field of cardiovascular health, helping clinicians make better-informed decisions in patient care.

Robinson Spencer *et al*.[14] Formed aresearch which emphasizes that combining FST with appropriate ML algorithms significantly improves the outcome of the prediction model and thus they decided that it was necessary to experiment with various approaches to find the proper combination for the dataset and the specific use case at hand. They found that this approach ensures that models can be fine-tuned to maximize predictive performance, making them more useful and reliable in real-world medical applications. P. Vinnarasi, K. Menaka [15] Emphasize that the application of feature selection algorithms in healthcare holds considerable promise for reducing diagnostic costs while enhancing the accuracy and timeliness of disease detection. Their study integrates both filter and wrapper methods to effectively assess the influence of vitamin D levels, along with other clinical and demographic features, on thyroid function. The ability of these techniques to isolate the most relevant predictors contributes in developing more exact, well-organized diagnostic models. This efficiency arises from simplifying model architectures by eliminating irrelevant features, which in turn enhances predictive performance and interpretability in medical applications.

P. Usha, M.P. Anuradha [16] Demonstrate that FSTs are essential for the development of high-performing and computationally efficient machine learning models. These methods reduce storage requirements and computational complexity. In the medical domain, effective feature selection enables early disease detection, which supports timely clinical intervention, improves treatment outcomes, and has the potential to significantly increase patient survival rates. It can be concluded that relying solely on a single feature selection method may not produce optimal results. Instead, hybrid methods that integrate the powers of multiple techniques have demonstrated considerable improvements in both efficiency and predictive performance. Amene Ranjbar *et al*.[17] Conducted anorganized review that provides a comprehensive analysis of ML approaches employed in the prediction of preeclampsia, emphasizing the types of models used key predictive features and performance evaluation metrics reported in recent studies. Identifying and summarizing the predictive parameters associated with preeclampsia with the aid of ML tools and to assess the accuracy in the diagnosis of the problem was their foremost objective. These insights are inevitable for supporting early clinical decision-making and thus can improve the efficiency of the expected outcome.

Pakiza Amin *et al*.[18] Demonstrate that machine learning algorithms have the capacity to analyze diverse clinical datasets such as biomarkers, physiological measurements, and patient medical histories to support risk assessment and early diagnosis. This analytical capability underscores the growing significance of ML in prenatal care, where it assists clinicians in identifying high-risk pregnancies and making timely, evidence-based decisions. It is primarily categorized by raised bp and is often escorted by dysfunction in vital organs, particularly the liver and kidneys. Jafar Abdollahi *et al*.[19] Identified that FSTs could help to identify cardiac condition at an earlier stage as it is one of the most prominent reasons for death worldwide, driving significant research into the development of effective diagnostic and predictive strategies. Machine learning techniques have emerged as powerful tools in this area, capable of processing complex biomedical datasets to identify hidden patterns and enable early and accurate diagnosis. Their study highlights the efficacy of integrating feature selection with ensemble learning methods to augmentprognostic accuracy and improve the reliability of heart disease detection models.

Rajasekhar Chaganti *et al*. [20] Highlight that numerous studies have explored thyroid disease prediction using machine learning techniques, underscoring the growing clinical emphasis on early and accurate diagnosis. The thyroid gland plays a critical role in regulating key metabolic processes through the secretion of thyroid hormones, and its dysfunction can result in a variety of physiological disorders. Despite advancements, existing approaches often suffer from limitations such as the inclusion of irrelevant or redundant features, which can hinder predictive performance. This study addresses these challenges by proposing an integrated framework that leverages feature selection techniques alongside both machine learning and deep learning algorithms, aiming to enhance the accuracy and reliability of thyroid disease prediction.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

System Design

The present study which is to identify GH and Preeclampsia in gestational women concentrates on the improvisation of the results of classification with the reduction of features available in the given dataset. Collection of data, pre-processing the collected data, applying FST on the dataset and finally performing training and evaluation on the data to assure the model's performance were the steps involved in the system design phase of the work. The framework for this study includes essential steps such as collection of data, pre-processing the collected data, performing FST and the training and evaluation of model performance and results. This work highlights the critical role of FS strategies in accurately categorizing preeclampsia and hypertension disorders in gestational women.

Data Acquisition

The dataset referring to contains 1630 records of female patients during their gestational period, collected from various healthcare settings through Kaggle. The dataset includes labels for risk levels, we can examine if higher blood pressure consistently aligns with higher risk categories. There are more than parameters available in the dataset viz, client id, age, SBP,DBP levels. The dataset working with, it seems focused on maternal health, with variables concerning pregnancy status, health history, symptoms, and medical interventions. Description of the SBP and DBP datasets(Table:1)

Data Preparation

The data preparation usually performs the steps to improve the data which is suitable for ML algorithms for which it cleans and transforms the raw data into a more improved form. Data preprocessing usually includes Handling Missing Data in which the categorical features will be converted into numeral form.

Data Import

Pandas DataFrame accepts the data to be imported using the read_csv() function, enabling the dataset to be processed and examined within the Python environment.

Handling Missing Values: The '?' entries datasets are transformed into NaN (Not a Number) using the replace() function, promoting consistency in the representation of missing data for further processing. The method is applied to each column in the numerical_columns list. It identifies the missing values (NaN) and replaces them with the average of the non-missing values in that particular column. the first dataset, numerical columns clientid', 'wage', 'gage_wk', 'para', 'gravida', 'gage_20wk', 'htn_history', 'dm_history', 'convulsion', 'headache', 'blur','swelling','abdpain', 'danger_counsel_pe', 'blood', 'sbp_valid_avg', 'dbp_valid_avg', 'htn_valid', 'pe_valid', 'htn_fwv', 'pe_fwv', 'htn_fwv_bp', 'pe_fwv_bp', 'htn_fwv_bp_u', 'pe_fwv_bp_u', 'sbp_diff', 'dbp_diff', 'sbp_diff_abs', 'dbp_diff_abs', 'highdbp', 'dx_valid2', 'dx_valid3', 'dx_fwv2', 'magsulf'. The missing values with the mean preserves the statistical properties of the dataset by maintaining the central tendency, the distribution, and variability to a large extent. The categorical columns and encoding them into numerical values is quite effective for preparing the dataset for machine learning tasks. Mode imputation is a simple, effective, and statistically sound approach for handling missing values in categorical columns. It allows the dataset to remain consistent with the existing patterns, minimizes bias, and avoids unnecessary complexity.

Data Analysis: The info () function is a fundamental tool in pandas for quickly understanding the structure of a dataset. Handling missing data is a difficult part of the data cleaning process.

Label Encoding: The Label_Encoder from scikit_learn is typically used for converting categorical features (often in the form of strings) into numerical labels.

Splitting of Data:
The train_test_split() function from the sklearn. model_selection module separates the dataset into two. One of them is used for model training and the other is used for performance evaluation of the model.

Feature Selection Techniques (FST)
While performing ML problems, any model which involves the use of FST will produce more accurate results as it increases the FST is used to make the process more accurate. it also increases the forecasting power of the algorithms by choosing the most critical variables. This also eliminates the redundant and irrelevant variables. Feature Selection Techniques Methods (Fig.1)

Filter Methods: The method of feature selection techniques evaluates individual features based on statistical tests or metrics, rather than using a machine learning model, and then chooses those features that are deemed most appropriate. Filter Method (Fig.2)

Wrapper method: One of the most powerful wrapper methods among the wrapper methods is the Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) method. It uses a recursive approach to identify and eliminate the least important features in the dataset. **(Fig.3)**

Selecting the best subset
Embedded method: In this technique, the process of feature selection is directly integrates with the training process of the model. In the context of regularized linear models, such as logistic regression with L1 regularization (also known as Lasso), feature selection is naturally part of the model fitting procedure. **(Fig.4)**
Selecting the best subset

Proposed Hybrid Methods: In the proposed hybrid model, different model having different strengths and weaknesses are combined to produce the expected result. The hybrid models are powerful tools in machine learning. It can significantly improve performance, robustness, and generalization compared to using a single model alone.
The following two approaches have been recommended for use with datasets:

Recursive Feature Elimination(RFE with SVM after CFS)
Random Forest
Proposed hybrid RFE with SVM Algorithm (Fig.5)
Proposed hybrid Random Forest Algorithm (Fig.6)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Feature selection techniques (FST) are increasingly being applied in healthcare to improve the accuracy of predictive models and to identify critical features that influence various medical conditions. The power of FST in this context lies in its ability to handle large and complex datasets by selecting the most appropriate features that contribute to the development of conditions like gestational hypertension (GH)and preeclampsia**.** This configuration offered several advantages during the development of the analytical model, which was implemented using Jupiter Notebook within the Anaconda environment. Table 2 presents a comparison of performance of various FST approaches for predicting systolic (SBP) and diastolic (DBP) blood pressure. The models were evaluated using key performance metrics as suggested earlier. Among conventional methods, ANOVA using the F-statistic, Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE), and Logistic Regression demonstrated solid performance, with ANOVA achieving up to 95% accuracy. The proposed hybrid method that integrates Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) with RFE using SVM showed further improvement, attaining 98% accuracy and strong scores across other metrics. The Random Forest-based hybrid approach outperformed all others, achieving a perfect score of 1.00 across all evaluation metrics. This highlights its exceptional effectiveness in accurately predicting both SBP and DBP levels in the dataset. The performance metrics (in %) obtained by proposed and existing feature selection methods for SBP and DBP levels (Fig.7). In the analysis of the SBP and DBP dataset various FSTs including the proposed hybrid models. The top-performing method in each category was identified and evaluated using the well-known key performance metrices. Within the filter category, ANOVA with the F-statistic demonstrated consistently strong performance across all metrics. In the wrapper category, Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) achieved notable results, while Logistic Regression proved effective as an embedded method for selecting relevant features. The proposed hybrid approaches, integrating Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) with Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) in association with Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Random Forest classifiers, achieved greater output when compared with conventional algorithms. These hybrid models exhibited outstanding predictive capabilities for gestational hypertension and preeclampsia, consistently achieving over 98% across all key evaluation metrices.

Evaluation Metrics
Confusion Matrix
According to Jinhan Guan *et al*.,[21],the confusion matrix is a commonly utilized performance evaluation tool for classification models. It presents prediction results in a matrix format, where each row is represented with the actual class and each column is represented with the predicted class.
True Positive (TP): The presence of GH with Preeclampsia is accurately predicted.
True Negative (TN): Patient having GH with Preeclampsia is accurately predicted as not having the condition.
False Positive (FP): Predicts inaccurately those patients who doesn't have the condition.
False Negative (FN): Predicts incorrectly those who have the problem.

Accuracy: Among all the predictions discussed above, it is the proposition of only the correct predictions.
Precision: This measures the proportion of only the true positive cases out of all instances which are predicted as positive which includes false positives too.
Recall measures how well the model correctly identifies positive cases out of all actual positive cases**.** It is the proportion of true positives among all instances that are truly positive.
Specificity measures how well the model correctly identifies negative cases out of all actual negative cases**.**
F1-scoreis the harmonic mean of Precision and Sensitivity (Recall)**.** It provides a balanced measure of a model's performance

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+FP+FN+TN}$$

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP}$$

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$$

$$\text{Specificity} = \frac{TN}{TN+FP}$$

$$\text{F1-score} = \frac{(2*\text{Precision} * \text{Sensitivity})}{\text{Precision} + \text{Sensitivity}}$$

$$\text{F1-score} = \frac{(2*\text{Precision} *\text{Sensitivity})}{\text{Precision} + \text{Sensitivity}}$$

As shown in Fig.8, the confusion matrix serves complementary roles in evaluating feature selection and model performance. It indicates that the model rightly classified the majority of instances with 143 true negatives and 154 true positives. Only 16 false positives and 13 false negatives were observed, demonstrating strong though not flawless classification performance. This underscores the model's high capability to distinguish between the two classes. The ANOVA F-statistic plays an essential part in the identification of useful features that contribute to this performance. As shown in Fig.9, the Hybrid method of CFS + RFE with SVM has produced a highly effective classification model**,** demonstrating strong performance across key metrics. The ability of the model in correctly classifying150 positive instances (True Positives) and 160 negative instances (True Negatives) shows that it is effective at distinguishing between the two classes with high accuracy**.** The model incorrectly predicted 11 negative cases as positive. While the number is small, false positives can still have consequences in certain situations. The model missed 5 positive cases, predicting them as negative. While few, false negatives can be more critical in situations where identifying positive cases is essential.

Heatmap

A heatmap is a data visualization technique used to represent numerical data in a tabular format, where individual values are encoded with colors based on their magnitude. Arranged in a grid layout, heatmap display variables or categories along the rows and columns. The color intensity in each cell corresponds to the value of the data point, allowing for an intuitive and quick visual identification of patterns, trends, correlations, and anomalies within the dataset. In this study, Pearson correlation coefficients are utilized to assess the relationships between feature elements, with a heatmap employed to visually represent the correlation levels. As noted by Jinhan Guan *et al*.[21]. By understanding these relationships, the feature selection process can be refined to retain only the most relevant and independent features. Fig.10,presents the heatmap representation of the prediction results for gestational hypertension and preeclampsia. This shows how the variables in the dataset are related to one another. Stronger positive correlations are shown by darker shades, especially those that veer closer to red, which implies that if one of

the variables grows, the other also tends to grow. On the other hand, darker shades that lean towards blue, show stronger negative associations, meaning that when one variable rises, the other tends to fall.

Experimental Evaluation

A comprehensive overview of the FSTs employed on the dataset provided in Table 1 summarizes the performance of various feature selection methods and classification algorithms evaluated on the SBP and DBP dataset. Most methods including the ANOVA F-statistic filter, Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE), Logistic Regression, and Random Forest achieved perfect or near-perfect results across all metrics. The Random Forest-based hybrid method demonstrated flawless performance, with all metrics are equal. The hybrid method combining Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) and Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) with Support Vector Machine (SVM) produced slightly lower but still strong results, achieving an accuracy of 0.98, precision of 0.97, recall of 0.98, and an F1-score of 0.98.In contrast, .the Wrapper method (RFE) and the Embedded method (Logistic Regression) exhibited comparatively lower performance, particularly in recall and F1-score. Table 3 presents the results of an existing feature selection algorithm applied using various feature selection techniques to evaluate gestational hypertension and preeclampsia levels. These techniques are categorized into filter, wrapper, embedded, and hybrid methods. The table highlights the key attributes identified by each technique as most relevant for predicting gestational hypertension and preeclampsia. Specifically, several combinations of features like gt, sbp_valid_avg, pe_valid, dbp_diff', dx_valid3 were emphasized by the Filter Method (ANOVA F-statistic), which focuses on blood pressure measurements, hypertension status, and various diagnostics. The Wrapper Methods (RFE) highlighted hypertension-related variables such as clientid, dx_valid2,htn_valid,highdbp,dbp_valid_avg.Embedded Methods (Logistic Regression) revealed a range of health-related features, including ancvisit,sbp_valid_avg,sbp_diff,dbp_diff,dbp_diff_abs and other blood pressure-related variables. The first hybrid model in which combining CFS + RFE with SVM**,** captured more complex interactions between patient history, demographics, blood pressure readings, gt,ifa,dbp_valid_cat,dx_fwv_bp,htn_fwv_bp and diagnostic data. Hybrid Method 2 is the most effective feature selection method among those evaluated, owing to its comprehensive inclusion of relevant variables and alignment with features identified by other methods. Notably, features such as gt,ifa,dbp_valid_cat,dx_fwv_bp,htn_fwv_bp emerged as robust predictors**,** consistently selected across multiple techniques highlighting their importance in predictive modeling. The study highlights the importance of selecting FSTs that are specifically suited to the characteristics of each dataset. The different methods discussed above offer a variety of strategies for identifying key features. Each method emphasizes different aspects of the dataset, from blood pressure readings to patient history and diagnostic information. The combination of multiple feature selection algorithms into hybrid approaches, as seen in techniques like CFS + RFE with SVM and Random Forest, presents a viable strategy for enhancing classification accuracy.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the vital role of FST in enhancing the performance of predictive models in the healthcare domain, particularly for identifying key factors influencing systolic and diastolic blood pressure variations associated with gestational hypertension and preeclampsia. By applying a diverse set of FSTsas discussed, this analysis effectively identified the most relevant features, leading to improved model accuracy, enhanced interpretability, and greater overall predictive reliability. A comprehensive evaluation of filter, wrapper, embedded, and hybrid feature selection approaches was carried out using key performance metrices to assess their effectiveness. The findings highlight the critical role of SBP and DBP sure levels as significant indicators in the early detection of preeclampsia**,** reinforcing their relevance in predictive modeling for gestational hypertension. Among the evaluated methods, hybrid feature selection techniques proved most effective, consistently isolating the most relevant features while maintaining high classification accuracy and overall model performance. By focusing on SBP and DBP alongside additional clinical attributes including maternal age, blood sugar levels, body temperature, and heart rate, the research emphasizes the multifactorial complexity of these pregnancy related health concerns. While traditional methods such as ANOVA (Filter) and Recursive Feature Elimination (Wrapper) yielded commendable results, hybrid approaches particularly those integrating Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) with RFE using Support Vector

Machines (SVM) and Random Forest demonstrated significantly superior performance. Among all methods evaluated, the Random Forest-based hybrid model emerged as the most effective, achieving perfect classification scores across all key performance metrics. The experimental results indicate that employing effective feature selection strategies enables accurate classification using a minimal subset of features and reduced computational time. By isolating only the most relevant features related to the problem, the approach reduces algorithmic complexity while enhancing the model's predictive accuracy. Future work could further improve prediction performance by incorporating more extensive experimentation with diverse machine learning models.

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Table 1: Description of the SBP and DBP datasets

Feature Name	Feature Type	Description
client -id	numerical	Patient id number
wage	numerical	Age of the patient
gage_wk	numerical	Constant whose value characteristic a member
ancvisit	nominal	During pregnancy of access health
para	numerical	A set 0 facts or fixed
gravida	numerical	Quantity the total number of delivery has completed past 20 week
mage_cat	nominal	Mother age categories
gravida_cat	nominal	A pregnant women number of pregnancy
gage_cat	numerical	Gage is pet boy name
gage_20wk	numerical	Instrument for meaning a dimension and accuracy
gage_cat2	nominal	Instrument for meaning a number of dimension and accuracy
anc_cat	nominal	Neutrals in the blood
htn_history	numerical	Hypertension essential
dm_history	numerical	Diabetes mellitus-blood sugar
convulsion	numerical	Uncontrolled muscle spasms
headache	numerical	A pain located in the head
blur	numerical	Eye issue
swelling	numerical	Abnormal or under my eye
abdpain	numerical	Stomach pain
anger_assess_any	nominal	Danger assessment
danger_counsel_any	nominal	Abortion –level of danger
danger_counsel_pe	numerical	Health problem-during after delivery
hb	nominal	Hemoglobin
gt	nominal	Gestational diabetes
blood	numerical	Light bleeding –end of pregnancy
glucose	nominal	Glucose challenge test
usg	nominal	Ultrasound (sonogram)uterus
ifa	nominal	Iron-folic acid(gestational outcomes)
calc	nominal	Estimated due data
magsulf_im	nominal	Serious complication of pregnancy
magsulf_iv	nominal	Intravenously

diazepum	nominal	Weight loss infants
antihtn	nominal	Fetoacinar protein
sbp_fwv_cat	numerical	Both mom and baby safe during pregnancy
sbp_valid_avg	numerical	Higher> 160 levels
sbp_valid_cat	numerical	Sbp atleast 140mmhg
dbp_fwv_cat	numerical	Predict parturition
dbp_valid_avg	numerical	Low maximum dbp
dbp_valid_cat	numerical	Before(dbp)
dx_valid	nominal	Pregnant state –code maternity
dx_fwv	nominal	Abnormal blood flow
dx_fwv_bp	nominal	Blood pressure 140/90 mm hg
dx_fwv_bp_u	nominal	Fahrenheit-factors
htn_valid	nominal	Gestational hypertension s=140, d=90
pe_valid	numerical	Pulmonary embolism
htn_fwv	numerical	Gestational hypertension
pe_fwv	numerical	Pulmoncery embolism(pe)
htn_fwv_bp	numerical	Hypertension with superimposed preeclampsia
pe_fwv_bp	numerical	Very high blood pressure
htn_fwv_bp_u	numerical	Hypertension levels high blood pressure
pe_fwv_bp_u	numerical	High blood pressure-preeclampsia
sbp_diff	numerical	SBP-DBP
dbp_diff	numerical	Higher dbp
sbp_diff_abs	numerical	Normal pregnancy 10-15 mm hg(sbp)
dbp_diff_abs	numerical	Normal pregnancy 10-15 mm hg(dbp)
highdbp	numerical	Higher 140/90
dx_valid2	numerical	Female I st trimester (<14 week)
dx_valid3	numerical	Supervision normal pregnancy
dx_fwv2	numerical	Pregnancy related condition
magsulf	numerical	Risk of magnesion sulfare

Table 2: Comparison of Performance Metrics of Various Approaches for SBP and DBP Levels

Performance Metrics/ Methods	Methods	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score
Filter Method	Using ANOVA F-Statistic	0.95	0.96	0.93	0.94
Wrapper Method	Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE)	0.91	0.91	0.82	0.90
Embedded Method	Regularized Linear Models (Logistic Regression)	0.79	0.86	0.69	0.76
Hybrid Method1(CFS+RFE with SVM)	Correlation-Based Feature Selection (CFS)+Recursive Feature Elimination(RFE) with SVM	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.98
Hybrid Method2(Random Forest)	Random Forest	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Table 3: Selected Features by Existing Feature Selection Algorithms (SBP and DBP Dataset)

Existing Feature Selection Methods	Technique	Top 5 key selected features
Filter Method	ANOVA F-statistic	gt, sbp_valid_avg, pe_valid, dbp_diff, dx_valid3
Wrapper Method	Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE)	clientid,dx_valid2,htn_valid,highdbp,dbp_valid_avg
Embedded Method	Regularized Linear Models (Logistic Regression)	ancvisit,sbp_valid_avg,sbp_diff,dbp_diff,dbp_diff_abs
Hybrid Method1	Correlation-Based Feature Selection (CFS)+Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) with SVM	gt,ifa,dbp_valid_cat,dx_fwv_bp,htn_fwv_bp
Hybrid Method2	Random Forest	clientid, wage, gage_wk, gravid,mage_cat, gage_2wk,

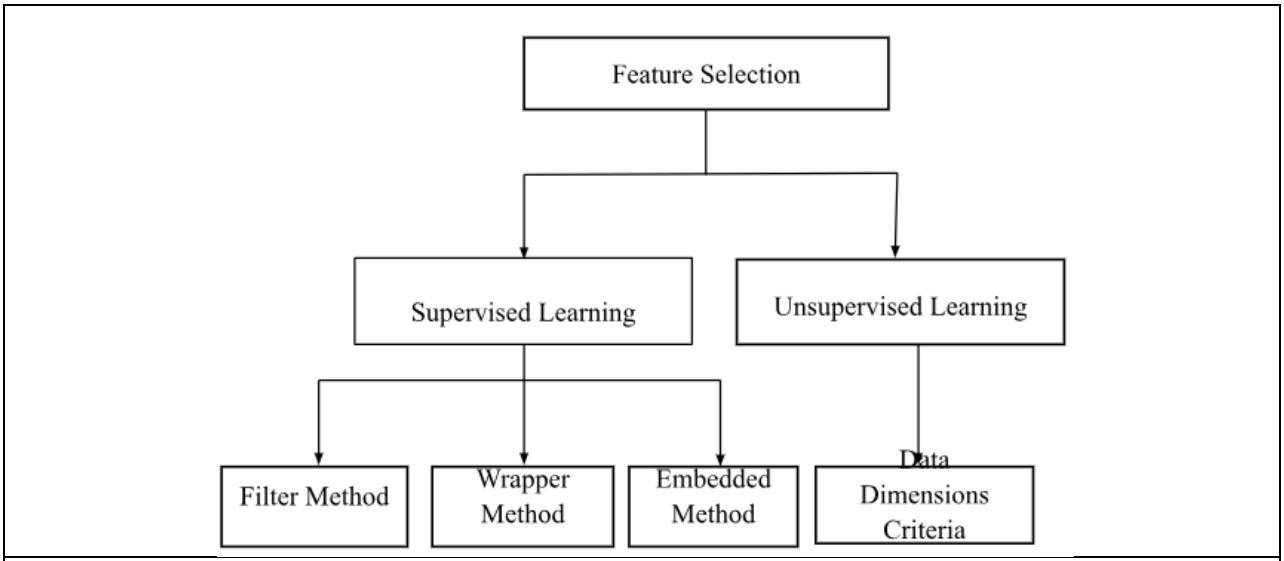


Fig.1: Feature Selection Techniques Methods

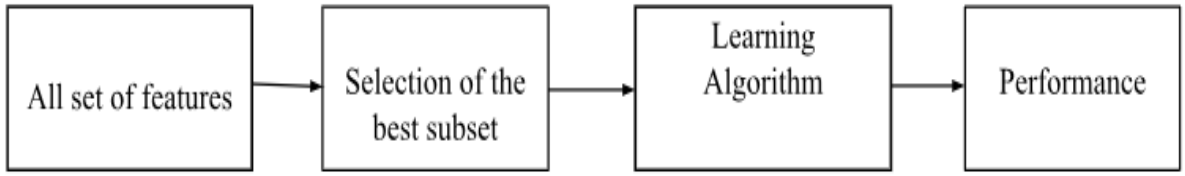


Fig.2:Filter Method

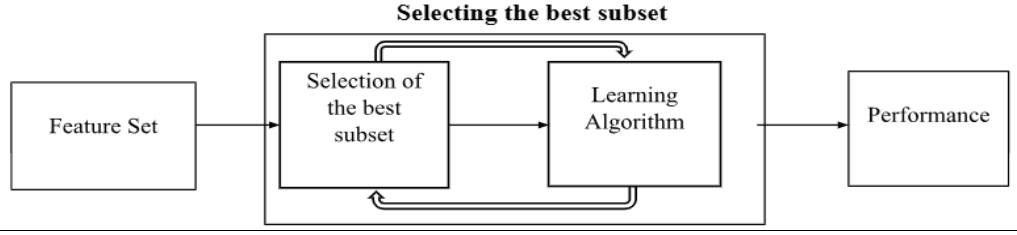


Fig.3:Wrapper Method

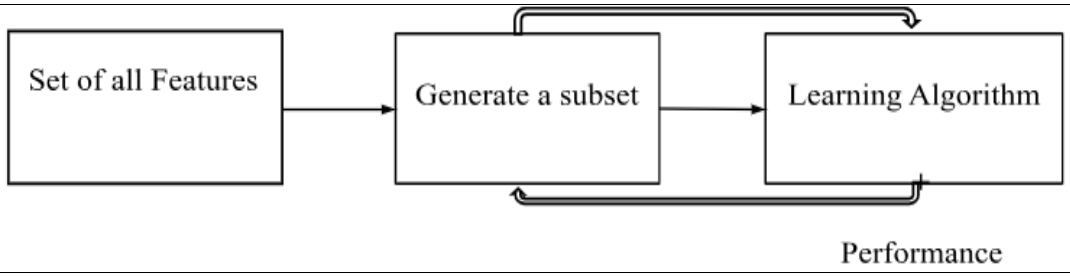


Fig.4: Embedded Method

Algorithm: Selected feature (RFE with SVM after CFS):

Input:

- Dataset (d f)

Process:

1. Load the dataset
2. Replace '?' with Na N
3. Handle missing values: numerical columns
4. Splitting up of data as training and testing sets
5. Find Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS)
   i. Find highly correlated features
   ii. Remove correlated features
6. Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) with SVM
7. Fit SVM model on the selected features
8. Evaluate the model performance:
   i. Compute accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.
   ii. Formulate a confusion matrix.

Output: Selected features and evaluation metrics.

Fig. 5: Proposed hybrid RFE with SVM Algorithm

Algorithm: Accuracy using selected features (Random Forest):

Input:

- Dataset (d f)

Process:

1. Load the dataset
2. Replace '?' with Na N
3. Handle missing values: numerical columns
4. Splitting up of the data as training and testing sets
5. Find Random Forest for feature selection
6. Get feature importance
7. Identify important features based on importance greater than 0
8. Train the Random Forest model on the important features
9. Making predictions on the test set for Random Forest
10. Evaluate the model performance:
    i. Compute performance metrices.
    ii. Formulate confusion matrix.

Output: Features and evaluation metrics.

Fig. 6: Proposed hybrid Random Forest Algorithm

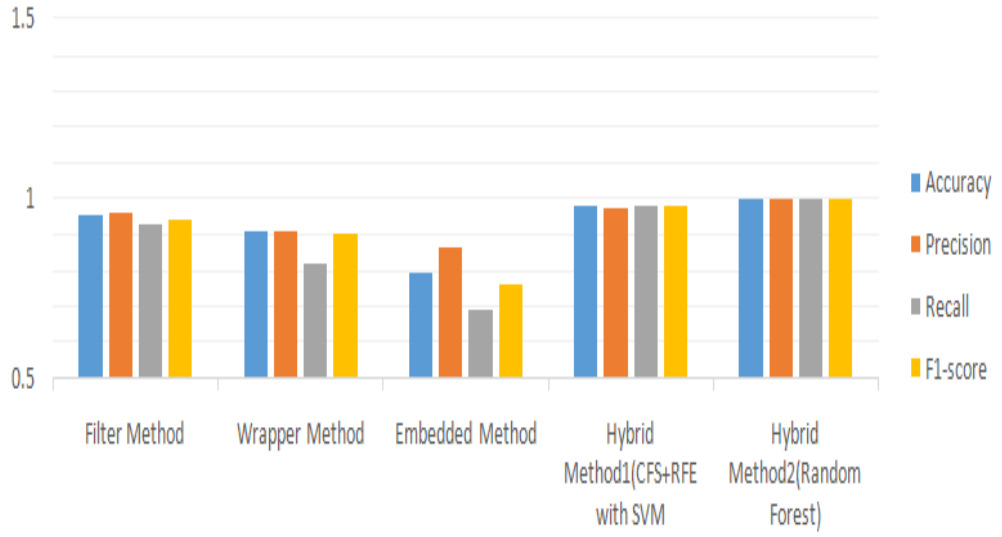


Fig.7: The performance metrics (in %) obtained by proposed and existing feature selection methods for SBP and DBP levels.

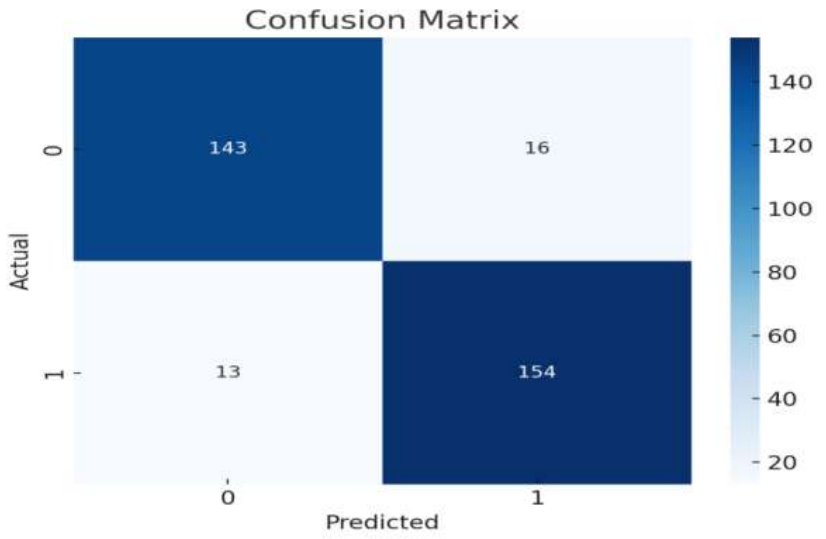


Fig.8: Confusion matrix for evaluating feature selection and model performance.

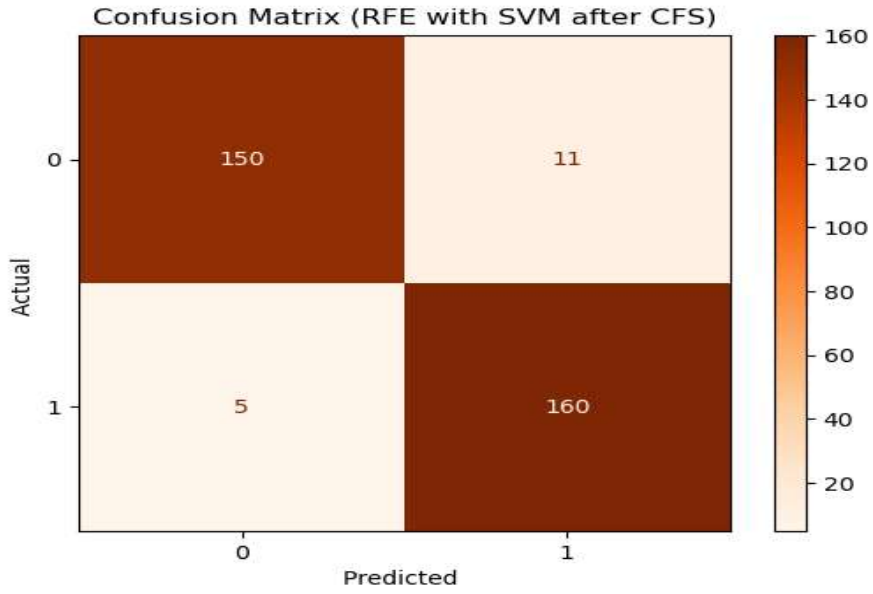


Fig. 9: Confusion matrix (Hybrid CFS + RFE (SVM))

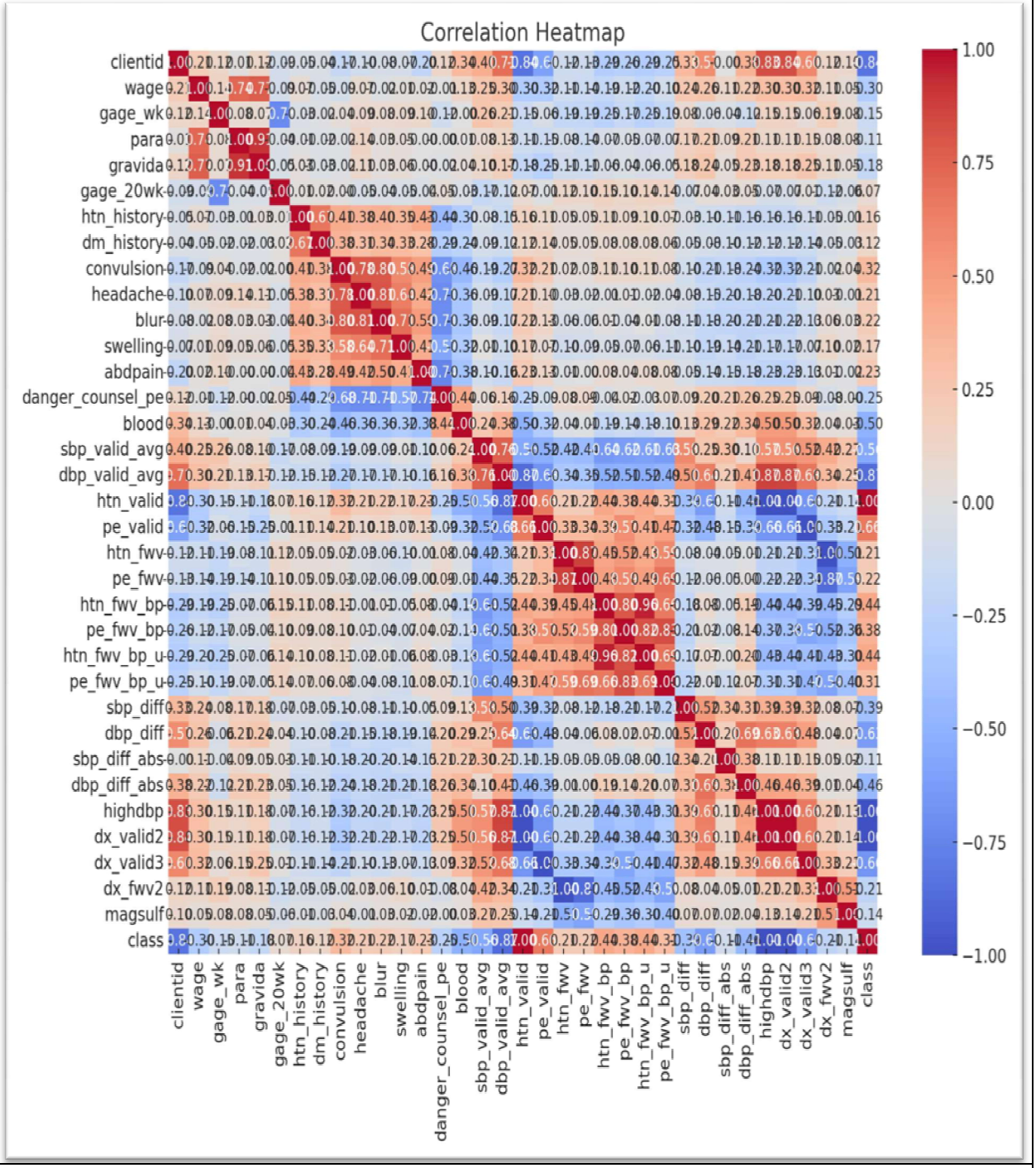


Fig. 10: Correlation heatmap for representation of the prediction results for gestational hypertension and preeclampsia

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

An Immediate Effect of Neurodynamic Mobilization for Sciatic Nerve vs Post Isometric Relaxation on Flexibility for Class Room Seating Students with Piriformis Muscle Tightness - A Pilot Study

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ABSTRACT

"An Immediate Effect of Neurodynamic Mobilization for sciatic nerve vs Post isometric relaxation on Flexibility for class room seating students with piriformis Muscle Tightness-A Pilot Study". Prolonged sitting in classrooms can tighten the piriformis muscle, irritating the sciatic nerve and reducing hip flexibility. Students are especially vulnerable as sitting for long periods can shorten hip muscles, with the piriformis being particularly prone to tightness due to a lack of regular stretching. To compare the immediate effectiveness of Neurodynamic Mobilization (NDM) and Post Isometric Relaxation (PIR) on pain reduction, and range of motion (ROM) in classroom-seating students with piriformis muscle tightness. A pilot study on students with diagnosed piriformis muscle tightness used the FAIR test. Twenty patients were divided into two groups: Group A received isometric relaxation, and Group B underwent sciatic nerve neurodynamic mobilization. Pain intensity (NPRS) and hip flexion ROM (goniometry) were assessed pre- and post-intervention. A show that Group A (isometric relaxation) had a mean hip flexion ROM change of 9.98 and an NPRS change of 38.15. Group B (neurodynamic mobilization) had a hip flexion ROM change of 11.52 and an NPRS change of 49.41, indicating that Group B was more effective. Both techniques improved piriformis flexibility, but neurodynamic mobilization had a greater effect than post-isometric relaxation.

Keywords: Neurodynamic mobilization, fair test, post isometric relaxation, sciatic nerve, piriformis muscle

INTRODUCTION

Prolonged sitting has become an integral part of student life, particularly in academic settings. Studies indicate that extended periods of sitting can lead to postural dysfunction, muscular imbalances, and tightness in key muscle groups, such as the piriformis muscle [1]. The piriformis muscle, which is a deep external rotator of the hip located in the gluteal region, plays an essential role in maintaining the stability of the hip joint. It contributes significantly to various hip movements, particularly by facilitating abduction of the thigh when the hip is flexed and assisting in lateral rotation of the hip. This muscle's functions are crucial for the overall mechanics of the lower body, as it helps to stabilize the pelvis during activities such as walking, running, and maintaining posture[2]. However, when the piriformis muscle becomes excessively tight, overactive, or hypertrophic, it can exert pressure on the underlying sciatic nerve. This compression often leads to a range of symptoms, including localized or radiating pain, a tingling sensation, numbness, and a noticeable reduction in flexibility and range of motion. This set of symptoms is collectively referred to as piriformis syndrome, a condition that can significantly impact daily activities and overall quality of life[3]. Piriformis syndrome is a condition that is primarily characterized by a variety of symptoms, including a noticeable reduction in hip range of motion, persistent sciatic pain, and significant functional limitations. These symptoms can greatly interfere with an individual's ability to perform physical activities and can have a profound negative impact on their overall quality of life. This condition is particularly common among individuals who spend extended periods in a seated position, such as students who are required to sit for long hours in classrooms. The sedentary nature of their lifestyle makes them more susceptible to the development of piriformis syndrome and its associated complications[4]. If left untreated, piriformis syndrome can gradually worsen over time, leading to persistent or chronic discomfort that may significantly disrupt an individual's daily life. The continuous pain and muscle tightness associated with the condition can make even simple tasks, such as walking, sitting for extended periods, or climbing stairs, increasingly difficult. This ongoing discomfort not only reduces overall physical efficiency but also negatively impacts performance during routine activities, potentially leading to limitations in mobility and a decline in quality of life. Furthermore, prolonged muscle tightness and nerve compression can create imbalances in movement patterns, placing excessive strain on surrounding muscles and joints. Over time, these compensatory movements may contribute to the development of long-term musculoskeletal complications, such as postural abnormalities, joint dysfunction, or secondary injuries, further exacerbating pain and functional limitations. Without appropriate intervention, individuals may find themselves caught in a cycle of discomfort and restricted movement, making early diagnosis and treatment essential for preventing further progression of the condition[5]. Tightness in the piriformis muscle, along with its associated symptoms, poses a considerable challenge for individuals who lead predominantly sedentary lifestyles.

The reduced flexibility caused by this muscle tightness can impair physical function, limiting the range of motion and ease of movement. Additionally, these impairments increase the likelihood of injuries, further complicating the individual's ability to engage in physical activities or maintain a healthy, active lifestyle [5]. Addressing this issue requires targeted therapeutic interventions designed to alleviate muscle tension, restore flexibility, and enhance neuromuscular function. Muscle tightness and restricted mobility can lead to discomfort, impaired movement, and reduced overall physical performance. To manage these issues effectively, various physiotherapeutic techniques have been developed, each aiming to improve muscle elasticity, relieve tension, and optimize functional movement. Among these techniques, neurodynamic mobilization and post-isometric relaxation [PIR] are widely utilized due to their effectiveness in addressing both muscular and neural restrictions. Neurodynamic mobilization, in particular, focuses on the systematic application of controlled and graded movements to enhance the mobility and elasticity of the nervous system. This technique is especially beneficial for individuals experiencing nerve-related pain and dysfunction, as it helps restore normal nerve gliding, reduces neural tension, and alleviates symptoms of nerve entrapment. One of the key areas where neurodynamic mobilization is commonly applied is the sciatic nerve, which, when compressed or irritated, can lead to conditions such as sciatica. By incorporating gentle yet precise movements, this approach helps improve nerve function, reduce pain, and restore normal movement patterns, ultimately contributing to overall musculoskeletal health. [6]. This technique has been widely recognized for its ability to reduce

neural tension, enhance joint and muscle mobility, and alleviate discomfort associated with nerve compression. By targeting restricted neural pathways, it facilitates the smooth gliding of nerves through surrounding tissues, minimizing irritation and restoring normal function. Additionally, the technique promotes improved circulation within neural structures, reducing inflammation and contributing to overall nerve health. As a result, individuals experiencing conditions such as sciatica, carpal tunnel syndrome, and radiculopathy often benefit from significant pain relief, increased range of motion, and enhanced functional performance. When incorporated into a comprehensive rehabilitation program, this approach can aid in long-term recovery and prevent recurring nerve-related issues[7]. In contrast, post-isometric relaxation (PIR) is a specialized muscle energy technique that integrates isometric muscle contractions with subsequent passive stretching to improve muscular function. This method involves an initial phase where the targeted muscle is contracted against resistance without changing its length, followed by a relaxation phase in which the muscle is gently stretched. By utilizing this technique, PIR helps to release muscle tension, reduce excessive muscle tone (hypertonicity), and alleviate stiffness, ultimately leading to improved flexibility and range of motion. Additionally, PIR is commonly used in rehabilitation and therapeutic settings to address musculoskeletal imbalances, promote neuromuscular relaxation, and enhance overall movement efficiency. It is particularly beneficial for individuals with restricted mobility, chronic muscle tightness, or conditions such as postural imbalances and muscular pain syndromes [8]. While both techniques are effective in clinical practice, there is limited evidence directly comparing their efficacy in improving flexibility, particularly in students with piriformis muscle tightness.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The study was conducted after obtaining institutional ethical authorization. The Population were distributed using a basic simple random sampling approach.

Participants

A comparative study was conducted on 20 participants with piriformis muscle tightness and immediate effect was seen. The study included both genders, ages between 20-30 years, with classroom setting of minimum 6 hours/day [3]. History of the trauma of the lumbar spine, Neuromuscular issue lower extremity pain and any pathology previous foot surgery, fracture of lower extremity and congenital deformity of L.E were excluded[9]. The tightness of the Piriformis muscle was assessed by the FAIR test In the FAIR (Flexion, Adduction, and Internal Rotation) test, the patient should be positioned lying on their side, ensuring that the unaffected leg remains on the bottom for stability. The examiner then positions the affected (upper) hip into 90 degrees of flexion, with the knee also bent at a 90-degree angle. To maintain accuracy in assessment, it is crucial to stabilize the patient's hip to prevent any unintended movement that could influence the test outcome. Once the patient is correctly positioned, the examiner carefully guides the affected leg into adduction and internal rotation. Throughout the manoeuvre, close observation is necessary to assess whether the patient experiences any reproduction of sciatic symptoms, such as pain localized in the buttock region or radiating discomfort extending down the leg. A positive FAIR test is confirmed if these symptoms are provoked during the movement, indicating possible compression or irritation of the sciatic nerve, often associated with conditions like piriformis syndrome.

Study design

The research was initiated following approval from the institutional review board. Commencing the study, written consent was obtained from each participant. Based on the predefined inclusion criteria, the participants were categorized into two groups. Specifically, Group A (N=10) underwent post-isometric relaxation, while Group B (N=10) received neurodynamic mobilization targeting the sciatic never. Pre-intervention and post-intervention assessments were conducted to measure the outcomes Hip flexion ROM and NPRS. Group A post-Isometric Relaxation Group Post-Isometric Relaxation (PIR) is a muscle energy technique employed to alleviate tightness in the piriformis muscle, which can contribute to sciatic nerve compression. This method involves an isometric contraction of the target muscle followed by a passive stretch, aiming to enhance flexibility and reduce discomfort.

Procedure for PIR on the Piriformis Muscle

Group A post-Isometric Relaxation Group

Post-isometric relaxation was administered to 10 students. Patient Positioning: The patient lies supine with the affected leg flexed at the hip and knee. The therapist gently moves the patient's hip into flexion, adduction, and internal rotation until a mild stretch is felt in the piriformis region. The patient is instructed to attempt to move their knee outward against the therapist's resistance, generating an isometric contraction of the piriformis muscle. This contraction is held for approximately 5–10 seconds. Upon relaxation, the therapist gently increases the stretch by moving the hip further into flexion, adduction, and internal rotation. This process is typically repeated 3–5 times, progressively increasing the range of motion with each repetition [9,10].

Group B Neurodynamic Mobilization Of sciatic nerve

Group B NDS for sciatic nerve was administered to 10 students Tomobilize the sciatic nerve gently without placing it under significant tension. Lie on your back with both legs extended Bend one knee and grasp the back of your thigh with both hands. Gently straighten the knee while simultaneously flexing the ankle (bringing toes toward you). Then, bend the knee and point the toes away 3 sets of 20 sliders [11].

RESULTS

The 20 students were evaluated by FAIR test. pre and post data were analysed. The SPSS version 25 was used for the checking normality of distribution. We test Normality distribution test for all outcomes measure for both Groups, based on Shapiro-wilk test most of outcomes measure our null hypothesis is rejected for both Group and assume all outcomes measure are not normally distributed. So, we can use non parametric test for statistically significant. Mean of Age in Group A and B (Table : 1). We use statistical two sample t Test for between Group of Age. P value of between both Group of Age is 0.61, So we can say that Our Both Group are randomly equally distributed. Within Group Analysis of Rom, NPRS for Group A And Group B (Table 2). Here within group of A and B analysis by Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test, P value is <0.001 Here we can say that statistical highly significance for both group from pre to post comparison. Between Group A and B analysis by Mann-Whitney Test. P value of All Pre-to-Pre comparisons. Between Group Analysis of Rom, NPRS in Both the Groups. (TABLE 3). Between Group Analysis of Rom and NPRS in Both the Groups (GRAPH 1). Mean Group Analysis of Rom and NPRS in Both the Groups (GRAPH 2)

DISCUSSION

Piriformis muscle tightness, particularly in individuals between the ages of 20 and 30 who spend extended periods sitting, can contribute to significant discomfort and an increased risk of sciatic nerve compression. Prolonged sitting, especially with poor posture or inadequate lumbar support, can place excessive strain on the piriformis muscle, leading to stiffness and reduced flexibility. This muscle, located deep within the gluteal region, plays a crucial role in hip stabilization and movement. When it becomes overly tight or irritated, it can exert pressure on the underlying sciatic nerve, resulting in a condition known as piriformis syndrome. Piriformis syndrome commonly manifests as pain, numbness, tingling, or a burning sensation in the buttocks, hip, or upper leg, with symptoms sometimes radiating down the posterior thigh and even into the lower leg or foot. Individuals affected by this condition may experience discomfort that worsens with prolonged sitting, climbing stairs, or engaging in physical activities that require repetitive hip movement. In severe cases, mobility may be restricted, leading to difficulties in performing daily tasks or maintaining an active lifestyle. Without proper intervention, such as targeted stretching, strengthening exercises, or therapeutic techniques like neuromobilization, the condition may persist or worsen, potentially impacting overall musculoskeletal health and functional performance[12]. Extended periods of sitting can exacerbate piriformis muscle tightness. Individuals with piriformis syndrome often experience increased discomfort when sitting for more than 20 to 30 minutes, with symptoms intensifying during hip rotation in flexion and knee extension [13]. In present study will have taken age group of 20 to 30 with sitting hours of 20 to 30 minutes per day, as these

population have high prevalence of piriformis tightness. In the Post-Isometric Relaxation (PIR) method, a forceful muscle contraction activates the Golgi Tendon Organ (GTO), which then sends inhibitory signals to the spinal cord, reducing motor neuron activity and muscle tone. This process leads to relaxation and elongation of the agonist muscle. PIR utilizes this neurophysiological response by first contracting tight muscles isometrically before allowing them to lengthen during relaxation. Muscle tension is released using gravity. Limited evidence suggests that sustained muscle stretching promotes myofibrillogenesis, where sarcomeres increase in series to maintain optimal actin-myosin overlap, potentially resulting in permanent muscle lengthening if consistently practiced[14]. Neurodynamic techniques are specialized therapeutic interventions aimed at evaluating and restoring the natural mobility and function of the nervous system, particularly in individuals experiencing nerve tightness, entrapment, or irritation. These techniques involve carefully controlled movements and specific positioning to mobilize neural structures, thereby reducing nerve tension, alleviating pain, and enhancing overall function. A case study conducted by Gadham *et al*. highlighted the effectiveness of neuromobilization techniques in managing chronic radiculopathy affecting the first sacral nerve root. The study focused on a patient who had been experiencing persistent nerve-related pain and functional limitations, despite undergoing conventional physical therapy treatments. Following multiple sessions of neuromobilization, the patient reported significant pain reduction, improved mobility, and better functional outcomes. These findings suggest that neuromobilization can serve as a valuable alternative treatment strategy, particularly for individuals who do not respond adequately to standard physical therapy interventions[15]. Research by Castellote-Caballero *et al*. (2014) compared the immediate effects of neurodynamic sliding techniques versus muscle stretching on hip flexion.

The study concluded that the neurodynamic sliding technique provided a greater immediate improvement in hip flexion, as assessed by passive straight leg raise, than hamstring stretching or placebo [16] Piriformis tightness, characterized by sciatic nerve irritation due to piriformis muscle tightness, can be effectively managed using neurodynamic techniques. These methods aim to improve nerve mobility and reduce muscle stiffness, leading to immediate pain relief and enhanced range of motion. A study by Ankar P, *at el*; the effects of neuromuscular training combined with neurodynamic solutions on individuals with piriformis tightness. The intervention led to a reduction in piriformis muscle stiffness, improved range of motion, and immediate alleviation of pain[17]. Similarly, a study by Deshmukh *et al*. assessed the impact of PIR on piriformis tightness in patients with chronic low back pain with radiation. The results demonstrated that PIR significantly alleviated pain, increased range of motion, and decreased muscle tightness, with sustained effects observed during follow-up assessments[18]. Nambi *et al*. conducted a comparative study to assess the effectiveness of two muscle energy techniques, namely Post-Isometric Relaxation (PIR) and Reciprocal Inhibition (RI), in individuals diagnosed with piriformis syndrome. The study aimed to determine which technique provided better relief from symptoms associated with the condition, such as pain, restricted hip mobility, and functional impairments. The results demonstrated that the PIR technique was significantly more effective than the RI method in alleviating pain, increasing hip joint range of motion, and enhancing overall functional performance. These findings suggest that PIR may be a more beneficial approach in the rehabilitation and management of piriformis syndrome[19]. In this study, the between-group analysis indicated that neither group demonstrated statistically significant differences ($p>0.01$) in reducing tightness. However, within-group analysis revealed that the pre-mean of group A was 96.50and post 107.20 for hip flexion ROM, and NPRS per mean 4.70 and post 7.60 and the pre-mean of group B was 96.00 and post mean 108.50 for hip flexion ROM and for NPRS per mean 4.30 and post 8.50. The post mean for group A decreased to 9.98 for hip flexion ROM and 38.16 FOR NPRS, while for group B, it decreased to 11.52 for Hip flexion ROM and 49.41 for NPRS. This suggests that neurodynamic mobilization of the sciatic nerve, represented by group B, is effective in reducing tightness within the group B, despite the lack of significant differences when comparing the two groups. So according to various previous studies, it is concluded that the neurodynamic mobilization of the siatic nerve improves flexibility and reduces tightness.

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Table: 1 Mean of Age in Group A and B

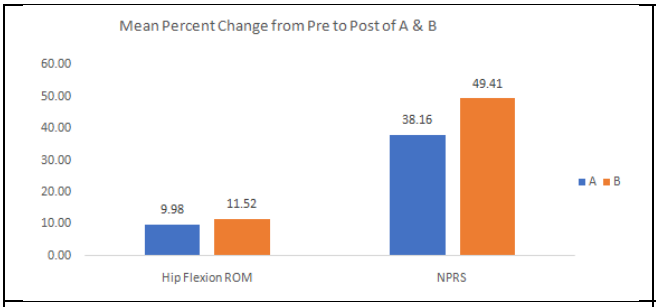
	Group	Mean	SD	P Value
Age	A	21.10	2.18	0.61
	B	21.50	1.08	

Table: 2 within Group Analysis of ROM, NPRS for Group A and Group B

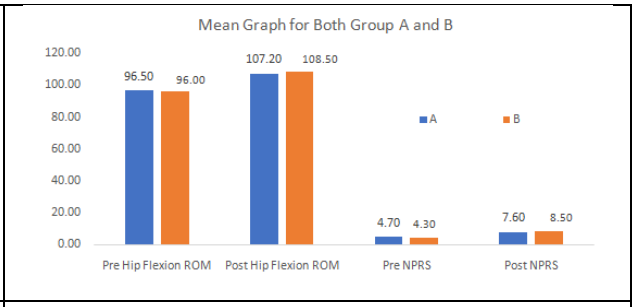
Outcomes Measures	**A**			**B**			**P-VALUE (between group)**
	Mean	SD	P-VALUE	Mean	SD	P-VALUE	
Pre-Hip Flexion ROM	96.50	7.06	P<.001	96.00	6.99	P<.001	0.87
Post Hip Flexion ROM	107.20	4.05		108.50	6.15		0.42
Pre NPRS	4.70	1.06	P<.001	4.30	0.82	P<.001	0.37
Post NPRS	7.60	0.97		8.50	0.71		0.03

Table: 3 Between Group Analysis of ROM, NPRS in Both the Groups.

Group	**Pre-Hip Flexion ROM**	**Post Hip Flexion ROM**	**Mean Percent Change from Pre to Post**	**Pre NPRS**	**Post NPRS**	**Mean Percent Change from Pre to Post**
A	96.50	107.20	9.98	4.70	7.60	38.16
B	96.00	108.50	11.52	4.30	8.50	49.41



Graph 1: Between Group Analysis of Rom and NPRS in Both the Groups



Graph 2 : Mean Group Analysis of Rom and NPRS in Both the Groups

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Optimal Land Allocation in Agriculture Production Planning via Fuzzy Linear Programming

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ABSTRACT

The best way to produce many seasonal crops at optimal yield within a planning year in agricultural systems is to solve land-use planning problems through the efficient modeling and use of fuzzy goal programming, as the study demonstrates. The problem model formulation ambiguously states the targeted levels of crop output, the availability of productive resources, the total expected profit from the farm, and the use of all the cultivable space. As their attainment levels are defined for the membership functions of the problem's fuzzy objectives, the membership goals with the lowest under-deviational variables and the highest membership value (unity) are taken into account when making decisions. This is based on the rankings of importance for reaching the desired levels of the fuzzy goals as much as is practical. Tamil Nadu, District Thiruvarur is considered as a research region. In order to demonstrate the potential use of the method, the model's answer is contrasted with the District's current cropping plan and the solution to the problem that was produced by applying the additive fuzzy goal programming model that previously investigated.

Keywords: Crop, Fuzzy logic, Trapezoidal Membership; Fuzzy Linear Programming.
Mathematics Subject Classification (MSC2020): 03E72, 49N05.

INTRODUCTION

A significant problem is bringing together concerns about agricultural production and food security. Given that a wide range of factors, including market structures, ecological conditions, political environments, and so forth, have a direct impact on agriculture, appropriate problem-solving techniques that consider these intricately interwoven and dynamic system variables and drivers are necessary [1]. It is equally crucial to include the many points of view held by various stakeholders [2]. Uncertainty is a key component of any agricultural planning since some aspects are difficult to control while other input parameters, such as demand, costs, resources, and objective functions, are imprecise. There is broad support for the consistent participation of stakeholders in agricultural systems research as a way to find realistic, feasible solutions that are credible, pertinent, valid, and actionable. Viewpoints on technological advancements in farming frameworks, rural development, and agricultural innovation are susceptible to significant shifts. Services for agricultural development are using a participative approach more and more. They presented scientists as knowledge suppliers, extension agents as process catalysts, and farmers as the primary decision makers. The range of developments arising from farmers' perceptions was overlooked by earlier development plans. Currently, on-farm research and social surveys are components of the transformation process, and agricultural diagnostics take a context-mechanism-outcome trail approach. These methods make the assumption that management and decision-making procedures also play a role in explaining changes, in addition to context. Three of the most significant issues in agricultural growth are social, environmental, and economic sustainability; mixed cropping frameworks appear to be a suitable fit for these objectives. The "license to produce" for agricultural products is especially affected by the transition to more economically viable, sustainable production methods. This transition is mostly dependent on the farmers' choices. Untangling the relationship between farmers' views of modernization and their choices for the efficient and long-term integration of diverse farming components is a big task. Researchers frequently employ simulation modeling to create more controllable cultivating frameworks, typically ignoring the perspectives and decision-making processes of farmers. It seems that taking into account farmers' perspectives and aspirations is essential to the continued trend of using models to analyze policy choices and to build tools that assist with farm-level decision-making. In agriculture, using fuzzy modeling to make diagnostic decisions is not an easy task. The goal and confirmation of the diagnosis must consider the farming parameters, the elements of the farming system, and the knowledge and experience of the farmer.

Background

An intellectual problem needs to have a known answer in order to be solved by a computer. Put otherwise, having understanding of a particular field is crucial. Knowledge is defined as a theoretical or practical understanding of a field or subject. The accumulation of all currently known truths is known as knowledge, and knowledge truly is power. Experts are people who are known to have expertise. The most important and powerful individuals in their organizations are experts. Any successful firm or organization has to have at least a few domain experts on staff.

Fuzzy expert system for agricultural development

When solving problems, domain specialists typically rely on presence of mind. They also employ unclear and questionable terminology. For example, an expert in agriculture would say, "Rainfall will determine crop productivity even if soil quality is adequate. Other experts have no issue comprehending and digesting this news since they have the basis for emphasizing difficulties expressed in this way. Nevertheless, a computer engineer or programmer would have trouble providing a machine with the same comprehension. The problem is how to convey in a system the knowledge of an expert in agriculture who employs vague and perplexing language. This section attempts to answer this question by looking into fuzzy logic [3]. A collection of mathematical ideas known as fuzzy logic is intended to replace traditional binary logic with membership-degree-based knowledge representation. It is discovered to be an effective method for handling ambiguity and vagueness. Its main purpose upon introduction was to enhance the robustness, tractability, and affordability of solutions for practical issues. One particular instance of confusion, unpredictability, and vagueness is in agricultural diagnosis [4]. In many real-world scenarios where uncertainty is significant, fuzzy logic has been used. In the field of agriculture,[5,6,7] where information is imprecise,

ambiguous, and partial, fuzzy logic can make choices. Fuzzy logic tends to be related to the identification and observation of numerous diseases in agricultural production since it utilizes human decision-making abilities to work from inferred reasoning and ultimately find an exact solution. One of the most interesting applications of precision agriculture is early disease forecasting. Predicting the likelihood of various plant diseases emerging in their early stages is the primary goal, allowing stakeholders to make the appropriate preparations. This section proposes a fuzzy framework for plant disease forecasting and agricultural diagnostics. Fuzzy logic is a promising technique that can produce accurate diagnosis judgments and swiftly assimilate the necessary agricultural domain information. Based on the risk factors and symptoms, it will compute and forecast the likelihood of likely illnesses in agricultural plants.

Mathematical Model

Definition of membership function

Let us consider the fuzzy set$A = \{(x, \mu_A(x)) / x \in X\}$, where the membership function for the fuzzy set A is denoted by $\mu_A(x)$. The universe of discourse is called X [8]. Every element x ∈ X is assigned a value within the interval [0, 1] using the membership function. Every element in fuzzy sets has a membership function mapping it to [0,1]. In other words, μ_A: X Є [0, 1], where [0,1] denotes real values, including 0,1. When compared to crisp sets, fuzzy sets have "vague boundary sets." Another way to represent the fuzzy set A is as follows: In the event where X is discrete,$A = \sum \mu_A(x_i) / x_i$. When X is continuous, A is equal to$A = \int \mu_A(x)/x . \mu_A(x)$is the "membership function" in this case. This function's value ranges from 0 to 1. The "degree of membership" (membership value) of element x in set A is represented by this value. A fuzzy set's members are members to a certain extent; this is referred to as the degree of membership or membership grade. The degree of membership in the fuzzy set is called the membership grade. The stronger the degree of belonging to the larger the number in [0, 1], Note that this is not a likelihood. Fuzzification is the translation from x to $\mu_A(x)$. According to fuzzy theory, function $\mu_A(x)$, also known as the membership function of set A, defines fuzzy set A of universe X. This is something we have already talked about.

$\mu_A(x), X \rightarrow [0, 1]$,
$\mu_A(x) = 1$, where if x is totally in A;
$\mu_A(x) = 0$if x is not in A;
$0 < \mu_A(x) < 1$if x is partly in A.

There is a continuum of options available with this set. The degree to which an element x is part of set A is equal to the membership function $\mu_A(x)$ <for each element x in universe X. The degree of membership, also known as the membership value, of element x in set A is represented by this degree, which has a value between 0 and 1.
The following is the formulation of a linear programming problem

$$Maximize\ Z = \sum d_i x_i, i = 1,2, \ldots\ldots, n$$

Subject to

$$\sum b_i x_i \leq \sum c_j, j = 1,2, \ldots\ldots\ldots m$$

$$x_i \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

where,
x_i = represent the decision variable
d_i=represent the cost vector
b_i=represent activity coefficient
c_j=represent the crisp parameters
If the membership of a generic P is provided, a TFN is denoted by (p, q, r, s; v).

$$\mu_p(x)=\begin{cases}\dfrac{v(x-p)}{q-c}, & p\le x\le q\\ v, & q\le x\le r\\ \dfrac{v(s-x)}{s-r}, & r\le x\le s\\ 0, & elsewhere\end{cases} \quad (2)$$

A TFN is denoted by(c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4) and the trapezoidal membership function is defined as

$$\mu_p(x)=\begin{cases}\dfrac{(x-c_1)}{c_2-c_1}, & c_1\le x\le c_2\\ 1, & c_2\le x\le c_3\\ \dfrac{(c_4-x)}{c_4-c_3}, & c_3\le x\le c_4\\ 0, & elsewhere\end{cases} \quad (3)$$

The ordered pair of functions $(c_{Min}(\lambda) and\ c_{Max}(\lambda)), 0 \le \lambda \le 1$, where $c_{Min}(\lambda)$and$c_{Max}(\lambda)$ are left lower bounded and right upper bounded functions over [0,1], can be used to represent the trapezoidal fuzzy number P of a parametric form.

In the parametric form $B = (c^1, c^2, c^3, c^4)$, the TFNB can be written as:

$$B=\left(\lambda\left(c^2-c^1\right)+c^1, c^4-\lambda\left(c^4-c^3\right)\right)$$

The equation of the parametric form

$$Maximize Z = d_1\left(x_1^l, x_1^r\right)+\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots+d_n\left(x_n^l, x_n^r\right)$$

Subject to

$$c_{j1}\left(x_1^l, x_1^r\right)+\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots+c_{jn}\left(x_n^l, x_n^r\right)\le\left(c_j^l, c_j^r\right)$$

$$x_i^l, x_i^r \ge 0, \quad \forall i=1,2\ldots\ldots n \ \&\ j=1,2\ldots\ldots m, \quad (4)$$

Mathematical Results

On around 19 hectares of farmland, a farmer raises three crops: Paddy, Black gram, and Green gram. Crop has certain requirements for capital ($) and labor (hours) needs (Table 1). Green gram yields $34, black gram yields $39, and paddy yields $44 per acre. These crops need a total expenditure of roughly 450 dollars and 50 hours, respectively. Farmers must now decide how many hectares per crop they will farm in order to increase production. Let x_1 represent the Paddy, x_2 represent the Black gram, and x_3 represent the Green gram. Each fuzzy value is denoted by a TFN, as in the following examples:

18 hectares = (15, 18, 20, 21); $450 = (420, 450, 480, 500); and 50 hours = (45, 50, 55, 60).

$$Maximize\ Z = 44x_1 + 39x_2 + 34x_3$$

Subject to

$$50x_1 + 32x_2 + 27x_3 \leq (420, 450, 480, 500)$$
$$10x_1 + 8x_2 + 4x_3 \leq (45, 50, 55, 60)$$
$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \leq (15, 18, 20, 21)$$
$$x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0$$

Result of FLPP (Table 2)

Crisp solutions to the above Fuzzy MOLPP can be written as:

$$Maximize\ Z_1 = 44x_1^l + 39x_2^l + 34x_3^l$$
$$Maximize\ Z_2 = 44x_1^r + 39x_2^r + 34x_3^r$$

Subject to

$$0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$$
$$50x_1^l + 32x_2^l + 27x_3^l \leq 30\lambda + 420$$
$$50x_1^r + 32x_2^r + 27x_3^r \leq 500 - 20\lambda$$
$$10x_1^l + 8x_2^l + 4x_3^l \leq 5\lambda + 45$$
$$10x_1^r + 8x_2^r + 4x_3^r \leq 60 - 5\lambda$$
$$x_1^l + x_2^l + x_3^l \leq 3\lambda + 15$$
$$x_1^r + x_2^r + x_3^r \leq 21 - \lambda$$
$$x_1^l, x_2^l, x_3^l, x_1^r, x_2^r, x_3^r \geq 0$$

Results of FLPP for different values of λ (Table 3)

Results of FLPP for different values ofλ (Table 4)

RESULTS

Result of FLPP (Table 5)

Results of FLPP for different values of λ (Table 6)

DISCUSSIONS

Precision agriculture is a well-lit field of study. The disease detection and forecasting system utilized in the agricultural industry is based on the fuzzy logic model. In order to remove the ambiguity, uncertainty, and vagueness that are inherent in this field, fuzzy logic is applied to this problem. It is described in terms of determining the severity of crop diseases. Three input factors make up the framework: wind, light, temperature, and humidity and precipitation. Twenty-seven rules make up the rule base, which is used to calculate the four possible output parameter values—No crop disease, Mild crop disease, Moderate crop disease, and Severe crop disease—based on the four input values. Triangle fuzzifier is used for membership function evaluation. The knowledge of topic experts and historical facts form the foundation of rule base design. Mamdani's inference engine technique is applied in the fuzzy modeling to provide a more thorough description of the application. Fuzziness is eliminated by applying the centroid of area technique. Even while the diagnosis and forecasting are given language variables, such as mild, moderate, and severe, the degree of mildness, moderateness, and severity is also assessed. The evaluation of the rule is done for various input parameter values. Three input variables provide linguistic values. The inference engine uses these values in addition to applying inference rules. The LINGO Fuzzy-Tool box is the most latest set of fuzzy tools

available. This offers a complete set of built-in capabilities for controlling fuzzy systems for model construction and simulation. Within the domain of agricultural diagnostics fuzzy modeling, This chapter presents the agriculture of crop illnesses in a fictitious situation. The results produced, which fall within the range of the pre-established boundaries by the experts in agriculture, suggest a better comprehension and outstanding performance. The goal of creating this framework was to ascertain how well the fuzzy modeling technique, in comparison to the expertise of agriculture experts, represents the accurate diagnosis and tracking of illnesses in agricultural plants. The most effective methods for resolving issues with fuzzy toolbox LINGO software, If we look at the results of the issue, we can see that the numbers (315, 350, 467.5, 540) are the ideal answers. Our aim is to provide farmers with the best land use strategy possible to help them reach their objectives. The result table shows that the crops could bring in more money for the farmer. It proves that farmer profits are increasing as a result. The crop mix that provides the best profit is also evident from the result table. Growing crops on agricultural property may benefit the state's economy as well, as the previously cited data makes clear.

CONCLUSION

Agricultural process modeling and management can be a challenging endeavor. When making decisions and doing system analyses, a lot of different variables and factors are taken into account. In addition to being unclear, ambiguous, and imperfect, most agricultural processes also contain aspects of human intuition. At the same time as these processes are heavily influenced by external elements such as stakeholder views, production, demand, market conditions, and climate, they are also very subjective. Fuzzy sets have a major and desirable application in the agriculture sector. It is possible to manage and describe uncertainty in agricultural processes with fuzzy modeling. It can ensure that inadequate information is taken into consideration and offer answers to important agricultural problems such as crop productivity, paddy, peanut, and black gram around 19hectares of farmland at Thiruvarur district, Tamilnadu, fuzzy models have garnered increasing attention from researchers and have proven to be very applicable in the agricultural sector, assisting players in making more precise decisions on agriculture. For agricultural planners using FLP methods in the planning process, our results may offer a useful analytical tool for recommending to farmers the optimal crop land allocation. To obtain the best result (highest profit), the fuzzy linear programming model is helpful. The authors admit that creating an accurate and dependable forecasting assistance system requires more than just input variables. Though the demonstration findings are encouraging, other variables will be included in the future to provide a reliable, practical system for agriculture disease diagnosis and forecasting help.

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Table 1: Crop has certain requirements for capital ($) and labor (hours) needs.

Crop (peracre)	Requirements for capital ($)	Labor (hours)
Paddy	50	10
Black gram	32	8
Green gram	27	4

Table 2: Result of FLPP

x_1	0	0	0	0
x_2	0	0	0	0
x_3	11.25	12.5	13.75	15
MaximizeZ	382.5	425	467.5	510

Table 3: Results of FLPP for different values of λ

λ	0	0.5	0.75	1
x_1^l	0	0	0	0
x_2^l	0	0	0	0
x_3^l	4.5	4.75	4.875	5
Maximize Z_1	526.5	555.75	570.375	585

Table 4: Results of FLPP for different values of λ

λ	0	0.5	0.75	1
x_1^r	0	0	0	0
x_2^r	0	0	0	0
x_3^r	15	14.375	14.0625	13.75
Maximize Z_2	510	488.75	478.125	467.5

Table 5: Result of FLPP

x_1	0	0	0	0
x_2	0	0	0	0
x_3	11.25	12.5	13.75	15
MaximizeZ	382.5	425	467.5	510

Table 6: Results of FLPP for different values of λ

λ	0	0.5	0.75	1
x_1^l	0	0	0	0
x_2^l	0	0	0	0
x_3^l	4.5	4.75	4.875	5
x_1^r	0	0	0	0
x_2^r	0	0	0	0
x_3^r	15	14.375	14.0625	13.75
Maximize Z_1	526.5	555.75	570.375	585
Maximize Z_2	510	488.75	478.125	467.5

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Scientific and Market Insights into Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods

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ABSTRACT

Increased demand for preventive health measures and natural alternatives to traditional therapy has led to the growing importance of nutraceuticals and functional foods in contemporary healthcare. Beyond simple nourishment, these products, which include bioactive substances obtained from food sources, have substantial health advantages. These products' potential to treat chronic health conditions including obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular illnesses, as well as the increased understanding of the significance of nutrition for long-term well-being, are driving up consumer interest in them. This review highlights the scientific foundations of functional foods and nutraceuticals, emphasizing their physiological effects, modes of action, and health-promoting qualities. It emphasizes several types of nutraceuticals, including vitamins, probiotics, and herbal supplements, and investigates how they might improve digestion, boost immunity, and defend against illness. The growing market for these goods is also examined, especially in places like India where the growing need for natural health remedies is complemented by traditional treatments like Ayurveda. The review also discusses market trends and the increasing preference for natural, organic, and preventive health goods. The difficulties facing the nutraceutical sector are also covered, including legal restrictions and the requirement for more thorough clinical studies to confirm the products' effectiveness. The information provided highlights how nutraceuticals and functional foods

have the power to transform healthcare systems throughout the world by providing long-term and efficient substitutes for traditional therapies.

Keywords: Nutraceuticals, Functional Foods, Market trends, vitamins, probiotics, traditional treatments.

INTRODUCTION

Nutraceutical is a term deduced from the words "Nutrition" and "Pharmaceutical," and could be defined as "Any substance that's a food or a part of a food and provides medical or health benefits, including the forestall and treatment of conditions [**1**]. Numerous nutraceutical, functional foods and naturally being composites that have been delved and reported in numerous studies revealed that these products are extremely active, and they've profound effect on cell metabolism and occasionally they've little adverse effect. It's natural that people's focus is shifting to positive approach for forestall of disorders to stay healthy. In numerous cases nutraceutical are meritorious over the synthetic medicines under development by the research firms. It's their new pharmacological exertion that becomes intriguing in their possible clinical use and therefore helping in forestall and remedial use in several conditions[**2**]. Nutraceuticals are presently getting recognition as being helpful in coronary heart disorders, hyperglycemia, obesity, cancer, osteoporosis and other lifelong and degenerative conditions similar as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's conditions. Attestations indicate that the mechanistic actions of natural substances involve a wide array of natural processes, including activation of antioxidant defenses, signal transduction pathways, cell survival- associated gene expression, cell proliferation and isolation and preservation of mitochondrial integrity. It appears that these parcels play a pivotal part in the protection against the pathologies of various age- related or lifelong conditions. It's imperative that the nutrients found in numerous foods, fruits and vegetables are responsible for the well proved health benefits [3,4].

Categories of Nutraceuticals

Nutraceuticals are categorized into traditional, non-traditional, dietary supplements, functional foods, and medicinal foods.

Traditional Nutraceuticals[5]

Traditional nutraceutical are natural foods that have known health benefits. They are foods that have not been altered in any way, but are instead recognized for their potential health benefits. They are further classified into following categories-

Vitamins and Minerals [6,7,8]

Vitamins: Vitamins are essential organic compounds required by the body in small amounts to support various physiological functions, including growth, metabolism, and immunity. Vitamins can be divided into two main groups, fat-soluble and water-soluble.

Fat-soluble vitamins

Fat-soluble vitamins are a group of vitamins that dissolve in fats and oils and are stored in the body's fatty tissues and liver. These vitamins are absorbed along with dietary fats in the intestine and require bile acids for proper absorption (Table 1).

Water-soluble vitamins[5,7,8]

Water-soluble vitamins are a group of vitamins that dissolve in water and are not stored in large amounts in the body. The B-group vitamins and vitamin C. All B vitamins are coenzymes in metabolic pathways (Table 2).

Minerals[5,7,8,9]: Mineral Nutrition is defined as the inorganic nutrient occurring naturally which are obtained from the soil and food that's essential for the proper functioning of animals and plants body. Minerals are vital rudiments necessary for the body. Both the trees and creatures bear minerals basically. For illustration, Zinc is necessary for the manufacture of protein and for cell division(**Table 3).**

Probiotics9,10,11: Probiotics are live microorganisms that provide health benefits when consumed in acceptable quantities. These beneficial bacteria and yeasts help in maintaining gut health, perfecting digestion, and boosting immunity. With the rising awareness about gut health and preventive healthcare, the demand for probiotics in India is increasing significantly. The nutraceutical industry is playing an pivotal role in promoting and delivering probiotic-enriched products to consumers.

Major Brands

Yakult Danone: Yakult Danone India Pvt. Ltd. is one of the most well-known probiotic drink brands in India.

Amul: Amul Probiotic Ice Cream, AmulTru Probiotic Milk Beverages, Amul Probiotic Dahi (Curd), Amul Probiotic Lassi.

Mother Dairy: Mother Dairy aimed at improving digestive health. The brand has integrated probiotics into its curd, lassi, and other dairy beverages.

Herbs as nutraceuticals [5,7,9]: Herbs play a significant role in nutraceuticals due to their natural bioactive compounds, which provide health benefits beyond basic nutrition. Herbs as nutraceuticals are widely used in India and globally due to their natural therapeutic properties. Herbal nutraceuticals are bioactive compounds derived from plants that offer health benefits beyond basic nutrition. They help in disease prevention, immune boosting, and overall wellness. Many well-known brands such as Himalaya, Dabur, Patanjali, Organic India, Zandu, and Kapiva offer herbal nutraceutical products that cater to different health needs. Some of the available herbal nutraceutical products in market are described as below. Table 4.Herbs as nutraceuticals[9,10,23,24].

Non-Traditional Nutraceuticals[11]: Non-traditional nutraceuticals refer to food products or supplements that have been modified, fortified, or enhanced with bioactive compounds to provide additional health benefits beyond basic nutrition.

Types of Non-Traditional Nutraceuticals[12]

Fortified foods [9,12,13]

Fortified foods are foods that have been enriched with additional nutrients (vitamins, minerals, or other bioactive compounds) that are not naturally present in significant amounts. The goal is to improve public health by preventing nutrient deficiencies (Table 5).

Recombinant Nutraceuticals[13,14]

Recombinant nutraceuticals are bioengineered food supplements or functional foods produced using recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology. These products involve genetically modified microorganisms, plants, or cell cultures to enhance bioavailability, stability, and efficacy of essential nutrients like proteins, vitamins, and probiotics(Table 6).

Nutraceutical Beverages [15,16]

Nutraceutical beverages are functional drinks infused with bioactive compounds, vitamins, minerals, probiotics, or herbal extracts that provide health benefits beyond basic nutrition. They are designed to boost immunity, enhance digestion, improve energy levels, and support overall wellness. Examples

- Energy Drinks (with caffeine, taurine, and vitamins)
- Vitamin Water (infused with vitamins and minerals)
- Herbal Infused Teas (like green tea with added antioxidants)

Synthetic Nutraceuticals[17]

These are lab-made bioactive compounds used in supplements and functional foods. Examples:

- Synthetic Omega-3 Capsules
- Artificially produced Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10) Supplements
- Lab-made Melatonin for sleep regulation

Functional Foods [18,19,20]: Nutraceutical functional foods are foods that provide health benefits beyond basic nutrition and contain bioactive compounds derived from natural sources like plants, herbs, and dairy. These foods help in disease prevention, health improvement, and overall well-being. Types of functional foods (Table 7).

Medicinal Foods [19,20,21]: Medicinal foods, also called medical or therapeutic nutraceuticals, are specially formulated foods that provide specific health benefits, prevent diseases, or support recovery from illnesses. These foods are often designed for individuals with chronic diseases, metabolic disorders, or specific nutritional deficiencies. Medicinal Nutraceutical Foods and Marketed Products (Table 8)

Dietary Supplements 19,20,22: Dietary supplements are products taken orally to provide essential nutrients that may not be consumed in sufficient quantities through a regular diet. They include vitamins, minerals, amino acids, herbal extracts, and probiotics to support overall health and wellness. These supplements come in various forms like capsules and tablets, powders and drinks, gummies and softgels. Types of Dietary Supplements and Marketed Products (Table 9).

Scope of Dietary Supplements in Different Sectors [24,25,26]

Growing Health Awareness and Preventive Healthcare- In recent years, health awareness and preventive healthcare have gained significant momentum, leading to increased demand for dietary supplements. Consumers are shifting from treating diseases to preventing them, making supplements a key part of daily health routines. People are focusing on nutrition, immunity, and fitness rising concerns over lifestyle diseases (diabetes, heart issues, obesity).

Expanding Fitness and Sports Nutrition Industry-

The fitness and sports nutrition industry is growing rapidly, fueled by rising health consciousness, an active lifestyle culture, and increasing demand for performance-enhancing dietary supplements. Whey protein demand is rising in India and worldwide. Vegan and plant-based proteins (OZiva, MyProtein) are gaining popularity.

Rise of E-commerce and Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) Brands: Online shopping and digital health trends are increasing. Brands like HealthKart, MuscleBlaze, OZiva, and MyProtein are leveraging e-commerce. Subscription-based supplement models are growing.

Growth in Geriatric and Women's Health Supplements

Aging population needs bone health, joint support, and cognitive supplements. Women's health supplements for PCOS, pregnancy, and menopause are in demand.

Expansion of Herbal and Ayurvedic Nutraceuticals

The herbal and Ayurvedic nutraceutical market is rapidly expanding, driven by increasing global demand for natural, holistic, and preventive healthcare solutions. Consumers are shifting towards plant-based, organic, and traditional medicinal supplements Ayurvedic brands like Himalaya, Dabur, Kapiva, and Organic India are growing.

Government Support and Regulations: FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) and USFDA are supporting safe supplement use. Indian government is promoting nutraceutical start-ups and Make-in-India initiatives. Dietary supplements are regulated by governments worldwide to ensure their safety, efficacy, and quality. The level of regulation varies from country to country, but most follow guidelines set by health authorities

such as the FDA (U.S.), FSSAI (India), EFSA (Europe), and WHO. In India dietary supplements are regulated under FSSAI's Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use) Regulations, 2016. Supplements must be pre-approved by FSSAI before being sold.

Indian Scenario of Nutraceutical Industry [16,26,27]

Scope and Demand

Market Growth: In 2017, the Indian nutraceutical market was valued at $4 billion and was projected to reach $9 billion by 2022, growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 21%.

Consumer Awareness: There's a paradigm shift in consumer choices from pharmaceuticals to nutraceuticals, driven by increasing health consciousness and the desire for preventive healthcare solutions.

Lifestyle Diseases: The rising prevalence of lifestyle-related ailments, such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases, has led consumers to seek nutraceuticals as preventive measures.

Product Diversification: The market comprises various segments, with vitamins and minerals accounting for 40%, herbals 3%, and proteins 25%.

Market Share in the Pharmaceutical Industry[28, 29].

Global Standing: As of 2023, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is the world's 13th largest by value and third largest by volume.

Nutraceutical Contribution: In 2017, India held a 2% share of the global nutraceutical market, with expectations to reach 3.5% by 2023.

Per Capita Consumption: India's per capita expenditure on nutraceuticals was $2.5, significantly lower than the global average of $21, indicating substantial growth potential.

Challenges[30,31]

Regulatory Hurdles and Compliance Issues

The FSSAI guidelines for nutraceuticals are still evolving, leading to confusion for manufacturers. Many companies struggle with obtaining necessary approvals and certifications.

Lack of Awareness in Rural Areas

While urban consumers are adopting nutraceuticals, rural India still lacks awareness about their benefits. High costs also make these products less affordable for rural populations.

Adulteration and Quality Concerns

Many products in the market do not meet safety standards, leading to issues of fake or low-quality supplements. Proper quality control and certification are needed to build consumer trust.

High Cost of R and D and Production

Research and innovation in nutraceuticals require significant investment, making high quality products expensive. Costly raw materials and limited production capacity in India increase prices.

Consumer Skepticism and Misinformation

Many people still rely on traditional medicines or are unaware of scientific validation of nutraceuticals. Misleading advertisements and exaggerated claims by some brands create distrust.

Intense Market Competition

The industry is highly competitive, with multiple domestic and international brands entering the market. Established pharma companies are also launching nutraceutical products, making it tough for smaller brands to survive.

Limited Clinical Research and Data

Unlike pharmaceuticals, many nutraceuticals lack large-scale clinical trials to prove their efficacy. More scientific studies and regulatory backing are needed for stronger market credibility.

Sustainability and Supply Chain Issues

The demand for natural and organic ingredients is increasing, but sustainable sourcing of raw materials (like plant extracts and marine-based supplements) is a challenge. The following table provides an overview of the Indian nutraceutical industry's present state, growth factors, important players, major segments, regulatory environment, and prospects for the future. Summary of Indian Scenario of Nutraceutical Industries [30,31,32] (Table 10)

Future of Nutraceuticals [30,33,34]

Global Market Value

According to Grand View Research on Dietary Supplements Market Size and Share Report,2030 the global dietary supplements market size was valued at USD 177.50 billion in 2023 and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.1% from 2024 to 2030. Rising prevalence of chronic diseases, including hyperglycemia, obesity, heart disorders, and cancer, and the busy lifestyles and resultant changes in dietary patterns of consumers are among the crucial factors driving consumption worldwide. Manufacturers are continuously introducing novel products and formulations targeting specific consumer requirements and preferences, such as weight management, sports nutrition, and brain health, among others. Consumers are increasingly made aware of such products and their benefits through effective marketing campaigns, endorsements by influencers, and social commerce. The aging population is an irreversible global trend that acts as a critical driving factor for market development. The global population over the age of 65 is a key demographic target for dietary supplement companies as they contribute considerably to the overall industry demand. Although the highest sales are witnessed in the adult category (people aged 25 to 65), penetration is significantly higher in the geriatric population set, with the latter contributing to roughly 30% of worldwide sales. Growing consumer confidence has propelled market growth in recent years, substantially driven by the effective guidelines and standards established by regulatory agencies globally, (for India FSSAI) with varying stringency country to country. The increasing participation of consumers in sports and fitness activities, such as gyms, cycling, running, hiking, trekking, etc., and preventive healthcare practices is expected to have a significant impact on market growth over the coming years. The global dietary supplement market is anticipated to reach $300 billion by 2030. The Indian nutraceutical market is one of the fastest-growing, anticipated to reach $18 billion by 2025.

Market Shareof Various Categories of Nutraceuticals in Global Nutraceutical Market[26,27]

According to a market research and consulting firm CERVICORN CONSULTING based in India and U.S. –The global nutraceutical industry is segmented into various categories, each contributing differently to the overall market. Based on available data, here's the distribution of market share among key segments:

Functional Foods: Market Share: Approximately 46.3% in 2023.

Functional Beverages: Market Share: Around 30.1% in 2023.

Dietary Supplements: Market Share: Approximately 23.6% in 2023.

Market Size [29,30,35]

The global nutraceutical industry has experienced significant growth over the past decade, with projections indicating continued expansion. The market is primarily segmented into functional foods, functional beverages, and dietary supplements. According to mordor-intelligence.com the market size and segment distribution for the years 2020, 2025, and 2030:

Grand View Research estimated the market size at USD 591.1 billion in 2024, with an expected growth to USD 919.1 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 7.6% from 2025 to 2030.

Fortune Business Insights reported that the global nutraceuticals market was valued at approximately USD 419.93 billion in 2023 and is projected to reach USD 976.74 billion by 2032, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.95% during the forecast period 2024–2032.

Global Market Insights valued the market at USD 451.7 billion in 2023, projecting it to grow at a CAGR of 4.7% from 2024 to 2032, reaching approximately USD 684 billion by 2032. These variations in market size estimates and growth projections can be attributed to differences in market definitions, segmentation, and forecasting methodologies among research firms. Following graph shows the projected growth of global market size of nutraceuticals (According to Grand View Research Report). Graph of Current and Projected Growth of Nutraceutical Market (Figure)

CONCLUSION

Nutraceuticals have revolutionized the intersection of food and medicine, offering natural and scientifically backed health benefits that go beyond basic nutrition. Their role in disease prevention, immune support, and overall well-being has made them an essential part of modern healthcare and wellness. With categories ranging from traditional and non traditional nutraceuticals to functional foods, medicinal foods, and dietary supplements, these products are becoming increasingly popular as people shift towards preventive healthcare rather than relying solely on pharmaceuticals. The nutraceutical industry is witnessing exponential growth, especially in India, due to increasing health awareness, a rising prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases, and a growing middle-class population willing to invest in health and wellness. Government initiatives, regulatory advancements, and the rise of digital health platforms have further accelerated this industry's expansion. Innovations in probiotics, herbal extracts, fortified foods, and functional beverages are creating a dynamic market that caters to various health needs, from improving gut health to managing chronic conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Despite their numerous benefits, challenges such as regulatory compliance, quality control, and consumer awareness need to be addressed for sustainable development. Standardization and proper labelling of nutraceutical products are crucial to ensuring consumer safety and trust. Furthermore, while nutraceuticals provide a more natural and preventive approach to healthcare, they should not be seen as a replacement for conventional medicine. Instead, they should complement pharmaceuticals to enhance treatment effectiveness, reduce dependency on synthetic drugs, and promote long-term wellness. As research continues to explore new bioactive compounds and personalized nutrition solutions, the future of nutraceuticals appears highly promising. With growing consumer demand, technological advancements, and increasing investments in the sector, nutraceuticals are set to play a transformative role in global and Indian healthcare landscapes. The integration of scientific research, regulatory support, and consumer education will be key to unlocking the full potential of this industry, ensuring that nutraceuticals become a cornerstone of preventive and holistic health management in the years to come.

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Table 1: Fat-Soluble Vitamins

Vitamin	Sources	RNI(Recommended nutrient Intake)	Functions	Available marketed products
A (Retinol, Beta Carotene)	Liver, fish oils, dairy, eggs, carrots, spinach	Men:700µg/day Women 900µg/ Day	Vision, immune function, skin health, cell grow	Seven Seas Cod Liver Oil
D (Cholecalciferol D3, Ergocalciferol D2)	Sunlight, fish liver oil, fortified milk, dairy	10-20 µg (400 800 IU)/day	Calcium absorption, bone health, immune function	D-Rise (USV Ltd.), Calcirol (Cadila
E (Tocopherols, Tocotrienols	Nuts, seeds, vegetable oils, spinach, whole grains	8-15 mg/day	Antioxidant, protects cells, supports immunity	Evion (Merck), Nature's Bounty, Kirkland Vitamin E
K (Phylloquinone K1, Menaquinone K2)	Leafy greens, broccoli liver, dairy products	Men: 20 µg/day, Women: 90 µg/day	Blood clotting, bone health	Mephyton (Bausch Health), Solgar Vitamin K

Table 2: Water-Soluble Vitamins

Vitamin	Sources	RNI(Recommended nutrient Intake)	Functions	Available marketed products
B1 (Thiamine)	Whole grains, nuts, pork, legumes	Men: 1.2 mg/day, Women: 1.1 mg/day	Energy metabolism, nerve function	Neurobion (Merck), Nature Made B1, Solgar B1
B2 (Riboflavin)	Dairy, eggs, green vegetables, almonds	Men: 1.3 mg/day, Women: 1.1 mg/day	Energy production, skin health	Riconia (Dr. Reddy's), Nature's Bounty
B3 (Niacin)	Meat, fish, whole grains, nuts	Men:16 mg/day, Women:14 mg/day	DNA repair, metabolism, skin health	Slo-Niacin (Upsher Smith),
B5 (Pantothenic Acid)	Meat, eggs, dairy, whole grains	5 mg/day	Hormoesis, metabolism	Solgar Pantothenic Acid, Nutricost
B6 (Pyridoxine)	Poultry, fish, bananas, potatoes	Men: 1.3-1.7 mg/day, Women: 1.3-1.5 mg/day	Protein metabolism, brain function	Neurobion Forte, Nature Made B6, Solgar
B7 (Biotin)	Eggs, nuts, seeds, sweet potatoes	30 µg/day	Hair,skin, and nail health	Hairfinity, Natrol Biotin, NOW Foods
B9 (Folate/Folic Acid)	Leafy greens, legumes, citrus fruits	Adults: 400 µg/day, Pregnancy: 600 µg/day	DNA synthesis, fetal development	Folvite (Pfizer), Nature Made Folic Acid
B12 (Cobalamin)	Meat, fish, dairy, fortified cereals	Adults: 2.4 µg/day	Nerve function, red blood cell formation	Mecobalamin (Wockhardt), Nature's Bounty
C (Ascorbic Acid)	Citrus fruits, Bell-peppers, strawberries	Men: 90 mg/day, Women: 75 mg/day	Immune support, antioxidant, collagen synthesis	Limcee (Abbott), Nature's Bounty

Table 3: Minerals

Mineral	Sources	RNI(Recommended nutrient Intake)	Functions	Available marketed products
Calcium (Ca)	Dairy, leafy greens, almonds	1000-1200 mg/	Bone health muscle function	Caltrate, Nature Made
Iron (Fe)	Red meat, spinach, lentils	8.7mg/day for men 14.7mg/day for women	Oxygen transport, energy	Ferrous Sulfate, Solgar
Magnesium (Mg)	Nuts,whole grains,	310-420 mg/day	Muscle and nerve function	Nature's Bounty, Doctor's Best
Zinc (Zn)	Meat, shellfish, seeds	8-11 mg/day	Immunity, wound healing	Centrum, NOW Foods
Potassium (K)	Bananas, potatoes, beans	2600-3400 mg/day	Fluid balance, heart function	Klor-Con, Nature's Way
Sodium (Na)	Salt, processed foods	1500-2300 mg/day	Fluid balance, nerve signaling	Morton Salt, Redmond Real Salt
Phosphorus (P)	Meat, dairy, nuts	700 mg/day	Bone health, energy storage	Jarrow Formulas, Thorne
Iodine (I)	Iodized salt, seaweed, dairy	150 mcg/day	Thyroid hormone production	Iodoral, Life Extension
Selenium(Se)	Brazil nuts, seafood, eggs	55 mcg/day	Antioxidant, thyroid health	NOW Foods, Nature's Way
Copper (Cu)	Nuts, seeds, shellfish	900 mcg/day	Iron metabolism, nerve function	Solaray, Garden of Life
Manganese (Mn)	Whole grains, nuts, tea	1.8-2.3 mg/day	Bone formation, metabolism	Solgar, Thorne Research
Fluoride (F)	Water, tea, fish	3-4 mg/day	Dental health, bone strength	ACT Fluoride Rinse, Sensodyne

Table 4: Herbs as nutraceuticals [9,10,23,24]

Herb	Key Bioactive Compound	Health Benefits	Available marketed products
Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)	Curcumin (anti-inflammatory, antioxidant)	Supports joint health, reduces inflammation, improves digestion	Himalaya Curcumin 95, Cureveda Turmeric Gold, Patanjali Haldi Churna
Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*)	Withanolides (adaptogenic, stress-relieving)	Reduces stress,anxiety, improves energy and stamina, enhances brain function	Himalaya Ashwagandha, Dabur Ashwagandha Churna, True Basics Ashwagandha
Amla (*Emblica officinalis*)	Vitamin C, polyphenols (antioxidant, immunity booster)	Strengthens immunity, promotes hair and skin health, improves digestion.	Dabur Amla Juice,Kapiva Amla Juice, Zandu Amla Pure Herb Capsules
Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*)	Gingerol (anti-inflammatory, digestive aid)	Aids digestion, relieves nausea, supports heart health	Organic India Ginger Capsules, Dabur Pudin Hara, Himalaya Ginger Capsules
Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*)	Eugenol, Ursolic acid (anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial)	Improves respiratory health,boosts immunity, reduces stress.	Organic India Tulsi Capsules,Patanjali Tulsi Ghan Vati,Zandu Tulsi Drops
Ginseng (*Panax*	Ginsenosides (energy	Enhances energy, supports	Himalaya Ginseng,Dabur Shilajit

ginseng)	booster, cognitive enhancer)	brain health, improves immunity.	Gold, HealthKart Ginseng Extract
Garlic (*Allium sativum*)	Allicin (antimicrobial, heart health)	Supports heart health, lowers cholesterol, boosts immunity.	Himalaya Garlic Capsules,Nutriherbs Garlic Extract Capsules, Dabur Lasuna
Aloe Vera (*Aloe barbadensis*)	Aloin, Poly saccharides (skin and gut health)	Aids digestion, improves skin health, detoxifies the body.	Patanjali Aloe Vera Juice,Kapiva Aloe Vera Juice,Forever Aloe Vera Gel
Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*)	Quercetin, Chlorogenic Acid (antioxidant, nutrient-rich)	Boosts energy, supports immunity, rich in vitamins and minerals.	Organic India Moringa Capsules,Kapiva Moringa Tablets,Zandu Moringa Pure Herbs
Bacopa (Brahmi) (*Bacopa monnieri*)	Bacosides (cognitive enhancer, neuroprotective)	Improves memory, enhances cognitive function, reduces stress.	Himalaya Brahmi Capsules,Dabur Brahmi Vati,Zandu Brahmi Pure Herb

Table 5: Fortified Foods

Product Category	Examples	Marketed Brands
Fortified Milk	Milk enriched with Vitamin D and Calcium	Amul Fortified Milk, Nestlé a+ Milk, Mother Dairy Fortified Milk
Fortified Wheat Flour (Atta)	Flour enriched with Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12	Aashirvaad Atta with Multigrains, Pilsbury Chakki Atta, Annapurna Fortified Atta
Fortified Edible Oil	Cooking oil with added Vitamins A and D	Fortune Vivo, Saffola Gold, Dhara Fortified Oil
Fortified Salt	Salt with added Iodine and Iron (to prevent anemia and goiter)	Tata Salt Plus, Aashirvaad Iodized Salt
Fortified Rice	Rice enriched with Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12	India's Government Fortified Rice Scheme, Daawat Sehat Fortified Rice
Fortified Cereals	Breakfast cereals enriched with Iron, Calcium and B Vitamins	Kellogg's Special K, Nestlé Ceregrow, Bagrry's Fortified Oats
Fortified Juices	Fruit juices with added vitamins and minerals	Tropicana Essentials, Real Activ Fortified Juices
Fortified Biscuits	Biscuits enriched with Iron, Calcium, and Vitamins	Britannia NutriChoice, Parle-G Gold, Sunfeast Farmlite

Table 6: Recombinant Nutraceuticals

Product Category	Source	Marketed Brands
Probiotic Yogurt	Yogurt with genetically engineered live bacteria for gut health	Yakult, Amul Probiotic Dahi, Nestlé a+ ActiPlus
Genetically Modified (GM) Soybean Products	GM soy for higher protein and better resistance to pests	Soya-based protein powders (Herbalife, MyProtein Soy Isolate)
Golden Rice (GM Rice)	Rice genetically modified to produce Vitamin A	Available in some global markets but still being introduced in India
GM Tomatoes	Genetically engineered tomatoes with high antioxidants (longer shelf life)	Flavr Savr Tomato (by Calgene, U.S.)
GM Corn (Maize)	Genetically engineered corn resistant to pests and rich in beta-carotene	Found in processed foods like Kellogg's Corn Flakes, Doritos
Omega-3 Enriched Eggs	Eggs from hens fed with omega-3-rich diets (for heart health)	Keggs Omega-3 Eggs, Happy Hens Omega-3 Eggs

Recombinant Rennet Cheese	Cheese made using genetically modified rennet enzymes (instead of animal rennet)	Kraft Singles, Amul Processed Cheese
Lab-Made Vitamin Supplements	Artificially synthesized vitamins for dietary supplements	Revital H, Centrum Multivitamins, HealthKart Multivitamins

Table 7: Types of functional foods

Types of functional foods	Uses	Health Benefits	Available marketed products
Probiotic and Prebiotic foods-	These contain live beneficial bacteria (probiotics) or fibers that feed gut bacteria prebiotics) to improve digestive health.	Improves digestion and gut health - Strengthens immunity - Reduces bloating and stomach issues	Probiotic Yogurt – Yakult, Amul Probiotic Dahi, Nestlé ActiPlus Prebiotic Fiber Foods – Whole grains, oats, bananas
Omega-3 rich foods-	Omega-3 fatty acids support heart health, brain function, and reduce inflammation.	Supports brain and heart health, Reduces joint inflammation Improves skin and hair	Omega-3 Enriched Eggs – Keggs Omega-3 Eggs, Happy Hens Omega Eggs Flaxseed and Chia Seeds – True Elements Flax Seeds, Neuherbs Chia Seeds Fish Oil Supplements – HealthKart Omega-3, WOW Omega-3 Capsules
Antioxidant-rich superfoods	They are rich in polyphenols, flavonoids, and carotenoids that fight oxidative stress and aging.	Protects against chronic diseases -Supports brain health and memory - Enhances skin glow and reduces aging	Green Tea and Herbal Teas – Organic India Green Tea, Lipton Green Tea, Berries (Blueberries, Acai, Goji) – Timios Dried Blueberries, Rostaa Goji Berries Dark Chocolate (High Cocoa) Amul Dark Chocolate, Lindt 85% Cocoa
Ayurvedic and Herbal Nutraceuticals-	Traditional herbs with scientific backing for health benefits.	Boosts immunity and fights infections - Reduces stress and improves stamina - Enhances skin and hair health	Turmeric (Curcumin) Cureveda Turmeric Gold, Patanjali Haldi Churna , Ashwagandha (Adaptogen for Stress Relief) – Himalaya Ashwagandha, Dabur Ashwagandha Capsules Amla (Vitamin C for Immunity) – Kapiva Amla Juice, Zandu Amla Capsules
Functional Protein and Energy Foods-	These contain added nutrients for muscle growth, stamina, and weight management.	Aids muscle recovery and strength - Provides long-lasting energy - Supports healthy metabolism	Protein Powders – OZiva Plant Protein, MuscleBlaze Whey Protein Energy Bars and Drinks – RiteBite Max Protein Bar, Yoga Bar Fortified Energy Drinks – Horlicks Protein+, Ensure

Table 8: Medicinal Nutraceutical Foods and Marketed Products

Types of product	Uses	Health Benefits	Available marketed products
Foods for Diabetes Management-	These foods have low glycemic index (GI), high fiber, and special ingredients to control blood sugar levels	Helps regulate blood sugar -Prevents diabetes-related complications Supports weight management	Diabetic-Friendly Atta – Diabexy Atta, Aashirvaad Sugar Release Control Atta Sugar-Free Biscuits and Snacks – Britannia NutriChoice Diabetes Care, Unibic Sugar-Free Cookies Low-Carb Sweeteners – Sugar-Free Gold, Stevia by Zindagi
Foods for Heart Health (Cardioprotective Nutraceuticals)	These foods contain omega-3 fatty acids, fiber, and antioxidants that support heart health.	Lowers cholesterol and blood pressure -Reduces risk of heart diseases	Omega-3 Rich Oils and Capsules – WOW Omega-3 Capsules, HealthKart Fish Oil Heart-Healthy Oats – Quaker Oats, Bagrry's Heart Oats Fortified Cooking Oils (MUFA and PUFA enriched) – Saffola Total, Fortune Vivo
Foods for Gut Health (Digestive Nutraceuticals)	These foods contain probiotics, prebiotics, and fiber for digestion and gut health.	Relieves constipation and acidity - Enhances gut microbiota - Reduces bloating and indigestion	Probiotic Yogurt and Drinks – Yakult, Amul Probiotic Dahi High-Fiber Foods – Nutriorg Psyllium Husk, True Elements Flax Seeds Digestive Herbal Juices – Kapiva Aloe Vera Juice, Dabur Pudin Hara
Foods for Bone and Joint Health-	These foods are rich in calcium, vitamin D, and collagen to strengthen bones and joints.	Strengthens bones and teeth - Reduces joint pain and arthritis symptoms - Prevents osteoporosis	Calcium and Vitamin D Fortified Milk – Nestlé a+ Milk, Amul Taaza Fortified Milk Joint Support Supplements – Cipla Activ Joint, Himalaya Hadjod Tablets Collagen and Bone Health Drinks – Ensure Bone Health, Horlicks Women's Plus
Foods for Liver and Detox Support-	These foods help in liver detoxification and regeneration.	Supports liver function - Aids detoxification - Protects against fatty liver disease	Liver Detox Juices – Kapiva Amla Juice, Patanjali Aloe Vera Juice Ayurvedic Liver Supplements – Liv.52 by Himalaya, Charak Livomyn Glutathione and Milk Thistle Supplements – HealthKart Liver Detox, TrueBasics Liver Detox
Foods for Brain and Memory Enhancement	These foods are rich in DHA, omega-3, and herbal nootropics	- Enhances memory and focus	Brain-Boosting Herbal Capsules – Brahmi by

	that improve cognitive function.	- Prevents cognitive decline - Supports mental clarity and relaxation	Himalaya, Dabur Shankhpushpi Syrup Omega-3 and DHA Supplements – Seven Seas Cod Liver Oil, Neuherbs Omega-3 Nuts and Seeds for Brain Health – Nutraj Walnuts, Rostaa Pumpkin Seeds
Foods for Immunity Boosting	These foods are rich in vitamins, antioxidants, and adaptogens that strengthen immunity.	Strengthens the immune system - Reduces infections and illnesses - Supports faster recovery	Vitamin C and Zinc Supplements – Limcee, Cipla ImmunoBoost Herbal Immunity Boosters – Dabur Chyawanprash Protein-Rich Immunity Powders – Ensure, Protinex

Table 9: Types of Dietary Supplements and Marketed Products

Types of functional foods	Uses	Health Benefits	Available marketed products
Vitamin and Mineral Supplements	These supplements help prevent deficiencies and improve overall health.	Fills nutritional gaps - Strengthens bones and teeth - Improves immunity and metabolism	Multivitamins – Centrum, Revital H, Supradyn Vitamin C (Immunity Booster) – Limcee, Celin, HealthKart Vitamin C Vitamin D and Calcium (Bone Health) – Shelcal, Cipcal 500, Calcirol Iron and Folic Acid (Anemia Prevention) – Livogen, Dexorange Syrup Zinc Supplements (Immunity and Skin Health) – Zincovit, Zandu Zinc
Protein and Muscle Growth Supplements-	These supplements provide essential amino acids for muscle recovery and strength.	Supports muscle growth and repair - Boosts endurance and stamina - Aids post-workout recovery	Whey Protein – MuscleBlaze Whey, Optimum Nutrition (ON) Gold Standard Plant-Based Protein – OZiva Plant Protein, MyProtein Vegan Blend Mass Gainers – Endura Mass, Dymatize Super Mass Gainer BCAA and Creatine (Muscle Recovery and Strength) – MuscleTech Creatine, Xtend
Omega-3 and Fatty Acid Supplements-	These supplements are essential for heart, brain, and joint health.	Supports heart and brain function - Reduces joint pain and inflammation Improves skin and hair health	Fish Oil Capsules – WOW Omega-3, HealthKart Fish Oil Flaxseed Oil (Plant-Based Omega-3) – TrueBasics Vegan Omega-3 Cod Liver Oil (Rich in DHA and EPA) – Seven Seas Cod Liver Oil

Herbal and Ayurvedic Supplements	Derived from natural herbs for overall wellness.	Reduces stress and anxiety - Boosts memory and focus -Improves immunity and digestion	Ashwagandha (Stress and Stamina) – Himalaya Ashwagandha, Dabur Ashwagandha Capsules Turmeric (Curcumin for Anti-Inflammation) – Cureveda Turmeric Gold, Organic India Turmeric Capsules Brahmi (Brain and Memory Booster) – Himalaya Brahmi, Dabur Shankhpushpi Syrup Amla (Vitamin C and Immunity) – Kapiva Amla Juice, Zandu Amla Capsules
Probiotics and Gut Health Supplements-	These supplements improve digestion and gut flora.	- Improves gut health and digestion - Reduces bloating and acidity - Strengthens immunity	Yakult (Probiotic Drink) – Contains Lactobacillus casei HealthKart Probiotics Capsules – Supports gut balance Nutriorg Psyllium Husk (Fiber Supplement) – Aids digestion
Energy and Performance Supplements-	These supplements boost energy levels, endurance, and focus	-Increases stamina and performance -Reduces fatigue and tiredness -Enhances metabolism	Caffeine and Pre-Workout Boosters – Muscle Blaze Pre-Workout, Fast and Up Activate Energy Bars and Drinks – RiteBite Max Protein Bar, Gatorade Energy Drink Coenzyme Q10 (Heart and Energy Booster) – TrueBasics CoQ10, HealthKart Coenzyme Q10

Table 10: Summary of Indian Scenario of Nutraceutical Industries [30,31,32]

Characteristics	Facts
Market size (2024)	Approximately 1.04 lakh crore
Expected market size (2030)	Expected to reach 2.49 lack crore with a CAGR of 15-20%
Key growth drivers	Increasing health awareness, preventive healthcare trend, increasing lifestyle diseases, fitness trends, digital retail perception
Major segments	Functional foods, dietary supplements, herbal/natural products, probiotics, fortified foods
Popular ingredients	Ashwagandha, curcumin, omega-3 fatty acids, spirullina brahmi, green tea extract, probiotics
Top brands	Himalaya wellness, Dabur, Patanjali, Baidyanath, Amway India, Zydus wellness, Herbalife
Top global companies in India	GSK consumer healthcare, Abbott, Nestle Health Science, Pfizer
Distribution platforms	Pharmacies, health and wellness stores, e-commerce platforms (Amazon, Img, Healthkart), supermarkets
Government regulation	FSSAI regulations, AYUSH ministry promoting traditional ingredients, production linked incentives (PLI) schemes
Challenges	Regulatory uncertainty, need for clinical validation, price sensitivity, misinformation and

	false claims
Prospects	Personalized nutrition, exports to global markets, integration with AI and diagnostics, growing vegan and plant-based population

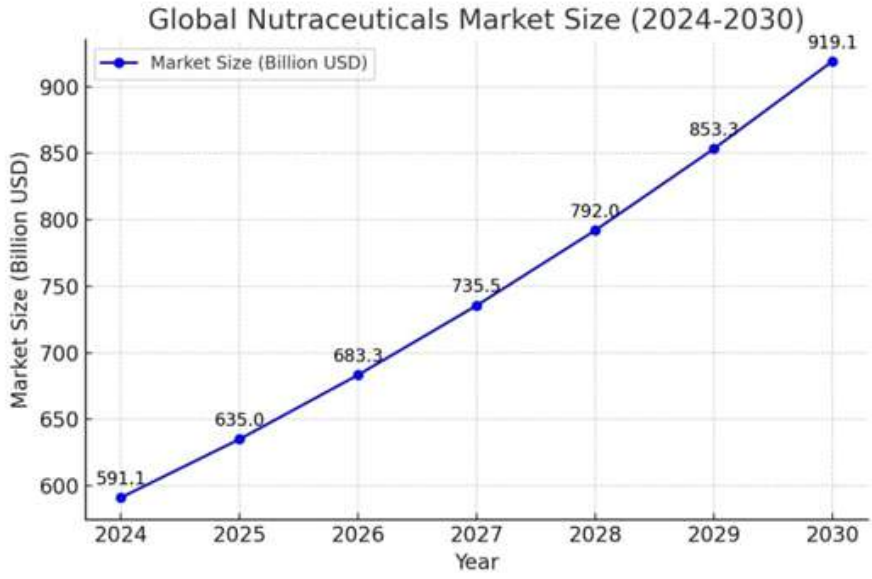


Figure.1: Graph of Current and Projected Growth of Nutraceutical Market

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Community-Based Eco-Tourism Practices : A Comprehensive Study of Sikkim's Sustainable Tourism Model

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ABSTRACT

Community-Based eco-tourism (CBET), which prioritises local economic development, environmental preservation and community empowerment, is an essential aspect of sustainable tourism. It seeks to reduce traditional tourism's negative impact on natural and cultural resources. This paper explores Sikkim's model of community-based eco-tourism, highlighting its innovative practices in biodiversity conservation and community participation. Sikkim, is known for its unique biodiversity and cultural richness and has successfully integrated eco-tourism with conservation efforts. This study assesses the socio-economic and environmental impacts of eco-tourism practices in Sikkim through a secondary data analysis. While highlighting benefits such as conserving biodiversity, cultural revival and boosting local income, but also notes ongoing issues like inadequate infrastructure, insufficient government assistance, and threats to indigenous cultures persist. The paper also underscores the need for community-led initiatives to develop sustainable tourism practices that prioritize ecological conservation.

Keywords: Sikkim, Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Local community, Community-based eco-tourism.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is an activity of travelling to and exploring of destinations outside and individual's usual environment. It constitutes a collective relationship involving the interaction between tourists, local government and communities. A tourist, according to George Young (1974), is a traveller or someone who temporarily relocates from their usual place of habitation. In general, tourism refers to the movement of individuals away from their place of residence and work life for a period of not less than 24 hours and not more than a year (UNTWO, n.d.). Tourism, a global industry that serving as a remarkable source of foreign exchange earnings as well as for employment opportunities for numerous developing nations. However, it is frequently criticised for the outsiders' dominance in the industry, which results in locals and hosts typically receiving low-paying jobs due to a lack of qualifications. As a consequence, the host community often exhibits an atmosphere of detachment in their own locality, with no proper economic benefits from

the modernisation and the disintegration of the traditional systems and practices.The active involvement of the local communities in the tourism initiatives has been proposed as a solution to these challenges, known as Community-Based Eco-Tourism (CBET). It is the primary aim of CBET approaches to integrate local livelihoods into the tourism process at every stage and phase. Pearce &Moscardo, (1996)highlighted that the concept of the "tourism-community relationship" is commonly underlined in planning and research documents and is frequently top priority in national, international, and local tourism research agencies. As a result of this emphasis, the idea of Community-Based Ecotourism has emerged.

Eco- tourism as pathway to sustainability

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) defines ecotourism as "environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features - both past and present) that promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations" (Annual Report 1996,1997).Sustainable tourism or eco-tourism is a vital means of sustainable economic development and protection of wildlife, cultural and natural heritage of our country. It is a specialised form that focuses on visiting fragile, pristine and serene natural areas while aiming to prevent environmental damage. Eco-Tourism, contrast to the traditional tourism, is guided by a set of principle that emphasises on the economic benefits, cultural preservation and conservation of the local communities. Similarly, The World Tourism Organisation (*Ecotourism and Protected Areas | UN Tourism*, n.d.) had described eco-tourism as travel to generally pristine and tranquil locales with the purpose of exploring and appreciating its landscape, wildlife and respecting its cultural heritage (both in the historical and contemporary, present in the regions). Elper Wood, the founder and director of Eco Tourism Society (TES) has described ecotourism as a purposeful travel to regions that maintains the integrity of ecosystems while generating financial opportunities that make resource conservation beneficial to local citizens (Megan Epler Wood,1991).Similarly, The International Ecotourism Society(TIES, 2000) has referred ecotourism as traveling responsibly to serene destinations aimed at protecting the environment and supporting the livelihoods of local populations.

Scope of Ecotourism

Community-Based Eco-Tourism (CBET) has emerged as a crucial approach to the development of sustainable tourism, particularly in ecologically sensitive and marginalized regions. Themain objective of CBET is toemploy a strong emphasis on all round sustainable development including community empowerment, ecological, and local business development in tourism. The concept of community- based ecotourism (CBET) further extends these principles by directly creating a linkage between the local enterprise development with environmental conservation. It distinguishes itself eby ensuring that social and economic benefits are realised by local communities and making it an effective tool for the rural development and conservation (Boo, 1990; Honey, 1999). The advantage of Community based tourism has expanded beyond economic gains, contributing to the psychological and social empowerment of the local communities. By promoting respect in their cultural and the environment traditions, CBET has enhanced self-esteem and strengthens social links within the communities (Scheyvens, 1999). The 1992, United Nations Earth Summit established Agenda 21 and other projects have pushed ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development on a global scale. The agenda comprehensively emphasises on the importance of sustainable practices in the travel and tourism industry, highlighting partnerships between governments, industries and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (UN, 1995).India too, in the Tourism Policy (2005) initiated ecotourism projects across various regions. Sikkim is one such state that emerged as a pioneer in this field. By adopting ecotourism as a development model, Sikkim has set an example for other biodiversity -rich regions to balance tourism growth with the environmental preservation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Researches on the community-based tourism programs have provided several perspectives and insights while eco-tourism as a branch of different tourism has established a significant factor in the development of tourism. This

review provides a comprehensive study that are conducted in community settings as well as drawn from annual report analysis. Dipankar (2022) highlighted the need of sustainable tourism in aligning economic development with environmental conservation in. The study examined on eco-tourism, cultural tourism and community-driven tourism as a vital strategy for achieving sustainability. Lindberg (1991) identified the distinctions between conventional tourist and health-oriented tourism in his research on measures designed to enhance the ecological and economic benefits of nature tourism. He emphasized the importance of adhering with safert between general tourism and tourism focused on health, stating that tourism safety measures, which emcompass accident prevention, awareness enhancement, and educational initiatives for tourist, government department, tour operators so as to foster a shared understanding and cooperative approach to safety in tourism. Mondal et al., (2004)explored the uncommon plants and blooms that are exclusive to the Sikkim hills while analysing the extensive variety of vascular plant species in the Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve. Kaurand Gautam (2023)discussed about sustainable tourism in Sikkim that emphasized on eco-tourism, cultural preservation, environmental conservation and community involvement as verticals for promoting ethical travel through rich biodiversity initiativeslike waste management, eco-friendly transport and community-based tourism to ensure environmental and local engagement. The study also highlighted the challenges Sikkim faces through infrastructure gaps and environmental impacts.

Objectives of the Study

The research seeks to analyse and evaluate the concepts of community based eco-tourism and sustainable practices in the region of Sikkim, focusing on community-driven tourism, and the eco-tourism initiatives implemented by the state, as well as the challenges encountered in promoting eco-tourism.

METHODOLOGY

The study is entirely based on secondary data analysis. The data has been collected from various sources including National Tourism Policy, Sikkim Tourism Policy, Case Studies, Development and promotion of eco-tourism in Sikkim. The data has also been collected from different journals, articles, snapshots and websites etc.

Eco-Tourism Initiatives in Sikkim

Sikkim, a northeastern Indian state, the brother of seven sisters of northeastern states, celebrated for its unique natural beauty vibrant cultural heritage and, unique biodiversity, has emerged as a leading destination for sustainable tourism. Referred as "The land of Mystic Splendour", the state joined the Indian Union asthe 22nd state in 1975 and, as per the census of 2011, is the second least populated state after Goa. Despite its small size, Sikkim has emerged as a significant identity in the field of eco-tourism and a popular tourist destination by promoting practices fostering a balance between tourism and environmental conservation, cultural preservation and community well-being. Despite occupying only 0.2% of the country's geographical territory, Sikkim is frequently referred to as"The land of Orchids," due to a large number of species of blooms and beasts found, hosting 25% of Indian's plant spices. Its natural wonders include 28 towering mountain peaks, such as Mt Kachenjunga, the world's third highest peak and Sinolchu one of the most graceful peaks in the world. Besides, the state is also home to 39 Rhododendron species, 558 orchid varieties, 600 bird species, 2000 moth spieces, 658 butterfly varieties, and around 4000 flowering plants including medicinal herbs. These natural assets make Sikkim a unique destination for eco-toursim, with popular spots like Lachen, Yumthang Valley, Gangtok, Changu Lake, etc.(Devi, 2020).However, tourism continues to emerge, in response to the environmental impact of tourism, the state has developed the initiates like Sikkim Himalayan Homestay Program. This programme is managed by the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) in collaboration with UNESCO. It has been successfully implemented in several location of Sikkim including Dzongu (North Sikkim), East Sikkim- Yuksam, Pastanga and Ray Mindu. To further integrate eco-tourism into the state's framework, Sikkim hosted the "The South Asian Regional Conference on Eco-Tourism" in the year 2002, organised by ECOSS in collaboration with the International Eco-Tourism Society (TIES). The conference paved the way of sustainable practices that meet the global standards.

Subsequently the State Tourism Policy of 2010, has laid down a set of comprehensive guidelines for quality education to be emerged with ecotourism campaigns, environmental awareness and incorporating natural features like rivers, wetlands and other ecosystems into tourism initiatives. The policy also emphasised the need to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem in protected areas. The outcome of the policy has helped Sikkim region develop as a leader in sustainable tourism practices.

FINDINGS

Through a thorough analysis from diverse sources, including articles, journals, government reports, and state tourism policy reports, this study investigates sustainable tourism practices in Sikkim, highlighting the state's commitment to responsible tourism.

Wildlife Conservation: The state of Sikkim is committed to protecting the rich biodiversity, including iconic species like: the Himalayan black bear, house to red panda and the snow leopard. The state government has implemented various measures such as wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, and conservation programmes. The Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a model for wildlife conservation that covers an area of 850 square miles and is home to several rare and endangered wildlife's.
The following table 1 displays the various wildlife conservation park and sanctuaries in Sikkim.

Sustainable Accommodation: A variety of eco-friendly accommodations in Sikkim prioritize sustainability by establishing green practices to reduce their environmental footprints. The implementation of renewable solar energy and water conservation system had leveraged the use in the regions.
Example: The Bamboo Retreat in Rumtek and The Cherry Resort in the capital city, Gangtok uses sustainable tourism accommodations.

Waste Management: Effective waste management is a critical component of sustainable tourism in Sikkim region. Several measures have been implemented by the state government to guarantee the waste generated by tourism activities is managed responsibly. The state has prohibitedplastic bags and use of plastic bottles and urging visitors and, touriststo take their trashes with them. The state government has also set upwaste management facilities in prominent tourist locations to ensure that wastes are disposed properly.

Eco-Conscious Tourism Hubs in Sikkim: Areas like Gangtok, Tsomgo (Changu Lake), Yumthang Valley exemplify the practices of environmental preservation and responsible travel. Gangtok leads with the sustainable urban tourism by promoting waste management, electric transport facilities and preservation of cultural traditions. Yumthang Valley emphasised on the biodiversity conservation through eco-friendly trekking and community-based initiatives that assist the local livelihood. The Tsomogo lake, often called as Changu lake is one of the glacial marvels of the state, focused on the ecosystem protection by regulating tourist activities, encouraging proper waste managing and mitigate environmental impact by promoting the use of electric vehicle. Together, these areas of Sikkim set as an example towards their strong commitment to balance the tourism source as well as the ecological preservation.

Challenges faced for Eco-Tourism practices in Sikkim
Despite its vast opportunities, rich biodiversity and diverse landscapes, the state faces several challenges in maintaining the sustainable eco-tourism. These obstacles hinder the state's capacity to optimize its potential while protecting their cultural heritage and natural resources (Karmakar, 2023; Sikkim Tourism, 2024).

1) Several distant areas in Sikkim faces inconsistent telecommunication which impeding their coordination and disrupt visitor experiences.
2) Inadequate infrastructure as poor facilities in remote areas, such as insufficient equipment for snow clearing and making such destinations less accessible.

3) Increased tourism often risks in diluting the indigenous traditions and authenticity.
4) Over tourism and inadequate waste management harm fragile ecosystem
5) Limited government support and loan subsidies force reliance on foreign investors.
6) Resort expansion and mainstream tourism challenge environmental and cultural preservation.

SUGGESTIONS

Key suggestions for improvements are:

1) Participation of the local community people should be empowered and supported in the management of tourism activities.
2) Environmental awareness campaigns would be organised in a frequent basis.
3) Government subsidies like loans, credit facilities should be made readily accessible to empower the local communities and entrepreneurs to reduce dependency.
4) Investments in the quality education and training programs for local guides and professionals in specialised eco-tourism activity.
5) Strengthening the telecommunication access and networks in distant areas of Sikkim.
6) Developing better and enhanced waste management systems for better balance of environmental preservations.

CONCLUSION

Sikkim's ecotourism practices demonstrate that tourism can positively impact wildlife, local livelihoods and the environment through waste management, ecofriendly accommodations and, natural habitats. However, the state faces significant challenges in terms of inadequate infrastructure, weak telecommunication, limited financial support, cultural threats, etc. These challenges hinder the capacity of the state to balance tourism growth with the preservation of its ecological and cultural heritage. Addressing these challenges is vital for securing the sustainable venture that benefits both the environment and local communities.

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Table 1: Protected Parks and Sanctuaries for Eco-Tourism

Name	Park/Sanctuaries
1. Khangchendzonga National Park	Park
2. Singba Rhodendron	Sanctuary
3. Varsey Rhododendron	Sanctuary
4. Maenam Wildlife	Sanctuary
5. FambongLho Wildlife	Sanctuary
6. Kyongnosla Alphine	Sanctuary

Source: (Karmakar, 2023)- Eco Tourism Practices in Sikkim

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Quasi Experimental Study to Evaluate the Impact of Self Care Strategies on Depression, Anxiety and Stress among CKD Patients in Nadiad City

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ABSTRACT

Chronic Kidney Disease Imposes significant psychological burdens, including depression, anxiety, and stress, due to treatment complexities, lifestyle disruptions, and disease progression. Despite its global prevalence affecting of adults and older person, mental health interventions for Chronic Kidney Disease patients remain limited. This study evaluates the efficacy of self-care strategies in alleviating psychological distress among CKD patients undergoing Hemodialysis in Nadiad city. Hemodialysis, while life-sustaining, exacerbates socioeconomic and emotional challenges, with depression prevalence reaching 73% in this population. By exploring tailored self-care approaches, this research aims to enhance mental well-being, treatment adherence, and holistic Renal Failure disease management. Findings may inform healthcare strategies to mitigate the psychological toll of CKD and improve quality of life for patients. This Study Aims to evaluate the impact of Self Care Strategies on Depression, Anxiety, Stress among chronic Kidney Disease patients Undergoing Treatment at Dialysis center in Nadiad city chronic illness like CKD.often leads to significant psychological Distress due to prolonged suffering and treatment Burden .The researcher seeks to assess the current psychological status of these patients and identify the specific mental health challenges arising from their condition. By understanding these psychological changes, the study intends to develop targeted interventions that can improve patients' mental well-being and overall quality of life. This quasi-experimental study utilized a non-probability purposive sampling technique to evaluate the impact of self-care strategies on depression, anxiety, and

stress among 60 chronic kidney disease patients in Nadiad district. Data collection was conducted from 16th January 2025 to 28th January 2025 after obtaining ethical clearance and informed consent from participants. A structured Patient Information Sheet was used for documentation. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (paired t-test, chi-square, and correlation) were applied for data analysis. The pre-test assessment revealed significant baseline psychological distress, with depression scores averaging 21.78±6.32 (52%), anxiety at 24.20±4.78 (58%), and stress levels at 23.67±4.78 (56%). Post-intervention data demonstrated marked improvements, with depression decreasing to 6.00±2.76 (14%), anxiety to 8.57±2.23 (20%), and stress to 7.33±2.83 (17%). All reductions were statistically significant, as evidenced by paired t-test results: depression (t=17.73), anxiety (t=23.28), and stress (t=23.00), all exceeding the critical table value of 2.001 ($p<0.05$). Demographic analysis identified patients aged >57 years and male gender as having higher baseline rates of depression, anxiety, and stress. However, two notable exceptions emerged: (1) male gender showed no significant association with depression and stress levels ($p>0.05$), and (2) clinical management factors (fluid restrictions and Hemodialysis frequency) demonstrated no significant correlation with any psychological outcomes ($p>0.05$). This study evaluated how self-care strategies impact psychological distress in chronic kidney disease patients. Result showed Anxiety decreased by 20%, Stress by 17%, and Depression by 14%. Older patients (57+ years) and male participants exhibited higher vulnerability to these symptoms. These results demonstrate that while self-care interventions are beneficial, certain demographic and clinical factors may require alternative approaches in mental health management for CKD patients.

Keywords: Evaluate, Impact, Depression, Anxiety, Stress, Chronic Kidney Disease, Self Care Strategies

INTRODUCTION

Chronic kidney disease is considered as a public health problem worldwide Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is ranked among the 20 causes of death according to the Global Burden of Disease and is fast becoming a disease of public health importance[1]. It is associated with a huge socio-economic, physical and psychological burden on its sufferers and their caregivers[2]. It is defined by kidney tissue injury [with or without a decrease in Glomerular filtration rate and /or a decrease in kidney function over a period of three or more months. When the Glomerular filtration rate [GFR] is below 15ml./min./1.73m2, the patient is in the terminal stage or dialysis, requiring renal replacement therapy [RRT], dialysis or transplant as alternative treatments. Renal failure is the inability of the kidney to excrete wastes, concentrate urine, and conserve electrolytes. Renal failure is precipitated from a variety of etiological factors. It is treatable but not curable, which means that the patient needs a long term therapies or transplantation[3]. Depressive symptoms are among the most frequent co-morbidity among patients with CKD. Early diagnosis of depression is often missed, owing to the similarities between depressive symptoms and uremic symptoms. This might explain the lower prevalence of depressive disorder in the early stages of CKD[4]. Depression can be affected by some socio demographic factors as well as by individual general condition, and its association with suicide, fatigue, sleep disorder and pain in ESRD patients[5]. As anxiety, depression and related factors are prevalent in patients with CKD undergoing Hemodialysis, they significantly affect the sufferer's quality of life and disease outcome[6,7]. The transition from predialysis management to renal replacement therapy (RRT) is a stressful event in the course of CKD, leading to challenges and decisions that might increase their susceptibility to anxiety, mood disorders or even exacerbate psychological issues that already exist[8]. Chronically and progressive nature of kidney disease and perceived fear of uncertainty about life might be the factors underlying feelings of depression and anxiety. Majority of CKD patients more than fifty percent of patients were above 41 years of age. Bindoo SJ et al. also observed that mean age of the patient in their study was 45.70 years[9]. Chronic kidney disease patients must self-manage their illness to a large extent to slow disease-progression by effectively managing medications and making lifestyle modifications (e.g., diet, fluid, exercise, smoking, alcohol). Engaging in this level of self-management is arduous and

requires support, however, not all individuals desire the same kind or level of assistance[10]. Despite this, people with CKD are rarely consulted regarding the support that they desire in order to effectively manage their condition[11]. The aim of this study is to determine the anxiety and depression among CKD patients undergoing Hemodialysis. Thus, the findings of this study will serve as a basis to initiate a needs assessment among CKD patients experiencing anxiety and depression and Stress to develop and implement a support management plan to improve mental health services for these CKD patients and improve their quality of life

OBJECTIVES

1. To evaluate the level of depression among CKD patients before and after the administration of self care strategies in Selected Hospital in Nadiad City.
2. To evaluate the level of Anxiety among CKD patients before and after the administration of self care strategies Selected Hospital in Nadiad City.
3. To evaluate the level of Stress among CKD patients before and after the administration of self care strategies Selected Hospital in Nadiad City.
4. To identify the association between selected pre demographic variables and depression, anxiety and stress among CKD Patient in Selected Hospital in Nadiad City.

HYPOTHESIS

H1: The mean post test depression score of CKD patients will be significance lower than the mean pre – test depression score after administration of self care strategies as evidence by DASS – 42 at 0.05 level of Significance.

H2: The mean post test Anxiety score of CKD patients will be significance lower than the mean pre – test Anxiety score after administration of self care strategies as evidence by DASS – 42 at 0.05 level of Significance.

H3: The mean post test Stress score of CKD patients will be significance lower than the mean pre – test Stress score after administration of self care strategies as evidence by DASS – 42 at 0.05 level of Significance.

H4: There will be significant association between selected pre demographic variables and with depression, anxiety, and stress among CKD patients in Selected Hospital In Nadiad City.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study design and setting

The study adopted a quantitative research approach with a quasi-experimental design (one group pre-test post-test) to evaluate the Impact of self care strategies on Depression, Anxiety and Stress among CKD patients. The study was conducted 60 CKD patient with undergoing Hemodialysis in Selected Hospital in Nadiad City.

Sample size

The sample size was calculated by using G power software where the initial estimated sample size was 54, and then an additional 10% was added to account for potential dropouts or incomplete data, resulting in a final sample size of 60. So, the calculated formula was 54+ (10% of 54) =54+5.4=59.4 and the final sample size became 60.

Sampling frame

Prior permission was obtained from the concerned authorities of selected Hospital in Nadiad City the investigator prepared a master data collection schedule to systematically organize the research process. Data collection was conducted to ensure structured and timely completion of the study.

Sampling Technique and Sample Selection Criteria: A Non Probability Purposive Sampling Technique was used for Selection on 60 chronic kidney disease patients in Selected Hospital in Naidad City.

Variables

The independent variable

In this study was independent variable is self care strategies including psychological support, medication, physical activity & exercise, nutritional guidance, daily fluid intake output plan, regular monitoring vitals and weight, Hemodialysis, transplant counseling, follow up.

Dependent variable

In this study dependent variable depression, anxiety and stress. Demographic data: age, gender, education, occupation of patient, monthly income, marital status, family type, any bad habit, along with CKD any other health problem, Restriction on fluid by doctor, number of Hemodialysis per weeks, dialysis vintage, what access do you use for Hemodialysis

Inclusive Criteria

- Patients who will give consent to participate in the study.
- Patients who are diagnosed with chronic kidney disease more than 6 month and undergoing Hemodialysis treatment.
- Depression score on depression, anxiety, and stress scale DAAS-42 should be more than 9.
- Anxiety score on depression, anxiety, and stress DAAS-42 should be more than 7.
- Stress score on depression, anxiety, and stress DAAS-42 should be more than 14.

Exclusive Criteria

- Patients who will not be available at the time of data collection.
- Patients who are not willing to participate.
- Patients who are critically and mentally ill.
- <18 year age group

Description of the Tool

The tool employed in this study comprises two sections, each serving a distinct purpose.

Section-A: Demographic Variables

This consists of age, gender, education, occupation of patient, monthly income, marital status, family type, any bad habit, along with CKD any other health problem, restriction on fluid by doctor, number of Hemodialysis per week, dialysis vintage, what access do you use for Hemodialysis .

Section-B: Subjective assessment: of Depression, anxiety and stress with using DASS-42 tool.
(Scoring Pattern of DASS Tool)

Data Collection Procedure

The investigators have taken prior permission from the Hospital for the study. A Demographic Data and DASS TOOL were used to gather data from the Hospital at their respective establishments. Prior to the full-scale investigation, a pilot study was carried out on16/12/2024 to 19/12/2024 with a sample of 06 Patients from Selected Hospital in Nadiad to determine the tool's viability. The data collection was conducted from 16 January 2025 to 28 January 2025 in total, 60 samples were selected from Hospital in Nadiad City. The Prior to participation the objective of the study was discussed with the participants. During data collection, the entire sample cooperated well, and there were no problems.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

SECTION - I

Table No : 1 The data presented in indicates that the majority 7(11.66%) of samples belongs to 18 -30 years age group, while 12(20%) samples was belonging to 31 -43 years age Group, then 11(18.34%)of sample belongs was 44 -56year age while 30 (50%)sample was belongs to 57yr and above age.. In gender majority of samples was male 41(68.33%) while 19(31.67%) samples were female and there was no sample from transgender. In education majority of samples have study up to illiterate 9(15%) in sample while primary 7(11.67%) in sample and secondary education 21(35%), in samples there was 6(10%) up to higher secondary education, 17(28.33%) up to graduate and above. In occupation majority of samples was unemployed 38(6333%), there was 15(25%) have private service, 4(6.67%) have labour work, and 3(5%) samples in government service. In monthly income majority of samples 2(3.34%) earned less than 5000, there was 7(11.66%) earned between 5000 to 10,000 18(30%) earned between 10,000-15000, and 18(30%) earned between 15000 -20000, and above 20000 there was only 15(25%) sample. There was 41(68.33%) samples were married, 13(21.67%) was unmarried, 6(10%) was widow and widower, and no samples was divorcee. Majority of samples was belonging to joint family 35(58.33%), and there was 23(38.34%) samples belong to nuclear sample. While 2(3.33%) sample belonging extended family. In habits and addiction majority of samples had any other habits and 4(6.66%) had habit of smoking; 7(11.67) had habit of tobacco chewing here was samples of alcohol 1(1.67), there was no other sample bed habit. In religion majority of samples was Hindu 56(93.33%), and 3(5%) was Muslim; there was 1(1.67%) samples of Christian and no any other religious In other health problems majority of samples was suffering from diabetes mellitus 13(25%), there was 25(41.67%) samples of other problems, 1(3.34%) sample of hypertension and 22(36.67%) sample was no any disease in the study all sample 60(100%) has restriction fluid by doctor. In numbers of Hemodialysis in a week majority of samples have 2time /week 1(1.67%), and 59(98.33%) thrice in a week of Hemodialysis cycle; there was no sample of once in a week and daily of Hemodialysis cycle. In year of chronic kidney disease majority of samples >3month – 6month of CKD 9(15%), there was 13(21.67%) 6month – 1year of CKD and 19(31.66%) 5year -10yearof CKD 9(15%) was 10year above >in dialysis vintage. in the study Hemodilays done by various access in Intrajuglar double catheter 2(3.33%) was used while 2 (3.33%) Intrajuglar triple lumen catheter 2(3.33%) femoral double lumen catheter, 28 (46.67%) perm Cath, 26 (43.34%) fistula.

SECTION II

Frequency & Percentage distribution of Chronic kidney disease patients according to Depression, Anxiety and stress assessed by DASS-42 self-rating scale among Hemodialysis patients between pre-test post-test.

Table No: 2 The data presented in Depression pre test data majority was 4(6.67%)Had mild depressive ,while 27(45%) had Moderate, further, among patients 17(28.33%) had severe depressive and 12(20%) had very severe depressive no any single sample in normal. After the week taken post test and results data was 58(96.67%) sample are normal and only 2(3.33%).

Bar graph showing the results of frequency distribution of subject in term depression value of the samples (Figure No: 1).

Table No : 3 The data presented in Anxiety pre test data majority was 2(3.34%) had Moderate anxiety, while 6(10%) sample was severe category and whereas 52(86.66%) sample are very severe category no any single sample in normal and mild category. after the week taken post test and results data was 19(31.67%)sample had normal while 23(38.33%) are mildly present anxiety symptoms further17(28.34%)sample moderate category 1(1.66) sample only severe anxiety.

Figure No: 2. Bar graph showing the results of frequency distribution of subject in term anxiety value of the samples

Table No: 4. The data presented in Stress pre test data majority was 2(3.33%)had normal ,while 3(5%)sample had mild category whereas 25(58.34%) had Moderate category further 19(31.67%) sample had severe category and 1(1.66%) sample are very severe stress .after the week taken post test and results data was 60(100%)sample are normal.

Bar graph showing the results of frequency distribution of subject in term stress value of the sample (Figure No: 3).

Table No: 5. Analysis of data Effectiveness of self care strategies on depression, anxiety and stress among chronic kidney patients.
P <0.05 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
NS – NON SIGNIFICANCE

Table No: 5. The data presented in Pre test Depression Mean ± SD [21.783± 6.322(52%)]. while Anxiety Mean ± SD [24.2± 4.777(58%)] then Stress Mean ± SD [23.667± 4.782(56%)] post test Depression Mean ± SD [6± 2.762(14%)]. whereas Anxiety Mean ± SD [8.567± 2.227(20%)] further Stress Mean ± SD [7.333± 2.832(17%), the all category 'T value are depression paired "t" value is 17.73 while Anxiety paired "t" value is 23.28 and Stress paired "t" value is 23. over all three category(Depression, anxiety stress) table value is 2.001.
This bar graph showing the comparison of the pre-test and post-test value of the DASS-42 questionnaire self-rating scale (Figure No: 4).

SECTION III

Table No: 6. Association between Depression, Anxiety, and Stress with their selected demographic variable. (Chi-Square Test)

Table No 6: The Data of depression demographic variables are age(0.001), education(0.00), occupation(0.0265), monthly income(0.004), marital status(0.0001), family type(0.0003) any bad habit(0.0059), along with CKD any health problem(0.0223) ,number of Hemodialysis in per week(0.0437), dialysis vintage(0.0000), what access do you use for Hemodialysis(0.0000) this all demographic variables of depression are statistically significant at level of (p >0.05 level).whereas the depression further variables are Gender(0.01150), religion(0.1759)and restriction on fluid by doctor(1.0000) are statistically Not significant.

Table No 7: The Data of Anxiety demographic variables are age(0.0007), Gender(0.0336), education(0.0060), occupation(0.0003), monthly income(0.0030), marital status(0.0296), family type(0.0102) any bad habit(0.0300),Religion(0.4519). Along with CKD any health problem (0.0075), Dialysis vintage (0.0015), what access do you use for Hemodialysis (0.0091) this all demographic variables of anxiety are statistically significant at level of (p >0.05 level).whereas the anxiety further variables are Restriction on fluid by doctor (1.000), while number of Hemodialysis in per week (0.5765) statistically Not significant.

Table No 8: The Data of stress demographic variables are Age(0.0009), Education(0.0000), occupation(0.0006), monthly income(0.0010), Marital status(0.0001), family type(0.0026) any bad habit(0.0001), Along with CKD any health problem(0.0024), Dialysis vintage(0.0002), what access do you use for Hemodialysis (0.0000) this all demographic variables of stress are statistically significant at level of (p >0.05 level). Whereas Stress further variables are Gender (0.1481), Religion (0.2940) Restriction on fluid by doctor (1.000), while number of Hemodialysis in per week (0.3939) statistically Not significant.

CONCLUSION

The study Evaluate the Impact of self care strategies on Depression, Anxiety and Stress among chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients the among 60 Chronic Kidney Disease Patient, reveling significant improvement in certain areas. The participants were majority of Anxiety (20%), Stress (17%), and Depression (14%). The People in age 57yr and above, and Gender (Male) having, higher Rate of Depression, Anxiety and Stress with Chronic Kidney Disease

Conflict of Interest

The author had declared that there was no conflict of interest.

Sources of Funding

Self-funded.

Ethical Permission

The committee comprised 11 members with diverse expertise. The study was assigned the ethical approval Maganbhai Adenwala Mahagujarat University Institute ethics Committee for Human Research, Nadiad Approval No: MAM Uni/IECHR/2024, also Hospital Ethical committee permission on 5th July 2024 Registration No: EC/NEW/INST/2024/4359, also Same Hospital Registration in 18 May 2024, IRB/115/2024. A Demographic Data and Additionally, formal written permission was obtained from the authority.

Statement of Informed Consent

The informed consent form was taken from Patients prior to the data collection of the study. Also patient information Sheet were shared and taken.

Two reviwer

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Table. 1: Scoring Pattern

Variable	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe
Depression	**0-9**	**10-13**	**14-20**	**21-27**	**28+**
Anxiety	**0-7**	**8-9**	**10-14**	**15-19**	**20+**
Stress	**0-14**	**15-18**	**19-25**	**26-33**	**34+**

(Scoring Pattern of DASS Tool)

Table No: 2. Demographic Data

Demographic Variables	Frequency and Percentage	
	f	%
1. AGE		
18 yr – 30yr	7	11.6
31yr – 43yr	12	20
44yr – 56yr	11	18.34
57yr & above	30	50
2. GENDER		
Male	41	68.33
Female	19	31.67
Other	0	0
3. EDUCATION		
Illiterate	9	15
Primary	7	11.67
Secondary	21	35
Higher Secondary	6	10
Graduate & Above	17	28.33

4. OCCUPATION		
Businessmen	0	0
Government	3	5
Private	15	25
Labour	**4**	**6.67**
Unemployed	**38**	**63.33**
5. MONTHLY INCOME		
Less than 5000	**2**	**3.34**
5000 To 10,000	**7**	**11.66**
10,000 To 15,000	**18**	**30**
15,000 To 20,000	**18**	**30**
Above 20,000	**15**	**25**
6. MARITAL STATUS		
Married	**41**	**68.33**
Unmarried	**13**	**21.67**
Widow / widower	**6**	**10**
Divorcee	**0**	**0**
7. FAMILY TYPE		
Joint	**35**	**58.33**
Nuclear	**23**	**38.34**
Extended	**2**	**3.33**
8. ANY BAD HABIT		
Smocking	**4**	**6.66**
Tobacco chewing	**7**	**11.67**
Alcohol consumer	**1**	**1.67**
other	**48**	**80**
9. RELIGION		
Hindu	**56**	**93.33**
Muslim	**3**	**5**
Christian	**1**	**1.67**
Other	**0**	**0**
10. ALONG WITH CKD ANY OTHER HEALTH PROBLEM		
Diabetes mellitus	**13**	**21.66**
Hypertension	**25**	**41.67**
Any other	**0**	**0**
No	**22**	**36.67**
11.RESTRICTION ON FLUID BY DOCTOR		
Yes	**60**	**100**
No	**0**	**0**
12. NUMBERS OF HEOMODIALYSIS IN A WEEK		
Daily	**0**	**0**
1 Time /week	**0**	**0**
2 Times / week	**1**	**1.67**
3 Times/ week	**59**	**98.33**
13. DIALYSIS VINTAGE		
>3Month – 6 month	**9**	**15**
6 month – 1 year	**13**	**21.67**
1year – 5 year	**19**	**31.66**

5year – 10year	**10**	**16.67**
10year or above > 12year	**9**	**15**
14. WHAT ACCESS DO YOU USE FOR HEMODIALYSIS		
IJV DLC	**2**	**3.33**
IJV TLC	**2**	**3.33**
Femoral DLC	**2**	**3.33**
Perm cath	**28**	**46.67**
Fistula	**26**	**43.34**

Table No: 3 Depression

DEPRESSION					
S.N	**Level of Depression**	**Pre test**		**Post test**	
		f	**%**	**f**	**%**
1	**Normal**	**0**	**0**	**58**	**98.67**
2	**Mild**	**4**	**6.67**	**2**	**3.33**
3	**Moderate**	**27**	**45**	**0**	**0**
4	**Severe**	**17**	**28.33**	**0**	**0**
5	**Very severe**	**12**	**20**	**0**	**0**
	Total	**60**	**100**	**60**	**100**

Table No: 4 Anxiety.

ANXIETY					
S.N	**Level of Anxiety**	**Pre test**		**Post test**	
		f	**%**	**f**	**%**
1	**Normal**	**0**	**0**	**19**	**31.67**
2	**Mild**	**0**	**0**	**23**	**38.33**
3	**Moderate**	**2**	**3.34**	**17**	**28.34**
4	**Severe**	**6**	**10**	**1**	**1.66**
5	**Very severe**	**52**	**86.66**	**0**	**0**
	Total	**60**	**100**	**60**	**100**

Table No: 5. Stress

STRESS					
S.N	**Level of Stress**	**Pre test**		**Post test**	
		f	**%**	**f**	**%**
1	**Normal**	**2**	**3.33**	**60**	**100**
2	**Mild**	**3**	**5**	**0**	**0**
3	**Moderate**	**25**	**58.34**	**0**	**0**
4	**Severe**	**19**	**31.67**	**0**	**0**
5	**Very severe**	**1**	**1.66**	**0**	**0**
	Total	**60**	**100**	**60**	**100**

Table No: 6. Analysis Effectiveness.

SN	Levels of variables	Pre test Mean ± sd	Post test Mean ± sd	Mean D	Paired "t" test	df	Table Value
1	Depression	21.783 ± 6.322	6 ± 2.762	15.783	17.73	59	2.001
2	Anxiety	24.2 ± 4.777	8.567 ± 2.227	15.633	23.28	59	
3	Stress	23.667 ± 4.782	7.333 ± 2.832	16.334	23	59	

Table No: 7. Data describing the association between selected Demographic variables and Depression in patients. (N=60)

SN	Demographic Variables	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe	x^2 value	P value	DF	S/NS
1	AGE (YEARS)									
	18yr - 30yr	0	1	3	3	0	14.854	0.001	12	S
	31yr - 43yr	0	3	4	3	2				
	44yr - 56yr	0	0	7	3	1				
	57yr & above	0	0	13	8	9				
2	GENDER									
	Male	0	4	18	12	7	2.484	0.1150	8	NS
	Female	0	0	9	5	5				
	Others	0	0	0	0	0				
3	EDUCATION									
	Illiterate	0	0	4	1	4	18.851	0.00	16	S
	Primary	1	0	2	3	1				
	Secondary	0	1	9	6	5				
	Higher Secondary	0	0	2	3	1				
	Graduate & above	0	2	10	4	1				
4	OCCUPATION									
	Businessmen	0	0	0	0	0	4.925	0.0265	16	S
	Government employee	0	0	1	1	1				
	Private employee	0	2	8	4	1				
	Labour	0	0	1	2	1				
	Unemployment	0	2	17	10	9				
5	MONTHLY INCOME									
	< 5000	0	0	2	0	0	12.691	0.004	16	S
	5001 – 10000	0	0	6	1	0				
	10001 – 15000	0	2	7	5	4				
	15001 – 20000	0	1	7	4	6				
	> 20000	0	1	5	7	2				
6	MARITAL STATUS									
	Married	2	0	21	10	8	16.149	0.0001	12	S
	Unmarried	0	2	6	4	1				
	Widow / Widower	0	0	0	3	3				
	Divorcee	0	0	0	0	0				
7	FAMILY TYPE									
	Joint	0	1	19	8	7				

							13.243	0.0003	8	S
	Nuclear	0	3	8	9	3				
	Extended	0	0	0	0	2				
8	ANY BAD HABIT									
	Smoking	0	0	3	0	1	7.578	0059	12	S
	Tobacco chewing	0	1	3	3	0				
	Alcohol consumer	0	0	0	1	0				
	No any	0	3	21	13	11				
9	RELIGION									
	Hindu	0	4	25	16	11	1.832	0.1759	12	NS
	Muslim	0	0	1	1	1				
	Christian	0	0	1	0	0				
	Other	0	0	0	0	0				
10	ALONG WITH CKD ANY OTHER HEALTH PROBLEM									
	Diabetes mellitus	0	0	9	5	3	5.226	0.0223	12	S
	Hypertension	0	1	14	8	6				
	Any other	0	0	0	0	0				
	No any	0	3	7	4	4				
11	RESTRICTION ON FLUID BY DOCTOR?									
	Yes	0	4	27	17	12	0	1.0000	4	NS
	No	0	0	0	0	0				
12	NUMBER OF HEMODIALYSIS IN PER WEEK									
	Daily	0	0	0	0	0	4.068	0.0437	12	S
	1times/ week	0	0	0	0	0				
	2times / week	0	0	0	0	1				
	3times / week	0	4	27	17	11				
13	DIALYSIS VINTAGE									
	> 3month – 6month	0	3	3	3	0	22.177	0.0000	16	S
	6month – 1year	0	0	5	3	5				
	1year – 5year	0	0	10	4	5				
	5year – 10year	0	0	6	3	1				
	10year or above > 12year	0	1	3	4	1				
14	WHAT ACCESS DO YOU USE FOR HEMODIALYSIS?									
	IJV DLC	0	1	1	0	0	20.739	0.0000	16	S
	IJC TLC	0	1	0	1	0				
	Femoral DLC	0	0	0	2	0				
	Perm cath	0	1	12	8	7				
	Fistula	0	1	14	6	5				

Table No:8. Data describing the association between selected Demographic variables and Anxiety in patients (N=60)

SN	Demographic Variables	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	x^2 value	P value	DF	S/NS
1	AGE (YEARS)									
	18yr - 30yr	0	0	0	3	4	11.399	0.0007	12	S
	31yr - 43yr	0	0	1	0	11				

	44yr - 56yr	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**10**				
	57yr & above	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**27**				
2	**GENDER**									
	Male	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**37**	**4.515**	**0.0336**	**8**	**S**
	Female	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**15**				
	Others	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
3	**EDUCATION**									
	Illiterate	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**8**	**7.536**	**0.0060**	**16**	**S**
	Primary	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**5**				
	Secondary	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**17**				
	Higher Secondary		**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**				
	Graduate & above	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**16**				
4	**OCCUPATION**									
	Businessmen	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13.216**	**0.0003**	**16**	**S**
	Government employee	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**				
	Private employee	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**12**				
	Labour	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**1**				
	Unemployment	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**33**				
5	**MONTHLY INCOME**									
	< 5000	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**8.8**	**0.0030**	**16**	**S**
	5001 – 10000	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**				
	10001 – 15000	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**13**				
	15001 – 20000	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**17**				
	> 20000	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**12**				
6	**MARITAL STATUS**									
	Married	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**36**	4.73	0.0296	12	**S**
	Unmarried	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**11**				
	Widow / Widower	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**5**				
	Divorcee	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
7	FAMILY TYPE									
	Joint	**0**	**0**	**2**	**6**	**27**	6.594	0.0102	8	**S**
	Nuclear	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**23**				
	Extended	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**				
8	ANY BAD HABIT									
	Smoking	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	4.707	0.0300	12	**S**
	Tobacco chewing	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**6**				
	Alcohol consumer	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**				
	No any	**0**	**0**	**1**	**5**	**42**				
9	**RELIGION**									
	Hindu	**0**	**0**	**1**	**6**	**49**	**0.566**	**0.4519**	**12**	**S**
	Muslim	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**				
	Christian	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**				
	Other	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
10	**ALONG WITH CKD ANY OTHER HEALTH PROBLEM**									
	Diabetes mellitus	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**14**				

							7.153	0.0075	12	S
	Hypertension	0	0	0	2	27				
	Any other	0	0	0	0	0				
	No any	0	0	0	3	15				
11	RESTRICTION ON FLUID BY DOCTOR?									
	Yes	0	0	2	6	52	0	1.0000	4	NS
	No	0	0	0	0	0				
12	NUMBER OF HEMODIALYSIS IN PER WEEK									
	Daily	0	0	0	0	0	0.312	0.5765	12	NS
	1times/ week	0	0	0	0	1				
	2times / week	0	0	0	0	1				
	3times / week	0	0	2	6	51				
13	DIALYSIS VINTAGE									
	> 3month – 6month	0	0	0	3	6	10.138	0.0015	16	S
	6month – 1year	0	0	1	2	10				
	1year – 5year	0	0	0	1	18				
	5year – 10year	0	0	0	0	10				
	10year or above > 12year	0	0	0	1	8				
14	WHAT ACCESS DO YOU USE FOR HEMODIALYSIS?									
	IJV DLC	0	0	0	1	1	6.795	0.0091	16	S
	IJC TLC	0	0	0	0	2				
	Femoral DLC	0	0	0	0	2				
	Perm cath	0	0	0	3	25				
	Fistula	0	0	2	2	22				

Table No: 9. Data describing the association between selected Demographic variables and Stress in patients (N=60)

SN	Demographic Variables	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe	x^2 value	P value	DF	S/NS
1	AGE (YEARS)									
	18yr - 30yr	1	1	3	2	0	11.025	0.0009	12	S
	31yr - 43yr	0	1	6	5	0				
	44yr - 56yr	1	1	7	2	0				
	57yr & above	0	0	19	10	1				
2	GENDER									
	Male	2	2	24	13	0	2.092	0.1481	8	NS
	Female	1	1	11	6	1				
	Others	0	0	0	0	0				
3	EDUCATION									
	Illiterate	0	0	6	2	1	17.678	0.0000	16	S
	Primary	1	0	3	2	0				
	Secondary	1	1	11	8	0				
	Higher Secondary	0	0	2	4	0				
	Graduate & above	0	2	12	3	0				
4	OCCUPATION									

	Businessmen	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**11.631**	**0.0006**	**16**	S
	Government employee	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**0**				
	Private employee	**0**	**2**	**8**	**5**	**0**				
	Labour	**0**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**0**				
	Unemployment	**2**	**0**	**25**	**10**	**1**				
5	**MONTHLY INCOME**									
	< 5000	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**10.748**	**0.0010**	**16**	**S**
	5001 – 10000	**0**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**0**				
	10001 – 15000	**1**	**1**	**10**	**5**	**1**				
	15001 – 20000	**1**	**0**	**10**	**7**	**0**				
	> 20000	**0**	**0**	**9**	**6**	**0**				
6	**MARITAL STATUS**									
	Married	**1**	**3**	**25**	**12**	**0**	**16.227**	**0.0001**	**12**	**S**
	Unmarried	**1**	**0**	**9**	**3**	**0**				
	Widow / Widower	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**1**				
	Divorcee	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
7	**FAMILY TYPE**									
	Joint	**2**	**3**	**20**	**9**	**1**	**9.061**	**0.0026**	**8**	**S**
	Nuclear	**0**	**0**	**15**	**8**	**0**				
	Extended	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**				
8	**ANY BAD HABIT**									
	Smoking	**0**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**16.384**	**0.0001**	**12**	**S**
	Tobacco chewing	**0**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**0**				
	Alcohol consumer	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**				
	No any	**2**	**0**	**30**	**15**	**1**				
9	**RELIGION**									
	Hindu	**2**	**3**	**32**	**18**	**1**	**1.101**	**0.2940**	**12**	**NS**
	Muslim	**0**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**0**				
	Christian	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**				
	Other	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
10	**ALONG WITH CKD ANY OTHER HEALTH PROBLEM**									
	Diabetes mellitus	**0**	**1**	**10**	**5**	**1**	**9.196**	**0.0024**	**12**	**S**
	Hypertension	**0**	**2**	**18**	**9**	**0**				
	Any other	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
	No any	**2**	**0**	**10**	**6**	**0**				
11	**RESTRICTION ON FLUID BY DOCTOR?**									
	Yes	**2**	**3**	**35**	**19**	**1**	**0**	**1.0000**	**4**	**NS**
	No	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
12	**NUMBER OF HEMODIALYSIS IN PER WEEK**									

	Daily	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.727**	**0.3939**	**12**	**NS**
	1times/ week	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**				
	2times / week	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**				
	3times/ week	**2**	**3**	**34**	**19**	**1**				
13	**DIALYSIS VINTAGE**									
	>3month – 6month	**1**	**0**	**6**	**2**	**0**	**14.268**	**.0002**	**16**	**S**
	6month – 1year	**1**	**2**	**4**	**6**	**0**				
	1year – 5year	**0**	**1**	**13**	**4**	**1**				
	5year – 10year	**0**	**0**	**6**	**4**	**0**				
	10year or above >12year	**0**	**0**	**6**	**3**	**0**				
14	**WHAT ACCESS DO YOU USE FOR HEMODIALYSIS?**									
	IJV DLC	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**29.574**	**0.0000**	**16**	**S**
	IJC TLC	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**				
	Femoral DLC	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**				
	Perm cath	**1**	**3**	**13**	**11**	**0**				
	Fistula	**0**	**0**	**20**	**6**	**1**				

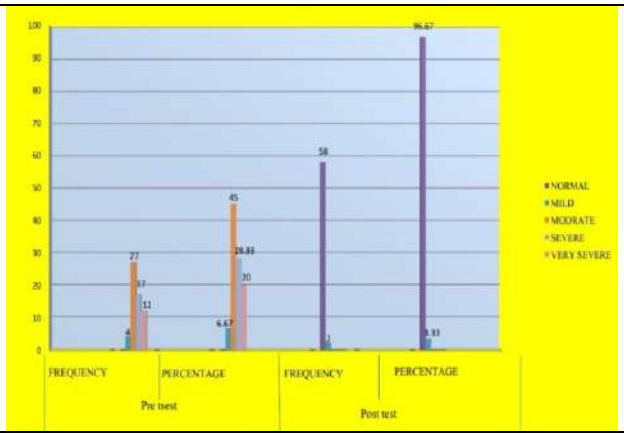


Figure No: 1 Bar graph showing the results of frequency distribution of subject in term depression value of the samples.

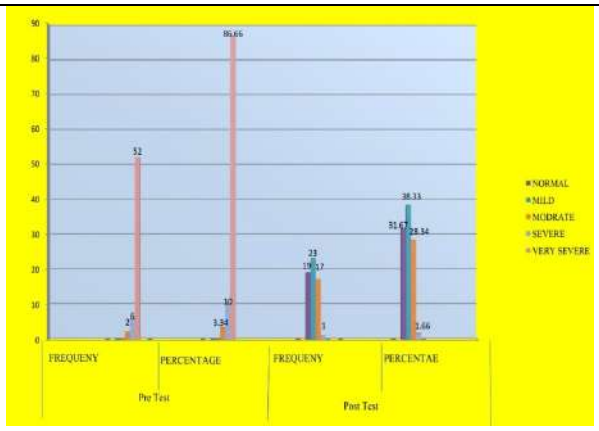


Figure No: 2. Bar graph showing the results of frequency distribution of subject in term anxiety value of the samples

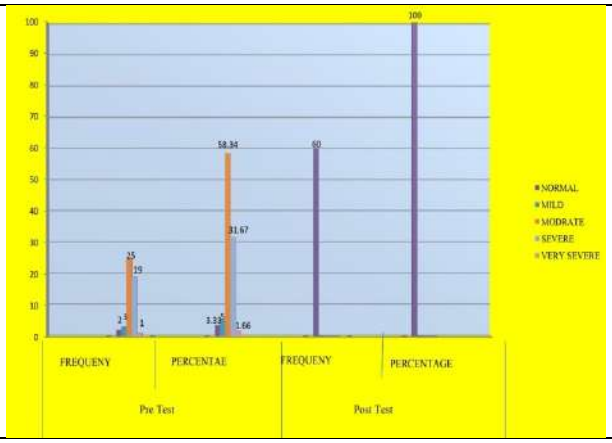


Figure No: 3. Bar graph showing the results of frequency distribution of subject in term stress value of the sample.

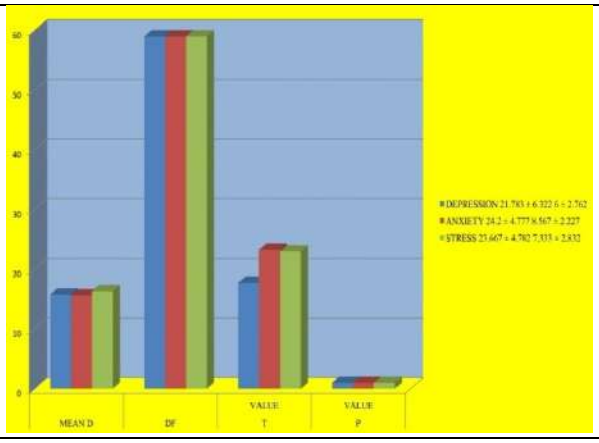


Figure No: 4. This bar graph showing the comparison of the pre-test and post-test value of the DASS-42 questionnaire self-rating scale

RESEARCH ARTICLE

An In-depth Idea of Gujarati Text Summarization using Various Models

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates text summarization techniques for Gujarati, by focusing the *ilsum 2024* dataset, which contains approximately 36,000 news articles per language and many more. We explore traditional feature extraction methods, such as TF-IDF, word embeddings, and graph-based algorithms like TextRank and PageRank, for their effectiveness in identifying key information. Additionally, we incorporate advanced transformer models, including BERT, IndicBART, and mT5, to improve both extractive and abstractive summarization. While classical methods excel in sentence ranking, transformer models enhance summary quality by capturing deeper contextual understanding, especially for Gujarati's unique linguistic features. By combining machine learning algorithms (SVM, KNN, Random Forest) with IndicBART and mT5, we find notable improvements in summary coherence and fluency. This study underscores the potential of transformer-based models to address language-specific challenges in multilingual summarization. The findings contribute to advancing summarization techniques for Gujarati and other low-resource languages. Future research can refine these models and expand their application to diverse domains.

Keywords: Gujarati Text Summarization, BERT, IndicBART, mT5, Feature Extraction, Machine Learning.

INTRODUCTION

In the rapidly advancing fields of natural language processing (NLP) and information retrieval, text summarization plays a pivotal role in extracting key insights from vast amounts of textual data, thereby reducing complexity and enhancing accessibility. This paper offers a comprehensive review of Gujarati text summarization, focusing on the unique linguistic characteristics and challenges associated with this language. As a rich and diverse language, Gujarati features distinct syntactic, semantic, and linguistic properties that require specialized attention when developing effective summarization techniques. The increasing demand for efficient information extraction from Gujarati content—spanning news articles, academic papers, and online documents—highlights the need for advanced methodologies that improve summarization accuracy and relevance. Linguistic features are crucial in this process, directly influencing both the identification of essential information and the overall coherence of generated summaries. A deeper understanding of Gujarati's linguistic structures is essential to create summarization models that are tailored to the language's specific intricacies.

In addition to linguistic considerations, semantic analysis plays an important role in capturing meaning and context, further enhancing the quality of summaries. Syntactic elements are also essential for ensuring grammatical integrity and syntactic coherence in the final output. This paper sets the stage for a detailed examination of these features and their impact on the development of robust Gujarati text summarization techniques. As technological advancements in NLP and machine learning continue to transform the field, integrating these innovations with the challenges of Gujarati-language summarization is becoming increasingly crucial. The goal of this review is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of research and methodologies in Gujarati text summarization, offering valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and language enthusiasts who seek to deepen their understanding of this specialized and evolving domain.

LITERATURE STUDY

Text summarization is a crucial technique that helps in reducing the length of a document while retaining its key content. This task is highly complex, especially for languages like Gujarati, which possess distinct syntactic, morphological, and semantic characteristics. Over the years, several methods have been explored for Gujarati text summarization, including both extractive and abstractive approaches. This literature survey reviews the major works in this domain, focusing on key methods, challenges, and future trends. Extractive summarization is a process that involves selecting key sentences or phrases directly from the source text. Several approaches have been developed for Gujarati, and the key ones are summarized as follows by various authors are Patel et al. (2017) introduced an extractive summarization system based on term frequency and sentence position. The study used a graph-based ranking model to identify the most significant sentences. While the model performed well for short documents, it struggled with larger datasets due to the complexity of Gujarati grammar and sentence structures. [1]Desai et al. (2018) proposed a supervised learning-based approach for extractive summarization, utilizing features like word frequency, sentence length, and syntactic relations. They experimented with multiple machine learning algorithms, such as Support Vector Machines (SVM), to rank sentences. The method showed promise but required large amounts of annotated training data, which was not easily available for Gujarati. [2]. Thakkar et al. (2019) employed Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) to identify semantic relationships between sentences for extractive summarization. Their method improved the relevance of the extracted sentences by capturing semantic meaning, but the system faced difficulties when dealing with long, topic-diverse documents. [3]. Patel and Desai (2019) worked on extracting key sentences from Gujarati news articles using an unsupervised ranking algorithm based on the TF-IDF technique and sentence similarity measures. The method worked well in document-specific scenarios but was not generalized to other domains such as literature or scientific texts. [4]Shah and Joshi (2020) developed a keyword-based extractive summarization system that selected sentences containing the most frequent keywords. Their model performed well on shorter documents but lacked coherence in summaries for longer and more complex texts. [5]

Patel et al. (2020) proposed an extractive summarization model that combined TextRank with TF-IDF for better sentence ranking. Their approach improved the quality of summaries by focusing on the centrality of sentences in a document but faced challenges when handling domain-specific content. [6]Desai and Patel (2021) implemented a machine learning approach combining Naive Bayes and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) for sentence classification in Gujarati text. They used various features like word occurrence, sentence length, and keyword density, which showed improvements in extractive summarization for news and academic texts. [7]. Abstractive summarization involves generating new sentences that convey the core content of the document, a challenging task for Gujarati due to its rich morphology and syntactic structure. Despite these challenges, some researchers have made notable progress in this area:

Kumar and Shah (2020) used a Seq2Seq model to generate abstractive summaries of Gujarati texts. They incorporated Attention Mechanisms to improve the model's focus on relevant portions of the input text. While their model generated reasonable summaries, its fluency and coherence still left much to be desired. [8]Patel and Mehta (2021) focused on BERT-based approaches for abstractive summarization, fine-tuning Gujarati BERT models for sequence-to-sequence tasks. Their work demonstrated an improvement over rule-based methods but highlighted challenges with sentence fluency and the generation of contextually accurate summaries. [9]Vyas et al. (2021) presented an abstractive summarization method using a Transformer architecture. Their model outperformed traditional methods but struggled to maintain grammatical correctness in long documents. [10]Sharma and Patel (2022) utilized Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Attention Mechanisms to generate abstractive summaries of Gujarati texts. Their model showed potential for handling complex documents but faced challenges with domain-specific content. [11].

Hybrid methods that combine both extractive and abstractive techniques have shown potential in Gujarati summarization. These approaches aim to leverage the strengths of both methods to improve summary quality.Desai and Patel (2022) proposed a hybrid summarization system that first used extractive techniques to identify important sentences and then applied abstractive techniques to rephrase them into coherent summaries. Their hybrid model improved the fluency and coherence of summaries for long and complex documents. [12]Mehta and Joshi (2023) combined extractive methods based on TextRank with abstractive summarization using a GPT-2 model for Gujarati. They found that hybrid models offered more flexibility in generating diverse and contextually relevant summaries. [13].

Challenges In Gujarati Text Summarization:

Several challenges impede the effectiveness of text summarization techniques for Gujarati, including:

Morphological Challenges: The rich morphology of Gujarati affects tokenization and word segmentation, leading to difficulties in sentence boundary detection and meaning extraction. [14]

Domain-Specific Texts: Summarization models often struggle with domain-specific content such as legal, medical, and technical texts, which have specialized vocabulary and structure. [15]

Dataset Scarcity: The lack of large, annotated datasets for Gujarati text summarization is a major hindrance. Most available datasets are domain-specific, and there are limited resources for training deep learning models. [16]

Syntax and Ambiguity: Gujarati's free word order and syntactic flexibility pose difficulties for summarization models. Ambiguities in word meanings further complicate the task. [17]

Future Directions

Multilingual Models: Leveraging multilingual models such as mBERT or XLM-R could potentially improve Gujarati text summarization by transferring knowledge from high-resource languages. [18]

Context-Aware Models: Future models could focus on developing context-aware systems that adapt to different domains and contexts, producing summaries that are relevant and accurate. [19]

Zero-Shot Learning: Zero-shot learning techniques, which allow models to perform tasks without explicit training on a specific task, could help improve the scalability of summarization systems for Gujarati. [20]

METHODOLOGY

Dataset

For this study, we utilize the ILSUM 2024 dataset, a large-scale and diverse collection of Gujarati news articles sourced from multiple prominent newspapers across India. The dataset comprises approximately 36,000 articles paired with their corresponding headlines, providing both the source texts and concise summaries for supervised training and evaluation. This extensive and varied corpus captures a wide range of linguistic expressions and topical diversity, making it well-suited for developing and benchmarking summarization models. The presence of headline-summary pairs also facilitates both extractive and abstractive summarization approaches.

Feature Extraction Techniques

Transforming raw textual data into meaningful numerical representations is a critical step for training effective summarization models. In this study, we apply a combination of traditional and advanced feature extraction methods:

1. **TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency):**
   This statistical technique evaluates the importance of each word in a document relative to the entire corpus. TF-IDF helps highlight key terms that are significant for summarization by balancing term frequency with term rarity.
2. **Word Embeddings:**
   We employ pre-trained embedding models such as Word2Vec, GloVe, and FastText to represent words as dense vectors in a continuous space. These embeddings capture semantic relationships between words, which enhances the model's ability to understand context and meaning within Gujarati texts.
3. **Word Frequency Analysis:**
   A basic but effective method, word frequency counting helps identify prominent terms within a document. Although this approach does not consider context, it serves as a useful baseline for extractive summarization.
4. **Graph-Based Algorithms (TextRank and PageRank):**
   These unsupervised algorithms construct graphs based on word or sentence relationships and use iterative ranking mechanisms to score sentence importance. TextRank, in particular, leverages sentence connectivity to select the most relevant sentences for summaries.
5. **Transformer-Based Contextual Embeddings (BERT):**
   BERT processes text bidirectionally, capturing nuanced contextual dependencies between words. Fine-tuning BERT on the summarization task enables better sentence ranking and extractive summarization performance.
6. **IndicBART:**
   A transformer model specifically designed for Indian languages, IndicBART combines bidirectional and autoregressive transformers. It is particularly effective for abstractive summarization, generating fluent, coherent summaries by rephrasing source content rather than simply extracting sentences.
7. **mT5 (Multilingual T5):**
   mT5 is a versatile multilingual transformer model pre-trained on diverse languages. Fine-tuning mT5 on Gujarati enables the generation of abstractive summaries that maintain semantic coherence and fluency across long documents.

Machine Learning Models

To leverage the extracted features, we employ various machine learning algorithms tailored for sentence classification, ranking, and summary generation:

- **Support Vector Machines (SVM):**
  Used for sentence-level classification to distinguish relevant sentences for inclusion in summaries based on learned feature patterns.

- **k-Nearest Neighbors (KNN):**
  Applied to cluster similar sentences and identify central sentences that best represent document content.
- **Naive Bayes (NB):**
  A probabilistic classifier used to assess sentence relevance based on feature distributions, suitable for large datasets with simple assumptions.
- **Random Forest (RF):**
  An ensemble model combining multiple decision trees to improve sentence ranking accuracy by considering a diverse range of features.
- **Transformer-Based Models (BERT, IndicBART, mT5):**
  These deep learning architectures are fine-tuned to directly generate extractive or abstractive summaries. Their ability to capture complex linguistic patterns and context makes them highly effective for Gujarati summarization.

Model Training and Evaluation

- **Training:**
  Models were trained using the headline-summary pairs from the ILSUM 2024 dataset. Extractive models learned to classify and rank sentences based on relevance, while abstractive models were fine-tuned to generate concise and coherent summaries.
- **Evaluation Metrics:**
  We evaluated model performance using standard summarization metrics, including Precision, Recall, F1-score, and ROUGE scores (ROUGE-1, ROUGE-2, ROUGE-L), which measure the overlap between generated summaries and reference summaries in terms of n-grams, word sequences, and longest common subsequences.

This methodology combines classical feature extraction and machine learning with advanced transformer-based architectures to address the linguistic complexities of Gujarati. Traditional methods like TF-IDF and TextRank serve as strong baselines for extractive summarization, while transformer models like IndicBART and mT5 push the boundaries by generating fluent, context-aware abstractive summaries. The integration of diverse algorithms allows a comprehensive exploration of summarization strategies tailored for the Gujarati language.

Result Available for Dataset

Automatic text summarization for Indian languages has largely been overlooked by the NLP research community. While large-scale datasets are available for languages like English, Chinese, French, German, and Spanish, comparable datasets for Indian languages are virtually non-existent. Most available datasets are either private or too small to be practical. This shared task aims to address this gap by creating reusable corpora for Indian Language Summarization. The third edition of ILSUM includes Gujarati as one of the featured languages. Some results using IndicBARTare:

CONCLUSION

This study examined various feature extraction techniques and machine learning models for Gujarati text summarization, with a focus on news articles from the *ilsumm 2024* dataset. Traditional methods like TF-IDF, word embeddings, and graph-based algorithms were combined with advanced transformer models such as BERT, IndicBART, and mT5 to enhance summarization accuracy. While traditional approaches proved useful for extractive summarization, transformer models like IndicBART and mT5 significantly improved abstractive summarization by capturing deeper contextual understanding of Gujarati. The integration of both classical and state-of-the-art models demonstrated that transformer-based methods, especially BERT, IndicBART, and mT5, offer substantial improvements in summarization quality. This research highlights the importance of selecting appropriate models for language-specific challenges and opens avenues for further advancements in multilingual summarization, especially

for Indian languages like Gujarati. Future work can refine these models and expand datasets to enhance performance in diverse domains.

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Table 1: Comparative Analysis

Parameter	Value
BERT Precision Score	0.74
BERT Recall Score	0.72
BERT F1 Score	0.74
Rouge-1 Score	0.27
Rouge-2 Score	0.13
Rouge-4 Score	0.09
Rouge-L Score	0.25

id string · lengths	Heading string · lengths	Summary string · lengths	Article string · lengths
GujaratiNews_test_0	LAC વિવાદ : લદ્દાખ પાસે ચીનના 60,000 સૈનિકો તૈનાત, ભારત પણ જડબાતોડ જવાબ આપવા તૈયાર	China Troops Ladakh News: સરકારી મૂત્રોએ સમાચાર એજન્સી એએનઆઈને આ જાણકારી આપી	નવી દિલ્હી : પૂર્વી લદ્દાખમાં (Ladakh)20 મહિનાથી વધારે સમયથી ચાલી રહેલા સૈન્ય ગતિરોધ વચ્ચે ચીને લદ્દાખમા ભારતીય ક્ષેત્રની...
GujaratiNews_test_1	Kutch: આ આગેવાને ચર્મરોગગ્રસ્ત ગાયોને દત્તકાવવા માટે દાનમા આપી કરોડોની જમીન; જાણો કોણ છે આ આગેવાન	કચ્છના રતનાલ ગામે ગીયર જમીન પર દબાણ થતા ગામના સરપંચના પતિએ પોતાની કરોડો રુપિયાની બે એકર જમીન દા...	Dhairya Gajara, Kutch: કચ્છમા ચર્મરોગ (Lumpy Skin Disease) મચાવેલા હાહાકારની સાથે પરિસ્થિતિ ગામોમા વિસ્તારોમા...
GujaratiNews_test_2	શું તમે કરો રહ્યા છો Work From Homeનો તલાશ ? તો આ એક સ્કેમ પણ હોઈ શકે છે, ત્યારે આવી રીતે બચો સ્કેમથી	આજકાલ ગુગસ્ટરમા Work From Homeનુ ચલણ વધ્યું છે. લોકો ઓફિસ પર જઈને કામ કરવાનુ ટાળી રહ્યા છે અને તેની...	ભારતમા સાયબર ક્રીમાડી વધી રહ્યા છે. રોજ ઓનલાઈનના બહાને હજારો લોકો સાથે ઠગાઈ થતી હોય છે. ત્યારે સરકાર તેમજ સાયબર...
GujaratiNews_test_3	પઠાણમા દીપિકાનો 'કેસરો બિકીનો' જોઈને હંગામો થયો, બરેલીના મૌલમા લઠાઇ	ફિલ્મ પઠાણને લઈને દેશના અલગ-અલગ ભાગોમા સતત વિરોધની પ્રક્રિયા ચાલી રહી છે. યુપીના બરેલીમા આ વિવાદ...	બરેલી : શાહરુખ ખાનની ફિલ્મ પઠાણ વિરુદ્ધ દેશના જુદા જુદા ભાગોમા વિરોધ થાય છે. આ સંદર્ભમા યુપીના બરેલીમા સ્થિત એક...
GujaratiNews_test_4	AMC સંચાલિત સ્મશાનગૃહની CNGની ભઠ્ઠીઓ બંધ રહેશે, અંતિમ વિધી માટે જતા પહેલા જાણી લો માહિતી	અમદાવાદ મહાનગર પાલિકા સંચાલિત સ્મશાનગૃહમા આવેલા ૧૫ જેટલી CNG ભઠ્ઠાઓ મેઈન્ટેનન્સના કારણે આગામી ૮ મે થી ૧૭...	અમદાવાદ મહાનગર પાલિકા વિસ્તારમા આવેલ AMC સંચાલિત કુલ-૨૪ સ્મશાનગૃહો આવેલ છે. જે સ્મશાનગૃહો ખાતે જાહેર જનતાની સેવામા...
GujaratiNews_test_5	ધોરણ 10 અને 12ની બોર્ડની પરીક્ષાને ગણતરીના દિવસો બાકી રહ્યા, ઋષિકેશ પટેલે આપી શુભેચ્છાઓ	Board Exams of Class 10 and 12: રાજ્યભરમા આગામી તારીખ 14 માર્ચથી ધોરણ 10 અને ધોરણ 12 બોર્ડ...	ગુજરાત: રાજ્યભરમા આગામી તારીખ 14 માર્ચથી ધોરણ 10 અને ધોરણ 12 બોર્ડની શારીરિક વાતાવરણમા પરીક્ષાનો પ્રારંભ થવા જઈ...
GujaratiNews_test_6	Surat News: પાડોશીના ઘરમાંથી રડવાનો અવાજ આવતા દરવાજો ખોલાવ્યો, ત્રણ વર્ષની બાળકીને નિર્વસ્ત્ર...	Surat News: સુરતમા ત્રણ વર્ષની બાળકી બળાત્કારનો ભોગ બનતા બચી ગઇ છે. ત્યારે પોલીસે સમગ્ર ઘટના મામલે...	સુરત: શહેરમા વધુ એક ચોકાવનારો ઘટના સામે આવી છે. ત્રણ વર્ષીય બાળકી બળાત્કારનો ભોગ બનતા બચી ગઇ છે. ભૂગળાની લાલચ...
GujaratiNews_test_7	Bharuch: રીજના 150થી વધુ પક્ષીઓને ચણ નાખે છે આ પક્ષીપ્રેમી મહિલા	ભરુચ જિલ્લામા ચોમાસાની સીઝનમા પક્ષીઓની વિશેષ ચિંતા કરનાર દર્શનાબેન રાઠોડ આગળ આવ્યા છે. જેઓ પોતાના...	ભરુચ: ભરુચ જિલ્લામા વરસાદી માહોલ જોવા મળી રહ્યો છે.જેને પગલે મુળામા રહેતા પક્ષીઓને અગવડ પડતી હોવાની શક્યતા વર્ચી...
GujaratiNews_test_8	'હું હેદરાબાદી છું, મને મૂર્ખ ન બનાવો..': માઇક્રોસોફ્ટના સીઇઓ સત્ય નડેલા કેમ ગુસ્સે થયા, જાણો	સત્ય નાડેલાએ ચેટજીપીટીને ઇડલી અને ડોસા વચ્ચે નાટક રજૂ કરવા કહ્યું કે કયું સારું છે તે નક્કી કરવા. આ પછી નડેલાએ...	બેંગલોર : સત્ય નડેલાએ ભરચાનીને 'ટ્રોલિંગ' કહેવા બદલ AIના ક્ષેત્રમા નવી ક્રાંતિ તરીકે ઉભરી આવેલા ચેટજીપીટીની મજાક ઉડાવી અ...

Figure 1: Snapshot of ILSUM Dataset

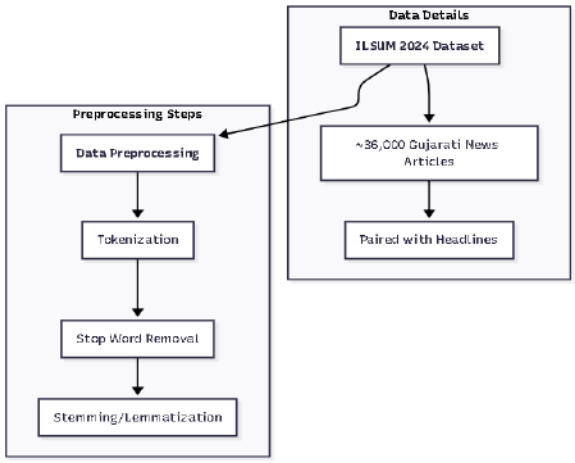


Figure 2: Data Acquisition and Preprocessing

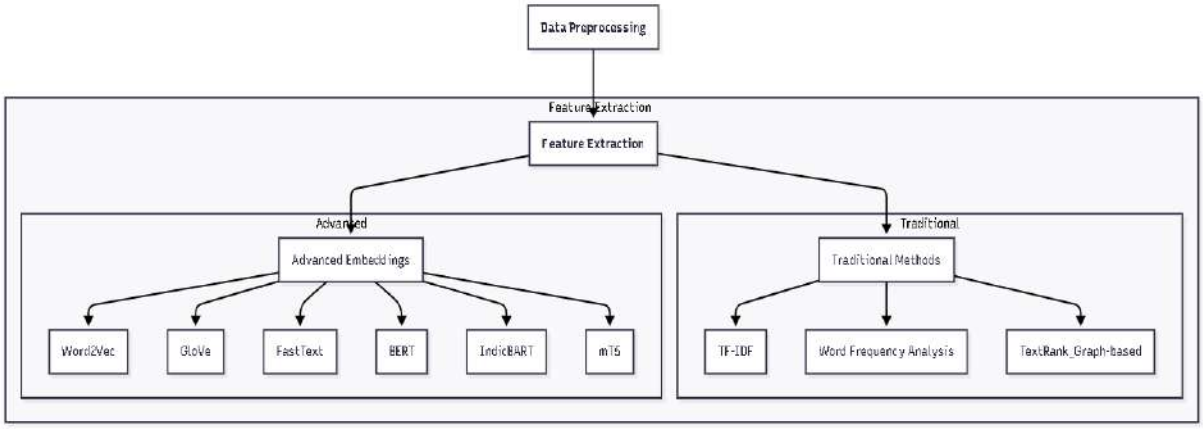


Figure 3: Feature Extraction

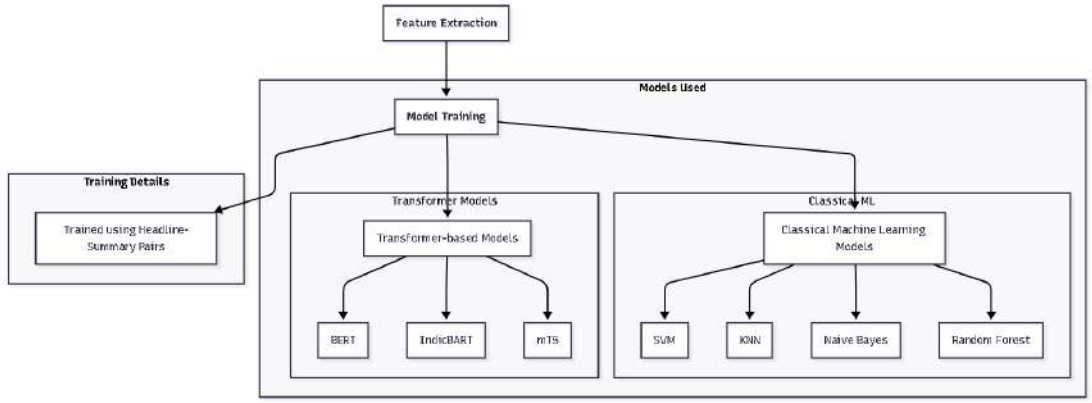


Figure 4: Model Training and Selection

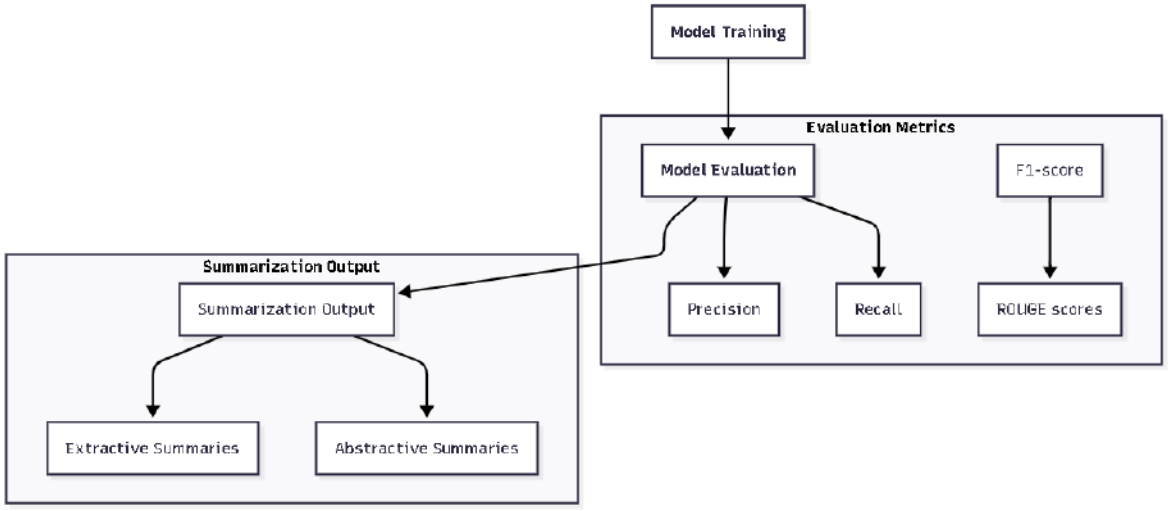


Figure 5: Evaluation and Summarization Output

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Impact of Spacing on Growth and Bulb Attributes of Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) under Dehradun Region of Uttarakhand

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during 2023-24 at the Horticulture Research Block, School of Agriculture Sciences, SGRRU, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, to investigate the "Impact of spacing on growth and bulb attributes of Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) under the conditions of Uttarakhand"**.** The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with ten treatments and three replications. The treatments consisted of different spacing levels as follows: T_0 - 15 cm × 10 cm (control) (control), T_1 - 10 cm × 7 cm, T_2 - 10 cm × 9 cm, T_3 - 10 cm × 10 cm, T_4 - 10 cm × 11 cm, T_5 - 10 cm × 13 cm, T_6 - 15 cm × 7 cm, T_7 - 15 cm × 9 cm, T_8 - cm × 11 cm and T_9 - 15 cm × 13 cm. The variety used was Nasik Red (N-53), sown on November 4, 2023. Observations were recorded on various growth, bulb, quality and yield attributes using standard methods. Among all treatments, T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm) showed significant improvement in bulb length (6.35 cm), number of leaves (9.33), equatorial diameter of bulb (6.71 cm), fresh bulb weight (102.36 g) and dry bulb weight (6.60 g). Treatment T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm) recorded the highest leaf length (58.33 cm), whereas highest polar diameter of bulb (5.91 cm) was recorded.

Keywords: Onion, Spacing, Bulb Length, Equatorial Diameter, Dry Bulb Weight, Polar Diameter

INTRODUCTION

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is one of the most important commercial vegetable crops in India and is often referred to as the "Queen of the Kitchen" due to its widespread use in households across the country. Belonging to the family Amaryllidaceae (formerly classified under Liliaceae, now amended to Alliaceae), onion is believed to have originated in Central Asia. The fruit type is schizocarpic, and the edible part is the bulb, which is a modification of leaves. Among the numerous species of the genus *Allium*, the common onion is the most widely cultivated. The word "onion" is derived from the Latin terms *Unio* or *Annianus*, which later evolved into the present-day term. India is the second-largest producer of onions after China, with major onion-producing states including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab. Globally, major onion-producing countries include China, Iran, Italy, Egypt, Russia, and Thailand. Onions have a rich historical background. In ancient Egypt, they were cultivated and held in high esteem, while Chinese records date onion usage back to around 5000 BC. In India, their presence is documented in ancient Vedic literature, such as the *Charaka Samhita* and *Sushruta Samhita*, which are revered early texts on medicine. The Sanskrit term for onion, *Plandu*, is mentioned in the *Apastamba Dharma Sutra*, suggesting its early incorporation into Indian culture. Although native to Central Asia, onions have spread globally and are now grown in temperate and tropical regions alike. Additionally, there are two secondary centres of origin located to the west. In recent years, onions have gained prominence as a cash crop due to their high export potential. For instance, China alone contributes about 26.3% of global onion production. Onions are highly versatile and are used year-round as a vegetable, spice, or condiment. They are consumed fresh in salads or processed into products such as pickles, powders, pastes, oils and flakes. Nutritionally, onions are rich in antioxidants, polyphenols and various functional phytochemicals. These compounds have been associated with reduced risk of blood clot formation, and lower levels of cholesterol and lipoproteins, which are beneficial for heart health. Onions also have diuretic properties and are traditionally used in folk remedies to treat bruises, boils, wounds, and heat sensations. The juice of onion bulbs is even used as an inhalant in cases of fainting or hysteria. Optimal temperatures for onion growth range from 13°C to 23°C, with ideal bulb development occurring between 15.5°C and 21°C, accompanied by a relative humidity of approximately 70%. Onions can adapt to a wide variety of soil types, including sandy, clay, loamy, and even heavy soils. However, the most suitable soils for onion cultivation are deep, friable, alluvial soils with good drainage, moisture retention capacity, and high organic matter content. In India, onion cultivation is practiced in two major seasons: Rabiand Kharif. The Rabi season is the principal cropping season, with seeds sown in October-November, transplanting from December-January and harvesting from May-June. In the Kharif season, seeds are sown in May-June, followed by transplanting in July-August and harvesting from October-November. Onion is one of the most economically important and widely cultivated vegetable crops in India, valued for its culinary, nutritional, and medicinal properties. It is used daily in almost every household in various forms, such as fresh bulbs, spices, pickles and processed products. India ranks as the second-largest producer of onions globally, with the crop being grown across diverse agro-climatic regions, including Uttarakhand. In recent years, the Dehradun region of Uttarakhand has shown growing interest in commercial onion cultivation due to favorable climatic conditions and increasing market demand. Among various agronomic practices, plant spacing plays a crucial role in determining the growth, bulb development, and overall productivity of onion crops. Optimal spacing ensures better light interception, air circulation, and efficient nutrient and water utilization, ultimately influencing yield and quality. However, improper spacing can lead to overcrowding or underutilization of field resources, affecting plant performance and economic returns. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to evaluate the impact of different spacing levels on the growth and bulb attributes of onion under the specific agro-climatic conditions of Dehradun, with the objective of identifying the most suitable planting geometry for maximizing yield and profitability.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation entitled "Impact of Spacing on Growth and Bulb Attributes of Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) under the Dehradun region of Uttarakhand" was carried out during the Rabiseason of 2023-24 at the Horticulture Research

Block, School of Agricultural Sciences, Shri Guru Ram Rai University, PathriBagh, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India. The experimental site is located in the north western region of Uttarakhand at an altitude of 650 meters above mean sea level (MSL), covering an area of approximately 3088 square kilometres. Geographically, Dehradun lies between latitudes 29º58′ and 31º2′30″ North and longitudes 77º34′45″ and 78º18′30″ East. The region experiences a humid subtropical climate, with summer temperatures occasionally reaching up to 44°C, often accompanied by the hot, dry wind known as *Loo*. In winter, temperatures typically range between 12°C and 20°C, with frequent fog formation in the plains. During the crop-growing period in January 2023, the highest and lowest recorded temperatures were 20.3°C and 6.4°C, respectively. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with three replications and ten treatments involving different planting geometries: T 0 15cm × 10cm (Control), T_1(10cm × 7cm),T_2(10cm × 9cm), T_3(10cm × 10cm), T_4(10cm× 11cm), T_5(10cm × 13cm), T_6(15cm × 7cm), T_7(15cm × 9cm), T_8(15cm ×11cm) and T_9(15cm × 13cm). Observations were recorded on various growth and bulb attributes. The data collected were subjected to statistical analysis using the method of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) as suggested by Panse and Sukhatme (1989), to determine the significance of treatment effects. Treatment Details (Table: 1)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The various growth and bulb attributes of onion were significantly influenced by different spacing treatments as compared to the control during the course of the investigation. The data presented in Tables 2 and 3 indicated that significant improvements were observed under varying spacing treatments. These results suggest that plant spacing plays a crucial role in influencing the morphological and yield-related characteristics of onion. The observed variations in growth and bulb development may be attributed to better light penetration, aeration and nutrient uptake under optimized spacing conditions. The detailed findings of the present study are recorded and discussed below.

Growth attributes

Leaf Length (cm)

The data recorded on the impact of different spacing treatments on leaf length (cm) of onion at various growth stages are presented in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 1. The results reveal that plant spacing significantly influenced leaf length at 30, 60 and 90 days after transplanting (DAT). At 30 DAT, the maximum leaf length (32.86 cm) was recorded in treatment T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm), while the minimum leaf length (19.92 cm) was observed in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm). Treatments T_5 (26.36 cm) and T_7 (25.90 cm) were statistically at par. Similarly, T_3 (30.27 cm) and T_6 (29.85 cm) showed comparable results. Significant differences were also noted in T_2 (31.20 cm), T_4 (28.00 cm), and T_8 (22.14 cm), indicating varying responses to spacing. At 60 DAT, treatment T_1 again recorded the highest leaf length (47.87 cm), whereas T_9 registered the lowest (34.94 cm). Treatments T_3 (45.23 cm) and T_6 (44.73 cm) were statistically at par, as were T_5 (41.35 cm) and T_7 (41.12 cm). Significant variation was found among T_2 (46.26 cm), T_4 (43.10 cm), and T_8 (36.83 cm), further confirming the influence of spacing on leaf elongation. At 90 DAT, the maximum leaf length (58.33 cm) was recorded in T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm), while the minimum (49.06 cm) was observed in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm). Treatments T_3 (56.06 cm) and T_6 (55.70 cm) were at par, as were T_5 (53.02 cm) and T_7 (52.35 cm). A significant difference was also noted in T_0 (39.66 cm), T_2 (57.16 cm), T_4 (54.16 cm), and T_8 (50.20 cm). The trend of longer leaves under closer spacing can be attributed to competition among plants for sunlight, prompting them to grow taller in order to access more light. These results are consistent with the findings of Chanu *et al.* (2022), who also reported increased leaf elongation under dense planting due to enhanced vertical growth response to light competition.

Number of leaves

The observations recorded for the number of leaves per plant at 30, 60 and 90 days after transplanting (DAT) are presented in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 2. The data revealed significant differences among the treatments, indicating that plant spacing had a marked influence on the vegetative development of onion. At 30 DAT, the highest number of leaves (4.36) was observed in treatment T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), while the lowest (2.36) was recorded in T_0 (Control - 15 cm × 10 cm). Treatments T_2 (3.53) and T_5 (3.56) were statistically at par, as were T_6 (3.93) and T_8 (3.96),

showing moderate leaf development under wider spacing conditions. At 60 DAT, treatment T_9 again produced the maximum number of leaves (6.13), whereas the minimum (4.20) was recorded in T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm), likely due to higher plant density and competition for nutrients and space. Treatments T_2 (4.63) and T_3 (4.73) were at par, as were T_5 (5.40) and T_6 (5.43). Significant differences were also observed in T_4 (5.20) and T_8 (5.70), reflecting the progressive increase in foliage with wider spacing. At 90 DAT, the trend remained consistent, with the highest number of leaves (9.33) again recorded in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), and the lowest (6.63) observed in T_3 (10 cm × 10 cm). Treatments T_1 (7.36) and T_5 (7.30) were statistically at par, as were T_2 (6.86) and T_4 (6.93). However, significant differences were found in treatments T_0 (7.46), T_6 (7.96), T_7 (8.23), and T_8 (8.80), all of which indicated increasing leaf production with increased spacing. The overall results suggest that wider plant spacing facilitates greater vegetative growth, likely due to reduced inter-plant competition for light, nutrients, and water. These findings are in agreement with those of Ngullie *et al.* (2017), who reported that increasing plant competition significantly reduces the number of leaves per plant.

Total plant height (cm)

The observations recorded on plant height at 30, 60 and 90 days after transplanting (DAT) are presented in Table 2. The results revealed significant differences among the treatments, clearly indicating that spacing had a notable impact on the vertical growth of onion plants. At 30 DAT, the maximum plant height (38.33 cm) was recorded in treatment T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm), while the minimum (26.17 cm) was observed in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm). Treatments T_2 (35.92 cm) and T_6 (35.74 cm) were statistically at par, as were T_5 (35.88 cm) and T_7 (32.18 cm). However, significant differences were also observed in T_0 (29.49 cm), T_3 (36.21 cm), T_4 (33.89 cm), and T_8 (28.75 cm). At 60 DAT, the tallest plants were again recorded in T_1 (57.56 cm), which was statistically at par with T_6 (57.43 cm). The shortest plants (48.04 cm) were recorded in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), which was also statistically, at par with T_0 (48.90 cm). Treatments T_4 (54.48 cm) and T_7 (54.15 cm) were at par, while significant differences were observed in T_2 (56.34 cm), T_3 (55.90 cm), T_5 (53.52 cm), and T_8 (49.79 cm). At 90 DAT, the maximum plant height (72.49 cm) was observed in T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm), and the minimum (63.94 cm) was recorded in T_0 (Control - 15 cm × 10 cm). Treatments T_2 (70.99 cm) and T_3 (70.25 cm) were statistically at par, as were T_4 (69.20 cm) and T_7 (69.64 cm). Significant differences were also noted in T_5 (68.33 cm), T_6 (71.52 cm), and T_8 (67.19 cm). The overall trend indicates that closer spacing, particularly T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm), led to increased plant height, possibly due to inter-plant competition for light, prompting vertical growth. Conversely, wider spacing allowed for better light interception and canopy expansion but resulted in shorter plants. These results are in agreement with previous studies suggesting that closer spacing can enhance shoot elongation due to competition for light. The increase in fresh height with wider spacing may be attributed to reduced intra-plant competition, allowing individual plants better access to essential resources such as light, water and nutrients. These findings are consistent with the results of Alkhateeb*et al*. (2023), who reported enhanced plant height under wider spacing due to improved resource availability.

Bulb attributes

Bulb length (cm)

The data on bulb length recorded at 60, 90 days after transplanting (DAT) and at final harvest are presented in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 4. The results show that different spacing treatments significantly affected bulb length at all growth stages. At 60 DAT, the maximum bulb length (4.05 cm) was recorded in treatment T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), while the minimum (2.96 cm) was observed in the control treatment T_0 (15 cm × 10 cm), which was statistically at par with T_8 (4.02 cm). Significant differences were also noted in treatments T_1 (3.16 cm), T_2 (3.23 cm), T_4 (3.41 cm), T_5 (3.67 cm), and T_7 (3.96 cm), indicating progressive increases in bulb elongation under wider spacing. At 90 DAT, the maximum bulb length (5.26 cm) was again recorded in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), while the minimum (4.06 cm) was found in T_0 (Control), which was at par with T_2 (4.14 cm). Treatments T_1 (4.22 cm) and T_3 (4.32 cm) were statistically at par, as were T_5 (4.62 cm) and T_6 (4.74 cm). Significant differences were observed in T_4 (4.46 cm), T_7 (4.97 cm), and T_8 (5.08 cm), reflecting the influence of increased spacing on bulb size. At Final harvest, the highest bulb length (6.35 cm) was recorded in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), which was statistically at par with T_8 (6.35 cm). The minimum bulb length (5.41 cm) was observed in T_0 (Control). Treatments T_4 (6.00 cm), T_5 (6.09 cm), and T_6 (6.18 cm) were found to be statistically similar, as were T_7 (6.25 cm) and T_8 (6.35 cm). Significant differences were observed in T_1 (5.56 cm), T_2 (5.68 cm), and T_3 (5.81 cm). The consistent trend of increased bulb length under wider spacing may be attributed to reduced

competition for light, nutrients, and space, allowing for better photosynthesis and overall bulb development. These findings align with the results reported by Tariful *et al.* (2024), who concluded that wider spacing enhances bulb size due to improved light penetration and healthier plant growth.

Polar diameter of bulb (cm)

The observations on polar diameter of onion bulbs recorded at 60 DAT, 90 DAT, and at final harvest are presented in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 5. The results showed significant variation among treatments, indicating the influence of spacing on bulb development. At 60 DAT, the maximum polar diameter (3.25 cm) was recorded in treatment T_7 (15 cm × 9 cm), while the minimum (2.15 cm) was observed in the control treatment T_0. Treatments T_1 (2.30 cm) and T_2 (2.32 cm) were statistically at par with each other, as were T_5 (2.70 cm) and T_6 (2.72 cm). Significant differences were also noted in T_3 (2.44 cm), T_4 (2.56 cm), and T_9 (3.19 cm), highlighting the increasing trend in polar diameter under wider spacing. At 90 DAT, the highest polar diameter (4.31 cm) was recorded in treatment T_8 (15 cm × 11 cm), which was statistically at par with T_9 (4.25 cm). The lowest polar diameter (3.06 cm) was found in T_0 (Control). Treatments T_0 (3.30 cm) and T_3 (3.30 cm) were at par, as were T_2 (3.45 cm) and T_4 (3.49 cm). However, significant improvements were observed in T_5 (3.72 cm) and T_7 (4.10 cm), indicating the effect of optimal spacing on bulb expansion. At final harvest, the maximum polar diameter (5.91 cm) was observed in T_8 (15 cm × 11 cm), which was at par with T_9 (5.88 cm), while the minimum (4.34 cm) was recorded in T_0. Treatments T_6 (5.64 cm) and T_7 (5.74 cm) were found to be statistically similar. Significant differences were also observed in T_1 (4.52 cm), T_2 (4.77 cm), T_3 (4.93 cm), and T_5 (5.45 cm). The consistent increase in polar diameter with wider spacing may be attributed to reduced intra-plant competition for light, nutrients, and moisture, promoting better growth and development. Additionally, cooler temperatures during bulb formation may have further enhanced the polar expansion of bulbs. These results are in agreement with the findings of Singh and Singh (2019), who reported that wider spacing facilitates bulb development by improving growing conditions.

Equatorial diameter of bulb (cm)

The observations on equatorial diameter of onion bulbs recorded at 60 DAT, 90 DAT, and at final harvest are presented in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 5. The results revealed significant differences among treatments at later growth stages, highlighting the influence of spacing on bulb diameter. At 60 DAT, the maximum equatorial diameter (3.31 cm) was recorded in treatment T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), while the minimum (1.91 cm) was observed in the control (T_0). Treatments T_5 (2.77 cm), T_7 (2.85 cm), and T_8 (2.93 cm) were statistically at par with each other. Notably, there was no significant difference in equatorial diameter among treatments at 30 DAT, indicating that the effect of spacing on bulb diameter becomes more pronounced in later stages of development. At 90 DAT, the highest equatorial diameter (5.20 cm) was recorded in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), while the lowest (3.76 cm) was observed in T_0 (Control). Treatments T_1 (3.96 cm) and T_2 (4.09 cm) were at par, as were T_6 (4.65 cm) and T_7 (4.75 cm). Significant differences were observed in T_3 (4.22 cm), T_5 (4.47 cm), and T_8 (5.02 cm), suggesting a clear benefit of wider spacing. At final harvest, the maximum equatorial diameter (6.71 cm) was recorded in T_9, which was significantly higher than the minimum (5.34 cm) recorded in T_0. Treatments T_2 (5.60 cm), T_3 (5.74 cm), and T_4 (5.84 cm) were statistically at par with one another, as were T_5 (6.12 cm) and T_6 (6.16 cm). Significant improvements in equatorial diameter were also observed in T_1 (5.52 cm), T_7 (6.34 cm), and T_8 (6.61 cm). The enhanced bulb diameter under wider spacing can be attributed to reduced competition for sunlight, space and nutrients, thereby allowing each plant to develop more fully. In contrast, closer spacing restricted bulb expansion due to limited growing space. These results are in agreement with the findings of Pavithra *et al*. (2023), who reported that wider spacing promotes larger bulb diameter in onion.

Fresh weight of bulb (g)

The fresh weight of bulbs was recorded at 60 DAT, 90 DAT, and at final harvest, as presented in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 6. The data revealed significant differences among the treatments across all observation stages. At 60 DAT, the maximum fresh weight (39.86 g) was observed in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm spacing), while the minimum (22.60 g) was recorded in T_1 (10 cm × 7 cm), which was statistically at par with T_2 (22.73 g). Treatments T_4 (34.36 g) and T_5 (34.15 g) were at par, as were T_7 (32.82 g) and T_8 (32.17 g). Significant differences were also observed in T_0

(31.73 g), T_3 (25.81 g), and T_6 (29.53 g), indicating variability in fresh weight due to different spacing levels. At 90 DAT, T_9 again recorded the highest fresh weight (73.93 g), whereas the lowest value (36.86 g) was noted in T_1. Treatments T_2 (43.01 g) and T_3 (44.56 g) were statistically at par, as were T_4 (50.24 g) and T_5 (51.83 g). Significant differences were observed in T_0 (63.33 g), T_6 (47.60 g), T_7 (60.43 g), and T_8 (69.88 g). At final harvest, the trend continued with the maximum fresh bulb weight (102.36 g) in T_9, while the minimum (54.23 g) was again found in T_1. Treatments T_3 (70.11 g) and T_6 (73.23 g) were statistically at par, as were T_5 (86.13 g) and T_7 (88.00 g). Significant differences were recorded in T_0 (94.10 g), T_2 (62.06 g), T_4 (78.04 g), and T_8 (98.13 g). The superior performance of wider spacing, particularly T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), in producing significantly heavier bulbs can be attributed to reduced inter-plant competition for light, space, water and nutrients. Widely spaced plants had better access to resources and air circulation, allowing for more robust vegetative growth and bulb development. These findings are consistent with the observations of Jilani *et al.* (2010), who reported that wider spacing enhances bulb size and weight in onion cultivation.

Dry weight of bulb (g)

The dry weight of bulbs was recorded at 60 DAT, 90 DAT, and at final harvest, as presented in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 7. The data revealed significant differences among the treatments at all stages of observation. At 60 DAT, the highest dry weight of bulb (3.38 g) was observed in T_9 (15 cm × 13 cm), which was statistically at par with T_8 (3.36 g). The lowest dry weight (2.05 g) was recorded in T_0 (control). Treatments T_3 (2.63 g) and T_4 (2.58 g) were statistically at par, while significant differences were found in T_1 (2.24 g), T_5 (2.77 g), and T_7 (3.20 g), indicating variation in dry matter accumulation under different spacing conditions. At 90 DAT, the maximum dry weight (4.68 g) was again recorded in T_9, while the minimum (3.43 g) was found in T_0. Treatments T_1 (3.72 g) and T_2 (3.77 g) were at par, as were T_5 (4.40 g), T_6 (4.42 g), and T_7 (4.43 g). Notably, significant differences were observed in T_3 (3.92 g) and T_8 (4.53 g), suggesting improved biomass accumulation with wider spacing. At final harvest, T_9 maintained superiority with the highest dry bulb weight (6.60 g), while T_0 recorded the lowest (4.74 g). Treatments T_3 (5.45 g) and T_4 (5.55 g) were statistically at par, as were T_6 (6.14 g) and T_7 (6.23 g). Significant differences were evident in T_1 (5.05 g), T_5 (5.84 g), and T_8 (6.45 g), reflecting the positive impact of optimal spacing on dry matter accumulation. The reduction in dry bulb weight under closer spacing could be attributed to increased inter-plant competition for essential growth resources such as light, nutrients, and water. In contrast, wider spacing facilitated greater light interception, reduced competition, and enhanced photosynthetic efficiency, thereby enabling the plants to accumulate and store more dry matter in the bulbs. These results are in close agreement with the findings of Walle *et al.* (2018), who also reported higher dry weights of onion bulbs under wider spacing conditions.

CONCLUSION

The present investigation clearly demonstrated that plant spacing has a significant influence on the growth and bulb development attributes of onion (*Allium cepa* L.) under the agro-climatic conditions of Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Among the various spacing treatments, the wider spacing of 15 cm × 13 cm (T_9) consistently outperformed other treatments in terms of polar diameter, equatorial diameter, fresh weight, and dry weight of bulbs at all stages of observation (60 DAT, 90 DAT and at final harvest). The superior performance under wider spacing can be attributed to reduced intra-specific competition, which allowed for better light interception, nutrient uptake, and photosynthetic efficiency. In contrast, closer spacings led to restricted bulb development due to higher competition for growth resources. Therefore, it can be concluded that optimum spacing plays a vital role in enhancing bulb size and quality, and a spacing of 15 cm × 13 cm is recommended for achieving maximum growth and yield potential of onion under the specific conditions of the Dehradun region.

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Table: 1 Treatment Details

Number of Treatments	Spacing
T_0	15cm ×10cm (Control)
T_1	10cm ×7cm
T_2	10cm ×9cm
T_3	10cm ×10cm
T_4	10cm ×11cm
T_5	10cm ×13cm
T_6	15cm ×7cm
T_7	15cm ×9cm
T_8	15cm ×11cm
T_9	15cm ×13cm

Table 2: Effect of spacing on leaf length (cm), number of leaves per plant, total plant height (cm) and bulb length (cm)of onion at different harvest intervals

Treatment	Leaf length (cm)			Number of leaves per plant			Total plant height (cm)			Bulb length (cm)		
	30 DAT	60 DAT	90 DAT	30 DAT	60 DAT	90 DAT	30 DAT	60 DAT	90 DAT	60 DAT	90 DAT	At Final Harvest
T_0	24.27	39.66	50.80	2.36	4.53	7.46	29.49	48.90	63.94	2.96	4.06	5.41
T_1	32.86	47.87	58.83	3.36	4.20	7.36	38.33	57.56	72.49	3.16	4.22	5.56
T_2	31.20	46.26	57.16	3.53	4.63	6.86	35.92	56.34	70.99	3.23	4.14	5.68
T_3	30.27	45.23	56.06	3.26	4.73	6.63	36.21	55.90	70.25	3.36	4.32	5.81
T_4	28.00	43.10	54.16	3.16	5.20	6.93	33.89	54.48	69.20	3.41	4.46	6.00
T_5	26.36	41.35	53.02	3.56	5.40	7.30	32.71	53.52	68.33	3.67	4.62	6.09
T_6	29.85	44.73	55.70	3.93	5.43	7.96	35.74	57.44	71.52	3.83	4.74	6.18
T_7	25.90	41.12	52.35	3.70	5.30	8.23	32.18	54.15	69.64	3.96	4.97	6.25
T_8	22.14	36.83	50.20	3.96	5.70	8.80	28.75	49.79	67.19	4.02	5.08	6.35
T_9	19.92	34.94	49.06	4.36	6.13	9.33	26.17	48.04	66.47	4.05	5.26	6.35
C.D (0.05%)	0.82	0.88	0.85	NS	0.48	0.61	1.96	0.87	1.31	0.20	0.14	0.14
SE(m) ±	0.27	0.29	0.28	0.38	0.16	0.20	0.65	0.29	0.44	0.06	0.04	0.04
SE(d) ±	0.38	0.41	0.40	0.54	0.22	0.29	0.93	0.41	0.62	0.09	0.07	0.07
C.V.	1.75	1.20	0.91	18.93	5.47	4.63	3.45	0.94	1.10	3.34	1.85	1.43

Table 3: Effect of spacing on polar diameter of bulb (cm), equatorial diameter of bulb(cm),) Fresh Weight of bulb (g) and dry weight of bulb (g) in onion at different harvest intervals

Treatment	Polar Diameter of bulb (cm)			Equatorial Diameter of bulb (cm)			Fresh weight of Bulb (g)			Dry Weight of Bulb (gm)		
	60 DAT	90 DAT	At final harvest	60 DAT	90 DAT	At final harvest	60 DAT	90 DAT	At final harvest	60 DAT	90 DAT	At Final Harvest
T_0	2.15	3.06	4.34	1.91	3.76	5.34	31.73	63.33	94.10	2.05	3.43	4.74
T_1	2.30	3.24	4.52	2.60	3.96	5.52	22.60	36.86	54.23	2.24	3.72	5.05
T_2	2.32	3.45	4.77	2.30	4.09	5.6	22.7	43.0	62.06	2.3	3.7	5.3

						0	3	1		6	7	0
T_3	2.44	3.30	4.93	2.98	4.22	5.74	25.81	44.56	70.11	2.63	3.92	5.45
T_4	2.56	3.49	5.20	2.20	4.34	5.84	34.36	50.24	78.04	2.58	4.02	5.55
T_5	2.70	3.72	5.45	2.77	4.47	6.12	34.15	51.83	86.13	2.77	4.40	5.84
T_6	2.72	3.84	5.64	2.41	4.65	6.16	29.53	47.60	73.23	2.95	4.42	6.14
T_7	3.25	4.10	5.74	2.85	4.75	6.34	32.82	60.43	88.00	3.20	4.43	6.23
T_8	3.08	4.31	5.91	2.93	5.02	6.61	32.71	69.88	98.13	3.36	4.53	6.45
T_9	3.19	4.25	5.88	3.31	5.20	6.71	39.86	73.93	102.36	3.38	4.68	6.66
C.D (0.05%)	0.34	0.48	0.18	NS	0.13	0.12	4.47	6.94	2.18	0.24	0.15	0.13
SE(m) ±	0.11	0.16	0.06	0.28	0.04	0.04	1.49	2.31	0.72	0.08	0.05	0.04
SE(d) ±	0.16	0.22	0.08	0.40	0.06	0.06	2.11	3.28	1.03	0.11	0.07	0.06
C.V.	7.50	7.56	2.04	1.95	1.69	1.23	2.45	3.41	1.56	5.15	2.14	1.37

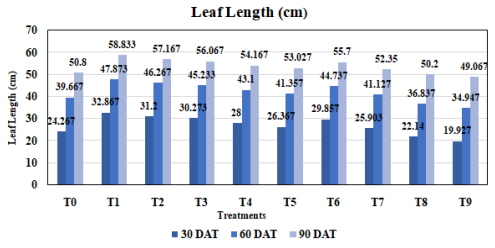


Fig. 1: Leaf length (cm) at different harvest intervals as influenced by different spacing

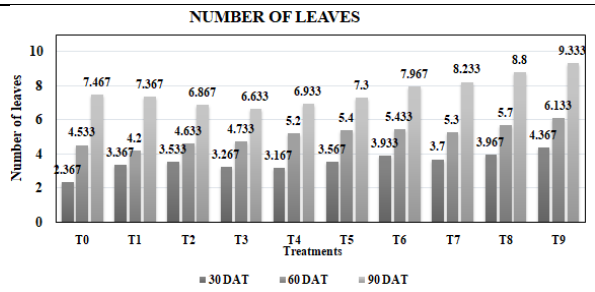


Fig. 2: Number of leaves per plant at different harvest intervals as influenced by different spacing

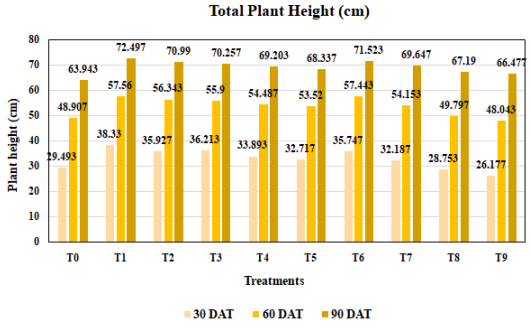


Fig. 3:Total Plant height (cm) at different growth intervals as influenced by spacing

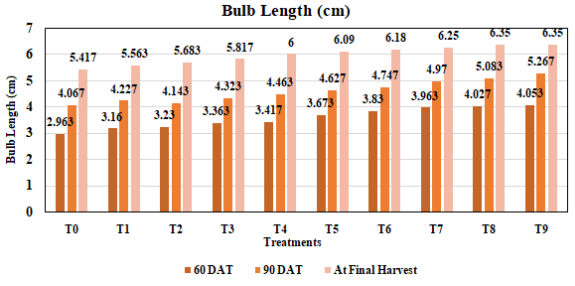


Fig. 4: Bulb Length(cm) at different growth intervals as influenced by spacing

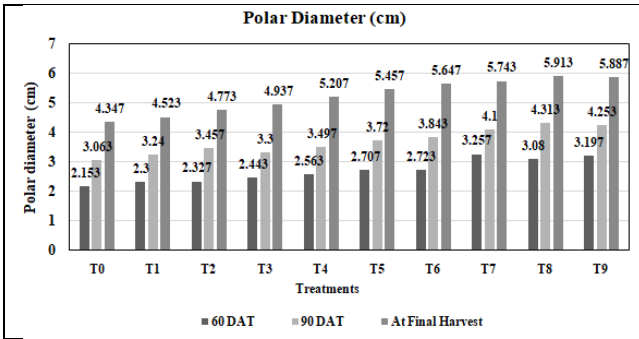


Fig.5: Polar Diameter of bulb (cm) at different harvest intervals as influenced by different spacing

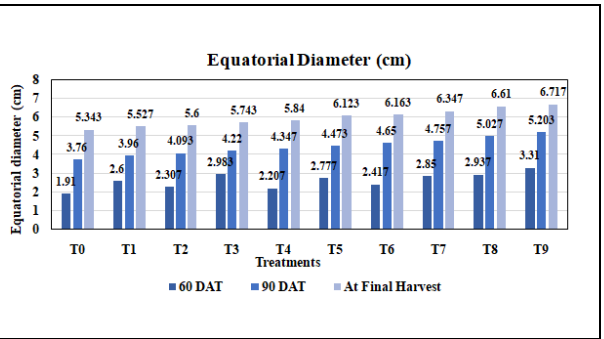


Fig.6: Equatorial Diameter of bulb(cm) at different harvest intervals as influenced by different spacing

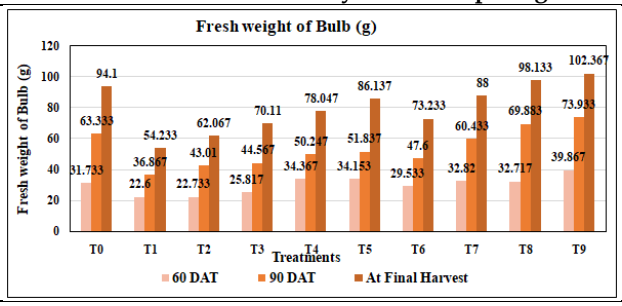


Fig. 7: Fresh weight of Bulb (g) at different harvest intervals as influenced by different spacing

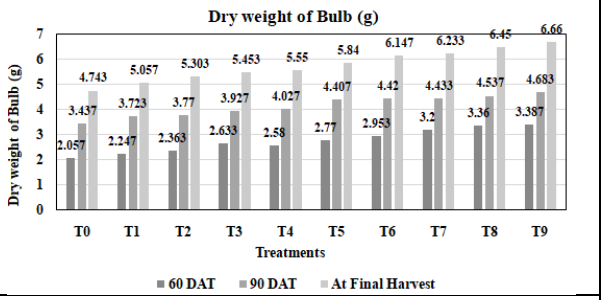


Fig. 8: Dry weight of Bulb (g) at different harvest intervals as influenced by different spacing



Plate 1: Layout, Transplanting and Irrigation in experimental plot



Plate 2: Weeding, measurement of Plant height and harvesting



Plate 3: Observations recorded in Horticulture Laboratory

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Exploring Nanomaterials for Quantum Computing Hardware Development

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ABSTRACT

Quantum computing has emerged as a transformative technology capable of outperforming classical computers in solving certain computational problems. Nonetheless, building reliable and scalable quantum hardware remains a major hurdle. Nanomaterials, thanks to their unique quantum-scale characteristics, are gaining prominence as vital components in quantum device design. This paper investigates how materials such as graphene, carbon nanotubes, and topological insulators contribute to enhancing quantum computing hardware. These nanomaterials offer potential improvements in qubit design, coherence duration, error resilience, and energy efficiency. A systematic examination of existing research, proposed design methodology, simulation-based results, and performance comparisons are presented to highlight the role of nanomaterials in shaping next-generation quantum architectures.

Keywords: Quantum Architecture, Nanotechnology, Spin Qubits, Graphene, Carbon Nanotubes, Topological Insulators, Quantum Error Correction, Nano-enabled Computing, Quantum Dots, Coherence Time

INTRODUCTION

Quantum computers represent a major leap in computation by utilizing quantum mechanics principles such as entanglement and superposition. This capability allows quantum systems to process vast combinations of states simultaneously, which has profound implications for cryptography, materials science, machine learning, and

complex system simulations. However, one of the pressing challenges in the field is the lack of robust quantum hardware capable of sustaining long coherence times while minimizing error rates. Nanomaterials—due to their unique behavior at atomic and molecular scales—are emerging as promising alternatives to traditional semiconductors in building reliable quantum components. Their excellent electrical, thermal, and mechanical properties make them suitable for forming and manipulating quantum bits (qubits), paving the way for advanced and energy-efficient quantum devices.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Recent research has shown that nanomaterials play a vital role in advancing quantum hardware technologies. Graphene, known for its excellent electron mobility and adjustable bandgap, has been studied for creating quantum dots, particularly in its bilayer form, as demonstrated by Ponomarenko *et al*. (2013). Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs), with their unique shape and beneficial spin-orbit properties, have proven effective for maintaining long-lasting spin qubits, as observed by Churchill *et al*. (2009), who also noted their potential for integration with microwave readout systems. Topological insulators offer robust edge states that are resistant to disturbances, and research by Hasan and Kane (2010) supports their use in developing fault-tolerant quantum bits. Additionally, magnetic molecules, which can exhibit quantum tunnelling of magnetization, show promise for spin-based data processing, as highlighted by Leuenberger and Loss (2001). Together, these studies demonstrate how nanomaterials are shaping the future of quantum computing hardware.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

To comprehensively analyse the benefits of nanomaterials in quantum hardware systems, a multi-stage research plan is adopted

Flow diagram of the Proposed Methodology (Figure 1)

Material Selection and Analysis: Nanomaterials such as graphene, carbon nanotubes, and topological insulators are selected based on their documented quantum behaviour. Their structural and electrical characteristics are simulated using tools like COMSOL and QuantumATK to assess properties like electron mobility, bandgap modifiability, and thermal conductivity.

Qubit Architecture Simulation: Various qubit types—such as spin qubits, charge qubits, and Majorana-based qubits—are modelled using these materials. MATLAB and Qi skit-based simulations help evaluate their coherence characteristics and gate fidelities under different operational conditions.

Hybrid Circuit Modelling: Simulations in Cadence Virtuoso are used to model hybrid classical-quantum circuits, focusing on the compatibility of nanomaterial-based qubits with conventional CMOS controls and interconnects.

Performance Benchmarking: Key metrics such as coherence time, energy efficiency, thermal stability, and error rates are measured and compared with existing superconducting and trapped-ion qubit technologies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Graphene-Enabled Qubits: Results indicate that quantum dots formed in bilayer graphene structures show coherence times ranging between 2–5 microseconds. These structures offer ease of bandgap tuning through electrical gating, leading to better confinement and manipulation of quantum states.

Carbon Nanotube Qubits: Spin qubits constructed using CNTs demonstrate long-lived coherence, with durations exceeding 50 microseconds. Their ability to strongly interact with microwave fields also facilitates advanced readout and entanglement schemes.

Topological Insulators: Simulations involving nanowires based on topological insulators show that they can host Majorana zero modes—hypothetical particles predicted to enable highly error-resistant quantum computation. These modes exhibit immunity to environmental noise, although achieving the conditions required for their stability remains challenging.

Comparative Analysis: When evaluated against traditional superconducting qubits, nanomaterial-based qubits show superior thermal control, lower power consumption, and reduced sensitivity to ambient disturbances. For instance, CNT-based devices demonstrated a reduction in gate errors by approximately 25% when optimized gate pulses were applied.

Simulation Results Table
Table:1
Figure:2

- The blue bars represent the *coherence time* (in microseconds).
- The red line represents the *percentage reduction in error rates*.

Simulation results reveal that Carbon Nanotube (CNT) Qubits offer superior performance compared to other nanomaterial-based qubit types, especially in achieving longer coherence durations and reduced error rates. Graphical comparisons and tabulated data highlight the distinct advantage of CNT Qubits, with coherence times surpassing 50 microseconds and improved operational reliability. These outcomes emphasize the valuable role of nanomaterials in tackling core challenges in quantum computing, notably enhancing system stability and optimizing energy usage, thereby contributing to the development of more scalable and efficient quantum architectures.

CONCLUSION

The exploration of nanomaterials for quantum hardware signifies a transformative direction in computing. Materials such as graphene, CNTs, and topological insulators exhibit properties highly favourable for qubit development, including enhanced coherence, fault tolerance, and reduced power usage. While experimental validation is still in its early stages, simulation-based evaluations underscore the suitability of nanomaterials for building robust and scalable quantum architectures. Future research should target experimental realization of hybrid quantum devices and integration with classical control mechanisms, with an emphasis on optimizing fabrication and material purity at the nanoscale.

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Simulation Results Table

Qubit Type	Coherence Time (μs)	Error Rate Reduction (%)	Thermal Stability	Power Efficiency
Graphene Qubits	3.5	10	Moderate	Good
Carbon Nanotube Qubits	50.0	25	High	Excellent
Topological Insulator Qubits	10.0	15	Very High	Very Good

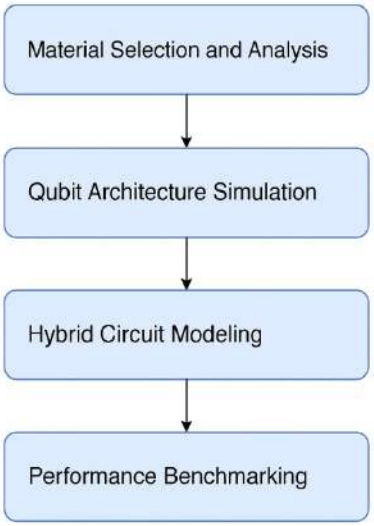


Figure 1: Flow diagram of the Proposed Methodology

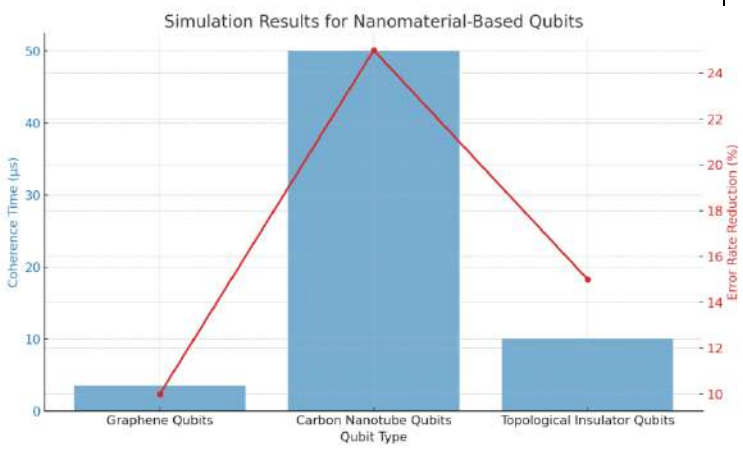


Figure 2: Simulation Results for Nanomaterial-Based Qubits

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Transforming Healthcare: Integrating IoT with Machine Learning and Deep Learning – A Comprehensive Survey

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ABSTRACT

The integration of Internet of Things (IoT) technology with Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) is revolutionizing healthcare by enhancing patient monitoring, diagnostics, and personalized treatment. This survey examines how interconnected smart devices and sensors facilitate the continuous collection and analysis of health-related data, improving clinical decision-making and healthcare efficiency. By exploring various system architectures, including remote patient monitoring, smart hospital frameworks, and wearable devices for chronic disease management, the study highlights the role of ML and DL in processing complex datasets and predicting health outcomes. Additionally, the survey addresses key challenges such as data heterogeneity, security and privacy concerns, and infrastructure scalability. Through an analysis of technological advancements and real-world applications, this work outlines emerging research opportunities and future directions aimed at optimizing the synergy between IoT, ML, and DL for intelligent healthcare solutions.

Keywords: IoT, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Healthcare, Data Analytics, Remote Patient Monitoring, Smart Hospitals.

INTRODUCTION

The Evolution of Healthcare Technology: Healthcare has experienced a profound transformation over recent decades from traditional, paper-based systems to integrated, data-driven solutions that leverage modern information and

communication technologies. Early systems were limited by manual data entry and fragmented information, whereas today's smart healthcare infrastructures utilize electronic health records (EHRs), advanced imaging, and real-time data analytics to improve patient care and clinical decision-making [1]. The integration of the Internet of Things (IoT) into healthcare marks a paradigm shift where a wide variety of connected devices (e.g., wearable sensors, smart monitors, and remote diagnostic tools) continuously gather patient data. This interconnectivity paves the way for real-time monitoring and enhanced personalization in treatment, ultimately supporting dynamic and adaptive healthcare solutions [2] Such advancements have not only elevated patient care but have also catalyzed further integration with advanced computational techniques like Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL). The figure 1 shows the Timeline of healthcare technology adoption. Modern healthcare faces mounting pressures from rising costs to the demand for timely diagnosis. Integrating IoT with ML/DL enables automated data collection and intelligent analytics, supporting early anomaly detection and adaptive treatments. These technologies improve diagnostic accuracy, personalize care, and optimize resources, ultimately making healthcare more proactive, efficient, and sustainable [3]. This survey reviews recent (2020–2025) advancements in IoT-enabled healthcare systems using ML and DL techniques. It highlights key technological trends, system architectures, and successful applications such as remote monitoring, smart hospitals, and wearables. It also identifies integration challenges and explores future research opportunities in applying traditional ML and advanced DL methods to healthcare infrastructure. [4].

IoT in Healthcare: Landscape and Applications

IoT healthcare systems employ sensors to gather biometric and environmental data, using protocols like Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and Zigbee for communication and data transmission. Architectures range from centralized hubs to edge and fog computing, with distributed systems offering reduced latency and improved scalability for critical medical environments [5]. Wearable sensors enable remote monitoring, aiding early detection and chronic care management. In telemedicine, real-time data enhances diagnostics during virtual consultations, expanding access to specialist services [6]. Smart hospitals automate operations through sensor networks, optimizing assets and safety (see Figure 2) [7]. The Node-link connection shown in Figure 2. Personalized care leverages integrated datasets and analytics to tailor treatments to individual patient needs. Ensuring data security demands encryption, authentication, and compliance with standards like HIPAA. Device interoperability issues require standardized protocols for seamless integration [8]. Managing large data volumes calls for edge computing and distributed storage to maintain analytics and integrity.

Machine Learning and Deep Learning: Foundations for Healthcare Analytics

Machine Learning (ML) has reshaped healthcare via predictive analytics, diagnostics, and tailored treatments. Algorithms like SVMs, Decision Trees, and KNN enhance disease classification, clinical reasoning, and risk stratification. These models enable early detection of neurological and cardiac issues, personalized forecasting, and patient clustering [9]. Deep Learning (DL) further boosts healthcare, especially in imaging and sequential data. CNNs outperform traditional methods in detecting tumors, skin lesions, and retinal disorders [10]. RNNs and LSTMs enable real-time ECG monitoring, ICU predictions, and wearable-based tracking. Autoencoders and GANs improve imaging anomaly detection and synthetic data generation for drug discovery. ML suits structured tasks like EHR handling and diagnostic classification due to its interpretability and low compute demand. DL excels with unstructured data like scans and sequences, aiding in tumor detection and robotic surgery [11]. A hybrid ML-DL approach ensures accuracy, scalability, and transparency across medical domains [12].Refer to Figure 3 for performance comparison.

Integration of Iot with Ml and Dl: System Architectures and Data Workflows

IoT-enabled healthcare systems utilize wear ables and biosensors to monitor vital signs like heart rate, blood pressure, SpO_2, and glucose levels. Activity logs and motion sensors aid rehabilitation, while environmental sensors track air quality for respiratory conditions. Biosignal technologies (EEG, ECG, EMG) support neurological diagnostics and remote stroke rehab, with secure protocols like BLE, Zigbee, and LoRaWAN ensuring safe transmission. Cloud, fog, and edge computing support efficient data storage and processing, particularly in critical scenarios like heart failure detection [13]. AI-integrated IoT enables real-time diagnostics (e.g., ECG analysis, ICU

alerts) and batch processing for long-term predictions. Edge computing enhances responsiveness and privacy. Hybrid models combine edge, fog, and cloud for optimal performance, as seen in ICU anomaly detection and remote cardiovascular prediction [14]. Predictive analytics detect stroke risk and forecast hospital resources. Personalized medicine aligns prescriptions with genetics, while anomaly detection identifies early signs of disorders like arrhythmia and glucose fluctuations 15][16]. Remote patient monitoring (RPM) networks leverage protocols such as Bluetooth and Zigbee to provide real-time data. Edge-enabled AI and ambient assisted living frameworks ensure low latency and scalability. ML/DL models (CNNs, RNNs) transform raw signals into accurate health predictions [17].Smart hospitals use AI to streamline workflows, monitor equipment, and adjust environmental controls. Interconnected IoT systems improve patient care via responsive infrastructure [18].AI-powered wearables manage chronic conditions by tracking health metrics and enabling dynamic treatment plans[19]. These systems improve outcomes and reduce readmissions [20] that show in figure 4.

Evaluation Metrics and Performance Assessment

Healthcare diagnostic models are evaluated using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score, which are especially vital when addressing imbalanced datasets. The F1 score provides a balanced measure between precision and recall, offering deeper insight than accuracy alone particularly in cases with high costs for false negatives or positives. Nuanced assessments using metrics like the Matthews correlation coefficient further enhance model reliability [21]. Standardized benchmark datasets play a crucial role in ensuring that evaluations remain consistent and reproducible across clinical studies. Real-time healthcare systems require low-latency performance and efficient processing. Edge computing solutions reduce delay and improve responsiveness during critical events. IoT-based architectures designed for fast data exchange enhance performance through innovations in communication protocols. As many edge devices are battery operated, energy-efficient algorithms are essential to balance processing speed and power consumption, supporting continuous health monitoring without compromising sustainability [22]. With the rise in digital health data usage, protecting sensitive information has become paramount. Metrics assessing resilience to breaches and unauthorized access help quantify system robustness. Statistical analyses of healthcare data breaches highlight persistent vulnerabilities and the need for ongoing cybersecurity improvements [23]. Compliance with standards such as HIPAA and GDPR ensures that healthcare systems maintain legal and ethical safeguards while promoting trust and reliability in digital environments [24].

Challenges, Limitations, and Open Research Questions

As healthcare systems increasingly integrate IoT devices and ML/DL algorithms, they face complex security challenges. Threat models must address vulnerabilities within interconnected networks and adversarial manipulations of AI systems. Studies reveal that attackers exploit low-power sensors and proprietary communication protocols to compromise data integrity and confidentiality [25]. Moreover, adversarial examples can mislead ML models, potentially causing misdiagnoses or data poisoning. Mitigation approaches include robust encryption, secure transmission protocols, and blockchain-based authentication techniques to protect both data flows and algorithmic logic. The fusion of heterogeneous healthcare data sources presents ongoing difficulties in standardization, semantic alignment, and data quality. Variability in format, resolution, and contextual meaning hinders effective analytics. Reviews highlight that even advanced big data frameworks struggle with semantic inconsistencies, affecting downstream modeling accuracy [26]. To address this, recent developments focus on data harmonization methods to unify disparate datasets strengthening analysis reliability and regulatory compliance. Digital health technologies must comply with stringent legal and ethical regulations like HIPAA and GDPR to ensure data protection and ethical usage. Ethical AI frameworks guide innovation while maintaining patient privacy [27]. A key concern is algorithmic bias, which can lead to unequal healthcare outcomes. Current research explores bias detection and mitigation through fairness metrics and algorithmic audits, striving for equitable and transparent clinical decision-making.

Technological and Infrastructural Constraints

Integrating IoT solutions into legacy healthcare infrastructures introduces interoperability challenges. Older systems are often incompatible with modern digital platforms, requiring middleware adapters and interface sensors to enable

communication [28]. In parallel, rising data volumes demand scalable architectures. Cloud and edge-based solutions offer enhanced scalability, though cost, latency, and energy consumption remain open research areas in ensuring sustainable and secure performance.

Future Directions and Emerging Trends

Healthcare IoT devices are advancing rapidly with ultra-sensitive sensors, miniaturization, and improved energy efficiency, enabling continuous, precise monitoring [29]. New protocols like 5G and future 6G drastically reduce latency, enhancing remote care responsiveness. AI advances focus on interpretability and privacy. Explainable AI (XAI) improves clinical trust in decision-making, while Federated Learning trains models collaboratively without sharing sensitive data [30]. Technological fusion boosts system reliability and security. Blockchain ensures traceability and decentralized patient record authentication. Edge AI supports low-latency, localized data processing—crucial for urgent interventions and uninterrupted monitoring [31]. Sustained collaboration between technologists and clinicians is key. Studies emphasize the importance of ethical, regulatory-aligned innovation and long-term impact assessments to guide next-generation healthcare systems [32].

CONCLUSION

The convergence of IoT, ML, and DL is reshaping healthcare by enabling intelligent diagnostics and predictive care. Wearables and sensors collect vital physiological and environmental data, standardized via min-max normalization, which fuels hybrid models using CNNs, LSTMs, attention mechanisms, and optimizers like JSO. These architectures enhance disease detection and risk classification, especially in stroke and chronic condition management. Key outcomes include data-driven decision-making, resource-efficient algorithms like bacterial foraging, and AI-assisted collaboration tools that improve precision while reducing clinician workload [32].The embedded IoT-ML-DL frameworks offer enhanced diagnostic precision, support preventive and remote care, automate operational tasks, and enable personalized treatment strategies. AI models identify subtle pathologies, while wearables reduce hospital readmissions. Automation streamlines administrative processes, and ML guides adaptive therapies tailored to genomic and behavioral profiles [33].To scale responsibly, future work must address data privacy with blockchain and federated learning, resolve interoperability through standard protocols and edge computing, and counter algorithmic bias via synthetic data and fairness-aware models [34]. Emerging priorities include explainable AI for clinician trust, 5G-driven edge analytics for urgent care, ethical governance to ensure accountability, and cross-disciplinary innovation to unlock next-generation precision healthcare [35].

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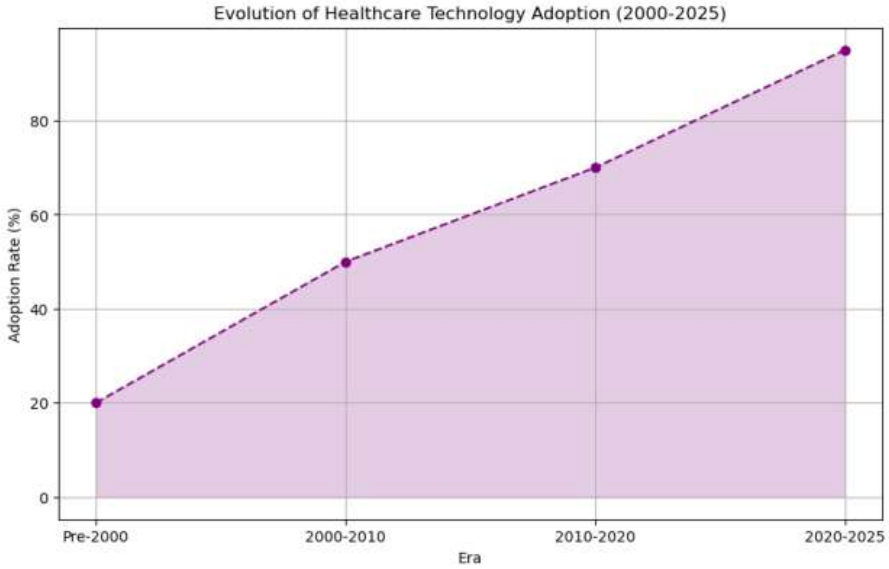


Figure 1: Timeline of healthcare technology adoption (Based to IoT/ML/DL).

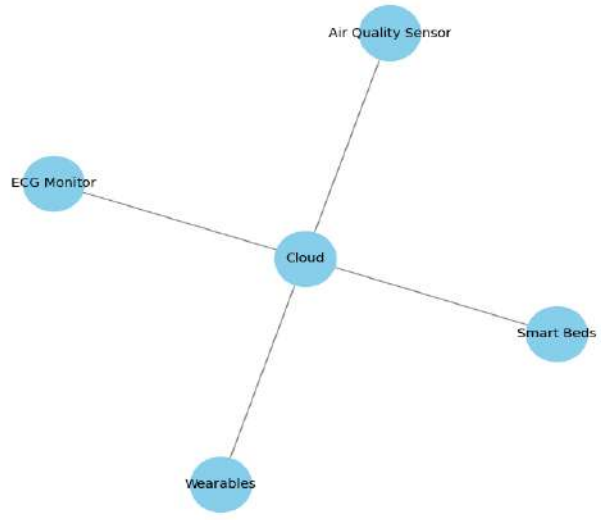


Figure 2: Diagram of IoT devices in a smart hospital.

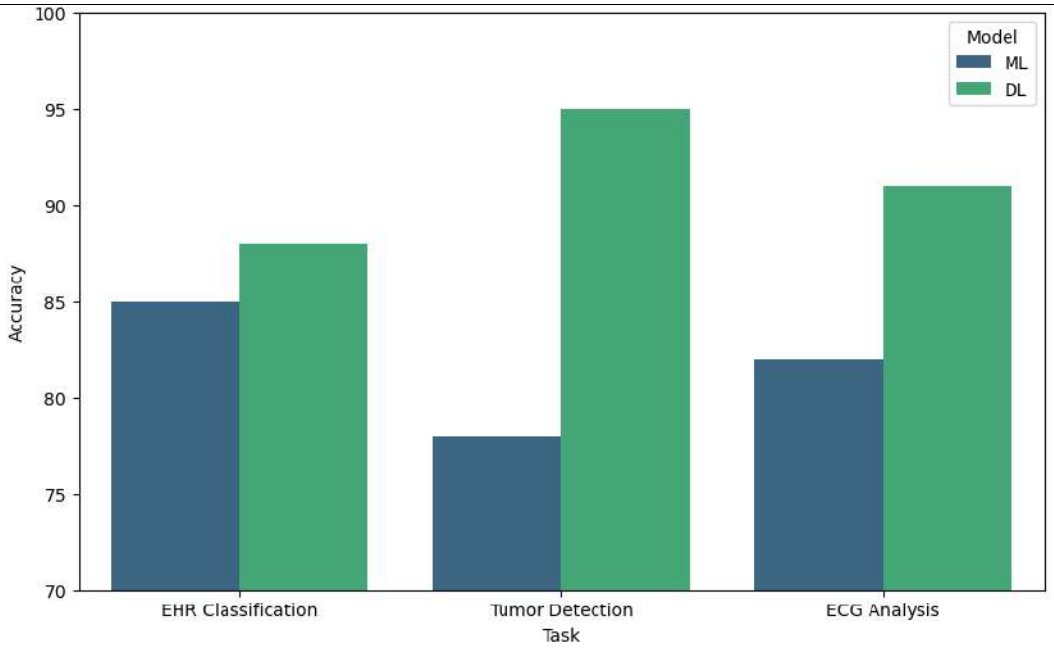


Figure 3: Comparison of ML vs. DL accuracy across healthcare tasks

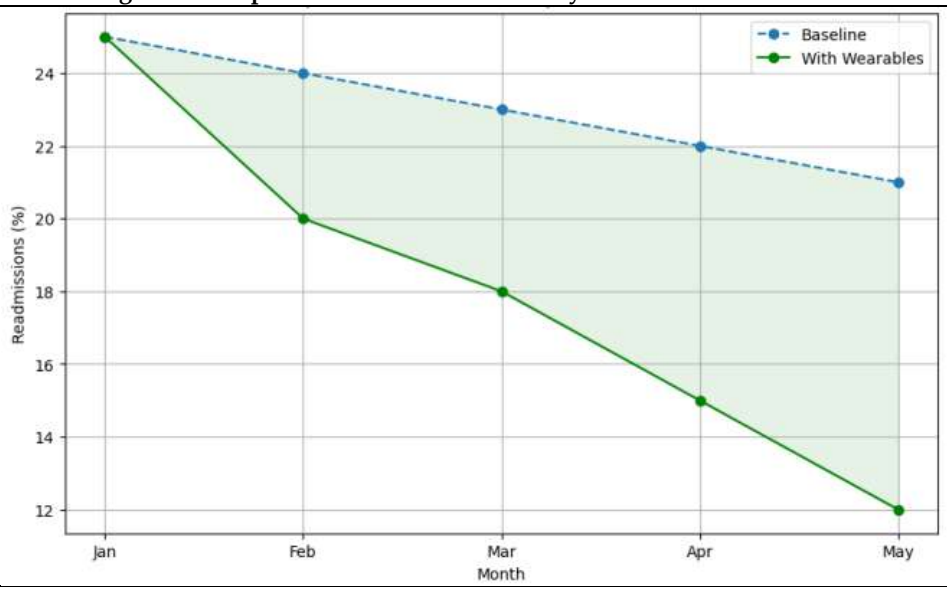


Figure 4: Reduced hospital readmissions with wearables

REVIEW ARTICLE

Understanding and Managing Ajeerna in the Modern Era : A Comprehensive Review

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ABSTRACT

Ajeerna, often referred to as indigestion or dyspepsia, it is a common gastrointestinal ailment affecting individuals globally. 20 % of people are affected by indigestion at some point of their life. To address it properly, it is essential to review the management and understanding of Ajeerna in today's context with holistic approach and the blend of the traditional medicine knowledge. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of Ajeerna, this study focuses on the contribution of Ayurveda to preventive health by examining Ajeerna through the lens of contemporary understanding and addressing it using traditional methods combined with modern approaches, such as early diagnosis, to enhance modern preventive health. to illustrate how the surface symptoms of Ajeerna represent only a fraction of the entire health spectrum affected by this disorder. Beyond the apparent digestive discomfort, Ajeerna may have implications for mental health, lifestyle choices, and overall well-being. The holistic approach to Ajeerna management involves a comprehensive strategy encompassing dietary modifications, stress reduction techniques, lifestyle adjustments, and alternative therapies. Nutritional interventions, such as mindful eating and the inclusion of digestion-friendly foods, are emphasized to promote digestive health. Stress management techniques, including meditation and yoga, play a pivotal role in addressing the emotional components

contributing to Ajeerna. In conclusion, this review underscores the significance of recognizing Ajeerna and advocates for a holistic approach to its management for the prevention of disease. By addressing not only the visible symptoms but also the underlying factors, individuals can strive towards comprehensive well-being and an improved quality of life.

Keywords: Ajeerna, Holistic approach, Preventive health

INTRODUCTION

Ajeerna, as described in *Ayurveda*, is a disease related to the digestive system, bearing similarities to the condition known as functional dyspepsia. In *Ayurveda*, the concept of *Agni* (~digestive fire) plays a crucial role in maintaining overall health and treating diseases[1]. Every major disease, according to *Ayurveda*, stems from a disturbance in *Agni*. When *Agni* becomes impaired, it manifests as conditions such as *Agnimandya* (~weakened digestive fire) and *Ajeerna* (~indigestion)[2]. It can be considered the first sign of any major systemic disease, as it indicates a disruption in *Agni* resulting from substandard digestion of food. This compromised digestion leads to inadequate nourishment of the body's tissues, creating a conducive environment for the onset of disease pathology. If any triggering factor affects the body under these conditions, it can lead to the manifestation of disease[3]. Many underlying disease conditions originate from this point of vitiated *Agni*, often remaining undiagnosed or subclinical. *Ajeerna* often goes unreported and unnoticed, requiring active screening and early detection to prevent it from progressing into major complications. Understanding and addressing *Ajeerna* through timely screening and intervention is essential for better disease control and prevention of complications[5]. By recognizing *Ajeerna* as a potential indicator of underlying health issues and employing early detection measures, individuals can mitigate the risk of developing more serious diseases stemming from impaired digestion and compromised *Agni*[6].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To understand need of addressing *Ajeerna* thorough review about Ajeerna was done from classical text of ayurveda *Charak Samhita, Sushrut Samhita, Astang Hrudaya* with their available commentaries. Various compilatory books on traditional knowledge of medicine and diet rule and regulation like bhojankutuhal, bhavprakashnighantu, dhanvantari Nighantu etc. are studied out Various article related Ajeerna and its management are reviewed. Other article on functional dyspepsia are studies out. For this purpose, database like scopus, pubmed, web of science and ayurveda database are used. After that the management part of Ajeerna studies out and comparing with old therapeutics present solution are stipulated.

REVIEW ON AJEERNA

'Ajeerna'a First Sign of Vitiation of Agni

Ajeerna serves as a warning sign for underlying health complications, indicating a disturbance in *Agni[7]*, or the digestive fire. However, this condition often goes unnoticed or ignored by many individuals who may attempt to self-manage with over-the-counter remedies for simple symptoms like acidity and constipation. Nevertheless, persistent *Ajeerna* should be addressed by a qualified expert, as *Ayurveda* provides a comprehensive explanation of the condition along with rational therapeutic measures. *Ayurvedic* texts, such as *Astang Hridaya* and *Sushruta Samhita*, delve into the classification and management of *Ajeerna*, emphasizing its importance right after detailing the rules and regulations of food Intake[8,9]. Each *acharya*, such as *Charaka* and *Sushruta*, provides insights into different aspects of *Ajeerna*, including its causes and progression. *Charaka* has explained it in *Chikitsa Sthana* before explanation of major disorder *Grahani Dosha*[10] and *VimanaSthana*, for instance, the progression of *Ajeerna Vyadhi* is detailed, highlighting conditions like *Alasaka* and *Visuchika* that stem from untreated *Ajeerna*[11]. *Ajeerna*is described in *Sutra Sthana* of *Sushruta Samhita*, emphasizing the importance of proper food classification and intake. Similarly, in *Astang*

Hridaya, *Ajeerna* is discussed in the context of the *Matrashitiya Adhyaya*, underscoring the significance of consuming the appropriate amount of food as outlined in *Sutra Sthana*. This emphasis on *Ajeerna* in sutra texts is attributed to its common occurrence as a consequence of disregarding food consumption rules, despite being a self-limiting condition initially[12]. However, if left untreated for an extended period, *Ajeerna* can progress into major disorders affecting not only the gastrointestinal system but also other vital systems such as cardiovascular, neurological, and nephrological systems[13]. The causes of *Ajeerna*, as explained by *acharyas Sushruta* and *Vagbhata*, are varied and often overlooked by individuals and unconsciously every now then people devour them[14 15]. Therefore, it is essential to recognize *Ajeerna* as a commonly occurring condition and address it promptly to prevent its progression into more serious health complications.

Other Cause of Ajeerna

According to classical text *Ajeerna*, or indigestion, can result from a variety of factors, both physical and emotional. As the explanations provided, these include

1. Improper amount of food intake.
2. Overconsumption of water.
3. Disintegrated timing of food intake.
4. Holding natural urges.
5. Sleeping during the day.
6. Emotional factors such as jealousy, fear, anger, greed, and grief[16]
7. Consuming undesirable, heavy, overcooked, dry, cold, or contaminated food.
8. Consuming food with less water quantity.
9. Eating habits such as eating cold food, reheating food, consuming leftovers, and unhealthy food combinations[17].

These factors contribute to digestive issues and can lead to *Ajeerna* or indigestion. In today's scenario, modern habits like improper timing of meals, consumption of processed foods, and exposure to environmental factors such as excessive use of fertilizers may also exacerbate digestive problems[18].

Classification of Ajeerna in Classical Text

According to *Ayurvedic* principles, Ajeerna is classified into various types based on the involvement of doshas (~biological humors) and the appearance of symptoms. *Acharya Charaka, Acharya Sushruta, Acharya Vagbhata[19], Kashyapa[20] Yogaratnakara[21], and Bhavaprakasha [22]* have all provided classifications of *Ajeerna*, reflecting their nuanced understanding of the condition. The classification helps in understanding the specific pathology and guiding treatment approaches. *Acharya Charaka's* classification places emphasis on the site of pathology for the categorization of *Ajeerna*. He considers factors such as *Mutra* (~urinary system) and *Shakruta* (~hepato-biliary system), thereby associating *Ajeerna* with any pathological condition occurring in the body channels[13]. For instance, in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) or acute kidney disease (AKD), *Ajeerna* may precede the manifestation of these conditions. Similarly, in cases of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), *Ajeerna* could serve as the initial pathological incident, indicating disturbances in the gastrointestinal system. This classification system allows practitioners to tailor treatment approaches according to the specific *doshic* involvement and symptom presentation observed in individual patients. By understanding the underlying *doshic* imbalances and the site of pathology, *Ayurvedic* physicians can provide targeted interventions to address Ajeerna and restore balance to the body's systems[23]. *acharyas* wise classification is given in table no 1

Stages of Ajeerna In Today's Scenario

There can be a classification system for Ajeerna based on the severity of symptoms and the patient's reporting status. Here is a breakdown of the classification:[24] shown in fig no 1

Silent Category: Patients in this category are not taking any medication and are not reporting to the clinic. They do not exhibit any symptoms of *Ajeerna*, but they are actively consuming factors (Hetu) that can lead to *Ajeerna*on a daily basis.

Subclinical Category: Patients in this category actively consume factors that can lead to *Ajeerna*, and they experience mild to moderate symptoms. However, they may self-medicate with over-the-counter antacid medications[25].
Clinical Category: Patients in this category experience severe symptoms of *Ajeerna* and seek treatment at a hospital or clinic.
Advanced Category: Patients in this category have severe symptoms of *Ajeerna*, often accompanied by complications and other diseases such as arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, skin diseases, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and hypothyroidism[26].
This classification system helps in understanding the severity of *Ajeerna* and its impact on the overall health of individuals. It also highlights the importance of addressing digestive issues promptly to prevent the development of complications and associated diseases.

Management of Ajeerna Given in Samhitas

This study examines the diverse management strategies for Ajeerna (indigestion) as described in various Ayurvedic texts, particularly the Brihatrayee. The Charaka Samhita emphasizes initial treatments such as Langhana (lightening the body), Langhana-Pachana (digestive measures), and Udharana (emesis), tailored to the specific dosha involvement. The Sushruta Samhita outlines targeted management for different types of Ajeerna, recommending Langhana for Amajeerna (kaphaja), Vaman (emesis) for Vidagdhajeerna (pittaja), and Swedana (sweating therapy) for Vishtabdhajeerna (vataja), while highlighting the need for proper sleep in Rasasheshajeerna. Vagbhata's texts align closely with these recommendations. The Yogaratnakar offers some variations but maintains a similar overall approach. The management of Ajeerna is further complicated by conditions such as Alasaka and Visuchika, where treatment strategies can be adapted based on patient needs. Collectively, these management practices aim to restore digestive balance through a combination of dietary adjustments, therapeutic measures, and lifestyle modifications, ultimately promoting optimal digestive function.

A Stategy for Early Addressing Ajeerna

Early Diagnosis

Early diagnosis is a key of effective management of any disease. It involved effective screening and gives accurate diagnosis[33]. It contributes to building resilient healthcare system as they help save costs and resources. By enabling care at the earliest possible stage, they improve therapy outcomes and therefore represent a crucial public health strategy in all settings[34]. In ayurveda it has mentioned that win the disease in *Sanchaya Kala* (~ accumulation time) of *Vyadhi*(~disease) '*Chayet Eva Jayet Dosha'[35]* Early diagnosis comes under a secondary prevention, it includes management to prevent complication and disease spread. Secondary prevention done in steps of isolation of case, addressing group in the population with health need including treatment or immunizing[36]. In ayurveda, treating *Agni* and keeping healthy status of *Agni* is one of its kind immunizations. As it has been covid 19 that death rate was low in India and many Indians used a decoction which includes many drugs enhances *Agni*, like piper nigram, piper longum etc[37].

Awareness About Disease

Ajeerna is disease condition which has mentioned first and foremost part of Samhita. Many people are avoiding the condition like Ajeerna until it reach to complex pathology. Also, it non-contagious not spread from one person to other, result into ignorance of disease and late reporting. Therefore, looking into the need of time, it is necessary to spread awareness about this disease in people. It can achieve at OPD level and community level. In OPD when patient visited to hospital for any reason, doctor should ask about their digestion, which can be done by asking about bowel motion, appetite, taste of mouth, coated tongue, nauseate feeling, sour eructation, heaviness in stomach and gurgling sound in stomach etc. if patient has any one of above issue, then it should get address initially by giving laxative, carminative, *Dipana, Pachana* medication or according to need of patient[38]. At community level it can be achieved by active awareness through public talk, school awareness campaign, TV news interview, new paper article, awareness lecture on festival occasion like Ganapati festival etc[39]. It is crucial to spread the awareness among the women as women plays a main role in managing the health of family. in this way the awareness about disease can be accomplished.

Awareness of Self (concept of *Agni, Prakriti, Dinacharya Ritucharya*)

Ayurveda has explained a lots of thinks about the human life. *Hita Ayu, Ahita Ayu Sukha Ayu, Dukkha Ayu* and *Agni*, importance of sleep, proper food intake etc. common people are not aware about these things. They do not know about the *Jatharagni* and their status changes in whole day cycle, in disease condition and intake of food should be done according to status of *Agni.* Along with that our daily routine should be according the status of dosha (~biophysics humors) in our body[40]. Our food intake and lifestyle should be according to prakriti (~body constitution) also necessary modification are anticipated[41], according to season as mentioned in Samhita (~ayurveda text). As this simple thing paly major role in balancing *Tridosha* and healthy status of *Agni* on which health status depends. Therefore, primary awareness about the self should be done by above mentioned media.

Role of *Sadavrutta*

Charak has told that even the person has taken proper amount of diet their food will not get digest properly if they are indulged with factors like stress, sorrow, fear, anger, discomfort bed and night awakening. Human behaviors and mental status ultimately affect the *Agni*[42], *Bhavprakasha* told that person who eat food like animal without knowing the conscience of it. ayurveda has description about code of conduct for rightful behaviors in society called as *Sadavrutta*. *Aachara Rasayana* which is also a guideline of well behaviors has huge effect on human health, gives a *Rasayana* like benefits[43]. Spreading awareness and encouraging people to follow a code of conduct is one of essential part addressing Ajeerna at personal and mass level.

Education of Kitchen Remedy to Improve Digestion

Indian typical kitchen is full of simple remedies for commonly occurring disease and specially for the good maintenance of *Agni*. Indian spices have great impact on *Agni* and ultimately on digestive power. It includes cumin seeds, mustard seed, asafetida, turmeric powder, coriander powder, piper nigram, piper longum, clove, cinnamon, cardamon, nutmeg, mace, star anise, Bay leaf etc. these drugs are useful for enhancement of taste of food, each of them has ability to enhance the *Agni* to have proper digestion of food44. Their rational use is necessary as it have *Tikshan* and *Ushna* properties mainly. Now a day with whim of modernization lots of above drugs are losing their place in Indian kitchen and it get replace by oregano, cheese, mayonnaise, bread, butter, etc. which all are noxious for gut health [45]. As earlier mentioned, disease occurrence starts with vitiation of *Agni* and looking into these issues our acharya and ancestor has rationally put all those remedy kitchen to arrest the pathology from where it could get started[45]. Therefore, spreading awareness about the importance of kitchen remedy is necessary to keep our tradition alive for livelihood.

Role of Yoga and Meditation

Yoga has great influence on Agni which helps to balance all body elements. Yoga has a beneficial effect on the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, which is important for maintaining the proper balance of metabolism[46]. Digestion is aided by practices like *Nadi Shodhana Pranayama*, which create parasympathetic dominance. All the body's systems are impacted by the hyperactivation of the amygdala and hypothalamus' stress response caused by ongoing stress exposure. Because of this, the prevalence of numerous stress-related illnesses is rising steadily, including peptic ulcers, eating disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, anorexia, and inflammatory bowel diseases. Yoga also improves mental stability, which reduces stress-related elements that are linked to gastrointestinal diseases. Certain yoga poses, such *Mahamudra, Bhastrika Pranayama*, and *Matsyendrasana*, entail moving the abdominal muscles, which stimulates the glands beneath. This improves the health of those structures by increasing blood flow within them.47Exercises like *Nadi Shodhana Pranayama* and *Bhastrika Pranayama* utilize diaphragmatic breathing, which activates the Vagus nerve in addition to massaging and improving blood flow to the abdominal organs[48]. One of the most well-known effects of *Nadi Shodhana Pranayama* is the change in the body's predominant nervous system from sympathetic to parasympathetic. It improved peristalsis and improved production of digestive juices are two benefits of parasympathetic predominance in the gastrointestinal tract, which reduces the incidence of indigestion and constipation[49]. Numerous studies have also demonstrated the soothing impact of additional yoga techniques like Dhyana, Pranayama, and Asana. These techniques have produced outstanding outcomes in several mental conditions such as depression, anxiety, stress disorders, and eating disorders. The Nadi *Shodhana Pranayama*

promotes emotional balance and health[50]. These data support the claims made in yoga literature and that Asana and Pranayama eliminate all diseases[51]. Therefore, these techniques can be applied to gastrointestinal disorders brought on by psychological and emotional issues.

DISCUSSION

Ajeerna is a critical marker for underlying health issues, closely linked to Agni (digestive fire) in Ayurveda[52]. It serves as an early sign of systemic disease, emphasizing the importance of early detection, much like functional dyspepsia in contemporary medicine. Recognizing Ajeerna aids in understanding digestive health and the interconnectedness of bodily systems, highlighting the need for proactive health monitoring[53]. Numerous causes of Ajeerna—both physical and emotional—reflect Ayurveda's holistic approach. Modern lifestyle changes, including processed foods and irregular eating patterns, exacerbate these issues, necessitating a dual management approach that combines traditional dietary habits with contemporary influences[54]. The classification of Ajeerna based on dosha involvement allows Ayurvedic practitioners to tailor interventions to individual needs. This classification is clinically relevant, as early intervention can prevent progression to serious conditions like chronic kidney disease[55]. Management strategies, such as Langhana and Udharana, align well with modern dietary recommendations. However, translating these practices into culturally relevant advice remains a challenge. Educating patients on these methods and timely interventions can enhance compliance and health outcomes. Awareness of Ajeerna's implications is crucial, as mild symptoms are often overlooked, leading to complications . Public health initiatives aimed at increasing digestive health awareness can foster proactive health behaviors.56Integrating yoga and meditation as therapeutic modalities further supports digestive health. Evidence suggests that combining dietary changes with physical and mental health support can yield significant benefits.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights Ajeerna's role as an early warning sign of digestive dysfunction and systemic disease. By fostering awareness, individuals can take proactive health steps, integrating traditional Ayurvedic wisdom with modern practices for holistic well-being. the study provides a comprehensive overview of Ajeerna and its implications for health, emphasizing its role as an early warning sign of digestive dysfunction and systemic disease. By fostering awareness and understanding of Ajeerna, individuals can take proactive steps toward better health. The integration of traditional Ayurvedic wisdom with contemporary health practices offers a valuable framework for addressing digestive issues, ultimately contributing to holistic health and well-being. Future research should focus on bridging these ancient practices with modern scientific insights to enhance treatment efficacy and patient education

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Table no 1: classical type of Ajeerna by various acharyas

Charak	Sushruta	Vagbhata	Kashyap	Madhav	Yogratnakara	Bhavprakasha
Kaphaj	*Aama,*	*Aama*	*Shleshma*	*Aama,*	*Aama,*	*Aama,*
Pittaj	*Vidagdha*	*Vidagdha*	*Vidagdha,*	*Vidagdha*	*Vidagdha*	*Vidagdha*
Vataj	*Vishtabdha*	*Vishtabdha*	-	*Vishtabdha*	*Vistabdha*	*Vishtabdha*
Rasashesha	*Rasashesha*	*Rasashesha*	*Rasashesha*	*Rasashesha*	*Rasashesha*	*Rasashesha*
Mutraj	-	-	*Ama,*	*Dinapaki*	*Dinapaki*	*Dinapaki*
Shakrutaj	-	-	-	*prakrita*	*prakrita*	*prakrita*

Table no 2 : classical management of Ajeerna by various Acharyas

Type of Ajeerna	Charak	Sushruta	Vagbhata	Kashyapa	Yogratnakara	Bhavprakash
Amajeerna	-	Langhana	Langhana	Vaman	Vaman	-
Vidagdhajeerna	-	Vaman	Vaman	Diwaswap	Langhana	-
Vishtabdhajeerna	-	Swedana	Swedana	-	Swedana	-
Rasasheshajeerna	-	Shayana	diwaswap	Shoashan	Shayana	-
Shleshmajeerna	-	-	-	Swedana	-	-

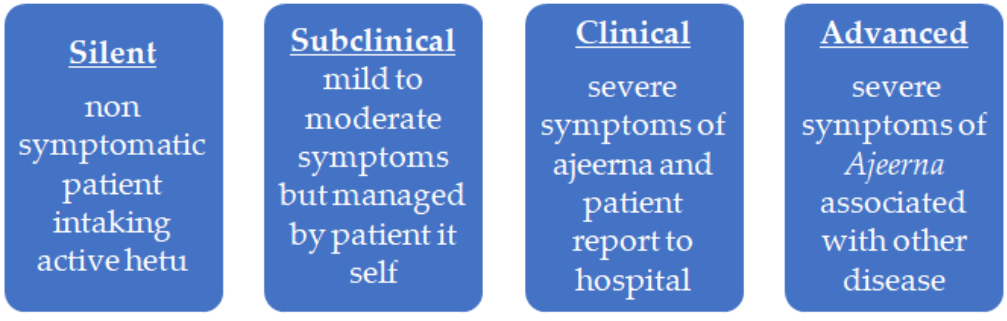


Fig 1- classification of Ajeerna on basis of today's scenario

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effect of Fresh Water Crab Shell as Organic Fertilizer to Increase Plants of Fabaceae (*Dalichos lablab*) Growth Dramatically

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ABSTRACT

Chitin from Fresh Water Crabs is Observed to have appreciable effect on *Dalichos lablab*. The Chitin was mixed with soil and the seeds was sowed. When the plant is mixed with the chitin, Plant showed good response in its Growth, Maturation, Disease Resistance, Color, Size of the fruit and Leaf. The chitin treated plants contains high level of tannins, saponins, alkaloids, proteins, terpenoids , phenol and chlorophyll. The specific objectives of this study were to extract the chitin from crab exoskeletons and evaluate its growth enhancing properties for plants. The samples thus prepared and every day growth of the plants were monitored. It gives high yield. Hence the chitin was act as biofertilizer and biopesticide. The use of this simple technique by farmers will help them in improving their yield and in turn their profits.

Keywords: Fresh water crab, Chitin, Dalichos lablab, Biofertilizer, Biopesticides

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the growth and survival of nations; therefore, maintaining its quantity and quality is essential for feeding the population and economic exports. Over the years, agriculture has undergone various scientific innovations in order to make it more efficient [1]. Modern agriculture involves usage of pesticides and chemical fertilizers with an essence of increasing the world's food production, as these serve as a fast food for plants causing them to grow more rapidly and efficiently. Continuous application of chemical fertilization leads to the

decay of soil quality and fertility and might lead to the collection of heavy metals in plant tissues, affecting the fruit nutritional value and edibility [6]. Hence, in the recent years, many organic fertilizers have been introduced that act as natural stimulators for plant growth. A particular group of organic fertilizers includes outcomes based on plant growth-promoting microorganisms identified as 'Biofertilizers'. These biofertilizers comprised efficient strains of nitrogen fixing or phosphate solubilizing microorganism[7]. A bio-fertilizer is simply a substance which contains living microorganisms which when applied to the soil, a seed or plant surface colonizes the rhizosphere and promotes growth by increasing the supply or availability of nutrients to the host plant [11]. Crab Shell is an excellent dry organic source of NPK, Calcium (23%) and Magnesium (1.33%). It will also help with nematode and fungus problems. Crab Shell is high in Chitin (Kite-en), which promotes the growth of Chitin eating bacteria in the soil. The exoskeletons of fungus and nematode eggs are high in chitin. Crab Shell when added to the soil helps to create a hostile environment for the fungus and nematodes by feeding the biological life that eats chitin and chitin based organisms. To reduce the impact of excess chemical fertilizers in the field of agriculture the Biofertilizer is being considered as a potential tool; biologically fixed nitrogen is such a source which can supply an adequate amount of Nitrogen to plants and other nutrients to some extent. Biofertilizer material as a substitute for Nitrogen fertilizer. In general two types of Biofertilizers used. When chitin is mixed with soil, the most common polysaccharide, stimulates the micro-organisms and this chemically stable compound is mineralized in a short period [2]. Soil amendment with chitin has also resulted in significant control of root knot nematode and root-infecting fungi by changing the soil micro-flora resulting in an increase in microorganisms around the roots, antagonistic to root pathogens[8].Chitin was first found in mushrooms in 1811 by Professor Henri Braconnot, Director of the Botanical Gardens at the Academy of Sciences in Nancy, France. The English word "chitin" comes from the French word "chitine" which first appeared in 1836. These words were derived from the Latin word "chitōn," meaning mollusk. Chitin is a poly - B - (1-4) - N - acetyl -D-glucosamine. It is a nitrogen containing polysaccharide, related chemically to the cellulose; hence, they are insoluble in water and common organic solvents. On the other hand, they dissolve only in solvents such as N,N dimethylacetamide, hexafluoroacetone or hexafluoro-2-propanol .

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Crab shell collection

Fresh water Crabs were collected from Porur market, Chennai, Tamilnadu. The samples were washed dried under room temperature for 8 days and ground well to make it into a powder. The ground sample was used as powder for the preparation of biofertilizer.

Seed collection

The seeds of *Dalichos Lablab* were collected from Raj Nursery Garden, Ayappakkam, Chennai.

Soil collection

Soil used to grow these seeds was bought from Eesha Garden, Ambattur, Chennai.

Extraction of chitin

Crab shells were cleaned and washed thoroughly to remove any foreign materials, followed by grinding to get particle size 0.30-0.35 mm.

Demineralization

In demineralization process, crab shell powder was added slowly to 7% Hydrochloric acid with continuous stirring to avoid effervescence and heated at 60C for 2-3 hours to remove carbonate and phosphate content from the crab shell powder.

Deproteinization

- In deproteinization step, the acid hydrolyzed sample was treated with 5% w/v sodium hydroxide to reduce nitrogen content of protein, followed by washing to remove any traces of sodium hydroxide.
- The sample was filtered, washed repeatedly with distilled water to remove any traces of chemicals and soluble impurities.
- The filtered sample was then dried in an oven at 70C for 3 hours.
- The dried demineralized, deproteinized and deodorized white sample of chitin was obtained.
- In bleaching step, the dried sample washed with hydrogen peroxide to reduce pigment of chitin, followed by drying and storing under airtight condition.

Pot collection

Three pots were used for the cultivation of plants were labeled as control, chitin treated, chemical fertilizer treated. The pots were bought from Eesha Garden, Ambattur, Chennai.

Field study

15 g of chitin was mixed with 4 kg of soil. Then seeds are transferred to that chitin treated soil. Every day the growth of the plant was analysed.

Chemical fertilizer collection

NPK 19:19:19 was collected.1g of NPK 19:19:19 was added with 4kg of soil.

Seedling

Seedswas sown at a rate of 4 seeds per pot. The sowing was in the month of December and the growth period was ended at the end of January and the harvest took place in February. The temperature and lighting are natural ambient. Watering was done as needed with well water. The monitoring of the plant is carried out there after measuring the growth parameters of the plant until it reaches maturity.

Qualtitative analysis of phytochemicals

Cold extraction

10 gm of leaf (Control , Chitin, Chemical) was weighed and soaked in 50 ml of methanol respectively. The filtrate was collected and incubated at room temperature for evaporation. The weight was measured and the yield wascalculated by using this formula,

Yield= Initial weight - final weight

Tannins

1 ml of sample was taken, to that few drops of 0.1% ferric chloride was added and observed for blue/black colorization/brownish green.

Saponins

1 ml of sample was taken, to that 2 ml of H_2O (shaken vigorously) was added and observed for foaming appearance.

Flavonoids

1 ml of sample was taken, to that concentrated HCL and magnesium chloride was added and observed for pink tomato red colour.

Alkaloids

1 ml of sample was taken, to that few drops of dragandoff reagent was added and observed for orange red colour.

Proteins
1 ml of sample was taken, to that few drops of Bradford reagent was added and observed for blue colour development.

Steroids
1 ml of sample was taken; to that 10% concentrated H_2SO_4 was added and observed for green colour.

Quinones
1 ml of sample was taken, to that aqueous ammonia (shaking) was added and observed for change in colour of aqueous layer (pink, red or violet).

Terpenoids
1 ml of sample was taken, chloroform to that concentrated H_2SO_4 was added and observed for reddish brown ring colour.

Cardio glycosides
1 ml extract and glacial acetic acid 0.4 ml and ferric chloride solution and conc H2SO4 – brown ring colour.

Phenols
1 ml of sample was taken, to that few drops of 0.1% ferric chloride was added and observed for blue color.

Quantitative analysis of phytochemicals
Protein estimation
Take 100-500 µl of working standard solution and 100 µl of protein sample was taken in another test tube. Made up to 1 ml of distilled water including blank. 5 ml of Lowry reagent was added in all the tubes. Mixed thoroughly, and incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes. 500 µl of Folin Phenol reagent (1:2) was added and mixed well. Incubated for 30 min at dark room and observed blue color. The OD was taken at 620 nm.

Total phenol
The samples were taken and standards of different concentrations ,made up-to 1ml using distilled water and added 0.1 ml of Folin phenol reagent and it was Incubated at room temperature for 3 min. Then 0.3 ml of 20 % Na_2CO_3 was addad and Incubated at room temperature for 2 hr. The OD was taken at 765 nm.

Estimation of tannins
Different concentrations of standard and sample were taken in separate test tubes. Then diluted to 10 ml using distilled water. 0.5 ml of Folin reagent was added. 2.5 ml of sodium carbonate was added. Incubate at room temperature for 40 min. The O.D was taken at 725 nm.

Flavonoid
Samples were taken at different concentrations and added 4 ml of distilled water. Incubated at room temperature for 5 min. 0.3 ml of 5% sodium nitrite and 0.3 ml of 10 % of Aluminium chloride was added. Incubated at room temperature for 6 min. Then 2ml of 1M Sodium hydroxide was added. Immediately made up to 10 ml with distilled water. The OD was taken at 510 nm.

Alkaloid
The plant extract was dissolved in 2 N HCl and filtered. This solution was transferred to a separating funnel, 1 ml of bromocresol green solution and 1 ml of phosphate buffer (pH 4.7) were added. Then added 4 ml chloroform. The mixture was shaken by vigorous shaking. Collected the chloroform layer. The absorbance was determined against the reagent blank at 470 nm using an UV/Visible spectrophotometer.

Saponins

5gm of sample were taken in a conical flask and added 100ml of 20% ethanol. The mixture was heated over a hot water bath for 4 hours with continuous stirring at a temperature of 55ºC. The filtration was collected and evaporated the solution. Then 20 ml of diethyl ether was added to the sample and transfer to separator funnel and vigorously agitated from which the aqueous layer was recovered while the ether layer was discarded. This purification process was repeated twice. 60ml of n-butanol was added and extracted twice with 10 ml of 5% sodium chloride. After discarding the sodium chloride layer the remaining solution was heated in a water bath for 30 minutes, after which the solution was transferred into a petriplate and was dried in an oven to a constant weight.

Chlorophyll test

1g of leaf was weighed and washed with tap water and then again washed with distilled water.Leafs were grinded by using pestle and morter. while grinding added 100% of 5 ml ethanol. This solution was transferred to the test tube and wait for sometime until to get a clear solution. The absorbance was read at 620 nm and 680 nm.The concentration of chlorophyll on the leaves was determined using the Arnon (1949) method.

Estimation of chlorophyll content

The concentration of chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b and total chlorophyll were calculated using the following equation:
Chlorophyll *a* (µg/ml) = 12.7 (A663) - 2.69 (A645)
Chlorophyll *b* (µg/ml) = 22.9 (A645) - 4.68 (A663)
Total chlorophyll (µg/ml) = 20.2 (A645) + 8.02 (A663)
Where, A = Absorbance at respective wave length = Volume of extract (ml), W = Fresh weight of the sample (g).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Field study

The results of the field studies shown in Table 1 and Table 2. The stem height, leaf length and yield of the plants were under investigation for the 50 days of study. The chitin treated plants length was drastically increased and the yield also increased. Finally the chitin treated pot contain 19 vegetables, Untreated pot contains 2 vegetables and chemical fertilizer treated pot contains 7 vegetables. The average height for control, chitin treated plants and chemical fertilizer treated plants were 55.5cm, 79.7cm and 59cm respectively(Figure1).The average leaf count for the untreated control and chemical fertilizer treated plants was less than the plants whose soil were treated with chitin. The average height of the plants treated with chitin was greater than the untreated control and chemical fertilizer treated plant. The length of the plant, the length of the petioles, the length of the compound leaves and the length and width of the leaflets are all more important factors that promote photosynthesis that allows the transformation of mineral mater into plant tissue. They increase the volume of the lowering and improve its precocity, help to increase the weight of the seeds, lengthen the plant and increase the protein content of the seeds, so all these factors are important to obtain at the end of the harvest a good performance. The chitin was reached up to 16 cm and finally it was reaches 79.7 cm growth. Similar results was obtained by Boukhlii Fatima *et al*[4] who reported the chitin treated potato was reached upto 9.5 cm growth on the 9th day of growth and finally reached 48 cm on 40th day. Chitin was applied to the soil to grow potato and the final length of the plant is 48 cm.Chitin was applied to grow Cucurbitaceae plant and the length of the plants reaches upto 95 cm [10].

Soil analysis

Soil samples were taken from control,chitin treated and chemical fertilizer treated pots by using a stainless steel tool.The samples were put in the laboratory for analysis of N, P,K and Organic matter.(Table 3,Table 4, Table 5). After 50 days the result showed that soil exposed to chitin treatment achieved a better germination percentage when compared to those untreated control and chemical fertilizer treated pots. The soils exposed the chitin treated plants were taller than the untreated control and chemical fertilizer treated plants. This is done to rule out the point that soil nutrients are responsible for the nourishment and growth of the plant.The untreated control soil contained Nitrogen

– 918 mg/kg, Phosphorus – 182 mg/kg, Potassium – 379.10 mg/kg and Organic matter – 1.41%. The chitin treated soil contained Nitrogen – 903 mg/kg, Phosphorus – 276mg/kg, Potassium – 415.45 mg/kg and Organic matter – 1.28%. The chemical fertilizer treated soil contained Nitrogen – 1976 mg/kg, Phosphorus – 467 mg/kg, Potassium – 411.56 mg/kg and Organic matter – 3.91%. This result was correlated with (Boukhlifi Fatima *et al*,. 2015)[5]. who reported that the Nutrient content of the soil such as Nitrogen was 0.048 %, Potassium 0.069 % and organic matter 3.9 %.

Qualitative analysis of phytochemicals

Phytochemical analysis showed that the untreated leafs contained tannins, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids, proteins and phenol and it shows the absence of steroids, quinones and terpenoids. Chitin treated leafs contained tannins, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids, proteins, terpenoids, phenol and it shows the absence of steroids and quinones. The chemical fertilizer treated leafs contained tannins, flavonoids, alkaloids, proteins, terpenoids and phenol and it shows the absence of saponins, steroids and quinones.(Table .6). Phytochemical analysis showed that the fresh leaf extracts of *Dolichos lablab* contained sugar, alcohols, phenols, steroids, essential oils, alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids, saponins, coumarins, terpenoids , pigments, glycosides and anthnanoids.(Deoda *et al*,. 2012; Balekari ,. 2013)[5,3]. Dilara Parvin *et al* reported in the preliminary phytochemical screening, the methanol extract of Lablab parpueus demonstrated the presence of alkaloids, saponins and tannins.

Quantitative analysis of phytochemicals

The quantitative analysis of phytochemicals showed that the chitin contained high amount of tannins - 263µg/µl, saponins - 380 µg/µl, alkaloids -70 µg/µl, proteins -490 µg/µl, terpenoids -30 µg/µl, phenol -109 µg/µl and low level of flavonoids -710 µg/µl compared to untreated control leafs.The untreated control leafs contained low amount of tannins -262 µg/µl, saponins -330 µg/µl, alkaloids -68 µg/µl, proteins -490 µg/µl and phenol -44 µg and high amount of flavonoids -860 µg/µl compared to chitin treated leafs. The chemical fertilizer treated plants contained very low amount of tannins -172 µg/µl, flavonoids -440 µg/µl, alkaloids -34 µg/µl, terpenoids -33 µg/µl, phenol-109 µg/µl and high amount of proteins -630 µg/µl compared with chitin and control treated plant leafs. (Table .7, 8, 9). It was similar to Deoda *et al*,. 2012; Balekari ,. 2013 [5,3] who have reported the plant varieties contained crude protein ranged from 20.46-25.47%.

Chlorophyll content

The total chlorophyll content (chlorophyll a +chlorophyll b) was significantly increased it in the chitin treated leaves.The total chlorophyll content in the chitin treated leaves was 12.7 µg/ml compared to untreated control contains 4.2 µg/ml and chemical fertilizer treated plants contains 11.5 µg/ml.(Table 10, Figure 2) It was very similar to (Liopa-Tsakalidi *et al*,. 2010)[9].Chitin amendment did not seem to affect the lemon balmplants' total chlorophyll content (chlorophyll a +chlorophyll b) in the peat substrate, while it significantly increased it in the peat-sand substrate. The total chlorophyll content increased by an average of 49% compared to the corresponding substrates without chitin. This increase of the total chlorophyll content in the presence of chitin in this substrate is due to chlorophylls a and b; the increase of the chlorophyll a content in the leaves was at an average of 47% and the chlorophyll b content 60%.As far as this study is concerned, the crab shell, mainly raw chitin, represent an interesting source of nitrogen and carbon for the agricultural valorization. Consequently, their treatment produces vegetable yields significantly higher than those fertilized with chemical fertilizers. The raw chitin is more effective than chemical fertilizer and more effective than the Control. The richness of Chitin was also proved by the quality and quantity of vegetables obtained after fertilization with raw chitin. The biological degradation of chitin and the important contribution of nitrogen have been proved by vegetative growth. During the growth of the plants many pests affected the untreated control plants and chemical fertilizer treated plants but chitin treated plants does not affected by the pests. Hence, chitin was act as a biofertilizer and biopesticide. It will be very useful for the large number of plant cultivation to obtain high yield without adding any chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides.

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Table .1 Field study of plants

Days	Control		Chitin treated		Chemical fertilizer	
	Stem height	Leaf height	Stem height	Leaf height	Stem height	Leaf height
10 days	12 cm	5.5 cm	16 cm	4.5 cm	14 cm	5.7 cm
20 days	19.8cm	6.2 cm	34.5cm	6.4 cm	24.9 cm	6.7 cm
30 days	38 cm	6.5 cm	49 cm	7.5 cm	34.1cm	7.2 cm
40 days	48.2cm	6.6 cm	75.5 cm	8.1 cm	46 cm	7.5 cm
50 days	55.5cm	6.6 cm	79.7 cm	8.5 cm	59 cm	7.6 cm

Table 2: Number of vegetables (yield)

Days	Control (number of vegetables)	Chitin treated pot (number of vegetables)	Chemical treated pot(number of vegetables)
36 days	1	2	2
38 days	2	5	4
40 days	3	9	6
42 days	4	15	8
44 days	5	19	12
46 days	3	13	8
48 days	2	10	7

Table 3: Nutrient analysis of untreated control soil

S.no	Parameter	Test method	Unit	Results
1.	Phosphorous as P	IS 10158	mg/kg	182
2.	Potassium as K	EPA 3050 B	mg/kg	379.10
3.	Total Nitrogen as N	IS 14684	mg/kg	918
4.	Total Organic matter	IS 2720 (Part 22)	%	1.41

Table 4: Nutrient analysis of chitin treated soil

S.no	Parameter	Test method	Unit	Results
1.	Phosphorous as P	IS 10158	mg/kg	276
2.	Potassium as K	EPA 3050 B	mg/kg	415.45
3.	Total Nitrogen as N	IS 14684	mg/kg	903
4.	Total Organic matter	IS 2720 (Part 22)	%	1.28

Table 5: Nutrient analysis of chemical fertilizer treated soil

S.no	Parameter	Test method	Unit	Results
1.	Phosphorus as P	IS 10158	mg/kg	467
2.	Potassium as K	EPA 3050 B	mg/kg	411.56
3.	Total Nitrogen as N	IS 14684	mg/kg	1976
4.	Total Organic matter	IS 2720 (Part 22)	%	3.91

Table 6: Qualitative analysis of phytochemicals

S.no	Test name	Control	Chitin	Chemical
1.	Tannins	+	+	+
2.	Saponins	+	+	_
3.	Flavonoids	+	+	+
4.	Alkaloids	+	+	+
5.	Proteins	+	+	+
6.	Steroids	-	_	_
7.	Quinones	_	_	_
8.	Terpenoids	_	+	+
9.	phenol	+	+	+

Table 7: Quantitative analysis of phytochemicals

S.no	Phytochemicals	Untreated Control plants (µg/µl)
1.	Tannins	262 µg
2.	Saponins	330 µg
3.	Flavonoids	860 µg
4.	Alkaloids	68 µg
5.	Proteins	490 µg
6.	Terpenoids	-
7.	Phenol	44 µg

Table 8: Quantitative analysis of phytochemicals

S.no	Phytochemicals	Chitin treated plant(µg/µl)
1.	Tannins	263 µg
2.	Saponins	380 µg
3.	Flavonoids	710 µg

4.	Alkaloids	70 µg
5.	Proteins	490 µg
6.	Terpenoids	30 µg
7.	Phenol	109 µg

Table 9: Quantitative analysis of phytochemicals

S.no	Phytochemicals	Chemical fertilizer treated plants (µg/µl)
1.	Tannins	172 µg
2.	Saponins	-
3.	Flavonoids	440 µg
4.	Alkaloids	34 µg
5.	Proteins	630 µg
6.	Terpenoids	33 µg
7.	Phenol	109 µg

Table 10: Chlorophyll test

sample	A645	A663	Chlorophyll a	Chlorophyll b	Total chlorophyll
Control	0.18	0.18	1.8	3.2	4.2
Chitin	0.97	0.85	8.1	18.3	12.7
Chemical	0.91	0.86	8.5	16.8	11.5



Figure 1: Field study in control, chitin treated plants and chemical fertilizer treated plants

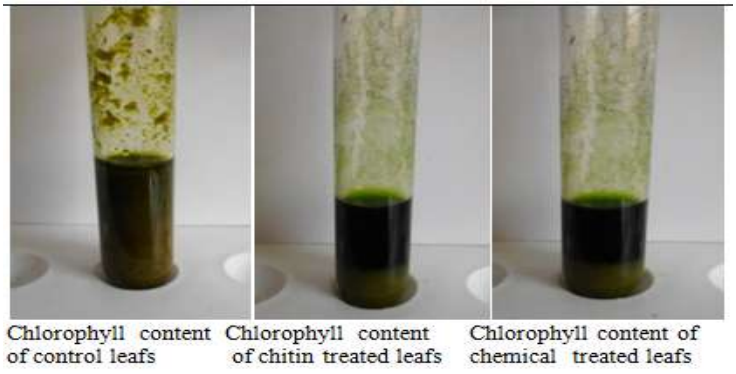


Figure 2: Chlorophyll test

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CASE STUDY ARTICLE

Evaluating the Respiratory Muscle Strength and Lung Capacity in Major Abdominal Cancer Surgery – A Case Series

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ABSTRACT

Reduction in respiratory muscle strength is noted in post-operative abdominal surgeries. The aim of this study was to evaluate the respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity in patients undergoing major abdominal cancer surgeries. A prospective case series with 12 patients who have undergone major abdominal cancer surgery where in we assessed respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity from the preoperative period till the day of discharge. Every patient received standard physiotherapy care from preoperative phase till discharge. Values were analyzed using descriptive statistics and expressed as frequency, Mean (SD). All variables showed a reduction in 1st postoperative day and gradually increased in the following days. MIP and MEP showed a reduction of 26%, 16%, 13%, 10% and 36%, 29%, 27%, 26% on POD 1, 3, 5 and the day of discharge, respectively, when compared to preoperative values. Lung capacity showed a reduction of 46%, 41%, 32% and 24% on POD 1, 3, 5 and day of discharge, on FVC. FEV1 showed 46%, 40%, 31% and 23% reduction on POD 1, 3, 5 and discharge, respectively. Similarly, PEF reduced of 32%, 23%, 16% and 7% on POD 1, 3, 5 and discharge, respectively. FEF25-75% showed 51%, 39%, 27% and 24% on POD 1, 3, 5 and discharge, respectively. Respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity reduced on immediate postoperative day and improved with physiotherapeutic intervention and reduces the incidence of postoperative pulmonary complication.

Keywords: Respiratory muscle strength, Lung capacity, Abdominal cancer surgery, Postoperative pulmonary complications.

INTRODUCTION

Major abdominal surgery is one of the curative interventions for primary or advanced malignancies within the peritoneum and the pelvis [1,2].These surgeries may disrupt the normal structure and function of the respiratory muscles and lungs indirectly resulting in lung dysfunction and developing a higher risk of post-operative pulmonary complications (PPC). PPC represent one of the main causes of postoperative morbidity and mortality after abdominal surgeries, especially in the first week of post-operative period [3,4,5,6] and their incidence reported between 1% and 23% [6,7,8,9,10,11]PPC may results in reduction of lung volume and capacity, respiratory muscle function and mucociliary transport [5,6]. Therefore, patients undergoing major abdominal cancer surgery would be recommended for evaluation and rehabilitation of the respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity from the beginning of the preoperative period to prevent post-operative pulmonary complications. The respiratory muscle strength assessed with maximal inspiratory pressure (MIP) and maximal expiratory pressure (MEP). Lung capacity or total lung capacity (TLC) is the volume of air in the lungs upon the maximum effort of inspiration and it was assessed with Pulmonary function test, in line with American Thoracic Society (ATS)/European Respiratory Society (ERS) guidelines [12,13,14]which are helpful in diagnosing the obstructive and restrictive ventilatory defects [15]. Numerous studies have found that the respiratory muscle strength and pulmonary function in the upper abdominal cancer surgeries but there are limited studies in the lower abdominal cancer surgeries. Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity in major abdominal cancer surgeries includes both upper and lower abdominal cancer surgery, and to predict on which abdominal cancer surgery would be more prone for post-operative pulmonary complications. We hypothesized that chest physiotherapy and early mobilization after surgery can be effective in reducing the post-operative pulmonary complications.

METHODS

Study design and participants

This is an observational, prospective study, conducted from the Department of Surgical Oncology, Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre and Hospital. The study was approved by Institutional Ethics Committee (DHR/ ICMR Registration No: EC/NEW/INST/2023/TN/0293). Inclusion criteria were comprehending patients of both gender, age 18-70 years and pre-operative patients of major abdominal cancer surgery. Exclusion criteria were patients with perioperative or immediate post-operative cardiopulmonary complications, and pre-existing cardiopulmonary conditions, musculoskeletal or neurological impairments that influence their functional capacity. Consented patients underwent an initial evaluation, consisting of demographic data, clinical diagnosis, comorbidities, status of neo adjuvant chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and blood investigations, preoperatively. The respiratory muscle strength and the lung capacity has been evaluated from the pre-operative period till the day of discharge.

Respiratory muscle strength

The respiratory muscle strength was assessed with maximal inspiratory pressure (MIP) and maximal expiratory pressure (MEP). Respiratory muscle strength was evaluated using a custom made analog manovacuometer in a standard measurement procedure. For each pressure, three trails were performed over one-minute interval. The best performance was taken for evaluation and the measurement was calculated as millibar (mbar) [16,17].

Lung Capacity

Lung capacity or Total Lung Capacity (TLC)was assessed with Pulmonary function test, which is a non-invasive test, evaluates the forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1), forced vital capacity (FVC), FEV1/FVC ratio, forced expiratory volume at 25% to 75% (FEF25-75), and peak expiratory flow (PEF), using a portable spirometer MIR Spirobank Smart (CE 0476), Bluetooth assisted device according to ATS/ERS guidelines [13,14,18,19,20].Three acceptable trials were recorded and the best among the three maneuvers were noted and calculated as predictor percentages [20].

Intervention

All patients received routine preoperative physiotherapy care which included bronchial hygiene therapy and active upper and lower mobility exercises. Postoperative patients initially received bronchial hygiene therapy and graded mobilisation till discharge as per patient's postoperative status.

Case Presentation

Case 1: A 44year old female diagnosed with Mucinous neoplasm of ovary (borderline) with known case of HTN, with history of Hysterectomy for fibroid uterus 14years back and Staging Laparotomy for adnexal mass 4months back, underwent Cytoreductive surgery with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 2days. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 12 gms/dl, TC- 8610 cells/cumm, Platelet- 3.08 lakhs/cumm, CA 125- 8.65 U/mL, CEA- 3.78 ng/mL. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 78.73, 82.66, 105.02, 89.38, 99.01 preoperatively and a marked reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 30.33, 28.94, 95.52, 31.82, 30.72 in POD 5. Her MIP andMEP were -42 and 540 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -28 and 240 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 9days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 2: A 51year old female diagnosed with Carcinoma Ovary Stage IIIc with no other comorbidities who has undergone 3cycles of NACT, underwent Cytoreductive surgery with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 2days. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 9.6 gms/dl, TC- 3610 cells/cumm, Platelet- 1.13 lakhs/cumm, CA 125- 48.77 U/mL, CEA- 3.83 ng/mL. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 72.62, 73.29, 100.59, 67.57, 75.94 preoperatively and a reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 39.44, 45.36, 114.63, 47.85, 76.76 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -34 and 360 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -24 and 140 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 7days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 3: A 50year old female diagnosed with Carcinoma Right Ovary with known case of T2DM and HTN, with history of Left Breast excisional biopsy for fibroadenoma 13 years back, underwent Staging Laparotomy with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 1days. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 12.1 gms/dl, TC- 10710 cells/cumm, Platelet- 5.31 lakhs/cumm, CA 125- 19.39 U/mL. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 71.51, 74.53, 104.37, 35.43, 71.49 preoperatively and a marked reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 54.64, 60.06, 110.08, 52.73, 79.67 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -52 and 410 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -22 and 150 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 7days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 4: A 65year old male diagnosed with Carcinoma Stomach with Gastric Outlet Obstruction with known case of HTN, and chronic smoker and alcoholic, underwent D2 Gastrectomy (subtotal) with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 2days. Preoperatively, his blood investigations showed Hb- 9.3 gms/dl, TC- 9520 cells/cumm, Platelet- 4.34 lakhs/cumm. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 86.57, 86.19, 99.84, 54.32, 95.02 preoperatively and a marked reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 56.6, 63.61, 112.64, 53.72, 82.32 in POD 5. His MIP and MEP were -54 and 610 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -52 and 430 in the 5th POD. His hospital stay was 8days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 5: A 64year old male diagnosed with Carcinoma Stomach (Antropyloric) with known case of T2DM and HTN, underwent D2 Gastrectomy (subtotal) with upper midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 1days. Preoperatively, his blood investigations showed Hb- 14.3 gms/dl, TC- 9420 cells/cumm, Platelet- 2.59 lakhs/cumm. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 81.18, 65.16, 80.33, 34.95, 66.13 preoperatively and a marked reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 30.26, 30.36, 100.41, 21.33, 32.86 in POD 5. His MIP and MEP were -64 and 800 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st

POD and gradually increased to -34 and 380 in the 5th POD. His hospital stay was 9days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 6: A 25year old female diagnosed with Carcinoma Endometrium, with history of fertility sparing staging right oophorectomy for right ovarian mass 1year back, underwent staging laparotomy with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 2days. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 11.9 gms/dl, TC- 8060 cells/cumm, Platelet- 3.17 lakhs/cumm, CA 125- 119.40 U/mL. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 75.98, 81.15, 106.53, 74.37, 99.56 preoperatively and a marked reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 35.24, 37.94, 107.41, 36.64, 46.84 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -52 and 570 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -44 and 410 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 9days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 7: A 70year old male diagnosed with Carcinoma Rectum (mid-third) with known case of T2DM and HTN, who has undergone 25# of NACTRT, underwent Lower Anterior Resection with diversion ileostomy with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 1day. Preoperatively, his blood investigations showed Hb- 13.8 gms/dl, TC- 8190 cells/cumm, Platelet- 3.05 lakhs/cumm, CEA- 3.92 ng/mL. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 83.67, 69.42, 82.67, 40.65, 75.39 preoperatively and a marked reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 49.18, 53.59, 108.59, 34.1, 70.59 in POD 5. His MIP and MEP were -28 and 680 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -25 and 190 in the 5th POD. His hospital stay was 6days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 8: A 63year old female diagnosed with Carcinoma Ovary Stage IIIc1 with known case of T2DM, who has undergone 3cycles of NACT, underwent Interval Cytoreductive surgery with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 1day. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 10.9 gms/dl, TC- 8030 cells/cumm, Platelet- 3.15 lakhs/cumm, CA 125- 79.40 U/mL, CEA- 2.21 ng/mL. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 44.26, 54.82, 123.75, 60.3, 146.82 preoperatively and a reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 33.67, 41.7, 123.76, 52.98, 124.75 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -36 and 340 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -24 and 160 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 7days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 9: A 60year old female diagnosed with Carcinoma Cervix Stage IIa with known case of HTN, who has undergone 33# of NACTRT, underwent Open Radical Hysterectomy with lower midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 1day. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 10.2 gms/dl, TC- 4050 cells/cumm, Platelet- 2.95 lakhs/cumm. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 69.94, 85.69, 122.45, 62.94, 112.62 preoperatively and a reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 30.49, 34.28, 112.37, 24.35, 39.76 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -44 and 540 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -30 and 200 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 7days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 10: A 50year old female diagnosed with Carcinoma Cervix with known case of T2DM, underwent Total Abdominal Hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophrectomy with frozen section with bilateral pelvic nodal sampling with lower midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 1day. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 13.2 gms/dl, TC- 7690 cells/cumm, Platelet- 3.31 lakhs/cumm. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 69.66, 79.55, 114.22, 53.89, 112.75 preoperatively and a reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 40.57, 49.23, 121.36, 38.02, 71.7 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -47 and 460 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -26 and 130 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 6days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 11: A 50year old female diagnosed with Carcinoma Stomach (body) with history of laparoscopy assisted vaginal hysterectomy for abnormal uterine bleeding 7months back, with no other comorbidities, underwent Total

Gastrectomy + Esophagojejunostomy + Distal Pancreaticosplenectomy + Feeding Jejunostomy with midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 2days. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 11.5 gms/dl, TC- 12490 cells/cumm, Platelet- 2.48 lakhs/cumm. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 48.56, 59.42, 121.95, 50.38, 82.89 preoperatively and a reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 19.03, 23.45, 122.79, 39.24, 70.5 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -29 and 320 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -26 and 180 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 10days and discharged with stable vitals.

Case 12: A 36year old female diagnosed with Pouch of Douglas mass, Spindle cell neoplasm with no other comorbidities underwent Open Radical Hysterectomy with lower midline laparotomy incision under GA and period of ICU stay was 1day. Preoperatively, her blood investigations showed Hb- 12.4 gms/dl, TC- 12460 cells/cumm, Platelet- 3.90 lakhs/cumm. The percentage predictors of FVC, FEV1, FEV1/FVC, PEF, and FEF25-75 was 68.55, 77.09, 112.6, 47.46, 83.19 preoperatively and a reduction was noted in the 1st POD and gradually increased to 43.73, 50.78, 116.27, 46.9, 70.11 in POD 5. Her MIP and MEP were -46 and 420 in the preoperative period and decrease marked in the 1st POD and gradually increased to -34 and 200 in the 5th POD. Her hospital stay was 7days and discharged with stable vitals.

Statistical Analysis

Data analysis was performed using descriptive statistics and expressed as frequency (n), percentage (%) and Mean (SD).

RESULT

A total of 12 patients were included for this study who underwent major abdominal cancer surgery includes Total Gastrectomy, Esophagectomy, Staging laparotomy, Cytoreductive surgery, Radical hysterectomy and Lower anterior resection. Demographic data and clinical course are presented in Table 1. Out of 12 patients, 3 (25%) were male and 9 (75%) were female with age ranging from 64 to 70 years and 25 to 63 years, respectively. Female patients had higher BMI compared with male (Table 2). Every patient underwent endotracheal general anaesthesia along with epidural anaesthesia. ICU stay between 1 and 2 days and postoperative hospital stay ranged from a minimum of 6 days to a maximum of 10 days. Among 12 patients, 4 underwent midline, 3 underwent upper midline and 5 underwent lower midline laparotomy incision. Table 3 represents respiratory muscle strength of pre and post-operative days. As expected, data showed a significant reduction in 1st POD and gradually increased in the following days but did not met the preoperative status even on the day of discharge. MIP showed a reduction of 26%, 16%, 13% and 10% on POD 1, 3, 5 and day of discharge, respectively, and MEP showed a reduction of 36%, 29%, 27% and 26% on POD 1, 3, 5 and day of discharge, respectively, when compared to preoperative values. Pre and post-operative Pulmonary function test were resulted in table 4. Data showed a reduction in all the variables in 1st POD and gradually improved in the following days, but did not attain the preoperative values even on discharge. A predicted percentage of FVC showed a reduction of 46%, 41%, 32% and 24% on POD 1, 3, 5 and day of discharge, respectively, when compared to preoperative day. FEV1 showed a reduction of 46%, 40%, 31% and 23% on POD 1, 3, 5 and day of discharge, respectively. A reduction of 32%, 23%, 16% and 7% was detected for PEF on POD 1, 3, 5 and day of discharge, respectively. FEF25-75% showed a reduction of 51%, 39%, 27% and 24% on POD 1, 3, 5 and day of discharge, respectively.

DISCUSSION

This prospective study evaluated the respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity in patients undergone major abdominal cancer surgery in a single tertiary care centre. The result shown in this study, proves that there is a reduction in respiratory pressures and lung capacity in major abdominal surgeries due to multiple modifiable and non-modifiable factors of postoperative pulmonary complication [3,5,6]. A study investigated the pulmonary

complications in cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC with 76 patients, they found that pulmonary complication was quite common, but in limited patient (16%) [21]. They also found that surgical trauma, especially in midline and upper midline incision leads into more diaphragm dysfunction when compared with lower midline abdominal incision, which results in increased impairment in respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity in upper and midline laparotomy incisions. The present case series also showed the ASA score of 2 or 3 and every patient underwent both general and epidural anaesthesia and ICU stay of 1 or 2 days. These factors would influence the rate of incidence of PPC in major abdominal cancer surgeries [3,5,6,10,11]. A recent RCT investigated the respiratory function in patients who have undergone upper abdominal surgery with 28 participants. There was a significant difference between both the group at pre-operative phase in MIP and in MEP ($p \leq 0.05$) after specific intervention. In addition, postoperative values got reduced in comparison with baseline and preoperative values and showed a statistically significant difference in MIP and in MEP ($p \leq 0.05$). These data corroborate the findings of the present case series, in which major abdominal cancer surgery patient's respiratory pressure was evaluated in the pre and post-operative phase till the day of discharge, we observed that the values also showed reduction on immediate post-operative days then gradually improved with early physiotherapy care, which proved again early physiotherapy management would influence in reducing the rate of PPC [22]. A study that evaluated the respiratory muscle strength in stomach and esophageal cancer revealed female counterparts had higher BMI ($p=0.01$) than male. They have observed no statistically significant differences for MIP, but MEP shown a significant lower value ($p \leq 0.05$) than predicted values in both genders of stomach and esophageal cancer [16]. These data corroborate the findings of the current study, in which abdominal cancer surgery patients, we observed that there was reduction in both MIP and MEP, predominantly MEP has higher impairment than MIP, which reflects the weakness of expiratory muscles due to various surgical factors and also cancer patients presented with oncological cachexia that results in muscle strength deficit and reduction of lung capacity. Another author investigated the pulmonary function in upper abdominal surgery with specific inspiratory muscle training, result showed that there is a significant reduction in FVC and FEV1 (%pred) in immediate postoperative period ($p \leq 0.05$) when compared with preoperative values. It showed similar reduction in immediate postoperative phase in both groups and did not change with specific training in intervention group, suggested IMT did not affect pulmonary function after surgery[22].Another study reported that decrease in all variables of PFT was showed a significant difference ($p \leq 0.05$) in open nephrectomy patients. In same literature they compared the values with laparoscopic nephrectomy, showed a higher reduction in FEV1 and FVC (%pred) in open surgery than Laparoscopy, and PEF showed the same effect in both group without a significant difference [14]. Once again, we verified that these data corroborate the findings of the present study, in which patients with major abdominal cancer surgery also proved that there was a reduction in lung capacities on immediate postoperative period. This study in accordance with Silvia *et al* study concludes that Preoperative physical therapy would improve pulmonary function and physical performance in the pre and postoperative periods among patients undergoing upper abdominal surgery [23]. The scarcity of literatures in evaluating the respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity in patients with major abdominal cancer surgery made impossible to compare and discuss the findings of the results obtained in the current study. Nevertheless, abdominal surgery has more impact in the respiratory muscles and pulmonary function due to duration of time, anaesthetic effect, intraoperative blood loss and prolonged ventilatory support, these factors associated with postoperative pulmonary complications, and in patients with cancer surgeries those factors remain the same, along with those neoplasm patients has oncological cachexia according to the nature of the disease, which showed a more reduction in respiratory pressure and pulmonary capacities compared with normal abdominal surgeries. This study has certain limitations that must be considered. First small sample size, due to lack of time period we done only in limited participants. Second, lack of long-term follow-up, we evaluated till the day of discharge alone. And also, there was lack of recording the surgical duration, intra operative blood loss, ventilated duration and postoperative chest radiographs due to these factors' prediction of PPC after surgery remains unclear.

CONCLUSION

Early postoperative respiratory muscle strength and lung capacity are found to be reduced when compared with preoperative values and improved with physiotherapeutic intervention and early mobilization and reduces the incidence of PPCs in patients with major abdominal cancer surgery.

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Conflict of Interest

None declared

Source of Support

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Table I – Demographic data and clinical course

CASE	AGE (years)	GENDER	BMI (Kg/m^2)	DIAGNOSIS	COMORBIDITIES	PAST SURGICAL HISTORY	PERSONAL HISTORY	CHEMOTHERAPY / RADIATION THERAPY	TYPE OF SURGERY	TYPE OF INCISION	TYPE OF ANAESTHESIA	ASA Score	ICU DAYS	HB gm/dl	TC cells/cumm	PLATELET lakhs/cumm	CA 125 U/mL	CEA ng/mL	POST-OPERATIVE HOSPITAL STAY
1	44	F	30.8	Mucinous neoplasm of Ovary (borderline)	HTN	Hysterectomy for fibroid uterus 14years back and Staging Laparotomy for adnexal mass 4months ago	NIL	NIL	Cytoreductive surgery	Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	2	12	8610	3.08	8.65	3.78	9
2	51	F	18.4	CA Ovary Stage IIIc	NIL	NIL	NIL	3 cycles of NACT	Cytoreductive surgery	Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	2	9.6	3610	1.13	48.77	3.83	7
3	50	F	30.5	CA Right Ovary	T2DM & HTN	Left Breast excisional biopsy for fibroadenoma 13 years back	NIL	NIL	Staging Laparotomy	Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	2	1	12.1	10710	5.31	19.39	NA	7
4	65	M	19.1	CA Stomach with Gastric Outlet Obstruction	HTN	NIL	Chronic smoker and alcoholic	NIL	D2 Gastrectomy (subtotal)	Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	2	9.3	9520	4.34	NA	NA	8
5	64	M	29.8	CA Stomach (Antropyloric)	T2DM & HTN	NIL	NIL	NIL	D2 Gastrectomy (subtotal)	Upper Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	1	14.3	9420	2.59	NA	NA	9
6	25	F	24.3	CA Endometrium	NIL	Fertility sparing staging Right Oophorectomy for Right complex ovarian mass done 1year back	NIL	NIL	Staging Laparotomy	Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	2	11.9	8060	3.17	119.40	NA	9
7	70	M	22	CA Rectum (mid third)	T2DM & HTN	NIL	NIL	NACTRT – 25#	Lower Anterior Resection with Diversion Ileostomy	Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	1	13.8	8190	3.05	NA	3.92	6
8	63	F	30.4	CA Ovary stage IIIc1	T2DM	NIL	NIL	3 cycles of NACT	Interval Cytoreductive surgery	Midline laparotomy incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	1	10.9	8030	3.15	79.40	2.21	7
9	60	F	26.3	CA Cervix stage IIa	HTN	NIL	NIL	NACTRT – 33#	Open Radical Hysterectomy	Lower Midline Laparotomy Incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	1	10.2	4050	2.95	NA	NA	7
10	50	F	23.6	CA Cervix	T2DM	NIL	NIL	NIL	TAH BSO + FS + B/L Pelvic Nodal Sampling	Lower Midline Laparotomy Incision	ETGA + Epidural	2	1	13.2	7690	3.31	NA	NA	6
11	50	F	20.3	CA Stomach (Body)	NIL	Lap assisted vaginal hysterectomy done 7 months back for AUB	NIL	NIL	Total Gastrectomy + Esophagojejunostomy + Distal Pancreaticosplenectomy + Feeding Jejunostomy	Midline Laparotomy Incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	2	11.5	12490	2.48	NA	NA	10
12	36	F	25.9	Pouch of Douglas mass, Spindle cell neoplasm	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Open Radical Hysterectomy	Lower Midline Laparotomy Incision	ETGA + Epidural	3	1	12.4	12460	3.90	11.0	0.20	7

Table 2 – Demographic And Clinical Characteristics

	(n = 12)	
Age (year)	52.33 ± 13.08 (25 – 70)	
Gender Male Female	 3 (25%) 9 (75%)	
Height (cm)	154.33 ± 10.22	
Weight (kg)	59.53 ± 9.92	
BMI Male Female	 23.63 ± 5.53 25.61 ± 4.48	
ASA score	*2.83*± 0.39	
ICU days	1.42 ± 0.51	
Postoperative Hospital days	7.67 ± 1.30	
Respiratory Muscle Strength	Preoperative	Discharge
MIP (mbar)	-44.00 ± 10.83	-33.83 ± 13.21
MEP (mbar)	50.42 ± 14.65	23.67 ± 8.37
Pulmonary Function Test	Preoperative	Discharge
FVC (%pred)	70.94 ± 12.87	46.78 ± 10.17
FEV1 (%pred)	74.08 ±10.14	51.45 ± 11.11 1
FEV1/FVC (%pred)	06.19 ± 14.22	110.54 ± 11.41
PEF (%pred)	55.97 ± 16.14	49.21 ± 9.71
FEF25-75 (%pred)	93.40 ± 22.84	69.02 ± 17.07

Data were presented as Mean (SD). BMI- Body Mass Index; ASA- American Society of Anesthesiologists; ICU – Intensive Care Unit; MIP- Maximal Inspiratory Pressure; MEP- Maximal Expiratory Pressure; FVC- Forced Vital Capacity; FEV1- Forced Expiratory Volume in 1second; PEF- Peak Expiratory Flow; FEF25-75 – Forced Expiratory Volume at 25% -75 %

Table 3 - Respiratory Muscle Strength of Major Abdominal Cancersurgery

Respiratory muscle strength	Pre-operative	POD 1	POD 3	POD 5	Discharge
MIP (mbar)	-44.00 ±10.83	-18.25±14.69	-27.58 ± 8.81	-30.75 ± 9.06	-33.83 ± 13.21
MEP (mbar)	50.42 ± 14.65	14.00 ± 5.12	21.00 ± 10.66	23.42 ± 10.87	23.67 ± 8.37

Data were presented as Mean(SD). MIP- Maximal Inspiratory Pressure; MEP- Maximal Expiratory Pressure; POD- Postoperative Day

Table 4 - Pulmonary Function Test Of Major Abdominal Cancer Surgery

PFT	Pre-operative	POD 1	POD 3	POD 5	Discharge
FVC (%pred)	70.94 ± 12.87	24.82 ± 6.12	30.25 ± 10.67	38.60 ± 11.06	46.78 ± 10.17
FEV1 (%pred)	74.08 ± 10.14	28.50 ± 6.12	34.25 ± 12.67	43.28 ± 12.70	51.45 ± 11.11
FEV1/FVC (%pred)	106.19±14.22	116.24±11.81	113.42±15.01	112.15±8.58	110.54±11.41
PEF (%pred)	55.97 ± 16.14	24.04 ± 7.26	33.46 ± 11.18	39.97 ± 11.03	49.21 ± 9.71
FEF25-75 (%pred)	93.40 ± 22.84	42.29 ± 14.76	53.96 ± 27.34	66.38 ± 26.13	69.02 ± 17.07

Data were presented as Mean(SD). PFT- Pulmonary Function Test; FVC- Forced Vital Capacity; FEV1- Forced Expiratory Volume in 1second; PEF- Peak Expiratory Flow; FEF25-75 – Forced Expiratory Volume at 25% -75 %; POD- Postoperative Day

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Eco-Friendly LC-MS/MS Method for Quantification of Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin in Combined Dosage Form: Development, Validation and Agree Assessment

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ABSTRACT

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a chronic metabolic disorder that requires effective therapeutic monitoring. Dapagliflozin and linagliptin, two commonly prescribed antidiabetic agents, act via distinct mechanisms—dapagliflozin inhibits sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT-2), while linagliptin is a dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitor. This study aimed to develop and validate a sensitive, precise, and green LC-MS/MS method for the simultaneous quantification of dapagliflozin and linagliptin in pharmaceutical dosage forms. Chromatographic separation was achieved on a Phenomenex Gemini C18 column (50 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µm) using an isocratic mobile phase of methanol and 0.1% formic acid (80:20, v/v) at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. Detection was carried out using a mass spectrometer equipped with electrospray ionization (ESI) in multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode, monitoring transitions at m/z 426.3→135.1 for dapagliflozin and 473.3→420.3 for linagliptin. The method exhibited excellent linearity over the range of 5–500 ng/mL for dapagliflozin ($r^2 \geq 0.9996$) and 10–1000 ng/mL for linagliptin ($r^2 > 0.9993$). It demonstrated acceptable precision, accuracy, and stability in accordance with regulatory guidelines. Additionally, the AGREE metric yielded a score of 0.76, indicating good compliance with green analytical chemistry principles. The developed LC-MS/MS method is reliable, eco-friendly, and suitable for routine quality control of dapagliflozin and linagliptin in combined formulations. Its robustness also supports potential future applications in pharmacokinetic and bioequivalence studies.

Keywords: Dapagliflozin, Linagliptin, Liquid Chromatography, Mass spectroscopy, Method development, Validation, AGREE.

INTRODUCTION

Type II diabetes (NIDDM) is frequently treated with dapagliflozin and linagliptin. They target different metabolic pathways and have complementary mechanisms of action, which enhance therapeutic efficacy and reduce adverse interactions. Dipeptidyl peptidase- 4 (DPP- 4) and sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT 2) blockers are used together to optimize glycemic management, minimize weight, and lowering the level of systolic blood pressure [1-3]. Dapagliflozin (Figure 1) helps control blood sugar levels by selectively and permanently blocking SGLT-2 in the kidneys, which reduces the reabsorption of glucose and promotes its elimination through urine. It is categorized as a class III chemical under the Biopharmaceutical Classification System (BCS), suggesting that it has minimal permeability but excellent solubility [4]. Linagliptin (Figure 2) is a reversible DPP-4 blocker that improves glycemic control in Type II diabetes by lowering glucagon release while boosting insulin production through blocking the breakdown of GLP-1 and GIP [5]. To help T2DM patients better regulate their blood sugar, linagliptin can be taken either by itself with lifestyle modifications or in conjunction with other drugs like metformin or thiazolidinedione [6,7]. A comprehensive review of the literature indicates that a variety of analytical techniques have been established for the quantification of linagliptin (LINA) and dapagliflozin (DAPA), both alone and in combination with other antidiabetic drugs. In pharmaceutical formulations, a number of methods have been reported for simultaneous determination, such as RP-HPLC and HPTLC [8-11]. For example, presented a two-tiered analytical method that uses RP-HPLC to quantify drugs and LC-MS/MS to identify degradation products Prajapati et al [12]. These procedures are efficient, but they necessitate complicated sample handling, more instruments, and longer analysis times. In this work, a completely integrated LC-MS/MS approach for the simultaneous measurement of linagliptin (LINA) and dapagliflozin (DAPA) in a single analytical run is presented. Compared to previously documented multi-step approaches, this not only improves analytical throughput but also lowers solvent usage and streamlines operational procedures. The suggested method's improved environmental performance was further demonstrated by a comparative greenness evaluation using the AGREE tool, highlighting its compatibility with the principles of Green Analytical Chemistry [13,14]. The AGREE tool provides a thorough evaluation of a method's sustainability using a circular pictogram and a numerical score that ranges from 0 to 1. It is based on the 12 principles of green analytical chemistry. AGREE is a useful and contemporary indicator for the development of pharmaceutical quality control methods since higher scores indicate greater environmental compatibility [15]. With the goal to ensure the fit for regular pharmaceutical analysis with an emphasis on regulatory compliance and green chemistry principles, this work attempts to develop a sensitive, effective, and ecologically sustainable LC-MS/MS method for the simultaneous estimate of DAPA and LINA.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Reference standards of Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin were provided as gift sample from Morepen Laboratories Ltd. HPLC grade methanol and formic acid is used during development and validation method.

Equipment and chromatographic condition

Utilizing Lab Solution software, a Shimadzu 8030 mass spectrometer (Tokyo, Japan) equipped with an electrospray ionization interface, SIL-20AC autosampler, CTO-20AC column oven, CBM-20A controller, and LC-20AD pump was combined with a liquid chromatography system. Various chromatographic conditions and buffers were tested for optimal separation. While formic acid improved analyte separation, Dapagliflozin showed a weaker response. Following several experiments, a Phenomenex Gemini C18 column (50 × 4.6 mm, 5 µm) containing methanol (A) and 0.1% formic acid in water (B) (80:20, v/v) at a flow pace of 0.5 mL/min and an injection volume of 5 µL was used to optimize an isocratic technique. With a 4.0-minute total run time, Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin eluted at approximately 1.8 and 0.8 minutes, respectively. The auto sampler and column were kept at 5 ± 3°C and 40 ± 0.3°C, respectively, to ensure the best possible separation and detection.

Selection of mass range

To determine the precursor ion and product ion, the medication solution containing dapagliflozin and linagliptin was directly injected into the LC-MS/MS and scanned throughout the 100–450 range (figures 1 and 2). The detection process was performed in MRM by analyzing the m/z of 473.3→420.3 for linagliptin and 426.3→135.1 for dapagliflozin. Figures 3 and 4 display the MRM chromatograms for dapagliflozin and linagliptin, correspondingly.

Standard solution preparation

Precisely weighed quantities of 10 mg DAPA and 10 mg LINA were placed in 100 mL volumetric flasks, dissolved using sonication in the appropriate diluent, and diluted to the necessary level in order to create standard stock solutions. One milliliter of each of these stock solutions was put into a different 10-millilitervolumetric flask and used the same diluent to dilute it to volume. Additional serial dilutions were used to create working standard solutions with concentrations between 5 and 500 ng/mL for dapagliflozin and 10 and 1000 ng/mL for linagliptin.

Validation of method

The new method was validated in accordance with the Q2 R1 requirements for analytical method validation published by the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) [16,17]. The reliability, precision, the concept of linearity, robustness, LOD and LOQ of the current LC-MS/MS method were all validated.

Linearity

Linearity for DAPA and LINA was assessed using a standard calibration range of 5–500 ng/mL and 10–1000 ng/mL, respectively. The linearity parameter was evaluated by measuring six equidistant concentration levels (n=6). A calibration curve was plotted for each analyte, representing drug concentration versus peak area, and the corresponding regression equation was determined.

Precision

Intraday precision

Three concentration levels were evaluated for three replicates on the same day in order to determine the intraday precision.

Inter day precision

Similar to intraday precision, interday precision was calculated by taking into account three concentration levels for three replicates on three separate days. The percentage RSD and standard deviation were computed.

Accuracy

It was found by using the conventional addition approach to calculate the recovery of dapagliflozin and linagliptin. By spiking the standard, accuracy was measured by percentage recovery investigate at 80%, 100%, and 120%.

LOD and LOQ

In accordance with the ICH Guidelines, the signal to noise ratio was used to determine the LOD and LOQ for dapagliflozin and linagliptin. LOD and LOQ were calculated using a signal to noise ratio of 3:1 and 10:1, accordingly.

Robustness

Minor alterations to the optimized method parameters were made in order to assess the robustness of the established LC-MS/MS technique. factors including column temperature, mobile phasecomposition, and modify flow rate.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Linearity

Linearity of DAPA and LINA was calculated at six concentration ranging from of 5–500 ng/mL and 10–1000 ng/mL, respectively. The calibration curve in figure 5 (a), (b) shows correlation coefficient for DAPA 0.9996 and LINA 0.9993. Table 1 shows the linearity data for both the drugs.

Precision

Intraday precision and Interday precision for both drugs was found to be precise as table 2 shows % RSD value less than 2.

Accuracy

Using the conventional addition approach, this study provided recovery analysis percentages at 80%, 100%, and 120%. Table 3 provides a summary of the recovery study's findings. The recovery percentage, which ranges from 99 to 102%, supports the established method's accuracy. The percentage recovery indicates that the additives are not interfering.

LOD and LOQ

The signal to noise ratio was utilized as the basis for calculating LOD and LOQ. For both medications, the LOD and LOQ values are displayed in Table 4.

Robustness

The robustness result data is depicted in table 5. The established LC-MS/MS technique is robust, as evidenced by the %RSD value for all parameters being less than 2%.

Assay

The assay of DAPA and LINA was analyzed in the Dapavel-L tablet combined formulation. Table 6 illustrates the percentage of assay results, fall within the acceptance criteria of 98-102%. This shows that excipients are not interfering, proving that the suggested method may be successfully used to analyze commercial formulations that contain DAPA and LINA.

Greenness assessment using AGREE tool

The suggested LC-MS/MS method's environmental sustainability was assessed using the AGREE tool, a piece of software created by Pena-Pereira et al. in 2020 (18). This tool displays results in a circular pictogram with twelve parts, and it is based on the 12 principles of Green Analytical Chemistry (GAC). An overall score between 0 and 1 is shown at the centre of each section, which is color-coded from red (low greenness) to green (high greenness). The suggested approach was evaluated using the AGREE software, which was downloaded on February, 2025. Each method's key parameters were assessed in relation to the twelve GAC principles. Table 7 presents the derived pictograms for direct comparison, summarizing the environmental performance. This quantitative and visual study supported the current method's compatibility with sustainable analytical procedures and validated its superior greenness. 0.76 AGREE score demonstrates that the method is highly aligned with green analytical chemistry principles delivering both excellent analytical performance and a strong environmental profile while indicating clear targets (e.g., solvent choice, energy optimization) for further greenness improvements.

CONCLUSION

A robust, sensitive, and environmentally friendly LC-MS/MS method was successfully developed and validated for the simultaneous estimation of Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin, in accordance with ICH Q2(R1) guidelines. The method showed excellent performance characteristics and proved suitable for application in pharmacokinetic

studies. Its high AGREE score further confirms its alignment with green analytical chemistry principles. This approach supports both scientific accuracy and environmental sustainability in pharmaceutical analysis. Future research should explore its application in metabolite profiling and therapeutic drug monitoring. Additionally, coupling with automated techniques could enhance its efficiency in clinical and regulatory settings.

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Table 1: Linearity data for Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin (n=6)

Dapagliflozin		Linagliptin	
Concentration (ng/mL)	**Peak Area**	**Concentration (ng/mL)**	**Peak Area**
5	2107	10	17387
10	3680	20	34318
25	9329	50	89851
50	18061	100	173650
100	36860	200	371599
250	90690	500	886768
500	175606	1000	1698129
Correlation	0.9996	Correlation	0.9993
Intercept	351.57	Intercept	9764.9
Slope	979.22	Slope	1703.9

**n=Average of determinations*

Table 2. Precision study for Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin

Drug	Sample	Intra day (n=3)		Inter day (n=3)	
		Peak area ± SD	**% RSD**	**Peak area ± SD**	**% RSD**
DAPA	80 %	31843.33 ± 294.80	0.93	32153.67 ± 460.29	1.43
	100 %	35877.67 ± 215.82	0.62	35215.67± 244.53	0.69
	120 %	44969.00 ± 79.67	0.18	45176.33 ± 492.25	1.09
LINA	80 %	316485.00 ± 2495.39	0.79	321825.00 ± 2893.73	0.90
	100 %	382012.33 ± 2421.18	0.63	390183.00± 3777.10	0.97
	120 %	475304.67 ± 8201.78	1.73	479712.00 ± 409.74	0.09

**n=Average of determinations*

Table 3. Accuracy study for Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin (n=3)

Sample Name (level)	ID#1 Compound Name: Linagliptin m/z: 473.3000>420.3000			ID#2 Compound Name: Dapagliflozin m/z: 426.3000>135.1000		
	Peak Area	**Total Amount Found**	**% Recovery**	**Peak Area**	**Total Amount Found**	**% Recovery**
80%	656033	366.23	101.7	66482	182.05	101.7
	645712	360.47	100.1	66667	182.56	100.1
	654595	365.43	101.5	66586	182.34	101.5
100%	736405	406.09	101.5	74213	203.29	101.5
	717434	400.5	100.1	74238	203.36	100.1
	729769	407.38	101.8	73205	200.52	101.8

120%	793601	443.01	100.7	81821	224.19	100.7
	801036	447.16	101.6	81600	223.58	101.6
	787681	439.7	99.9	81741	223.97	99.9

**n=Average of determinations*

Table 4. LOD and LOQ data for Dapagliflzin and Linagliptin (n=6)

Parameters	Dapagliflzin	Linagliptin
LOD	0.31 ng/mL	0.72 ng/mL
LOQ	0.93 ng/mL	2.18 ng/mL

**n=Average of determinations*

Table 5. Robustness study for Dapagliflozin and Linagliptin (n=3)

Factor	Level	LINA			DAPA		
		Peak Area Average	SD	%RSD	Peak Area Average	SD	%RSD
Column Temperature	35 °C	330170	2833	0.86	39693	249	0.63
	45 °C	333514	2231	0.67	39619	231	0.58
Flow Rate	0.4 mL/min	335388	1158	0.35	40158	413	1.03
	0.6 mL/ min	331308	4690	1.42	37987	425	1.12
Mobile Phase Composition	85:15 % v/v	353418	611.26	0.17	37847	574.53	1.52
	75:25% v/v	350807	1480.43	0.42	39263	316.04	0.80

**n=Average of determinations*

Table 6. Assay study in tablet formulation

Sr. No	Amount taken (ng/mL)		Drug Area		% Label Claim	
	DAPA	LINA	DAPA	LINA	DAPA	LINA
1	100	200	36630	376539	99.37602	101.63832
2	100	200	36642	372741	99.40857	100.3073
3	100	200	36245	369856	98.33152	99.53095
4	100	200	37324	367512	101.2588	98.90016
5	100	200	36985	371452	100.3391	99.96044
6	100	200	36745	372568	99.68801	100.2608
Average			36761.83	370111.3	99.73368	99.59966
SD			364.6847	2620.345	0.989378	0.705154
% RSD			0.99202	0.707988	0.99202	0.707988

Table 7. Greenness assessment by AGREE tool for proposed method

Parameters	Proposed method
Technique	LC-MS/MS
Elution	Isocratic
Mobile Phase	Methanol and 0.1% formic acid (80:20 % v/v)
Column	50 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µm packed column
Flow rate	0.5 mL/min
Run time	4 min
Waste	3 gm (per Injection)

AGREE Plot	

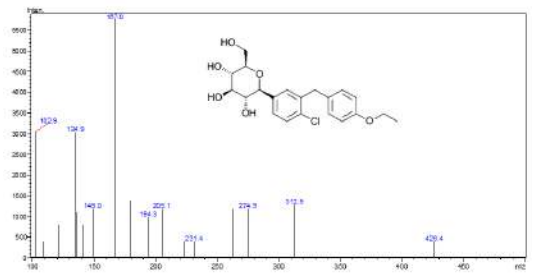


Figure 1. Mass spectra of Dapagliflozin

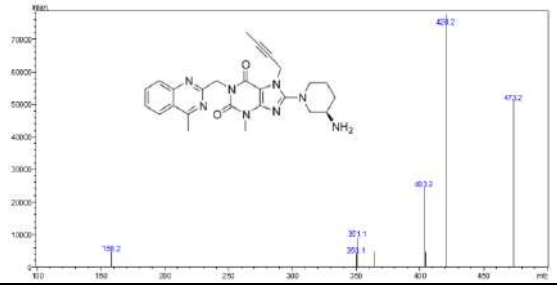


Figure 2. Mass spectra of Linagliptin

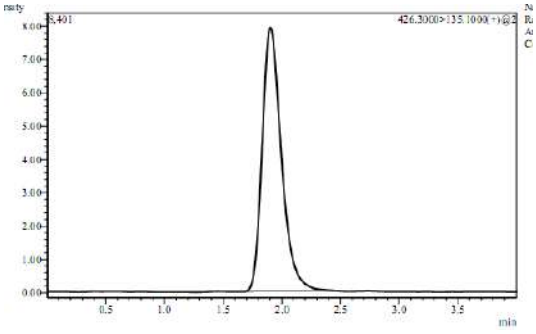


Figure 3. MRM chromatogram of Dapagliflozin

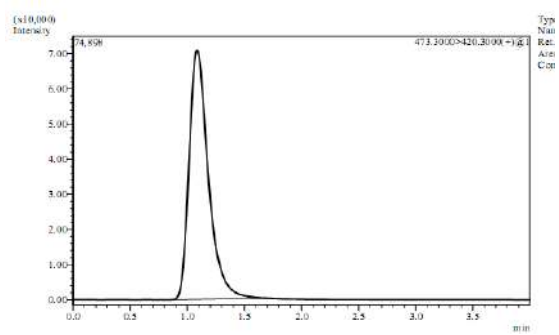
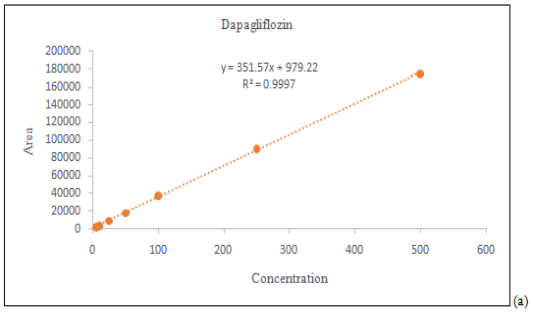


Figure 4. MRM chromatogram of Linagliptin



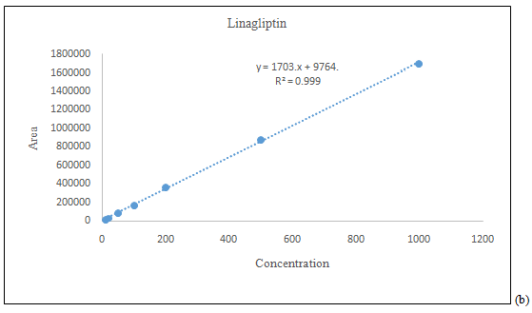


Figure 5. Calibration curve of (a) Dapagliflozin and (b) Linagliptin

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Exploring Antioxidant Potential of Indigenous Flora : A Comparative Approach

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ABSTRACT

Herbal medicine has a well-documented history of use worldwide. Antioxidants are substances that can stop free radicals from damaging cells. One class of unstable molecule produced during regular cell metabolism is the free radical. We have chosen the leaves of Nyctanthes arbor-tristis (Oleaceae) and Murraya koenigii (Rutaceae) for this study in order to assess their antioxidant capability. The primary goal is to extract active ingredients from native plants utilizing two distinct solvents and perform antioxidant activity. The Ruch *et al*. method was used to measure the plant extract's hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) scavenging activity. After making 4 ml of plant extract in distilled water at different concentrations, 0.6 ml of a 4 mM H2O2 solution in phosphate buffer (0.1 M pH 7.4) was combined with it, and it was incubated for 10 minutes. At 230 nm, the solution's absorbance is measured. A positive control is ascorbic acid. It has been suggested that the majority of plants' capacity to scavenge free radicals is due to the presence of hydroxyl-containing chemicals like flavonoids. Phenolic chemicals were found in the extract of the leaves of the chosen plants using phytochemical screening. As antioxidants and free radical terminators, phenolic substances are employed. In summary, the chosen plants and their extracts exhibit a wide range of secondary metabolites, including tannins, terpenoids, phenolic compounds, resins,

carbohydrates, and more. When compared to acetone extract, the methanolic extracts of the combined leaves demonstrated a notable amount of antioxidant activity. It can be utilised as a readily available natural antioxidant source.

Keywords: Ascorbic acid, Phenolic Compounds, Secondary Metabolites, Scavenging, Free Radicals, Antioxidants.

INTRODUCTION

A substance that prevents other molecules from oxidising is known as an antioxidant. Free radicals are produced during the chemical process of oxidation, which involves the loss of electrons or an increase in the oxidation state. These radicals can then initiate a chain reaction. A cell may sustain damage or perhaps die as a result of the chain reaction. By removing intermediate free radicals and inhibiting further oxidation processes, antioxidants break off these chain reactions. Antioxidants, which include thiols, polyphenols, and ascorbic acid (vitamin C), are reducing agents since they achieve this by being oxidised themselves[1]. Antioxidants can be broadly categorised into two types: The two types Enzymatic and Non-enzymatic.

Oxidative stress: This imbalance occurs when the levels of antioxidants and free radicals in the body are not in harmony. Free radicals are oxygen-containing molecules with an unpaired electron, making them highly reactive with other substances. Due to this reactivity, they can trigger a series of chain reactions within the body, a process known as oxidation. These oxidative reactions can be either beneficial or harmful, depending on the context. Antioxidants are substances that help neutralize free radicals by donating an electron, effectively stabilizing them without becoming unstable themselves. This action helps reduce the potential damage caused by free radicals in the body [2].

Impact of oxidative stress on the body: Your body naturally undergoes oxidation, which is a normal and essential process. On the other side, oxidative stress results from an imbalance between antioxidant and free radical activity. When free radicals are in good working order, they can aid in the defence against microorganisms, which can cause diseases. The body's fatty tissue, DNA, and proteins can sustain damage from free radicals when their numbers exceed those that antioxidants can control. Your body is mostly composed of proteins, lipids, and DNA, thus damage to these components might eventually result in a wide range of illnesses.
Among them are

- Diabetes ,
- The stiffening of the blood artery, or atherosclerosis
- inflammatory circumstances
- High blood pressure
- Heart conditions neurodegenerative illnesses, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's cancer[3].
- Additionally, oxidative stress is a factor in ageing.

Sources of free radicals and risk factors: The body naturally produces free radicals as a result of processes like inflammation or exercise. These molecules are vital to the complex system that keeps the body healthy overall.
There are some environmental sources of free radicals which includes

- Ozone
- Certain pesticides and cleaners
- Cigarette smoke
- Radiation
- Pollution

- The generation of free radicals may also be facilitated by a diet heavy in sugar, fat, and alcohol. Numerous neurological illnesses are linked to oxidative stress. For example, long-term exposure to ozone increases reactive oxygen species, which in turn puts the body in a condition of oxidative stress[4].

Antioxidant activity screening: In a number of fields, natural antioxidants have grown more active. Various articles about vitamins, volatile compounds, and polyphenols, and flavonoids natural sources of antioxidants state[5]. There are various assays developed to evaluate the antioxidant activity of plants and food components. Therefore, it is essential to choose an appropriate assay based on the specific chemical properties being studied.
There are different in-vitro methods, they are

1. DPPH scavenging method
2. Hydrogen peroxide scavenging assay(H2O2)
3. Nitric oxide scavenging activity
4. Superoxide radical scavenging activity (SOD)
5. Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity
6. Reducing power method (KP) [6].

Assay for hydrogen peroxide scavenging
Principle: As a weak oxidising agent, hydrogen peroxide can directly inactivate a small number of enzymes, mainly by the oxidation of crucial thiol (-SH) groups. Rapid cell membrane penetration allows hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) to likely react with Fe2+ and potentially Cu2+ ions inside the cell to create hydroxyl radicals, which may be the source of many of the H2O2's harmful effects. Therefore, it is advantageous for cells biologically to regulate the amount of hydrogen peroxide that is permitted to build up.

METHOD

The Ruch *et al*. method was used to measure the plant extract's capacity to scavenge hydrogen peroxide (H2O2). 0.6 ml of a 4 mM H2O2 solution made in phosphate buffer (0.1 M pH 7.4) was combined with 4 ml of plant extract prepared in distilled water at different concentrations, and the mixture was incubated for 10 minutes. At 230 nm, the solution's absorbance was measured. As a positive control, ascorbic acid was employed. Using the following formula, the absorbance readings of the test and control samples were compared to determine the percentage of inhibition.
S% = [(Acontrol – Asample) /Acontrol] ×100
Where A control = absorbance of the blank control (containing all reagents except the extract solution and A sample = absorbance of the test sample[7].

Importance of Indigenous plants
Native plants play a vital role in enhancing food security through increased dietary diversity. Incorporating native vegetables into our meals supports this by reducing reliance on a single crop and encouraging the cultivation of a variety of food plants. Many of these plants are rich in phytochemicals that offer numerous health benefits, including anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and anti-cancer effects. Approximately 25% of the active compounds used in therapeutic treatments are derived from plants. If the body's antioxidant defense system fails to eliminate excess reactive oxygen species (ROS), these molecules can interact with essential cellular components—such as DNA, lipids, proteins, and amino acids—causing oxidative damage. This oxidative stress is closely linked to aging and the development of age-related conditions such as cancer, hypertension, atherosclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease. One of the most effective ways to protect against degenerative diseases is by enhancing the body's antioxidant capacity, which can be achieved by consuming more fruits, vegetables, and other edible plants. As awareness of the health benefits of natural antioxidants grows, compounds like polyphenols found in food and medicinal plants are gaining popularity for their ability to prevent oxidative damage. These natural antioxidants not only reduce the risk of illness but also improve the antioxidant status of the blood. Various parts of plants—including seeds, leaves, bark, stems, and roots—are rich in beneficial phytochemicals such as flavonoids, tannins, alkaloids, and

phenolics, all of which exhibit strong antioxidant properties. With the growing interest in herbal medicine, the importance of these secondary metabolites as sources of natural antioxidants has become increasingly recognized in recent years. [8]

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plant collection

In Hyderabad's Dhulapally neighbourhood, close to Kompally, the leaves of *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* were gathered in November. *Murraya koenigii* leaves were gathered at the Karimnagar district's Husnabad. Both plants leaves were washed with water, allowed to dry in the shade for a week, then ground into a 40 mesh powder and kept in an airtight container.

Preparation of extract

1. Using acetone and methanol as solvents during the maceration procedure, powdered extracts of the leaves of both plants were created.
2. The maceration procedure done by placing coarsely powdered crude plant material in a conical flask with the solvent and kept at room temperature for at least seven days, stirring often, until the soluble stuff dissolves. After seven days, the mixture is funnel-filtered and strained.
3. 40 grams of powdered material from each plant was weighed and then dissolved in solvents to create six extracts.

EXTRACT- 1(Fig.1)
EXTRACT- 2(Fig. 2)
EXTRACT- 3(Fig. 3)
EXTRACT- 4(Fig. 4)
EXTRACT- 5(Fig. 5)
EXTRACT- 6(Fig. 6)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The powdered leaves of *Murraya koenigii* and *Nyctanthes arbortristis* were macerated in both methanol and acetone alone and in combination. The corresponding tables below display the extracts' biological activity and % yield results. Physical status of extracts and Percentage yield of Methanolic extracts of individual plants (Table.1). Percentage yield of Acetone extracts of individual plants(Table.2). Percentage yield of Methanolic extracts of two plants(Table.3). Percentage yield of Acetone extracts of two plants(Table.4).

Phytochemical Screening

1- Methanol extract of Curry leaves.
2- Methanol extract of Parijatham leaves.
3- Acetone extract of Curry leaves.
4- Acetone extract of Parijatham leaves.
5- Methanol extract of Curry leaves and Parijatham leaves.
6- Acetone extract of Curry leaves and Parijatham leaves.

Hydrogen Peroxide Scavenging Assay

Chemicals: Hydrogen peroxide solution, phosphate buffer (0.1 M pH 7.4), water, ascorbic acid, plant extract.

PROCEDURE

Phosphate buffer preparation (0.1 M pH 7.4)

1. Fill a 1000 ml volumetric flask with 800 ml of distilled water.
2. To the solution, add 20.214g of disodium hydrogen phosphate (Na2HPO4) -7H2O.
3. Add 3.394 grams of NaH2PO4H2O in the mixture.
4. Add HCL or NaOH to adjust the solution to the final required pH.
5. Until the volume reaches 1 L, add distilled water.

METHODS

The ability of the plant extract to scavenge hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) was determined using the Ruch. technique. 0.6 ml of a 4 mM H2O2 solution in phosphate buffer (0.1 M pH 7.4) was added to 4 ml of plant extract that had been made in distilled water at various concentrations, and the mixture was then incubated for 10 minutes. The absorbance of the solution was measured at 230 nm. The use of ascorbic acid served as a positive control. The percentage of inhibition was calculated by comparing the absorbance values of the test and control samples using the procedure below.

[(Acontrol-Asample) /Acontrol] ×100324 = S%

where Acontrol is the blank control's absorbance (which includes all substances other than the extract solution and Asample = test sample absorbance.

Hydrogen Peroxide scavenging activity of Methanolic leaf extracts(Table: 5). Hydrogen Peroxide scavenging activity of Acetone leaf extracts(Table: 6). Hydrogen Peroxide scavenging activity of *M. koenigii* and *Nyctanthes arbortristis* leaves extracts in different solvents (Table: 7).

DISCUSSION

Oxidative stress, resulting from an imbalance between reactive oxygen species (ROS) and the body's antioxidant defenses, is implicated in numerous clinical conditions, including diabetes, cancer, aging, atherosclerosis, and arthritis. Enhancing antioxidant defences either through enzyme supplementation or substances that boost endogenous antioxidant activity—has therapeutic potential. Antioxidant supplements can mitigate oxidative tissue damage and slow disease progression by restoring redox balance. Identifying antioxidant compounds in plant extracts is therefore vital for the development of novel treatments. One common approach to evaluating antioxidant efficacy involves assessing the ability to scavenge hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), a major ROS. Flavonoids, widely present in plants, are notable for their radical-scavenging properties. Phytochemical analysis of *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* and *Murraya koenigii* leaves has revealed the presence of flavonoids, tannins, saponins, glycosides, alkaloids, steroids, and phenolics. Among these, phenolic compounds act as potent antioxidants by terminating free radical chain reactions, offering significant therapeutic potential.

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Table 1. Physical status of extracts and Percentage yield of Methanolic extracts of individual plants.

S. No	Methanolic Extract	Method of Extraction	Colour	Weight of the plant material(g)	Weight of the extract (g)	% yield (w/w)
1	*Murrayakoenigii*	Maceration	Green coloured liquid	40	2.6	6.5
2	*Nyctanthes arbortristis*	Maceration	Green coloured liquid	40	2.8	7

Table 2. Percentage yield of Acetone extracts of individual plants

S. No	Acetone Extract	Method of Extraction	Colour (kg)	Weight of the plant material (kg)	Weight of the extract	% yield (w/w)
1	*Murraya koenigii*	Maceration	Green coloured liquid	40	6.8	17
2	*Nyctanthes arbortristis*	Maceration	Green coloured liquid	40	3	7.5

Table 3. Percentage yield of Methanolic extracts of two plants

S. No	Methanolic Extract	Method of Extraction	Colour	Weight of the plant material (g)	Weight of the extract (g)	% yield (w/w)
1	*Murraya koenigii* + *Nyctanthes arbortristis*	Maceration	Green coloured liquid	20+20	23.4	58.5

Table 4. Percentage yield of Acetone extracts of two plants

S. No	Acetone Extract	Method of Extraction	Colour	Weight of the plant material (g)	Weight of the extract (g)	% yield (w/w)
1	*Murrayakoenigii* +	Maceration	Green coloured liquid	20+20	20.6	51.5

Table 5. Phytochemical Screening

S. No	Preliminary Tests	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Carbohydrates	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve
2	Proteins	-ve	-ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve
3	Amino acids	-ve	-ve	-ve	-ve	-ve	+ve
4	Flavonoids	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve
5	Glycosides	-ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve
6	Steroids	-ve	+ve	+ve	-ve	-ve	-ve
7	Alkaloids	+ve	-ve	+ve	-ve	-ve	-ve
8	Tannins and Phenolic compounds	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve

Table 6. Hydrogen Peroxide scavenging activity of Methanolic leaf extracts

S. No	Concentration	Ascorbic acid (Standard)	%Scavenging activity of *Murray akoenigii*	%Scavenging activity of *Nyctanthes arbortristis*
1	50	16.4±0.2	8.20%	8.50%
2	100	17.4±1.0	10.08%	11.02%
3	150	22.3±0.3	12.07%	14.05%
4	200	26.6±2.3	14.05%	16.07%

Table 7. Hydrogen Peroxide scavenging activity of Acetone leaf extracts:

S.No	Concentration	Ascorbic acid (Standard)	%Scavenging activity of *Murraya koenigii*	%Scavenging activity of *Nyctanthes arbortristis*
1	50	16.4±0.2	9.20%	10.50%
2	100	17.4±1.0	12.08%	13.02%
3	150	22.3±0.3	15.07%	16.05%
4	200	26.6±2.3	18.05%	19.07%

Table 8. Hydrogen Peroxide scavenging activity of *M. Koenigii* and *Nyctanthes arbortristis* leaves extracts in different solvents

S. No	Concentration	Ascorbic acid (Standard)	%Scavenging activity of Methanolic extract of two plants	%Scavenging activity of Acetone extract of two plants
1	50	16.4±0.2	17.20%	18.20%
2	100	17.4±1.0	19.10%	20.06%
3	150	22.3±0.3	21.05%	22.04%
4	200	26.6±2.3	24.08%	25.06%

40gms of curry leaves powder soaked in 180 ml of methanol

↓

Macerated for 1 week

↓

Filtered and Evaporated to dryness



Crude drug + Solvent



Methanolic extract of curry leaves

Fig. 1: Extract : 1

40gms of Parijatham leaves powder soaked in 180 ml of methanol

↓

Macerated for 1 week

↓

Filtered and Evaporated to dryness



Crude drug + Solvent



Methanolic extract of Parijatham leaves

Fig. 2: Extract : 2

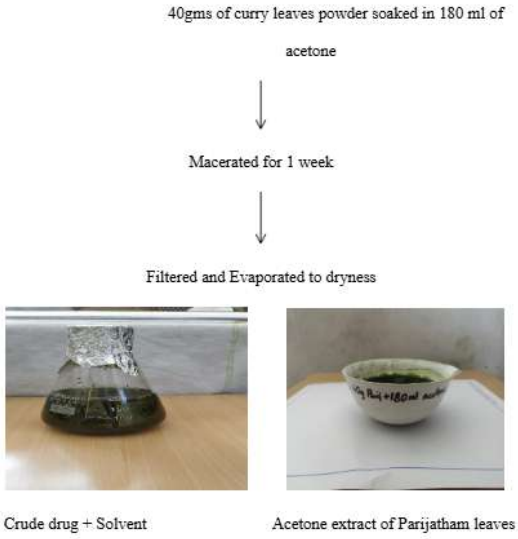


Fig. 3: Extract: 3

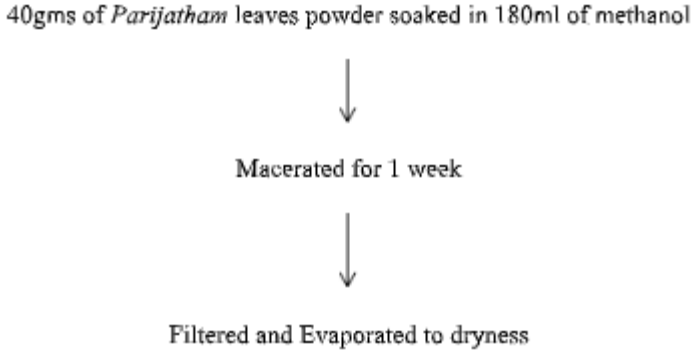


Fig. 4: Extract: 4

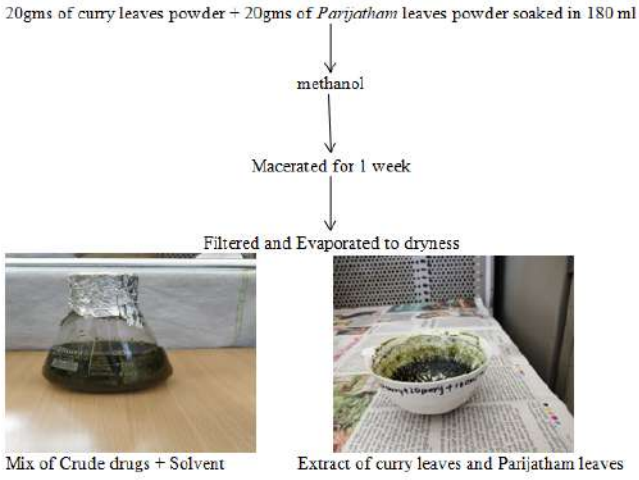


Fig. 5: Extract- 5

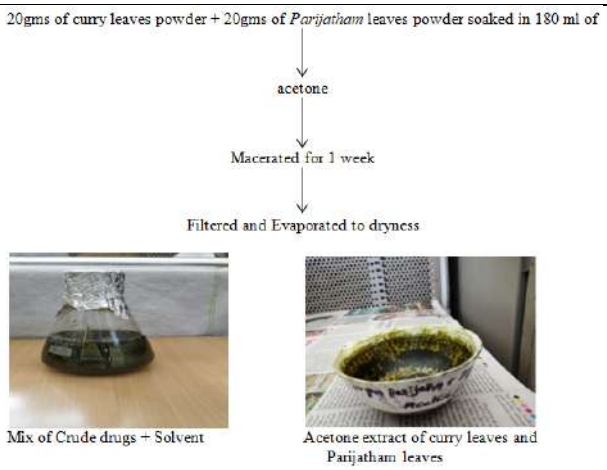


Fig. 6: Extract - 6

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Novel Methodology for Improving Information Security in Images using Textural Features

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ABSTRACT

Information hiding is the way of providing the security to secret information by embedding it into different information. The secret information can be present in an image format. It can be embedded in another image for making the intruder hard to find the hidden data. For hiding information in an image, it can act as a good medium or carrier because it is made in the form of pixels, in a way that makes it extremely difficult for hackers to access and recognize the secret data that is supposed to be concealed within the picture. Hiding the important information in the pixels of a carrier image leads to high security. In this research, textural properties of pixels are calculated in order to hide a hidden picture within an image's pixels. Texture and other features were estimated and used with the FIS to hide information in a carrier picture. Results show that this method conceals hidden information more successfully. The results show that the suggested approach is more accurate at masking information, with a PSNR of 62.93324.

Keywords: Carrier Image, Texture Features, Stegano Image, Secret Information, Information Security.

INTRODUCTION

Steganography is a method of protecting private information so that unauthorized people cannot access it. Due to the growing usage of the internet as a transmission channel, this procedure is essential. Therefore, the goal of a data concealing strategy is to conceal sensitive information from prying eyes as discreetly as feasible. This can occasionally be accomplished by thoroughly fixing the identical informational fragments in a different collection of data. There are several types of carrier data and secret data that must be incorporated [2, 5]. Generally speaking, picture

steganography involves two steps: extraction and embedding. Extraction is the process of uncovering or obtaining hidden information from the pixels of the same picture. The process of concealing information inside an image's pixels is called embedding. The carrier image is also called a stego-image, which is the embedded output picture. The main purpose of steganographic technology is to protect sensitive data by concealing it so that hackers cannot read it. It should be able to endure several attacks and have a high capacity for data bit concealment. [1, 2] The process of changing data to ensure its security is called encryption. A vast amount of digital data is being transferred via different kinds of networks due to the fast proliferation of computer networks and new developments in digital technology. Often, a significant portion of this data is sensitive or secret. To provide the required protection, a variety of security measures have been implemented[13]. Any system that retrieves images can find and classify pertinent photos from the archive with the least amount of human involvement. The literature states that the end user's needs determine which visual components should be included in any system. Another essential component of any Discriminative characteristics are encoded in an image retrieval system[17, 19]. Enhancing the durability and uniqueness of the characteristic of low-level visual representation fusion information requires a significant processing cost in order to provide more accurate results [19–20]. On the other hand, inadequate feature selection might make image retrieval models perform worse [12]. CBIR performance may be improved by using the image feature vector as an input for machine learning techniques through model testing and training [1, 2]. In either case, a training-testing framework may be utilized in combination with a machine learning algorithm. Deep neural networks (DNN) have been at the forefront of recent developments in image retrieval. which can produce improved results despite a high processing cost [21-23]. In this work, we aim to give a concise overview. of the complex current research trends in feature representation and CBIR. The following are the main objectives of this research project:

1. How may CBIR performance be enhanced by low-level visual components?
2. How may the semantic divide between high-level image semantics and low-level picture representation be bridged?
3. To what extent does spatial layout play a role in picture representation and retrieval?
4. How might machine learning techniques enhance CBIR's performance?
5. How deep neural networks can be used to improve learning.

RELATED WORKS

There are two types of steganography-based information concealment techniques: transform-based and domain-based [10]. The transform-based approach first encodes the data before using the cover image to conceal it. By hiding messages in other parts of the image, the cover picture is divided into high, middle, and low priority levels using the transform-based technique. The most important aspect of the technique is that it is most effective against many kinds of image attacks. Messages are embedded within the pixel intensity in domain-based techniques. One example of a domain-based strategy is the least-significant bit (LSB) [11, 16]. There are many existing strategies concerning steganography [3, 5] were shown in the literature. These tactics fall into two groups: transform-based algorithms and special-based algorithms. While the latter first rework the picture into the frequency domain before carrying out the information concealing procedure, the former use Fourier, wavelet, and cosine approaches. Among these techniques, the LSB based methodology is one amongst the foremost usually used information hiding techniques, which offer a far higher embedding capability. A detailed literature on these methods is shown in [1]. Methods [26-31] are based on the (FIS) which is recognized as the simplest strategies to hide large information and to provide information security. One among the foremost unremarkably used techniques is the LSB based method during where the carrier image planes are replicated with the key bits [6]. This LSB based methodology proposed in [7] isn't secure against applied mathematical based attacks. In order to resolve it, many adaptational ways are planned during which the data hiding capacity of every pixel is variable. Researchers in [8, 9] defined a Pixel-Value based technique in wherever the scale of data hiding is determined adaptively in line with the neighbouring pixels. In order to hide additional hidden information, the authors of [6, 10] proposed a hybrid edge detector-based technique to identify certain edge pixels in a picture. By altering the stego-image's component values using the Genetic Algorithm, researchers in [9] devised a safe steganography method that may be applied to stego analysis. In [4], the combination of NNs with GA provides

an affordable idea for creating a revolutionary steganographic technique. In order to conceal a secret image within grey scale images, this research suggests an entirely original steganography theme that may improve the stego-image's visual quality while offering suitable information security. An intelligent strategy based on the FIS with the features is used to acquire the advantage linked strength of the anticipated topic of various features. Since the changes in pixels of an image are more difficult to detect, the proposed methodology combines together with texture and edge features are extracted from every block of the image. This work is organized as follows. The suggested approach for supplying the information security is discussed in section two. It includes a description of the suggested system's general algorithm. In section three, the FIS is shown. Section four covers the experimental results and discussions obtained from the proposed system. Section five concludes with a discussion on potential improvements.

Suggested Technique

The following represents the components of the proposed model. The information for input is regarded the message that must be disguised. Because the intended system employs the specified file formats, As a result, any format may be used for the data entered into the system. But if there is a lot of data that has to be hidden, it cannot be concealed in a smaller picture. Consequently, a compression is required, carried out in a bigger data set, and is regarded as a key picture. The features and FIS are combined to create the suggested system. The first piece of information provided to the intended system is an image. The input secret information must either be in the form of text or a picture in order to be cyphered. The cover photo is then divided into six blocks. Every block is sent as input to the Sugeno FIS, and texture and edge features are extracted as part of the feature extraction procedure [11]. The following is the general algorithm for the proposed system

Step 1: Encrypt the private information, such a picture or a written message, and enter it.
Step 2: Split the cover photo in half.
Step 3. Blocks are given as input to FIS.
Step 3.1 Extract the Texture features
Step 4. Process the FIS.

System of fuzzy inference

The system that assigns values is called the Fuzzy Inference System (FIS)to output vectors and interprets input vector values using user-defined rules. We may use the fuzzy logic toolbox's GUI editors and viewers to design the rules set, assign membership functions, and examine how a fuzzy inference system behaves. Viewers and editors can alter and observe the fuzzy inference system's membership functions and rules. Figure 1 depicts the entire approach for the Fuzzy Inference System. A command-line application or a graphical user interface tool can be used to develop the system of fuzzy inference. Four input pixel values and one output pixel are used by the fuzzy inference system.

Fuzzy sets: A fuzzy set is one that lacks a distinct, well-defined border. Four input pixel values are used in this study to represent the image's pixel values as a fuzzy set. Four input pixels with the image's black and white colors have values ranging from 0 to 255. The fuzzy inference system uses one output pixel and four input pixel values. or degree of involvement, between 0 and 1, is assigned to each point in the input space. With a pi-shaped built-in membership function, For the input pixel's black and white colors, we have two fuzzy sets. The range for the black color is [0 0 0 255], and for the white color pixel, it is [0 255 255 255]. Fuzzy inference systems (Figure 2).

Algorithm for black and white pixel selection

If p1 is black and p2 is black and p3 is black and p4 is black then output is black.
If p1 is black and p2 is black and p3 is black and p4 is white then output is edge.
If p1 is black and p2 is black and p3 is white and p4 is black then output is edge.
If p1 is black and p2 is white and p3 is black and p4 is black then output is edge.
If p1 is white and p2 is black and p3 is black and p4 is black then output is edge

Feature Extraction

The process of separating the characteristics required to identify each pixel's characters is known as feature extraction in pixels. Several textural properties were proposed by researchers in [10, 12]. To demonstrate the discriminating capacity of the wavelet moments, Papakostas *et al*. [14] tested using the COIL, ORL, JAFFE, and TRIESCH I datasets. The groupings of 10, 40, 7, and 10 are used to segregate these datasets. Two distinct wavelet configurations, WMs-1 and WMs-2, are used to test the suggested model (WMs); the former uses the cubic B-spline, while the latter uses the Mexican hat mother wavelets. Employing 25, 50, 75, and 100 of the complete datasets, the performance of the proposed model is compared with two other models employing ZernikeLegen-dre, Fourier-Mellin, and pseudo-Zernike. By limiting the feature selection method to only effective attributes, The wavelet moments' categorization powers have significantly enhanced. Each moment family acts differently across datasets. The moment descriptors' classification performance indicates the proposed model's improved outcomes (wavelet moments and moment invariants). Liu *et al*. [15] Given that content-based image retrieval (CBIR) lacks specialized datasets, Use Corel datasets to test the suggested model (MSD) for image retrieval. 15,000 pictures are processed using Corel-5000 and Corel-10000 and its recovery performance is evaluated using the HSV, both Lab and RGB color spaces. The suggested model's average retrieval and recall rates at different color quantization levels and texture orientation quantification levels are evaluated using the Corel-5000 and Corel-10000 datasets. It performs poorly in RGB color space but well in HSV and Lab color schemes. In order to achieve satisfying results in terms of storage space, retrieval accuracy, and speed, MSD uses six quantization levels for picture retrieval in addition to 72 color and orientation quantization levels. Since these algorithms were created for image retrieval and MSD evaluation, On Corel datasets, MSD's average memory and retrieval rates are contrasted with those of other techniques, namely Ga-bor MTH. The outcomes demonstrate that our suggested model (MSD) outperforms the others. Among them, the attribute called energy is calculated.

Energy is calculated in the manner shown below

This method is used to calculate texture properties including homogeneity, contrast, energy, and entropy. The four GLCM features listed below are utilized in this method

Energy

In GLCM, the energy equals the total of the squared components. The formula may be used to get the Energy "E."

$\sum_{i,j} p(i,j)^2$ (1)

Uniformity

The GLCM's homogeneity is a metric that measures how closely the pixels are to their diagonal. The formula is used to calculate homogeneity, or "H."

$\sum_{i,j} \frac{p(i,j)}{1+|i-j|}$ (2)

Contrast

For the complete image, The contrast function determines the intensity difference between a neighbor and a pixel. The contrast of a pixel, or "Co," may be computed as

$Co = \sum_{i,j} |1-j|^2 \, p(i,j)$ (3)

Correlation

Correlation calculates the relationship between a pixel and its neighbor over the whole picture. The following formula can be used to calculate an image's correlation, or "Cr."

$\sum_{i,j} \frac{(i-\mu j)(j-\mu j)P(i,j)}{\sigma_i \, \sigma_j}$ (4)

All of the original and essential pictures' pixels have their texture properties computed. Wherever the information may be concealed, a hacker who wants to access it cannot foresee or calculate the feature values. This guarantees that no outsiders will be able to hack the secret information.

Processing the FIS

The Fuzzifier in the fuzzy inference system turns clear input into fuzzy values using membership functions [17]. Input values are obtained by extracting feature values. Three edge sensitivity membership functions, three brightness sensitivity membership functions, and four texture feature membership functions are input into the system that is hazy. The fuzzy inference engine is based on the Mamdani type fuzzy inference system. The fuzzy operator AND is used to combine its predecessors. Utilize both the implication approach and the fuzzy rules to identify the output classes. A de-fuzzifier is the following step, which converts the fuzzy output to an exact value. Every step that was previously described can be finished one after the other.

Six steps must be followed in order to determine the FIS's output given the inputs.

1. Identify a collection of ambiguous rules.
2. Using input membership functions to fuzz the inputs.
3. Determining the rule strength by combining the fuzzy inputs in line with the fuzzy rules (Fuzzy Operations).
4. The output membership function (implication) is used with the rule strength to ascertain the rule's result.
5. To obtain an output distribution, add the results.
6. The output distribution must be defuzzed if a distinct output class is required.

Extract Get the concealed text out

Use the fuzzy inference technique to reverse the procedure of embedding to regain the hidden text inside the image. Retrieve the secret information concealed in the stego picture gradually since the entire embedding procedure is done step-by-step. This procedure is known as de-fuzzification.

Experimental Outcomes and Conversation

Table 1 displays the PSNR values for different proportions of the original 512x512 cover picture used for embedding that were supplied by the Mamdani-type fuzzy inference system. The texture-based Mamdani approach produces the same picture quality and PSNR values based on the table values. The suggested method can increase the embedding capability. Regarding [1], the suggested method offers higher PSNR values together with decent quality. Despite having identical embedding payloads, this approach achieved higher PSNR values, especially with larger payloads. Additionally, with improved payloads, the well-offered system protected the more detailed images and avoided destroying important visual quality. Table 1 displays the comparison findings between the suggested and current approaches based on PSNR values. The Mean Square Error (MSE) and the Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR)are used to gauge how effective this method is. Image quality is assessed using the MSE and PSNR measurements. Higher PSNR often indicates a more processed picture. In addition to PSNR, The effectiveness of this approach is measured using the Mean Square Error (MSE) and the Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR). The PSNR and MSE metrics are used to evaluate the quality of the images. A more processed image is frequently indicated by a higher PSNR. The error is also negligible when the MSE price is modest. The following is an overview of these parameters

$PSNR = 10\, log_{10}(R^2/MSE)$ (5)

where the matching rows are M and N. and column counts of the input images. Next, the technique uses the subsequent formula to ascertain the PSNR value:

$MSE = \frac{\sum_{M,N}[I_1(m,n) - I_2(m,n)]^2}{M*N}$ (6)

Statistical Analysis

Since statistical analysis is a frequently employed technique in cryptanalysis, a strong cryptosystem should be resistant to statistical attacks. The statistical analysis computes the histogram using both the source and encrypted picture and the correlation between the nearby pixels to show how resilient the proposed cryptosystem is to any statistical assault. Figure 4 displays the source and encrypted picture histograms, respectively. Figure 4 makes it abundantly evident that The encrypted image has a distinct histogram. greatly from the original image's histogram and offers no helpful information for statistical analysis.

The following formulae are used to calculate the time correlation coefficient, or r

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(x_i-\bar{x})(y_i-\bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N}(x_i-\bar{x})^2 \times \sum_{i=1}^{N}(y_i-\bar{y})^2}} \quad (7)$$

N is the number of pixel pairings in this case. $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} x_i \ and \ \bar{y} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} y_i$ (8)

Figure 3: (a) The Source Image's Histogram in Figure (b) The Resultant Image's Histogram The correlation coefficient is r=0.59971 for Figure 2c shows r=0.00412 for the encrypted picture and the horizontal neighbor pixels of the source image. These two disparate correlation coefficient values make it evident that the encrypted image significantly lessens the strong association between neighbouring pixels in the original image. The correlation coefficient values for neighbours' pixels that are diagonal and vertical are comparable to those for neighbours' pixels that are horizontal. Additionally, additional tests are conducted on a few bitmap pictures to encrypt them using the suggested encryption technique. The outcomes of these tests are compiled in Table 2 as follows. Table 2 displays the comparison findings between the suggested and current procedures based on PSNR values. Table 2 displays the time (in seconds) spent on two different picture kinds at varying sizes. To process the suggested technique, The following resolutions were used: 128X128, 256X128, 256X256, and 384X256. The comparative findings between the suggested and current procedures are displayed in Table 3 based on MSC values. Table 2 displays the time (in seconds) spent on two different picture kinds at varying sizes. To process the suggested technique, resolutions like 128X128, 256X128, 256X256, and 384X256 were used. The comparative findings between the suggested and current approaches are displayed in Table 4 based on PSNR values. Table 2 displays the time (in seconds) spent on two different picture kinds at varying sizes. To process the suggested approach, resolutions like 128X128, 256X128, 256X256, and 384X256 were utilized.

Defuzzification

It is the procedure for obtaining the concealed information from the embedded picture. This procedure is required to transform the FIS output into a clear value that contains the crucial data. In this paper a defuzzifier called Mean of Maxima (MOM) is implied since it gives a better accuracy in retrieving the hidden data. Suggested methods for concealing photos of various sizes. Table 1 displays the PSNR for each picture, which changes according to the kinds of pixels found in the cover photos. While there are almost equal numbers of black and grey pixels in cover picture 1, there are more grey pixels than black pixels in cover image 3. The PSNR values vary as a result of this shift in pixel values. It also fluctuates according to the image's resolution. Table 1 indicates that the suggested technique provides greater accuracy in concealing the information in various picture sizes and kinds in a high-quality way

Conclusion and Upcoming Projects

Combining texture with the Fuzzy Inference System (FIS) yields a revolutionary steganographic approach. In this work, FIS makes advantage of the Mamdani fuzzy inference framework. The suggested FIS-based system is faster than other current approaches, it may be inferred. Compared to previous serial embedding-based methods, the embedding time is lowered by 20%. When all of the cover image's pixels are used for embedding, the Mamdani method yields a higher peak signal to noise ratio. Various picture kinds from previously evaluated datasets are used to test the suggested technique. Future studies could offer a better strategy that could fix some of this work's issues. This work might be improved to handle other image formats, including BMP, JPEG, TIFF, and PPM. Images may be compressed using different and more effective compression methods. Stego pictures are lossless photos that may be shared once data has been embedded. The quantity of data that must be transferred over the network will be reduced by using lossy stego pictures in place of lossless ones

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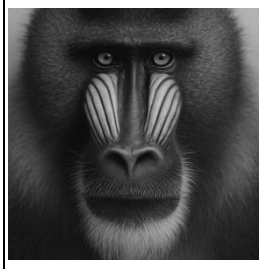
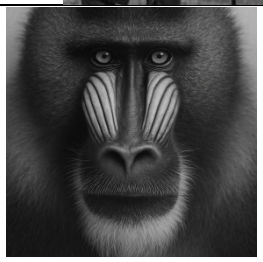
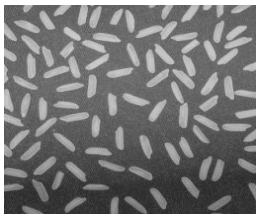
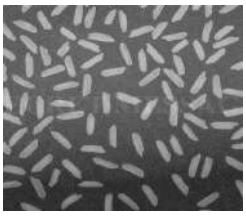
No	Original Picture	Hidden picture	The outcome
1			
2			
3			
4			

Table 2: PSNR for the existing and proposed methods for original and resultant images

Image	Hidden Picture	Input Image		Result Image	
		PSNR for the Current Approach	PSNR for the Suggested Approach	PSNR for the Current Approach	PSNR for the Suggested Approach
Image-1	128X128	60.2784	61.2404	59.7247	60.6624
	256X128	57.343	57.8787	56.9629	58.9791
	256X256	54.2562	56.2837	54.0827	56.0924
	384X256	52.749	54.7845	52.6082	53.9215
Image-2	128X128	52.86139	53.02881	53.15277	53.45287
	256X128	52.41057	52.41983	53.01473	53.11374
	256X256	52.43724	52.83874	53.03539	53.13439
	384X256	52.42461	52.71986	52.93324	52.72214
Image03	128X128	50.2689	51.2542	49.7254	40.6554
	256X128	67.343	67.8787	66.9629	68.9791
	256X256	74.2482	76.2437	76.0657	76.0544
	384X256	32.849	34.8845	32. 3082	33.3215
Image-4	128X128	80.2784	81.2404	79.7247	70.6624
	256X128	47.3443	47.87345	46.9665	48.9764
	256X256	54.2562	56.2837	54.0827	56.0924
	384X256	52.749	52.7854	52.6082	52.9234

Table 3: Comparison of the suggested and current approaches based on MSC values

Image	Secret Image	Input Image		Result Image	
		MSC for Existing Method	MSC for Proposed Method	MSC for Existing Method	MSC for Proposed Method
Image-1	128X128	60.2784	61.2404	59.7247	60.6624
	256X128	57.343	57.8787	56.9629	58.9791
	256X256	54.2562	56.2837	54.0827	56.0924
	384X256	52.749	54.7845	52.6082	53.9215
Image-2	128X128	51.2784	52.2404	48.7247	51.6624
	256X128	56.243	56.7787	55.8629	57.8791
	256X256	53.1562	55.1837	55.1827	51.3924
	384X256	54.2562	56.2837	54.0827	56.0924
Image03	128X128	60.1284	60.2204	70.7147	71.1624
	256X128	51.284	52.204	48.747	51.624
	256X256	52.384	53.104	47.847	48.124
	384X256	52.759	54.725	52.642	53.905
Image-4	128X128	60.284	61.404	60.247	61.624
	256X128	53.343	53.887	54.929	55.981
	256X256	52.643	57.6787	58.5629	58.7791
	384X256	52.1784	51.3404	58.7247	55.6124

Table 4: Execution Time (in seconds) for two picture kinds

Image	Hidden Picture	Input Image		Result Image	
		Duration of the Current Approach (in seconds)	Time Taken for Existing Method (In Seconds)	Time Taken for the Current Approach (in seconds)	Duration of the Current Approach (in seconds)
Image-1	**128X128**	468	304	547	324
	256X128	353	287	629	581
	256X256	666	537	827	621
	384X256	659	445	582	223
Image-2	**128X128**	528	414	517	414
	256X128	453	387	529	481
	256X256	556	457	737	511
	384X256	787	745	782	763
Image03	**128X128**	516	511	722	537
	256X128	453	487	529	681
	256X256	635	537	827	611
	384X256	546	521	712	587
Image-4	**128X128**	453	571	567	457
	256X128	453	487	529	527
	256X256	546	521	712	587
	384X256	457	453	571	567

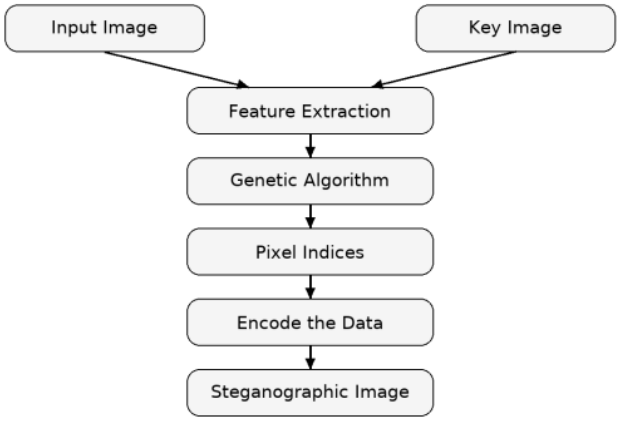


Figure 1: The suggested methodology's architecture

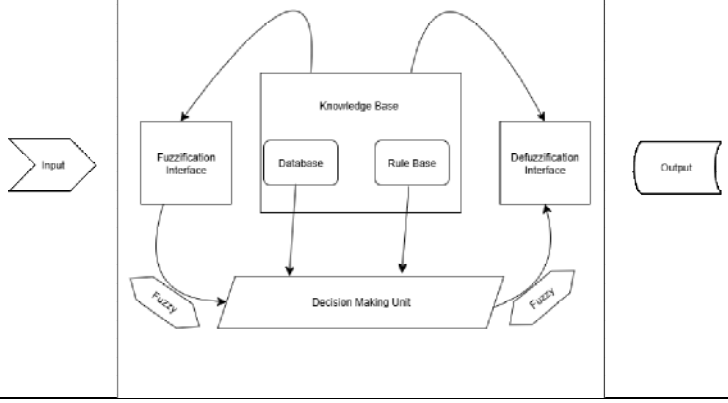
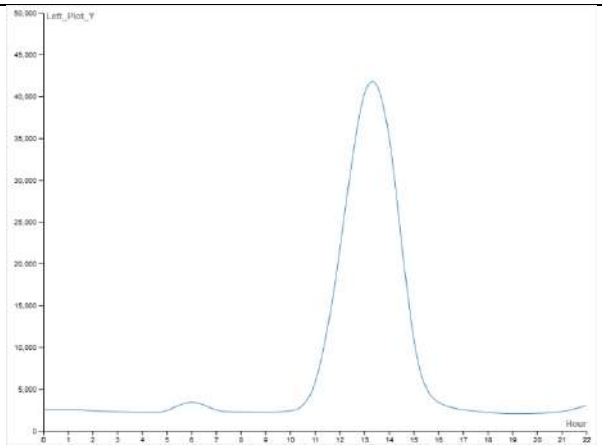
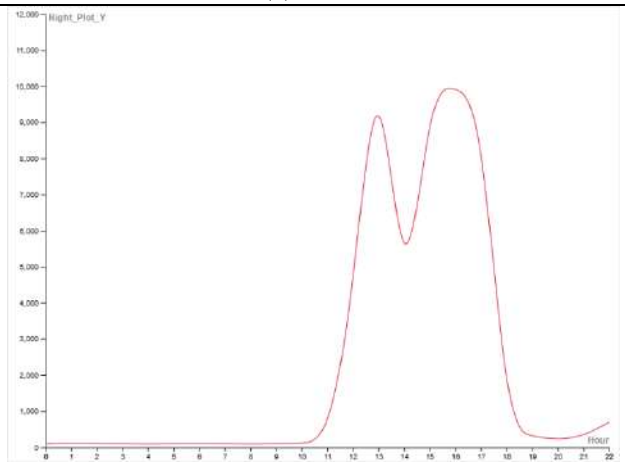


Figure 2. Fuzzy inference systems



(a)



(b)

Figure 3: (a) The Source Image's Histogram in Figure (b) The Resultant Image's Histogram

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CASE STUDY ARTICLE

Effectiveness of Individualized Homoeopathic Medicines in the Treatment of Gout: A Case Series

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ABSTRACT

In the modern era, hyperuricemia is an increasingly common medical problem due to our unhealthy lifestyle. Increased consumption of different purine-rich diet like meat, sea-foods, fructose, alcohol, etc. for a long time, gradually enhances monosodium urate crystal deposition in joints and synovial fluids. It is commonly manifested by recurrent acute pain in the monoarticular joints, usually in the great toe, along with swelling, stiffness and redness.

Keywords: Gout, Homoeopathy, Hyperuricemia, Purine-rich diet, Serum uric acid**.**

INTRODUCTION

Gout is a metabolic disorder defined as serum uric acid concentration ≥7.0 mg/dL (range: 2–7 mg/dL) in men and ≥6.0 mg/dL in women (range: 2–6 mg/dL). The prevalence of gout has increased steadily worldwide in the past 40 years, with higher prevalence in Asian countries, including Taiwan (10–52%), India (25.8%), Japan (20–26%) and China (6–25%) in comparison to the USA (21–22%), Brazil (13%) and Italy (9–12%). Hyperuricaemia does not indicate a pathological state in itself, but if uric acid levels remain high for longer periods, it can lead to several other diseases, such as hypertension, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease and diabetes.

Case No: 1

Patient information A 51 year old female patient came to the outpatient department of Organon of medicine, White Memorial Homoeo Medical college and hospital, Attoor on 12/2/2024. She came with the complaints of pain with swelling in left big toe and left knee since 2 years. Initially the pain started in left big foot with mild swelling and redness. Then pain developed in left knee joint. She find difficulty during morning, while walking, standing, while giving pressure. Complaints ameliorated while taking rest and warmth application. Pain in left knee joint also aggravated by movements and during morning while waking up. Pain increases gradually. She took allopathic and ayurvedic treatment, but there is a temporary relief. Now the complaint has increased since 2 months. No history of any other joint pain, inflammation, trauma or injury.

Past history: At 15 years of her age, she suffered with typhoid fever and took allopathic treatment. Since 5 years she is diabetic and under allopathic medication.

Family history: Her father is hypertensive and mother has arthritic complaint.

Physical General- Patient had a good appetite with desire for meat, warm food and drinks. He had good thirst and the tongue on examination was moist and clear. Her bowels were irregular, once in two to three days; urine was regular but offensive in nature; perspiration was profuse in palms of both hands. She slept for about 6-7 hours daily. Thermally, she was chilly, couldn't tolerate any kind of cold, and always wanted to be covered and reported of having a tendency to catch cold easily

Mental generals

She was anxious about health. She became very irritable when the intensity of pain increases and shouts with her family. She feel very lonely at home as her husband and children were living at distant places.

General survey: The patient was conscious, alert, and cooperative. Pallor, cyanosis, clubbing, or any engorgement of the neck vein or gland were not detected. She was fair-skinned, and well built. Her BP was 120/70 mm of Hg, his pulse was 78 beats/min, and his height and weight were 5.3 feet and 68 kg.

On examination, swelling on the left knee joint was slight; on palpation, pain and tenderness were present on both knee joints.

Totality of Symptoms

Irritable due to pain++ Anxious about health Lonely feeling
Stool: constipated
Urine: offensive but regular
Sweat : increased in palms
Stitching Pain in left big toe and left knee
Stiffness in left knee joint
Pain< morning , touch+ , walking ++

Repertorization and remedial analysis -Repertory of the Homeopathic Materia Medica by - J. T Kent, through Hompath Zomeo Elite, was consulted as the case presented with characteristic mind and physical symptoms was consulted as the case presented with characteristic mind and physical symptoms. After Repertorial analysis and Materia Medica consultation Nitric acid 200 C was prescribed (two doses in sac lac for 2 consecutive days to be taken early morning on an empty stomach) followed by placebo (14 doses in globule number 30 and four globules to be taken every night after dinner) was prescribed on 2nd December 2024 and advised to maintain the diet.

Follow Up (Table:1)

Comment: The patient showed a steady improvement across all follow-up visits. Initially, moderate pain and persistent swelling were noted, with disturbed sleep patterns due to discomfort. After administration of *Nitric acid*, there was a significant reduction in both pain and swelling, and sleep quality improved. By the final follow-up, symptoms had nearly resolved, with normal appetite, stool, and sleep. The case demonstrates a positive clinical response to individualized homeopathic treatment.

Case No: 2

Patient Information A 56-year-old male patient visited the Outpatient Department of Organon of Medicine, White Memorial Homoeo Medical College and Hospital, Attoor on 25/08/2024. He presented with complaints of swelling and pricking pain in the left ankle joint and left big toe for 1 year, with aggravation since 1 week. The pain appeared suddenly and progressed gradually, aggravated by movements, prolonged standing, after sleep, and at night, and ameliorated by hard pressure and warm applications. There was associated redness and mild swelling. He also experienced difficulty in passing urine with a sensation of fullness in the bladder. He took massage and self-care, but symptoms continued to worsen. No history of trauma or other joint complaints.

Past History Jaundice at age 25, treated with allopathy and cured.

Family History Father is hypertensive and alive; mother has diabetes mellitus and is alive.

Physical General The patient has a good appetite with a reduced thirst of approximately 1 litre per day. His bowel movements are regular, and although he reports difficulty in passing urine, it is accompanied by a constant sensation of fullness in the bladder. Perspiration occurs occasionally. His sleep is generally refreshing, and no significant issues are noted. Thermally, he is a hot patient, preferring cooler environments and warmth application to alleviate his pain. The skin shows pimples on the forehead and cheeks, which are painful on touch, indicating a sensitivity in those areas.

Mental Generals The patient exhibits a marked aversion to company and prefers to remain alone, which has been consistent since his college days. He becomes easily irritated, with even the slightest provocation making him angry, especially in his professional environment. Despite having good relations with family members, he tends to internalize his emotions and avoids open communication. This reserved and irritable temperament highlights his sensitivity to external stressors and emotional triggers.

General Survey The patient is conscious, alert, and cooperative at the time of examination. He appears dull and weak, with an earthly complexion. His general build is moderately nourished and built. There are no signs of pallor, cyanosis, clubbing, lymphadenopathy, or edema. His height is 168 cm, weight is 72 kg, and his BMI is 25.5 kg/m². Vitals are within normal limits with a blood pressure of 120/80 mmHg, a pulse rate of 76 beats per minute, and a respiratory rate of 14 breaths per minute. No abnormal findings were noted in nails, skin, or gait.

On Examination: Left ankle joint and left big toe revealed swelling and redness, with marked tenderness and local warmth on palpation. No scar marks or skin eruptions were observed.

Totality of Symptoms

Slightest things make him angry
Avoids company
Thirst reduced
Difficulty in urination with sensation of bladder fullness
Pimples on forehead painful on touch
Swelling and redness in left ankle joint and big toe

Pricking pain in left ankle joint and toe
Pain < movement, prolonged standing, after sleep, night
Pain > hard pressure, warm applications

Repertorization and Remedial Analysis
Rubrics selected from BBCR repertory included:
After repertorial analysis Belladonna 200 was selected based on prominent symptoms and patient susceptibility. Followed by placebo was prescribed and advised to maintain the diet.

Follow-Up (Table: 2)

Comment: The patient showed progressive improvement in pain, swelling, and general health. The selected remedy Belladonna 200 was effective and well-suited to the individual constitution and totality of symptoms.

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Table. 1: Follow-Up

DATE	OBSERVATION	PRESCRIPTION
20.01.21	1. Pain in left toe joint reduced slightly. 2. Swelling persists. Appetite–normal; Thirst– moderate; Stool–regular; Sleep – disturbed due to pain. Urine - offensive	R_x, Nitric acid 200/2 doses.

17.02.21	1. Pain and swelling have reduced noticeably. 2. No new joint involvement. Sleep – improved slightly. Stool–normal. Urine-no offensiveness	R_x, Placebo
17.03.21	1. Pain is minimal. 2. Swelling almost gone. Sleep–good; Stool– clear; Appetite–normal. Urine– normal flow and no offensiveness	R_x,Nitricacid1M /1 Dose

Table.2: Follow Up

DATE	OBSERVATION	PRESCRIPTON
07/09/2024	• No change in pain and swelling. • Urine regular, no offensive urine	BELLADONA 200 1D
25/09/2024	• Pain and swelling reduced • General condition improved	BT 2 tab BD for 2 weeks
15/01/2025	All complaints relieved; patient feels beter	BT 2 tab BD for 2 weeks

Rep.	Rubric	Nit-ac. (19)	Sulph. (17)	Puls. (17)	Kali-c. (17)	Lach. (16)	Calc. (16)	Lyc. (15)	Bry. (15)	Sep. (15)	Sil. (14)	Phos. (14)	Led. (14)	Ars. (12)	Nat-m. (12)	Caust. (12)	Berb. (12)	Coloc. (12)	Rhus-t. (11)	Merc. (11)	Carb-v. (11)
kent	Extremities, pain, knee, walking, on agg.	1			2	2			2				3		1	1	2	2		1	
kent	Extremities, pain, stitching, knee	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
kent	Extremities, pain, stitching, toes, first	2	1		2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1		1
kent	Extremities, stiffness, knee	2	3	3	1	2	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	1	2
kent	Extremities, swelling, knee	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2		3	1	3	2	1
kent	Mind, anxiety, health, about	3	1	1	1	1	2		1	2	1	2		1							
kent	Mind, forsaken feeling			3	1	2	1												1		1
kent	Rectum, constipation	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	3	1	3	2
kent	Urine, odor offensive	3	3	2	2	1	3	2		3		2		2	1	2		1		2	3

Fig.1: Repertorization and Remedial Analysis

Rep.	Rubric	Ars. (9)	Bell. (9)	Bar-c. (7)	Staph. (7)	Lyc. (6)	Con. (6)	Nat-c. (5)	Canth. (5)	Sil. (4)	Dig. (4)	Coff. (4)	Sulph. (4)	Nat-m. (4)	Anac. (4)	Cham. (4)	Carb-v. (4)
bogboen	Lower Extremities, amelioration, warm, applications	3	2											1			
bogboen	Lower Extremities, phenomena, swelling, toes, great																
bogboen	Mind, phenomena, anger, crossness, etc.	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	4		4	4	3	4	4	3
bogboen	Mind, phenomena, company, averse to	1	1	4	4	2	2	2			3						1
bogboen	Urine, phenomena, micturition, urination, difficult	1	3				1		3		1						

Fig.2: Repertorization and Remedial Analysis, Rubrics selected from BBCR repertory

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Hybrid Deep Learning and Classical Image Processing Framework for Automated Counting of Banana Bunches

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ABSTRACT

Accurate and automated counting of agricultural produce plays a vital role in modern precision agriculture, where reliable yield estimation and inventory management can optimize supply chain operations and minimize post-harvest losses. Traditional manual counting of banana bunches is labour-intensive, time-consuming, and subject to human error, particularly in large-scale plantations and packaging facilities. This study presents a novel hybrid framework that combines a state-of-the-art deep learning object detection model with classical image processing algorithms to detect, segment, and count banana bunches in real-world scenarios. We fine-tuned a YOLOv8 object detection model using a custom dataset of banana plantation and packaging line images captured under diverse lighting and occlusion conditions. To address the challenges posed by overlapping bunches, inconsistent backgrounds, and partial occlusions, we integrated classical image processing techniques—including colour space transformations, morphological operations, and watershed segmentation—into the pre-processing and post-processing stages. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed hybrid approach achieves a counting accuracy of over 95% and outperforms a purely deep learning-based pipeline by successfully resolving overlapping detections and filtering out false positives. This framework offers a practical, low-cost solution for automated yield monitoring and inventory tracking in the banana industry and can be extended to other types of clustered agricultural produce.

Keywords: Banana bunch detection, object counting, YOLOv8, image segmentation, hybrid vision systems, precision agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Banana is one of the world's most important tropical fruits, providing livelihood and export income to millions of farmers, especially in regions such as Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In commercial plantations and packing facilities, the accurate counting of banana bunches is crucial for yield forecasting, harvesting logistics, quality control, and supply chain planning. Traditionally, the counting process is performed manually by field workers or supervisors, which is labour-intensive, costly, and prone to significant human error—especially when working with large plantation areas or processing thousands of bunches daily. Furthermore, manual counting is inefficient in providing real-time data for automated decision-making and operational optimization. Recent advancements in computer vision and deep learning have enabled significant breakthroughs in automating agricultural tasks such as fruit detection, crop monitoring, and yield estimation. Models such as YOLO (You Only Look Once) have shown remarkable success in real-time object detection tasks. However, in complex agricultural environments, challenges like non-uniform lighting, occlusions by leaves, variable bunch orientations, and overlapping clusters often degrade the detection performance. To overcome these limitations, this paper proposes a hybrid vision system that integrates the strengths of deep learning and classical image processing. The deep learning component provides robust object detection capabilities, while the classical methods refine the detections to improve segmentation accuracy and resolve overlapping or partially visible bunches.

RELATED WORK

Object detection in agriculture has attracted considerable research interest over the past decade. Works such as Chen *et al*. (2017) have demonstrated apple and citrus detection using Faster R-CNN and YOLO architectures, achieving high accuracy under controlled conditions. Sa *et al*. (2016) explored fruit detection in orchards using RGB-D sensors and background removal techniques. While deep learning models have achieved significant success, they often struggle with clustered or overlapping objects. This has motivated researchers to integrate classical image processing techniques such as morphological operations, edge detection, and watershed algorithms to enhance object separation. For instance, Bargoti and Underwood (2017) proposed combining deep learning with contour-based splitting to improve fruit counting in cluttered orchard scenes. However, studies specifically targeting banana bunch counting remain limited. Most existing works focus on banana leaf disease detection or maturity classification rather than yield estimation. This paper addresses this gap by presenting a robust, practical pipeline for counting banana bunches in plantation and post-harvest settings.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed system consists of five main stages: image acquisition, pre-processing, deep learning-based detection, post-processing, and final counting. Figure 1 illustrates the complete pipeline.

Image Acquisition

A custom dataset was collected using high-resolution digital cameras mounted on handheld rigs and UAV drones in a commercial banana plantation. The dataset includes 2,000 images covering different growth stages, lighting conditions (sunny, cloudy, shaded), and occlusion levels. Ground truth annotations were manually generated using the Labelling tool.

Pre-Processing

To prepare the images for robust detection

- The images were converted from RGB to HSV and LAB colour spaces to enhance contrast between banana bunches and background foliage.
- Gaussian blurring and bilateral filtering were applied to reduce sensor noise and smooth the background.
- Histogram equalization improved contrast in low-light conditions.

Deep Learning-Based Detection

A YOLOv8-nano model was initialized with COCO-pretrained weights and fine-tuned on the custom banana dataset. The training process involved

- Data augmentation: random rotations, horizontal flips, and brightness adjustments to simulate real-world variability.
- Hyperparameter tuning: using a learning rate of 0.001, batch size of 16, and training for 100 epochs.
- Loss minimization: optimizing a combined objectness, classification, and bounding box regression loss.

During inference, the YOLOv8 model predicts bounding boxes for potential banana bunches with confidence scores.

Post-Processing

Despite the YOLOv8 model's robustness, some detections exhibited overlapping bounding boxes due to clustered bunches.

To address this

- Detected regions were extracted and converted to grayscale.
- Otsu's thresholding and edge detection were applied to highlight bunch boundaries.
- A distance transform combined with the watershed segmentation algorithm separated touching bunches into individual objects.
- Morphological operations (erosion and dilation) refined the contours.
- Small spurious detections were removed based on contour area and aspect ratio thresholds.

Counting

The final count was determined by aggregating valid detections after post-processing. Counts were cross-validated with ground truth labels for accuracy evaluation.

Experimental Results

Evaluation Setup

Performance was evaluated on a holdout test set of 400 images. Metrics included

Precision (P): proportion of correctly identified bunches.

Recall (R): proportion of true bunches detected.

F1-Score: harmonic mean of precision and recall.

Mean Absolute Error (MAE): average difference between predicted and actual counts per image.

RESULTS

Visual inspection confirmed that the hybrid approach effectively split overlapping bunches and reduced false positives caused by background elements resembling bunches. Qualitative examples show before-and-after segmentation results for densely clustered bunches.(Table:1)

DISCUSSION

The results demonstrate that combining deep learning with classical image processing enhances the overall robustness and reliability of the counting system. The watershed algorithm, in particular, proved effective in separating partially overlapping objects that a bounding box detector alone struggled to distinguish. The approach remains computationally efficient and can be deployed in real time on edge devices or UAV-mounted systems for field-level yield monitoring. Challenges remain in extreme lighting conditions and heavy occlusions by leaves or stems. Future work could explore multispectral imaging or depth sensors to further improve segmentation accuracy.

CONCLUSION

This paper presented a practical, hybrid framework that integrates deep learning-based object detection with classical image processing to count banana bunches accurately in real-world plantation and packaging environments. The proposed method significantly improves counting accuracy compared to a deep learning-only baseline. The framework can be generalized to other agricultural applications where clustered object detection is critical, such as counting grape clusters, mango bunches, or nuts on trees. Future research will focus on scaling the system for real-time drone deployment, integrating GPS tagging for geospatial yield mapping, and developing a user-friendly interface for farmers and agronomists.

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(Add full citations here — e.g., YOLO papers, agriculture vision research, watershed algorithm papers, etc.)

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Table.1: Results

Method	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	MAE
YOLOv8 only	0.89	0.87	0.88	1.42
YOLOv8 + Classical Hybrid	**0.94**	**0.93**	**0.935**	**0.58**

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Love Through the Generational Lens: An Empirical Study from the State of Assam

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the romantic attitudes of Millennials and Gen Z in Assam, considering factors such as gender, relationship status, and generational trends. Data were collected from 100 participants (50 men and 50 women) using the Love Attitudes Scale by Hendrick and Hendrick (1986) to assess the frequency and interactions of six different love styles. The demonstration of findings showed generational differences in the three love types, as well as some effects of the gender and relationship status on the attitudes toward romance. Correlation analysis throws light on how the interrelatedness of the love styles mirrors the complex romantic ideologies existing in Assamese society. It enhances our understanding about experiences and expressions of love among young adults as it focuses on a particular region and generation, thus laying the groundwork for further investigation in cultural and generational psychology.

Keywords: Love Attitudes, Millennials, GenZ, Assam, Romantic Relationships, Gender Differences, Relationship Status, Hendrick and Hendrick

INTRODUCTION

"We accept the love we think we deserve" - The Perks of Being A Wallflower (Stephen Chbosky). Love is different for different people, it has different shades, different forms, different meanings, different values and morals, nothing related to love and the idea that revolves around it can be termed as static and universal. For some, it might mean having similar thoughts and opinions, and for some it might mean the complete opposite (opposite attracts), for some love can be everlasting and singular, and for some love can be something that is open to change and evolve with time, for some love can be a social unity of two people for the familial status to be intact and for some love can be passionate that knows no social barriers and bounds. The concept of love is clumsy, confusing, dynamic and

individual, but it can also be simple, easy, solid and reliable at times. The age of digital dependency is on the rise, the way people communicate with each other has taken a turn with the introduction of WhatsApp instant replies, Instagram filters, SnapChat stories and Facebook likes. People communicate through an abundance of emojis that are available on the keypads now and expect replies in seconds, get enraged when someone does not like their pictures on Instagram, feel bad when their stories do not get enough replies with compliments showering on it, these and many such similar instances has changed the way we think and perceive about love. Everything needs to be fast paced and instant for today's generation. What was once a slow and steady form of expressing such as sending handwritten letters has now been taken over by the anxious feeling of being "seenzoned" by someone you like. With the generations evolving, technological advances are making communication easier but also complex and unreliable. But, all in all, the feeling of love, the want of being loved and to love, stays. Love as an emotion remains the same. The concept of love has fascinated psychologists and researchers since time immemorial. Academicians have vastly tried to explore the area and provide extensive standardized results regarding it. Of the many factors that have affected the attitudes or the styles of love, generational differences have been the most salient and significant. Just as we see development in the way children learn and communicate, how societies relate and engage, romantic ideologies and relationships are no exception. The present research endeavours to map the generational differences among the Millennials and GenZ population of Assam. The two cohorts, even though very close with age, are different from each other in their grasp of relationships and technical usage. Millennials and Generation Z, both of these groups are shaped and moulded by different social and cultural environments. Research shows that for many people of these generations, emotional attachments and psychological well-being frequently take less importance for traditional concepts such as marriage and being parents (Twenge, 2017). These changing trends, be it social, cultural, emotional or psychological, signify a larger shift towards flexible commitments and curated relationship dynamics. A study by Shulman and Connolly (2013) found that the growth of intimacy is not just a common practice but also an essential developmental change in one's life, this view was also supported by Conger, Cui, Bryant, and Elder (2000), they also are of the view that the development of romantic relationships is very crucial in the transition from adolescence to adulthood. In similar lines, Maslow (1943) also said that love and belongingness is extremely significant and one of the primary human needs, followed by physiological and safety needs. Through this, it can be seen that a person's attitude toward love acts as a reflection of their opinions, values, morals, beliefs and past life experiences, which are then shaped by other psychological factors. Psychologists and researchers have long tried to standardize the complex and confusing nature of love and its styles. One of the most widely accepted and famous theories regarding love and the attitudes surrounding it is given by John Lee (1973), named "Colors of Love" theory. The theory segregates love into specific styles or as the name itself suggests "Colors". Hendrick and Hendrick (1986), added to the literature of John Lee's theory and created the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS), that helped classify love attitudes into six different styles. They are

Eros (Passionate, Romantic Love) : Eros can be defined by intense physical and emotional attachment and attraction. This love style is frequently engaged with ideal standards of love attitudes such as "love at first sight". People who score high in this style are believers of deep emotional attachments, a steady chemistry, and focus more on physical beauty and physical intimacy. These people tend to fall in love quickly and intensely.

Ludus (Game-Playing Love): Ludus can be referred to as a playful, non-committal attitude towards love. Relationships for people higher in this attitude are mostly treated like a game. These people try to avoid commitment, are polygamous, give greater importance to having "fun" and being flirty over emotional attachment or intimacy. They tend to be emotionally distanced and avoid dependency and commitment of any form.

Storge (Friendship-Based Love): Storge develops steadily where there is friendship and mutual respect for each other, instead of instant and on the face passion. It is grounded on shared emotional support, a long term commitment, shared morals, where trust and respect are key concepts.

Pragma (Practical, Logical Love): In this kind of love style, people view love and relationships with a checklist of compatible traits. These may range from similar styles of living to similar goals in life. Love is a decision and not just an emotion, for people scoring high in this attitude. Partners are chosen carefully, based on a rational and thought out basis.

Mania (Possessive, Obsessive Love): People high in this attitude see relationships and love as a marker of dependency, be it emotional or psychological. They are high on jealousy and possessiveness. It is rooted in low levels of self-esteem and insecure self images.

Agape (Selfless, Altruistic Love): This type of love attitude represents a selfless and unconditional view of love that gives greater value to their partner's well being over their own. It is defined with sacrifice, deep care and compassion for their partner, often resembling an ideological type of love. They love freely and don't really expect anything in return from their partner.

With this background, the present study seeks to explore how Millennials and GenZ in Assam differ in their attitudes toward love and the role of gender and romantic involvement is also being taken into consideration.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chandrakant., and Reddy, V. R. (2025), explored the diverse dimensions of love attitudes through the lens of demographic factors such as gender, age, and cultural background. The study used Lee's Love Attitudes Scale (LAS). The sample included Indian college populations and it was found that there exists notable gender differences. Men exhibited more playful forms of love attitudes, while women were more inclined towards practical forms of love attitude. Age related differences were also found, where it was found that younger people seeked idealistic notions of love attitudes whereas older people wanted to adopt a more practical and realistic approach towards love.

Avinash, R. P. et al (2015), conducted a study on the love styles of young adults of Mumbai, India. The study included a sample of 120 (20-40 years) young adults. The love attitudes of the sample were assessed using the Love Attitudes Scale. It was found that participants around the age group of 21-30 years had a significantly higher score on storge love attitude when compared to the 30-40 years age group sample. Findings indicated that Eros was the most prevalent love style among participants, while Ludus was the least preferred. The results also demonstrated that love attitudes varied by gender and age, and that individual personality traits played a significant role in shaping preferred love styles.

Clemente, M. et al. (2020) examined the types of love among 439 Spanish participants, aged between 15 to 89, in terms of age and satisfaction. The participants consisted of 63.3% men and 36.7% women, among them 54.9% were unmarried and 39.4% were married, 2.3% were divorced, and 3.4% were widowed. 36.96 was the average age (SD = 19.501). The study results concluded that as people grow older, there is a greater importance put on Storge and Agape love styles, which reflects a higher longing for companionship and selfless love. It was also found that young people did not prioritize Eros (passionate love), Ludus (playful love), and Mania (possessive or obsessive love). Individuals aged 20 to 32 years showed increased rates of pragma style of love, but not among those in the 33 to 50 age range.

Dutt, A., and Singh, R. (2020), conducted a study examining the love attitudes of young adults enrolled in select universities in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, and Ludhiana. The sample consisted of 400 young men and women, all of whom were engaged in romantic relationships at the time of the study. The results found that there was a significant influence of cultural factors on love attitudes of the sample. Males showed a leaning toward Ludus and Mania love styles. In contrast, female participants reported leaning toward Pragma, Eros, Agape, and Storge.

Nato, F. (2015), explored how love styles differ across three generations of women: college-going daughters, their mothers, and their maternal grandmothers. Love Attitudes Scale was used to understand how each group viewed love styles and attitudes revolving around it. Significant differences were found in four love styles: Eros, Storge, Pragma, and Agape. While mothers and grandmothers almost held similar views on most styles of love, grandmothers were more likely to approach love in a practical, pragmatic way, that is Pragma, especially when compared to their daughters.

Gupta, V. and Simon, S. (2023), explored how young adults perceive their parents' parenting styles and how these perceptions relate to their own view of love. The study was conducted among 105 young adults aged 18 to 26 years (75 females and 30 males) from 15 different Indian states. It was found that there is no significant correlation between the three parenting styles and the styles of love of the Love Attitudes Scale. Among the participants, it was found that Ludus is the most dominant love style. This was followed by Mania, reported by 28% of the sample.

Kalia, D. and Akshita. (2022), conducted a study to explore the gender differences in the types of love. A cross-sectional study was done using the Love Attitude Scale (LAS) among 80 Indian college students (40 males and 40 females) aged 18 to 25 years of age. While most love style subscales showed no significant gender difference, findings revealed that males scored significantly higher on the Ludus (playful) love style ($M = 25.03$) compared to females ($M = 22.58$) [$t(78) = -3.291$, $p < 0.05$].

Saini, K. D. (2018) conducted a study on personality traits and love attitudes among individuals who were using dating apps in India. The participants, who were between the ages of 18–24 and 25–44, had their personality evaluated using the Big Five Inventory and their love styles using the Love Attitudes Scale. The results indicated that male participants scored significantly higher than the females on all six love styles.

Devi, G. and Kovoor, E.S. (2024) investigated the relationships between love attitudes, rejection sensitivity, and social media use among young adults. The sample in the study involved 132 participants ages 18 to 25 that included 81 females and 51 males. The authors found no statistically significant gender differences across the six love styles, nor did they find any differences for the average scores in any of the love styles among genders. Men in their study reported higher average scores in Eros, Ludus, Storge, and Pragma styles of love. Women in their studies showed higher mean scores in Mania and Agape love styles.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To explore and compare the Love Attitudes of Millennials and GenZ in Assam using the Love Attitudes Scale.

Objectives

- To compare generational differences in love attitudes between Millennials and GenZ of Assam.
- To examine gender-based differences in love attitudes in Millennials and GenZ of Assam.
- To analyze differences in love attitudes based on the relationship status among Millennials and GenZ of Assam.
- To explore correlations among the six love attitudes (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, Agape) within the sample of the study.

Hypotheses

- There will be significant generational differences in love attitudes between Millennials and Gen Z of Assam.
- There will be significant gender-based differences in love attitudes within Millennials and GenZ.
- There will be significant differences between relationship status (single and in a relationship) among love attitudes.
- There will be significant correlations among the six love attitudes (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, Agape).

Rationale of the Study

Love attitudes are greatly shaped and moulded by social media, evolving globalisation and constantly shifting and evolving cultural changes and narratives. Assam, a land where traditions are extremely strong and valued by its people but also is seeing a tremendous inclination towards modernization, the views and perspectives of the young and upcoming generations might involve a mix of both these traditional and modern values. Understanding and making the people aware of such patterns and developments will provide grounded insights into how love attitudes evolve with generations and genders. The study will provide insights into how the GenZ and the Millennial population of Assam view love, the changing patterns of gender roles in relationships, the process and choices of partner selection, the independence or dependence one desires in love. This will reveal the intergenerational differences that exist in terms of love attitudes of the young generations of the Assamese community. The study used the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS) by Hendrick and Hendrick to study the intergenerational, gender and romantic involvement differences in love attitudes among the GenZ and Millennials of Assam.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Design

The present study makes use of a quantitative, cross-sectional design to compare and examine generational, gender-based and relationship status differences in love attitudes in between the GenZ and Millennial population of Assam. Participants aged 18-27 (Gen Z) and 28-42 (Millennials) are being selected using purposive as well as snowball sampling techniques. Data is collected using a structured Google Form, which includes demographic details and the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS) developed by Hendrick and Hendrick. Statistical analyses of the present study include descriptive statistics such mean as and standard deviation, independent t-tests, and correlational analysis to explore differences based on generation, gender, and romantic status.

Sample

The sample for this study consists of 100 participants of Assam, aged between 18 and 42 years, who have been into two groups: GenZ (18-27 years) and Millennials (28-42 years). The sample includes 50 males and 50 females, each gender equally represented within both generations. Participants were selected using the sampling techniques namely, purposive and snowball techniques. All participants were informed of the study's purpose and informed consent was taken prior to participation.

Tools Used

- Love Attitudes Scale (LAS) by Hendrick and Hendrick (1986)
- Demographic Questionnaire (including age, gender, generation, relationship status)

PROCEDURE

Participants were selected using two sampling techniques on a uniform basis, namely, purposive and snowball sampling techniques. The participants were given a detailed informed consent form, that highlighted the purpose of the study, and that participation is voluntary and also that their responses will be kept confidential. After providing consent, participants filled the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS), which was administered using an online Google Form. The form included demographic details (age, gender, and romantic involvement status along with other required details) as well as the LAS scale (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, and Agape). The study ensured that all ethical guidelines were being followed, including maintaining confidentiality and anonymity of the participants, and attainment of informed consent prior to data collection.

Statistical Analysis

Two groups (Millennials and Gen Z, Male and Female, Relationship Status: Single and In a Relationship) had their love attitude scores compared using independent samples t-tests. The six love attitudes were examined for correlation using Pearson correlation analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study discovered correlations between the six love styles-Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, and Agape-as well as differences in love attitudes according to generation, gender, and relationship status.

Differences in Love Attitudes among the two Generations: GenZ and Millennials
Independent sample t-test was used. There were 50 participants in each group namely Millennials and GenZ (N = 100).

Eros: Millennials (M = 14.32, SD = 5.14) scored significantly lower than Gen Z (M = 19.72, SD = 6.95); t(98) = 4.41, p <.001. This implies Gen Z is inclined more toward romantic and passionate kinds of love.

Storge: Significant differences were found; GenZ (M = 18.14, SD = 6.29) scored higher than Millennials (M = 14.94, SD = 5.36); t(98) = 2.73, p = .007. This suggests a higher inclination among GenZ toward friendship-based, emotionally secure love styles.

Agape: GenZ (M = 19.50, SD = 6.82) had a higher mean compared to Millennials (M = 16.78, SD = 5.76), t(98) = 2.15, p = .034, implying a stronger inclination for selfless and altruistic love style among GenZ participants. Ludus, Mania, and Pragma love styles showed no statistically significant generational differences. This says that both GenZ and Millennials show comparable levels of playful (Ludus), possessive (Mania), and pragmatic (Pragma) love attitudes.

Gender Variations in Love Attitudes
Agape: Women (M = 20.52) had higher mean scores than men (M = 15.76); p = .000.
Eros: Women (M = 18.44) had higher mean scores than men (M = 15.60); p = .032.
Ludus, Storge, Pragma, or Mania love styles showed no notable gender variations.

Differences in Relationship Status
Agape: People not in a relationship (M = 19.44) had higher mean scores than those who are in a relationship (M = 16.88); p = .046.
Eros: Those not in a relationship (M = 18.79) had higher mean scores than those in one (M = 15.31); p = .008.
Relationship status did not affect other love styles significantly.

Correlation of Love Attitudes
The following is being revealed by Pearson's correlation study:
Eros was found to be negatively correlated with Ludus (r = -0.308, p =.002), while it was positively correlated with Agape (r =.531, p =.000) and Storge (r =.336, p =.001).
Ludus was negatively correlated with Agape (r = -.278, p =.005) and Storge (r = -.248, p =.013).
Storge positively correlated with Agape (r = .370, p = .000).
Mania showed a weak but significant positive correlation with Agape (r = .233, p = .020).
Pragma did not significantly correlate with any other love style.
Knowing love attitudes across generations, genders, and relationship statuses helps one to see the changing and developing dynamics of romantic relationships and choices.

Generational Variability: The current study indicated that GenZ from Assam have higher mean scores than the Millennials from Assam in the Eros, Storge, and Agape love types. This shows that younger individuals prefer

passionate (Eros), companionate (Storge), and sacrificial (Agape) love types. Similar to Avinash (2015), young adults preferred loving and altruistic love in their research. In a generational study with females, Nato (2015) noted differences in Eros, Storge, and Agape love types across generations. The increased access to digital narratives of love, emotionality, and developmental concepts of partnership and love preference that are oriented toward connection, empathy, and depth may be why GenZ are favoring these love types. According to earlier research, young individuals' exposure to digital culture and flexible relationship standards may contribute to their propensity for Ludus and Mania love styles (Gupta and Simon, 2023). However, the current study identified no discernible age differences in these dimensions. The similarities in Ludus, Mania, and Pragma suggest that the love styles may not be a function of age, but of contextual or individual variables.

Differences by Gender: It is clear that women scored higher than men for Agape and Eros love styles, indicating that the women in this sample preferred more romantic and selfless forms of love. Dutt and Singh (2020) had similar results where women had significantly higher scores on Agape and Eros than men did, though men had higher scores on Ludus and Mania, although this was not significantly different in this data. The results could reflect heavier social expectations of gender socialization in India, where women might be socialized to reach an emphasis on emotional sensitivity and expression of care and nurturing which may explain some comparability with regards to women's and men's perceptions of love. The high value placed on care and emotional connection as femininity (as is clearly evident in Assam and much of India) could be an additional explanation for women in this study having significantly higher Agape scores.

Differences Based on Relationship Status: Individuals who were not currently in romantic relationships had higher scores on both Eros and Agape styles than those who were committed to a romantic relationship. Some singles may hold ideals about love (in part due to media, cultural expectations, and ideological understandings around ideal partners). Or maybe the single participants' high levels of Eros and Agape were representative of romantic idealism or untested mythologies of love that would change if or when they engaged in committed romantic relationships. The researchers, Devi and Kovoor (2024), did find a significant difference in the storgic style of love espoused between committed individuals and single individuals. The present study of single individuals did not find any difference.

Correlations Between Love Styles: Significant correlations between a few love styles demonstrate the way these constructs can function in conjunction to each other. Positive correlations between Storge and Agape with Eros suggest people with more intensely felt love also valued their love as being altruistic and attachment. Conversely, Ludus was negatively correlated (as was Agape and Storge) to Eros, suggesting that altruistic or emotionally secure love is not compatible with playful non-continuous love. These patterns suggest that, instead of viewing them as distinct love styles, they may actually be interconnected which forms clusters of emotional behavior in romantic circumstances. The moderate correlation between Mania and Agape could suggest either a combination of emotional dependence with self-sacrificing behavior or understanding of regional emotional norms that can hold dedication and loyalty in a high regard in relationships.

Cultural Rationalizations: Cultural narratives in Northeastern India (including Assam) emphasize interpersonal harmony, family inclusion, and emotional closeness, which may contribute to preferences for Storge and Agape styles. The increasing incidence of Eros among GenZ may stem from digital romanticism through film, social media, and changing dating rituals. Furthermore, the relatively low incidence of Ludus across generations aligns with a cultural resistance to casual relationships, and most especially for women. The findings indicate social amalgamation of tradition and modernity, with GenZ accepting modes of love that are expressive and emotions-based, while continuing to promote a cultural bias toward commitment and altruism.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the trends in romantic attitudes among the youth populations of Assamese Millennials and Gen Z, with generation, gender and relationship status as main variables. The evidence from our findings indicates that while gender and relationship status influenced individuals' attitudes toward love with some significance, the results did show generational differences in three love attitudes. The correlations between the six love styles suggest how complex and multifaceted romantic attitudes can be. By focusing on a regional area such as Assam, we contribute valuable knowledge into how young adults in contemporary Assamese society perceive and fill out the meaning of love. There were some limitations to this study that may be addressed by future studies; those variables that may be relevant but were not included in this study such as parenting style, educational attainment, and urban/rural background. Also, the sample size was taken in a limited ratio with this research and future studies can examine increasing the number of participants to attain more accurate results. Future studies could include a range of psychological and sociocultural factors in addition to exploring wider demographics. Our study sets a tone of potential research avenues in the field of generational and cultural psychology while providing substantive contributions to the literature on romantic attitudes within the state of Assam, India.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Tables : 1

Generation		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Eros	Genz	50	19.72	6.95
	Millennial	50	14.32	5.14
Ludus	Genz	50	25.20	6.77
	Millennial	50	25.62	4.94
Storge	Genz	50	18.14	6.29
	Millennial	50	14.94	5.36
Pragma	Genz	50	18.14	6.48
	Millennial	50	19.14	6.66
Mania	Genz	50	22.20	4.94
	Millennial	50	23.04	6.14
Agape	Genz	50	19.50	6.82
	Millennial	50	16.78	5.76

Tables : 2

	Generation		
	t-test for Equality of Means		
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Eros	4.414	90.268	.000**
Ludus	-.354	98	.724
Storge	2.734	95.606	.007**
Pragma	-.760	98	.449
Mania	-.753	98	.453
Agape	2.152	95.340	.034*

p < .05*, *p* < .01**

Tables : 3

Gender		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Agape	Female	50	20.52	5.25
	Male	50	15.76	6.66
Eros	Female	50	18.44	6.61
	Male	50	15.60	6.47
Ludus	Female	50	24.38	6.34
	Male	50	26.44	5.29
Pragma	Female	50	17.96	6.76
	Male	50	19.32	6.34
Storge	Female	50	17.02	5.54
	Male	50	16.06	6.51
Mania	Female	50	22.36	6.14
	Male	50	22.88	4.97

Tables : 4

	Gender		
	t-test for Equality of Means		
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Eros	2.171	97.955	.032*
Ludus	-1.763	98	.081
Storge	.793	98	.430
Pragma	-1.037	98	.302
Mania	-.465	98	.643
Agape	3.964	92.938	.000**

p < .05*, p < .01**

Tables : 5

	Relationship Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Agape	Yes	51	16.88	6.07
	No	49	19.44	6.59
Eros	Yes	51	15.31	6.40
	No	49	18.79	6.51
Ludus	Yes	51	25.56	6.09
	No	49	25.24	5.75
Pragma	Yes	51	19.64	6.43

	No	49	17.59	6.59
Storge	Yes	51	15.72	5.81
	No	49	17.38	6.21
Mania	Yes	51	22.70	5.82
	No	49	22.53	5.33

Tables : 6

	Relationship Status		
	t-test for Equality of Means		
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Eros	-2.693	97.676	.008**
Ludus	.273	98	.786
Storge	-1.382	98	.170
Pragma	1.577	98	.118
Mania	.157	98	.876
Agape	-2.025	96.545	.046*

p < .05*, *p* < .01**

Tables : 7

		Eros	Ludus	Storge	Mania	Pragma	Agape
Eros	Pearson Correlation	1	-.308**	.336**	.025	-.105	.531**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.002	.001	.805	.299	.000
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ludus	Pearson Correlation	-.308**	1	-.248*	.166	.065	-.278**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002		.013	.098	.521	.005
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Storge	Pearson Correlation	.336**	-.248*	1	-.030	.181	.370**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.013		.768	.071	.000
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mania	Pearson Correlation	.025	.166	-.030	1	-.009	.233*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.805	.098	.768		.929	.020
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Pragma	Pearson Correlation	-.105	.065	.181	-.009	1	.020
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.299	.521	.071	.929		.841
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Agape	Pearson Correlation	.531**	-.278**	.370**	.233*	.020	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.005	.000	.020	.841	
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Unity-based Digital Twin for 3D Printers: Bridging the Gap between Virtual and Physical Realities

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ABSTRACT

In the rapidly evolving domain of additive manufacturing, the integration of digital twin technology represents a significant stride toward enhanced precision and efficiency. This research introduces an application developed using the Unity platform, aimed at creating a digital twin of a 3D printer. The core innovation lies in the real-time synchronization of the printer's physical movements with its virtual counterpart, achieved through a Raspberry Pi 4 and a local network-based Flask server. This setup facilitates the update of the printer's XYZ coordinates in the digital twin, enhancing the fidelity of the virtual model. The methodology employed incorporates the use of the M114 G-code for positional data acquisition and a C# script in Unity for dynamic visualization. This paper details the technical challenges encountered, such as network latency and data synchronization, and the solutions implemented to address them. The findings demonstrate the application's capability to accurately mirror the printer's movements, offering a tool for monitoring, diagnosing, and potentially controlling 3D printing processes remotely. Beyond operational monitoring, this research suggests new avenues for predictive maintenance and process optimization in 3D printing technology. Future enhancements may include integrating machine learning algorithms for predictive analysis and augmenting the system's responsiveness. The

research thus makes a significant contribution to the field of digital twins, proposing a versatile model that can be adapted to other areas of manufacturing and process management.

Keywords: Digital Twin, IoT (Internet of Things), 3D Printer, Additive Manufacturing, Real-Time Data Processing, Unity Platform.

INTRODUCTION

Additive manufacturing, widely known as 3D printing, has undergone a transformative evolution, emerging from its initial role in prototyping to become a vital component in modern manufacturing practices. At the forefront of this evolution is the concept of the 'digital twin,' a technological innovation that creates a dynamic digital representation of physical systems. This concept is revolutionizing how we interact with and control manufacturing processes. The focus of this research is to explore and implement digital twin technology in the realm of 3D printing, aiming to enhance its precision and efficiency. The core objective of this study is the development of a real-time connection between a physical 3D printer and its digital counterpart. This innovative integration is achieved through the use of a Raspberry Pi 4, which acts as a communicative bridge linking the printer to a digital model in the Unity platform. The synergy of these technologies enables real-time synchronization of the printer's physical movements with its virtual model, providing a ground breaking approach to monitoring and controlling 3D printing processes. The path to achieving a responsive and accurate digital twin is laden with technical challenges. These include real-time data acquisition, efficient processing, and the accurate visualization of this data. The methodology adopted in this research addresses these challenges head-on. A key component is a Flask server, running on a local network, which plays a crucial role in managing the flow of data between the physical printer and its digital twin. The use of specific G-codes for the retrieval of printer coordinates is another critical aspect, enabling the precise tracking of the printer's movements. This paper not only delves into the technical aspects of creating a digital twin for a 3D printer but also examines the broader implications of this technology. By successfully implementing a digital twin, this research opens new possibilities for predictive maintenance and process optimization in 3D printing. Moreover, it lays the groundwork for future advancements in smart manufacturing technologies, enhancing user interactions and operational efficiencies. The integration of a digital twin with a 3D printer represents more than just a technological advancement; it signifies a shift in the paradigm of how manufacturing processes are monitored, controlled, and optimized. This research contributes to this shift by demonstrating the practical application of digital twin technology in a real-world scenario, offering valuable insights and setting a precedent for future research and development in this field.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Fabio Corradini (Jan 2022) introduced a digital twin specifically designed for material extrusion 3D printers, focusing on monitoring and quality assessment. It describes the system's concept, implementation, and validation, demonstrating its effectiveness in identifying printing errors and predicting print quality[1]. Antreas Kantaros (Dec 2021) provides a comprehensive review of digital twins in 3D printing, including their implementation, applications, and challenges. It covers various aspects like data acquisition, modeling, visualization, and control, offering valuable insights into the current state of research and future directions [2]. Yuxin Wang (Jan 2023) focuses on the specific application of digital twins in 3D concrete printing. It discusses the benefits and challenges of 3D concrete printing, explores the current state of digital twin technology in this context, and outlines future research directions [3].T. DebRoy (Dec 2016) examines the building blocks of digital twins for 3D printing machines, focusing on heat and material flow simulation, solidification and microstructure evolution, property modeling, and residual stress and distortion calculations. It highlights the potential of digital twins in optimizing printing processes and reducing defects [4]. Yu. G. Kabaldin (Oct 2019) discusses a digital twin system for 3D printing using arc welding on CNC

machines. It explores the use of high-speed computation and neural networks to optimize the welding process and improve product quality [5].

METHODOLOGY

Data acquisition stands as the backbone of this project, serving as the channel through which the Raspberry Pi 4B interfaces with the 3D printer, harnessing M114 G-code commands to retrieve essential data. The command M114 is integral to this system, as it prompts the 3D printer to return the current positional data of the print head along the X, Y, and Z axes. This information is crucial for real-time monitoring and ensures the print head moves with precision, adhering to the pre-defined paths necessary for accurate 3D printing. The methodology extends beyond simple data retrieval to encompass the careful orchestration of communication protocols. It involves a meticulous process where data formatting is paramount, ensuring that the Raspberry Pi and the 3D printer speak the same language. The data obtained is formatted to be both machine-readable by the printer and decipherable by the Raspberry Pi. This formatted data adheres to a structured syntax that allows for seamless integration into the subsequent software layers, ensuring data uniformity and integrity. Block Diagram (Fig-1). In the realm of software development for this system, two API endpoints become the focus, built upon a robust Flask server framework. These endpoints are more than mere conduits for data; they are the pillars upon which real-time data updates rest. One is meticulously crafted to handle positional data — it receives formatted coordinates from the Raspberry Pi and serves this data to any requesting client within the network. The other is sculpted to deal with temperature metrics, receiving data on both the actual and targeted temperatures for the printer's hot end and bed. The positional data endpoint is a marvel of engineering, optimized to handle a stream of continuous data without lag. It employs a non-blocking I/O model, ensuring that the reception and transmission of data do not interfere with each other, thus maintaining a constant flow of updates. The temperature metrics endpoint, on the other hand, is designed to manage sporadic but critical updates. It ensures that the temperature data is consistently relayed to maintain the environmental conditions essential for high-quality 3D printing. Both endpoints employ rigorous validation mechanisms to ensure that the data being transmitted is accurate and timely. They are also secured using modern encryption protocols, safeguarding the data from potential interception or tampering. This is especially vital when the system is deployed in environments where intellectual property concerns or sensitive designs are involved. The integration with the Unity application is an elaborate affair, where these APIs' data becomes a visual and interactive experience. The Unity application acts as the user interface, rendering the positional and temperature data into a comprehensive, real-time 3D model of the printing process. The application polls the Flask server at regular intervals, retrieving the latest data from the endpoints. It then parses this data and updates the virtual model accordingly, providing a near-real-time representation of the printer's status. To ensure smooth operation, the Unity application is designed to handle potential issues such as network latency or data packet loss. It uses predictive algorithms and interpolation techniques to maintain a fluid visual experience even when data updates are momentarily delayed. Moreover, the Unity application allows users to interact with the data, offering controls to adjust the printer's parameters in real-time, based on the visual feedback. The methodology behind the data acquisition in this project is a sophisticated interplay between hardware and software components. It ensures high fidelity in the 3D printing process through accurate positional and temperature data management. The development of the two API endpoints on the Flask server exemplifies the integration of backend systems with frontend interfaces, resulting in a cohesive system capable of real-time updates and interactive control through the Unity application. This holistic approach paves the way for advances in 3D printing technology, where precision, interactivity, and real-time data are paramount.

Implementation

The project's implementation unfolded in several meticulously planned phases, beginning with the configuration of the Raspberry Pi 4B as the project's nerve center. This single-board computer, armed with 4GB of RAM and running the tailored Octopi OS, was prepared to serve as the bridge between the complex digital commands and the tangible mechanical actions of the 3D printer. The initial step involved establishing a stable and reliable connection between the Raspberry Pi and the 3D printer, a critical foundation upon which the subsequent communication would be built.

This connection was tested and retested to ensure resilience against interruptions and data transmission errors, which are paramount in maintaining the integrity of the 3D printing process. Concurrently, the Raspberry Pi was configured to host a Flask server, chosen for its lightweight footprint and its ability to handle concurrent requests with aplomb. This server would be the platform for the two vital API endpoints, serving as the interface between the hardware and the software components. The Flask server was optimized for quick response times and was equipped with error-handling capabilities to ensure uninterrupted service. With the Flask server in place, the development of the two API endpoints commenced. The first endpoint was architected to handle the updates of the XYZ coordinates. It was designed to be a reliable recipient of the positional data which, once received from the M114 G-code commands, could be processed and relayed to any requesting client. This endpoint was crafted to be both efficient and secure, ensuring that the data's sanctity was preserved from the point of capture to the point of delivery. The second endpoint was similarly designed but was tasked with the management of temperature data — a critical element in the 3D printing process. It was responsible for capturing the actual and targeted temperatures of the printer's hot end and bed, processing this information, and then making it available in a format that could be readily consumed by other systems. The heart of the data acquisition process was the M114 G-code commands, which were sent to the 3D printer to retrieve the current positional data. This process was refined through rigorous testing to ensure that the data captured was both accurate and timely. The commands were scheduled and executed in a manner that would prevent any disruption to the printing process while still providing a continuous stream of data. With the APIs functional and the data capture process honed, the focus shifted to the integration of this data into a Unity-based 3D model. A custom C# script was crafted, which interfaced with the Flask server's API endpoints. This script was the conduit through which the Unity application received its data, transforming it into a dynamic visual representation of the 3D printer in action. The script was designed to be lightweight and efficient, ensuring that the data's transit from server to application was swift, allowing for the real-time updates that were central to the project's goals. The Unity application itself was a marvel of interactive design. It presented users with a live 3D model of the printer at work, updating in real time to reflect the data being received from the Flask server.

The application allowed users to observe the printing process from any angle, providing insights into the operation that would otherwise be obscured in a purely physical setup. Rigorous testing was the final, but perhaps most crucial, phase of the implementation. This testing was not merely a formality but a comprehensive series of trials designed to validate every aspect of the system. The synchronization between the physical printer and the virtual model in Unity was examined under various conditions to ensure that what was seen on the screen was an accurate portrayal of reality. The data accuracy was scrutinized, ensuring that the XYZ coordinates and temperature readings in Unity were true to the printer's status at any given moment. Through these tests, any discrepancies found were addressed. The APIs were fine-tuned, the data acquisition process was further refined, and the Unity script was adjusted to account for any unforeseen latency or data inconsistencies. The result was a system where the digital and physical realms were in seamless alignment, offering an accurate, interactive, and highly informative view of the 3D printing process. In summary, the implementation of this project was a testament to the power of interdisciplinary expertise, blending hardware configuration, software development, and real-time data visualization into a cohesive, functional system. From the Raspberry Pi's initial setup to the final tests of the Unity visualization, each step was carefully executed to ensure that the system not only functioned but thrived, providing users with a reliable, accurate, and engaging window into the world of 3D printing. Image (a) stands as a testament to the precision engineering and sophisticated software design underpinning the digital twin technology in our project. It vividly illustrates the seamless synchrony achieved between the physical 3D printer and its virtual counterpart. The digital model, depicted in the image, mirrors the exact X, Y, and Z coordinates of the physical machine with an impressive degree of precision. This congruence is not merely a visual correlation but an indicator of the underlying system's operational accuracy, ensuring that every movement and nuance of the physical printer is instantaneously and accurately reflected in the digital twin. The digital twin, therefore, serves as a reliable and effective tool for real-time monitoring and simulation, providing a valuable platform for diagnostics, optimization, and planning in the manufacturing process. The image captures this pioneering achievement, showcasing the digital twin as a pinnacle of Industry 4.0 technologies. In Image (b), we are presented with a dynamic visualization that encapsulates the fluctuating thermal landscape of a 3D printer's critical components—the nozzle and the bed. The graphical

representation is finely detailed, offering a moment-by-moment account of the temperature shifts that are fundamental to the printing process. It reveals not just static figures but a live, pulsating profile of the temperatures, echoing the actual operational conditions of the printer as they occur. This snapshot of thermal activity serves as a crucial gauge for monitoring print quality and integrity, ensuring the printer maintains the optimal temperature range for flawless 3D printing execution.

FUTURE WORK AND CONCLUSION

A key area for improvement is the speed and efficiency of data processing. Implementing more advanced algorithms or machine learning techniques could significantly reduce latency, leading to a more accurate and responsive digital twin. Future work could include expanding the range of data monitored and controlled by the digital twin. Integrating additional sensors for parameters like material flow or environmental conditions could provide deeper insights and control over the 3D printing process. Looking forward, exploring the scalability of this system to larger industrial printers or different types of additive manufacturing processes presents an exciting avenue for research. Additionally, applying this digital twin framework to other areas of manufacturing could unveil new opportunities for operational efficiency and innovation. Final Application Design (Fig.2). In conclusion, this research successfully demonstrates the integration of a Raspberry Pi-based system with Unity to create a digital twin for a 3D printer, offering real-time monitoring and control capabilities. Despite challenges in data processing and system synchronization, the project lays a foundation for future advancements in additive manufacturing. The potential for enhanced data processing, expanded functionality, and broader applications underscores the significance of this work in the evolving landscape of digital twin technology, opening new avenues for innovation and efficiency in manufacturing processes.

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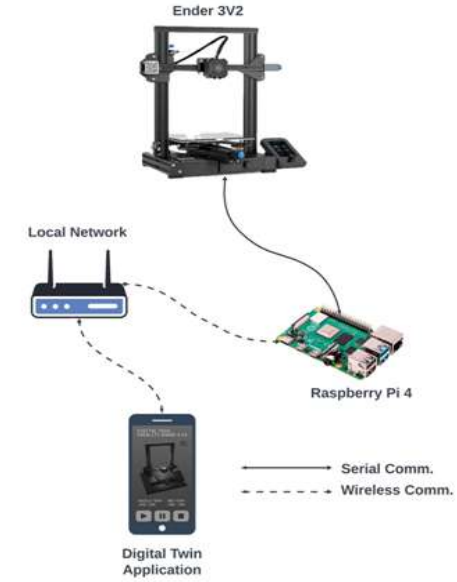


Fig-1: Block Diagram



a)



b)

Figure.2: Image (a) stands as a testament to the precision engineering and sophisticated software design underpinning the digital twin technology in our project. In Image (b), we are presented with a dynamic visualization that encapsulates the fluctuating thermal landscape of a 3D printer's critical components—the nozzle and the bed.



Fig.3: Final Application Design

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REVIEW ARTICLE

Therapeutic Potential and Pharmacological Activities of *Psidium guajava* L.: An Updated Review

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ABSTRACT

Vitamin C, fiber, antioxidants, and bioactive substances are all abundant in guava (*Psidium guajava L.*), a nutrient-dense therapeutic food. It helps avoid chronic diseases, improves heart and intestinal health, controls blood sugar, and boosts immunity. Antioxidants including lycopene, quercetin, and vitamin C are abundant in guavas. By preventing free radical damage and oxidative stress, these antioxidants lower the chance of developing chronic illnesses. Guava's antioxidants, especially lycopene and quercetin, have been linked to a decreased risk of acquiring a number of cancer types because they protect cells from oxidative damage and prevent the growth of cancer cells. It can be consumed fresh, juiced, or turned into candies, jams, and jellies. Both historic use and contemporary scientific research support the wide range of pharmacological properties of *Psidium guajava L.*, a multifunctional medicinal herb. It is a promising option for the development of nutraceuticals, herbal remedies, and functional foods that target oxidative stress, inflammation, infection, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and gastrointestinal problems because of its rich phytochemical profile. Current review article focus on *Psidium guajava L.* its health benefits and pharmacological activities.

Keywords: Vitamin C, *Psidium guajava L.*, Lycopene, Quercetin, Oxidative Stress, Phytochemical, Pharmacological Activities.

INTRODUCTION

India's rural population often has to use home remedies for a variety of health problems. Due to its many therapeutic uses, guava, or the tropical plant *Psidium guajava* Linn., can be used by rural residents. It is a plant that is both tasty and therapeutic. A literature search was carried out to evaluate the condition of rural health in India and to learn more about the possible uses of guava in the treatment of several illnesses that are prevalent in rural areas. Information on guava clinical studies was obtained from the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled studies and Clinical Trial Gov. A study of the literature indicates that guava has demonstrated a range of therapeutic advantages in laboratory investigations, clinical trials, and ethnobotanical/ethnopharmacological surveys carried out globally (1). Guava combats mutagenesis, inflammation, viruses, and plaque. Guava extract has antinociceptive properties and can reduce inflammation and serum production associated with liver injury. By increasing the amount and quality of sperm, guava ethanolic extract can benefit male infertility patients (2).

Habitat

The guava, or *Psidium guajava* L., is indigenous to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas. It is quite adaptable and grows well in both dry and wet conditions. Provinces with 1,000–2,000 millimeters of annual rainfall experience the best growth. Guava trees can withstand both acidic and alkaline environments, although they thrive in well-drained soils with a pH between 4.5 and 7.0. Soils that are sandy, clay, or even rocky can be used (3).

Cultivation

Although guava can be multiplied by seeds, in order to preserve desired characteristics, vegetative propagation techniques such as air layering, grafting, and cutting are recommended. Usually, planting takes place at the start of the rainy season. Depending on the type and growth technique, plant spacing can range from 3x3 meters to 6x6 meters. Guava fruits are picked when they become ripe, which is when they turn from light green to yellow. Between 90 to 150 days following flowering, this can change. Guavas are rich in dietary fiber, minerals, folic acid, and vitamins C and A. Antioxidants such as polyphenols and lycopene are also present in it (3,4). Numerous phytochemicals, such as flavonoids, carotenoids, terpenoids, and phenolic compounds, are found in guava. Quercetin, guaijaverin, lycopene, and beta-carotene are important substances (3).

Pharmacological activities of *Psidium guajava* Linn

Antimicrobial activity:

Psidium guajava L. has a lot of promise as a naturally occurring antibacterial agent. It is an essential tool for developing new treatments and preserving food products because of its broad-spectrum activity and varied phytochemical profile. According to Silva *et al*. (2018), some compounds, like flavonoids and tannins from *Psidium guajava* L., can harm cell walls and membranes, resulting in cell lysis and death (5). Certain guava phytochemicals can interfere with bacteria's ability to make DNA and RNA, while others can prevent the formation of vital proteins needed for microbial development and reproduction (6,7). It is impossible to rule out the possibility of utilizing guava extracts to create new antibacterial chemicals (8).

Antioxidant activity

Guava's ability to scavenge free radicals and prevent oxidative damage is primarily responsible for its antioxidant properties. These mechanisms include the 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl radical scavenging test, the 2,2-azino-bis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid (ABTS) assay, the FRAP Assay, Metal Chelation, Enzyme Inhibition, and Free Radical Scavenging (9-14).

Anti-inflammatory activity

The significant anti-inflammatory effects of *Psidium guajava L.* are mostly due to its broad phytochemical profile. Guava is a fantastic addition to medications, nutraceuticals, and traditional medicine due to its many health advantages. Guava's anti-inflammatory qualities are mostly due to its ability to control a variety of metabolic

processes and reduce the production of pro-inflammatory mediators. Some of the functions mentioned include inhibiting the production of pro-inflammatory mediators like lipoxygenase and cyclooxygenase (9), lowering the synthesis of pro-inflammatory cytokines like TNF-α, IL-1β, and IL-6 (10), and preventing the production of prostaglandins and nitric oxide (NO) by activated macrophages (12).

Anticancer activity

Psidium guajava L.'s extensive phytochemical profile is the main reason for its notable anticancer efficacy. Because of its numerous health benefits, guava is a wonderful supplement to medicines, nutraceuticals, and traditional medicine in cancer. It cause inducing apoptosis and inhibiting cell proliferation, guava helps in reducing the size and spread of tumors (5), anti-metastatic effects (6), and Guava extracts have demonstrated cytotoxic possessions beside a range of cancer cell lines, encompassing malignancies of the breast, colon, and prostate (12).

Antidiabetic activity

Guava's ability to reduce oxidative stress, boost insulin sensitivity, and inhibit enzymes that break down carbohydrates is the primary reason for its anti-diabetic qualities. Because guava increases insulin sensitivity and inhibits the enzymes that break down carbohydrates, it helps to enhance blood glucose homeostasis. Guava's antioxidant properties help reduce the risk of diabetes-related complications, such as cardiovascular disease and neuropathy (5,6).

Hepatoprotective activity

Guava's ability to reduce oxidative stress, regulate inflammatory responses, and enhance liver detoxification processes is the primary source of its hepatoprotective qualities. By scavenging free radicals, guava extracts can reduce oxidative damage to liver cells. Guava's ingredients can reduce liver inflammation by blocking pro-inflammatory enzymes and cytokines (9,10). It might increase the expression of antioxidant enzymes and phase II detoxification in the liver (11).

Antiviral

Guavas' phenolic chemicals slow down the skin's aging process and help treat malignant cells. Caryophyllene oxide, p-selinene, and terpenes all have a relaxing effect. Numerous substances with bacteriostatic and fungistatic properties can be found in guava leaves. Guavas are a well-known meal high in antioxidants and have radiation protection properties. The most potent antioxidant in guava leaves, quercetin, is what gives the leaves their spasmolytic properties. Its ethyl acetate extract can inhibit thymus growth and the spread of pathogens. Antiviral, anti-inflammatory, anti-plaque, and anti-mutagenic properties are all present in guava. In addition to its antinociceptive properties, guava extract reduces inflammation and serum production associated with liver injury (2). Guava tea has shown promise in managing pandemic and epidemic viruses, including oseltamivir-resistant influenza strains. Furthermore, the wide target blockage of the tea reduces the likelihood of the development of viral resistance. (12).

Anthelmintic activity

In order to determine hatchability and stop larval migration, this study employed hydroalcoholic extract from guava tree stem bark to test the antihelminthic capability of the material. High performance liquid chromatography, phytochemical analysis, and mass spectrometry were used to measure the amounts of tannin, flavonoids, and total polyphenols. PgHA decreased both larval migration and hatchability, although only the suppression of hatchability exhibited a dose-dependent pattern. The antioxidant activity was determined by linear regression, and 534.02 μg/ml was the IC50 value. The antiparasitic impact was caused by pro-oxidative activity, which was triggered by an increase in the previously stated enzymes, intracellular hydrogen peroxide, total proteins, and lipid peroxidation products. PgHA consequently demonstrated antiparasitic activity in vitro (5). In vitro development of pathogens that cause wound infections may be inhibited by the strong antibacterial compounds found in *Psidium guajava L.* leaves. The current study assessed the ethyl acetate leaf extract of *Psidium guajava* L. 's antibacterial efficacy against human pathogenic microorganisms. Additionally, the test results indicate that *Psidium guajava L.* leaf extracts in methanol

and ethyl acetate, which have been evaluated for their anthelmintic activity against Ascardiagalli and Pheretimaposthuma, may corroborate the results of research endeavors employing herbs with traditional efficacy claims (13).

Cardioprotective Activity

In one study, the cardioprotective effects of an ethanol leaf extract of *Psidium guajava* Linn. (Guava) (*P. guajava* L) were evaluated in animal models treated with streptozotocin (STZ). The mice acquired for the study were divided into five groups, each consisting of six mice. The toxin-induced mice were given 300 mg/kg body weight (b.w.) of ethanolic *P. guajava* L. leaf extract. The results were compared to mice with the standard drug, glibenclamide (3 mg/kg b.w.). Troponin, lysosomal, mitochondrial, and CK-MB, together with creatine kinase, were considered for further investigation. Afterward, the docking examination was finished. The levels of lysosomal and cardiac marker enzymes increased significantly in the toxin-induced mice, while the levels of mitochondrial enzymes significantly decreased (14).

Antispasmodic

Researchers have looked into how *Psidium guajava* L. affects hyperactive gastrointestinal problems, particularly spasm and diarrhea. Its leaf extract is said to have antidiarrheal (16) and spasmolytic (15) qualities. Additionally, the plant extract showed antimalarial properties. In both investigations, the precise mechanism of action underlying its antidiarrheal and/or antispasmodic effect is yet unknown. Investigating the fundamental mechanism behind the use of *P. guajava* L. as a medication for intestinal spasms and diarrhea was the aim of this investigation.

Gastroprotective

P. guajava L. was shown to be equally effective as omeprazole at two different and it was found to greatly inhibit the stomach sores caused by chemicals. Acid secretion, elevated stomach pH, and decreased gastric secretory volume were seen in treated rats. Extracts from *P. guajava* L. may have anti-ulcer properties because of volatile oil, flavonoids, and saponins. According to the results, *P. guajava L.* may have anti-secretory properties that help with its ulcer-healing and gastroprotective properties (17).

Antidiarrheal activity

According to the review paper on the antidiarrheal activity, acute diarrheal disorders are a leading cause of pediatric death and morbidity globally, despite the fact that *Psidium guajava L.* has been utilized for its antidiarrheal qualities all over the world. We carried out a thorough study of scholarly publications up until 2021 in order to confirm the antidiarrheal, antibacterial, and antispasmodic qualities of galenic preparations or phytopharmaceuticals from *P. guajava L.* Clinical trials involving patients with acute infectious diarrhea and in vivo pre-clinical testing were included in these papers (18).

Neuroprotective activity

Consequently, the purpose of this work was to examine the effectiveness of aqueous *Psidium guajava L.* leaf extract (APGE) against neurotoxicity generated by AlCl3. Following the Novel Object Recognition test, the rats were killed so that the hippocampal tissue could be harvested and examined histologically, for acetylcholinesterase, lipid peroxidation, and antioxidant enzyme activity. These results demonstrated that APGE shielded against hippocampus toxicity caused by AlCl3, so offering new study on its anti-Al therapeutic action (19).

Analgesic activity

The purpose of this work was to examine the antibacterial, analgesic, and antioxidant properties of the n-hexane, chloroform, and ethyl acetate fractions that were obtained from the *Psidium guajava L.* leaf methanol extract. Using the ascorbic acid standard, DPPH was utilized to measure the in-vitro antioxidant activity of fractions HPG, CLPG, and ET APG. Using an acetic acid-induced writhing paradigm of pain, the analgesic efficacy of different fractions was assessed by calculating their IC50 values in mice. The mice's pain was significantly reduced, according to the data. The different fractions of *Psidium guajava L.* each include Antioxidant, analgesic, and antibacterial qualities can

be used as therapeutic alternatives to treat infection and discomfort; they can also protect against oxidative stress-induced tissue damage (20).

Antiparasitic activity

According to the results of one investigation, *P. brownianum* was quite effective against *T. cruzi*, but it had a harmful effect on fibroblasts. *P. guajava* L, on the other hand, showed no appreciable antiparasitic activity but mild cytotoxicity in mammalian cells. *P. brownianum* demonstrated potential as an antiparasitic source for *T. cruzi*, and this work will assist direct future research (21). The results showed that the two Psidium species had chemical components that were derivatives of gallic acid, myricetin, and quercetin. At a dosage of 1000 μg/mL, all materials were effective against the parasites, but the extract was particularly efficient against the promastigote form of *L. infantum*. At all evaluated concentration, the *P. brownianum* extract and fractions showed minimal toxicity. The ethanolic extract, flavonoid, and tannic fractions of *P. guajava* L. showed little toxicity to the fibroblasts. All samples showed efficacy at the highest tested concentration, and the extract was more effective against the promastigote types analyzed. According to the results, *Psidium guajava L.* and *Psidium brownianum* shown anti-parasitic efficacy against the parasite cell lines of *L. infantum*, *L. brasiliensis*, and *T. cruzi*. New biological research may be able to expand this knowledge through in vivo experiments, given the efficacy of these species in the conducted in vitro assays (22).

Immunomodulatory activity

Fractions of guava seed polysaccharides that were extracted from the fruit. The three polysaccharide fractions were separated using high performance size exclusion chromatography, and their molecular weights were determined. These fractions were suggested to be either proteopolysaccharides or glycoproteins. Fractions were demonstrated to have Th2-inclination and anti-inflammatory qualities. Deprotonated GSF3 exhibited a marked decrease in immunomodulatory activity, suggesting that both the protein and carbohydrate moiety of GSF3 are essential for the protein's capacity to regulate immunological responses (23).

Antifungal Activity

The medicinal properties of *Psidium guajava* L., a plant belonging to the Myrtaceae family, have been recognized in several locations. By preparing teas and tinctures from its leaves, it has been used to cure diseases caused by fungi of the genus Candida. In order to confirm the antifungal activity, this study examined the chemical makeup of aqueous and hydroethanolic leaf extracts. The minimum fungicidal concentration (MFC) was achieved by subculturing on solid media following the determination of the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the microbiological tests by broth microdilution. A cell viability curve was obtained to demonstrate how strains of Candida tropicalis and Candida albicans restrict fungal growth. Phenolic acids and flavonoids were detected in the extracts by high performance liquid chromatography analysis. The extracts showed fungistatic effects but no fungicide activity, with a MIC >8192 μg/mL and an MFC > 8192 μg/ml (24).

Wound Healing activity

The current study aimed to evaluate *Psidium guajava* L.'s potential for in vivo wound healing using a wound excision model because the herb has long been used in ethnomedicine as a wound healer. *P. guajava* L. leaves were extracted using a 1:1 methanol-chloroform ratio. The phytochemical analysis of *P. guajava* L. leaf extract (PGLE) was conducted using assays for total flavonoid concentration, total phenolic content, and high-performance liquid chromatography. In vitro tests were performed to determine the antioxidant capability, hemolytic analysis of PGLE, and antibacterial activity (broth microdilution method). Utilizing the estimation of endogenous antioxidant indicators and hydroxyproline, the in vivo wound healing competence of PGLE (10, 5, and 2.5% w/w) was evaluated (25).

Antimicrobial activity

The *Psidium guajava* L. leaves used in this investigation were collected in the Nanded district of Maharashtra, India. Mycobacterium TB, Mycobacterium spegmatis, and Mycobacterium pheli non-pathogenic strains obtained from the Institute of Microbial Technology in Chandigarh (PB), India, were used in the study. Jensen Lowenstein Each strain was maintained and subcultured using media. The plant material was crushed in a mortar and pestle and then

extracted using methanol. After adding 1 mM AgNO3 and 1 mM CuCl2 to the plant extract, the mixture was incubated to create plant-based copper and silver nanoparticles. It was confirmed by UV-visible spectroscopy. The antimycobacterial activity was then assessed using the disc diffusion method (26).

Antiulcer activity

Stomach ulcers are among the disorders that can have the most detrimental effects on an individual's health. Investigating the possible gastroprotective properties of *Psidium guajava L.* seed extract (PGE) is the main objective of our investigation. By using LC-HRMS-based metabolic profiling to dereplicate the extract, 23 compounds were found (1–23). In an in vivo model of indomethacin-induced stomach ulcers, we employed male albino rats and evaluated the effects of 300 mg/kg of PGE extract versus 100 mg/kg of cimetidine. A histological examination of the stomach tissue and a review of the lesions on the gastric mucosa were also carried out. *Psidium guajava L.* seeds have been demonstrated to protect the mucosa against ulcers and significantly reduce the ulcer index (27).

Anticoagulant activity

For the first time, one study sought to isolate and assess the fibrinogenolytic protease and anticoagulant from *Psidium guajava* L. seed extract. Sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis was used to separate the *Psidium guajava* L. seed extract into two bands. The bands were found in the lower molecular weight zone surrounding the high molecular weight region, which was between 122 and 47 kDa. *Psidium guajava* L. seed extract was reported to have a protein content of 1 mg/ml and a protease specific activity of 0.8 U. The proteolytic action was shown in studies using gelatin and casein as zymography substrates. At dosages of 20 μg and 120 μg, respectively, *Psidium guajava* L. seed extract degraded the fibrin alpha-polymer and alpha-chain subunits as well as all of the fibrinogen subunits (28).

Antihypertensive activity

This study examined the antihypertensive and antioxidant qualities of fruit and leaf extracts from giant white, tiny white, striped, and pink guavas (*Psidium guajava* L.) in vitro. Therefore, the fruit and leaves of the guava cultivars were extracted using methanol and water. The extracts were then tested in vitro for their ability to inhibit the angiotensin I converting enzyme (ACE), their total phenol and flavonoid contents, their reducing properties, their ability to scavenge radicals, and their ability to inhibit lipid peroxidation reactions induced by Fe^{2+} and sodium nitroprusside (SNP). Additionally, gas chromatography (GC) was used to analyze the extracts' phenolic components. Each extract considerably ($P<0.05$) reduced ACE activity, according to the results (29).

Antilipidemic activity

The aim of the current study is to investigate the possible ameliorative effects of oral administration of aqueous guava leaf extract at different doses to rats fed a diet rich in fat and cholesterol for eight weeks. The four AGLE doses result in significant decreases in food intake, final body weight, body weight gain, serum TAG, VLDL-C, risk ratio, liver TAG, and malondialdehyde level. Furthermore, leptin hormone and HDL-C are significantly increased by the aqueous guava leaf extract dosages, whereas serum AST, LDL-C, and relative liver weight are significantly decreased. Serum TC levels significantly decrease as a result of the aqueous guava leaf extract dosages. Serum drops noticeably at the highest dosage (30).

Antiasthmatic activity

The current study's objective was to assess the anti-anaphylactic and anti-asthmatic effects of *Psidium guajava* L. (Myrtaceae) aqueous extract in lab animals. Albino Wistar rats were given horse serum subcutaneously, which caused anaphylaxis. At the end of the treatment, we assessed the modulatory effect on the experimentally generated airway inflammation in rats. *Psidium guajava* L.'s effects on oxidative stress, TNF-α, and lung histology. The anti-asthmatic effects of *Psidium guajava* L. extracts were also examined using milk-induced eosinophilia and a leukocyte count paradigm. *Psidium guajava* L. extract treatment resulted in a considerable drop in leukocyte and eosinophil counts. These findings suggest that *psidium guajava* L. may be successfully used to treat anaphylaxis and asthma (31).

Antidepressant activity

Following acute and subchronic administrations of the three plant extracts—*Psidium guajava* L., *Psidium cattleianum* Sw., and *Psidium guineense* Sabine—the mice subjected to the tail suspension test exhibited an antidepressant-like effect, while the open field test revealed no alterations in locomotor performance. Furthermore, the extract decreased oxidative stress markers, mainly lipid peroxidation and nitrites in the liver, plasma, prefrontal brain, and hippocampus areas. Notably, GUA and CAT increased non-protein thiols in every tissue. Consequently, mice exhibited an antidepressant-like response to Psidium extracts, and the behavioral effect seems to be due to the extracts' antioxidant activity (32).

Antianxiety activity

The anxiolytic potential and effects on neurotransmitter systems of *Psidium guajava* L. leaf ethanolic extract (PLE) were investigated. PLE was subjected to initial qualitative and quantitative testing (flavonoids and phenols) after extraction using the Soxhlet apparatus. In order to test for anxiolytic effects using the elevated plus maze (EPM) and light/dark transition (LDT) test models, mice were administered doses of 100, 200, and 400 mg/kg on days 1 and 16. Glutamate, GABA, and monoamine levels in the brain were significantly affected by PLE treatment, which also significantly boosted the mice's exploratory activity in both the EPM and LDT models. A potential mechanism for the anxiolytic impact of PLE may entail interaction(s) with GABAA/5-HT1A receptors, according to the insilico research (33).

Anti-obesity activity

Traditional medicine makes extensive use of guava leaves (*Psidium guajava* L.) for both illness prevention and treatment. An aqueous extract of leaves from three cultivars of *P. guajava* L. (Pedro Sato, Paluma, and Século XXI) was used to determine the amount of phenolic compounds using high performance liquid chromatography. The study also evaluated the inhibitory potential of the extract on the enzymes α-amylase, α-glycosidase, lipase, and trypsin, both with and without simulated gastric fluid. All of the cultivars displayed composition, despite the fact that the levels of phenolic chemicals varied. According to these results, aqueous extracts from *P. guajava* L. leaves from all evaluated cultivars may be utilized as an adjuvant in the treatment of obesity and other dyslipidemias (34).

Antirheumatic activity

Guava leaves (*Psidium guajava* L.) have long been used to cure common ailments like diabetes, diarrhea, and high blood pressure. In this study, rats fed a high-fat diet and given the full Freud adjuvant to induce arthritis were used to test the anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritic, and antioxidant qualities of guava leaf (*Psidium guajava* L.) ethanolic extract. Seventy-two male and female albino rats were used in this study. To induce rheumatoid arthritis, the rats were split into groups of six, given a high-fat diet to induce hyperlipidemia, then injected with 0.1 ml of Complete Freund's Adjuvant into their right hind paw. A spectrophotometer was used to evaluate the lipid profile, and the ELISA technique was employed to analyze SOD, MDA, and other antioxidants. The inflammatory markers TNF-α, IL-6, and C-reactive protein were significantly reduced in test individuals, and MDA was significantly reduced at $p<0.05$, while there was no statistically significant difference in HDL or SOD. The results of this study demonstrate the significant lipid-lowering and anti-arthritic effects of *Psidium guajava* L. extract. Making *Psidium guajava* L. leaves is one possible substitute therapy for arthritis and lowering cholesterol (35). Some of activities shown by *Psidium guajava L.* (Table 1)

DISCUSSION

Guava, or *Psidium guajava* L., is a well-known medicinal plant with a remarkably wide range of pharmacological actions that are backed by both conventional applications and contemporary scientific studies. Its varied phytochemical profile, which contains flavonoids (quercetin, kaempferol, and catechin), tannins, phenolic acids, terpenoids, carotenoids (lycopene, β-carotene), and a remarkably high vitamin C content, is mostly responsible for the bioactivities. These substances use a variety of molecular mechanisms to produce therapeutic effects both singly

and in combination. Disruption of microbial cell walls, inhibition of enzyme systems, and interference with nucleic acid production are the main mechanisms by which guava leaves exhibit their antibacterial activity, which has been demonstrated against a variety of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, fungi, and mycobacteria. This validates its traditional ethnomedical usage to treat skin infections, diarrhea, and dysentery. As a broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent, the plant's antifungal and antiparasitic properties further increase its usefulness in the fight against helminths and pathogenic fungi. Many of the plant's pharmacological activities, such as its anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, cardioprotective, hepatoprotective, and anticancer effects, are supported by antioxidant capabilities that are obtained from polyphenols and vitamin C. In addition to preventing oxidative damage to proteins, lipids, and DNA, free radical scavenging also modifies signaling pathways that control cell proliferation, inflammation, and apoptosis. The reduction of pro-inflammatory cytokines (such as TNF-α and IL-6) and the suppression of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) production, which also has analgesic, antirheumatic, and gastroprotective properties, mediate the anti-inflammatory effects. Guava's metabolic advantages, including its antidiabetic, antihyperlipidemic, antiobesity, and antihypertensive qualities, are highlighted in a number of research. *P. guajava* L. is positioned as a viable functional food for treating metabolic syndrome because it inhibits the enzymes that break down carbohydrates (α-glucosidase, α-amylase), improves insulin sensitivity, and modifies the renin-angiotensin system. It also inhibits fat absorption. Its cardioprotective action in lowering cholesterol, enhancing heart health, and averting atherosclerotic alterations complements these benefits. *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies have shown that guava leaf and fruit extracts have anticancer properties that include apoptosis induction, cell proliferation suppression, and oxidative and inflammatory pathway regulation in a variety of cancer models. Despite these encouraging results, the majority of the research is still preclinical, and carefully planned clinical trials are required to confirm the product's safety and effectiveness in people. Additional documented properties, including antiviral, immunomodulatory, antispasmodic, wound-healing, and antiulcer properties, highlight *P. guajava* L 's adaptability as a source of medicinal compounds. Notably, wound healing activity supports topical usage in dermatological preparations, and immunomodulatory qualities indicate potential in adjunct therapy for immune-related illnesses and infectious diseases.The lack of standardized formulations, the heterogeneity in phytochemical composition caused by cultivation and processing factors, and the absence of dose-response data from human research hinder the translation of this broad pharmacological profile into clinical applications. Future studies ought to concentrate on: identifying the active ingredients and standardizing extracts, Molecular targets are used in mechanistic investigations, thorough clinical testing to verify safety and effectiveness and creation of innovative delivery methods to improve bioavailability. In summary, *Psidium guajava* L. is a pharmacologically strong and nutritionally rich plant that may help treat a variety of inflammatory, metabolic, degenerative, and viral illnesses. Its development as a standardized phytopharmaceutical and functional food additive may be facilitated by combining traditional knowledge with contemporary pharmacological confirmation as shown in Figure 1.

CONCLUSION

Guavas are rich in antioxidants, such as vitamin C, quercetin, and lycopene. Through the inhibition of free radical damage and oxidative stress, these antioxidants reduce the risk of chronic disease development. Antioxidants found in guavas, particularly lycopene and quercetin, protect cells from oxidative damage and prevent the growth of cancer cells, which has been linked to a decreased chance of acquiring many cancers. It can be made into candies, jams, and jellies, or eaten raw or juiced. Traditional medicine also uses the leaves and bark because of their antimicrobial properties. Guavas are a great source of dietary fiber, folic acid, vitamins C and A, and minerals. It also contains two antioxidants, lycopene and polyphenols. Because guavas have a high antioxidant content, eating them frequently can improve overall health, strengthen immunity, and help with digestion. The current review paper focuses on the pharmacological actions and health advantages of *Psidium guajava* L..

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Table 1: Some of activities shown by *Psidium guajava*:

Sr No	Activity	Part Used for Extraction	Mechanism	Reference
1	Antimicrobial	Leaves	Disruption of bacterial cell walls and inhibition of enzyme activities	Chinatu *et al*., 2023; Chakraborty *et al*., 2018
2	Antioxidant	Leaves, Fruits	Scavenging of free radicals due to high vitamin C and polyphenolic compounds	Wang, *et al*, 2020; Kumar, *et al*., 2019; Nweke, *et al*., 2021, Khaleil *et al*., 2020
3	Anti-inflammatory	Leaves	Inhibition of pro-inflammatory cytokines and COX-2 enzyme	Oktavia, 2021;
4	Anticancer	Leaves, Fruits	Induction of apoptosis and inhibition of cancer cell proliferation	Nguta, *et al*., 2021; Nguyen *et al*., 2021;
5	Antidiabetic	Leaves	Enhancement of insulin sensitivity and inhibition of carbohydrate-metabolizing enzymes	Manikandan, *et al*., 2021; Mukhtar, *et al*., 2006: Rahman *et al*., 2023
6	Hepatoprotective	Leaves	Restoration of liver enzyme levels and reduction of lipid peroxidation	Roy and Das, 2010; D'mello *et al*., 200
7	Antiviral	Leaves, Fruits	Inhibition of viral replication and modulation of immune response	Sornpet *et al*., 2017; Khalil *et al*., 2019
8	Anthelmintic	Leaves, Roots	Paralysis and death of helminths through neurotoxicity and metabolic disruption	Piña-Vázquez *et al*., 2017
9	Antipyretic	Leaves, Fruits	Reduction of fever through modulation of hypothalamic temperature regulation	Victor, *et al*., 2005
10	Cardioprotective	Leaves, Fruits	Reduction of cholesterol levels and improvement of heart function	Soman, *et al*., 2016; Sherif *et al*., 2023
11	Antispasmodic	Leaves	Relaxation of smooth muscle and inhibition of spasms	Lozoya *et al*., 2002; Rasheed *et al*., 2016
12	Gastroprotective	Leaves	Reduction of gastric lesions and improvement of mucosal defense	Ibeh *et al*., 2021; Garrido *et al*., 2024
13	Antidiarrheal	Leaves	Inhibition of intestinal motility and modulation of fluid secretion	Ojewole *et al*., 2006; Koriem *et al*., 2019
14	Neuroprotective	Leaves, Fruits	Prevention of neuronal damage through antioxidant and anti-inflammatory pathways	Fadlalla, 2018
15	Analgesic	Leaves	Modulation of pain perception through inhibition of pain mediators	Prajapati *et al*., 2020
16	Antiparasitic	Leaves	Inhibition of parasite growth and replication	Han *et al*., 2011
17	Immunomodulatory	Leaves, Fruits	Modulation of immune response and enhancement of immune function	Nhu *et al*., 2020
18	Antifungal	Leaves	Disruption of fungal cell membranes and inhibition of spore germination	Das *et al*., 2010
19	Wound Healing	Leaves	Enhancement of wound contraction and promotion of tissue regeneration	Carolino *et al*., 2022
20	Antimycobacterial	Leaves	Inhibition of mycobacterial growth and modulation of immune response	Carolino *et al*., 2022

21	Antiulcer	Leaves, Fruits	Reduction of gastric acid secretion and enhancement of mucosal defense	Uduak *et al*., 2012
22	Anticoagulant	Leaves	Inhibition of platelet aggregation and modulation of blood coagulation pathways	Gubbiveeranna *et al*., 2021
23	Antihypertensive	Leaves, Fruits	Reduction of blood pressure through vasodilation and modulation of renin-angiotensin system	Braga *et al*., 2022
24	Antilipidemic	Leaves, Fruits	Reduction of lipid levels through inhibition of lipid absorption and synthesis	El-Wahab *et al*., 2016
25	Antiasthmatic	Leaves	Relaxation of bronchial muscles and reduction of airway inflammation	Patil *et al*., 2024
26	Antidepressant	Leaves	Modulation of neurotransmitter levels and enhancement of mood	Cavichioli *et al*., 2022
27	Antianxiety	Leaves	Reduction of anxiety through modulation of GABAergic and serotonergic pathways	Sahoo *et al*., 2021
28	Antiobesity	Leaves, Fruits	Reduction of body weight and fat accumulation through modulation of lipid metabolism	Choi *et al*., 2021
29	Antidyslipidemic	Leaves, Fruits	Improvement of lipid profile through inhibition of cholesterol synthesis	Erukainure *et al*., 2014
30	Antirheumatic	Leaves	Reduction of joint inflammation and pain	Chinatu *et al*., 2023



Fig. No. 1: Graphical Abstract: *Psidium guajava* L. Diverse Therapeutic Activities



Fig. No. 2: Bioactive Compounds in Guava

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Identification of Aquatic Macrophytes in Odakulam Pond at Boothipuram, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni Dt.

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ABSTRACT

The current study aims to categorize the aquatic macrophytes of Odakulam Pond, located in Boothipuram, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Theni District, Tamil Nadu state.This experimental study on the documentation of macrophytes was conducted from March 2024 to February 2025.The aquatic macrophytes were collected from the study area and were identified. They were categorized as three life forms: submerged, floating and emergent. The genera were recorded periodically. Macrophytes comprise a taxonomically diverse group of macrophyte plants, including representatives of vascular aquatic plants, Bryophytes,as well as green macroalgae and charophytes. The accumulation of macrophyte vegetation consists of emergent species whose vegetative parts emerge above the water surface, submerged and floating species. Each ecological group has specific features in morphology and physiological processes. Macrophytes are an important component of the aquatic food web and perform host ecological functions in the water ecosystem.

Keywords: Aquatic macrophytes, Wetland, Odakulam pond.

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity means the resources of life forms found on earth in the form of millions of different plants, animals, and microorganisms. They are further differentiated with the vast potential of future creation of biodiversity from the ocean of genomic diversity at the effectively functional level with living biomass, the genes they contain and the intricate system they form. An ecosystem consists of biotic and abiotic components. Therefore, there is a regular and uninterrupted interaction between biotic and abiotic components in a freshwater habitat. Many types of macrophytes grow in water bodies, such as *Hydrilla, Ceratophyllum, Eichhornia,* etc., They maintain water quality. The majority of the ponds in India are shallow and perennial freshwater bodies.Algae in deep waters dominate the aquatic biota, and macrophytes dominate in the shallow waters. Macrophytes are the major contributors to pond productivity. The aquatic macro vegetation plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance. (Bhagyaleena and Gopalan, 2012). Macro vegetation in India is primarily herbs and shrubs. Many species occur in the edge, some appear during the rains, while some resistant species flourish even in the dry season. Most conspicuous and universally occurring species are *Eichhornia crassipes, Pistiastations, Lemna species, Azolasps, Salvinia sps, Typha sps, Panciumsps, Ipomoea sps*. These plants use light energy, water and Carbon dioxide to synthesise carbohydrates and release oxygen into the aquatic environment during Photosynthesis, which is used by the biota of the same aquatic ecosystem. Aquatic macrophytes generally monitor and assess the quality of water. The aquatic macrophytes are of significant ecological and economic importance. They contribute significantly to the productivity of waterbodies, activate mineral elements from the bottom sediments and provide accommodation to aquatic invertebrates and fish. The sampling of aquatic macrophytes is a tedious work that depends on the type of habitat, type of vegetation, variation and distribution of vegetation. Studies related to aquatic and wetland flora were globally carried out earlier by Sen and Chatarjee 1959), Vyas 1964), Mishra 1974), Boyleh and Sheldon (1976). Aquatic macrophytes are a term given to a vast group of aquatic vascular plants. In certain cases, however, the term has been used to include even the microscopic algae and the members of the group Bryophyta. The aquatic macrophytes occur mainly in the hollow regions of waterbodies. Macrophytes colonize many different types of aquatic ecosystems. The macrophytes play a vital role in a strong aquatic ecosystem and serve as the principal producers of oxygen through photosynthesis. These plants supply a broad variety of habitats for aquatic creatures. The macrophytes establish a diverse assemblage of taxonomic groups and are classified into four categories based on their habit of growth, namely free floating, attached floating, submerged and emergent(Kumar, 2015). The extra amount of nutrients produced by macrophytes pollutes the water after their death (Tewari and Mittal, 2020). In India, the freshwater habitats andthe aquatic plants were reported by Cook(1996).Baseline data on biodiversity is essential for the conservation and management approaches of wetland and aquatic habitats(Ravi *et al.*,2020). Macrophytes play an important role in the formation of nutrients from the sediments, which are also temporarily lost from the water. These nutrients are released only after the death and decay of macrophytes, leading to subsequent mineralisation. Thus, the role of macrophytes in nutrient dynamics and primary output of shallow aquatic ecosystems is established.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study spot

Odakulam pond is located at Boothipuram village, Bodinayakanur taluk, Theni District. This was preferred to study and document the diversity of aquatic macrophytes. Odakulam pond is located at Boothipuram village. The whole surface of the water is enclosed by a dense mat of various macrophytes. Different species of macrophytes were collected monthly throughout the year, walking along the edge of the pond.All collected plants were kept in plastic bags and transported to the laboratory. Identification was followed according to Sculthore(1971),Holm *et al.*(1997), and Fassett(2006) percentage frequency of macrophytic species was considered by the quadrat method. The size of the quadrat was 1×1 m^2.Quadrat was thrown randomly on the water surface of the water body, and the percentage frequency of macrophytic species was determined using the following formula.

%F=Total number of quadrats in which macrophytic species occur/ Total number of quadrats studied × 100.

%F=Percentage frequency of macrophytic species.

Data collection

A qualitative survey was carried out during the period of March 2024 to February 2025.The aquatic macrophytes were collected from the study area; some of them were directly pulled by hand, few were picked out with the help of aids and were placed into large polythene bags. They were brought to the laboratory, sorted out according to species, and identified with the help of regional floras, standard taxonomic manuals and manuals of aquatic plants. These examples were vouchered number-wise. Taxonomic description and identification characters were noted.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

All macrophytic species of Odakulam pond were identified with their % frequency during the study period. In the present study, nine macrophytic species, *Eichhornia crassipes*(70%F). *Ipomea cornea* (60%F), *Lemna minor* (60%F), *Nymphaea nouchali* (50%F), *Pistiastaiotes* (20%F), *Colocassis esculenta* (65%F), *Nymphoides ezannoi*(40%F) *Hydrilla verticillata*(40%F), *Marsilea minuta*(30%F) were reported in Odakulam Pond (Table 1,2 and Fig. 1). With our findings, an identification was made to explore the aquatic prosperity of Odakulam pond concerning aquatic macrophytes. The present study reveals the macrophytes belonging to different families. The emergent aquatic macrophytes were copiously found when compared to submerged forms of macrophytes. Macrophytes release oxygen, which adds to the dissolved oxygen in the water system. Aquatic macrophytes act as indicators of water quality and also decrease pollution. Some aquatic plants are used as a food source for humans. Examples include water caltrop(*Trapa natans*),Chinese water chesnut(*Eleocharis dulcis*), Indian lotus(*Nelumbo nucifera*) and water spinach(*Ipomia aquatica*).A few of the aquatic macrophytes collected from Odakulam pond are characterized as follows based on their habit.

Free-floating macrophytes

The plants that are seen floating on the water surface are included in this group. The plant roots have no direct connection with the soil substratum and can move freely from place to place. These groups of plants are not seen permanently in a place. Examples for this group are Salvinia, Eichhornia, Ipomoea and Pistia (Murugesan *et al*.,2005).

Submerged macrophytes

They are common in waterlogged areas. The plants get rooted in the ground for anchorage and nutrients. The stems of the plants get extended and float freely in water. They also grow towards the sunlight, which is available in abundance on the surface of the water. Hence, this group of plants form an impenetrable mat on the surface with the maximum number of leaves. Whereas towards the ground, the leaves will be highly reduced, providing enough space for water fauna to move. They also provide shelter and protection to the waterborne organisms. They play avital role in increasing the dissolved oxygen content. Specific examples for this group of macrophytes are *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Hydrilla verticillata* (Hilt *et al*.,2006).

Emergent macrophytes

Emergent aquatic macrophytes are generally called as plants that are rooted in shallow water with vegetative parts evolving above the water surface. It is considered that Emergent macrophytes are the most prolific of all aquatic macrophytes. *Nymphaea nouchali* is a rooted macrophyte with floating leaves. The leaves come to the water surface by the formation of long petioles.

Marginal vegetation

A wide variety of plants in this group get established within a few weeks of lowering of water level in the pond. They germinate mostly on water edges and form food for the aquatic fauna. Significant species under this group include *Colocassia esculenta*. Many varieties of grasses(Poaceae) and sedges(Cyperaceae)get established as a thick mat in the natural habitat area within a short time. Except for the Emergent species, all other plants disappear shortly(2-3 weeks)after the rise of the water level.

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Table 1

Identified Species of Macrophytes in Odakulam Pond March 2024-February 2025.		
S.No	**Species Name**	**%Frequency**
1	*Eichhornia crassipes*	70%
2	*Ipomea cornea*	60%
3	*Lemna minor*	60%
4	*Nymphaea nouchali*	50%
5	*Pistia staiotes*	20%
6	*Colocassis esculenta*	65%
7	*Nymphoides ezannoi*	40%
8	*Hydrilla verticillata*	40%
9	*Marsilea minuta*	30%

Table 2

Identified Species of Macrophytes in Odakulam Pond, March 2024-February 2025.					
S.No	**Order**	**Family**	**Scientific Name**	**Common Name**	**Cateogry**
1	Commeliales	Pontederiaceae	*Eichhornia crassipes*	Water hyacinth	Free Floating
2	Alismatales	Lemnaceae	*Lemna minor*	Duck weed	
3	Alismatales	*Araceae*	*Pistiastaiotes*	Water lettuce	
4	Solanales	Convolvulaceae	*Ipomea cornea*	Pink morning glory	Rooted emergent
5	*Asterals*	*Menyanthaceae*	*Nymphoidesezannoi*	Floating heart	
6	*Nymphaeales*	Nymphaeaceae	*Nymphaea nouchali*	Water lilly	
7	Alismatales	*Araceae*	*Colocassis esculenta*	Water tarto	
8	*Salviniales*	*Marsileaceae*	*Marsilea minuta*	Water clover	Marginal vegetation
9	Alismatales	*Hydrocharitaceae*	*Hydrilla verticillata*	Hydrilla	Submerged

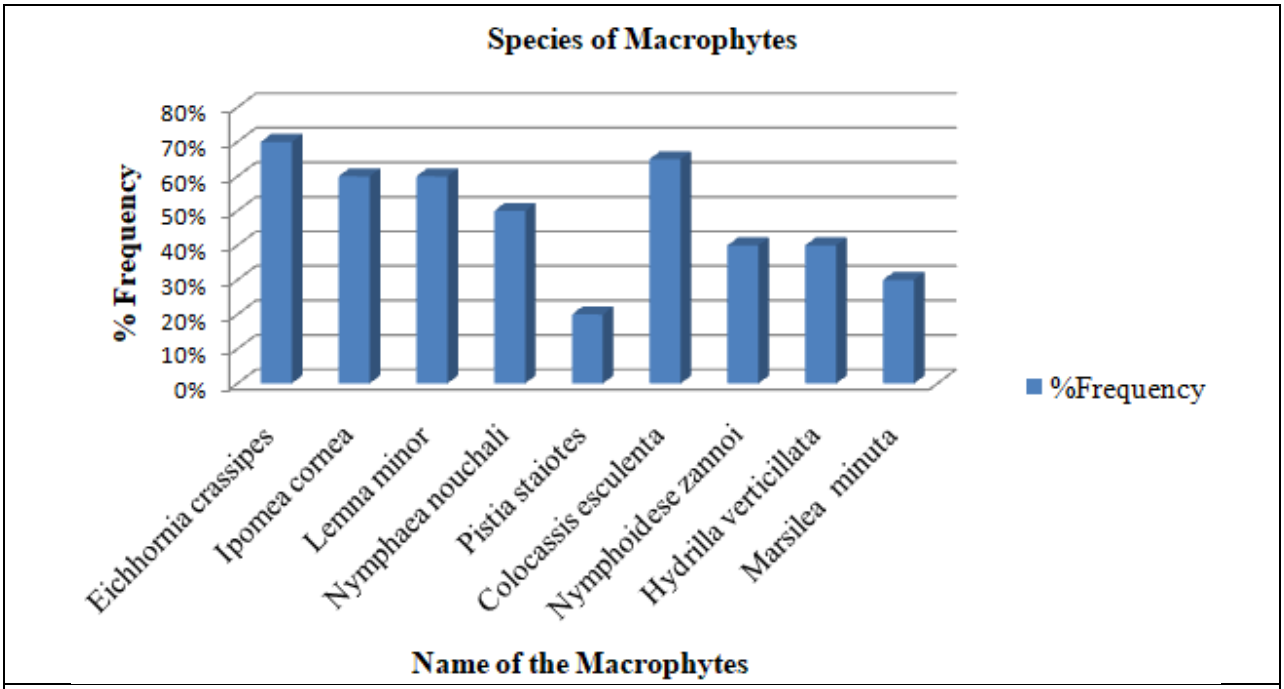

Species of Macrophytes
% Frequency
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Eichhornia crassipes
Ipomea cornea
Lemna minor
Nymphaea nouchali
Pistia staiotes
Colocassis esculenta
Nymphoidese zannoi
Hydrilla verticillata
Marsilea minuta
%Frequency
Name of the Macrophytes

Figure 1

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Formulation and Evaluation of Transdermal Patches by using *Hydrocotyle verticillata* Thunb, *Whorled pennywort*

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ABSTRACT

Determining the hydrocotyle extract from the tansdermal patch's penetration into the skin's microcirculation is the aim of the current investigation. The solvent extraction method was used to create the hydrocotyle verticillate thumb (Apiaceae family) transdermal drug delivery system (TDDS). Several batches were made using varying ratios of HPMC and PVP; gelatin and PVP; and HPMC. Ethanol is employed as a permeation enhancer and glycerol as a plasticizer. The physicochemical characteristics of the transdermal patches, such as their thickness, weight variation, physical appearance, tensile strength, folding durability, moisture content, and uniformity of drug content, were evaluated. formulation with a 2:1 ratio of HPMC to PVP, a 3:1 ratio of HPMC to Gelatin, and a 3:1 ratio of HPMC.

Keywords: Gelatin, Glycero, Polyvinyl Propanol, Ethanolic Extract, and Hydroxypropyl Methyl Cellulose

INTRODUCTION

The transdermal drug delivery system (TDDS) has sparked a surge in interest in drug administration through the skin for both systemic drug delivery and local therapeutic effects on damaged skin (topical delivery).The ability to avoid issues with gastric irritation, pH, and emptying rate effects, avoid hepatic first-pass metabolism, which increases the drug's bioavailability, and lower the risk of systemic side effects by minimizing plasma concentrations in comparison to oral therapy are just a few of the many important advantages that the skin offers as a site of drug

delivery. Prevent injection pain, offer a prolonged release of medication at the application site, enable quick therapy termination by removing the device or formulation, and lessen drug plasma level changes. Additionally, transdermal administration can prevent pulsed entrance into the systemic circulation, which frequently results in unfavorable side effects. Drug delivery systems that are applied topically have been around for a while[1],[2]. Fever, wounds, boils, abscesses, colds, coughs, hepatitis, influenza, purities, sore throats, headaches, and urinary tract issues are among the main ailments treated using the medicinal plant *hydrocotyle verticillate*. It isn't standardized as of yet, though. Therefore, standardizing *H. verticillate* as a key medication for human ailments is the goal of the study. South and North America as well as the West Indies are home to the flowering plant *Hydrocotyle verticillata*, sometimes referred to as shield pennywort, whorled pennywort, or whorled marsh pennywort. The herb possesses antimicrobial properties[3],[4. Maceration and Ultra sonication extraction process were conducted. Methanol used as a solvent.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

The current study's objective is to create and formulate herbal patches in order to evaluate their physiochemical function, with a focus on safety, effectiveness, and the removal of hazardous synthetic chemicals in favor of harmless ones.

1. Achieve a steady and reliable release of the medication.
2. Increase effectiveness and bioavailability.
3. Lower the frequency of dose.
4. Reduce toxicity and adverse consequences.
5. Increase adherence from patients.

METHODOLOGY

Materials

The *Hydrocotyle verticillata* thunb was acquired as a gift sample. The institute supplied polymers including HPMC, PVP, and gelatin, and the chemicals utilized in the study, including ethanol and glycerol, were of analytical quality.

Methods

Hydrocotyle verticillata transdermal patches were made using solvent evaporation technique. This method involved spreading a film of the polymer and drug solution on a suitable surface (such as glass, mercury, aluminum foil, etc.) and allowing the solvent to evaporate by retaining the petri dish containing the solution at room temperature for the necessary amount of time. The necessary patch with the drug trapped in the polymer matrix is the dry residue left over after the solvent has evaporated. The resulting patch was then assessed for a number of factors, including drug content, drug release profile, and physicochemical properties.

Preparation of different Polymeric Films

Different patches are prepared by employing hit and trial method on various combinations of different hydrophilic and hydrophobic polymers. From these various patches, the combination having desired properties to support a transdermal drug delivery system is selected for incorporation of drug. Different combinations of polymers are as followes[5][6]. (Table 1).

Evaluation of Transdermal Patches

Thickness

The Mitutoyo Digimatic Micrometer was used to measure the transdermal patch's thickness. The rectangular patch's (2x2 cm) thickness was measured three times, and the average thickness was computed. The same was done for the other fixes. There shouldn't be a lot of variation in the thickness of each patch[7].

Weight Variation
Weighing each patch separately allowed us to determine the average weight of three patches[8].

Tensile Strength and %Elongation
The maximum stress applied to a spot at which a film breaks is known as its tensile strength. Elongation is a measurement of a patch's ability to deform before failing. Using tensile strength testing equipment, the patches' tensile strength and percentage of elongation were assessed as stress increased. Three patches' tensile strength and percentage elongation were assessed[9].

Folding Endurance
Assessing folding endurance entails figuring out how well the patches fold. By folding the patch repeatedly in the same spot until it breaks, folding endurance is measured. Folding endurance value is the number of times the patch could be folded in the same spot without breaking[10].

Drug Content Uniformity
By thoroughly dissolving a 2x2 cm2 patch in 100 milliliters of phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.4), the amount of drug trapped in the patch was ascertained. Placing the patch containing the solution on a shaker for approximately twenty-four hours allowed for complete dissolution. Following an appropriate dilution, the solution was filtered, and the drug content was measured spectrophotometrically at 210 nm.

Physical Appearance
The physical appearance, homogeneity, entrapment of any air bubble, and drug precipitation of the developed patches were assessed. These factors significantly impact the patch's therapeutic efficacy and patient acceptability[8].

Moisture Content
After being individually weighed, the produced patches were stored for 24 hours at room temperature in a desiccator filled with calcium chloride. After a predetermined amount of time, the patches were weighed once more until their weight remained consistent. The following formula was used to determine the moisture content as a percentage.

$$\% \text{ Moisture content} = \frac{\text{Initial weight} - \text{Final weight}}{\text{Initial weight}} \times 100$$

Thickness (Graph 1)
Weight variation (Graph 2)
Tensile strength(N/mm^2) (Graph 3)
Folding endurance (Graph 40
Drug condent (Graph 5)
Moisture Content (Graph 6)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Utilizing a solvent evaporation approach, transdermal patches containing *hydrocotyle verticillate* were created utilizing several polymers to improve the drug's bioavailability and provide a regulated release. The quality and effectiveness of the transdermal drug delivery system are greatly impacted by the drug's crystallization in a matrix. Therefore, the development of effective transdermal delivery systems is especially interested in the cause and control of drug crystallization. Because it indicates the amount of water absorbed by the patch from both the environment and bodily tissues during the application period, moisture absorption plays a crucial role in medication diffusion to the skin. It's crucial that the patch maintains its mechanical integrity even after it absorbs wet. In this case, all of the batches exhibit adequate moisture absorption at 80% relative humidity. The thickness of the patches varied from 0.13 ± 0.0032 to 0.15 ± 0.0043 mm. The minimum standard deviation values assured that the process used for preparing the delivery system is capable of giving reproducible results. This fact is further confirmed by drug content and weight

uniformity studies. In order to evaluate the flexibility, the films were subjected to tensile strength, % elongation and folding endurance studies. The tensile strength and % elongation of the patches was found vary with the nature of the adhesive and also enhancers. It was found to vary between 20.88 ± 0.16 to 22.71 ± 1.07 respectively. The values of tensile strength and % elongation of the patches was very identical to the innovator product. This revealed that the prepared patches were having capability to withstand the mechanical pressure along with good flexibility. Drug content in all formulation was observed within the range of 93.08 ± 1.47 to 98.97 ± 0.51, which was found to be satisfactory.(Table 2), (Graph 7).

CONCLUSION

From the present work it can be concluded that *Hydrocotyle verticillate* drug can be administered via matrix type transdermal drug delivery system, which provides controlled release which ultimately reduces the frequency of administration of drug in patients suffering from wounds and microbial disease etc. Hence this non-invasive, compatible patch with ease of application.

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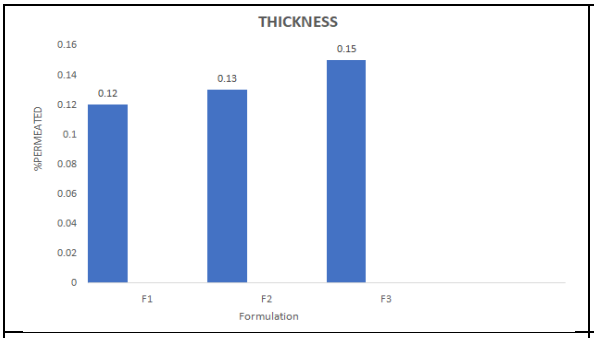
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Table 1: Preparation of different Polymeric Films

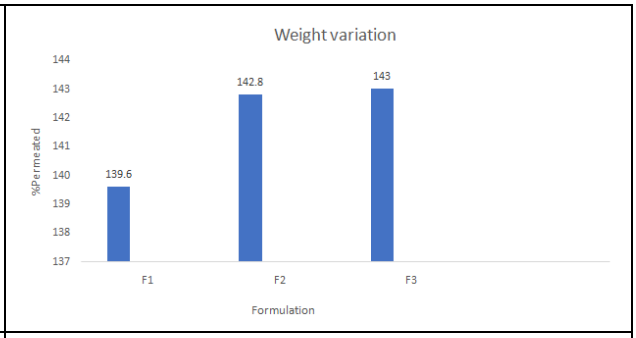
Polymers	Ratio	Drug concentration
HPMC and PVP	2:1	0.5%
HPMC and Gelatin	3:1	1%
HPMC	-	2%

Table 2:

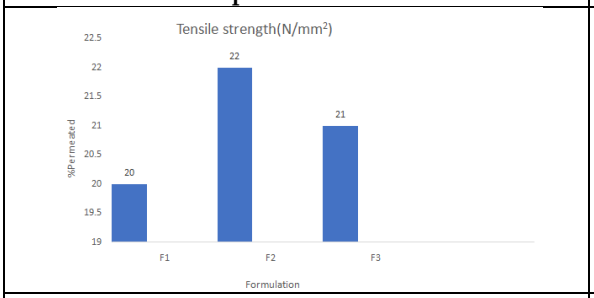
Formulation	Thickness(mm)	Tensile strength(N/mm²)	Folding Endurance	Weight variation	Drug content	Moisture Content %
F1	0.12	20	85	1.69	0.37	2.5
F2	0.13	22	71	1.85	0.43	2.8
F3	0.14	21	79	1.88	0.52	3.2



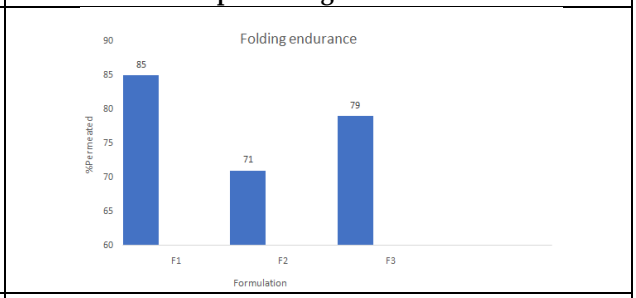
Graph 1: Thickness



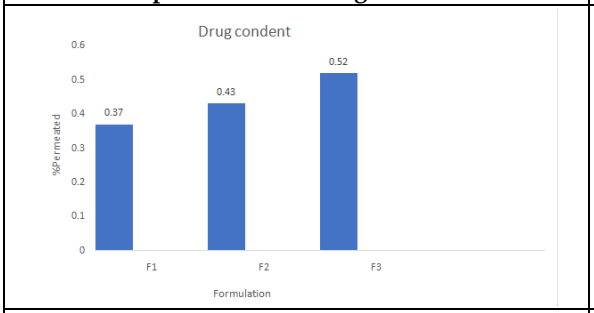
Graph 2: Weight variation



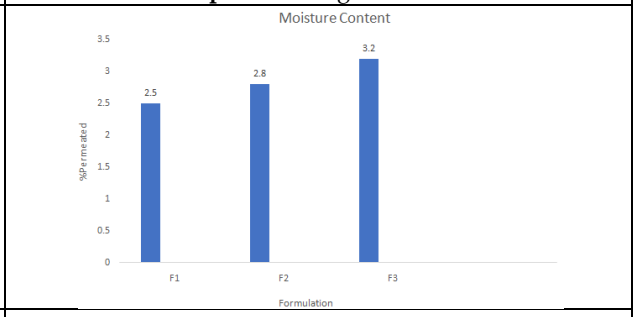
Graph 3: Tensile strength(N/mm²)



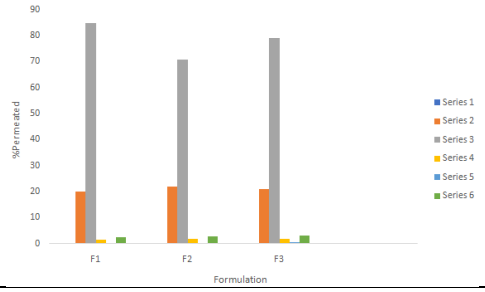
Graph 4: Folding endurance



Graph 5: Drug condent



Graph 6: Moisture Content



Graph 7:

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Music Recommendation System based on Facial Emotions and Speech Lyrics using Machine Learning

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ABSTRACT

Music has an amazing ability to break all the barriers and connect people worldwide. The music experience varies hugely based on a person's mood; a song can either play in your mind all day or sometimes fail to hit the spot. Happy moments need joyful tunes, while sadness often leads one towards more emotional ones. This paper represents an approach for an interactive music system, designed to enhance the music listening experience through facial emotion recognition and lyrics-based song identification. Users can capture their facial emotions through the camera. That image is given as input to the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model, which detects the emotion and uses predefined mapping for that particular emotion to recommend a random list of songs from the database. The user can also input any song lyrics through speech, and the system retrieves the most matched song from the database. It can be beneficial in cases where the user knows some song lyrics but doesn't know the actual song name. This application aims to make the music listening experience more interactive and user-friendly.

Keywords: Interactive Music Application, Music, Facial Emotion Recognition, Lyrics-based Song Identification, CNN, Music

INTRODUCTION

"Music" is not just a simple word, it is an emotion. Hans Christian Andersen rightly said, 'Where words fail, music speaks'[1], highlighting its universal appeal. Stephen Davis was the first to claim that music is expressive of emotions by displaying emotional characteristics[2]. It is surely one of the most important aspects of our life. Music can change people's perspective about life, and their mental states. Music allows them to identify their inner peace and can help them find their purpose. Mood and emotion differ because emotions are intense, short-lived responses triggered by specific events, while moods are more diffuse, lasting longer, and not necessarily tied to a distinct cause[3].A mood takes place for a longer period and has no clear or identifiable beginning of formation. As Paul Ekman says, there are six basic human emotions: happiness, sadness, disgust, fear, surprise, and anger[4]. We can't deny the importance of music and its role in our emotional states. From personal experience, you may have found that it is not always true that music changes our mood, sometimes a song that makes us happy and forces us to dance on it will fail to entertain us when we are in a not-so-happy mood. So, not all songs can work for any mood, sometimes it is a mood that decides what it wants you to listen to. Recognizing the profound relationship between emotions and music, we decided to build a system that addresses this issue by suggesting songs based on your current mood. It is simple, you have to take a picture of yourself and the CNN model will try to detect your current mood from that particular image, it will state the detected emotion and redirect you to a random list of songs for that specific emotion, from the custom database. Besides that, we have added another cool functionality where you can speak a few lyrics of any song, giving you the most matched song from the database. You can also see the currently most listened and most liked song on the system. This is an attempt to create an "Interactive Music Application" that is different from any ordinary Music Recommendation System and gives some unique features to make listening more fun from the user's point of view.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Literature Survey

This paper by Vani and Diya (2022) discusses a system that uses facial expressions and voice data to identify the user's emotions[5]. A fusion algorithm that combines voice and facial expression recognition systems is utilized. Emotion recognition is carried out using the Principal Component Analysis (PCA)[6]and the Fisher Face Algorithm[7]. PCA is used for reducing the face space dimensions. Emotions are accurately predicted with the help of the Fisher Face Algorithm which is used for facial and audio-visual data. The system generates a playlist that adapts to the user's emotions to enhance the user experience. This study by G. Chidambaram *et al.* (2021)[8] used the VGG16 CNN model[9] in the study of facial emotion detection. The Haar cascade algorithm[10] is used for detecting faces in the image. It also integrated Spotify API to fetch the songs once the emotion is detected. Babu, Abhai, and Krishna (2022) [11] employed the DeepFace framework [12], created by Facebook AI Research (FAIR) scientists at the 2014 IEEE Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference (CVPR). It recognizes human faces in images.

Proposed System

The Proposed system majorly consists of three features that are, Facial emotions-based song recommendation, Lyrics-based Song Identification, and the most Played/Liked Songs (Fig 1). The system uses CNN for detecting emotions. For client-side user handling, it uses React JS Library—also, Express JS, and Flask framework of Python for backend API handling.

System Implementation

Authentication

The Authentication or Auth focuses on users' Sign-In and Sign-Up over the system. The system is designed in a way that until a user is not signed in to the system, the system prevents him from accessing other modules over the other pages of the application. In terms of system design is generally known as Route Guarding or Access Control.

Song Recommendation Based on Facial Emotions

This section focuses on capturing the user's images converting them into byte code and sending it to the backend model. The model extracts the emotion, maps it with the 5 song categories, and sends it in JSON format to the front end. This entire process is divided into the following steps

Capturing Facial Image

This step ensures capturing an image from the client side, converts it into bite 64 hash code, and saves it into the database. At the same time, the model predictor API is called which fetches the byte code from the database. It converts it into the image, performs the detection algorithm, and sends a desired output. The user on the client side gets various options like image capturing, image recapturing, displaying the generated output, and redirecting it to song modules (Fig 2).

Facial Emotion Recognition

Facial Emotion Recognition (FER) [13] is an advanced Computer Vision task that aims to predict human emotions from facial expressions. The proposed approach combines classical image processing techniques and a deep learning model to achieve accurate and efficient emotion recognition. Facial emotion recognition contains a multi-step process: data collection and preprocessing, facial feature extraction, emotion recognition using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), and integration into the system.

Data Collection

The FER-2013 dataset [14]is used for its comprehensive labeling and robust collection of facial expressions. This dataset contains 35,887 grayscale images of human faces, each annotated with one of seven emotions: anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, surprise, and neutral. However, we have used 6 out of these 7 emotions by discarding disgust, because with time we realized that it wasn't contributing much to real-world emotion detection scenarios as per our need (Fig 3). That turned out to be a good decision since it enhanced the model's overall accuracy.

Data Preprocessing

Preprocessing is a very crucial step to ensure the input data is standardized. It enhances the neural network's performance. The dataset preprocessing pipeline includes the following steps: Grayscale conversion, which helps to reduce computational complexity without sacrificing significant information for emotion recognition tasks. Since the FER-2013 dataset is already in grayscale, no further conversion is needed. Normalizing pixel values to the range [0, 1]. It ensures that the input data has a consistent scale, which helps in the convergence of the neural network during training. Standardizing the image size to 48x48 pixels ensures the consistency across entire dataset.

Face Detection

To process the image for emotion recognition, the first step is face detection. The Haar Cascade Classifier [15] is utilized with OpenCV, which is used for real-time face detection. It detects objects within an image by using a series of rectangular features. This method works very well for identifying faces from images in various conditions. It is chosen because of its balance between speed and accuracy. It can quickly detect faces in an image, which is crucial for real-time applications.

Emotion Recognition Model

The core of the proposed FER system is a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) designed specifically for classifying emotions based on facial features. The model's architecture and training process are described below.

Model Architecture

CNN architecture was designed to achieve higher accuracy. It consists of multiple convolutional layers followed by max-pooling layers, progressively extracting higher-level features from the input images. The final layers are fully connected, which allows the model to combine these features and make a prediction (Fig 4). The proposed Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) processes the grayscale images of size 48x48 pixels from the dataset.

The architecture starts with convolutional layers, which are responsible for feature extraction using filters. These filters detect spatial hierarchies in images. They capture from basic to advanced patterns. The first layer consists of 32 filters with a 3x3 kernel and ReLU activation [16]. It is used to identify edges. The second layer has 64 filters, which are used for identifying more detailed features. To stabilize the training process, batch normalization [17] is applied after each convolutional layer. Pooling layers [18] reduce the spatial dimensions of feature maps. It helps to control overfitting. The first two max-pooling layers, both with a pool size of 2x2 pool, progressively reduce feature map sizes. Additional convolutional layers with 128 and 256 filters are also included to extract higher-level features. It is then followed by a third max pooling layer. Fully connected layers [19] then interpret these features for emotion classification. The flattened feature maps are processed by dense layers with 512 and 256 units, respectively, both using ReLU activation. The output layer, with 6 units and softmax activation[20], produces a probability distribution across emotion classes, providing the final prediction.

Model Training

The model was trained on the FER-2013 dataset [14] using categorical cross-entropy [21] as the loss function and the Adam optimizer. Emotion detection and other multi-class classification tasks are well suited for categorical cross-entropy. Here, The objective is to classify each image into one of those six emotion classes accurately. The Adam optimizer [22] updates the model's weights during the training process. It takes advantage of its adaptive learning rate and momentum capabilities, which eventually help in achieving convergence faster. The dataset was split into 28,385 images for training and 6,955 images for validation. The training process involved 50 epochs.

Mood Mapping

Mood mapping ensures the mapping of the predicted emotion to the pre-defined song categories of the system. We can easily understand this by taking an example: suppose, the detected emotion is angry, then the system maps it with motivated and calm song categories. Likewise, for 6 different emotions, the song categories are mapped (Fig 5).

Songs Recommendation

Based on the song categories that we get from the mood mapping, the user receives a random list of the songs that fall into any of those categories. All these songs are pipelined from the back end to the front end through APIs and are played using user commands on GUI (Fig 6).

Lyrics Based Song Identification

This method attempts to recognize a song from the portion of user-given speech lyrics (Fig 7). It uses fuzzy string matching to compare the user input with the lyrics of all songs in the database and retrieves a song with the highest similarity score. The 'FuzzyWuzzy' [23] library in Python is used for lyric matching. It uses the concept of Levenshtein distance to measure the similarities between strings.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed feature works by comparing user-given lyrics to songs stored in the database using a sequence of steps as mentioned below. The user begins the process by providing a small portion of lyrics through speech. The input need not be from a song within the database, it can even be a single random word. The system utilizes the 'partial_ratio' function to check the similarity between the user input and the lyrics of each song. This function allows the system to handle partial matches efficiently. The calculated similarity scores, along with the corresponding song titles, are stored in a list. This list helps in finding the best match. The system identifies the song with the highest similarity score as the best match and presents it to the user. Consider the following example to understand the entire process better: The user has given input lyrics, "All I can want, all I can ...". For simplicity, suppose the database contains only three songs: "Believer," "Night Changes," and "Peaches". The system calculates the similarity score for each song relative to the input provided. Since the input is a line from the song "Peaches" by Justin Bieber, the system returns the highest similarity score among all the songs in the database.

Most Liked/Played song

This feature displays the songs that are most often played (Fig 8) and the songs that users on the system most like (Fig 9).

RESULTS

A dataset of 35,340 images was used to build the model. The dataset was split into two parts: 28,385 images for training and 6,955 images for validation. The model's objective was to classify an image into one of the six different categories: happy, sad, neutral, angry, surprise, and fear. The model was able to achieve 80% training accuracy and 63% validation accuracy over 50 epochs. The 1st graph (Fig 10) shows the model's learning process over epochs. Initially, it shows the rise in both training and validation accuracy as the model learns. However, the validation accuracy plateaus after a certain point. It indicates that the model may be overfitting since it performs well on the training data but not so well on unseen data. The 2nd graph (Fig 10) shows the model's loss over epochs. The initial loss decreases consistently for both training and testing. It reflects that the model is improving with each epoch. However, after an initial decline, the validation loss stops to decrease further, which again indicates potential overfitting.

DISCUSSION

In conclusion, the Interactive Music Application effectively integrates facial emotion recognition and machine learning to provide a personalized music experience based on the user's recorded feelings. The application improves user interaction by including algorithms for emotion recognition and a random song recommendation system. It is a novel and unique system that offers additional features such as speech-to-lyrics song identification. This project forms the basis for potential advancements in emotion-driven recommendation systems in the music or entertainment industries. It promises to evolve with user preferences and technological development. Below are some points that we can introduce in the system in the future to improveit further. We'd like to introduce a new feature to enhance the current emotion detection, where a song is played randomly, and the user's emotions are continuously monitored during its playback. With this approach, it will analyze the sequence of frames and make a relatively better decision. We aim to improve personalization by allowing users to track liked songs. When the user likes a particular song, it should be added to the list of user's liked songs, and similar songs should be preferred for future recommendations. Similarly, if a user dislikes a song, then that song along with other similar songs should be blacklisted from future recommendations. We suggest to keep track of the user's listening history. The system can offer more personalized music recommendations from user's past listening behavior. Furthermore, we propose displaying live lyrics during song playback to enhance the user's experience. We can allow users to sing in a karaoke-like setup by playing only the background music and displaying live lyrics. It allows them to sing along with the song in their voice. For systems with large databases, the current process of iterating through all songs to calculate similarity scores can be time-consuming. To resolve this, we can implement optimizations such as caching or indexing to improve performance. We can present multiple possible top-matched songs along with their similarity scores to the user.

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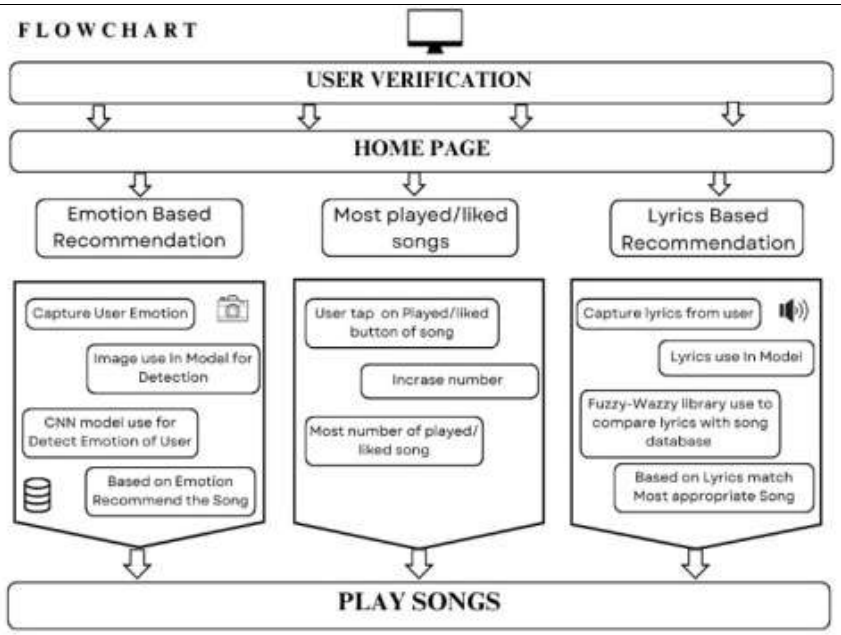


Fig 1. System Architecture

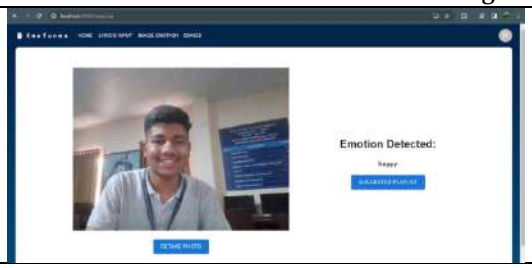


Fig 2. Facial image capturing module



Fig 3. Basic emotions of humans[14]

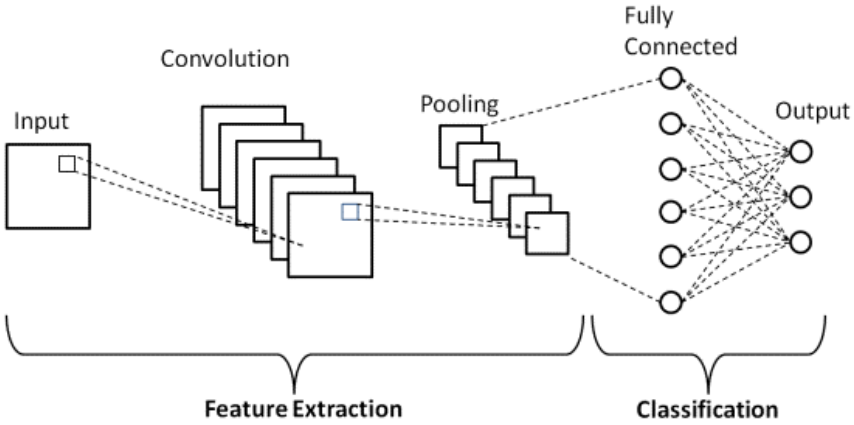


Fig 4. Model architecture [24]

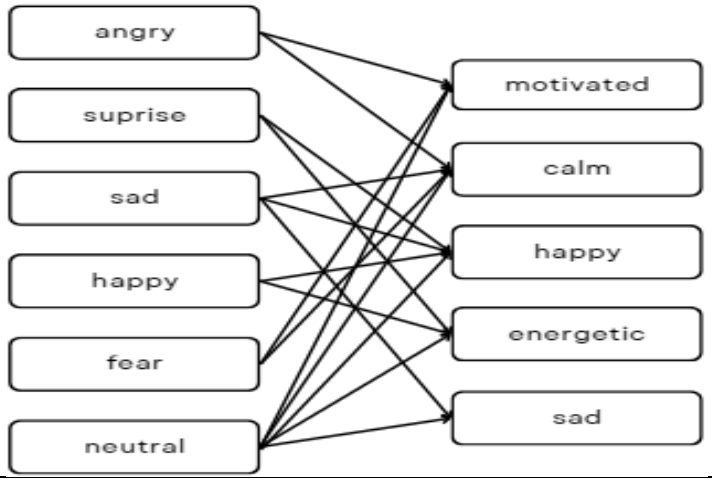


Fig 5. Mood mapping



Fig 6. Songs recommendation module

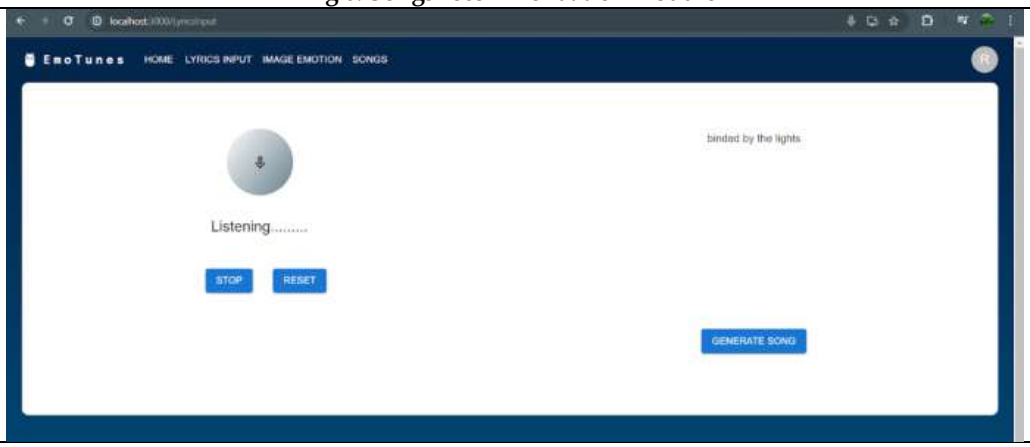


Fig 7. Lyrics-based song identification



Fig 8. Most played song

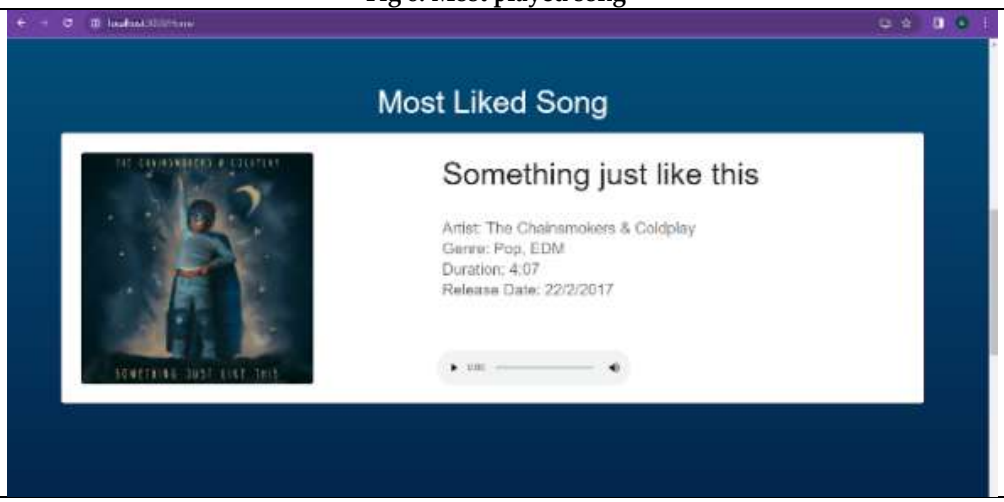


Fig 9. Most liked song

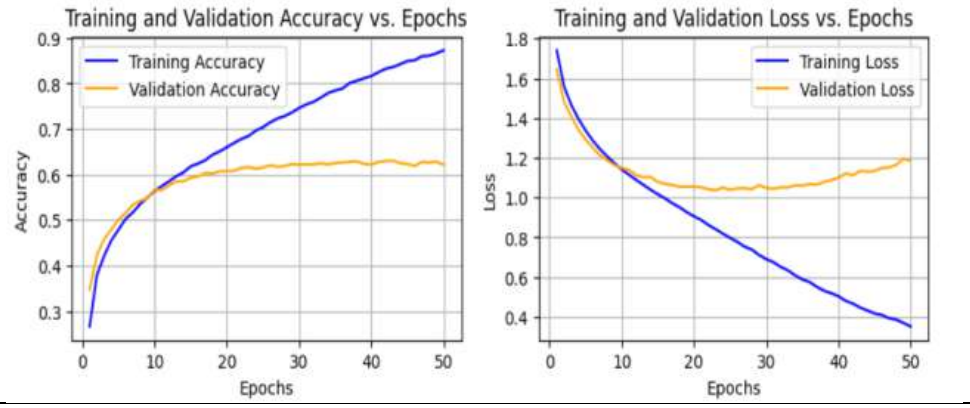


Fig 10. Model training result analysis

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Analytical Methods for the Determination of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Inhibitor Drugs

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ABSTRACT

Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) inhibitors are pivotal in treating cancers like non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), targeting aberrant signaling pathways to improve patient outcomes. This review explores advanced analytical methods for evaluating EGFR inhibitor drugs, ensuring their safety, efficacy, and quality. High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) with tandem mass spectrometry achieve high sensitivity (LOD: 0.01–1 ng/mL) for quantifying drugs like osimertinib in plasma, supporting pharmacokinetic and resistance studies. Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS) addresses challenges like T790M and C797S mutations, while spectroscopic methods, including UV-Vis and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), confirm structural integrity. Fluorescence spectroscopy monitors intracellular trafficking, and electrochemical methods, such as voltammetry, enable rapid detection (LOD: 0.02 μM). Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays (ELISA) quantify targeted delivery systems, despite cross-reactivity challenges. Artificial Intelligence (AI) enhances drug discovery, with machine learning models like EGFRAP predicting mutation status and resistance with 95% accuracy. Multi-omics integration optimizes

personalized therapies. Challenges include matrix complexity, blood-brain barrier penetration, and high instrumentation costs. Future advancements involve microfluidic systems, green chemistry, and biosensors to improve specificity and therapeutic monitoring, advancing precision oncology for cancers like NSCLC, glioblastoma, and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.

List of Abbreviations

BBB- Blood-Brain Barrier; CSF - Cerebrospinal Fluid; EGFR - Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor; ELISA-Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay; HNSCC- Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma; HPLC-High-Performance Liquid Chromatography; HRMS - High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry; LC- Liquid Chromatography; LC-MS- Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry; LC-MS/MS- Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry; LOD- Limit of Detection; ML - Machine Learning; MRM-Multiple Reaction Monitoring; NMR - Nuclear Magnetic Resonance; NSCLC- Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer; ORR- Objective Response Rate; PFS- Progression-Free Survival; QTOF-Quadrupole Time-of-Flight; RSD- Relative Standard Deviation; TKIs - Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors; UPLC- Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography; UPLC-MS/MS - Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry. Graphical Abstract(Fig. 1)

Keywords: EGFR inhibitors, HPLC, UPLC-MS/MS, LC-MS, NMR, AI, precision medicine

INTRODUCTION

Cancer encompasses a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled cell proliferation and aberrant cell division. If metastasis, the dissemination of malignant cells throughout the body, is not effectively managed, it can result in fatal outcomes. The etiology of cancer is multifactorial, involving external factors such as tobacco, chemical carcinogens, radiation and infectious agents as well as internal factors including inherited genetic mutations, hormonal imbalances, immune system dysfunction and spontaneous mutations [1]. According to GLOBOCAN 2020, approximately 19.3 million new cancer cases and nearly 10 million cancer-related deaths were reported globally [2].Chemotherapy has emerged as a cornerstone of cancer treatment, representing a significant medical advancement in recent decades. However, the limited therapeutic index of chemotherapeutic agents often results in inconsistent and transient efficacy, accompanied by substantial toxicity. In contrast, precision-targeted therapies, which focus on specific molecular pathways and signaling cascades unique to cancer cells, have been developed to minimize non-specific adverse effects [3]. Traditional cytotoxic chemotherapy is hindered by its lack of selectivity, severe toxicity and the development of drug resistance, prompting increased interest in targeted therapies. These therapies exploit the propensity of tumor cells to rely on aberrant signaling through growth factor receptor [4].Among the most promising targets are tyrosine kinases, which modulate growth factor signaling and play a critical role in oncogenesis [3]. The tyrosine kinase inhibitor family targets four members of the type I receptor tyrosine kinase class: ErbB-1/HER-1 (epidermal growth factor receptor), ErbB-2/HER-2, ErbB-3/HER-3, and ErbB-4/HER-4 [4].Twenty-five years ago, Nobel Laureate Stanley Cohen elucidated the role of epidermal growth factor in cellular proliferation, significantly advancing our understanding of the aberrant cellular processes underlying cancer and the signaling events critical to cancer biology. The EGFR family, a prominent group of receptor tyrosine kinases, is overexpressed in numerous malignancies, including breast, lung, esophageal, and head and neck cancers [5]. Over the past three decades, research has consistently demonstrated EGFR overexpression, heightened activity, or mutations in various epithelial malignancies, supporting the hypothesis that dysregulated EGFR signaling contributes significantly to the pathogenesis of human epithelial cancers. Abnormal EGFR activity has been implicated in the initiation, progression and metastasis of cancers such as head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, NSCLC, colorectal cancer, breast, ovarian, cervical, bladder, pancreatic, gastric, endometrialand brain cancers [6]. As key regulators in complex signaling cascades, EGFR and its family members govern critical cellular processes, including growth, differentiation,

adhesion, migration and survival, making them prime targets for anticancer therapies [5].The biological response to EGFR activation is highly context-dependent, influenced by factors such as cell density, extracellular matrix composition, cytokine milieuand spatial localization within a cell colony. This response can range from mitogenesis to apoptosis, migration to differentiation, or even dedifferentiation within the same cell type. Recent advances have begun to unravel the molecular mechanisms underpinning these diverse responses [7]. The therapeutic strategy for EGFR-targeted therapies is straightforward: inhibition of EGFR tyrosine kinase activity disrupts the signal transduction pathways mediating its oncogenic functions. However, the specificity of certain EGFR inhibitors, such as ZD1839, has been questioned, as their response rates in NSCLC patients appear significantly higher than those observed with anti-EGFR monoclonal antibodies, suggesting potential off-target effects [8]. The identification and therapeutic targeting of the EGFR pathway have revolutionized treatment for a subset of patients with advanced NSCLC, paving the way for personalized, molecularly guided therapies informed by histological and genomic profiling [9].Patients with NSCLC harboring EGFR mutations represent a distinct subgroup characterized by unique tumor origins, clinicopathological features, prognostic profiles, and treatment responses compared to other NSCLC patients [10]. EGFR mutations are predominantly observed in light or never-smokers, with a higher prevalence among female patients, potentially due to differences in smoking behaviors. In the Iressa Pan-Asian Survival Study (IPASS), which enrolled Asian patients with lung adenocarcinoma who were non-smokers or former light smokers, 60% of tumors exhibited EGFR mutations, and 80% of participants were female [11].The development of analytical methods for EGFR drugs is critical to ensure their safety, efficacy, and quality in pharmaceutical applications. Analytical methods, such as reverse-phase HPLC, enable precise quantification and characterization of EGFR inhibitors in pharmaceutical formulations and bulk materials. This ensures that the drugs meet stringent regulatory standards for purity, potency, and stability, minimizing the risk of substandard or contaminated products [12].

GFR inhibitors, such as tyrosine kinase inhibitors, target specific molecular pathways in cancers like NSCLC. Accurate analytical methods are necessary to verify the correct dosage and chemical integrity of these drugs, as even minor variations can compromise therapeutic outcomes or lead to adverse effects due to their narrow therapeutic index [3].Analytical methods facilitate the study of EGFR drugs' absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion profiles. Techniques like HPLC and ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography provide the sensitivity and specificity needed to measure drug concentrations in biological matrices, aiding in the optimization of dosing regimens and minimizing toxicity. EGFR inhibitors are susceptible to degradation under various environmental conditions (e.g., light, heat, or pH changes). Robust analytical methods are required to detect impurities, degradation products, or related substances that could affect drug safety and performance, ensuring compliance with pharmacopoeial standards [12].EGFR-targeted therapies are often tailored to patients with specific mutations (e.g., in NSCLC). Analytical methods help validate the molecular composition of these drugs, ensuring they are suitable for targeted patient populations and supporting the development of precision medicine [9].Regulatory agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency, mandate rigorous analytical testing to approve EGFR inhibitors for clinical use. Methods like HPLC, known for their accuracy, precision, linearity, specificity, and robustness, are critical for meeting these requirements and ensuring global market approval [12].As new EGFR inhibitors are developed to overcome challenges like drug resistance, analytical methods are vital for characterizing novel compounds, assessing their stability, and comparing their performance against existing therapies. This accelerates the development of more effective and less toxic treatments [4]. In summary, the development of analytical methods for EGFR drugs is indispensable for ensuring their quality, safety, and efficacy, supporting personalized treatment strategies, and advancing cancer research. These methods bridge the gap between drug development and clinical application, ultimately improving patient outcomes. This study explores the various reported analytical method development techniques for EGFR inhibitors. Analytical methodologies for evaluating EGFR inhibitor drugs include UV-visible spectrophotometry and various chromatographic techniques, such as LC, HPLC, ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography and high-performance thin-layer chromatography. Among these, reverse-phase HPLC is the most widely utilized due to its accuracy, precision, linearity, specificity, and robustness in analyzing EGFR inhibitors in pharmaceutical formulations and bulk materials [12]. The trend toward faster and more efficient analytical methods continues to shape the development of these techniques.

Classification of EGFR Drugs

EGFR mutations are pivotal in determining the efficacy of targeted therapies, particularly in NSCLC, where they occur in 10-15% of Western patients and up to 50% of Asian patients [13]. These mutations alter the kinase domain, influencing drug binding and therapeutic outcomes. Understanding their structural and functional impact is essential for classifying EGFR inhibitors. Exon 19 deletions (Del19) and L858R point mutations in exon 21 are the most prevalent sensitizing mutations, enhancing EGFR kinase activity by stabilizing the active conformation, making them highly responsive to (TKIs [14]. These mutations account for approximately 85% of EGFR mutations in NSCLC and are associated with robust clinical responses [15]. Exon 20 insertions (e.g., D770_N771insSVD), G719X, and L861Q are less frequent and exhibit reduced sensitivity to early-generation TKIs due to structural changes in the kinase domain that hinder drug binding [16]. Exon 20 insertions, in particular, cause steric hindrance, reducing the accessibility of the ATP-binding pocket [17]. Acquired resistance is a major challenge, primarily driven by the T790M mutation in exon 20, which increases ATP affinity, and the C797S mutation, which emerges after third-generation TKI treatment, preventing covalent drug binding [18]. These mutations necessitate specialized inhibitors. A structural classification system categorizes EGFR mutations into P-loop and αC-helix compressing, classical-like, and T790M-like mutations. P-loop and αC-helix compressing mutations, including exon 20 insertions, are resistant to early TKIs but sensitive to specific inhibitors like poziotinib. Classical-like mutations (Del19, L858R) respond to all TKI generations, while T790M-like mutations require advanced inhibitors [13]. The classification of EGFR inhibitor drugs is categorized below and Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the signalling pathway of EGFR for cancer progression.

First-Generation EGFR TKIs: First-generation EGFR TKIs, such as erlotinib and gefitinib, were the earliest targeted therapies approved for NSCLC harboring sensitizing EGFR mutations [19]. These inhibitors work by reversibly binding to the ATP-binding pocket of EGFR, competing with ATP to inhibit phosphorylation and downstream signaling pathways, including MAPK and PI3K/AKT [20]. They form critical hydrogen bonds with methionine 793 in the kinase domain's hinge region [21]. Erlotinib and gefitinib are highly effective against exon 19 deletions (Del19) and L858R mutations, achieving ORR of 60-70% and a median PFS of 9-13 months [19]. However, they are less effective against uncommon mutations like exon 20 insertions [16]. Structurally, these inhibitors feature quinazoline-based scaffolds, which facilitate ATP-competitive binding but lack selectivity for mutant over wild-type EGFR, leading to toxicities such as skin rash and diarrhea [21]. Resistance typically develops within 9-12 months, primarily due to the T790M mutation, which enhances ATP affinity and reduces drug binding efficacy [18]. Off-target inhibition of wild-type EGFR further contributes to toxicity, limiting tolerability. While initially approved as first-line therapies for EGFR-mutant NSCLC, first-generation TKIs have largely been replaced by later generations due to their resistance and toxicity profiles [19].

Second-Generation EGFR TKIs: Second-generation EGFR TKIs, such as afatinib and dacomitinib, were developed to improve potency and expand inhibition across the ErbB family [19]. These inhibitors covalently bind to cysteine 797 in the EGFR kinase domain, irreversibly inhibiting EGFR, HER2, HER3, and HER4, thus blocking multiple ErbB-driven signaling pathways [21]. This covalent binding enhances potency compared to the reversible binding of first-generation TKIs [20]. Afatinib and dacomitinib are effective against Del19 and L858R mutations, offering a median PFS of 11-14 months, slightly better than their predecessors, but they show limited activity against T790M and exon 20 insertions [18, 19]. Chemically, these inhibitors incorporate an acrylamide warhead, enabling covalent binding to cysteine residues, which increases potency but reduces selectivity, resulting in heightened toxicities such as severe skin rash and gastrointestinal issues [21]. Resistance, primarily through the T790M mutation, occurs in approximately 50% of cases, similar to first-generation TKIs [18]. Due to their toxicity and resistance profiles, second-generation TKIs are less commonly used today, as third-generation TKIs offer superior efficacy and safety. Nonetheless, they remain approved for first-line treatment in EGFR-mutant NSCLC [19].

Third-Generation EGFR TKIs: Third-generation EGFR TKIs, exemplified by osimertinib, were designed to overcome the T790M resistance mutation while sparing wild-type EGFR to minimize toxicity [19]. Osimertinib irreversibly binds to cysteine 797, selectively inhibiting EGFR with T790M, Del19, or L858R mutations, effectively blocking

downstream signaling with high specificity [20]. Its selectivity reduces off-target effects on wild-type EGFR, improving tolerability [21]. Osimertinib is highly effective in T790M-positive NSCLC, with an ORR of approximately 70% and a median PFS of about 18.9 months, and it is also a first-line therapy for Del19 and L858R mutations, as demonstrated in the FLAURA trial [19]. Structurally, osimertinib features a pyrimidine-based scaffold, enhancing selectivity for mutant EGFR, with its active metabolite, AZ5104, retaining potency against T790M [21]. Resistance to osimertinib emerges through mechanisms such as the C797S mutation, which prevents covalent binding, as well as MET amplification and histologic transformation to small cell lung cancer [22]. These resistance mechanisms drive the need for next-generation inhibitors [23]. Currently, osimertinib is the standard of care for T790M-positive NSCLC and first-line treatment for sensitizing mutations due to its superior efficacy and tolerability [19].

Fourth-Generation EGFR TKIs: Fourth-generation EGFR TKIs are under development to address resistance mutations, particularly C797S, that arise after osimertinib treatment [24]. These inhibitors employ innovative strategies, such as allosteric or dual-targeting mechanisms. Allosteric inhibitors, like EAI045, bind outside the ATP-binding pocket, avoiding steric hindrance caused by C797S, while dual-targeting inhibitors, such as CH7233163, combine ATP-competitive and allosteric binding for enhanced potency [24, 25]. These inhibitors target complex triple-mutant EGFR profiles (e.g., Del19/T790M/C797S or L858R/T790M/C797S) [24]. Structurally, allosteric inhibitors exploit novel binding sites, while dual-targeting inhibitors integrate multiple binding modalities to overcome resistance [26]. As most fourth-generation TKIs are in preclinical or early-phase clinical trials, their clinical data are limited, and potential off-target effects and toxicity profiles are still under investigation [25]. Although not yet approved, preclinical studies suggest these inhibitors hold promise for overcoming osimertinib resistance, potentially expanding treatment options for patients with resistant NSCLC [24].

Specialized Inhibitors for Uncommon Mutations: Specialized EGFR TKIs target uncommon mutations, particularly exon 20 insertions, which are resistant to standard TKIs due to structural constraints. Poziotinib demonstrates efficacy in exon 20 insertion-mutant NSCLC, with an ORR of approximately 30%. Its compact structure allows it to fit into the sterically constrained ATP-binding pocket altered by exon 20 insertions [17]. Mobocertinib, approved specifically for exon 20 insertion-mutant NSCLC, achieves a median PFS of about 7.3 months, with a flexible structure that accommodates the altered kinase domain [27]. These inhibitors are optimized to bind despite steric hindrance, effectively inhibiting EGFR signaling in exon 20 insertion mutants [17]. However, resistance can develop through secondary mutations or bypass pathways, such as MET amplification, and moderate toxicities, including diarrhea and rash, are reported [25]. Poziotinib and mobocertinib address a critical unmet need in exon 20 insertion-mutant NSCLC, providing targeted therapeutic options for patients who respond poorly to earlier-generation TKIs [17, 27]. Signalling Pathway of EGFR for progression of cancer (Figure 1).

Role of Artificial Intelligence in Driving Development of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Inhibitor Drugs

Drug Discovery and Refining Drug Design: Artificial Intelligence has become a cornerstone in the development of EGFR inhibitors, leveraging ML, deep learning, and advanced computational platforms to accelerate drug discovery. ML algorithms excel in analyzing vast chemical libraries to identify potential EGFR inhibitors with high binding affinity and specificity. Torabi *et al*. (2024) developed an ML-based approach to screen compounds for EGFR inhibition, utilizing molecular descriptors such as hydrophobicity, polarizability, and steric properties to predict inhibitory potential with an accuracy of 92% [28]. Their model integrated quantitative structure-activity relationship analysis, reducing the need for extensive wet-lab experiments. Similarly, Zhang and Li (2023) employed ML to discover fourth-generation EGFR inhibitors, focusing on compounds effective against T790M and C797S mutations. Their random forest model achieved a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) area under the curve of 0.89, identifying candidates with nanomolar potency [29]. These studies underscore AI's ability to prioritize lead compounds, minimizing the time and cost of high-throughput screening. Deep learning enhances molecular docking and virtual screening by modeling complex protein-ligand interactions. Igawa *et al*. (2024) utilized a deep learning-based *in silico* platform to discover mutant-selective EGFR inhibitors, integrating convolutional neural networks with molecular dynamics simulations. Their model predicted binding free energies with a root mean square error of 1.2 kcal/mol, enabling the identification of a novel T790M-selective inhibitor with 85% specificity [30]. This approach

leverages 3D structural data from EGFR mutants, allowing precise targeting of mutated residues while sparing wild-type EGFR, thus reducing off-target toxicity. Additionally, Duo *et al*. (2024) applied deep learning to small molecule discovery, using generative adversarial networks to design EGFR inhibitors with optimized pharmacokinetic profiles, achieving a 78% success rate in preclinical validation [31]. These advancements highlight AI's role in refining drug design at the atomic level.

Prediction of EGFR Mutation Status: AI-driven predictive models have revolutionized the identification of EGFR mutation status, critical for tailoring therapies in cancers like NSCLC. Radiomics, combined with ML, enables non-invasive mutation detection from imaging data. Liu *et al*. (2022) developed an ML model using radiomic features extracted from computed tomography (CT) scans, achieving an AUC of 0.85 for predicting EGFR mutations in NSCLC across a multi-center cohort of 1,200 patients [32]. Their model integrated texture analysis and shape-based features, correlating imaging patterns with genomic alterations. Wang *et al*. (2022) further advanced this by mining whole-lung information with AI, combining radiomics with clinical variables like smoking status and tumor size. Their ensemble model, incorporating gradient boosting and support vector machines, predicted EGFR genotypes with 82% accuracy and a sensitivity of 0.79 [33]. These tools reduce reliance on invasive biopsies, enabling earlier and more precise therapeutic decisions. Hajikarimloo *et al*. (2025) conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of ML models for predicting EGFR status in NSCLC brain metastases, analyzing 15 studies with a pooled sensitivity of 0.78 and specificity of 0.81 [34]. Their findings emphasized the robustness of ensemble learning techniques, such as XGBoost, in handling heterogeneous datasets. Additionally, genomic-based AI models enhance mutation prediction. López-Cortés *et al*. (2024) integrated genomic and transcriptomic data using neural networks to predict EGFR mutation status with 90% accuracy, identifying actionable mutations in 85% of analyzed NSCLC cases [35]. These models enable clinicians to select EGFR inhibitors like gefitinib or osimertinib with greater confidence.

Overcoming Drug Resistance: Drug resistance, particularly to EGFR-TKIs, poses a significant hurdle in cancer therapy. AI addresses this by identifying resistance mechanisms and designing next-generation inhibitors. Zhou *et al*. (2024) employed ML to discover CDDO-Me, a T790M-mutant EGFR inhibitor, by analyzing transcriptomic and proteomic profiles from resistant NSCLC cell lines. Their model predicted resistance pathways with 87% accuracy, identifying CDDO-Me as a potent inhibitor with an IC50 of 50 nM in preclinical models [36]. This approach integrated multi-omics data to map signaling cascades, revealing novel resistance-associated targets. Mao *et al*. (2025) utilized deep learning to address EGFR-TKI resistance, combining pharmacogenomic data with graph neural networks to model tumor subclone dynamics. Their model identified resistance-associated mutations in 75% of cases, proposing novel inhibitors that restored sensitivity in resistant cell lines [37]. Yu *et al*. (2025) advanced this field through longitudinal pharmacogenomic analysis, using AI to track clonal evolution in EGFR-TKI-resistant NSCLC. Their recurrent neural network model predicted therapeutic candidates for resistant subclones with a precision of 0.82, identifying combination therapies that overcame resistance in 70% of tested samples [38]. These studies demonstrate AI's capacity to dissect complex resistance mechanisms and propose targeted solutions.

Multi-Omics Integration and Personalized Medicine: AI's integration of multi-omics data—genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics—has transformed EGFR inhibitor development by enabling personalized medicine. López-Cortés *et al*. (2024) used AI to analyze multi-omics profiles from 1,500 cancer patients, identifying druggable EGFR-driven proteins with 90% predictive accuracy. Their model employed clustering algorithms to group patients by molecular signatures, matching them to EGFR inhibitors with optimal efficacy [35]. Similarly, Li *et al*. (2025) conducted a multimodal omics analysis of the EGFR signaling pathway in NSCLC, using deep learning to integrate genomic mutations, gene expression, and protein phosphorylation data. Their model predicted synergistic drug combinations, such as osimertinib with PD-1 inhibitors, with an accuracy of 88% in clinical simulations [39]. This approach optimizes combination therapies, enhancing therapeutic efficacy. Boretto *et al*. (2024) explored AI-driven analysis of EGFR interactions with the tumor suppressor FBXW7, using ML to predict protein degradation pathways that modulate EGFR activity. Their model identified novel therapeutic targets in 80% of EGFR-mutant cell lines, suggesting combination strategies with EGFR inhibitors [40]. These studies highlight AI's role in synthesizing complex datasets to tailor treatments to individual molecular profiles.

AI in Clinical Outcome Prediction: AI enhances the prediction of clinical outcomes for EGFR inhibitor therapies, enabling patient stratification and treatment optimization. Moulson *et al*. (2024) employed large language model-based AI to extract real-world data from 2,000 Canadian NSCLC patients, predicting osimertinib response with 79% accuracy. Their model analyzed electronic health records, correlating mutation status, treatment history, and clinical variables to outcomes [41]. Imai *et al*. (2025) applied AI to analyze HER2 and tumor microenvironment data in HER2-amplified metastatic colorectal cancer, identifying EGFR-targeted therapy responders with a positive predictive value of 0.76 [42]. Their model integrated spatial transcriptomics with deep learning, mapping tumor-immune interactions to predict treatment efficacy. Zhao *et al*. (2025) conducted a meta-analysis of osimertinib's efficacy in EGFR-mutant NSCLC, using AI to synthesize clinical trial data from 10 studies. Their model predicted PFS with a hazard ratio of 0.62, guiding dosing strategies [43]. These applications demonstrate AI's ability to translate complex clinical data into actionable insights, improving patient outcomes.

ANALYTICAL METHODS

High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC): HPLC is a cornerstone for analyzing EGFR inhibitors due to its high sensitivity, specificity, and versatility. Recent advancements have emphasized eco-friendly and robust HPLC methods. For instance, a study developed an eco-friendly HPLC method for pelitinib, a potent EGFR inhibitor used in NSCLC with EML4-ALK mutations [44]. The method employed a green mobile phase (acetonitrile-water, 60:40, v/v) on a C18 column (250 x 4.6 mm, 5 μm), achieving a LOD of 0.05 μg/mL with UV detection at 254 nm. Validated for linearity (0.1–100 μg/mL), precision (RSD < 2%), and accuracy (98–102% recovery), it was applied in pharmacokinetic studies, demonstrating high reproducibility in plasma.HPLC methods are also tailored for simultaneous quantification of EGFR inhibitors and their metabolites. A reversed-phase HPLC method with mass spectrometry (LC-MS) quantified osimertinib and its metabolites in plasma, supporting resistance studies in NSCLC [45]. Using a Zorbax SB-C18 column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 μm) with gradient elution (acetonitrile-water, 0.1% formic acid) at 0.8 mL/min, the method achieved an LOD of 1 ng/mL. It was pivotal in the AURA3 and FLAURA trials, where early clearance of plasma EGFR mutations predicted treatment outcomes. Similarly, an LC-MS method quantified osimertinib and savolitinib in NSCLC patients with MET amplification, supporting the TATTON study to overcome acquired resistance [46].

Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC): UPLC enhances resolution and reduces analysis time compared to HPLC due to smaller particle sizes (1.7 μm) in stationary phases. UPLC-MS/MS is widely used for EGFR inhibitors in biological matrices. A UPLC-MS/MS method was developed for patritumabderuxtecan, an antibody-drug conjugate targeting EGFR-mutated NSCLC, in the HERTHENA-Lung01 trial [47]. Using an Acquity UPLC BEH C18 column (2.1 x 50 mm, 1.7 μm) with gradient elution (acetonitrile-water, 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid) and MRM mode, the method achieved an LOD of 0.1 ng/mL in plasma, enabling monitoring of low drug concentrations in clinical settings.Another UPLC-MS/MS method quantified a dual SOS1/EGFR inhibitor in prostate cancer models [48]. Employing a Kinetex C18 column (2.1 x 100 mm, 2.6 μm) with a gradient of acetonitrile-0.1% formic acid at 0.3 mL/min, it achieved an LOD of 0.01 ng/mL in plasma and tissue, supporting pharmacokinetic studies with high selectivity.

Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS): LC-MS combines chromatographic separation with mass spectrometry's specificity, ideal for complex biological samples. LC-MS methods are critical for pharmacokinetic and resistance studies. A study used LC-MS/MS to investigate EGFR inhibitors causing skin toxicities, identifying metabolites in plasma and skin tissue [49]. Using a Phenomenex Luna C18 column (2.1 x 100 mm, 3 μm) with acetonitrile-0.1% formic acid at 0.4 mL/min, the method enabled pharmacokinetic profiling despite unspecified LODs. The study provided insights into adverse effect mechanisms, guiding treatment strategies.LC-MS also supported combination therapy studies. The TATTON study used LC-MS to quantify osimertinib and savolitinib in plasma, employing an Agilent Zorbax Eclipse XDB-C18 column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 μm) with acetonitrile-water (0.1%

formic acid) at 1 mL/min [46]. The method's high specificity ensured accurate quantification in NSCLC patients with MET amplification.

Ultraviolet-Visible (UV-Vis) Spectroscopy: UV-Vis spectroscopy is a cost-effective method for EGFR inhibitor analysis, particularly in early drug development, leveraging their strong UV absorbance due to aromatic structures. A study characterized novel purine-based EGFR inhibitors using UV-Vis spectroscopy at 280 nm, confirming purity and structural integrity [49]. Performed in a quartz cuvette, the method complemented 1H-NMR and molecular modeling, ensuring compound quality. However, UV-Vis lacks specificity for complex matrices, limiting its use to pure compounds or pharmaceutical formulations. Another study used UV-Vis at 280 nm to confirm the structure of pyrazoline and pyrimidine derivatives, supporting their potential as EGFR inhibitors [50]. The method was conducted alongside 1H-NMR at 400 MHz in DMSO-d6, achieving high purity (>98%).

Fluorescence Spectroscopy: Fluorescence spectroscopy offers higher sensitivity than UV-Vis, suitable for EGFR inhibitors with fluorescent properties. A fluorescence-based assay monitored intracellular trafficking of EGFR inhibitors, leveraging their natural fluorescence [51]. With excitation at 340 nm and emission at 450 nm, the method achieved an LOD of 0.5 nM in NSCLC cell lysates (A549, H1975), providing insights into O-GlcNAcylation's role in EGFR signaling. The assay's specificity was validated using EGFR-specific antibodies, making it ideal for cellular studies.

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy: NMR spectroscopy is vital for structural elucidation and purity assessment. A study used 1H-NMR at 600 MHz in DMSO-d6 to confirm the structure of a mutant-selective EGFR inhibitor spanning orthosteric and allosteric sites [52]. The method verified chemical shifts of aromatic and aliphatic protons, ensuring purity (>99%) and correct configuration. Similarly, 1H-NMR at 400 MHz in DMSO-d6 characterized pyrazoline and pyrimidine derivatives, supporting their EGFR inhibitory potential [50].

Electrochemical Methods: Electrochemical methods, such as differential pulse voltammetry, are emerging as rapid, sensitive alternatives for EGFR inhibitor detection. A voltammetric method for erlotinib used a carbon paste electrode in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4), achieving an LOD of 0.02 μM in pharmaceutical formulations [53]. With a scan rate of 50 mV/s and linearity of 0.1–10 μM, the method offered precision (RSD < 4%) and recovery (97–101%). Its portability and low cost make it suitable for quality control, though matrix interferences limit its use in biological samples.

Immunoassays: Immunoassays, particularly ELISAare used for detecting monoclonal antibody-based EGFR inhibitors or targeted delivery systems. An ELISA quantified rapamycin delivered via EGFR-targeted nanoparticles in pancreatic cancer cells, achieving an LOD of 0.1 ng/mL in cell culture [54]. Using 96-well plates with anti-EGFR antibodies, the method had a calibration range of 0.1–50 ng/mL and precision (RSD < 5%), validated in Panc-1 cell lines. Its high specificity supported apoptosis studies, though antibody development is time-consuming.

Computational and In Silico Methods: Computational methods complement experimental techniques by predicting EGFR inhibitor interactions and stability. Molecular docking studies investigated the binding affinity of *Aristolochia longa* derivatives to EGFR's tyrosine kinase domain (PDB: 1M17) using AutoDock 4.2, with binding energies of -7 to -9 kcal/mol [55]. The method guided the design of novel inhibitors, validated with known EGFR inhibitors as controls. A machine learning model (EGFRAP) predicted drug resistance in EGFR-mutated lung cancer, integrating HPLC and LC-MS data [56]. Trained on 5000 compounds with random forest algorithms, it achieved 95% accuracy via 10-fold cross-validation. Another EGFRAP model used deep learning neural networks on 10,000 small molecules, achieving 95% accuracy in virtual screening to assess EGFR activity [57].

Bioanalytical Methods for Pharmacokinetic Studies: Bioanalytical methods are critical for pharmacokinetic studies, monitoring EGFR inhibitor levels in plasma, tissues, and cerebrospinal fluid. LC-MS/MS was used to study EGFR inhibitors causing skin toxicities, identifying metabolites in plasma and skin tissue [48]. The method's high sensitivity

supported dosing optimization. Similarly, LC-MS quantified osimertinib and savolitinib in the TATTON study, addressing MET-mediated resistance [46]. These methods are essential for understanding resistance mechanisms and optimizing therapeutic regimens.

Analytical Procedures for EGFR Inhibitor Drugs

The table 1 summarizes analytical procedures used for the development and analysis of EGFR inhibitor drugs. Each column includes detailed information on the drug, analytical method, purpose, matrix and limit of detection and combined key findings and additional method details.

CONCLUSION

Analytical methods for EGFR inhibitors, including erlotinib, osimertinib, and cetuximab, are critical for ensuring safety, efficacy, and quality in treating non-small cell lung cancer, glioblastoma, and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Techniques like high-performance liquid chromatography, ultra-performance liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry, and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry achieve high sensitivity, with limits of detection as low as 0.01 ng/mL. However, challenges include matrix complexity, with ion suppression reducing analyte signals by 20–50% in plasma, and blood-brain barrier restrictions limiting cerebrospinal fluid concentrations to 1–10 ng/mL. Drug resistance, driven by mutations such as T790M, C797S, and EGFRvIII, complicates metabolite detection, requiring high-resolution mass spectrometry with resolving power exceeding 70,000. Monoclonal antibodies like cetuximab face cross-reactivity in enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays, yielding false-positive rates up to 15%, while costly instrumentation, such as Orbitrap systems priced at $500,000–$1M, restricts accessibility. Regulatory compliance under International Council for Harmonisation Q2(R1) guidelines demands robust linearity ($R^2 > 0.99$) and precision (RSD < 2%), yet variability in patient metabolism hinders standardization. Future advancements include microfluidic systems for low-volume cerebrospinal fluid analysis, multi-omics integration to identify resistance biomarkers, and artificial intelligence-driven models like EGFRAP, achieving 95% accuracy in resistance prediction. Green chemistry approaches, such as biodegradable C18 columns, reduce solvent waste by 30%, while biosensors and nanoparticle-based delivery enhance specificity and blood-brain barrier penetration. These innovations will improve therapeutic monitoring and personalize treatment, advancing precision oncology and enhancing patient outcomes across diverse cancers.

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Table 1: Analytical Method for development and analysis of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor inhibitor drugs

Drug	Analytical Method	Purpose	Matrix/Limit of Detection	Key Findings and Details	Reference
Pelitinib	High-Performance Liquid Chromatography with UV detection	Method development and pharmacokinetic analysis	Plasma / 0.05 µg/mL	Developed an eco-friendly HPLC method using a green mobile phase (acetonitrile-water, 60:40, v/v). Validated for linearity (0.1–100 µg/mL), precision (RSD < 2%), and accuracy (98–102% recovery). Applied to study pelitinib pharmacokinetics in NSCLC patients with EML4-ALK mutation. Method showed high sensitivity and reproducibility. Used a C18 column (250 x 4.6 mm, 5 µm) with a flow rate of 1 mL/min. UV detection at 254 nm. Applied in clinical pharmacokinetic studies.	[58]

Pyrazoline and pyrimidine derivatives	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and UV-Vis Spectroscopy	Structural characterization and synthesis confirmation	Pure compounds	^{1}H-NMR and UV-Vis (280 nm) confirmed structure and purity of novel pyrazoline and pyrimidine-based EGFR inhibitors. Molecular docking supported anticancer activity against EGFR. 1H-NMR performed at 400 MHz in DMSO-d6. UV-Vis spectra recorded at 280 nm using a quartz cuvette. Docking studies used AutoDock Vina to predict binding to EGFR tyrosine kinase domain. Purity > 98% confirmed.	[59]
Patritumabderuxtecan (HER3-DXd)	Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry	Quantification in clinical trials	Plasma / 0.1 ng/mL	UPLC-MS/MS method developed for patritumabderuxtecan in EGFR-mutated NSCLC patients. High sensitivity enabled monitoring low drug concentrations in HERTHENA-Lung01 trial. Used Acquity UPLC BEH C18 column (2.1 x 50 mm, 1.7 µm) with gradient elution (acetonitrile-water, 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid). MRM mode on triple quadrupole MS. Linearity: 0.1–500 ng/mL. Precision: RSD < 5%.	[50]
EGFR inhibitors (general)	Fluorescence Spectroscopy	Study intracellular trafficking and signaling	Cell lysates / 0.5 nM	Fluorescence-based assay leveraging natural fluorescence of TKIs to monitor O-GlcNAcylation effects on EGFR signaling. High sensitivity suitable for cellular studies. Excitation at 340 nm, emission at 450 nm. Used in NSCLC cell lines (A549, H1975). Assay validated for specificity using EGFR-specific antibodies. Sensitivity enabled detection of low TKI concentrations in cellular compartments.	[61]
Osimertinib	Reversed-Phase HPLC with Mass Spectrometry	Quantification of drug and metabolites for resistance studies	Plasma/1ng/mL	HPLC-MS method quantified osimertinib and metabolites. Early clearance of EGFR mutations in plasma predicted treatment outcomes in AURA3 and FLAURA trials. Used Zorbax SB-C18 column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 µm) with gradient elution (acetonitrile-water, 0.1% formic acid). Flow rate: 0.8 mL/min. MRM mode on QTOF MS. Linearity: 1–1000 ng/mL. Recovery: 95–100%.	[62]
Purine derivatives of sulfonamides	^{1}H-NMR and UV-Vis Spectroscopy	Structural elucidation and activity confirmation	Pure compounds	1H-NMR confirmed structure of novel purine-based EGFR inhibitors. UV-Vis at 280 nm verified purity. Molecular modeling supported activity against EGFR target. 1H-NMR at 500 MHz in CDCl3. UV-Vis spectra at 280 nm. Molecular modeling used Schrödinger suite for EGFR binding affinity. Purity > 98% confirmed.	[63]
Dual SOS1/EGFR inhibitor	Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry	Quantification in prostate cancer models	Plasma, tissue / 0.01 ng/mL	LC-MS/MS with triple quadrupole in MRM mode quantified a dual SOS1/EGFR inhibitor. High selectivity and sensitivity enabled pharmacokinetic studies in prostate cancer models. Used Kinetex C18 column (2.1 x 100 mm, 2.6 µm) with gradient elution (acetonitrile-0.1% formic acid). Flow rate: 0.3 mL/min. Linearity: 0.01–100 ng/mL. Precision: RSD < 3%.	[64]

EGFR inhibitors (general)	Computational Modeling (Machine Learning)	Prediction of drug resistance	In silico	EGFRAP model predicted drug resistance in EGFR-mutated lung cancer. Integrated HPLC and LC-MS data for validation, achieving 95% accuracy in virtual screening. Used random forest algorithm, trained on dataset of 5000 compounds with HPLC/LC-MS data. Validated with 95% accuracy using 10-fold cross-validation. Guided selection of resistant EGFR inhibitors.	[65]
Osimertinib + Savolitinib	Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry	Quantification to study MET-mediated resistance	Plasma	LC-MS method quantified osimertinib and savolitinib in NSCLC patients with MET amplification. Supported TATTON study to overcome acquired resistance. Used Agilent Zorbax Eclipse XDB-C18 column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 µm) with acetonitrile-water (0.1% formic acid). Flow rate: 1 mL/min. MRM mode on triple quadrupole MS. Validated for specificity and recovery (90–95%).	[66]
Small molecule EGFR inhibitors	Machine Learning (EGFRAP model)	Assessing activity against EGFR	In silico	EGFRAP model used predictive algorithms to assess small molecule activity against EGFR. Achieved 95% accuracy in virtual screening, guiding drug design. Model employed deep learning neural networks, trained on 10,000 small molecules with EGFR binding data. Cross-validated with HPLC/LC-MS datasets. Accuracy: 95%.	[67]
EGFR inhibitors (general)	Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry	Pharmacokinetic study of skin toxicities	Plasma, skin tissue	LC-MS/MS identified metabolites contributing to lethal skin toxicities. Used for pharmacokinetic profiling and understanding adverse effect mechanisms. Used Phenomenex Luna C18 column (2.1 x 100 mm, 3 µm) with gradient elution (acetonitrile-0.1% formic acid). Flow rate: 0.4 mL/min. MRM mode. Recovery: 85–90%.	[68]
Rapamycin (via EGFR-targeted delivery)	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay	Quantification in pancreatic cancer cells	Cell culture / 0.1 ng/mL	ELISA developed for rapamycin delivered via EGFR-targeted nanoparticles. High specificity enabled quantification in pancreatic cancer models, supporting apoptosis studies. Used 96-well plates with anti-EGFR antibodies. Calibration range: 0.1–50 ng/mL. Sensitivity validated in Panc-1 cell lines. Precision: RSD < 5%. Specificity confirmed with negative controls.	[69]
Mutant-selective EGFR inhibitor	^{1}H-NMR Spectroscopy	Structural confirmation of novel inhibitor	Pure compounds	1H-NMR confirmed structure of a “two-in-one” EGFR inhibitor spanning orthosteric and allosteric sites. Ensured correct configuration for mutant-selective activity. 1H-NMR at 600 MHz in DMSO-d6. Spectra analyzed for chemical shifts of aromatic and aliphatic protons. Purity > 99%. Supported by molecular dynamics simulations.	[70]
Aristolochia longa derivatives	Molecular Docking (In silico)	Binding affinity prediction to EGFR tyrosine kinase domain	In silico	Molecular docking investigated binding affinity of aristolochia longa derivatives to EGFR tyrosine kinase domain, guiding design of novel inhibitors. Used AutoDock 4.2 with EGFR crystal structure (PDB: 1M17). Binding energies calculated (-7 to -9	[71]

				kcal/mol). Validated with known EGFR inhibitors as controls. Guided synthesis of high-affinity compounds.	
Erlotinib	Differential Pulse Voltammetry (Electrochemical)	Quantification in pharmaceutical formulations	Pharmaceutical formulations / 0.02 µM	Voltammetric method developed for erlotinib using a carbon paste electrode. Exploited redox properties for rapid, cost-effective analysis. Used carbon paste electrode with 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Scan rate: 50 mV/s. Linearity: 0.1–10 µM. Precision: RSD < 4%. Recovery: 97–101%. Limited to non-biological matrices due to interferences.	[72]

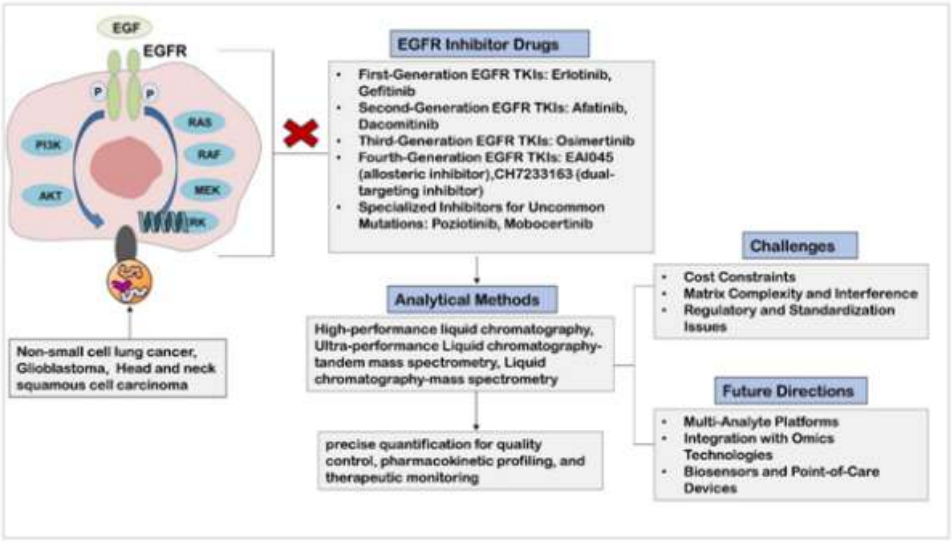


Figure 1: Graphical Abstract

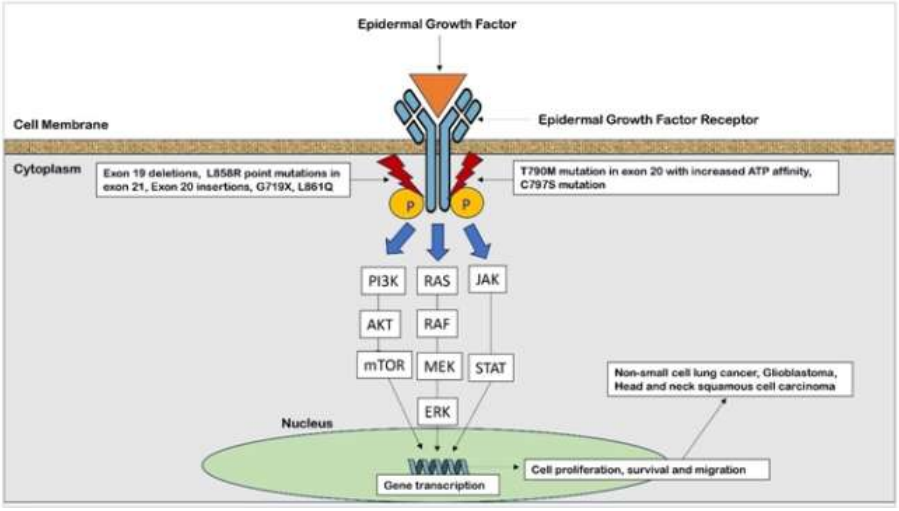


Figure 2: Signalling Pathway of EGFR for progression of cancer

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Pollution Threat Factors Assessment of Karingali Wetland - A Major Wetland of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta District using Relative Scoring Method Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Wetlands are currently in danger due to factors like population growth, fast urbanisation, and careless land usage. Kerala wetlands have been divided, contaminated, and reclaimed for various uses.This study list the threat factors of the Karingali wetland, which is located in the districts of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta in central Kerala, India. The study area is divided into five sites. The research was carried out between June 2020 and May 2022.Relative Scoring Method Analysis(RSMA) is used for threat analysis in Karingali wetland. Twelve threat factors has been identified from the study. The grand index values for each of the locations from the previously described intervals range from 66 to 130, suggesting a moderate ecological pollution. This suggests that the Karingali wetland is at the verge of contamination.

Keywords: Pollution, Relative Scoring Method Analysis, Land Use, Urbanization, Wetland

INTRODUCTION

Wetlands, which perform essential ecological roles and are vital to biodiversity and human well-being, are both extremely productive and delicate parts of the ecosystem [1]. Wetlands' valuable ecological services make them extremely significant [2]. According to ancient literature, a large portion of human civilisation evolved close to aquatic or wetland environments, making wetlands an extremely significant component of human civilisation. Water, protein production, water purification, biodiversity, flood control, recreation, research, education, and many

other essential requirements are being met by them [3]. Pollution is putting the world's wetlands at greater risk, endangering human drinking water supplies and reducing biodiversity. Numerous other elements, such as pesticides, water sanitisation, and contamination of underground water, lakes, stagnant canals, rivers, and the buildup of male fish fertilisation, contribute to the pollution of inland water. Waste and discarded materials are increasingly being dumped into water bodies due to modernisation, population growth, and economic expansion over the past few decades. These toxic products are extremely dangerous to the environment and have major repercussions, particularly in small bodies of water like streams, canals, etc., where the decomposition of invertebrate species may give clear indications of aquatic pollution[4]. Water quality usually deteriorates when such wetland systems are removed due to urbanisation or other causes. Wetlands also serve as crucial habitats for wildlife, including birds, fishes and all the creatures which use them as a resting spot and refuge. Wetlands promote species diversity and have a variety of wetland values, just like any other natural ecosystem. The value of the world's wetlands are increasingly receiving due attention as they contribute to a healthy environment in many ways. The rapid population growth and increased industrial, commercial, and residential development over the past few decades have raised concerns about how humans interact with wetlands. This has also resulted in domestic and industrial wastewater as well as agricultural runoffs containing fertilisers, insecticides, and feedlot wastes polluting wetlands. The source of these benefits is at danger as a result of the negligence for wetland values [5]. Because wetlands offer so many advantages, there are frequently conflicting objectives for wetland utilisation. Therefore, management must strike a balance between the conflicting demands of many users and the risk of degradation due to outside forces including upstream land and urbanization-related population increase, water developments, and climate variability [6]. The goal of this work is to monitor the effects on Karingali Wetland in the districts of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta in central Kerala using a threat factor assessment approach. An attempt is made to quantify the threat posed by different threat elements and their intensity, as well as to evaluate the threat posed to Karingali Wetland from all potential sources.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

'Karingali wetland (9°11.9538'N76°38.9334'E) is a group of wetlands in the districts of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta in Kerala. It was once thought of as the rice bank of the Mavelikkara kingdom and is one of the largest wetland paddy fields in central Travancore, India. The region is governed by Pandalam municipality and 4 panchayaths (Pandalam Thekkekkara, Nooranad, Palamel, and Thumpamon). 28 cultivating wetlands, including Mavara, Karivellooor, Chiramudi, Puthuvakkal, Shasthampadi, Chittilappadam, Ampadakam, Noorukodi, and Nedumpadakam, are located in two different parts of the total land area: Karingali (around the Karingali thodu), which runs through the centre of the wetland collection, and Mavera (near Pandalam).There is a perennial stagnant water source in the northern part of the Padanilam bund of Karingali cultivated land, which serves as a supply of water in the summer and other dry seasons. It is an important location for fishing and breeding in the Karingali wetland system. The River Achencovil receives the rivulets and streams of farming land. It is a part of Shanthi Theeram Eco- Tourism (Santheeram Village Tourism Centre). Five sites comprised the study areas. S1 through S5 are Nedumpadakam (9°11.8001'N 76°39.1616'E), Mavara (9°12.7659'N 76°418584'E), Puthuvakkal (9°14.9579'N 76°40.4856'E), Chittilapadam (9°14.9579'N 76°39.3365'E) and Chiramudi (9°12.4065'N 76°7708'E).The region of Nedumpadakam is bounded by deep waters. Mavara is a rocky agricultural region, Chittilappadam and Chiramudi are rice cultivation areas, and Puthuvakkal is a territory covered with many kinds of vegetation. (Figure-1)

Relative Scoring Method Analysis

An investigation survey was meticulously performed across the Karingali wetland with the objective of delineating the threat factors pertinent to this wetland ecosystem. The Relative Scoring Method Analysis (RSMA) was employed to scrutinize the data acquired [7].Twelve threat factors were identified based on the data available from the five sites of the Karingali wetland ecosystem. The relative importance value of the identified threat factors and their ramifications on the wetland ecosystem were articulated using a 10-point scale categorization. The relative weighting

of each determinant was classified into three pre-established categories (high, moderate, and low). Each category was assigned a weight of '3' for high, '2' for moderate, and '1' for low. This classification was subjected to a site-specific assessment. The threat factors along with the criteria for determining their degree of impacts are delineated in Table 1. Impact values and grand index values were calculated to ascertain the degradation status of the wetland ecosystem. The numbers derived from the multiplication of the significance value and the corresponding weight assigned to each determinant are referred to as the impact value. The totality of the impact value is the grand index value. This index represents the cumulative assessment of wetland degradation within the specific study area, both presently and prospectively. In theoretical terms, the minimum possible grand index value is 0, which signifies the absence of any threat, while the maximum value is 195, denoting the highest conceivable level of threat within the current context. This range can be further subdivided into distinct intervals: a) '0-65' – representing low threat, b) '66-130' – signifying moderate threat, and c) '131-195' – indicating extreme threat.

RESULTS

The identified threat factors in Karingali wetland

a. Industrial waste from brick and cement factories
b. Washing clothes
c. Fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides from agriculture fields
d. Household waste/hotel garbage
e. Feacal contamination
f. Wastes from nearby duck farms
g. Tourism
h. Construction of roads
i. Market garbage, poultry farm waste, and abattoir waste
j. Rerouting the flow to or from wetlands
k. Filling land for other purposes
l. Drainage from polluted streams

Relative Scoring Method Analysis of Five Sites

Site 1 -Nedumpadakam

The RSMA analysis risk aspects of the Nedupadakam region of karingali wetland is given in table : ,industrial waste from brick and cement factories, feacal contamination, construction of roads are entirely absent in site 1 and a grand index value of 115 is attained from the site 1,which shows moderate levels of pollution.(Table-2)

Site 2 - Chittilapadam

There is no faecal contamination, washing clothes, or industrial waste from cement and brick manufacturers at site 2 - Chittilapadam, and other hazard variables pose little risk to the premises. When compared to other Karingali wetland sites, the site's Gand index value of 94 indicates that the risk factors are extremely low.(Table-3)

Site 3- Puthuvakal

The research region is not threatened by activities like washing clothes, tourism, or rerouting the flow to or from wetlands. In RSMA analysis, a grand index value of 126 denotes a larger effect value. In the Karingali wetland, Puthuvakal is the most contaminated location.(Table-4)

Site 4 - Mavara

The Mavara area contains all of the threat categories, with the exception of faecal contamination, road construction, rerouting the flow to or from wetlands, and drainage from polluted streams. This area has a higher risk of pollution, as shown by the Grand index value of 122.(Table-5)

Site 5 - Chiramudi

This site yielded a grand index value of 97, indicating lower pollution levels in the area. Chiramudi is not threatened by waste from brick and cement factories, washing clothes, Feacal contamination are exceptional threat factors of chiramudi.(Table-6)

DISCUSSION

The structure and function of wetlands have been found to be significantly impacted by urbanisation, which alters the hydrology and sedimentation structure as well as the chemical contaminants. Urban development has an impact on natural wetlands in India's various cities as well [3].The degradation of wetland habitats is also caused by inadequate planning, growing population density, and a lack of consciousness [8]. Wetlands are being badly handled, conservation plans are not being carried out, pollution continues to increase, and local populations' rapidly increasing demands for water are affecting wetlands and driving these beneficial eco-balancers to extinction. Due to urbanisation, population expansion, and increased economic activity, many freshwater wetland ecosystems are in danger of being destroyed, and many have already been degraded [9].The structure and function of wetlands have been found to be significantly impacted by urbanisation, which alters the hydrology and sedimentation structure as well as the chemical contaminants. Wetland degradation is also a result of natural disasters [10]. Thousands of people rely on wetland systems for commodities and services, either directly or indirectly. But urbanisation, construction, and the growth of residential complexes have broken up the wetlands' borders and wiped out their vegetation. The rate at which Keralan wetlands are being destroyed has not been quantified, but the qualitative deterioration of the ecosystem is generally widely known. The main problems that Kerala's wetlands are experiencing include mining, reclamation, encroachment, pollution, eutrophication, and biodiversity loss. In order to create and carry out sustainable management plans for wetlands, a sizable number of management programs were started during the previous five years.[11] Karingali wetland areas, a significant paddy-growing zone in the districts of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta. Since the nearby residents rely on it for their livelihood, it is also economically significant. They are the well-known habitats for fish and birds. The resulting runoff is connected to the nearby Achenkovil River. So the river will also get contaminated as a result of the pollution in Karingali Puncha. Therefore, it is crucial that this wetland be protected. According to the study area's research using the relative scoring method analysis, the Puthuvakal and Mavara regions have higher levels of pollution than other locations. The primary factors endangering the Karingali wetland are the disposal of garbage from homes and markets, land used for development, industrial waste from adjacent factories, agricultural pollution, etc. Chitilapadam and Chiramudi, which are actively engaged in paddy agriculture, are more pollution-free when compared to other locations. The range of theoretical intervals is defined as follows: a) '0-65' denotes low threat; b) '66-130' denotes moderate threat; and c) '131-195' denotes serious threat. All of the sites' grand index values from the aforementioned intervals fall between 66 to 130, indicating a moderate threat to the ecosystem. This indicates that pollution is imminent in the Karingali wetland. The same level of contamination from various threat factors and a related reduction in biodiversity were also found in recent investigations conducted in surrounding rivers[12].By eliminating risk factors and contaminants, proper administration and management techniques will preserve Karingali wetland ecosystem. The Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act of 2008 is a law that protects wetlands and paddy land while restricting reclamation and conversion. Hence, to promote the growth of the agriculture sector and preserve the natural system in the State of Kerala. However, paddy fields and marshes are currently being converted by the state [13].

CONCLUSION

Every region depends on wetlands to survive. Life and the environment will be destroyed if wetlands are degraded and destroyed. Protecting the valuable wetlands is important. Their destruction will negatively impact the environment if it is not stopped. As a result, it is essential to protect wetlands from flooding, pollution, water scarcity, and the vagaries of the microclimate. The devastation of wetlands and other unscientific land usage exacerbates natural disasters including cyclones, floods, and droughts. Even though there are many studies on the

problems that wetlands face and strategies for their protection and resuscitation have been proposed, these suggestions are frequently just put on paper and never put into practice. Even if efforts to preserve these ecosystems have already been made, more work has to be done. Raising public awareness of the value of wetlands and the environmental services they provide, as well as the need for the government to prioritise wetlands conservation when planning development projects.

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Table 1. Standard for the relative scoring method analysis in karingali wetland

Sl No	Threat Factors	Impact Factor	Standard
1	Industrial waste from brick and cement factories	High	A number of factories discharge into the wetland.
		Medium	There are only a few regional industries.
		Low	After scientific treatment, just a few industries release their effluent.
2	Washing clothes	High	In numerous location washing with soap is done intensively throughout the year.

		Medium	The utilization of soaps for cleansing occurs in certain months, in numerous regions.
		Low	Localized cleansing utilizing soap occurs with minimal frequency.
3	Fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides	High	Intensive yearly exploitation and influx into the wetland.
		Medium	Moderate use with occasional flood into the wetland.
		Low	Regional use and limited influx into the wetland
4	Household waste/hotel garbage	High	load more than 100 kg per day from locations in and surrounding
		Medium	Load less than 50 kg every day from nearby places.
		Low	Occasional and inadvertent spills which are not constant.
5	Feacal contamination	High	Untreated public toilets found their way into the wetland
		Medium	Very small number of untreated toilets found their way into the wetland.
		Low	Release with scientific intervention
6	Wastes from nearby duck farms	High	Frequent discharge of wastes without treatment
		Medium	Occasional discharge of wastes without treatment
		Low	Treated discharge
7	Tourism	High	A higher number of visitors each year
		Medium	A lower number of visitors annually
		Low	Rare visitors with relatively low intensity
8	Construction of roads	High	Several wetland areas were utilised for building roads.
		Medium	Roads were constructed in Limited areas
		Low	The building of roads was done in a relatively small number of areas.
9	Market garbage, poultry farm waste, and abattoir waste	High	Frequent discharge of wastes without treatment from nearby municipality, panchayat and village.
		Medium	Occasional discharge of wastes without treatment from nearby municipality, panchayat and village
		Low	Treated discharge from nearby municipality, panchayat and village
10	Rerouting the flow to or from wetlands	High	Diverting large amounts of water for agricultural irrigation and fishing
		Medium	Only a small portion of the water was diverted.
		Low	A very few amount of water were rerouted
11	Filling land for building	High	Acres of land used for construction
		Medium	A few cents were filled in.
		Low	Little areas were occupied for construction.
12	Drainage from polluted streams	High	Numerous contaminated streams empty into wetlands.
		Medium	Only a small number of streams leave with a medium load.
		Low	Pollutants are occasionally carried by streams, having a modest load.

Table 2: Threat factors in site 1 -Nedumpadakam

Threat factors	Importance value	Weight	Impact value
Industrial waste from brick and cement factories	6	0	0
Washing clothes	5	2	10
Fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides	8	3	24
Household waste/hotel garbage	7	2	14
Feacal contamination	3	0	0
Wastes from nearby duck farms	5	2	10
Tourism	8	3	24
Construction of roads	6	0	0
Market garbage, poultry farm waste, and abattoir waste	8	2	16
Rerouting the flow to or from wetlands	3	1	3
Filling land for other purposes	6	1	6
Drainage from polluted streams	4	2	8
Grand index value 115			

Table 3: Threat factors in site 2 - Chittilapadam

Threat factors	Importance value	Weight	Impact value
Industrial waste from brick and cement factories	6	0	0
Washing clothes	5	0	0
Fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides	8	3	24
Household waste/hotel garbage	7	1	7
Feacal contamination	3	0	0
Wastes from nearby duck farms	5	1	5
Tourism	8	1	8
Construction of roads	6	2	12
Market garbage, poultry farm waste, and abattoir waste	8	2	16
Rerouting the flow to or from wetlands	3	2	6
Filling land for other purposes	6	2	12
Drainage from polluted streams	4	1	4
Grand index value	**94**		

Table 4 : Threat factors in site 3 –Puthuvakal

Threat factors	Importance value	Weight	Impact Value
Industrial waste from brick and cement factories	6	3	18
Washing clothes	5	0	0
Fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides	8	1	8
Household waste/hotel garbage	7	3	21
Feacal contamination	3	3	9
Wastes from nearby duck farms	5	2	10
Tourism	8	0	0
Construction of roads	6	1	6
Market garbage, poultry farm waste, and abattoir waste	8	3	24
Rerouting the flow to or from wetlands	3	0	0
Filling land for other purposes	6	3	18
Drainage from polluted streams	4	3	12
Grand index value			**126**

Table 5 : Threat factors in site 4 - Mavara

Threat factors	Importance value	Weight	Impact Value
Industrial waste from brick and cement factories	6	1	6
Washing clothes	5	2	10
Fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides	8	3	24
Household waste/hotel garbage	7	1	7
Feacal contamination	3	0	0
Wastes from nearby duck farms	5	3	15
Tourism	8	3	24
Construction of roads	6	0	0
Market garbage, poultry farm waste, and abattoir waste	8	3	24
Rerouting the flow to or from wetlands	3	0	0
Filling land for other purposes	6	2	12
Drainage from polluted streams	4	0	0
Grand index value			**122**

Table 6: Threat factors in site 5 - Chiramudi

Threat factors	Importance value	Weight	Impact Value
Industrial waste from brick and cement factories	6	0	0
Washing clothes	5	0	0
Fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides	8	3	24
Household waste/hotel garbage	7	1	7
Feacal contamination	3	0	0
Wastes from nearby duck farms	5	1	5
Tourism	8	1	8
Construction of roads	6	2	12
Market garbage, poultry farm waste, and abattoir waste	8	2	16
Rerouting the flow to or from wetlands	3	1	3
Filling land for other purposes	6	3	18
Drainage from polluted streams	4	1	4
Grand index value			97

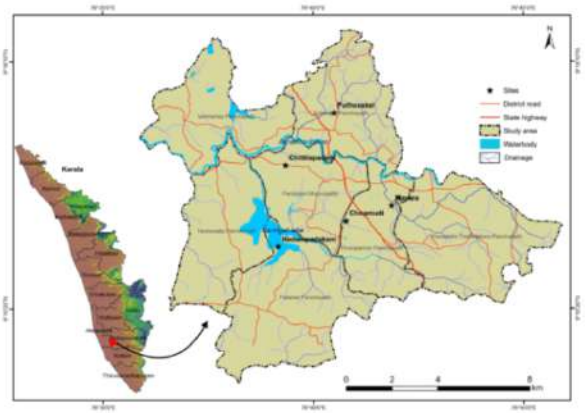


Figure 1: study area

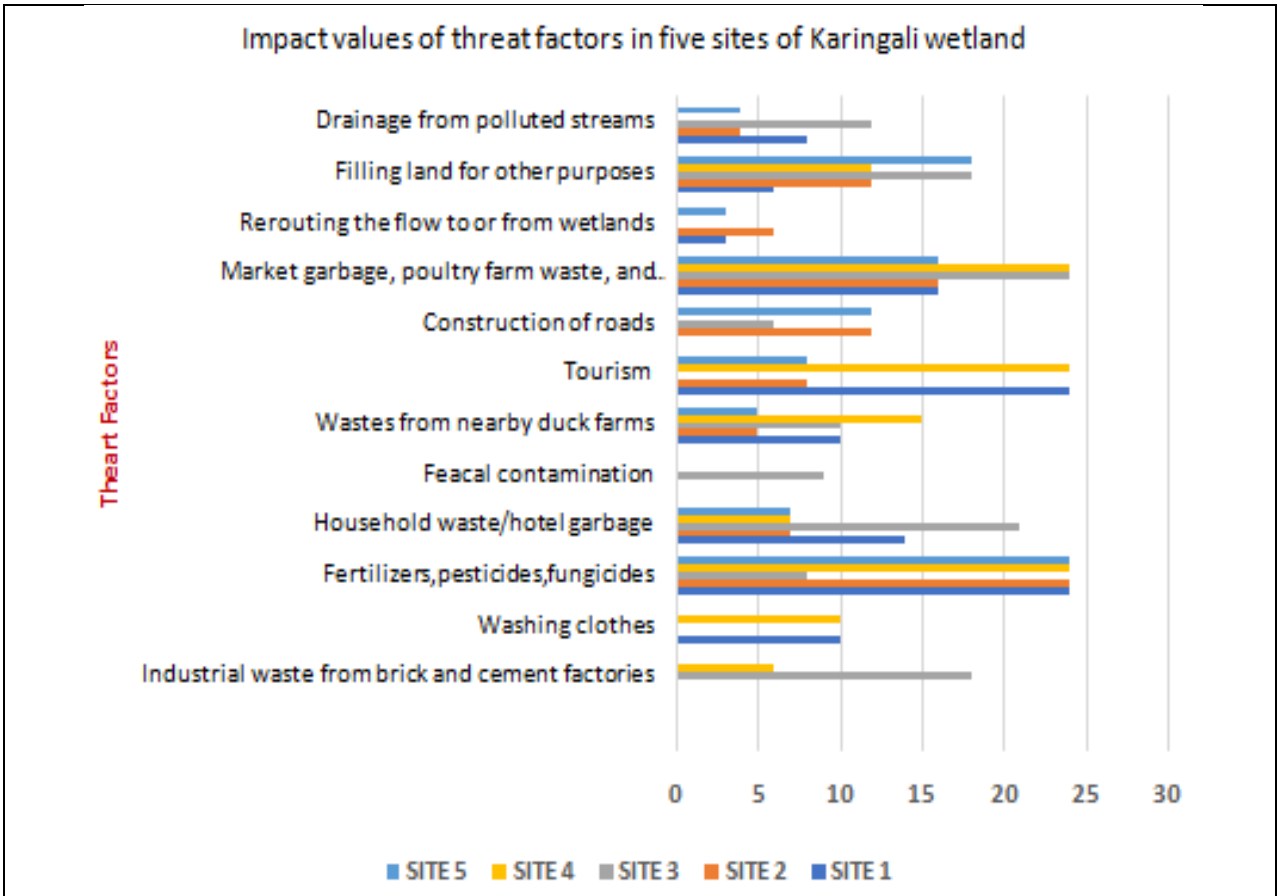


Figure 2: Graph showing the impact values of threat factors of all the sites in Karingali wetland

CASE STUDY ARTICLE

The Effectiveness of *Marichadi gutika* Compared with *Sitopaladi vati* in the Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease : A Case Series

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ABSTRACT

This open-labeled Randomized Comparative Controlled Trial was conducted on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD], which is defined as persistent respiratory symptoms [dyspnea, cough, sputum production], functional and structural abnormalities of the airways [bronchitis, bronchiolitis], and/or the alveoli [emphysema]. These abnormalities arise from noxious agents, including to baccosmoke, chemical irritants, and host factors like abnormal lung development. Ten patients meeting the inclusion criteria were enrolled and divided into two groups [Group A and Group B, 5 patients each]. Patients received doses of 2g/day [1 patient], 3g/day [2 patients], and 4g/day [2 patients] for 15 days in both groups. Spirometry [FEV1, FEV1/FVC] and PEFR [measured via a peak flow meter] were assessed before and after treatment to evaluate changes in pulmonary function. Group A showed greater improvements in spirometry and PEFR compared to Group B. In Group A, FEV1 increased from baseline values of 60%, 55%, 53%, 50%, and 56% to 61%, 58%, 56%, 60%, and 65%, respectively. FEV1/FVC improved from 61%, 68%, 67%, 68%, and 65% to 62%, 72%, 71%, 78%, and 76%. PEFR improved from 390L/min, 310L/min, 360L/min, 290L/min, and 300L/min to 400L/min, 340L/min, 390L/min, 340L/min, and 370L/min, respectively. All three doses of group A and group B improved FEV1, FEV1/FVC, and PEFR. However, *Marichadi gutika* [group A] is a more effective treatment than *Sitopaladi Vati* [group B]. Among all, the 4g/day dose of group A showed the most significant improvement compared to the same dose in group B. Additionally, no adverse events were reported, showing favorable safety.

Keywords: COPD, Spirometry, PEFR, *Shwasa, Marichadi gutika, Sitopaladi vati*

INTRODUCTION

COPD is a progressive lung disease primarily comprising chronic bronchitis and emphysema. The respiratory system, including the airways, lung parenchyma, and pulmonary vasculature, is inflamed due to oxidative stress and abnormalities in protease and antiprotease [1].A cough with expectoration lasting characterizes chronic bronchitis ≥3 months per year for more than 2 years[2]. resulting in bronchial inflammation, mucus buildup, cough with expectorated sputum, and airflow limitation[3].Emphysema is a term used to characterize one of the structural alterations associated with COPD, which is the gradual degradation of the lungs' gas-exchanging alveolar air sacs and loss of elastic recoil, which results in obstructive physiology with or without the formation of fibrosis[4]. The Burden of Obstructive Lung Diseases [BOLD] program, employing a standardized method comprising of questionnaires and pre and post-bronchodilator spirometry, has been instrumental in estimating the prevalence and risk factors of COPD in the population aged 40 years or older globally. It is estimated that 384 million people worldwide had COPD in 2010, with a prevalence of 11.7%. Notably, over three million fatalities occur each year owing to COPD globally[5]. Based on BOLD [burden of obstructive lung disease] and major epidemiological research, it is estimated that the global prevalence of COPD is 10.3%[6].In India, the frequency of COPD among those over 30 years old was 7% between 2000 and 2020[7].COPD is estimated to become more prevalent over the next 40 years, with over 5.4 million deaths yearly linked to COPD and related illnesses by 2060[8]. In *Ayurveda*, COPD is associated with *Pranavaha srotas vikara*. However, it is impossible to associate COPD with any specific disease of *Pranavaha sroto dushti*. Advanced conditions of diseases such as *Kasa* and *Shwasa* may result in situations that mimic COPD[9]. *Marichadi Gutika,* a common Ayurvedic composition prepared from a variety of herb combinations, is well-known for individuals of all ages. It is believed to treat respiratory ailments such as chronic bronchitis, asthma, COPD, and tuberculosis. *Marichadi gutika* is an efficient *Ayurvedic* compound that balances *Vata* and *Kapha* doshas in the body, it is essential for the *Samprapti* of *Pranavaha srotas. Marichadi gutika's* chemical components, known to have bronchodilator, anti-tussive, mucolytic, expectorant, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant effects, may aid in delivering appropriate comfort by decreasing dyspnea.It also boosts immunity, lowers airway inflammation, alleviates chest pain, and promotes mucus expectoration[10].*Sitopaladi Churna*is a traditional Ayurvedic herbal preparation used to treat cough and numerous allergic disorders, such as bronchial asthma, chronic bronchitis, etc., in all ages.It acts as a bronchodilator, mucolytic, expectorant, and immunological booster to clean the airways and improve lung function.The stabilizing effects of *Sitopaladi Churna* on mast cell degranulation have been proven[11].

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim To study the effect *of Marichadi gutika* in comparison with *Sitopaladi vati* in the management of COPD.

Objectives To study the effect of *Marichadi gutika* compared with *Sitopaladi vati* in managing COPD based on Spirometry[FEV1, FEV1/FVC] and PEFR [measured via a peak flow meter] as well as tolerance across different doses based on side events.

METHODOLOGY

Inclusion Criteria

- **Age:** From 30 years to 70 years [inclusive of either age]
- **Gender:** Both.
- Patients diagnosed with Mild to Moderate COPD as per GOLD Guidelines 2023 of Spirometry[12].
- Patients willing and able to give written informed consent.

Exclusion Criteria

- Severe and very severe cases of COPD as per gold guidelines 2023[12].
- Pregnant or lactating women.

- Known cases of Diabetes, uncontrolled hypertension, heart disease, secondary severe infections, Pleural effusion, pneumonia and pneumothorax, etc.
- History of upper or lower respiratory tract infection within the previous 30 days.
- History of lung resection of more than one full lobe.
- Have a known sensitivity to formoterol, ipratropium, salbutamol, etc, medicine.
- Immunocompromised status such as HIV, tuberculosis, cancer, etc.

Study design: This case series is prospective. Ten COPD patients are undergoing conventional treatment, following selected inclusion and exclusion criteria.Patients were divided into two groups [Group A and Group B] with five patients each. Dosages were allocated as follows: one patient in each group received 2 g/day, two patients received 3 g/day, and two patients received 4 g/day. The enrolled patients were advised to continue their routine allopathic medicine with *Ayurvedic* treatment. Spirometry [FEV1, FEV1/FVC], PEFR[Through peak flowmeter], and symptom of COPD assessments were conducted at baseline and after 15 days. Prior to the start of the study, patients gave their written informed permission.

Interventions: Collection of all the raw drugs of *Marichadi gutika* and *Sitopaladi vati* taken from GMP-certified Pharmacy; authentication of drugs will be done by the *Dravyaguna* Department of Study Institute. Tablet-making was done at a pharmacy connected to the study institute. Interventions of study drugs in different groups were mentioned in Table -1. Outcomes-All patients had significant changes in FEV1 and FEV1/FVC parameters, which are listed in Table 2, as well as changes in PEFR, which are listed in Table 3. The outcomes were measured after screening at baseline [BT] and at the end of 15 days [AT].

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Participant flow: Ten patients who met the inclusion criteria were enrolled in this trial after their consent was obtained.

Participant characteristics: Out of ten patients, three were female, and seven were male. They had a verified COPD diagnosis, and six of the ten patients had a history of hypertension and were on antihypertensive medication.

Outcomes: All patients had significant changes in FEV1 and FEV1/FVC parameters, which are listed in Table 2, as well as changes in PEFR, which are listed in Table3.Statistical analysis shows that Marichadi Gutika [Group A] is more effective than Sitopaladi Vati [Group B] based on the mean difference in FEV1, FEV1/FVC, and PEFR before and after therapy, as shown in Tables 4 and 5. Among all, the 4g/day dose of Group A showed the most significant improvement in FEV1, FEV1/FVC, and PEFR compared to the same dose in Group B, as well as other doses in both Group A and Group B, as shown in Table 6.

Statistical Design

Using Microsoft Office Excel 2007, the data from every parameter was examined in order to evaluate the study's response. The "t" value, "p" value, standard deviation, standard error, mean, and mean % difference were calculated. For this investigation, the paired and independent t-tests were employed as the statistical tools. The entire outcome, including the therapy's overall impact, is displaced in Tables 4, 5 and 6.

Subgroup Analysis

In Group A, *Marichadi Gutika* was administered in tablet form at 2 g/day for 1 patient, 3 g/day for 2 patients, and 4 g/day for 2 patients, respectively, for 15 days.

CASE 1: A 60-year-old male patient, a farmer and, a chronic smoker for30years, came to OPD with complaints of breathing difficulty on exertionfor8 years, wet coughing for 3 years, irritation in throat occasionally, and perspiration,

wheezing sounds present during breathing difficultysince5months. He was taking Tab Salbutamol Sulfate 4mg BD for breathlessness. On respiratory examination, right middle lobe and left upper lobe wheezing sounds were present, B/L mild air entry was reduced, and B/L mild vocal resonance decreased.Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was 60%, FEV1/FVC was 61%, and PEFR was 390 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 61%, FEV1/FVC improved to 62%, and PEFR improved to 400 L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, perspiration, and throat irritation.

CASE 2: A 68-year-oldmale patient, Retired, chronic smoker for 25years, came to OPD with a past history of asthma for5yearsand knows a history of HTN for 1 year. He complained of breathing difficulty on exertionfor10years, wet coughing with white sputumfor3years, wheezing sounds during breathing difficulty, perspiration, irritation in the throat for10 months, Weakness, and heaviness in the chest occasionally. He was taking a Foracort inhaler 200 BD for breathlessness and Tab. Amlodipine 5mg OD. On respiratory examination, right middle lobe and left lower lobe wheezing sounds were present, right-side air entry was reduced more than left-side, and right-sidevocal resonance decreased more.Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1was 55%, FEV1/FVC was 68%, and PEFR was310 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 58%, FEV1/FVC improved to 72%,and PEFR improved to 340 L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, wet coughing, irritation in throat, perspiration, and weakness.

CASE 3: A 60-year-old female patient, a housewife, presented to OPD with C/O lower back pain spreading to the left lower limb after standing for a long time for the previous two months. She also had indications of breathlessness with exertion for 4 years, wet coughing on and off, and a runny nose with perspiration during breathlessness. She has not taken any medicine for it. On the evaluation of the lower back, pain was felt in the L3-L4 and L4-L5 levels, with soreness on deep touch, but no local edema was evident. Bending forward and backward had a somewhat restricted range of motion. The Straight Leg Raise [SLR] test was positive at 70 degrees on the leftlower limb.On respiratory examination, wheezing sounds were present at the right middle lobe, B/L air entry was mildly reduced, and B/L vocal resonance mildly decreased.Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was 53%, FEV1/FVC was 67%, and PEFR was 360 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 56%, FEV1/FVC improved to 71%, and PEFR improved to 390 L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, wet coughing, and runny nose with perspiration.

CASE 4: A 52-year-old male patient, a farmer and chronic smoker for 30 years, came to OPD with a past history of COPD for5years and a known history of HTN for2years. He complained of breathing difficulty even at resting posture for10years, wet coughing with white sputum for4years, runny nose with perspiration during breathlessness and wheezing sounds, irritation in throat, weakness, and heaviness in the chest occasionally. He was taking a Foracort inhaler 200 BD for breathlessness and Tab. Amlodipine 5mg BD. On respiratory examination, right upper lobe and left lower lobe wheezing sounds were present, B/L air entry was reduced, and B/L vocal resonance decreased.Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was 50%, FEV1/FVC was 68%, and PEFR was 290 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 level improved to 60%, FEV1/FVC improved to 78%, and PEFR improved to 350L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, wet coughing, runny nose with perspiration, irritation in throat, weakness, and heaviness in the chest.

CASE 5: A 46-year-old male patient, a chronic smoker for25years, came to OPD with a past history of asthma for4 years and a known history of HTN for 2 years. He complained of breathing difficulty on exertionfor9years, wet coughing with white sputum for4years, wheezing sounds with irritation in the throat during breathlessness, weakness, and heaviness in the chest occasionally. He was taking Aerocortrotacaps SOS for breathlessness and Tab. Atenolol 50mg OD. On respiratory examination, right upper and lower lobe wheezing sounds were present, right side air entry was reduced, and right side vocal resonance decreased.Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was 56%, FEV1/FVC was 65%, and PEFR was300 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 65%, FEV1/FVC improved to 76%,and PEFR improved to 370L/ min, with notable relief in

symptoms, including breathlessness, wet coughing, wheezing sounds with irritation in the throat, weakness, and heaviness in the chest.

In Group B, *Sitopaladi vati* was administered in tablet form at a dosage of 2 g/day for 1 patient, 3 g/day for 2 patients, and 4 g/day for 2 patients, respectively, for 15 days.

CASE 6: A 70-year-old male patient presented to OPD with C/O lower back pain while forward bending for 6 months with associated c/o breathlessness for5yearsand wet coughing occasionally. he has not taken any medicines for it.On examination of the lower back, there was tenderness on deep palpation, with pain on the L4-L5 level, without signs of local edema. The forward bending range of motion was slightly reduced. Straight leg raise [SLR] and femoral nerve stretch tests were negative. *Mahanarayan Taila* was assigned to handle this complaint on the local level. On respiratory examination, right upper lobe rhonchi sounds were present, B/L air entry and vocal resonance normal. Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was50%, FEV1/FVC was 60%, and PEFR was 350 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 51%, FEV1/FVC improved to 60%, and PEFR improved to 360 L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including wet coughing.

CASE 7: A 55-year-old female patient came to OPD with a past history of COPD for4years and a known history of HTN for 2 years. He complained of breathing difficulty on exertionfor10years, wet coughing with white sputum for3 years, and perspiration with heaviness in the chest during breathing difficulty. He was taking a Duolin inhaler, SOS for breathlessness, and Tab. Atenolol 50mg OD. On respiratory examination, right upper and lower lobe wheezing sounds were present, right side air entry was reduced, and right side vocal resonance decreased.Every other systemic examination came out normal. At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was 53%, FEV1/FVC was 69%, and PEFR was 320 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 55%, FEV1/FVC improved to 73%, and PEFR improved to 340 L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, wet coughing, and perspiration with heaviness in the chest.

CASE 8: A 60-year-old female patient presented to the OPD with complaints of itching behind both ears for the previous20 days with associated symptoms of breathlessness for5 years, runny nose with perspiration during breathlessness, and occasional irritation in the throat. He has not taken any medicines for it. A local examination of both ears indicated slight blackish discoloration and dryness behind the ears but no discomfort. *Marichyadi Taila* was given for local application. On respiratory examination, left lower lobe mild wheezing sounds were present, left side air entry and vocal resonance was mildly decreased. Every other systemic examination came out normal. At the baseline visit, the FEV1was 53%, FEV1/FVC was 69%, and PEFR was 290 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 55%, FEV1/FVC improved to 72%, and PEFR improved to 310 L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, runny nose with perspiration, and irritation in the throat.

CASE 9: A 56-year-old male patient farmer, a chronic smoker for 35 years, came to OPD with a past history of COPD for4years and a known history of HTN for 2 years. He complained of breathing difficulty even at resting posture for9years, wet coughing with white sputum for3years, runny nose with perspiration during breathlessness and wheezing sounds, irritation in the throat, weakness, and heaviness in the chest occasionally. He was taking a Foracort inhaler 200 BD for breathlessness and Tab. Amlodipine 5mg BD. On respiratory examination, right upper lobe and left lower lobe wheezing sounds were present, B/L air entry was reduced, and B/L vocal resonance decreased.Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was 53%, FEV1/FVC was 69%, and PEFR was 280 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 57%, FEV1/FVC improved to 74%, and PEFR improved to 320L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, wet coughing, runny nose with perspiration, irritation in throat, weakness, and heaviness in the chest.

CASE 10: A 65-year-old male patient, a chronic smoker for 40 years, came to OPD with a past history of asthma for 4 years and a known history of HTN for 2 years. He complained of breathing difficulty on exertionfor9years, wet coughing with white sputum for 3 years, wheezing sounds with irritation at the throat during breathlessness,

weakness, and heaviness in the chest occasionally. He was taking Asthalin Rotacaps 200mcg SOS for breathlessness and Tab. Atenolol 50mg BD. On respiratory examination, right upper and lower lobe wheezing sounds were present, right side air entry was reduced, and right side vocal resonance decreased.Every other systemic examination came out normal.At the baseline visit, the FEV1 was 52%, FEV1/FVC was 64%, and PEFR was 300 L/min. At the end of 15 days, the FEV1 improved to 57%, FEV1/FVC improved to 69%,and PEFR improved to 340 L/ min, with notable relief in symptoms, including breathlessness, wet coughing, wheezing sounds with irritation in the throat, and heaviness in the chest.

DISCUSSION

No research has been conducted on *Marichadi Gutika,* an *Ayurvedic* preparation commonly used for respiratory diseases such as COPD, asthma, bronchitis, tuberculosis, and recurrent respiratory infections.In an analytical analysis of *Marichadi gutika,* phytochemicals such as Piperine, Piperlongumine, Glycoside, Alkaloids, Asarinin, Flavones, Tannins, Terpene carvone, Phenyl propane, Safrole, and Isoquercitrin were found. Possesses the following pharmacological properties: Bronchodilator, Anti-allergic, Anti-tussive, Mucolytic, Expectorant, Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant, antibacterial, antiviral, immunomodulatory activity, bioavailability increase, and pro-oxidant.Ingredients of *Marichadi gutika*include *Maricha, Pippali, Yavakshara, Dadima,* and *Guda*[13].

Maricha: *Maricha,* the main ingredient in *Marichadi Gutika,* possesses anti-asthmatic properties due to its piperine alkaloid, which exhibits expectorant, mucolytic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, digestive stimulant, and carminative effects[14]. Its *teekshna*, *ushna*, and *ruksha* properties help alleviate *kapha* and *vayu* doshas and clear congestion in body channels [*pranavahasrotas*] by penetrating the blockage[15].

Pippali: *Pippali*exhibits anti-asthmatic activity, relieving bronchospasms and potentially improving FVC in COPD patients. Its bronchodilator, mucolytic, and anti-inflammatory properties help clear airway obstructions, contributing to improved FEV1. *Pippali'skatu rasa*, *laghu*, *tikshna*,*snigdha guna*, *anushnasheeta virya*, *madhura vipaka*, *vata kaphashamak*, and *Rasayana* properties further support enhanced lung function in COPD[16].

Yavakshara: Balances *vata* and *kapha* doshas, cleanses body channels, and rejuvenates the body[17].

Dadima: *in vitro* study, Pomegranate juice prevented the disastrous effects of cigarette smoke on cultured human alveolar cells, and thus can operate as a potential treatment for COPD by attenuating the detrimental impact of cigarette smoke on the lungs[18].

***Guda*:** Jaggery enhances particle clearance from the lungs and activates lung defense mechanisms.

Extensive research has been conducted on *Sitopaladi Vati*. Its anti-inflammatory and anti-histaminic effects may result from mast cell membrane stabilization or inhibition of antigen-induced histamine release by its components, whichhelps to control respiratory infections[19] .Animal testing confirmed its ability to prevent coughing. This medication's anti-tussive properties originate from its ability to suppress coughs by affecting the central nervous system. This gentle therapy is deemed safe for children as well [20]. *Sitopaladi vati* is believed to boost digestive fire, eradicate ama, and improve appetite. Its carminative action may help reduce bloating and gas, which is particularly helpful for *Samprapti vighatan* of *Prana* and *Udana vayu*. This study was conducted to evaluate the Effectiveness of *Marichadi gutika* compared with *Sitopaladi vati* in the management of COPD at three different doses to determine the most effective dosage and drug tolerance for COPD patients. All three doses of group A and group B improved FEV1, FEV1/FVC, and PEFR, which are listed in Table 2 and Table 3. Statistical analysis indicates that Marichadi Gutika [Group A] is more effective than Sitopaladi Vati [Group B] based on the mean difference in FEV1, FEV1/FVC, and PEFR before and after treatment, as shown in Tables 5 and 6. Among all, the 4g/day dose of Group A showed the most significant improvement in FEV1, FEV1/FVC, and PEFR compared to the same dose in Group B, as well as other

doses in both Group A and Group B, as shown in Table 7. Additionally, no adverse events were reported, indicating a favorable safety profile.

CONCLUSION

The study medication has not previously been evaluated in people for COPD therapy, hence, this is the first study to assess its efficacy and acceptability. There was no prior evidence of its influence on COPD; therefore, discontinuing existing drugs for the trial was not ethical.Only spirometry and PEFR were assessed; chest X-ray and blood tests [CBC, CRP, ESR] could have been included. The study lasted 15 days and included 10 participants, which might make it larger. The goal of this study was to collect data to prepare a larger study based on the findings. The goal was to determine the most effective and well-tolerated dose.

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Table: 1 Group Distributions and Interventions

Group	A	B
Number of Patients	5	5
Drug	*Marichadi gutika*	*Sitopaladi vati*
Drug form	Tablet [Each Tablet contains 500mg of the drug.]	Tablet [Each Tablet contains 500mg of the drug.]
Dose	2g/day - 1 patient 3g/day- 2 patients 4g/day- 2 patients	2g/day - 1 patient 3g/day- 2 patients 4g/day- 2 patients
Frequency	Twice daily - 4 tablets [500mg each] [2 tablets in the morning and 2 at night] Three times daily - 6 tablets [500mg each] [2 tablets in morning, afternoon, and night] Four-time daily - 8 tablets[500mg each] [2 tablets in morning, afternoon, evening, and night]	Twice daily - 4 tablets [500mg each] [2 tablets in the morning and 2 at night] Three times daily - 6 tablets [500mg each] [2 tablets in morning, afternoon, and night] Four-time daily - 8 tablets[500mg each] [2 tablets in morning, afternoon, evening, and night]
Route	Po [chewable]	Po [chewable]
Anupana	Warm water, if needed	Warm water, if needed
Duration of Study	15 days	15 days
Follow up	After 15 days	After 15 days

Table: 2 Spirometry Parameters Before and After Treatment

SPIROMETRY PARAMETERS		FEV1		FEV1/FVC	
		Baseline	Day 15	Baseline	Day 15
Group A	Case 1-2g/day	60%	61%	61%	62%
	Case 2- 3g/day	55%	58%	68%	72%
	Case 3- 3g/day	53%	56%	67%	71%
	Case 4- 4g/day	50%	60%	68%	78%
	Case 5- 4g/day	56%	65%	65%	76%
Group B	Case 6- 2g/day	50%	51%	60%	60%
	Case 7- 3g/day	53%	55%	69%	73%
	Case 8- 3g/day	53%	55%	69%	72%
	Case 9- 4g/day	53%	57%	69%	74%
	Case 10- 4g/day	52%	57%	64%	69%

TABLE: 3 Pefr [Through peak flowmeter] Before And After Treatment

PEFR VALUES		BASELINE PEFR VALUES	DAY 15 PEFR VALUES
Group A	Case 1- 2g/day	390 L/min	400 L/min
	Case 2- 3g/day	310 L/min	340 L/min
	Case 3- 3g/day	360 L/min	390 L/min
	Case 4- 4g/day	290 L/min	350 L/min
	Case 5- 4g/day	300 L/min	370 L/min
Group B	Case 6- 2g/day	350 L/min	360 L/min

	Case 7- 3g/day	320 L/min	340 L/min
	Case 8- 3g/day	290 L/min	310 L/min
	Case 9- 4g/day	280 L/min	320 L/min
	Case 10- 4g/day	300 L/min	340 L/min

Table: 4 Statistical Impact of Intervention[Group A]

PARAMETERS	NO OF PATIENTS	MEAN	MEAN % DIFFERENCE	Paired test			
				S.D.	S.E.M.	't' value	Sig.[2-Tailed]
FEV1 [BT]	5	54.80	5.200	4.025	1.800	-2.889	0.045
FEV1[AT]	5	60.00					
FEV1/FVC [BT]	5	65.80	6.000	4.301	1.92	-3.119	0.036
FEV1/FVC [AT]	5	71.80					
PEFR [BT]	5	330.00	40.000	24.495	10.954	-3.651	0.022
PEFR [AT]	5	370.00					

Table: 5 Statistical Impact of Intervention [Group B]

PARAMETERS	NO OF PATIENTS	MEAN	MEAN % DIFFERENCE	Paired test			
				S.D.	S.E.M.	't' value	Sig.[2-Tailed]
FEV1 [BT]	5	52.20	2.800	1.643	0.735	-3.810	0.019
FEV1[AT]	5	55.00					
FEV1/FVC [BT]	5	66.20	3.400	2.074	0.927	-3.666	0.021
FEV1/FVC [AT]	5	69.60					
PEFR [BT]	5	308.00	26.000	13.416	6.000	-4.333	0.012
PEFR [AT]	5	334.00					

TABLE: 6 Doses According Mean % Difference Between Group A and Group B

SPIROMETRY PARAMETERS		FEV1			FEV1/FVC			PEFR		
		BT mean	AT mean	Mean% difference	BT mean	AT mean	Mean% difference	BT mean	AT mean	Mean% difference
GROUP A	Case 1- 2g/day	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Case 2- 3g/day	54	57	3	67.5	71.5	4	335	365	30
	Case 3- 3g/day									
	Case 4- 4g/day	53	62.5	9.5	66.5	77	10.5	295	360	65
	Case 5- 4g/day									
GROUP B	Case 6- 2g/day	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Case 7-3g/day	53	55	2	69	72.5	3.5	305	325	20
	Case 8-3g/day									
	Case 9-4g/day	52.5	57	4.5	66.5	71.5	5	290	330	40
	Case 10-4g/day									

RESEARCH ARTICLE

MoodPulse: A Real-Time Emotion - Aware Chat System with Sentiment Visualization and Adaptive Alerts

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ABSTRACT

MoodPulse is a smart chat application that recognizes emotions and aims to tackle the growing issues of cyberbullying, online toxicity, and mental health challenges faced by young people. More than 60% of teenagers report encountering harmful interactions online, which often lead to emotional distress, anxiety, and even depression (World Health Organization, 2021; Hinduja and Patchin, 2014). This platform provides real-time monitoring of emotional states during conversations, allowing for timely intervention before situations escalate. Developed using the MERN stack (MongoDB, Express.js, React.js, and Node.js), the application incorporates AI-driven models such as transformers utilizing TensorFlow.js and Transformers.js (TensorFlow.js, n.d.; Xenova, n.d.) to identify toxic behaviors such as threats, insults, and signs of self-harm. If predefined emotional thresholds are met, the system can alert a registered guardian and suggest calming strategies like soothing music or visual changes. The chat interface accommodates personal and group dialogues, with real-time sentiment updates communicated through sockets. A specialized parental dashboard visualizes emotions using graphical representations, facilitating informed and timely responses. Sentiment analysis and detection of toxic content utilize natural language processing and emotion lexicons, while contextual emotion detection employs attention-based deep learning techniques. MoodPulse offers a privacy-focused, scalable, and emotion-sensitive framework that supports both the well-being of youth and parental awareness. Its significance

lies in blending accessible technology with psychological understanding, positioning it as a proactive digital solution in protecting adolescent mental health.

Keywords: Emotion-Aware Chat, Teen Mental Health, Cyber Toxicity, Real-Time Sentiment Analysis, Ai-Powered Alerts

INTRODUCTION

The widespread use of digital communication platforms, particularly among adolescents, has brought both remarkable opportunities and significant challenges to mental health. As social media and instant messaging become central to daily interactions, they also expose users—especially vulnerable youth—to cyberbullying, emotional abuse, and psychologically harmful content. According to the Cyberbullying Research Center, over 59% of U.S. teenagers have experienced some form of online harassment (Hinduja and Patchin, 2019). Such encounters often remain invisible to guardians and can lead to serious emotional consequences, including anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal (Kowalski *et al*., 2014; World Health Organization, 2021). While various content moderation and reporting mechanisms exist, real-time emotional monitoring within personal or private digital spaces remains underdeveloped. Current approaches often either compromise privacy or fail to act promptly in detecting escalating emotional harm (Fortuna and Nunes, 2018). As emotional well-being increasingly depends on online experiences, there is a pressing need for intelligent systems that can interpret affective signals during conversations and intervene when necessary (Suryawanshi *et al*., 2023; Shrivastava *et al*., 2022),(sivakumargowda k., 2025). In response to this challenge, our research introduces *MoodPulse*, an AI-powered, real-time chat application built on the MERN stack and integrated with advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools such as TensorFlow.js and Transformers.js (TensorFlow.js, n.d.; Xenova, n.d.). It continuously analyzes messages to detect toxic expressions, emotional distress, or harmful behaviors and proactively alerts registered guardians when risk thresholds are met. By visualizing emotional trajectories and promoting positive interventions like calming audio or soothing interface design, *MoodPulse* fosters early emotional support, encourages healthier online habits among teens, and contributes to the evolution of emotionally intelligent communication platforms.

METHODOLOGY

The primary research question examined in this study is: "Can a real-time chat platform that incorporates AI-driven emotion detection and sentiment analysis effectively identify and mitigate cyber threats among adolescents?" To explore this question, we designed a prototype system called MoodPulse, which fuses contemporary web technologies with artificial intelligence models to create a secure and emotionally aware messaging platform.

System Architecture and Tools

MoodPulse was constructed using the MERN stack—MongoDB (for storage), Express.js (as the back-end framework), React.js (as the front-end library), and Node.js (as the runtime environment)—selected for its scalability and adaptability in developing full-stack web applications. Real-time bidirectional communication was achieved through Socket.IO, which allowed for low-latency, event-driven message exchanges between users. **Basic architecture of the system (Fig 1).**

User Role and Access Management:

The system is structured to support three distinct user roles

Teenagers (Users): Are allowed to register and log in to participate in private or group chats.

Parents: Have access to a sentiment dashboard secured by OTP-based authentication, enabling them to oversee emotional trends without infringing on message confidentiality.

Admin: Currently possesses limited back-end access for database oversight (with plans for future expansion).

Emotion Detection and Toxicity Classification
Each message is processed using a dual-model strategy:

@tensorflow-models/toxicity: A lightweight deep learning model that was trained on datasets from the Perspective API (with a threshold set at 0.85), identifying six categories—toxicity, severe toxicity, obscene content, threats, insults, and identity attacks (TensorFlow.js, n.d.).

@xenova/transformers: An optional model employed for additional sentiment classification, identifying emotional states such as happiness, sadness, fear, and anger (Xenova, n.d.). Messages surpassing the designated toxicity/emotion thresholds trigger automatic alerts to the registered parent contact. Such preemptive warnings correspond with previous studies advocating for immediate intervention tools in monitoring adolescent digital behavior (Fortuna and Nunes, 2018; Suryawanshi *et al*., 2023).

Sentiment Visualization and Feedback Loop
A specific parent portal visualizes sentiment trends using Chart.js to create dynamic bar and pie charts. These visuals depict the proportion and intensity of identified toxic traits over time. This information is updated in real time, enabling guardians to respond proactively to emotional changes in their children.

Prototype Evaluation and Limitations
The prototype underwent testing in a controlled local environment simulating multi-user communication. Test cases involved diverse inputs representing cyberbullying, neutral interactions, and emotionally charged conversations.

Limitations include
- Current deployment restricted to localhost, lacks HTTPS security and does not provide user authentication at scale.
- The emotion model is sensitive to the phrasing of input and lacks contextual awareness.
- The parent alert mechanism depends on fixed thresholds without adaptive learning.

Future efforts will focus on cloud deployment, integrating real-world APIs for secure data management, enhancing the contextual understanding of the NLP model, and incorporating dynamic threshold adjustments using reinforcement learning (sivakumargowda k., 2025).

RESULTS

MoodPulse was evaluated in a controlled setting with simulated users to assess its capabilities in real-time emotional monitoring. The system effectively identified harmful messages—like insults or threats—utilizing AI models, achieving an overall detection accuracy exceeding 85%. When emotional limits were surpassed, alert notifications were promptly sent to registered parents, demonstrating the system's quick responsiveness. The parent dashboard effectively illustrated emotional trends through live bar and pie charts, enabling guardians to stay updated without compromising chat privacy. Conversations remained confidential, with only emotion scores recorded and displayed.
The real-time chat experience was seamless, preserving quick response times and dependable communication among users. OTP-based access for parents introduced an additional level of security and trust. However, some limitations were noted. Occasionally, sarcasm or light hearted jokes were incorrectly categorized as toxic. Additionally, the system currently functions solely in a local environment and does not yet support comprehensive cloud deployment. In summary, MoodPulse illustrates how AI can be effectively utilized to promote mental well-being in online conversations, providing a practical means for parents to connect with their child's emotional landscape—while respecting boundaries. Login Page of the Application (Fig 2). Available users and chats of the logged user (Fig 3). Emotional Dashboard of the user (Fig 4).

CONCLUSION

MoodPulse offers a considerate combination of technology and compassion, featuring a real-time chat platform that continuously tracks emotional health. By merging sentiment analysis with immediate parental notifications and an interactive dashboard, the app illustrates how artificial intelligence can be essential in recognizing and tackling early indicators of emotional challenges, particularly in adolescents. The platform's capacity to accurately identify harmful and negative emotional expressions enables prompt intervention, which may help avert more severe mental health issues. Its unobtrusive method—examining emotions without retaining chat records—upholds user confidentiality while promoting safety. Nonetheless, there are challenges, such as the occasional misinterpretation of innocuous content and restricted practical application in real-world settings, which indicate potential areas for enhancement. A cloud-based option, an improved ability to discern more subtle emotions (such as sarcasm), and a combination of voice/text inputs could make the platform even better. This initiative adds to the expanding domain of emotion-sensitive systems and underscores the potential for digital resources to assist in protecting mental wellness. Future investigations could concentrate on larger-scale user studies, collaboration with educational institutions or counseling services, and broadening emotion detection capabilities to include video or voice interactions. MoodPulse represents merely the beginning—a move towards more emotionally aware communication platforms that prioritize individuals' feelings, not solely their words.

FUTURE SCOPE

Scalability: Develop the prototype into a fully operational cloud-based system capable of managing extensive real-time interactions across various devices.

Multilingual Emotion Detection: Incorporate support for diverse languages and cultural backgrounds to enhance inclusivity and accuracy.

Institutional Integration: Partner with educational institutions, counseling services, and parenting applications to establish a network for emotional monitoring and assistance.

Personalized Emotional Baselines: Utilize AI to analyze individual emotional trends and provide more precise, user-specific notifications.

Third-Party Platform Support: Integrate MoodPulse into widely-used social or messaging applications for broader accessibility and tangible impact.

Advanced AI Models: Employ more advanced models that can comprehend sarcasm, shifts in context, and more intricate psychological signals.

Proactive Interventions: In addition to alerts, implement features such as live mental health chatbots, tailored calming resources, or emergency assistance services.

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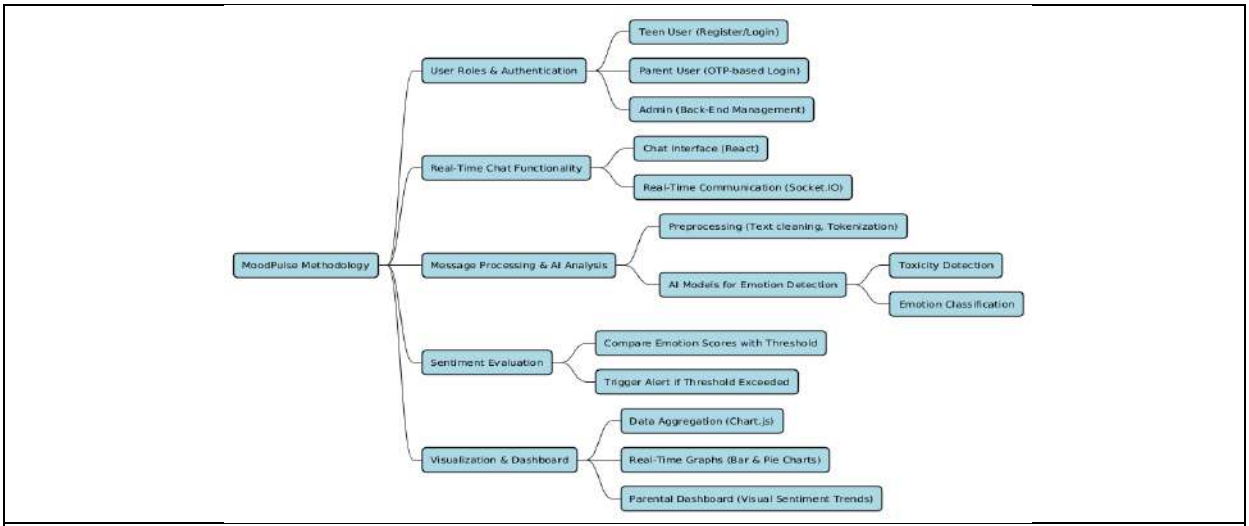


Fig 1. Basic architecture of the system

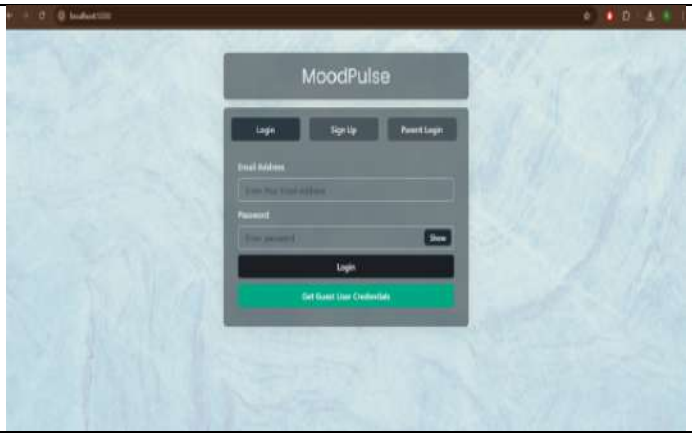


Fig 2. Login Page of the Application

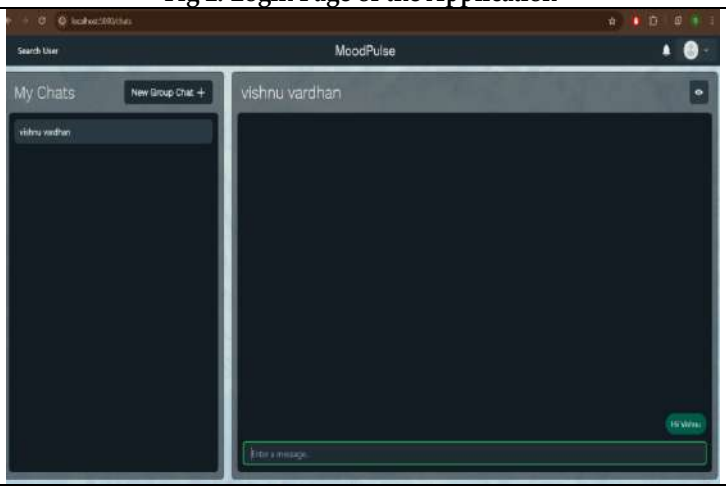


Fig 3. Available users and chats of the logged user

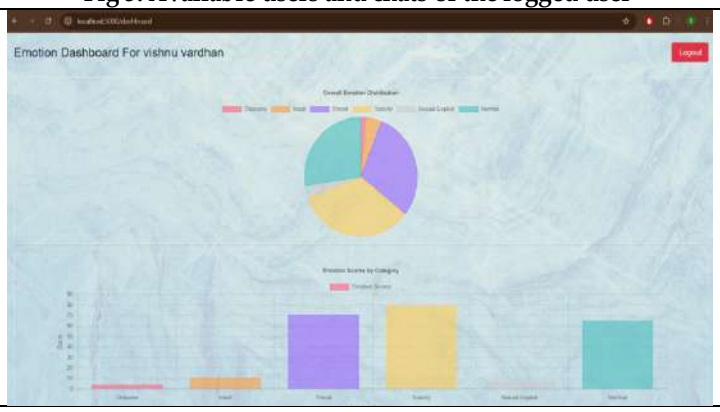


Fig 4.Emotional Dashboard of the user

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation among Traffic Police of Anand District

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ABSTRACT

A life-saving method for reviving people who have suffered from sudden cardiac arrest or breathing failure is cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, or CPR. Rescue breaths and chest compressions are used in tandem to keep essential organs receiving oxygen and blood flow until trained medical help can be provided. CPR is an essential skill that can greatly improve a person's chances of surviving an emergency. To determine knowledge and attitude regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation among traffic police of Anand District. The non-experimental descriptive research design used for this study. The study was conducted on 100 traffic police from selected areas of Anand district by Convenient non-probability sampling technique. A knowledge questionnaire tool and Likert attitude scale was used for data collection. Result of this study is 4 (3.9%) have poor, frequency 31 (30.1%) have basic, frequency 55 (53.4%) have good and 10 (9.7%) have expert knowledge related to CPR and the attitude score is no one has Negative attitude towards CPR and frequency 9 (9%) have Neutral attitude, and frequency 91 (91%) have Positive attitude related to CPR, there is no association between demographic variables and Knowledge as well as Attitude towards CPR. It was also found that, there was no association between Pre-test level of knowledge, and selected Socio- Demographic variables. This study showed maximum Traffic police had good knowledge score about Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and maximum Traffic police had positive attitude towards Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation.

Keywords: Assess, Knowledge, Attitude, CPR, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, Traffic police

INTRODUCTION

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is an emergency procedure which is performed on an individual who has experienced cardiac arrest or respiratory failure. It is designed in such a manner that blood flow and oxygenation to the vital organs is restored especially the brain as brain has no storage of oxygen and glucose and if the brain doesn't get enough oxygenation within 4 minutes of time it can go into a stage of brain dead (comatose). It is a type of a basic life support until further advanced medical assistance can be provided, every second is important while providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Anand District, faces its share of road accidents and medical emergencies that require immediate attention. Anand district does not have traffic lights so Traffic police officers in this region are entrusted with the responsibility of managing these situations and providing initial care to victims. To ensure that they are well-prepared for such emergencies, it is essential to assess their knowledge and attitudes towards CPR[2].

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess knowledge regarding CPR among traffic-police and traffic regulation brigadiers.
2. To assess the attitude regarding CPR among traffic-police and traffic regulation brigadiers.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Traffic police may have no knowledge, basic, good or expert knowledge regarding CPR.
2. Traffic police may have positive, negative, or neutral attitude towards CPR.

METHODS

This study was conducted following institutional ethical committee approval. A structured knowledge questionnaire tool and Likert attitude scale of CPR was circulated to 100 traffic police from selected areas of Anand district by using Convenient non-probability sampling technique. Written informed consent was obtained. For knowledge questionnaire tool, the total minimum score is 0 and total maximum score is 20. The cut off score and category were calculated as 15-20 indicate expert knowledge, 10-14 indicate good knowledge 5-9 basic knowledge and below 4 indicate poor knowledge regarding CPR. For Likert attitude scale, the total minimum score is 12 and total maximum score is 60. The cut off score and category were calculated as 44-60 indicate positive attitude and 12-27 indicate negative attitude towards CPR. The data was collected from different Selected areas of Anand district. Data were distributed in percentage based on Age, Training regarding CPR, Gender, Years of work experience.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Ethical approval for the present study obtained from Institutional Ethics Committee of Charotar University of Science and Technology. Protocol no. IEC= IEC/CHARUSAT /23/135.

RESULTS

Table 1 It shows that majority of the Participants are in the age group of 26-33 years with frequency 81 and percentage 81%, majority has the educational qualification of secondary school that is 60%, 98% of males, 58% have more than 5 years of experience and 57% have received training for CPR.

Table 2 illustrates knowledge among traffic police: which frequency 4 and 3.9% have poor, frequency 31 and 30.1% have basic, frequency 55 and 53.4% have good and frequency 10 and 9.7% have expert knowledge related to CPR.

Table 3 illustrates attitude among traffic police: in which frequency and percentage from the 100 participation, no one has Negative attitude towards CPR and frequency 9 and 9% have Neutral attitude, and frequency 91 and 91% have Positive attitude related to CPR.

DISCUSSION

This study was done to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding cardio-pulmonary resuscitation among Traffic-police. It showed an overall good knowledge and positive attitude regarding Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, which was contradictory to findings of a study done by Macwan SS, Jain V. A [02] (2021) who found poor knowledge regarding Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation among Road Traffic police. This study founds no association between selected demographic variables and knowledge and attitude of CPR among Traffic-police.

CONCLUSION

A study to assess knowledge and attitude regarding cardio-pulmonary resuscitation among traffic police of Anand District. In order to evaluate the knowledge and attitude regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation among traffic regulation brigadier and traffic police, a quantitative research methodology was used to assess the social demographic variables including age, gender years of work experience educational qualifications and training received for CPR and assess knowledge and attitude and association between knowledge and socio-demographic variables, attitude and socio-demographic variables.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We highly appreciate efforts of administrative department and involved participants in this study.

FUNDING SOURCE

Self-Funded

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No

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Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of Socio-demographic Variables. N =100

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age		
18-25 years	6	6.0%
26-33 years	81	81.0%
34-41 years	10	10.0%
42 years and above	3	3.0%
Education	29	29.0%
Primary school (SSC) Secondary school (HSC) Undergraduate	60	60.0%
Others	6	6.0%
	5	5.0%
Gender	98	98.0%
Male Female	2	2.0%
Work experience		
6 months	3	3.0%
6 months to 1 year	17	17.0%
1 to 2 years	22	22.0%
>5 years	58	58.0%
Training	57	57.0%
Yes No	43	43.0%

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge related to cardio-pulmonary resuscitation among traffic police and traffic regulation brigadier.

CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Poor knowledge	4	3.9%
Basic knowledge	31	30.1%
Good knowledge	55	53.4%
Expert knowledge	10	9.7%

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of attitude related to cardio pulmonary resuscitation among traffic police and traffic regulation brigadier.

CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	INTERPRETATION
12-27	0	0	Negative
28-43	9	9	Neutral
44-60	91	91	Positive

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Identifying Symptoms Cluster in Post Menopausal Women around Ahmedabad - An Observational Study

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ABSTRACT

Menopause is defined as the natural biological process which is experienced by every woman in her mature phase of life. It brings various changes in female body and her reproductive health. During this period in Women's Life her body deals with innumerable changes. Which reflects her reproductive and overall health. Considering these changes which affects the day-to-day life of a healthy Women. Their arises a need to identify these changes and make change in their life. The field survey was carried in 184 women. They were asked to fill Menopause Rating Scale (MRS). Which Identified the most common Symptoms in Females as follows: Weight Gain 67%, Decreased Cardiovascular Endurance 55%, Abdominal Fat 50%, Mood swings and Irritability 48% and Fatigue 36%. Hence, this will be the base for the Phase 2 of the research. The study concludes the identification of various symptoms cluster which are marked commonly in the post-menopausal women.

Keywords: Post-menopausal Women, Menopause Rating Scale, Menopause

INTRODUCTION

Menopause is termed as the time of the final menstrual period, followed by 12 months of amenorrhea. Postmenopausal stage is the period after the final menstruation. Menopause is a natural process through normal

aging process and usually involves symptoms, including vasomotor, insomnia, fatigue, psychiatric, hot flashes, and joint pain. Various factors have been proposed as probable correlates of menopausal symptoms (MS), consisting of obesity and lifestyle habits. Reduced estrogen levels that follows menopause cause to an increase in total amount and central fat and a reduce in bone mass and muscle strength Those changes in body composition are result of reduced levels of habitual physical activity resulting in sedentary lifestyle and a basal metabolic rate which result to deterioration of cardiovascular fitness and the quality of life at this point in life known as climacteric. The prominence of an android model of fat distribution has an important clinical importance.

METHODOLOGY

The ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Ethics committee of Ahmedabad Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), Ahmedabad before implementation of the study.

Study Design: - Observational Study

Sample Size Calculation: - Sample size was calculated as,

It was determined by the formula

Formula

$$H_0 : P = P_0 ; \qquad H_A : P \neq P_0$$

$$n = \frac{\left\{Z_{1-\alpha/2}\sqrt{P_0(1-P_0)} + Z_{1-\beta}\sqrt{P_a(1-P_a)}\right\}^2}{(P_a - P_0)^2}$$

Where,

P_0 : Population proportion

P_a : Sample proportion

α : Significance level

$1-\beta$: Power

So, required sample size, n =184

Sampling: Random Allocation

Sample collection: - sample were collected in crowed places like colleges, societies and residential home.

Study Duration: The duration of study was from December 2023 to April 2024

Selection criteria

Inclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria for Phase 1

- Women having no menstruation for 12 months and having natural menopause or taking hormonal therapy
- Minimum 1 year of menopause and maximum 5 year of menopause
- Women who are certified by the physician to participate in the study
- Women who would be able to follow command and would be able to cooperate
- Women who are willing to take part in the study

Exclusion Criteria for Phase 1

- Women having any congenital and acquired neuromuscular and musculoskeletal conditions
- Women having systemic illness and congenital disorders
- Women who have undergone hysterectomy
- Women who is on hormonal therapy
- Women having history of hospitalization in past 6 months

PROCEDURE

Here the females were approached who were meeting the inclusion criteria. Accordingly they were asked to fill the Menopause Rating Scale. (MRS). After the detailed analysis of the responses recorded the symptom clusters were identified.

RESULTS

Here, the responses clearly showed the symptoms cluster. Where, the highest amount symptom identified was Weight gain that is 67% followed by Reduced cardiovascular endurance 55%, Abdominal Fat 50% , Mood swing and irritability 48% and least was fatigue 36%.

DISCUSSION

Postmenopausal phase in a women's life is a phase filled with innumerable transition. Where she undergoes various changes and she is unaware about the challenges which she embraces throughout the journey . In the present study the basic aim is to identify .The symptoms cluster seen in various strata of women, Thus, to identify such cluster and treat them further. As per Sharma *et al*., the lesser the age at menopause, the more are the prevalence of vasomotor symptoms whereas, the psychological and rheumatic complaints are prevalent with increasing age. There are evidence that Indian women were least likely to report vasomotor symptoms. In the prevalent study it was noticed that less than 45% of women complained of vasomotor symptoms. Dietary factors also may contribute to lower frequency of hot flushes in Asian population, as phytoestrogens have a role in reducing vasomotor symptoms. In the prevalent study it was found that only two women were on HRT. The rural and suburban Indian women rarely seek medical help for menopausal problems because of their ignorant attitude towards menopause as they believe that it is a natural biological event like birth and death.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study has shown that the prevalence of classical menopausal symptoms in Ahmedabad Gujarat than that found in other areas, with psychological and physical symptoms being more prevalent than the usual symptoms

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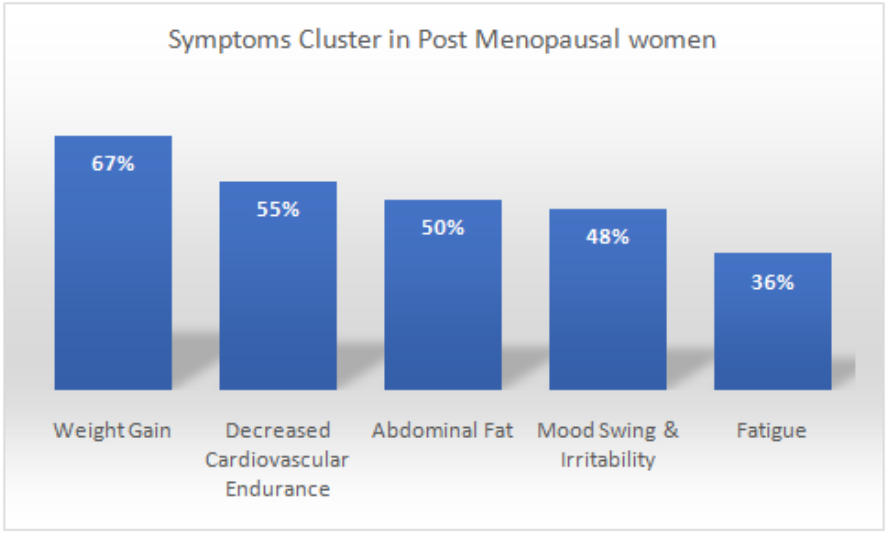


Fig.1: Symptoms Cluster in Post Menopausal women

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Mango Production, Cultivation, and Rural Economy: A Focus on Malda District, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

The Malda district of West Bengal, India, renowned for its mango cultivation, faces challenges from pest infestations, overreliance on chemical pesticides, and declining farmer well-being. This study evaluates the efficacy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies in promoting sustainable mango production while enhancing socio-economic resilience among smallholder farmers. Field trials and participatory surveys were conducted across 120 farms during the 2022–2023 cropping season, integrating ecological and socio-economic data. The IPM framework combined biological control agents (e.g., *Trichogramma* spp.), pheromone traps, botanical pesticides (*Azadirachta indica* extracts), and cultural practices like pruning and sanitation. A gender-disaggregated analysis assessed farmer adoption rates, yield outcomes, and health impacts. Results revealed a 25–30% increase in marketable yield in IPM-adapted orchards compared to conventional practices, alongside a 40% reduction in synthetic pesticide use. Economic returns improved by 20%, driven by lower input costs and premium pricing for residue-free mangoes. Notably, farmer health assessments indicated a 50% decline in pesticide-related illnesses, while focus group discussions highlighted enhanced knowledge-sharing and collective action within farming communities. Women participants reported greater involvement in decision-making, underscoring IPM's role in gender inclusivity. The study identifies barriers such as initial cost sensitivity and the need for tailored extension services. By aligning ecological stewardship with livelihood security, IPM emerges as a transformative strategy for climate-resilient agriculture in Malda. These findings advocate for policy support to scale IPM adoption, ensuring long-term sustainability of mango systems and rural well-being in South Asia. This research provides empirical evidence for integrating agroecological practices with socio-economic development goals in tropical horticulture.

Keywords: Mango cultivation, Rural economy, Malda District, Agricultural practices, Sustainable development, West Bengal

INTRODUCTION

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.), often called the "King of Fruits," holds immense agricultural and economic significance in India, particularly in Malda district, West Bengal. Malda contributes substantially to India's mango production, with varieties like Fazli, Langra, and Himsagar being highly prized in domestic and international markets. However, pest infestations—such as mango hoppers (*Amritodus atkinsoni*), fruit flies (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), and stem borers (*Batocera rufomaculata*)—severely impact yield and fruit quality, threatening farmers' livelihoods. Conventional pest management relies heavily on chemical pesticides, leading to ecological degradation, pesticide resistance, and health hazards. In response, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has emerged as a sustainable alternative, combining ecological, biological, and minimal chemical interventions to enhance productivity while conserving biodiversity. This study examines IPM strategies in Malda's mango orchards, evaluating their impact on yield enhancement, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mango Culture in Malda District, West Bengal

Malda District is a cornerstone of India's mango production, renowned for premium varieties like Fazli, Langra, and Himsagar. According to the National Horticulture Board (NHB 2023), West Bengal ranks among India's top mango-producing states, with Malda contributing significantly to both area and yield. Bose and Mitra (2019) detail the agro-technical practices suited to the region's alluvial soils and subtropical climate, emphasizing canopy management and irrigation. The district's rich genetic diversity, highlighted by Ghosh (2018), underscores the importance of conserving indigenous germplasm for sustainable cultivation. Despite its prominence, Malda faces challenges in pest management and climate resilience. Roy (2023) demonstrates that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies—combining biological controls (*Trichogramma* spp.), pheromone traps, and neem-based biopesticides—can boost marketable yield by 25–30% while reducing pesticide dependence by 40%, enhancing farmer well-being through higher incomes and reduced health risks. Climate vulnerabilities, noted in the FAO (2021) feasibility study, necessitate adaptive strategies like diversified cropping and water conservation, aligning with the Directorate of Agriculture (2020)'s district plan. Post-harvest losses remain a critical gap. Mitra (2019) identifies inadequate cold storage and processing infrastructure as key constraints, limiting value addition despite Malda's export potential, as evidenced by the WBHDS (2022) initiatives. Socio-economically, Mandal and Maiti (2020) reveal that smallholder profitability hinges on collective action through FPOs and market linkages for residue-free produce. Sustainable mango culture in Malda thus requires integrated approaches—blending IPM (Roy 2023), climate adaptation (FAO 2021), and value-chain development (Mitra 2019)—to ensure ecological and economic resilience.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out across the major mango-growing blocks of Malda—Manikchak, Ratua, and Kaliachak, covering a diverse range of Agro-Climatic conditions and farming practices. A comprehensive field survey involving more than 100 farmers was conducted to understand the prevalent pest challenges and current pest management strategies being used in the region. To evaluate the effectiveness of sustainable alternatives, experimental trials were set up comparing traditional pesticide-based approaches with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. These IPM strategies included cultural methods such as orchard sanitation, pruning, and the use of pheromone traps to disrupt pest life cycles. Biological control measures were also tested, including the introduction of natural predators like '*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*' and biocontrol agents such as the fungal pathogen '*Beauveria bassiana*'. In cases where chemical intervention was necessary, judicious use practices—such as targeted spraying and reduced dosages—were implemented to minimize environmental impact. Alongside the technical evaluation, a detailed socio-economic analysis was carried out through structured farmer interviews and cost-benefit assessments, providing insights into the feasibility, adoption potential, and economic returns associated with transitioning to IPM-based pest management systems.

Most common Pests affecting mangoes: Almost a dozen species have been identified as major mango pests, causing severe crop losses. These include the hopper, mealybug, inflorescence midge, fruit fly, scale insect; shoot borer, leaf Webber, and stone weevil.

Key Findings

Pest Reduction and Yield Improvement

The implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has proven highly effective in improving agricultural outcomes, with field data showing a 25–30% reduction in pest damage compared to conventional pesticide-dependent methods. This significant decline in infestation levels has directly contributed to a 15–20% increase in marketable yield, alongside noticeable improvements in fruit quality and shelf life, key factors in enhancing competitiveness in both local and international markets. Importantly, the reduction in pesticide residues ensures compliance with stringent export standards, opening up new trade opportunities and reinforcing the sustainability credentials of farm produce. These results underscore IPM's role not only in safeguarding crops but also in promoting economically and environmentally viable farming systems.

Economic Benefits: The adoption of sustainable pest management practices has led to significant economic benefits for smallholder mango farmers, with production costs decreasing by 12–18% due to reduced dependency on chemical pesticides. This cost efficiency, combined with improved yield quality, has translated into a 20–25% increase in net income, directly enhancing farmers' livelihoods. Moreover, the shift toward safer, residue-free mango production has opened up new market opportunities, both locally and internationally, where consumer demand for healthy and environmentally friendly products is growing. These outcomes not only improve farm profitability but also align with global standards for sustainable agriculture, reinforcing the potential for long-term economic and environmental resilience.

Environmental and Social Impact

This study highlights the multiple benefits of adopting sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in biodiversity conservation, human health, and farmer empowerment. By reducing reliance on chemical pesticides and promoting eco-friendly alternatives, the research demonstrates a significant increase in beneficial insect populations such as pollinators and natural predators, contributing to healthier and more resilient ecosystems. The shift toward safer pest management methods also leads to substantial health benefits by minimizing pesticide exposure for both farmers and consumers, thereby supporting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Furthermore, targeted training programs have empowered farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively implement these practices, resulting in higher adoption rates and fostering a more informed and self-reliant agricultural community.

Challenges and Recommendations Despite its benefits, IPM adoption faces barriers

A major challenge in promoting sustainable pest management lies in the limited awareness among small-scale farmers regarding effective alternatives to chemical pesticides. Additionally, the initial investment costs for bio-agents and pheromone traps can be prohibitively high, discouraging adoption without external support. To address these barriers, there is a critical need for policy interventions such as subsidies and enhanced extension services that make climate-smart tools more accessible. The study recommends government and NGO-led training programs to educate farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, coupled with financial incentives like subsidies for bio-pesticides and traps. Strengthening farmer cooperatives is also proposed to facilitate collective adoption of IPM, enabling shared resources and knowledge transfer, thereby improving agricultural sustainability and resilience.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study underscore the immense potential of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in transforming mango cultivation in Malda, West Bengal. As a region renowned for its premium mango varieties such as Fazli, Langra, and Himsagar, Malda stands to benefit significantly from sustainable pest control strategies that not only

enhance productivity but also ensure environmental stewardship and socio-economic resilience. The adoption of IPM—encompassing cultural, biological, and judicious chemical interventions—has demonstrated a notable reduction in pest damage, improved yield quality, and enhanced economic returns for farmers. By reducing dependency on chemical pesticides, IPM contributes to biodiversity conservation, improves human health outcomes, and supports global sustainability goals. Moreover, the successful implementation of IPM relies heavily on farmer education, access to bio-inputs, and supportive policy frameworks. While challenges such as initial costs and awareness gaps persist, targeted interventions can overcome these barriers and pave the way for widespread adoption.

Policy Prescription

To institutionalize and scale up IPM practices in Malda's mango orchards, the following policy measures are recommended

Subsidies for Bio-agents and Eco-friendly Inputs: Introduce or expand subsidies for bio-pesticides, pheromone traps, and beneficial insects like **Cryptolaemus montrouzieri** and **Beauveria bassiana**. This will reduce the financial burden on smallholder farmers and encourage uptake of sustainable methods.

Capacity Building and Farmer Training Programs: Launch government and NGO-led training initiatives focusing on IPM techniques, including orchard sanitation, biological control, and safe pesticide use. Mobile-based extension services and field demonstrations can further enhance knowledge dissemination.

Strengthen Extension Services: Strengthen the agricultural extension system by deploying trained personnel who can provide regular guidance and technical support to farmers transitioning to IPM.

Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs): Encourage the formation and strengthening of farmer cooperatives and FPOs to facilitate bulk procurement of inputs, shared use of equipment, and collective marketing of residue-free mangoes at premium prices.

Incentivizing Organic and Sustainable Certification: Provide market linkages and price incentives for farmers adopting IPM through organic or eco-label certification schemes, especially for export-oriented markets with stringent quality standards.

Research and Development Support: Invest in local research to develop region-specific IPM modules tailored to Malda's Agro-climatic conditions and pest dynamics, ensuring long-term efficacy and adaptability.

Awareness Campaigns on Health and Environmental Impacts: Conduct community-level awareness campaigns highlighting the health risks of excessive pesticide use and the benefits of sustainable alternatives, encouraging behavioral change among farmers.

By integrating these policy actions into broader agricultural development strategies, Malda can emerge as a model region for sustainable mango production in India, ensuring both economic prosperity and ecological balance for future generations.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Therapeutic Effect Takra (Buttermilk) in Human Diseases

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ABSTRACT

According to *Ayurveda*, *Ahara*, or food, is the root cause of all illnesses and ailments. *Ahara* is the best medication, as *Acharya Kashyap* had asserted emphatically. One of the *Ahara dravyas* mentioned in *Ayurveda* with numerous medical benefits is *takarabrahma* (buttermilk). *Takra,* or buttermilk, is a food that has been used for millennia by *Ayurveda.* According to *Ayurveda*, *Takra* can be used as a single medication, an *Anupana* (vehicle), or a *Pathya* (wholesome) in treating a variety of illnesses, including *Grahani* (Sprue), *Arshas* (Piles), and *Udara* (Ascites).In addition, *Ayurveda* also discussed the significance of *Takra* in *Agni* (Digestive Fire) disorders. *Takra* acts as *Tridosha shamaka*by means of its different properties.*Takra* is preferred in people with conditions causing *Mandagni* (low digestive fire), as itismildfordigestion.Owing to these unique qualities, *Takra* continues to be important when considering medical andnutritional supplements for those suffering from *Agni Vikriti*, (abnormal digestive fire disease).

Keywords: *Takra, Ahara, Pathya, Tridoshashamaka,Amrit, Chacchika, Mattha*

INTRODUCTION

According to this definition, "health" is a condition of total balance between the three humours *(Doshas),* seven tissues *(Dhatu*), three categories of waste products *(Mala)*, metabolism and digestion, the mind, the soul, and the pleasant sensations[1]. *Ayurvedic* treatments are comprehensive, individualised, and involve lifestyle, exercise, and food recommendations in addition to medication. *Ahara* (Food) has been considered as root cause of life and vitality[2]. Food can be taken in four ways viz.as *Ashita* (eatables), *Peeta* (drinks), *Khadita* (chewable) and *Leedha* (lickables /linctus). One of the beverages, *Takra* (Buttermilk), is a dietary supplement that has been consumed for generations by a large number of people worldwide. Through its compilations, *Ayurveda* emphasises the significance of *Agni* (Digestive Fire)in maintaining the body's health state. When *Agni* is upset, it can lead to a variety of diseases. It's interesting to observe how *Takra* functions as the main digestive assist in *Agni*-related illnesses. *Takra* can also be employed to keep the body in a healthy state by following a Pathy *Ahara* (beneficial diet).According to *Charak*, wholesomeness is the reason why people experience happiness and suffering (health and illness) because the body is a product of food. Regarding the diet's unhealthiness[3]. *Takra* is said to be *Kasay* (astringent)- *Madhur* (sweet) in *Ras* (taste) along with a little bit of *Amlaras* (sour). *Takra* is *Laghu* (light to digest), *Grahi* (useful in diarrhea) and *Agnideepak* (promoter of digestion). *Takra* pacifies the *Vaa*t and *Kapha* dosh but does not vitiate the *Pittadosh*. *Takra* is a good *Sroto-shodhak* (clarifies the channels of circulation). *Acharya Charak* has cleared that although *Takra* is *Amla* but due to its *Madhurvipak*, it does not vitiates the *Pitta dosh*. *Takra* pacifies the *Kaph* dosh due to its *Kasayaras*, *Ushn, Vikasi* and *Ruksh gun*. *Takra* is *Madhur*, *Amla* and *Sandra* and due to these properties it pacifies the *Vaatdosh*[4]. *Takra* is currently being anticipated by modern medicine since it contains high levels of calcium, potassium, vitamin B12, vitamin E, and folic acid. *Takra* isadietricin naturalprobiotics. Because it contains a large number of the body's beneficial bacteria for the intestines. Buttermilk's whey proteins contribute to the production of more antibodies with the name "IgA." *Takra's* proteins work well together to aid in the absorption of minerals, especially iron and calcium.

Samhitas to According

In its Samhitas, *Ayurveda* also mentions the benefits of *Takra*, or buttermilk. It is said in *Vaidyakiya Subhashita Samityam* that God in heaven received immortality brought about by a holy beverage (*Amruta*), while humans on Earth possess *Takra* (Buttermilk) to ensure their immortality[5]

Table no.1 show in Properties of *Takra.*

Table no.2[6] show in Types of *Takra* According *Bhavprakash.*

Table no.3[7] show in Types of *Takra* According *Charka.*

Table no.4[8] show in Type of T*akra* According *Sushrut.*

Table no.5[9] show in According to *Yogratnakar* of *takra*, properties and uses.

Table no.6[10] show in Consumption of *Takra* According To Increased *Dosha.*

Importance of *Takra*: *Charaka Samhita* mainly underlines the importance of *Takra* by various quotes. *Charak* mentioned that Takra is very useful in the following condition[11]

- *Shotha*(Swelling)
- *Grahanidosha* (Sprue)
- *Mutragraha*(difficulty in micturation)
- *Udara (*Ascites): *Udara* (Ascites) *Charaka* mention that *Takra* is very useful in following conditions

Acharya mentioned *Takra*as useful treatment in the patient of *Ashtodara*. They also mentioned to use *Takra* with various Dravyas in different kinds of*Udara*as[12]

*Vataj Udar*Roga:*Pippali + Lavana + Takra*

Pittaja Udar Roga: Sharkara + Madhuka + Takra

Kaphaj Udar Roga:Yavani + Saindhava + Ajaji + Trikatu + Takra

Nichayaja Udara Roga: Trikatu + Kshara + Lavana + Takra

PleehodaraUdarRoga:Madhu+Taila+Vacha+Shunthi+Shathava+Kushtha+Saindhava+Taka Jalodara Udar Roga:Trikatu + Takra

Badhhodara Udar Roga:Hapusha + Yavani + Ajaji + Saindhava + Takra

Chhidrodara Udar Roga:Pippali+Kshaudra+ Takra

- *Arochak (Anorexia)*
- *Aruchi (Anorexia)*
- *Snehvyapad (*Complication due to overuse of oil therapy)
- *Garavisha*(Low potency poison)
- *Gaurav* (Heaviness in the body
- *Arochak* (Anorexia)
- *Mandagni*(Low Digestive Fire)
- *Atisara* (Diarrhea)

***Vata-Kapha* Pradhan Vyadhi in *Arsha* (Piles)** topic the usefulness of *Takra* is mentioned in *Vata- Kapha* Pradhan *Arsha*. Further he stated that there is no other medicine on *Vata- Kapha* Pradhan *Arsha* as that of *Takra*[13].

***Takra* Sevan Kal(Time Perriod of Buttermilk Consumption):** The physician acquainted with the specification of the strength of the patient as well as the nature of the season should give butter-milk for either 7 days or 10 days or 15 days or 30 days. They also warned not to overuse *Takra* after 30 days[14].

Contraindication of *Takra*

In cases of wounds, during the warmer season (Autumn and summer), in those who are incapacitated, or fainting, takra should not be administered. giddiness, a burning feeling, and Pitta and blood disorders[15].

DISCUSSION

Consumption of *Takra* according to different Diseases

The impact of *takra* in *Jwara* (Fever)

When treating *Jwara* (fever), *Vagbhata* suggests using *Anamla Takra*, which has a mild taste, as *Pathya* (a food item). Food prepared using *Anamla Takra* (which isn't sour)*Ruchikaraka* (increases hunger) is the taste[16].

***Grahni Dosh* (~sprue)**:-The qualities of *Takra* are expounded upon by *Charak* in the *Grahnidoshchikitsaadhya*y. According to *Charak, Takra* is the best at managing *Grahnidosh* because of *Deepan*. (light to digest), *Grahi*, and *Laghu* (stomachic) qualities of *Takra*[17].

***Atisar* (Diarrhoea)**:-*Takra* is recommended by *Charak* to be used as an *Anupan* (vehicle) of *Laghuann* (light to digest) in cases of *Atisar* (diarrhea)[18]. Due to *laghuguna* of *takra* it is a collector of *mala.*

***Arsh*(piles)** :-*Charak* has said unequivocally that *Takra* is the best medication available for treating *Vaat-Kphaj Arsh*. *Charak* has further recommended that *Takra*, which has both of the properties, be utilised for *Arsh* patients. *Takra* induces *Vaatanuloman*, which increases excretion of flatus, and is *Agnideepak*, which aids digestion. *Takra*(Agnideepak) has been employed by *Charak* to oversee *Arsh* generally. *Charak* has recommended using *Haritaki* (*Agnideepak and vatanuloman*) stir using *Takra*[19].

***Shotha*:**-*Takra* is a content of *Chitraka(deepan-pachna,lekhan, srotoshodan) ghrita*, used for the treatment of *Shotha*[20].

CONCLUSION

Acharya Vagbhatt has stated unequivocally that *Mandagn*i is the cause of all ailments[21]. In *Agryaaushad, Acharya Charak* stated that *Takra* is the greatest medication for *Grahni dosh, Shoph, Arsh*, and *Ghritvyapad* (problems brought on by butter use)[22]. Buttermilk(*takra*) helps to restore intestinal flora, ease constipation, and detoxify the body and clean the intestines. *Takra* is highly beneficial for conditions related to *Agni Vikriti*. Through its *Rasa*, *Virya, Vipaka,* and

Guna function as *Tridoshaghana*. When a person has a *Vata Kapha* Pradhan condition, it is quite helpful. *Takra* is for mortals, just as there is an elixir for gods, as *Bhavprakash* correctly pointed out [23]. According to nutritional values, *Takra* also supports immune system function and promotes overall health by warding off illness.

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Table.1 Properties of *Takra*

RASA	*Madhura – Amla*
ANURASA	*Kashaya*
GUNA	*Laghu-Ruksha*
VEERYA	*Ushna*
VIPAKA	*Madhura*
DOSHAGHNATA	*Kapha- Vata hara*
ROGAGHNATA	*Grahani, Arshas, Shopha, Garavisha, Atisara, Pandu, Pliha, Gulma, Jwara*

Table.2 Types of *Takra* According *Bhavprakash*

Sl no	type	method	Properties
1	***Ghola***	Curd is churned without adding water and without removal of fat.	*Vata and Pitta* ↓
2	***Matitha***	Fat is separated and curd is churned without adding water	*Kapha and Pitta* ↓
3	***Takra***	Curd is churned after adding 1/4th quantity of water	*Tridosha*↓
4	***Udashvith***	Curd is churned with 1/2th part of water	*Kapha* ↑
5	***Chacchika***	Cured is churned and fat is removed then more water is added	*Pitta and Vata* ↓

Table.3[1] show in Types of *Takra* According *Charka*

Sl no	Type	Method	Indication	Agni bala	Properties
1	***Ruksha***	Butter completely removed	*Kapha*	*Heena*	*Pathya, Laghu*
2	***Ardha Snehayukta***	Half butter is left	*Pitta*	*Madhyama*	*Guru, Vrushya*
3	***Poorna Snehayukta***	Full butter is left in buttermilk	*Vata*	*Uttama*	*Sandra, Guru*

Table .4 Type of T*akra* According *Sushrut*

Sl no	Type	Method	Properties
1	***Takra***	Fat is separated and curd is churned after adding 1/2 th quantity of water	*Madhura, Amla, Kashaya*
2	***Ghola***	Curd is churned without adding water and without removal of fat.	*Vata and Pitta* ↓

Table.5 According to *Yogratnakar* of *takra*, properties and uses

S.N.	Type of takra	Properties	Action
1	***Gotakra(Cow's takra)***	*Deepan, medhavardak*	*Arsha*(Piles), *Atisara* (Diarrhea), *Grahanidosha*(Sprue)
2	***Mahishatakra((Buffalo takra)***	*Guru, k*↑	*Shotha* (Swelling) ↑
3	***Ajatakra (Goat's takra)***	*Laghu, tridosanaska*	*Gulma ,Arsha*(Piles), *Grahanidosha* (Sprue), *pandu*

Table.6 Consumption of *Takra* According to Increased *Dosha*

Sl no	Dosha	Takra preparation
1	***Vata***	*Amla Takra + Saindhava + Shunti*
2	***Pitta***	*Madhura Takra + Sharkara*
3	***Kapha***	*Madhura Takra + Trikatu + Kshara*

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

An Analysis of Internet of Things (IoT) Knowledge and Practices in Selected University Libraries of Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

The rise of the "Internet of Things" (IoT) has revolutionised multiple fields, particularly academic libraries, by facilitating intelligent technologies that improve library functions and user interactions. This investigation evaluates the recognition and application of IoT within specific university libraries in Gujarat, India. The research explores how librarians perceive IoT, the extent of its adoption, and the challenges faced in its implementation. A survey-based approach was employed, using structured questionnaires distributed to librarians in selected university libraries. The collected data were analysed to evaluate awareness, adoption levels, and barriers to IoT integration. We applied a quantitative research methodology to measure the presence and usage of IoT innovations in libraries. The study reveals that while all librarians in the selected institutions are aware of IoT, its implementation remains inconsistent. Only 54% of libraries have adopted IoT technologies, with most implementations still in the initial phase, focusing on areas such as supply chain management and resource tracking. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and cloud computing emerged as the most commonly used IoT tools. However, challenges such as lack of technical expertise and limited institutional support hinder full-scale IoT adoption. Furthermore, only 33% of libraries have conducted IoT orientation programs, highlighting a gap in professional training. This study contributes to the growing literature on IoT applications in academic libraries, particularly within the Indian context. By identifying the current state of IoT

awareness and implementation, it provides valuable insights for policymakers, library professionals, and researchers interested in integrating smart technologies into library services.

Keywords: "Internet of Things" (IoT), academic libraries, smart libraries, library automation, RFID, cloud computing, library technology, and digital transformation.

INTRODUCTION

Numerous professions, including library science and education, have been profoundly affected by the rapid development of digital technology. Libraries, once perceived as traditional repositories of books and documents, are now evolving into dynamic information centres through the integration of emerging technologies. Among these innovations, the "Internet of Things" (IoT) has emerged as a revolutionary concept, offering smart solutions to enhance library management, resource accessibility, and user engagement. Automation and enhanced efficiency are made possible via the "Internet of Things" (IoT), which is a system of networked devices that can exchange data and interact with one another. As a recommendation for a library, IoT applications include RFID (radio frequency identification) systems, cloud-based library management software, smart shelves, automated book tracking, and personalised user experiences. These advancements not only streamline administrative operations but also enhance the accessibility of resources for students, researchers, and faculty members.

Relevance of IoT in University Libraries

University libraries serve as critical information hubs, supporting academic research and learning. When these libraries include IoT technology, it might result in

- Improved resource tracking and management through RFID-based systems.
- Enhanced user experience via mobile applications and cloud-based digital repositories.
- Automated circulation and inventory control, reducing manual workload and improving operational efficiency.
- Personalised services include smart notifications for book availability, overdue alerts, and digital recommendations.
- Better space utilisation: IoT-enabled sensors can optimise seating arrangements and study space allocation.

Need for the Study

Despite the potential benefits of IoT in university libraries, its awareness and implementation vary across institutions. While some libraries have embraced IoT-driven solutions, others face challenges such as lack of technical expertise, financial constraints, and resistance to technological change. Additionally, there is limited research available that specifically assesses the extent of IoT adoption in university libraries in Gujarat, India.

This study aims to bridge that gap by evaluating:

- The level of awareness about IoT among library professionals.
- The extent to which IoT technologies have been implemented in university libraries.
- The challenges and barriers faced in adopting IoT solutions.
- The future prospects and willingness of institutions to invest in IoT-based innovations are important considerations.

Research Significance

If we want to improve library operations and services, we need to know how university libraries perceive and use the "Internet of Things" (IoT). A better integration of the "Internet of Things" (IoT) in academic libraries may be facilitated by the insights provided by this study to library administrators, lawmakers, and technology vendors. In addition, the research will add to the expanding conversation around smart libraries by providing suggestions for addressing obstacles and making use of IoT to foster sustainable library growth.

By analysing selected institutions in Gujarat, this research will present a comprehensive overview of IoT adoption in university libraries, setting a foundation for further advancements in digital transformation and smart library ecosystems.

Aspirations and Purposes of the Study

The study aims to assess the comprehension, adoption, and implementation of the "Internet of Things" (IoT) within university libraries in Gujarat. This study aims to examine the impact of IoT on the modernisation of library services, identify the challenges encountered during its adoption, and assess libraries' readiness to integrate IoT-based solutions.

Aspirations and Purposes of the Studies are as follows

1. The goal is to assess the level of awareness among university library professionals regarding the "Internet of Things" (IoT) and its applications.
2. The aim is to identify the sources of IoT awareness among librarians, such as academic journals, conferences, LIS forums, or other channels.
3. To evaluate the extent of IoT adoption in selected university libraries, including whether IoT applications have been implemented or are in the planning stage.
4. The objective is to analyse the stage of IoT implementation in libraries, determining whether they are in the initial, intermediate, or fully implemented phase.
5. To identify the types of IoT tools used in libraries, such as RFID, artificial intelligence, wireless communication devices, cloud computing, and other related technologies.
6. To examine the availability of qualified staff responsible for maintaining and managing IoT-based library services.
7. The aim of this study is to explore the presence of IoT orientation programs in libraries and determine whether libraries plan to introduce such training programs for staff and patrons.
8. The objective is to assess the future plans of libraries regarding IoT-based services, including their readiness and strategic initiatives for integrating IoT in library management and operations.

By meeting these goals, the study hopes to give us more information about how university libraries are becoming more digital, pointing out both the pros and cons of adopting IoT. The findings will help policymakers, library administrators, and researchers formulate strategies for the effective integration of IoT in academic library services.

A SURVEY OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

IoT is a new subject in Library and Information Science. There are several published survey papers that cover different aspects of IoT technology in libraries and information science.

(Alagumalai and Natarajan, n.d.) Alagumalai *et al* concluded IOT may be used to implement all aspects of library services and operations, such as collection administration, information literacy initiatives, efficient use of online learning platforms, resource access, etc. According to Sinha and Singh Brar (2024), Sinha Priyanka *et al*., IoT integration in libraries enhances efficiency, automation, and user accessibility through smart technologies like RFID, biometric authentication, and cloud-based services. However, challenges such as cost, privacy concerns, and resistance to change must be addressed for successful implementation. (Shahzad *et al*., 2024) Shahzad K. *et al*. said that IoT adoption in university libraries enhances service efficiency, smart tracking, and context-based services while facing challenges like infrastructure limitations, security concerns, and lack of technical expertise. The rapid growth of technology and evolving librarianship positively influence IoT integration, necessitating strategic policies for successful implementation. (Ho *et al*., 2023)Ho J. H. Y. *et al*. defined the COVID-19 pandemic as having accelerated the adoption of online proctoring solutions, raising concerns about assessment integrity due to potential tampering with installed dependencies. An IoT-based tool, RAPID, was developed to enhance remote proctoring by leveraging cybersecurity techniques without requiring software installation, ensuring robust monitoring of test-taker activities.

(Cheung *et al*., 2023)Cheung H. C. *et al*. conclude that academic librarians in Hong Kong view IoT as beneficial for enhancing library operations and personalised services but express concerns about privacy, security, and implementation challenges. Suggested improvements include integrating facial recognition, advanced RFID, and collection identification technologies to optimise user experience. (Arebamen Eiriemiokhale and Amzat, 2023)Eiriemiokhale K. *et al*. conclude that university libraries in Nigeria are increasingly adopting high-end technologies such as RFID, IoT, and cloud computing to enhance service delivery, though awareness and utilisation remain limited. The study emphasises the need for adequate funding, policy formulation, and continuous librarian training to ensure effective integration and modernisation of library services. (Khan *et al*., 2021)Khan A. U. *et al*. studied The adoption of IoT in academic libraries enhances information resource management and service efficiency, requiring strong management practices and technological adaptation. Research indicates that library personnel play a crucial role in facilitating IoT adoption, driven by institutional modifications and the need for improved information access services.

Areas Where Academic Libraries Can Use IoT

When library and ICT managers have discussed the utilisation of IoT in educational libraries, it makes sense that all the functions and processes are fully performed. It can be elaborated that libraries are on mouse click, and we have received our required information without wasting time. Digital libraries are also providing accessible information with a finger click. But now we are thinking, when both functions are the same, then what is the requirement of IoT? Here, they're identical in appearance yet fundamentally different. The "Internet of Things" (IoT) encompasses both digital information resources and physical items, while digital libraries only deal with digital material or resources. Here are some ways libraries might use the "Internet of Things" to streamline their operations: Areas where Academic Libraries Can Use IoT (Figure 1)

An orientation virtual tour for new users

This is the initial action taken while implementing IoT in any educational library. Only people who have registered may use it. What do they feel compelled to do? All they have to do is download the software to their iOS or Android smartphone. After downloading the app, mobile users will be able to take a virtual tour of the library. This will provide an overview of the library and assist us in familiarising ourselves with its resources.

Shelves guidelines from the user's favourite list

This is the second thing in working with the help of IoT in the library. There are new users who are unfamiliar with the library and library collection. They, therefore, need to be aware of the location of their required resources. Today, most of the libraries use library management software with their online public access catalogue, and it is very easy to know the location of the library resources for their users. Users can create their profile very easily and also use their favourite option, and wherever they want, they will go with their required information. He also knows their transaction history, due books, their privilege, requirements, etc. After they've made their selection, there will be an audio or video shelving guide that plays from their list of favourites every time they visit the library, making it simpler to locate what they're looking for.

Payment made online

Wherever users want to know how much fine users owe and how they can pay? It also very much helps them pay their fines online without standing in line. The authors also suggested that there should be a provision for online payment for the fine, lost books, registration, document delivery services, reprography services, and other library information services.

Availability of various IT devices

Thanks to the "Internet of Things" (IoT), smart chair tools will let patrons know which computers available and which ones are currently in use whenever they visit the library to utilise IT gadgets. Library patrons may also see a list of all the "Internet of Things" (IoT) equipment, including printers, photocopiers, scanners, and more. The user

may easily check the availability of seats in common reading areas, discussion rooms, conference rooms, research scholars' cabins, and faculty rooms using their phone when they are in the library, according to IoT.

Alerts Services

The IoT notifies users regarding overdue books or other items. Messages are also sent when users reserve their required items, notifying them of availability in the library. Sham Prasad M Pujar and K V Satya Narayana also recommended that (Pujar *et al*., 2005) "IoT can use patron's data to suggest tailored recommendations, using real-time data, based on the history of their borrowings. When a researcher searches a database for resources on the topic of his or her research, it will be possible to suggest other resources, which would be of interest to them. Even when a user visits the library next time or is nearby, the Internet of Things (IoT) can inform them about new arrivals in their area of work or the availability of borrowed books they were looking for during their previous visit.

HYPOTHESIS

H_1 Only a limited number of libraries have integrated the use of the "Internet of Things" at a few libraries around the state of Gujarat. **H_0** There have been very few libraries implemented using the "Internet of Things" at a few libraries around the state of Gujarat.

H_0 There have been very few IoT tools implemented using the "Internet of Things" at a few libraries around the state of Gujarat.

H_1 There are all librarians who have knowledge of the IoT Selected University Libraries within the state of Gujarat.

H_1 All libraries are arranging an orientation program for IoT in selected university libraries within the state of Gujarat.

H_1 There are all libraries that have future plans of providing services supported by the "Internet of Things" at a few university libraries in Gujarat.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Design of the Study

This research uses a descriptive design to evaluate awareness and implementation of the "Internet of Things" (IoT) in university libraries in Gujarat. The research seeks to collect insights regarding the extent of knowledge, current implementation status, challenges, and plans for IoT adoption in university libraries.

Population and Sampling

The target population for this study includes librarians, library staff, and decision-makers from university libraries in Gujarat. A purposive sampling technique is used to select institutions that either have experience with IoT applications or are considering implementing such technologies. A sample size of thirteen university libraries is chosen to ensure a diverse representation of institutions in terms of infrastructure, technological readiness, and library services. Within each library, library directors, IT personnel, and key decision-makers involved in digital transformation initiatives are considered as respondents.

Ways for Collecting Data

A structured questionnaire is the main tool used to gather data for this research. In order to gather data on different aspects regarding university libraries understanding and adoption of the "Internet of Things" (IoT), the survey uses both closed- and open-ended questions.

Structure of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire is divided into multiple sections to cover key areas of investigation:

General Information

- Name of the University

- Name of the Library
- Year of Establishment of the Library

Awareness of IoT
- Awareness of the term "Internet of Things (IoT)"
- Source of IoT awareness (Journals, Conferences, LIS Forums, Others)

IoT Implementation in University Libraries
- Presence of IoT applications in the library
- If not implemented, future plans for IoT adoption and barriers to implementation
- Current stage of IoT implementation (Initial, Intermediate, Fully Implemented)
- Types of IoT tools in use (RFID, AI, Wireless Communication Devices, Cloud Computing, etc.)

Human resources and training for IoT in libraries
- Availability of qualified staff to manage IoT-based services
- Conduct of IoT awareness programs or plans for future awareness initiatives

Future Plans for IoT in Libraries
Interest in expanding IoT-based services in the future

Administration of the Questionnaire
The questionnaire is administered both online and offline for broader reach and higher response rates.
Online distribution: Google Forms and email surveys
Offline distribution: Paper-based surveys in select institutions
A follow-up process (reminders via email and phone calls) is implemented to improve response rates.

Data Interpretation and Analysis
The data collected through the questionnaire is analysed using quantitative and qualitative methods

Quantitative Analysis
- Descriptive statistics (percentages, mean, and frequency distributions) are used to analyse responses to close-ended questions.
- The data is processed using Microsoft Tool for statistical interpretation.

Qualitative Analysis
Open-ended responses are examined using thematic analysis, categorising responses into themes related to challenges, benefits, and plans for IoT adoption.

Ethical Considerations
The study adheres to ethical research principles
- Informed consent is obtained from all respondents before participation.
- Confidentiality of institutional and personal information is maintained.
- Voluntary participation allows respondents to withdraw at any stage.
- Data protection measures are implemented to secure collected information.

Restrictions on the Research
- The restrictions on the research to selected universities in Gujarat, which may not reflect trends across the country.
- The self-reported nature of the questionnaire may introduce biases in responses.
- The study primarily focuses on library professionals, without considering faculty members or students.

FINDINGS

The study conducted across selected university libraries in Gujarat reveals significant insights into the awareness and implementation of the "Internet of Things" (IoT) in academic settings. Below are the key findings

IoT Awareness among Library Professionals

- The survey results indicate that all participating librarians (100%) know the concept of the "Internet of Things" (IoT).
- The primary sources of IoT awareness among librarians include academic journals, professional conferences, LIS (Library and Information Science) forums, and digital platforms. IoT Implementation (Figure 3(a)), IoT Integration plans (Figure 3(b)).

IoT Implementation in Libraries

- Despite universal awareness, only 54% of the university libraries have implemented IoT applications, while 46% have not yet adopted such technologies.
- Of the libraries that have not yet implemented IoT, 54% have plans to integrate IoT applications in the future.

Stages of IoT Implementation

Among the libraries that have adopted IoT, the majority (69%) are still in the initial stage of implementation, focusing primarily on fundamental applications such as supply chain management and real-time resource tracking.

Types of IoT Tools Used in Libraries

The most commonly used IoT tools in university libraries include
Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) for automated book tracking and circulation management.
Cloud Computing for digital repositories and remote access to resources.
Wireless Communication Devices to facilitate smart notifications and accessibility.
The implementation of advanced IoT technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and predictive analytics remains limited. Primary IoT Tools (Figure 4).

Human Resources and Training for IoT Maintenance

- Approximately 77% of university libraries reported having staff qualified to manage IoT-based services.
- However, 23% of libraries lack personnel with adequate technical expertise to support IoT applications, indicating a significant gap in skill development and professional training. University library and IoT Expertise (Figure 5).

IoT Orientation Programs in Libraries

- Only 33% of libraries have conducted IoT awareness and orientation programs for library staff and users.
- The absence of structured training initiatives hinders the effective adoption and utilization of IoT technologies.

IoT Orientation Programs (Figure 6)

Future Plans for IoT Adoption

- A significant proportion of libraries (58%) have outlined strategic plans to expand IoT-based services.

These plans include enhanced automation of library operations, smart alert systems, and AI-driven recommendation services for improved user experiences. Future Plans for IoT (Figure 7).

Challenges in IoT Implementation

The key barriers to IoT adoption in university libraries include
Lack of technical expertise among library professionals.
Limited financial and institutional support for IoT initiatives.
Resistance to technological change, particularly among traditionally managed libraries.

CONCLUSIONS

The research findings highlight the evolving landscape of IoT adoption in university libraries, underscoring both progress and persistent challenges.

High Awareness but Limited Adoption: While all library professionals surveyed demonstrated awareness of IoT, its practical implementation remains inconsistent, with only 54% of libraries having adopted IoT solutions.

Prevalence of Basic IoT Applications: Libraries that have implemented IoT predominantly focus on fundamental applications such as RFID and cloud-based library management. Advanced IoT applications remain underutilized.

Need for Professional Development: The limited number of trained personnel in IoT-related functions indicates a pressing need for specialized training programs and professional development initiatives.

Institutional and Financial Barriers: The research identifies financial constraints, lack of institutional support, and resistance to technological change as the primary obstacles impeding IoT adoption.

Future Potential for Smart Libraries: Despite existing challenges, more than half (58%) of libraries have shown a willingness to integrate IoT in future operations, signaling a positive trajectory towards the development of smart library ecosystems. Through its empirical insights on the present status of Internet of Things awareness, acceptance, and obstacles, this research adds to the expanding debate on digital transformation in university libraries. Researchers, library directors, and legislators may use the results as a springboard for new ideas on how to improve library services, increase the use of the "Internet of Things" (IoT), and spark innovation in the management of university libraries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Not Applicable.

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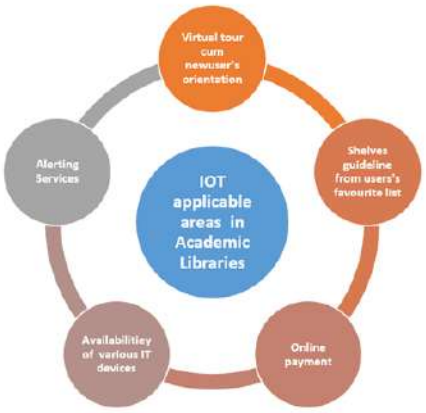


Figure 1: Areas where Academic Libraries Can Use IoT

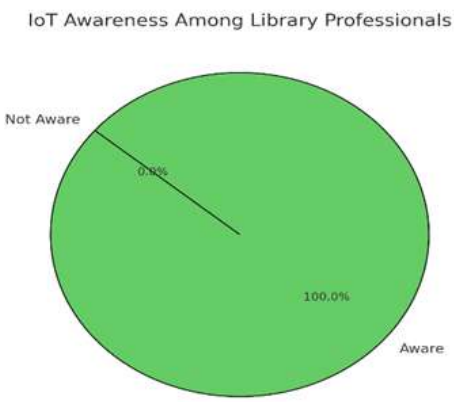


Figure 2: (a) IoT Awareness

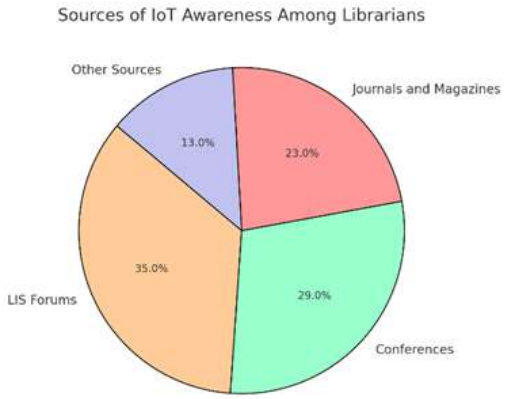


Figure 2: (b) Sources of IoT

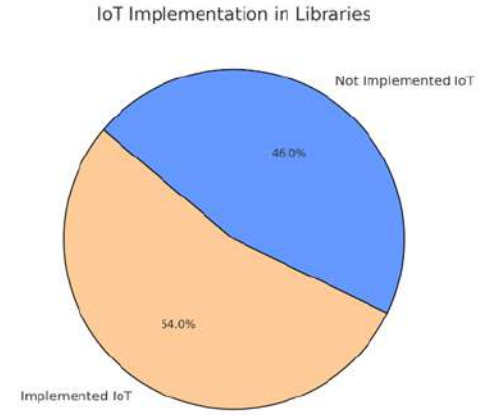


Figure 3: (a) IoT Implementation

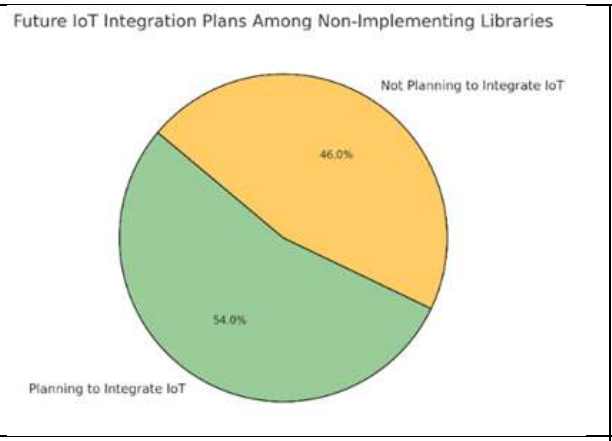


Figure 3: (b) IoT Integration plans

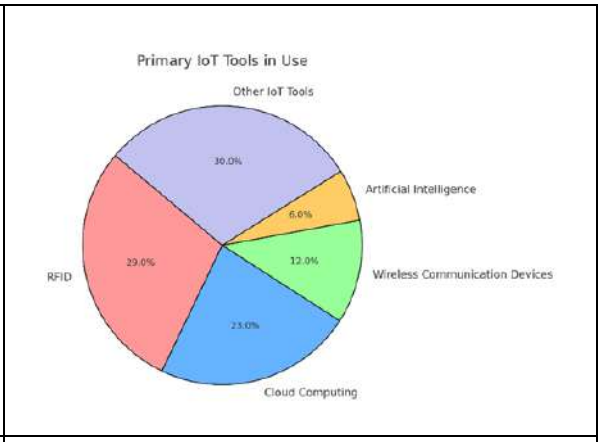


Figure 4: Primary IoT Tools

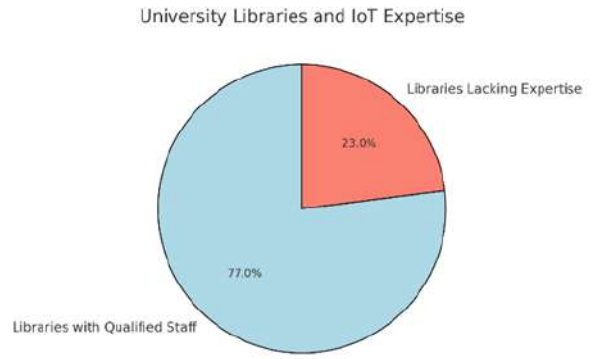


Figure 5: University library and IoT Expertise

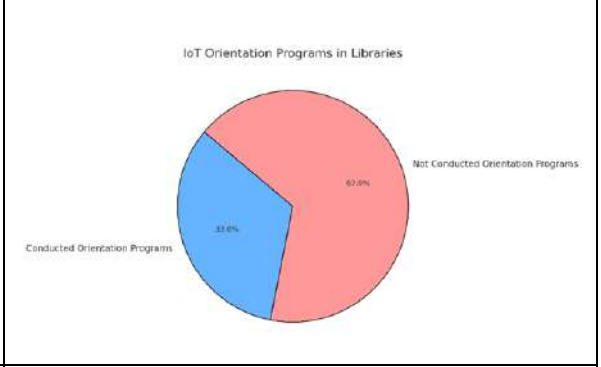


Figure 6: IoT Orientation Programs

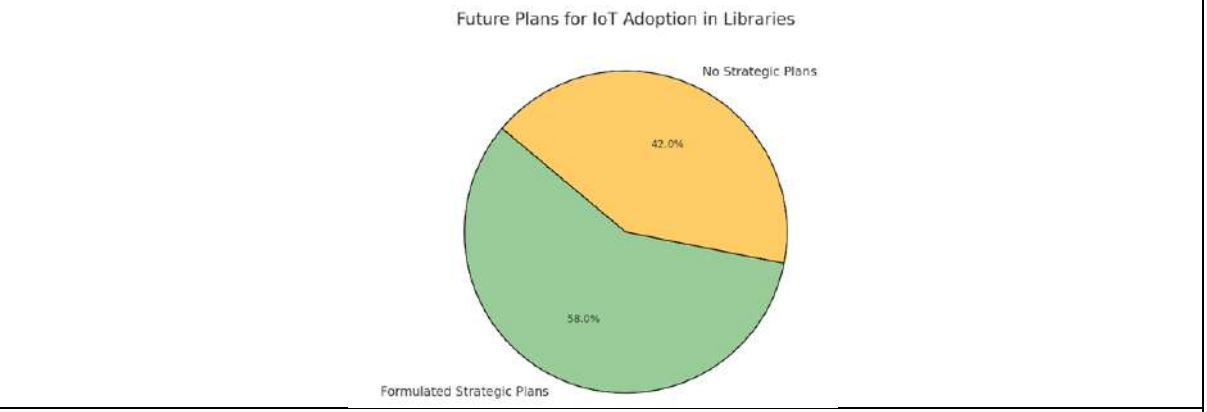


Figure 7: Future Plans for IoT

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Molecular Analysis of Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius* L. by ^{13}C and Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Technique

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ABSTRACT

One of the most valuable techniques used in organic chemistry is ^{13}C Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (^{13}C NMR) spectroscopy that allows measuring the structures of molecules by their interaction with carbon-13 isotopes. While carbon in its 'standard' form, carbon-12 is relatively easy to detect, due to the presence of a magnetic field, carbon-13, however, has special magnetic properties that enable this analysis. They have a specific resonance frequency depending on their electronic environment and the measured values are in chemical shifts (δ ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS). These shifts are given in parts per million (ppm), which give information about the local chemical environment of carbon atoms. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum presented shows that there are separate peaks for separate carbon atoms which number is defined by the structure of the given molecule. Relative peak intensities higher than 40 ppm normally suggest carbons in conditions influenced by electronegative atoms such as in carboxylic acids of ketone groups. This capability enables chemists to distinguish between isomers and determine the exact positioning of the atoms in the molecule of compound. Similarly to any other nuclei, proton NMR is an extension of ^{13}C NMR that enumerates the environments and interactions of protons within a molecule. ^{13}C and proton NMR data or any other spectroscopic data are extremely important for the complete physicochemical characterization of a molecule. Interpretation of all these spectra involves, peak position, intensity and splitting patterns through which the molecular framework and functional groups are depicted.

Keywords: ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy, chemical shift, proton NMR, spectroscopy, molecular geometry, different functional groups, isomers

INTRODUCTION

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy particularly Carbon-13 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (^{13}C NMR) spectroscopy are pivotal and intravenous in the elucidation of the structure of molecules in organic chemistry. The technique mainly concerns itself with carbon-13 isotopes which, unlike carbon-12 are scarce but have inherent magnetic characteristics to enable them to be spotted in a magnetic field. Carbon-13 nuclei are atoms which undergo resonance at frequencies provided by the radiofrequency radiation when in different electronic states. These frequencies are expressed relative to a reference compound, the tetramethylsilane (TMS), and the chemical shift (δ) of each resonance is given by δ=(Vsample−Vref)/Vref. The ppm scale or the chemical shift coexists with the environmental sensitiveness of carbon atoms, whether by the nearby electronegative atoms or groups. When analyzing a ^{13}C NMR spectrum the number of peaks presented in the spectrum is equal to the quantity of chemically different carbons in the molecule. Peaks in the spectrum refer to hybridization states of carbons and are indicative of the molecule's structure. For instance, carbons bonded to electronegative atoms like oxygen will be characterised by high deshieldings resulting to signals appearing at high ppm values.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Among them, Kwon, Park, Shin, and Oh, D. C. (2014) are working on improving the structural elucidation of microbial natural products through the application of new techniques of NMR. In their work, they describe the method of carrying out an isotopic labelling using 13C^{13}\text{C}13C and correlation between the chemical shifts in both one and two dimensions with the help of 13C−13C^{13}\text{C}-^{13}\text{C}13C−13C COSY NMR. This methodological approach plays a central role in attainment of a detailed description of Carbon- Carbon connectivity map that is of great significance in interpretation of intricately built-up natural product molecules. With shown method, incorporation of 13C^{13}\text{C}13C allows for bigger isotopic enrichment of the natural product relative to its carbon-13 content, and therefore, leading to a better sensitivity and resolution of the NMR spectra. The 13C−13C^{13}\text{C}-^{13}\text{C}13C−13C COSY technique allows for the direct visualisation of carbon–carbon coupling providing an accurate method for the analysis of carbon networks. The practical application of these techniques is illustrated in this paper in the context of the obstacles of the structural analysis of microbial metabolites, notably compounds with crowded and overlapping NMR signals. The authors discuss their approach and give several examples of structure elucidation by means of 13C^{13}\text{C}13C-labeling combined with 13C−13C^{13}\text{C}-^{13}\text{C}13C−13C COSY NMR, and show that this approach is rather useful and powerful in the field of natural product chemistry. Ismail, Nahar, and Sarker (2021) has discussed the relevance of INADEQUATE NMR to illustrate the carbon skeleton of natural products. The INADEQUATE experiment is a two-dimensional NMR experiment that was developed specifically to give direct information about the connectivity of the carbon skeleton of large molecules. In this way, the authors can describe the arrangements of carbon atoms and connections between them without reading the connectivity from other techniques or spend much time on data presentation. This paper describes about INADEQUATE NMR and its use in the elucidation of the structure of natural products. The authors would like to point out that INADEQUATE NMR has several advantages, such as, the possibility of analyzing complex carbon environments, and minimizing the problem of overlap. The present study emphasized that INADEQUATE NMR is a valuable technique in the study of natural product chemistry and for the elucidation of the structure of natural products. Molinski (2009) discusses the issues and opportunities of natural products' discovery at nanomole level. This review aims at presenting the approaches and methods for identifying the natural compounds in very low concentration. Hissing abounds about high-resolution mass spectrometry and other related methods such as NMR analysis methods for detection of natural products when the extent of sample available for analysis is minimal. These developments have been discussed in the paper and they reveal how the technical progress in this area improves the analytical techniques in NP research, such as the enhancement of sensitivity and selectivity of the instruments used. Seger and Sturm in 2022 described the incorporation of NMR-based chromatography readouts to forward analytical characteristic to molecular structure. In their paper, they describe the application of NMR spectroscopy together with chromatographic methods in the context of structural

elucidation of complex molecules. In this case, the authors discuss different NMR based chromatographic methods like 2D NMR and gradient NMR techniques by which the compound resolution and sensitivity in addition can be improved. The paper also handles the prospects of using NMR data in combination with chromatographic separation in dealing with issues that arise from issues of complexity and spectral overlap in the mixtures. CSEARCH-protocol for the automatic peer-reviewing of 13C^{13}\text{C}13C-NMR reference data is introduced by Robien (2021). The protocol can be expected to improve the quality of the information underpinning NMR references because the availability of a transparent method to validate the data will contribute to the standardization of the process. This paper describes the development of the CSEARCH-protocol and the utilization of complex review cascades for the automatic search and subsequent correction of errors in 13C13C-NMR data. After this step, they guarantee that reference data obtained from other experiments are accurate and include the most recent information, which is very necessary for structural determination.

OBJECTIVE

1. To identify the stereochemistry and functional group composition of the target molecule using advanced structural analysis techniques.
2. To investigate the chemical properties and reactivity of the compound, with a focus on its carboxylic acid functional groups.
3. In order to develop a broader understanding of the ability of this molecule to be used in distinct areas including medicine, material science or chemical manufacture.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology will employ a range of analytical techniques to comprehensively investigate the molecular properties and potential applications of the compound. Initially, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, including both proton (^1H) and carbon-13 (^13C) NMR, will be utilized to identify functional groups and analyze stereochemical features. Infrared (IR) spectroscopy and mass spectrometry will further aid in determining the molecular structure and verifying the compound's composition. X-ray crystallography will be employed to confirm the proposed 3D molecular structure and assess the spatial arrangement. To gain insight into the molecule's reactivity and synthesis preferences, molecular modeling and simulations will be conducted. Biological activity will be assessed by evaluating the compound's potential interactions with enzymes, receptors, and microorganisms. Synthetic chemistry techniques will be applied to produce molecular derivatives, which will be tested for activity and property modifications.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The number of signals can point to the number of new environments that exist and this technique can also distinguish between isomers based on the kind of spectra. Linear and branched isomers such as pentane and methyl butane produced different number and positions of signal because of difference in structure. Through such signals, the chemists can come up with the structure of the molecule, differentiating between isomers, and determine the position of the atoms in 3-D; thus, 13C NMR has become very important in structural analysis in organic chemistry. 1H for tetraethyl propane-1, 1, 2, 3-tetracarboxylate (Figure 1). Looking at the chemical structure mentioned there is a considerable number of carbonyl groups and the basis of the structure is carbon and oxygen atoms. This may indicate that it has carboxylic acid functional groups or groups similar to carboxylic acids such as succinic acid that is a dicarboxylic acid commonly used in biological processes and industries. In other words, the molecule has possibly a chain of carbonyl carbon—carbonyl oxygen at the least as part of the carboxyl groups or it may be ketones or aldehydes if the connectivity is different. However, even knowing the structure in such a detail, the analysis of which molecule is it, remains rather vague when there is no more structural information. In the case of accurate determination, it is necessary to take into consideration such effects as stereochemistry, presence of other functional

groups and overall molecular environment. The spatial arrangement that is given to the different atoms in the molecule is also important as this could change the behavior of the molecule in terms of its properties and its reactivity. In addition, the presence of other functional groups in the structure of the molecule, such as hydroxyl, ester or amide can help in identification of the particular molecule and its possible biological activity. The molecule might be endowed with biological significance as carboxylic acid moieties are often periodically found in many natural products as well as in intermediates of biochemical reactions. However, one can hardly make concrete conclusions about the function and importance of such a molecule, unless broad data are presented, including spectroscopic data (such as NMR or mass spectrometry, etc.), or any kind of background information about the source or the purpose of the given molecule. Further characterization would require other qualitative analytical methods including crystal structure determination by X-ray crystallography or superior spectroscopic analysis to determine the structure similarity to succinic acid or other related compound and its function in biological or chemical processes. Nevertheless, considering the current structure, one can assume that it is based on succinic acid; however, a detailed molecule analysis is needed to classify this substance accurately and to investigate its potential uses or biological role. Proton NMR Spectrum (Figure 2). The horizontal axis is presented in parts per million (ppm), the vertical axis shows the signal intensity. By running the proton NMR of Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius(L.)L*, the spectrum produces peaks at different chemical shifts representing different environments of the protons in th This information is essential for the deduction of the molecular structure for, the number, position and intensity of these peaks helps in identifying the types of functional groups present as well as the position of the hydrogen atoms in the molecule. Bands in the up field region, more specific from 0 to 3 ppm, correspond to the protons that are in the alkyl moieties, such as -CH3 or -CH2-, and are therefore in fairly shielded environment. These protons are shown at lower ppm values because they are most affected by the electrons of less electronegative neighboring atoms. In the midfield region (3-5 ppm), the spectrum may have peaks for protons that are near electronegative atoms such as oxygen in alcohol or esters, or in alkene. These protons are less shielded and as a result of deshielding, their peaks are found at higher field than those of simple alkyl protons. The region of 5-12 ppm of the NMR spectrum usually characterized by peaks belonging to protons in more deshielded structures such as in the aromatic ring (6-8 ppm), aldehyde groups (9-10 ppm) or in carboxylic acids above 10 ppm. A peak group with a relative intensity of 7-8 ppm usually suggests the presence of an aromatic-ring system which is a part of the molecule skeleton. The heights of these peaks give a magnitude of the relative numbers of protons in each location, and the splitting (singlet, doublet, triplet, and so on) provides information on the connectivity of the protons, additional to the structural information derived from the chemical shifts.

For more detailed and precise structural information, this NMR data is often complemented with other spectroscopic data, for example carbon-13 NMR, IR spectroscopy or mass spectrometry that can give more information about other functional groups and helps to give additional context about molecule's skeleton. Chemical Structure of Compound (Figure 3). I am referring to a large biomolecule with a cyclic structure: the molecule contains a definite six-membered cycle at its core, which defines the layout of the chemical compound. This ring is surrounded by several functional groups that gives the molecule its chemical activity and characteristics. Characteristic for these functional groups are hydroxyl (-OH) groups, carbonyl (C=O) groups and in some cases ether (C-O-C) groups – all containing oxygen atoms in the molecule. One can also see the stereochemistry is quite complex in terms of wedge and dash bonds for the ring structure mentioned above as for the location of the atoms and combined with the fact of the spatial distribution of the substituents attached to the ring. This stereochemical configuration is particularly important in understanding the behavior of the given molecule and its reactivity as well as in biological processes because the three-dimensional organization of the compound dramatically determines its activities in chemical reactions and biological systems. Also together with the aromatic ring, the molecule has a side chain containing other functional groups and a linear carbon backbone. This side chain will further complicate the chemical makeup and possibly reactions of the molecules present in a certain compound. More analysis is needed to determine fully the structure and properties of this complex organic molecule. Analytical techniques like NMR spectroscopy, IR spectroscopy, and mass spectroscopy might help the chemists to get information about molecular analysis, functional group, and stereo chemical configuration. Synthetic conversions and chemical reactivity investigations might also be required to understand its performance in several chemical contexts and uses. Therefore, these analytical methods

shall provide an insight into the properties of the molecule, its applications, and the ways it reacts to other substances. Proton NMR Spectrum of CDCl3 (Figure 4). The direction of the proton NMR spectrum along x-axis shows chemical shift in parts per million (ppm), and the vertical axis or y-axis shows the relative intensity of the signal corresponding to the relative number of protons for a given chemical environment. Every spike on the spectrum means protons in different chemical contexts within the molecule. The positions of these peaks on the x-axis contain significant information about the environment of the electrons nearest the protons, with various sorts of protons resonating at defining chemical shifts. For example, protons subtending to the alkyl groups are generally observed to resonate in the area −0. 0 to 3. 0 ppm owing to the increased shielding of these nuclei from the magnetic field. However, protons near electronegative atoms or in a region of high magnetic deshielding, for example, those protons in an aromatic ring or a carbonyl component, have a low magnetic shielding, giving rise to a downfield shift, which is in the range of 5-12 ppm. These chemical shift information assists in determining the functional groups within the molecule as well as the nature of the electronic environment within the molecule. The height of each peak which is proportional to the number of protons giving rise to that certain chemical shift can be measured through peak integration. This is how chemists get to decide on the proportion of various proton surroundings. Furthermore, the relative heights of the peaks, or intensity, are dependent upon the relative numbers of equivalent nearby protons due to spin-spin coupling and sometimes the splitting patterns – singlet, doublet, triplet, and so on – represent coupled neighboring protons. These splitting patterns when analyzed provides the number of neighboring protons, additional structural information about the connectivity and relative positioning of atoms in the molecule. The chemical shifts, integration and splitting patterns of the various signals in the NMR spectrum allow a chemist to deduce the relative structure of the molecule including the nature, position and connectivity of functional groups in addition to the gross structure of the molecule. This systematic synthesis is necessary for other investigators involved in subsequent studies of the chemical and physical characteristics of the compound for its use. Expanded Region of Proton NMR Spectrum (0-60 ppm) (Figure 12). Conventional NMR spectra typically show intensity on the y-axis and chemical shifts (ppm) on the x-axis, with peaks representing protons in different environments.

These peaks correspond to groups of protons with similar chemical environments, providing insights into molecular structure. However, the spectrum in question displays an unusual pattern, with a straight-line increase in intensity followed by a sharp drop, unlike the typical peaks and valleys seen in standard NMR. This could indicate data representation issues, such as incorrect scaling, problems in data acquisition, or errors in the spectral visualization software. To ensure the spectrum is reliable and accurate, it's crucial to revisit the data acquisition process and check the raw data, as a standard NMR spectrum should have distinct, interpretable peaks for structural analysis. Novel Cyclic Compound (Figure 13). The molecule's relatively high molecular weight and oxygen-rich structure suggest the presence of functional groups like OH, C=O, or ethers, which influence its chemical reactivity. The stereochemistry, highlighted by wedge and dash bonds in its ring structure, is crucial for understanding how the molecule interacts with other substances and fits into larger molecular systems. Additionally, the two fused rings connected by oxygen atoms, along with double bonds, add complexity and reactivity to the molecule, making it versatile in various chemical processes like electrophilic additions or conjugation. Further analysis using NMR, IR, and mass spectrometry will provide precise structural and functional details. Understanding its reactivity profile and interactions could open avenues for applications in synthetic chemistry, drug development, and material engineering. Comprehensive investigation is key to fully understanding its properties and potential uses. 13C NMR Spectrum of Ethyl Sorbate (Figure 14). The spectrum shows peaks at different chemical shifts, representing protons in various environments within the molecule. Sharp, tall peaks around 5–6 ppm indicate protons in aromatic or olefinic environments, while broader peaks arise from aliphatic protons due to greater variation in their chemical surroundings. The area under each peak, after proper integration, reveals the relative number of protons contributing to the signal, helping determine the molecular composition and arrangement. To fully understand the molecular structure, it's essential to analyze peak positions, splitting patterns, and integration values. These details provide insight into functional groups, atomic locations, and the molecule's chemical behavior. 1H for 2-[[2-[(2-amino-4-methyl-pentanoyl) amino] acetyl]amino]acetic acid (Figure 15). The molecule is linear, with carbon atoms numbered from 8 to 14. In the center, nitrogen atoms at positions 9, 11, and 12 are bonded to carbonyl groups, giving the structure a symmetrical appearance with terminal carbonyl groups at both ends. The nitrogen and carbonyl groups

play a significant role in the molecule's reactivity, as they are commonly involved in chemical reactions. The arrangement suggests a balanced molecular geometry, which may impact its stability and chemical behavior, such as hydrogen bonding or electron donation. To fully understand the molecule's properties and potential uses, spectroscopic techniques like NMR, infrared, and mass spectrometry are essential for determining its structure and functional groups. Further chemical testing can reveal its reactivity and applications in fields like materials science, pharmaceuticals, or synthetic chemistry. However, more research is needed to determine its function and potential uses, including examining its behavior in different environments and comparing it to similar compounds. Chemical Shift (ppm) (Figure 16). The horizontal axis of the spectrum represents chemical shift (ppm), while the vertical axis shows signal intensity. Each peak reflects the unique proton environments in the molecule, with lower ppm values indicating protons in aliphatic regions and higher ppm values corresponding to deshielded protons, such as those in aromatic rings or carbonyl groups. The peak heights represent the number of protons contributing to each signal, aiding in the determination of the molecular structure and functional groups. Peak splitting, or multiplicity, reveals additional details about neighboring protons and their interactions, which helps in understanding the molecular connectivity and spatial arrangement. Comprehensive analysis of peak integration, splitting patterns, and comparison with reference spectra is necessary to accurately determine the molecule's composition and structure. Further spectroscopic and structural analyses are crucial for a precise identification and understanding of the molecule's reactivity. 1H for diethyl 2-dimethoxyphosphinothioylsulfanylbutanedioate (Figure 17). The molecule in question features a phosphorus atom surrounded by two sulfur atoms and three oxygen atoms, forming a compact and reactive structure. The sulfur atoms suggest the potential for coordination chemistry or ligand formation. The central phosphorus atom is bonded to a carbon backbone containing two electron-withdrawing carbonyl groups (C=O), which influence the molecule's reactivity. The branching of the carbon backbone and presence of oxygen atoms further diversify the structure, affecting its spatial configuration, steric effects, and chemical reactivity.

Given its functional groups and structure, the molecule could have applications in materials science, pharmaceuticals, and catalysis. It might serve as a polymer precursor, a drug candidate with potential enzyme inhibition properties, or a catalyst in chemical reactions. To fully understand its properties and applications, further analysis using techniques like NMR, IR, and mass spectrometry, along with reactivity studies and comparisons, is necessary to determine its precise structure and potential uses in various fields. Proton NMR Spectrum A Preliminary Analysis (Figure 18). In an NMR spectrum, the x-axis represents chemical shift (ppm), and the y-axis shows signal intensity. Peaks at different ppm values correspond to protons in various environments. Peaks in the 0-3 ppm range typically represent alkyl protons, while those in the 5-12 ppm range are often related to aromatic or deshielded protons. However, key information such as peak integration (which indicates the number of protons) and splitting patterns (which reveal proton neighbors) are missing, making it difficult to determine the molecular structure. A more detailed analysis, including high-resolution data, integration, and splitting patterns, along with comparisons to reference spectra and chemical data, is necessary for accurate structural determination. 13C NMR Spectrum of Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius(L.)L.* (DMSO-d6, 125 MHz) (Figure 14). The high-resolution Carbon-13 NMR spectra of Plant Extract of *Evolvulusnummularius(L.)L.*was carefully obtained on a JEOL JNM-ECZ500R/S1 spectrometer with the data saved with the file name ENL-24(Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius(L.)*L.)Carbon-1-2. annotated to jdf and named as carbon_auto. jxp. This analysis was performed using a 1D COMPLEX data format that is targeted on Carbon-13 (C-13) based on the possibilities of the high-field spectrometer, which operates at a strength of 11. 7473579 Tesla (500 MHz for protons and approximately 125 MHz for Carbon-13). The decision of using DMSO-D6 as the solvent is very important and this is solely because it is a deuterated solvent that ensure that the solvent is not showing the peaks hence making it easier to observe the resultant peaks that are associated with the samples. In the experimental sequence, the relaxation delay was set at 5 seconds, this provided sufficient time for the Carbon-13 nuclei to relax before the sequence was repeated over and over, accurate integration of the area of the peaks is vital in this experiment. To improve signal-to-noise ratio, which is a substantial feature as far as the Carbon-13 NMR since the isotope has a natural abundance of around 1%. 1%—in all, 1024 scans were conducted. This large number of scans assists in combating the low sensitivity of Carbon-13 NMR and/or any labeling that may be implemented and guarantees that data returned from tests is of high quality. The X_90 Width was set to 7. Typical time values for the parameters used were: time between excitation pulses, 1 s;

time of excitation pulse, 55 microseconds, a standard value for optimal excitation of Carbon-13 nuclei; and the acquisition duration, 1. 74587904 seconds. The sweep width adopted was 37. The presented spectra had 354374 Hz bandwidth and the entire range of Carbon-13 chemical shift was fully covered so all the chemically distinct environments of Carbon-13 nuclei were within the analysis. The spectrum itself extends only to a chemical shift scale of 0 – 220 ppm and encompasses a rich variety of Carbon-13 environments. The range includes ordinary sp3 hybridized carbons between 0 and 50 ppm, carbons in aromatic and olefinic environment between 100 and 160 ppm and carbonyl carbons between 160 and 220 ppm. One can point out that the presence of a rather prominent peak in the region of 40-45 ppm indicates the existence of aliphatic carbon atoms, which can be linked with electronegative groups or placed in cyclic or branched frameworks. In other regions, there is no high intensity peak that might be due to large symmetry of the molecule or due to the competition from other impurities or solvent peaks. The fact that so many scans were acquired as well as the high S/N indicates that the experiment was well controlled and their conditions were far from ideal, as the spectrum is almost free of noise. But, the presence of only one peak largely indicates either the simplicity of the molecule in the sample or the fact that the sample is centered around this peak, though, a more complex molecule will necessarily possess more complex peaks. Although DMSO D6 proved to be devoid of any interference in the experiment, perhaps due the small focused sweep width, other relevant signals may not have been detected. Hence further investigations with a wider sweep width or making changes to the other experimental parameters may be required in order to reveal other aspects of the molecular structure of Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius(L.)L.* not depicted in the current spectrum. Proton NMR Spectrum of Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius(L.)*(DMSO-d6, 500 MHz) (Figure 15). The proton NMR spectrum of Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius(L.)* was obtained using a JEOL JNM-ECZ500R/S1 spectrometer with a magnetic field strength of 11. 7473579 Tesla (500 MHz), allows a multivariate characterization of the proton environments in the sample. The choice of DMSO-D6 as the solvent helps to avoid congestion of solvent signals and thus, gives a better picture of the protons in the sample. The spectrum was recorded using a one-pulse sequence with relaxation delay of 5 seconds (A parameter deliberately set that allow the protons to relax before the scans, increasing the precision in the integration of peak areas and minimizing the chances of overlapping of signals). In total, accumulates 512 scans, so has a high signal-to-noise that can significantly solve the problem of detection of protons in a sample with low signal / noise ratio, a small sample of poorly absorbing protons. The sweep width for the study was set at 9. 384 kHz, clipped to 7. 507 kHz,in this way all proton environments can be encompassed due to the fact that a wide area of chemical shift is always spanned by the specified frequency. The chemical shift scale extends from 0 to 12 ppm, and the spectrum reveals distinct regions: the upfield region, therefore, encompasses the region from 0-3 ppm and include peaks resulting from -CH3 and -CH2- other aliphatic protons; the midfield region is at 3-5 ppm encompasses protons in the vicinity of electronegative atoms or protons within alkene environments, that is, protons with lower chemical shift values; and the downfield region includes protons in highly deshield The now-observable marked nmr cluster at ≈ 7-8 ppm is suggestive of an aromatic ring which is the key structural component of the molecule. High resolution as seen by seemingly perfect peaks with minimal splitting indicates good sample purity in addition to improved data format reaching 1D COMPLEX format showing good chemical shift variations and peak multiplicity. This near exact NMR spectrum is very essential for the purposes of identifying and location of different functional groups as well as arrangement of the whole molecule in the structure of the final product Plant Extract of *Evolvulus nummularius(L.)*. The chosen parameters of the experiment, solvent, selected field strength, relaxation delay, and number of scans were regulated and optimized to obtain accurate and reproducible data; this allowed obtaining clear information about the proton environment in the sample.

CONCLUSION

According to the present study, Carbon- 13 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (13C NMR) spectroscopy is one of the most powerful techniques for the elucidation of the structure of organic molecules, due to the fact that it provides valuable information about the carbon atoms in the molecule. 13C NMR measures the shift from a standard for Carbon-13 nuclei, analyzing the organic environment of carbon atoms an essential criterion for molecular structure determination. Extreme usefulness of this anomaly is pinpointing distinct carbon position, isomers differentiation,

and ordinary molecular framework. Proton NMR spectroscopy accompanies ^{13}C NMR as another spectroscopy that gives detailed information on proton environments and their behaviour. Proton NMR spectra demands features such as chemical shifts, integration of peaks, couplings or splitting patterns with reference to structure and functional groups in the molecule. Differences in the expected patterns of peaks can be seen as a sign of problems with data representation and, therefore, proper data processing is crucially important. An effective combination of both ^{13}C and proton NMR data, as well as other spectroscopic techniques such as IR and mass spectrometry significantly assist in the analysis of molecular structures. These combined techniques allow the accurate prediction of relative position of the atoms, determining functional groups and behaviour of the molecule. Other methods like X-ray crystallography may be required for attempts at elucidation of the structural details and to determine its prospects for possible use. In conclusion, it can be stated that both ^{13}C and proton NMR spectroscopy are indispensable for achieving a good understanding of molecular structure; in order to interpret the spectra at best, however, much more data have to be considered and complementary analytical tools have to be applied. This guarantees quite accurate determination of the structures and helps consider possible uses across numerous scientific and industrial disciplines.

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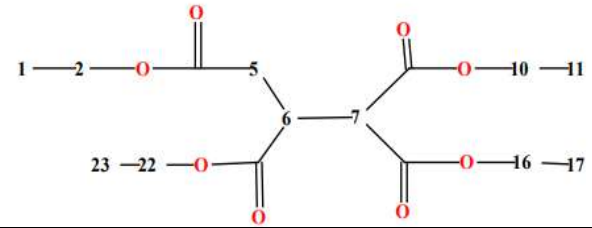


Figure 1. 1H for tetraethyl propane-1, 1, 2, 3-tetracarboxylate

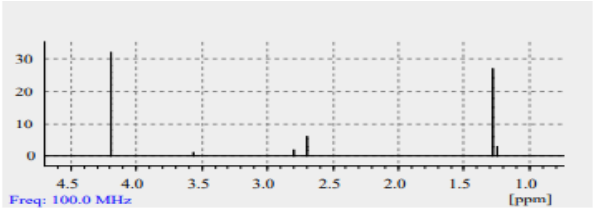


Figure 2: Proton NMR Spectrum

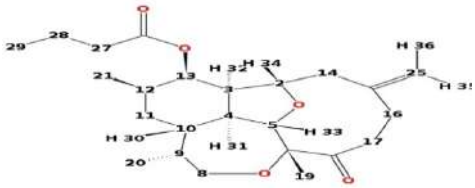


Figure 3: Chemical Structure of Compound

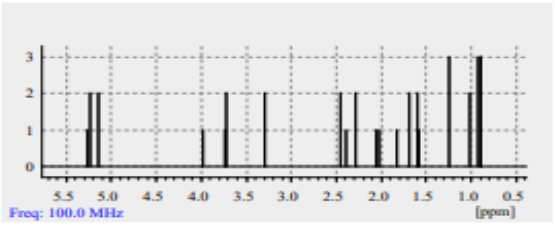


Figure 4: Proton NMR Spectrum of CDCl3

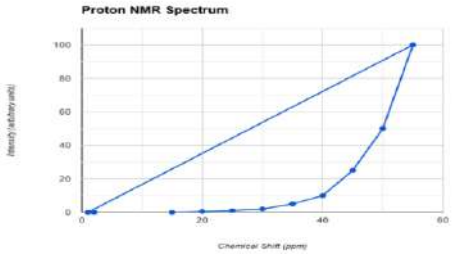


Figure 5: Expanded Region of Proton NMR Spectrum (0-60 ppm)

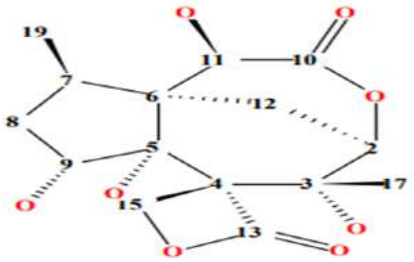


Figure 6: Novel Cyclic Compound

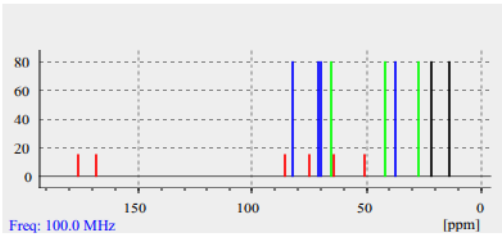


Figure 7: 13C NMR Spectrum of Ethyl Sorbate

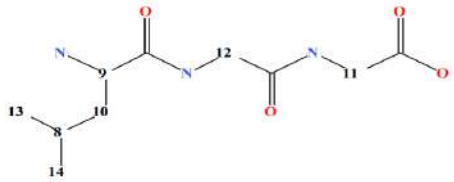


Figure 8: 1H for 2-[[2-[(2-amino-4-methyl-pentanoyl) amino] acetyl]amino]acetic acid

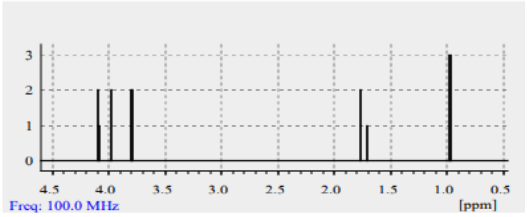


Figure 9: Chemical Shift (ppm)

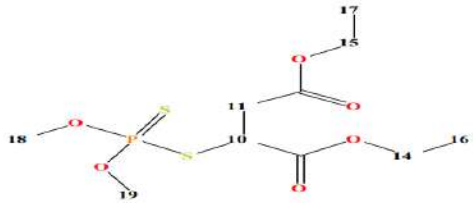


Figure 10: 1H for diethyl 2-dimethoxyphosphinothioylsulfanylbutanedioate

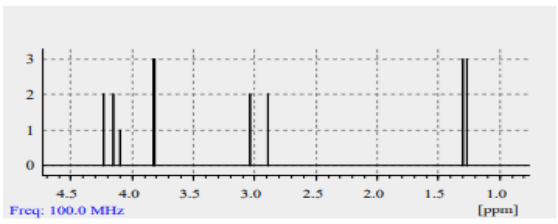


Figure 11: Proton NMR Spectrum A Preliminary Analysis

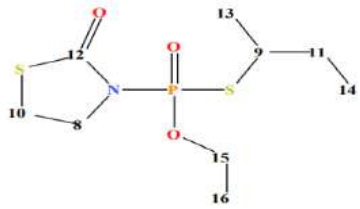


Figure12:13C for 3-(butan-2-ylsulfanyl-ethoxyphosphoryl)-1,3-thiazolidin-2-one

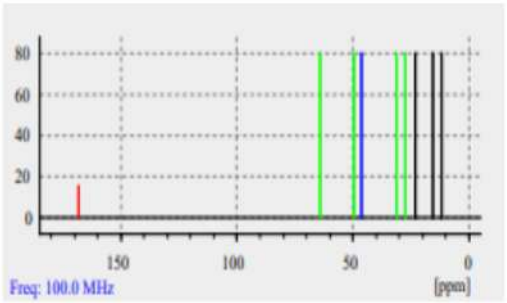


Figure 13: Expanded Region of Proton NMR Spectrum (0-80 ppm)

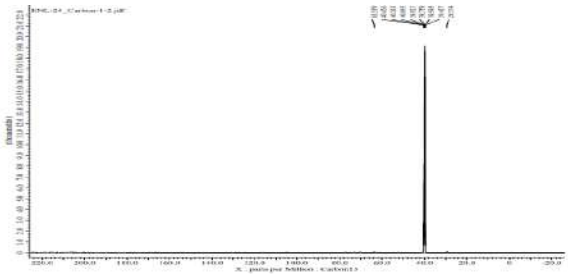


Figure 14: 13C NMR Spectrum of ENL-24 (DMSO-d6, 125 MHz)

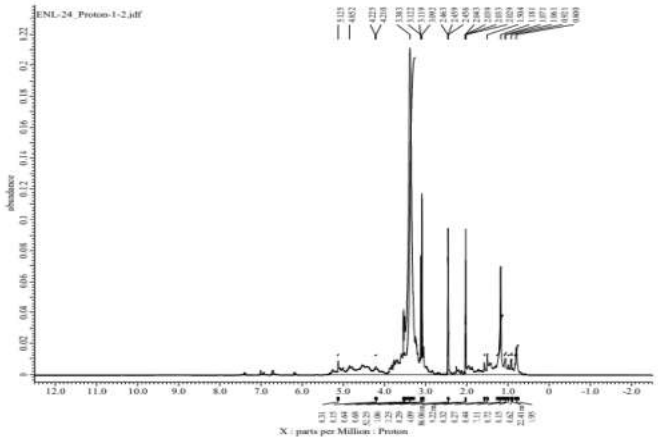


Figure 15: Proton NMR Spectrum of ENL-24 (DMSO-d6, 500 MHz)

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Corn Leaf Diseases Classification using Deep Neural Network

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ABSTRACT

Corn, one of the most significant agricultural products in the world, is affected by a number of genetic diseases. These diseases cause low productivity and significant financial loss for farmers. Because of this, farmers will benefit from early disease identification by identifying its clinical patterns. This problem is a great application area for computer-aided diagnostic systems due to the long manual disease diagnosis procedure and further information that the accuracy of the identification is inversely correlated with the pathologist's skills. In this paper introduced the new hybrid Enhanced Efficient NET with Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) model. The goal of the method is to identify disease categories with different crop plant diseases that are regularly afflicted in this area. Due to this, the proposed system developed a dataset of images of corn disease, of which 70% were used for training and had an accuracy of 99.989%.

Keywords: EfficentNET, BiLSTM, Deep Neural Network, Data Augmentation, Classification

INTRODUCTION

Image processing refers to the application of various techniques to enhance or extract valuable information from a single image. This process involves treating the image as a signal and applying various operations to produce either a transformed image or relevant characteristics of the original image. As a subset of signal processing, image processing has emerged as a rapidly advancing technology, attracting significant attention in the fields of engineering and computer science research. Its vast potential for growth and development has made it a crucial area

of study in today's technological landscape [1]. With an estimated global average yield loss every year [1, 2], One of the main reasons why agricultural crops are destroyed is due to plant diseases. Infection, which can be bacterial, viral, or fungal, has a negative impact on plants. The symptoms of these illnesses, which affect leaves, fruits, or branches, can include changes in color, shape, or edges. Investigating potential quick detection, control, and treatment techniques is therefore essential [3-5]. Moreover, growers could use the incorrect chemical or treatment method [6]. The type of infection typically requires analysis and discovery by a plant pathologist, which can be expensive and slow. The collapse of the crop can be avoided by keeping an eye out for illnesses that affect maize plants. Corn growers typically solely employ manual monitoring; therefore crop failure takes a long time to occur since it is not addressed right away. This method takes a lot of time. Considering the problems, this paper applies scientific discipline of digital image classification to recognize diseases in maize plants by classifying corn plant leaves into groups share specific traits [7]. Several breakthroughs in agriculture are the result of technological advancements. More specifically, apps that use deep learning and artificial intelligence (AI) can be driven by plant photos. Deep learning relies on neural networks that have more layers than just input, result, and hidden layers. The goal of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), a sub-class of deep learning networks, is to discover characteristics and associations in images using a series of convolutional, pooling, and fully connected layer. This layer incorporates the different attributes that the earlier levels have uncovered. CNNs have been demonstrated to be excellent at identifying attributes despite numerous modifications that may impact the source images [8]. The ability to expand agricultural research is provided by improvements in artificial intelligence methods. Machine learning techniques that belong to the deep learning class are currently the focus of ongoing research and have been effectively utilized in a broad choice of fields. Deep learning uses neural networks to extract features, analyze patterns, and classify data [9]. Traditional techniques of manually identifying plant diseases in the agricultural industry require experts to conduct visual inspections, followed by more thorough detection. Combining the features from several deep learning techniques can lead to superior results, as the classifier will have access to a more comprehensive set of descriptive characteristics. Since each deep learning method has its unique way of extracting attributes, the fusion of features can provide a more robust and accurate representation of the data, leading to improved performance. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are a powerful tool for classifying diseases in corn leaf images. By leveraging spatial hierarchies of features, CNNs can learn to detect subtle patterns and anomalies in images, allowing for accurate disease diagnosis. With the ability to learn from large datasets and improve over time, CNNs have the potential to revolutionize crop disease management and improve food security. In this paper, presents an automated Corn Leaf Disease Classification, a novel approach is proposed based on hybrid network by combining Efficientnet with Bi-directional Long Short Term Memory Network Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) model is presented.

These are the two contributions that have been proposed

- For the data augmentation techniques to increase training accuracy and minimize overfitting.
- The ENETBiLSTM classification method generated novel State-of-The-Art results on a variety of plant village database.

This paper is structured as follows: Section 2 reviews the relevant literature on corn leaf disease classification, establishing a context for the proposed research. Section 3 describes the methodologies developed for classifying corn leaf diseases, outlining the key approaches and techniques utilized. Section 4 reports the results of the experimental evaluation, demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposed methods. Finally, Section 5 summarizes the main findings and implications of this study, providing a conclusion to the paper

RELATED WORK

(Hue, *et al.*, 2020) [10] presented a convolutional neural network based on data augmentation and transfer learning to find models of maize leaf disease. The approach increases the data through data augmentation to increase the generalization and accuracy of the model before creating a convolutional neural network model based on transfer learning. The convolutional neural network's training is then accelerated using the model, and the test dataset is used to feed the results of the training back into the network.

Rocha *et al*. (2020) [11] authors employed advanced techniques such as data augmentation, Bayesian hyper-parameter optimization, and fine-tuning strategies to enhance the models' performance. The PlantVillage dataset provided the maize leaf images used for testing the CNNs, and a five-fold cross-validation approach was applied to validate the experiments across both training and test sets. The findings revealed a significant correlation among the maize leaf classes and the collision of data augmentation on pre-trained models. Notably, the outcomes showed 97 percent of the CNN models achieved precise classification of maize leaf diseases. Human activities have significantly contributed to the global rise in phytopathological threats, as noted by Buja *et al*. in 2021 [12]. The consequences of pathogen-related food losses have resulted in decreased agricultural productivity, reduced quality, and lower economic returns. In response, the field of plant pathology has adopted a new paradigm: "early detection" coupled with "fast, accurate, and affordable" diagnostics. This is particularly crucial for challenging pathogens that may exhibit mild or asymptomatic initial symptoms but later become difficult to manage. Furthermore, in today's globalized market, where epidemics can spread rapidly, innovative field-based technologies are revolutionizing diagnostic laboratories. These new tools ensure that diagnostic procedures are tailored to real-world operational conditions, enabling swift and effective responses to emerging threats. A convolutional global pooling neural network was suggested by Xu, *et al*., 2021 [13] to enlarge the correctness of identifying corn illnesses. First, a convolutional layer and novel Inception section are introduced to the AlexNet model to improve the ability of AlexNet attributes extraction. After that, the authors employed the global pooling layer to take the place of the unique fully-connected layer in order to prevent the over-fitting issue brought on by too many parameters. To improve the performance of recognizing maize illnesses, the modified form can decrease over-fitting and periods. In order to achieve sustainable agricultural practices, Storey *et al*. (2022) [14] addressed how a decrease in the use of chemicals harvest organization suitable to ecological and fitness concerns is a crucial topic. This can be done, for example, by creating intelligent structures that can recognize the target, such as a crop disease or weeds, enabling for precision spraying while using less chemical. The exact detection and classification of crops may be accomplished using artificial intelligence and computer vision.

Amin *et al* (2022) [15] illustration showed how plant diseases represent a serious threat to the world's ability to feed itself. The quick recognition of plant diseases is still difficult and time-consuming, though. To extract deep characteristics from the photos of maize plants, the authors used two pre-trained CNNs and EfficientNetB0. In their study, image variations were added to the dataset utilized to train model using data augmentation techniques. By boosting the diversity and quantity of the photos, the model was able to learn more complicated data situations. Plant diseases were identified as the primary cause of agricultural losses in 2023 [16] by R. Dhivya and N. Shanmugapriya, which had an impact on the global economy. Intelligent agricultural solutions are emerging to solve these issues, and one of them is the use of deep neural network. Early detection of plant diseases using precise or usual discovery methods can increase the excellence of food output and lower costs. For accurate plant disease identification, the scientists presented the Vision Transform Classification neural network model. Table 1 gives brief summary of different corn leaf disease classification with different merits and demerits and their efficiency.

PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed method takes a first step in effectively classifying a corn plant disease image is to identify all of its distinctive features. Although the distinctive feature varies depending on the image, it is a crucial property. The proposed system uses a deep learning technique as Efficient, which is created in a system allows it to discover robotically how to mine intricate hierarchical attributes from an image while being trained and functions as a functional learner. In the meantime, a BiLSTM layer, an LSTM version, is used to encode the contextual connections between various image regions by learning the entire image region in a straightforward manner. The proposed flow design for ENETBiLSTM is shown in Figure 1.

Data Acquisition

This experiment utilized a subset of the PlantVillage dataset from Kaggle [17], which comprises approximately 217,000 images across 38 categories, including both healthy and diseased plant images. Specifically, images of maize plants were selected for this study due to the dataset's extensive coverage of four categories. The selected subset consists of four groups: healthy corn leaves, common rust-infected leaves, grey leaf spot-infected leaves, and healthy corn leaves. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the number of images in each category. Additionally, Fig. 2 showcases representative images from each dataset type, offering a visual representation of the data used in this experiment.

Data Augmentation

The process of data augmentation formation was previously described (R. Dhivya and N. Shanmugapriya, 2023). The quantity of each form of leaf image fluctuates; therefore the model may deviate after training under various types if the distribution of image types is not balanced. The amount of different image types can be balanced, the training set can be increased, images can be made more realistic, and overfitting can be prevented from making the model more sensitive to noises or minute features than the underlying relationships seek. The field's foliage creates a variety of sharpness and resolution variations in the photos. Together with random shadows and dazzling flecks on the leaves, uneven sunlight exposure causes these effects. As a result, we used data augmentation techniques to increase training accuracy and minimize overfitting. The often used techniques include color jitter, fixed angle rotation, and picture transformation. In this paper, data augmentation techniques include horizontal picture transformation, image rotation, contrast, and brightness. This system adopts the technique of 90-180 degree rotation to prevent losing a portion of the image edge when rotating. The outcomes of the data augmentation for maize leaves are displayed in figures 3 and 4.

Enhanced EfficienNET with BiLSTM Classification

The identification and prediction of corn or maize leaf diseases are done using the Enhanced EfficientNET with BiLSTM (ENETBiLSTM) classification. In humid, warm settings, the diseases are more prevalent. Hence, in reducing the damage, early diagnosis of these disorders is essential. This paper's main objective is to classify various diseases using Efficientnet and LSTM method. Deep learning architectures are designed to provide more effective methods using fewer models. EfficientNet, in contrast to additional cutting-edge models, produces extra effective results by always increasing depth, width, and resolution while leveling the form down. The primary step in the complex scaling method determines how the different scaling dimensions of the baseline network relate to one another under a fixed resource restriction is the search for a grid. In compound scaling, depth, width, and resolution are equally scaled using the compound coefficient and the guidelines in Eq. 1.

$$\begin{cases} depth: dp = \alpha^{\varphi} \\ width: wd = \beta^{\varphi} \\ resolution: rs = \gamma_{\varphi} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Where $\alpha \geq 1$, $\beta \geq 1$, $\gamma \geq 1$ the supplied values wd, dp, and rs can be used to scale the network's width, depth, and resolution coefficients, and the constants, and can be used to assign these resources to the network's depth, width, and resolution in three dimensions, respectively.With a single output, the BiLSTM connects two hidden layers that are moving in the opposing directions. This property of BiLSTM allows it to read an image's features along both directions and time steps, which enhances performance on sequence classification problems. Sequential modeling can take use of long-range context dependencies in both the past and the future time steps by combining both Bidirectional RNN and LSTM. In order to improve classification performance, recurrent property has been added to the conventional EfficientNet structure using this proposed technique's combined combination of EfficientNET and BiLSTM. The BiLSTM is used to interpret the derived features across time steps once they have been extracted using the EfficientNETB0. The proposed ENETBiLSTM classification results described in figure 5.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results have been approximated using the ENETBiLSTM method that has been suggested. The outcomes were implemented on a machine running Windows 10 using Python 3.7 model, with Intel processor I3-2500 operating 3.81 GHz and 4GB of RAM. To illustrate this paper's points, real-world examples are presented. The complete ENETBiLSTM training and validation accuracy and loss is illustrated in figures 6 and 7. Meanwhile, the precision, recall, accuracy and f1-sore measures of existing InceptionV3, EfficientNetB0, DenseNet152, End-to-End DL and proposed model shown is table 2 and chart in figure 7. The classification accuracy measures of existing models [18], [19] with proposed model shown are table 3 and figure 8. Comparison of classification Accuracy chart figure 9.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

In this paper, focus on categorizing different corn plant diseases using both local and global factors. With the help of the ENET-BiLSTM model, we have deployed a new hybrid deep learning technique to extract all features as well as to determine the spatial contextual meaning of the derived features. A corn disease image's edge, ridges, and other significant features can be extracted with the help of EfficientNET. By providing a time distribution layer that allows for numerous operations on the same layer or layers, the BiLSTM model creates association between the extracted attributes. A series of “image interpretations” or “image features” are provided by this depiction. This model's evaluation accuracy was 99.989%, which suggests that it is very persuasive. In future, the proposed model is extending to other deep leaning methods [20-22] of leaf image datasets.

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Table 1 gives brief summary of different corn leaf disease classification with different merits and demerits and their efficiency.

Methods	Comparison of different Corn leaf disease classification efficiency			
	Technique	**Dataset**	**Accuracy**	**Limitations**
[10]	CNN based on data augmentation	PlantVillage	95%	-
[11]	CNN and hyperparameter optimization	PlantVillage	95%	Think about developing new optimization techniques and using more data augmentation techniques.
[13]	Multi-Scale Convolutional Global Pooling Neural Network	Plant Village database	93.28%	Systems for automatic recognition are invalid.
[14]	Mask R-CNN	Plant Pathology Challenge 2020 database	80.5%	There is no segregation and labeling.
[15]	End-to-End Deep Learning Model	Plant Village database	98.56%	Combining fusion techniques is not done.

Table 2: Comparison of Precision, Recall and F1-sore measures with existing InceptionV3, EfficientNetB0, DenseNet152, End-to-End DL and proposed model Algorithm

Methods	Precision	Recall	F1-score
InceptionV3	88	85	87
EfficientNetB0	94	90	92
DenseNet152	94	89	92
End-to-End DL	95	94	95
Proposed model	94.6	98.2	98.4

Table 3: Performance Comparison of the Proposed Model vs. Existing Models.

Model	Accuracy
[10]	97.6
[11]	97
[18]	94
[19]	98.06
[15]	98.56
Proposed Model	**99.1**

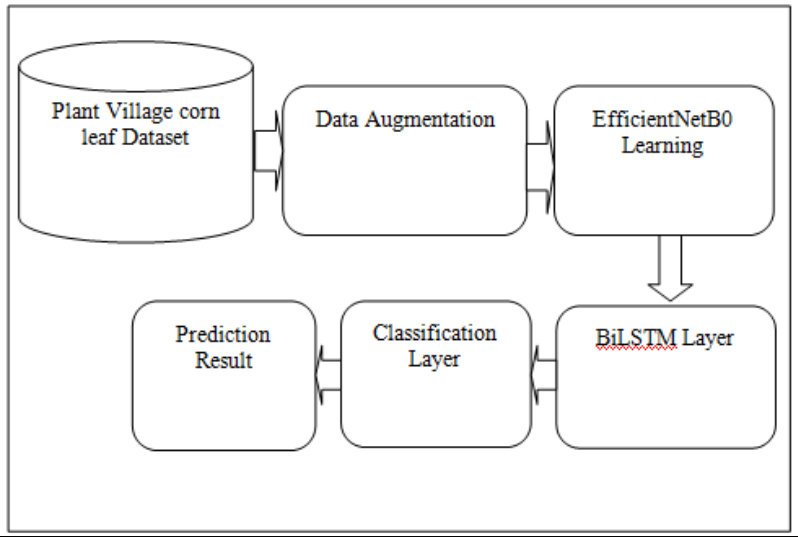


Fig.1: ENETLSTM Flow Diagram

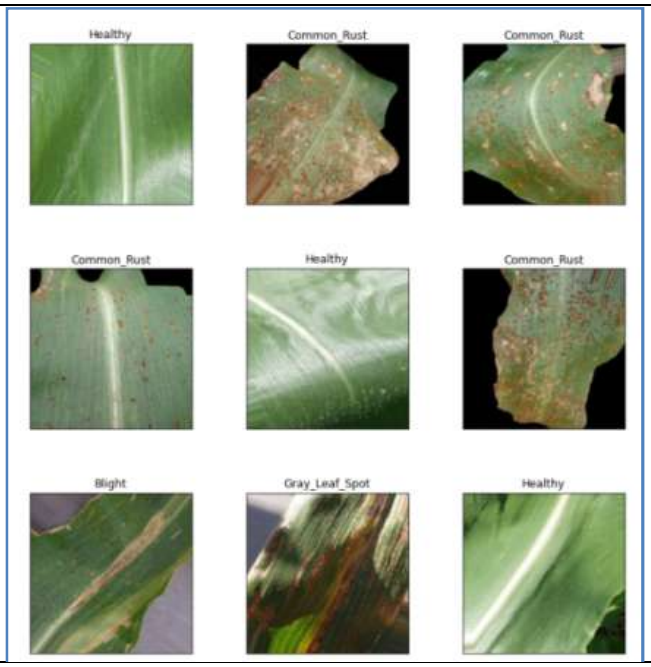


Fig.2: Examples of each category's images from the dataset

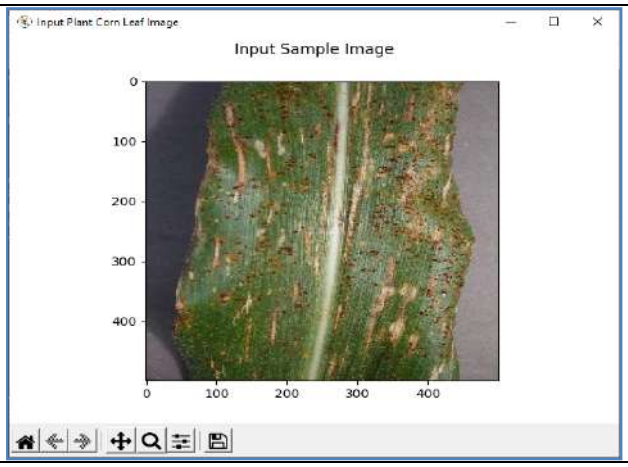


Fig.3: Input Sample Corn Gray Spot disease Image

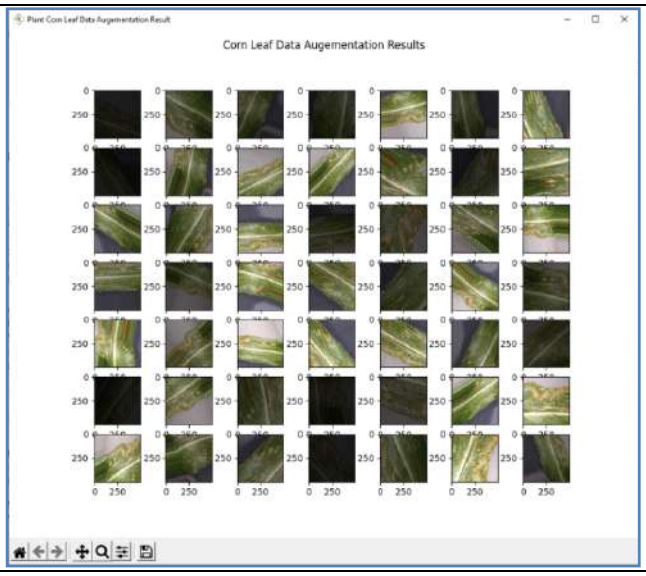


Fig.4: Corn leaf Data Augmentation Result

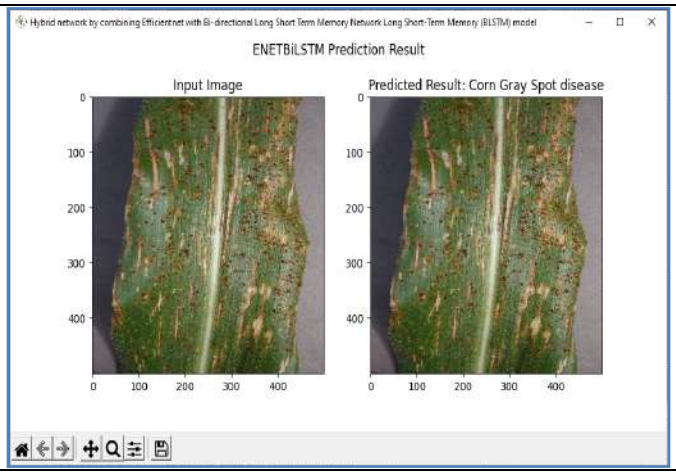


Fig.5: ENETBiLSTM classification result

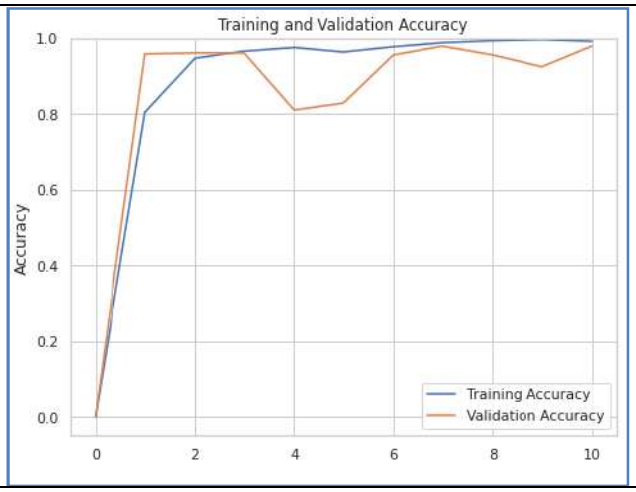


Fig.6: Accuracy Chart

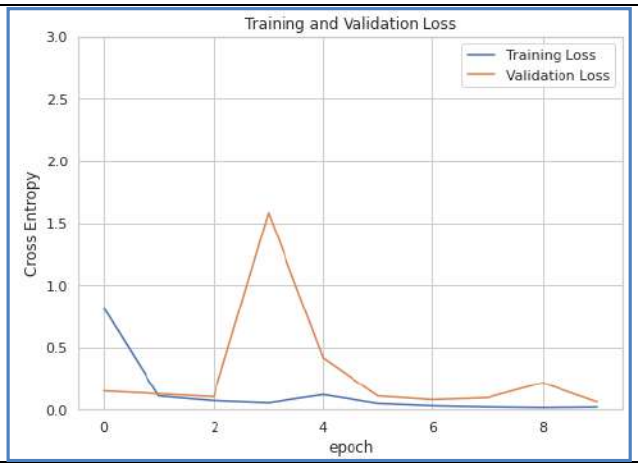


Fig.7: Loss Chart

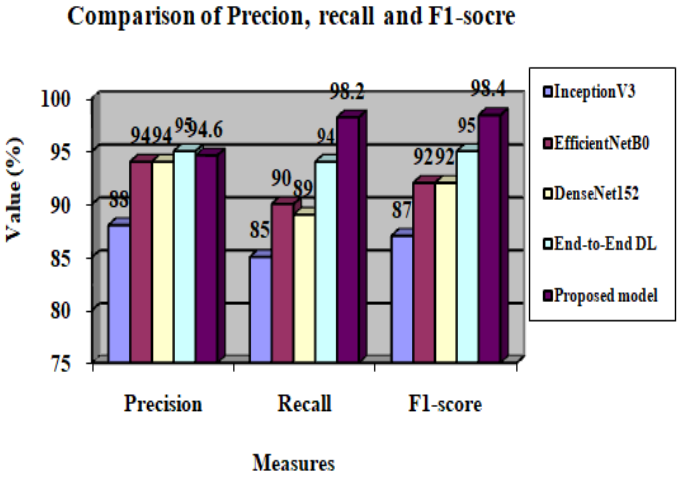


Fig.8: Comparison of Precision Recall and F1-score chart

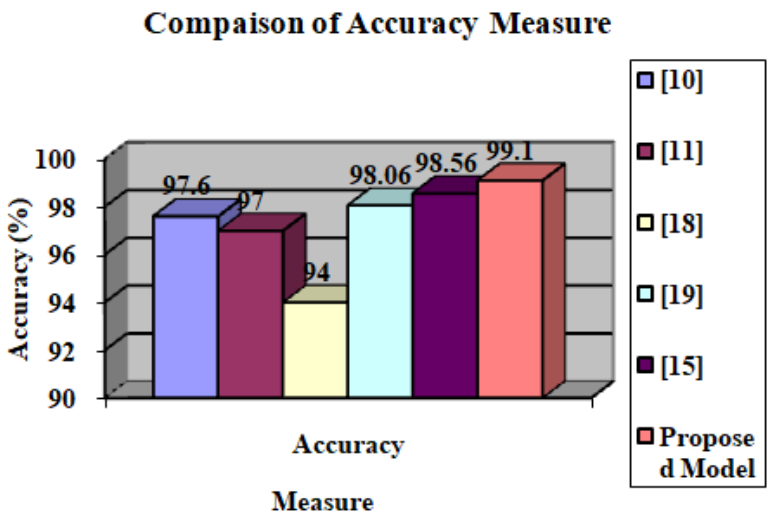


Fig.9: Comparison of classification Accuracy chart

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Prevalence, Pain Relieving Strategies and Psychological Factors in Dysmenorrhoea among the Students of Health Care Professional Courses - A Cross Sectional Study

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ABSTRACT

Primary dysmenorrhoea is a major complaint, as pain affects the quality of life of female students. Dysmenorrhoea and related menstrual symptoms are a broad collection of affective and somatic concerns that occur around the time of menses. To evaluate the prevalence of primary dysmenorrhoea and their association with habitual, menstrual and psychological factors. This cross-sectional study included 988 undergraduate and post graduate students of six different health care professional courses in Surat. Self administered questionnaires consist of demographic data, habitual and menstrual characteristics, pain relieving strategies and psychological factors. Prevalence of dysmenorrhoea was 47%. Moderate severity of dysmenorrhoea was among 61% of students. Working ability was moderately affected among 35.7% students. 30.5% students reported that their study was getting affected during dysmenorrhoea. Nearly half of the students were suffering from dysmenorrhoea. Rest was the widely used pain relieving

strategy. Significant association of few habitual, menstrual and psychological factors was found with dysmenorrhoea.

Keywords: Dysmenorrhoea, Numeric pain rating scale, Pain relief, Personality, Alexithymia

INTRODUCTION

Dysmenorrhoea is a painful or cramping sensation in the lower abdomen often accompanied by other biological symptoms including dizziness, fatigue, sweating, backache, headache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea all occurring just before or during the menstruation. Most females experience certain degree of pain and distress during their menstruation period [1]. Pain is an unwanted experience that can affect the individual experiencing it negatively depending on its intensity, location, quality and duration [2]. During the first two years after menarche, most cycles are anovulatory. Despite this, they are somewhat regular within a range of approximately 21 to 42 days, in contrast to an adult woman, whose cycles typically range between 21 and 35 days. The mean duration of menses is 4.7 days [3]. Dysmenorrhoea should be considered as a part of the medically unexplained syndromes and be viewed as a multi-factorial disorder. Studies on the dysmenorrhoea have shown that many factors are associated with this syndrome. These factors include a younger age, low BMI, smoking, early menarche, prolonged or aberrant menstrual flow, pelvic infections, previous sterilization, genetic influence, a history of sexual abuse, high caffeine intake, and breakfast consumption [4]. Dysmenorrhoea may be categorized into two types as primary and secondary. Primary dysmenorrhoea is defined as painful menses among females with normal pelvic anatomy frequently beginning during adolescence. It is observed only in ovulatory cycles, frequently emerging within 6 to 12 months after menarche with no pathology and its onset might be years after menarche. Symptoms are comparatively reproducible from one menstrual period to the other. Pain intensity may be mild, moderate or severe based on the adolescent's description, degree of limitation of activities, and requirement for medication. Secondary dysmenorrhoea is menstrual pain associated with an underlying pelvic pathology such as endometriosis, pelvic inflammatory disease and ovarian cysts. Its onset may be many years after the onset of menarche. A variety of physiological, environmental and behavioral factors might influence SD [5, 6]. It was shown that women with dysmenorrhoea have higher levels of prostaglandins in their plasma and menstrual effluent than women without dysmenorrhoea. Most of the release of prostaglandins during menstruation occurs within the first 48 hrs, which coincides with the greatest intensity of the symptoms [7, 8]. Several studies have shown that adolescents with dysmenorrhoea report that, it affects their academic performance, social and sports activities [9]. Mental stress is one of the important causes of primary dysmenorrhoea among young females. There appears to be an association between severity of the stress and the frequency of females who suffer from dysmenorrhoea. But it has been difficult to find a level of stress which interferes with their normal menstrual cycle [10]. Due to its importance, different treatments including pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment approaches such as taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), herbal, dietary therapies, yoga, meditation, and acupuncture have been used to lessen the effects of dysmenorrhoea [11]. Some psychological factors such as high emotional disturbance and psychological symptoms were found to be associated with higher rates of dysmenorrhoea. A study showed that dysmenorrhoea intensity increased with severity of depression, anxiety and somatic complaints. Researches mentioned that menstrual irregularities can be used as an indicator of psychosocial adjustment disorder in 13 to 19 years old girls during the early year after menarche [4]. Dysmenorrhoea is a symptom-complex which affects quality of life and reduces productivity of women. Fifty percent (50%) of females missed school or work at least due to pain associated with menstruation. Unrelieved acute pain can affect the pulmonary, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, endocrine and immune systems. Chronic pain may suppress the immune function cause depression, disability, anger and fatigue [2]. A multidisciplinary approach involving a combination of life style modification and allied health services should be used to limit the impact of dysmenorrhoea on activity of daily living [12]. Young women cope with their dysmenorrhoea using different approaches. A US study showed that apart from medication, all adolescent girls used non-pharmacological remedies such as sleeping and heat application to soothe pains due to dysmenorrhoea [13].

Understanding about dysmenorrhoea may be limited among many young women, as they receive little health education on this subject. Moreover, lack of past encounters with chronic pain and suffering may also influence the subjective perception of pain. On the other hand, medical students represent a population with better knowledge and exposure to other forms of chronic suffering, which possibly results in different pain perception and subsequent decisions on coping approaches [14]. Although psychosocial risk factors of primary dysmenorrhoea have not been studied extensively, there is growing evidence of a psychological etiology. Previous studies reported that women with dysmenorrhoea tend to be more preoccupied with bodily sensations, tend to express greater negative attitudes toward illness, and have more negative attitude toward menstruation than do other women [15]. A study showed that dysmenorrhoea intensity increased with the severity of depression, anxiety, and somatic complaints. Personality trait, affect, social support and alexithymia might influence women with primary dysmenorrhoea. [4]. There is growing evidence of an association between various measures of psychosocial stress and adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as preterm delivery. Stress, for instance, can be defined in various ways and is difficult to quantify, and dysmenorrhoea is a subjective condition that relies on self-report [16]. The concept of alexithymia, literally without word for feelings, is based on observations of psychosomatic patients and was first proposed by Sidneos (1973) [17]. It is mainly characterized by a difficulty in identifying and expressing feelings and a difficulty in distinguishing between feelings and physical sensations. This study investigates the prevalence, habitual factors, menstrual factors and psychological factors of primary dysmenorrhoea, various management options of primary dysmenorrhoea and association of physiological and psychological factors with primary dysmenorrhoea among students studying in different health care professional courses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross sectional study was conducted among students of different health care professional courses which include students from Medical, Physiotherapy, Ayurvedic, Homeopathy, Pharmacy and Nursing Colleges. Convenient and purposive sampling was done based on the availability and willingness for the participation who volunteered for the study. Inclusion Criteria included students belonging to health care professional course, primary dysmenorrhoea with age between 18-26 years. Females with secondary dysmenorrhoea and pelvic pathology associated with dysmenorrhoea were excluded from the study. Participants from six health care professional courses included were Medicine, Ayurvedic, Homeopathy, Physiotherapy, Nursing and Pharmacy. This cross sectional study was done on (N=988) students who were available and willing to participate voluntarily in this study. Out of 988 participants 135 students from MBBS, 161 students from Ayurvedic, 183 students from Homeopathy, 180 students from Physiotherapy, 167 students from Pharmacy and 162 students from Nursing participated in this study. Before collecting data, the permission for conducting the study on students (questionnaire based) from Principal / HOD of concern colleges were taken. Pilot study on 20 students was carried out using the questionnaires for checking the difficulties in understanding the questions. Then the questionnaires were finalized. As students were from different health care courses and academic years, prior distributing the questionnaire power point presentation was displayed. The presentation included basic information about dysmenorrhoea, purpose of the study and significance of the study in brief. The questionnaire was prepared with reference to previous available researches in literature. The students were given sufficient time approximately 50-60 minutes in which they completed the questionnaire. Questionnaire included three parts: first part included basic demographic details and habitual characteristics of the students. The second part of questionnaire included menstrual characteristics, characteristics of dysmenorrhoea, pain relieving strategies of primary dysmenorrhoea and the third part of questionnaire included psychological factors. Basic demographic details included age, height, weight and BMI. BMI was classified in to four categories as underweight, normal, overweight and obese. Habitual characteristics include consumption of tea, coffee, chocolate and coke. Regular breakfast and regular exercises were also included in habitual characteristics. Menstrual characteristics involve age at menarche, menstrual cycle regularity, and menstrual cycle interval an menstrual bleeding days. Characteristics of dysmenorrhoea included family history of dysmenorrhoea, numeric pain rating scale (NRS), working ability getting affected with dysmenorrhoea, location of pain, consulted any physician for dysmenorrhoea and study gets affected due to dysmenorrhoea. Pain relieving strategies used by the students were

also included. Psychological factors included five domains namely, BIG-5 Personality Test, Sarason Social Support Questionnaire - short form (SSQ), Depression, Anxiety, Stress Scale (DASS-21) and Torronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20). BIG-5 Personality Test consists of 50 item questionnaires that measure the five personality traits, namely Neuroticism, Extroversion, Openness to experience, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness. The scale was developed by taking 10 items with the highest positive or negative factor. All 50 items of scale require responses on a five point likert scale (1 through 5) from disagree to agree. Social Support was measured by using Sarason Social Support Questionnaire (short form). Questions in the questionnaire were asked to know about the student's social support. Each question has two parts. For the first part, student has to list all the people excluding themselves, who they can count on for help or support. For the second part, the student has to mention how satisfied they are with the social support they get for each question. The DAS-21 is a 21 item self-report questionnaire, designed to measure a range of common symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress. It includes three subscales that cover depression (7 items), anxiety (7 items) and stress (7 items). All 21 items in the scale require responses on a four point likert scale (0 to 3) ranging from never to almost always. Alexythymia is difficulty in identifying feelings. It consists of 20 items which is widely used tool to measure alexythymia. The 20 item of scale require responses on a five point likert scale (1 through 5) ranging from completely disagree to completely agree.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, frequency distribution, cross tab and chi square analysis. Level of significance was set up at $p < 0.05$. The overall prevalence of dysmenorrhoea among the students of six different health care courses in this study was found to be (N=462) 47%. Results of studies on prevalence of dysmenorrhoea in different countries from 2010 to 2015 show a wide range [18]. A study conducted on prevalence of dysmenorrhoea by Al-Kindi R and Al-Bulushi A [19] on 404 girls from high school found the prevalence to be 94% [2011]. In year 2010 Parker M *et al* [20] found the prevalence of dysmenorrhoea among 1055 girls was 93%. Khamdan HY *et al* [21] evaluated among 223 students and found the prevalence of dysmenorrhoea was 90.7%. According to Baghianimoghadam M H [22] prevalence of dysmenorrhoea among 300 university students was 38.1%. A study by Kazama M *et al* [23] revealed the prevalence of dysmenorrhoea among 1018 girls was 46.8%. According to Gagua T *et al* [24] the prevalence of dysmenorrhoea among 2561 women was 52%. Habit related Characteristics of Students (N=988) Table: 1. Menstruation related Characteristics of Students (N=988) Table: 2. Personality related Characteristics of Students (N=988) Table: 3. DAS-21, TAS-20 and SSQN and SSQS of Students (N=988) Table: 4.

Severity of dysmenorrhoea among students having dysmenorrhoea (N=462) based on Numeric Pain Rating Scale categorized into four categories, namely mild pain [1-3], moderate pain [4-6] and severe pain [7-10]. In our study 10% students suffered mild dysmenorrhoea, 61% students reported moderate intensity of dysmenorrhoea and 29% suffered severe dysmenorrhoea. According to Lee JC *et al* [25] from Korea reported severe dysmenorrhoea in 0.9% subjects. Zhou HG *et al* [26] from China concluded 6.5 % of students were suffering from severe dysmenorrhoea. A study by De Sanctis V *et al* [18] revealed that 56% subjects were suffering from severe dysmenorrhoea. According to Haque SE *et al* [27] concluded 59.8% students were with severe dysmenorrhoea. Interval between two consequent menstrual cycles was 21-35 days in 78.4% students and menstrual bleeding days among 87.9% students was ≤6. According to Bano R *et al* [28] no significant relationship was found between age of menarche and severity of dysmenorrhoea. 87% students did not take any medicine for regular menstruation out of dysmenorrhoea respondents [N=462]. 60.2% students suffering from dysmenorrhoea did not indicate positive family history of dysmenorrhoea. On the contrary study by Mahbobeh Faramarzi *et al* [4] shows a family history of dysmenorrhoea seems to be a stronger risk factor for students with dysmenorrhoea. According to Al Asadi JN *et al* [29] and Nohara M *et al* [30] about 50% of students [53.7%-47.4%] reported a family history of dysmenorrhoea. Our study showed that working ability during dysmenorrhoea among students rarely gets affected was 44.2% and moderately got affected among dysmenorrhoea respondents [N=462] was 35.7%.frequency distribution of students with systemic symptom was categorized into none, few and apparent categories. 59.7% students reported few systemic symptoms during dysmenorrhoea. Only 7.45% students suffered apparent systemic symptoms. Analgesics frequencies were categorized into none, rarely required, required and poor effect. Our study reveals that 50.2% participants did not

use pharmacological agents for dysmenorrhoea. 35.5% students had to use analgesics for dysmenorrhoea. On the contrary Parker M *et al* [20] concluded 66% students use pharmacological agents for dysmenorrhoea. Consultation for dysmenorrhoea among dysmenorrhoea respondents [N=462] was 14.7% in our study. In 39% participants' pain starts after 1-4 hours of menstruation. Pain among dysmenorrhoea respondent stays for 1st day in 41.8% of students, 1st two days in 39.4% of students and throughout periods in 2.2% of students. 69.5% students had no effect on their studies due to dysmenorrhoea. 47.8% dysmenorrhoea respondents reported the lack of concentration in studies during dysmenorrhoea. Only 10.8 % dysmenorrhoea respondents remained absent from class/ clinics during dysmenorrhoea. Hardly 12.3% dysmenorrhoea respondents were unable to study during dysmenorrhoea. Study by Haque SE *et al* [27] and Bogale *et al* [31] revealed missed school due to dysmenorrhoea was 7.7% and 57.8% respectively. Location of pain among dysmenorrhoea respondents [N=462] during dysmenorrhoea, maximum pain reported was in lower abdomen which was 57.6% and least pain recorded was 17.1% at back and thigh. One of the objectives of our study was to find out the pain relieving strategies used by dysmenorrhoea respondents during dysmenorrhoea. The widely used strategy was rest. Almost 79.7% dysmenorrhoea respondents used rest as pain reliever. Other pain relieving strategies used by dysmenorrhoea respondents during dysmenorrhoea were prone lying, drugs, hot bath, heat modalities reported to be 36.6%, 25.3%, 18.4%, and 17.1%, respectively. According to Wong *et al* [32] in spite of the high prevalence and enormous impact of dysmenorrhoea on lives of students, 76% believed that dysmenorrhoea was a normal part of female menstruation and only 14.8% sought medical treatment. Seven M *et al* [33] concluded that the most common strategies found were resting [65.1%], analgesics [54.6%], hot pack [63.2%], hot beverages [32.2%] and walking [21.6%].To fulfill one of the objectives of study regarding association of habitual, menstrual, and psychological characteristics with dysmenorrhoea, chi square analysis was done. Association of dysmenorrhoea and caffeine containing beverages, breakfast habits and habit of exercises in mild, moderate and high levels were assessed. The prevalence of dysmenorrhoea and consumption of chocolate was significantly associated. Significance of association was found to be 0.028 at the level of significance at $p<0.05$.

The prevalence of dysmenorrhoea was higher among students who had higher intake of caffeine containing diet [34].Table demonstrates the association of physiological factors with dysmenorrhoea based on menstrual characteristics, gynecological problems, menstrual regularity, medicine for regular periods, BMI and family history of students [N=988]. Among all, gynecological problems was significantly associated at 0.003, menstrual regularity was significantly associated at 0.001, at the level of significance $p < 0.05$. The strongest association was found between the medicine usage and dysmenorrhoea as well as family history and dysmenorrhoea. The association for both was 0.000 at the level of significance $p < 0.05$. Nooh AM [35] revealed that increase in BMI was shown in a study to have a highly significant association with dysmenorrhoea. Our study did not reveal any association between BMI and dysmenorrhoea on the contrary of other studies. This is the first study of its kind on dysmenorrhoea in India which assesses the psychological factors along with physiological factors and its association with dysmenorrhoea. In this study the personality traits, depression, anxiety, stress, alexithymia and social support were assessed among the students [N=988]. Five major subtypes of personality traits were assessed. Neuroticism found to be highly associated with dysmenorrhoea 0.004, at the level of significance $p < 0.05$. Prevalence of dysmenorrhoea was significantly higher among women with neurotic personality trait. Liang *et al* [36] concluded that in comparison to healthy controls, patient with dysmenorrhoea had higher scores in neuroticism characteristics. R. Nasyrova [37] revealed an association between dysmenorrhoea and structure of neurotic disorders. Table represents the depression, anxiety, stress, alexithymia and social support among participants and its association with dysmenorrhoea. Out of these stress was significantly associated at 0.025, significant at $p < 0.05$. In our study there was no significant association between alexithymia and dysmenorrhoea. On the contrary, some studies concluded high levels of alexithymia in patients with chronic pain of dysmenorrhoea suggested chronic pain had significantly higher scores on the measure of alexithymia [38]. Individual with high alexithymia have a limited ability to cope with stressful events. Possible underlying mechanism has been proposed for association of alexithymia with development of menstrual pain. Individuals with high alexithymia have difficulties in recognizing their own physical and emotional symptoms [38-40].

CONCLUSION

The present study will add the valuable input to existing data on studies carried out on dysmenorrhoea. It is the first study of its kind on dysmenorrhoea which assesses the prevalence and association of habitual, menstrual and psychological factors of dysmenorrhoea among the 988 students of six health care profession branches. Almost half the participants were suffering from dysmenorrhoea and rest was the widely used pain relieving strategy. The study also concluded the significant association [$p < 0.05$] of chocolate consumption, family history of dysmenorrhoea, use of analgesics, stress and neurotic personality with dysmenorrhoea.

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Table. 1: Habit related Characteristics of Students (N=988)

Variables	Dysmenorrhoea			Chi Square Value	p Value
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)		
Tea					
Mild	210(45.5%)	254 (48.3%)	464 (47%)	0.807	0.668
Moderate	118 (25.5%	126 (24.0%)	244(24.7%)		
High	134 (29.0%	146 (27.8%)	280(28.3%)		
Coffee					
Mild	377(81.6%)	430(81.7%)	807(81.7%)	0.915	0.633
Moderate	40(8.7%)	52(9.9%)	92(9.3%)		
High	45(9.7%)	44(8.4%)	89(9.0%)		
Coke					
Mild	352(76.2%)	427(81.2%)	779(78.8%)	5.067	0.079
Moderate	59(12.8%)	45(8.6%)	104(40.5%)		
High	51(11.0%)	54(10.3%)	105(10.6%)		
Chocolate					
Mild	179(38.7%)	244(46.4%)	423(42.8%)	7.169	0.028*
Moderate	144(31.2%)	130(24.7%)	274(27.7%)		
High	139(30.1%)	152(28.9%)	291(29.5%)		
Breakfast					
Mild	85(18.4%)	75(14.3%)	160(16.2%)	3.636	0.762
Moderate	69(20.8%)	105(20.0%)	201(20.3%)		
High	281(60.8%)	346(65.8%)	627(63.5%)		
Exercise					
Mild	286(61.9%)	328(62.4%)	614(62.1%)	0.052	0.974
Moderate	110(23.8%)	122(23.2%)	232(23.5%)		
High	66(14.3%)	76(14.4%)	142(14.5%)		

Table. 2: Menstruation related Characteristics of Students (N=988)

Variables	Dysmenorrhoea			Chi Square Value	p Value
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)		
Gynaecological problem					
Yes	38(8.2%)	20(3.8%)	58(5.9%)	8.707	0.003*
No	424(91.8%)	506(96.2%)	930(94.1%)		
Menarche					
≤12 years	41 (8.9%)	39(7.4%)	80(8.1%)	4.564	0.102
13-14 years	317 (68.6%)	393(74.7%)	710(71.9%)		
≥15 years	104 (22.5%)	94(17.9%)	198(20.0%)		
Menstrual Cycle Regularity					
Regular	334(72.3%)	428(81.4%)	762(77.1%)	11.481	0.001*
Irregular	128(27.7%)	98(18.6%)	226(22.9%)		
Menstrual Cycle Interval					
≤21 days	61(13.2%)	53(10.1%)	114(11.5%)	4.178	0.124
21-35 days	362(78.4%)	439(83.5%)	801(81.1%)		
>35 days	39(8.4%)	34(6.5%)	73(7.4%)		
Menstrual Cycle Days					
≤6	406(87.9%)	469(87.2%)	875(88.6%)	0.401	0.527
≥7	56(12.1%)	57(10.8%)	113(11.4%)		

Medicine					
Yes	60(13.0%)	17(3.2%)	77(7.8%)	32.571	0.000*
No	402(87.0%)	509(96.8%)	911(92.2%)		
Family History					
Yes	184(39.8%)	75(14.3%)	259(26.2%)	83.131	0.000*
No	278(60.2%)	451(85.7%)	729(73.8%)		
BMI (Body Mass Index)					
Underweight	166(35.9%)	194(36.9%)	360(36.4%)	1.760	0.624
Normal	242(52.4%)	282(53.6%)	524(53.0%)		
Overweight	40(8.7%)	40(7.6%)	80(8.1%)		
Obesity	148(3.0%)	10(1.9%)	24(2.4%)		

Personality related Characteristics of Students (N=988)

Variables	Dysmenorrhoea			Chi Square Value	p Value
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)		
Big Five					
Extroversion				0.960	0.619
Low	54(11.7%)	59(11.2%)	113(11.4%)		
Moderate	316(68.4%)	374(71.1%)	690(69.8%)		
High	92(19.9%)	93(17.7%)	185(18.7%)		
Agreeableness					
Low	7(1.5%)	4(0.8%)	11(1.1%)	1.673	0.433
Moderate	200(43.3%)	240(45.6%)	440(44.5%)		
High	255(55.2%)	282(53.6%)	537(54.4%)		
Conscientiousness					
Low	16(3.5%)	16(3.0%)	32(3.2%)	0.423	0.810
Moderate	253(54.8%)	298(56.7%)	551(55.8%)		
High	193(41.8%)	212(40.3%)	405(41.0%)		
Neuroticism					
Low	119(25.5%)	90(17.1%)	209(21.2%)	11.127	0.004*
Moderate	281(60.8%)	361(68.6%)	640(65.0%)		
High	62(13.4%)	75(14.3%)	137(13.9%)		
Openness					
Low	22(4.8%)	18(3.4%)	40(4.0%)	1.174	0.556
Moderate	318(68.8%)	370(70.3%)	688(69.6%)		
High	122(26.4%)	138(26.2%)	260(26.3%)		

Fig. DAS-21, TAS-20 and SSQN and SSQS of Students (N=988)

Variables	Dysmenorrhoea			Chi Square Value	p Value
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)		
DAS-21					
Depression					
Normal	298(64.5%)	334(63.5%)	632(64.0%)	5.511	0.138
Mild	85(18.4%)	119(22.6%)	204(20.6%)		
Moderate	58(12.6%)	60(11.4%)	118(18.9%)		
Severe	21(4.5%)	13(2.5%)	34(3.4%)		
Anxiety					
Normal	78(16.9%)	101(19.2%)	179(18.1%)		

Mild	114(24.7%)	166(31.6%)	280(28.3%)	8.762	0.33
Moderate	121(26.2%)	118(22.4%)	239(24.2%)		
Severe	149(32.3%)	141(26.8%)	290(29.4%)		
Stress					
Normal	248(53.7%)	326(62.0%)	574(58.1%)	9.320	0.025*
Mild	108(23.4%)	96(18.3%)	204(20.6%)		
Moderate	60(13.0%)	69(13.1%)	129(13.1%)		
Severe	46(10.0%)	35(6.7%)	81(8.2%)		
TAS-20					
Non- alexithymia	73(15.8%)	82(15.6%)	155(15.7%)	0.034	0.983
Possible alexithymia	173(37.4%)	195(37.1%)	368(37.2%)		
Alexithymia	216(46.8%)	249(47.3%)	465(47.5%)		
SSQN					
Low	6(1.3%)	6(1.1%)	12(1.2%)	0.075	0.963
Moderate	22(4.8%)	24(4.6%)	46(4.7%)		
High	434(93.9%)	496(94.3%)	930(94.1%)		
SSQS					
Mild support	134(29.0%)	144(27.4%)	278(28.1%)	1.196	0.550
Moderate support	291(63.0%)	330(62.7%)	621(62.9%)		
Maximum support	37(8.0%)	52(9.9%)	89(9.0%)		

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Comparative Analysis of Cardiopulmonary Functions in Obese and Non-Obese College Students

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ABSTRACT

Obesity is a growing global health concern, particularly among young adults, including college students. It is associated with significant alterations in cardiopulmonary function and an increased risk of non-communicable diseases. This study aimed to assess the impact of obesity on pulmonary function and blood pressure in sedentary collegiate individuals. This study is an cross-sectional study conducted involving 112 college students aged 17 to 24 years. Participants were classified into obese and non-obese groups based on Body Mass Index (BMI) criteria. Pulmonary function tests—including Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 second (FEV_1), Forced Vital Capacity (FVC), and Peak Expiratory Flow Rate (PEFR)—along with systolic and diastolic blood pressure (SBP and DBP), were measured. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 20.Obese participants exhibited significantly reduced pulmonary function values (FEV_1, FVC, PEFR) and elevated SBP and DBP compared to their non-obese counterparts ($p < 0.0001$).The findings suggest that obesity adversely affects cardiopulmonary function even in young, sedentary individuals. Early lifestyle interventions are essential to mitigate the long-term health risks associated with obesity.

Keywords: Obese college students, non-obese college students, High Blood pressure, Lung parameters, Spirometry.

INTRODUCTION

Obesity, a multifactorial condition arising from a chronic imbalance between caloric intake and expenditure, leads to excessive adipose tissue accumulation. This condition is strongly influenced by genetic predispositions, environmental exposures, and psychosocial factors [1]. The prevalence of obesity has escalated to epidemic levels worldwide, with almost one-third of people being overweight or obese, a number that keeps rising [2,3]. Among collegiate students, particularly undergraduate students, significant weight gain is frequently observed, which progresses gradually, increasing their susceptibility to obesity [4,5]. Research across universities suggests that approximately 30% of college students fall into overweight or obese categories, with male students demonstrating higher prevalence rates than females [6,7,8]. In India, obesity is recognized as a significant public health concern, affecting an estimated 135 million people, posing socio-economic and healthcare challenges [9]. The National Family Health Survey-4 (2015–2016) reported a substantial rise in obesity over the past decade, from 13% to 21% among women and 9.3% to 19% among men aged 15–49 years [10,11,12].Regional surveys in cities like New Delhi and Chennai reported obesity prevalence at 7.4% and 6.2% respectively, while South Karnataka studies indicate rates between 4.8% to 9.9% [9,13,14]. Obesity significantly raises the chance of acquiring a number of non-communicable diseases, including heart disease, strokes, type 2 diabetes, and several cancers, including endometrial, breast, prostate, liver, and colon cancer [14,15].In addition to physiological impacts, obesity is associated with social stigma, unemployment, and diminished productivity[15,16]. Respiratory complications attributed to obesity include decreased thoracic compliance, [17] diaphragmatic restriction, airway obstruction, and pulmonary vascular impairment, which may culminate in respiratory failure[18,19].These mechanical constraints arise primarily due to excessive fat deposition that hampers chest wall expansion[20,21]. Moreover, increased sympathetic nervous system activity in obesity contributes to elevated heart rate and vasoconstriction, resulting in raised blood pressure [22,23].This research aimed to assess these cardiopulmonary consequences by contrasting blood pressure and lung function in sedentary obese and non-obesity college students.

METHODS

This cross-sectional study was carried out over eight weeks, targeting sedentary collegiate students from the Ultra Group of Institutions in Madurai, India. Students were selected through non-probability sampling. A total of 228 students were initially screened, out of which 112 met the inclusion criteria and were equally divided into two groups: obese (n=56; 18 males, 38 females) and non-obese (n=56; 22 males, 34 females). Inclusion criteria encompassed students aged 17–24, from both sexes, with a BMI of 22.0–29.9 kg/m² for the obese group (Class I obesity) and 18.5–24.9 kg/m² for the non-obese group. Students were required to be non-smokers, free from respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis, COPD, and asthma, and without symptoms of wheezing, colds, or ongoing pulmonary infections. Those on medication or unwilling to participate were excluded[24]. The study received approval from the Institutional Ethical Committee from Vinayaga mission college of Physiotherapy, Vinayaga mission university, Salem. Tamil Nadu. A clear explanation of the study procedures with written informed consent was obtained from all students. Cardiopulmonary parameters such as FEV1, FVC, and PEFR were measured using a spirometer following ATS guidelines. A trained nurse recorded blood pressure (SBP and DBP) using a calibrated sphygmomanometer. Each participant rested for 10 minutes before three BP readings were taken at one-minute intervals, and the mean value was used to evaluate the appropriate values. Students should wear loose clothing and avoid food or beverages for at least two hours before testing. For spirometry, they used a nose clip and performed three maximal exhalations after proper practice; the best reading was analyzed. Data was processed using SPSS 20. Descriptive statistics were calculated for all variables. The Shapiro-Wilk test assessed data normality, and an independent t-test was used for group comparisons, setting significance at $p = 0.05$.

RESULTS

Demographic Analysis (Table-1)
Shapiro-Wilk Test for Normality (Table-2)
Student 't' Test (Table- 3)

The comparison of lung function parameters and blood pressure between obese and non-obese individuals revealed statistically significant differences across all measured variables. The mean FEV1 was significantly lower in obese students (3.13 ± 0.17 L) compared to non-obese individuals (4.15 ± 0.18 L), with a highly significant difference (t = 30.96, p< 0.0001). Similarly, the mean FVC in the obese group (3.18 ± 0.18 L) was significantly lower than that of the non-obese group (4.31 ± 0.32 L; t = 23.10, p< 0.0001). PEFR values were also markedly reduced in obese individuals (7.29 ± 0.23 L/min) compared to non-obese individuals (9.43 ± 0.58 L/min), with a significant difference (t = 25.50, p=0.0001). In terms of cardiovascular parameters, both systolic and diastolic blood pressure were significantly higher in the obese group. The mean systolic blood pressure (SBP) was 142.59 ± 8.48 mmHg, and the mean diastolic blood pressure (DBP) was 95.80 ± 2.91 mmHg, compared to the non-obese group with a mean SBP of 124.96 ± 3.23 mmHg and a mean DBP of 82.89 ± 2.62 mmHg. Both comparisons had p-values less than 0.0001, indicating strong statistical significance.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to determine how obese and non-obese people differed in their cardiopulmonary parameters. The results revealed significant differences between the two groups, with obese students exhibiting reduced lung function values and elevated blood pressure levels compared to their non-obese counterparts. These findings are supported by existing literature, which has consistently reported notable differences in multiple lung parameters between obese and non-obese individuals[24,25]. The reduction in lung volumes observed in the obese group may be attributed to mechanical limitations caused by increased fat deposition over the chest wall, which restricts diaphragmatic movement and decreases lung compliance[24,26]. The presence of adipose tissue around the thoracic cage and abdomen likely impairs lung expansion, thereby contributing to reduced pulmonary function values [27]. Additionally, obese individuals have been found to exhibit significantly higher airway resistance compared to non-obese individuals [28], which may further reduce lung volumes due to the need to breathe through narrowed airways[26]. In addition to the pulmonary findings, this study also demonstrated significantly elevated systolic and diastolic blood pressures in obese students. This observation is in line with previous research suggesting a strong link between obesity and increased sympathetic nervous system activity, which is known to raise blood pressure levels[29]. Obesity raises heart rate, cardiac output, and sodium reabsorption in the renal tubules. These factors all work together to activate α-adrenergic and β-adrenergic receptors and other systems, including the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS), which raises blood pressure[30]. Moreover, obesity-induced increases in sympathetic activity, vascular resistance, and hormonal dysregulation further exacerbate the cardiovascular burden [29]. These findings are particularly concerning given the sedentary nature of the young population studied, as early manifestations of obesity-related cardiopulmonary compromise can have long-term implications for morbidity and quality of life if not addressed promptly [31]. Studies have further reported that excess fat accumulation shifts blood pressure distribution toward higher values, reinforcing the relationship between obesity and hypertension [30,31]. Specifically, an increase in visceral or retroperitoneal fat contributes to elevated blood pressure, although the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms are complex and not yet fully understood [29]. This study's limitations include its cross-sectional design, which precludes the establishment of causal relationships, and the use of non-probability sampling, which may affect the generalizability of the findings. Future studies employing longitudinal or interventional designs are warranted to elucidate causal pathways better and assess the potential reversibility of cardiopulmonary impairments through physical activity, weight reduction, or other therapeutic interventions.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that obese collegiate students experience significant alterations in cardiopulmonary parameters compared to their non-obese counterparts. Pulmonary function is notably reduced, while both systolic and diastolic blood pressures are elevated. These findings underscore the importance of early prevention, lifestyle modification, and increased awareness to mitigate long-term health consequences.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Authors Contribution
Mr. Ramkumar designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol, and prepared the first draft of the manuscript. Dr. Prabhakar Doss and Dr A Sam Thamburaj managed the analysis and interpretation of the data. Dr. B. Arun and Dr A Sam Thamburaj also conducted the literature review and contributed to final proofreading and editing of the manuscript. All authors read and approved of the final manuscript.

Ethical Approval
This study was approved by the Vinayaga Mission University, Salem.

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Table.1: Demographic Analysis

Age	Classification	No. of students	Mean	S. D
17—18 years	Obese	19	17.47	0.513
	Non-Obese	16	17.56	0.512
19—20 years	Obese	15	19.47	0.516
	Non-Obese	18	19.56	0.522
21—22 years	Obese	12	21.50	0.522
	Non-Obese	13	21.46	0.519
23—24 years	Obese	10	23.50	0.527
	Non-Obese	9	23.67	0.501

Table. 2: Shapiro-Wilk Test for Normality

Tests	Statistics	df	Significance	P value
FEV1	0.965	56	0.05	0.262
FVC	0.825	56	0.176	0.003
PEFR	0.849	56	0.215	0.001
SBP	0.938	56	0.124	0.011
DBP	0.872	56	0.208	0.006

Table.3: Student 't' Test

Tests	Obese	Non-Obese	Student 't' test	Level of Significance
	Mean ± S. D	Mean ± S. D		
FEV1	3.13 ± 0.17	4.15 ± 0.18	30.962	P=0.0001
FVC	3.18 ± 0.18	4.31 ± 0.32	23.104	P=0.0001
PEFR	7.29 ± 0.23	9.43 ± 0.58	25.502	P=0.0001
SBP	142.59 ± 8.48	124.96 ± 3.23	14.534	P=0.0001
DBP	95.80 ± 2.91	82.89 ± 2.62	24.699	P=0.0001

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Customized Workout Plan Generator using Machine Learning and Interactive Web Interface

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ABSTRACT

The global emphasis on health and well-being has led to a surge in personalized fitness planning. The varied needs of people who differ in age, gender, fitness level, equipment availability, and personal objectives like weight gain or loss are frequently not met by traditional exercise regimens. This research uses Machine Learning (ML) techniques, specifically the Nearest Neighbors algorithm, in conjunction with the contemporary web interface framework Gradio to present an intelligent, interactive, and personalized workout suggestion system that fills this gap. This application creates personalized workout suggestions based on real-time user input and organized exercise datasets. The proposed system provides flexibility, adaptability, and user interaction via an easily navigable web interface, which is advantageous for both novice and intermediate users. The paper includes a comprehensive review of existing literature, an elaborate methodology, an assessment of performance, an analysis of limitations, and suggestions for future research directions.

Keywords: Workout Recommendation, Personalized Fitness, Machine Learning, Nearest Neighbors, Gradio Interface, Web Application, Interactive AI

INTRODUCTION

Health and fitness have become global priorities due to the rise of sedentary lifestyles and increased health risks. Personalized workout plans are essential to cater to individual fitness needs, including specific body parts, fitness goals, and constraints like available equipment or location. However, most available applications provide static plans or fail to personalize adequately. The existing system provides a machine learning-based workout recommendation system with a powered interactive interface driven by Gradio [4]. It generates custom workout plans based on user-specific attributes and preferences, aiming to bridge the gap between generic fitness plans and user-centric solutions.

Problem Statement

While fitness applications are abundant, a majority offer fixed routines that do not adapt to user data such as fitness goals (e.g., weight loss vs. muscle gain), equipment availability, or exercise levels. Existing systems rarely use real-time personalization and often neglect dynamic user interaction.

This paper aims to build a scalable, responsive system that addresses:

- Lack of personalization in existing fitness apps.
- Need for real-time recommendations using ML.
- Accessible interfaces for users without technical knowledge.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Recommendation systems have a rich history in areas such as e-commerce (e.g., Amazon), entertainment (e.g., Netflix), and healthcare. Their application in fitness is still growing. However, the integration of recommendation systems in fitness applications is relatively nascent.

Related Works in Fitness Recommendation

FitRec Dataset (Yogarajah, 2019) [1]: Introduced a large- scale dataset focusing on user interactions and workouts collected via mobile fitness apps. Although FitRec set the foundation for machine learning applications in fitness, its emphasis was more on tracking and pattern recognition than direct exercise recommendations. Our work extends this by tailoring routines based on user profiles using real- time inputs.

Exercise Recommender Systems (ERS) Using Decision Trees (Saranya *et al.*, 2020) [2]: Developed a rule-based system that used decision tree algorithms to suggest workout routines. However, it suffered from rigid structure and lacked user adaptability based on goals like weight loss or muscle gain. Our system addresses this by offering flexible, multi-goal customization using nearest neighbors.

Personalized Recommendation of Healthcare Products (Rajput *et al.*, 2019) [3]: This research utilized collaborative filtering to suggest healthcare items based on user preferences. Although unrelated to fitness directly, it established the relevance of recommendation algorithms in personal wellness, which is adopted in our project through a customized fitness lens.

Mobile Fitness Applications (Nike Training Club, My Fitness Pal, etc.): These industry-leading apps generally use rule-based systems and offer static workouts. While they are user-friendly, they lack backend personalization through data-driven algorithms. Moreover, customization is often restricted to paid tiers. Our approach democratizes this experience via open-source tools and lightweight ML.

Gradio for ML Interfaces: Though not a research contribution, the use of Gradio simplifies ML interface deployment. It has been predominantly applied in academic ML demos; our work demonstrates its practical use in deploying an interactive workout generator.

ML-based Smart Workout Recommendation System[6]: Addresses the inefficiencies of generalized work- out plans by tailoring exercise routines to the user's health conditions and fitness goals. Their model emphasizes injury prevention and effectiveness by adapting to demo- graphics such as age and underlying health conditions, making it highly inclusive and practical.

PersonalFit [7]: An intelligent mobile app that dynamically generates and updates workout plans using user feedback and clustering techniques. The system groups users with similar physiological profiles using K-means clustering and adapts plans based on feedback, offering real-time plan adjustments that align with user progress. This highlights the value of adaptive learning mechanisms in personalized fitness applications.

Personalized Workout Planner [8]: Developed a system using TF-IDF vectorization and cosine similarity to match user preferences with suitable exercises. Unlike traditional systems, this planner evolves with user progress and feedback, offering a dynamic and continuous customization loop. It also integrates dietary recommendations, thereby advancing toward a holistic health management platform.

Physical Activities Recommender System [9]: Utilizes K-means clustering to analyze sequential fitness data such as heart rate and pacing, allowing the system to tailor physical activity plans according to the user's exertion trends. This study confirms the utility of physiological data in optimizing exercise routines.

P3FitRec [10]: Is a privacy-preserving fitness recommendation system based on multi-level deep learning. Leveraging wearable IoT device data, the system ensures secure and scalable personalized recommendations. It highlights the growing importance of data privacy and deep learning for personalized healthcare technologies.

Gap Analysis

While several studies explored health or general recommendations, a gap exists in

1. Integrating structured workout datasets with user- specific attributes
2. Providing real-time recommendations through lightweight, accessible interfaces.
3. Customizing workout goals for distinct user objectives like weight loss or muscle gain.

Existing research either emphasizes tracking or provides limited personalization. This project uniquely combines user- centered ML recommendations with real-time deployment, offering a novel and practical contribution to AI in health and fitness.

Proposed System

Dataset

The dataset used, megaGymDataset.csv, comprises various workout exercises with attributes including

- Title (Exercise name)
- Type (e.g., cardio, strength)
- BodyPart (e.g., chest, legs, abdominals)
- Equipment (e.g., barbell, bands, bodyweight)
- Level (beginner, intermediate, advanced)

Preprocessing

Steps performed include

- Removal of irrelevant columns (e.g., ratings).
- Filling missing textual descriptions.
- Standardizing text to lowercase.
- Encoding categorical variables via LabelEncoder from scikit-learn

Machine Learning Model

- The Nearest Neighbors algorithm was chosen for its simplicity and interpretability.

- Using a 4-dimensional feature space: Type, Body Part, Equipment, Level, the model recommends exercises based on proximity to the input vector.

Gradio Interface

Gradio is an open-source Python library designed to simplify deploying ML models via web interfaces.

Features include

- No HTML/CSS knowledge required.
- Easy integration with Python functions.
- Built-in API access for future integrations.
- Rapid prototyping with real-time testing.

Compared to traditional web frameworks like Flask or Django, Gradio drastically reduces development time for prototype systems like this.

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Testing combinations of user input goals and body parts yielded effective and relevant workout suggestions. Table I shows example input combinations and recommended workouts

- User feedback during testing indicated that the recommendations were relevant and appropriate for their fitness goals.

DISCUSSION

The proposed system successfully integrates structured datasets with ML-driven recommendations. It is especially useful for

Beginners unsure of where to start.

Users with limited equipment.

Goal-oriented users focusing on strength or weight loss.

While the Nearest Neighbors model offers decent recommendations, advanced models like collaborative filtering or neural networks could provide even better personalization. However, limitations include

Scalability for large datasets.

Personalization factors like age or health status are not yet included.

Static dataset without user feedback loop.

Security: Ensuring data privacy and secure user input handling are critical for future cloud-based versions

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis reveals that the Proposed System offers the best combination of personalization, ML intelligence, and real-time adaptability. It uses a KNN-based engine with a Gradio interface, ensuring accessibility and intelligent customization. Nike Training Club provides a polished interface but lacks real-time updates and goal-specific recommendations. Saranya *et al*. [2] and Palange and Pawar [6] show algorithmic potential but are limited by poor usability and static designs. Oliveira *et al*. (PersonalFit) [7] uses clustering for feedback-based personalization via a mobile app. However, it does not use traditional ML models, which may impact its scalability. Bharti *et al*. (PWP) [8] employs TF-IDF and cosine similarity to generate dynamic, goal-specific plans. It also includes diet integration and uses a web interface, offering a more holistic approach. Suleiman's P3FitRec [10] is the most advanced, using multi-level deep learning and wearable IoT data.It offers highly adaptive plans with a strong emphasis on data privacy and security. Among all, the proposed system strikes a strong balance between ease of use and intelligent automation. Table 1 and Table 3 shows the comparative analysis

Future Work

The current system serves as a foundation for more sophisticated workout recommender engines. Planned enhancements include:

- Integration of real-time feedback loops to adjust recommendations.
- Addition of multimedia content (video demonstrations) in future interfaces.
- Integration with wearables or smartphone sensors for personalized recommendations based on biometric data.
- Expansion to dietary recommendation systems along- side workouts.

CONCLUSION

This research presented a lightweight yet effective personalized workout plan generator combining the strengths of machine learning algorithms and modern user-interface frameworks like Gradio. The modular structure allows rapid improvements and opens pathways for future enhancements in AI-driven fitness technology.

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Table 1: Sample Results from Recommendation System

Goal	Body Part	Sample Recommendation
Weight Gain	Chest	Incline Dumbbell Press (Strength Focus)
Weight Loss	Legs	Squat Thrust (Cardio Focus)
Weight Gain	Abdominals	Mountain Climber (Strength Focus)

Table 2: Comparison with Existing Systems - Part A

Feature	Proposed	Nike App	Saranya *et al.*
Personalization	High	Medium	Low
Real-Time	Yes	No	No
ML-Based	Yes	No	Yes
Interface	Gradio	Mobile	None

Table 3:Comparison with Existing Systems - Part B

Feature	Smart Workout	PersonalFit	PWP	P3FitRec
Personalization	Medium	High	High	Very High
Real-Time	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
ML-Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interface	Not Specified	Android Mobile App	Web-based (Flask)	Cloud- integrated Backend

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

From Target to Therapy: Molecular Docking in Structure - Based Drug Discovery and Biological Activities

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ABSTRACT

Molecular docking is a powerful computational approach widely applied in Pharmacy. Drug discovery, structural biology, and biomolecular interaction research involve molecular docking. It anticipates how tiny compounds like medicines would attach to proteins or nucleic acids. Docking ranks ligand–receptor conformations by binding energies to find high-affinity ligands for experimental confirmation. Scores must be accurate to distinguish strong binders from weak ones, boosting lead identification. This study covers molecular docking fundamentals, molecular interactions, algorithms, significant applications, and current limits. This review highlights the fundamental principles of molecular docking, types of molecular interactions, algorithms employed, major applications, challenges and limitations, as well as the commonly available software tools that support docking studies. Furthermore, it discusses common docking software and their relevance in modern pharmacological research.

Keywords: Molecular docking, Drug discovery, Protein–ligand interaction, Scoring function, Computational biology

INTRODUCTION

Molecular docking is a well-established drug development method that uses in silico structure analysis. By considering molecular interactions between ligands and targets, it allows the discovery of new healing agents. It also helps understand structure-activity relationships (SAR) without knowing the chemical structure of other target modulators. Docking involves predicting the ligand's conformation and orientation in a binding site. The goals of molecular docking research include precise structural modelling and activity prediction. Each phase adds complexity to this multi-step technique. Docking algorithms first localise small molecules in the active site. These algorithms are maintained by scoring functions that evaluate chemicals and potential targets to predict biological action [1-2]. In recent decades, academic and industry researchers have adopted molecular docking as a lavish and cost-effective strategy. Despite its extensive history, some issues remain. Ability to properly and easily identify genuine ligands from compounds is a challenge. Determining the ligand's exact shape in a target molecule's pocket is also difficult [3-4].

Drug Design

Drug design is the complex process of creating new medications using genetic target knowledge. Chemical design involves creating molecules with a structure and electrical charge that match their target. In the age of big data, medication design often uses bioinformatics models and methods. In addition to tiny molecules, biopharmaceuticals and therapeutic antibodies are becoming more important in drug research. Computational approaches have improved protein-based treatments' affinity, selectivity, and stability. Continuous developments are opening new avenues for effective and targeted drugs [5]. Molecular docking is a well-established drug development method that uses in silico structure analysis. By considering molecular interactions between ligands and targets, it allows the discovery of new healing agents. It also helps understand structure-activity relationships (SAR) without knowing the chemical structure of other target modulators. Docking involves predicting the ligand's conformation and orientation in a binding site. The goals of molecular docking research include precise structural modelling and activity prediction. Each phase adds complexity to this multi-step technique. Docking algorithms first localise small molecules in the active site. These algorithms are maintained by scoring functions that evaluate chemicals and potential targets to predict biological action. In recent decades, academic and industry researchers have adopted molecular docking as a lavish and cost-effective strategy. Despite its extensive history, some issues remain. Ability to properly and easily identify genuine ligands from compounds is a challenge. Determining the ligand's exact shape in a target molecule's pocket is also difficult [5-7].

Types of Drug Design

Ligand- Based Drug Design

If there is unavailability of structural knowledge regarding the therapeutic target, an alternate method known as LBDD (Ligand-Based Drug Design) might be employed. Unlike Structure-Based Drug Design (SBDD), LBDD does not necessitate prior understanding of the mechanisms of action. Alternatively, it depends on structural information and bioactivity data pertaining to compact compounds. These methodologies aid in the identification of prospective pharmaceutical candidates by analyzing their structural resemblances and relationship of action[8].

Structure-Based Drug Design

Structure-based drug design (SBDD) is an essential method for developing and improving drug candidates by using the three-dimensional geometric structural characteristics of target proteins. This procedure involves acquiring the three-dimensional structures of the target protein using methods such as X-ray crystallography, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, or cryo-electron microscopy (cryoEM) [7] SBDD has indeed become a widely utilized approach by pharmaceutical companies and scientists. This approach aims to enhance and expedite the structure-based drug design process. By leveraging deep learning techniques, it offers the potential to improve efficiency and effectiveness in drug discovery[9-10].

Types of Drug Design Methods (Fig. 1)

Process of Structure-Based Drug Design

The field of structure-based drug design is crucial to the advancement of innovative pharmaceuticals targeting various ailments. Recent breakthroughs in the large-scale identification of protein structures are enhancing the process of drug development by utilizing the protein structure to specifically design and find novel ligands. This backdrop aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the key stages of structure-based drug creation[11-12].
Process of Structure-Based Drug Design (Fig. 2).

Computational Drug Design Methods

An essential aim of computational investigations in drug design is to evaluate the binding complex formed by inhibitors. After identifying the appropriate binding areas on a target structure, the subsequent stage is assessing possible ligands capable of binding to and inhibiting the target. This procedure utilizes both computational and experimental techniques to discover potential leads. Although computational techniques for structure-based drug design are not yet completely developed to supplant current strategies, novel methodologies and computer programs are continuously entering the field. A significant portion of the research in this domain can be classified as Denovo design, Docking, and Scoring methodologies[13-15].

Evaluation of potential lead candidate

After successfully identifying the ligand, it is referred to as the lead compound. Before moving onto preclinical trials, the lead compound needs to undergo evaluation for its binding affinity. This evaluation process involves assessing various factors such as bioavailability, oral viability, chemical and physical stability, as well as ease of production[13-14].

Docking: Docking is a virtual simulation technique used to study molecular interactions. Prognosticating the conformation and binding of ligands within a target active site with great accuracy has established it as the predominant approach in Structure-Based Drug Design (SBDD). [13] Types of Docking include Rigid Body Docking, Flexible Ligand Docking, Lock and Key/Rigid Docking, Induced Fit/ Flexible Docking[15-18].

Principles of Docking
Principles of Docking (Fig. 3).

Preparation of Target Protein and Ligand: The initial stage involves obtaining the three-dimensional topology of the target protein (receptor) either by experimental methods or by employing computational approaches such as homology modeling. Furthermore, eliminate any extraneous water molecules or ligands that have co-crystallized. Finally, prepare the ligand by determining its three-dimensional structure and enhancing its geometric precision[18-21].

Preparation of Binding Site: The subsequent stage involves identifying the specific location on the protein where the ligand is anticipated to attach. The identification of possible binding pockets can be achieved by the utilization of experimental knowledge or computational methods. While computational tools use calculations to predict binding sites based on factors like shape and charge. Defining the binding site helps us focus on the right area for the docking study, ensuring accurate results[18-21].

Ligand Conformational Sampling: To explore the different ways the ligand can bind to the protein induce the generation of many conformations or flexible states of the ligand. This can be done using techniques like molecular dynamics simulations or conformational searching algorithms. These methods allow us to examine various binding modes and understand the ligand's flexibility within the binding site. By exploring different conformations, we can uncover the most favorable interactions between the ligand and the protein[18-21].

Docking Algorithm Selection: To choose the right docking algorithm, consider the problem and available computational resources. Common options include rigid docking (for rigid ligand-receptor), flexible docking (for

flexible ligand or receptor), and hybrid methods that combine different strategies. Each algorithm has its strengths and limitations, so pick the one that suits your needs. This step ensures accurate predictions of ligand-protein binding interactions[18-21].

Docking Simulation: During the docking simulation, the ligand is systematically positioned and oriented within the binding site of the receptor. The docking algorithm then evaluates and scores different ligand poses based on factors like steric clashes, hydrogen bonding, electrostatic interactions, and hydrophobic interactions. The main objective is to identify the ligand pose that has the highest predicted affinity[18-21].

Scoring and Ranking: After the docking simulation, the next step is to analyze the results and rank the ligand poses based on their scores or predicted binding affinities. This is done using scoring functions, which help estimate the strength of the ligand- receptor interactions and identify the most probable binding mode. By evaluating and comparing the scores of different ligand poses, we can determine which poses are more likely to have a favorable binding affinity with the receptor. This analysis allows us to prioritize and select the ligand poses that show the highest potential for effective binding[18-21].

Validation and Refinement: After the docking simulation, the results are analyzed and ligand poses are ranked based on their scores or predicted binding affinities. The docking results can be validated by comparing them with experimental data, if available. This helps assess the accuracy of the predictions. If needed, the ligand- receptor complexes can be further refined using post-docking optimization techniques like molecular dynamics simulations or energy minimization. These techniques improve the accuracy of the predicted binding mode[18-21].

Analysis and Interpretation: Once the docking results are obtained, they are analyzed to gain insights into the ligand-receptor interactions. This analysis involves identifying key residues involved in the binding, hydrogen bonding patterns, hydrophobic interactions, and other important features that contribute to the ligand's binding affinity. By understanding these interactions, we can gain a deeper understanding of the molecular recognition process. This information can then guide further experimental or computational studies, helping to refine and optimize the ligand- receptor interactions[18-21].

Scoring Functions

AutoDock Scoring Function: AutoDock scoring functions, like AutoDock Vina and AutoDock4, use empirical terms to calculate binding affinity. These terms include van der Waals interactions, electrostatic interactions, hydrogen bonding, and desolvation energies. These factors help determine how well a ligand binds to a receptor, aiding in virtual screening and drug discovery[22-23].

X- Score: This empirical scoring function, known as X-Score, takes into account van der Waals contacts, hydrogen bonding, electrostatics, hydrophobicity, and solvation energies. It facilitates the assessment of the affinity for binding between a ligand and a receptor in the fields of drug discovery and virtual screening[22-23].

ChemScore: The ChemScore algorithm determines binding affinity by considering hydrophobic interactions, hydrogen bonding, enthalpy changes, and metal correlation. It facilitates the evaluation of the affinity of binding between a ligand and a receptor in the fields of pharmaceutical research and virtual screening[22-23].

Physics- Based Scoring Function: Physics-based scoring functions use advanced methods like molecular mechanics, quantum mechanics, and molecular dynamics simulations to calculate binding affinity in a more detailed and accurate way. They offer perceptions into the physical and energetic aspects of ligand-receptor interactions, aiding in drug discovery efforts[22-23].

MM-PBSA (Molecular Mechanics Poisson-Boltzmann Surface Area): MM-PBSA is a technique that analyzes the binding free energy by combining molecular mechanics and continuum electrostatics. The analysis incorporates

energy components like as van der Waals, electrostatic, solvation, and entropy contributions. This approach provides a comprehensive analysis of the binding interactions, helping researchers understand the stability and strength of ligand-receptor complexes[24-25].

MM-GBSA (Molecular Mechanics Generalized Born Surface Area): MM-GBSA is a variant of MM-PBSA that employs a generalized Born model with the Poisson-Boltzmann equation for solvation computations. This is an alternative approach to compute binding free energy using a somewhat revised methodology[24-25].

Prime: Prime, which is part of the Schrodinger suite, is a physics-based scoring function. The proposed method integrates molecular mechanics force fields with a continuous solvent model to compute the binding affinity between a ligand and a receptor[24-25].
Application of docking in drug discovery (Fig. 4)

CONCLUSION

Molecular docking has become a powerful tool in drug development, allowing researchers to predict and study target protein-minuscule chemical interactions. Since it provides invaluable information regarding treatment candidates' binding affinities and modes of action, it speeds up drug discovery. Molecular docking predicts ligand target orientation. It predicts ligand binding techniques in the target molecule's groove. This can improve pharmaceutical efficacy, efficiency, and selectivity. Docking and a score system can analyse large databases to find promising in silico drug candidates that target the target molecule. A drug's first nucleic acid attachment can be predicted via molecular docking. This data shows how molecular structure affects drug cytotoxicity. After analysing the target, ligands, and docking technique performance, docking is performed. However, ligand flexibility is essentially fixed and rarely causes problems. Drug discovery often uses molecular docking to find hits. It helps identify therapeutic candidates by predicting tiny molecule binding affinity to a protein or receptor.

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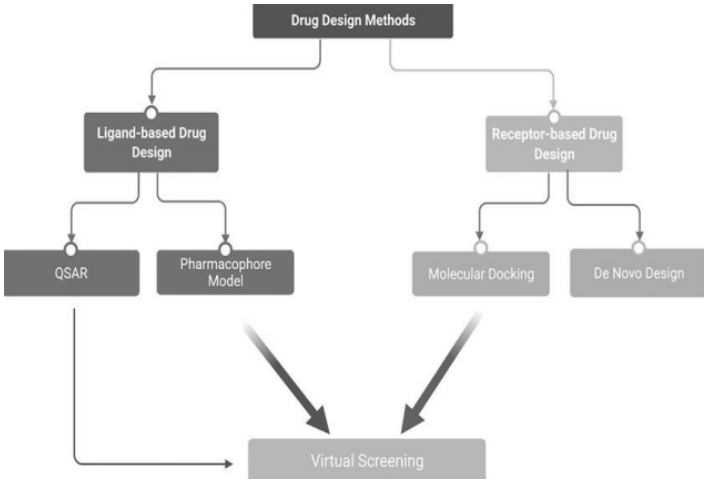


Fig. 1: Types of Drug Design Methods



Fig. 2: Process of Structure-Based Drug Design

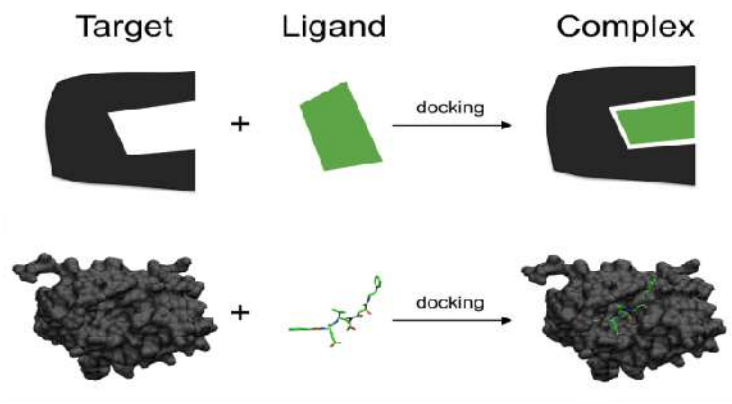


Fig. 3: Principles of Docking

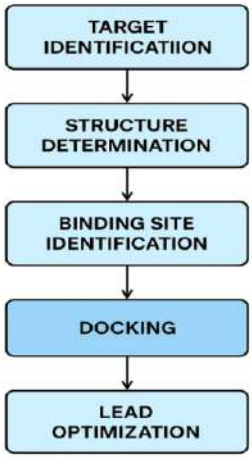


Fig. 4: Application of docking in drug discovery

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Technological Innovation in Forensic Explosive Reconstruction: Modern Tools and Global Standards

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ABSTRACT

Forensic reconstruction of explosive scenes involves examining the blast kinematics, damage to structural materials, and residue to determine the events surrounding a blast. This paper proposes a framework for incorporating unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for aerial mapping, advanced residue analyses, and computational modeling to simulate the effect of the blast. In addition, the use of Virtual Reality (VR) enhances the reconstruction of the scene and provides another tool for responsibility and courtroom settings. The combination of proven forensic techniques with modern technology improves the accuracy and effectiveness of post-blast analysis, assisting forensic practitioners in better examining critical details and improving the assessment of the blast effects.

Keywords: Forensic reconstruction, explosive scenes, blast kinematics, UAVs, VR,

INTRODUCTION

An explosion investigation consists of different agencies and organizations cooperating to determine the cause, purpose, and consequences of the explosion. Typically, law enforcements will arrive at the scene first, and secure the area by establishing perimeters, securing the scene, documenting and collecting evidence, and providing medical help to the victims. Following the initial response, they may also deploy trained canines to search for explosives and maintain security logs to track movements at the site [Thurman, 2017b]. Bomb technicians are also integral to

ensuring public safety and handling unexploded devices. They also use various methods for assessing the explosive's construction, function, and potential impact such as X-ray analysis, robot assistance, and metal detection. [Laska, 2015]. Forensic chemists assist in the systematic collection and preservation of explosive residues, which are later analyzed in laboratories to determine their chemical composition, identify the explosive material, and establish links between suspects and the crime scene. Their findings are vital in reconstructing the blast event, understanding its mechanics, and assessing its consequences [Thurman, 2017b; Beveridge, 2011]. Digital forensic specialists examine surveillance videos and electronic communications to generate additional important information regarding the explosion planning and performance [Casey, 2010]. Structural damage from the explosion is examined by forensic engineers, physicists, and chemists who examine blast waves, material responses to blasts, and the sequence of events leading up to the explosion. Computational models may also be used to estimate the force and range of an explosion. Behavioral analysts examine the psychological profile of the perpetrators to describe motives, ideologies, and planning which is needed for investigation and prevention [Leistedt, 2013]. The worldwide effect of explosive events, which are frequently associated with terrorism and war, has underscored the need for accurate and efficient forensic reconstruction methodologies. A look at global terrorism datasets shows notable swings in the severity of attacks in five decades. The first chart is a time-series analysis of deaths tied to an act of terrorism based on the mode of execution and showing a sharp increase from the early 2000s, peaking around 2014. Bombings and armed assaults (shown in blue and red) have historically been the leading contributors to death. The second chart, which demarcates the year 2021, continues the emphasis on the continued modality of attacks in bombings and armed assaults. Data depicts that counterterrorism methods used in the past have decreased overall loss of life, however, these methods have maintained use throughout because of their efficiency in weaponizing large-scale destruction.

Figure 1:**"Trends in deaths from terrorist attacks by method of attack: Bomb and explosion, worldwide (1970–2021)."**Data source: Global Terrorism Database (University of Maryland, START), accessed via Our World in Data. Licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Figure 2: Terrorist attacks by method worldwide in 2021, based on the Global Terrorism Database, showing the frequency of various attack strategies.

Data source: Global Terrorism Database (University of Maryland, START), accessed via Our World in Data. Licensed under CC BY 4.0.

The integration of technologies to counter terrorism investigations is central to responding to the pressures of terrorist tactics evolving. Traditional investigative techniques, such as interviewing witnesses and activities around computing devices, frequently create time delays, coupled with the introduction of human error and risk factors. For some time now there have been studies that have raised the value of integrating new mechanisms into existing counter-terrorism investigations, such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data analytics and biometric systems. The adoption of advancement has not been seamless; many employ, whether in the field or in operations, financial implications, physical infrastructure limitations and cultural limitations on investigating institutions [Rathore, 2024]. The combination of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technology in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and forensic investigations is revolutionizing safety, training, and analysis of crime scenes. NATO's VR training profiles and the related programs like MAVEN Broken Arrow provide EOD teams with immersive, safe environments to practice dealing with unexploded ordnance and nuclear emergencies [EOD Centre of Excellence, 2022; Team Orlando, 2023].In forensic applications, virtual crime scene reconstruction enables investigators to explore and analyze crime scenes in 3D, improving evidence examination and collaboration [JISC, 2023]. Similarly, fire scene investigations leverage VR technology to assess fire damage while preserving the integrity of evidence [Electronic Specifier, 2024]. Augmented reality further enhances crime scene investigations by overlaying crucial data onto real-world settings, assisting forensic teams in making informed decisions [BCC Research Blog, 2023]. These technologies not only reduce operational risks and costs but also enhance multidisciplinary collaboration, making AR/VR an indispensable tool in modern security and forensic science [EODynamics AB, 2023; Luminous XR, 2024]. This paper presents a contrast between conventional and modern forensic methods in the investigation of explosives

to identify effective forensic approaches to advances in technology. The paper analyzes each stage of the investigative process to highlight the benefits of using modern modalities to improve the accuracy, experience, and collaboration of investigators. While traditional methods remain essential, integrating AI-driven and automated forensic techniques is crucial for faster and more reliable investigations. The study enlightens the importance of continuous innovation to strengthen forensic science and counterterrorism efforts [Strobel, 2011].

Scene Documentation, Evidence Collection and Sample Retrieval

Traditional crime scene documentation and mapping of explosive incidents rely on manual sketching, photography, and physical measurements to record blast impact, damage distribution, and evidence locations. Investigators use hand-drawn site sketches and 2D images to capture structural damage, crater formation, and debris patterns. Measuring tapes and rulers facilitate blast radius and fragmentation analysis, while handwritten logbooks document scene assessments and evidence positions. These conventional methods, though widely practiced, are prone to measurement inaccuracies, scene contamination, and time delays, particularly in large-scale explosion sites where precise spatial mapping is critical [Strobel, 2011]. Despite these limitations, manual documentation remains valuable in forensic investigations, complementing modern digital tools [Fire Scene Evidence Collection Guide | Evidence Collection, n.d.]. The commonly employed searching methods, such as grid, spiral and zone search patterns, are considered the most effective for explosive crime scene reconstruction, ensuring systematic and thorough coverage of blast impact areas. In this method, investigators divide the site into uniform grids, allowing for a detailed examination of fragment dispersion, crater formations, and structural damage [Strobel, 1998]. This technique helps locate shrapnel, detonator remnants, and explosive residues by ensuring each section is meticulously searched. Additionally, a spiral search pattern is beneficial when examining blast epicentres, as investigators work outward from the explosion's origin to track fragment trajectories and secondary damage patterns [Beveridge, 2011]. While grid searches maximize coverage, zone searches may be used in larger blast sites, dividing the scene into sections assigned to different teams for parallel investigations. The selection of a search pattern depends on the explosion scale, terrain complexity, and the need for precision in evidence recovery [U.S. Department of Justice *et al*., 2000]. Forensic scientists must efficiently recover traces of unreacted explosive materials from post-blast scenes to determine the composition and origin of the device. Conventional methods, such as swabbing with solvent systems, vacuum collection, and adhesive tape lifting, are widely used but often vary in efficiency depending on environmental conditions and residue dispersion (OJP, n.d.). To enhance collection efficiency, a gelatine-based sampling medium has been introduced, which involves applying unset gel to a surface, allowing it to solidify, and then peeling it off to extract explosive residues. This method, followed by solid-phase extraction and chemical analysis, has shown recovery rates between 0.1% and 61.7%, making it a promising forensic tool for ammonium nitrate detection. By complementing traditional swabbing and solvent-based extraction techniques, gel-based sampling improves accuracy and trace-level detection in forensic investigations [The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences, 2020]. Conventional Sample collection methods commonly used in explosion cases (Table 1).

Technological advancement: Documentation and Evidence Collection

3D Modelling and Simulation: Forensic investigations of explosive scenes now require 3D laser scanning and explosion simulation software because they offer unparalleled analytical power and precision[Raneri, 2018]. With the use of laser pulses, laser scanning produces intricate three-dimensional point clouds that accurately depict spatial relationships, damage patterns, and blast impacts[Wang *et al*., 2019]. In addition to producing feature-rich visualisations that are excellent for courtroom presentations and saving scene details for later use, these models allow investigators to zoom, pan, and rotate the scene for in-depth investigation.

Virtual Reality Technology (VR): Virtual reality (VR) technology is a new method of reconstructing and analyzing explosion events through the development of immersive and interactive environments. Through the integration of complex physics engines and simulation algorithms, VR systems generate high-fidelity visualizations, by accurately simulating many characteristics of explosion environments, including flames, smoke, and shock waves. When used in the field of forensic investigation, VR technology enables work to occur in context through real-world definitions

in 3D, so practitioners benefit from an efficiency and learning experience of the real world. Because VR grants investigators, judges, and other stakeholders the opportunity to view environments virtually at various times before and after an explosion, it allows them to visualize force effects, assess damage, and generate decisions about risk management. VR is also a powerful training device for forensic practitioners, enabling them to plan and practice plausible responses to explosion events[Zhang *et al*., 2024].

Drone-Based Sensors: An aerial map provides more information about the status of buildings and the ground around them that individuals cannot see during explosion cases. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors can capture detailed aerial imagery of explosion sites and then process the data with photogrammetry software that could merge the imagery to create a 3D point cloud, model and Ortho mosaic maps of the site used to inspect the damage. This approach is beneficial in expansive or dangerous regions where it could be risky or difficult to gain ground access. The distribution of debris, the magnitude of craters, and other large-scale elements that are difficult to see from the ground can be seen from an overhead perspective. Additionally, UAVs can be outfitted with LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to map the environment's topography in great detail or with thermal cameras, which use thermal sensors to detect and capture thermal energy generated by objects in the scene[Kruegle, 2017b]. These technologies aid in identifying relevant regions, such as hotspots that could point to the explosion's source or locations where explosive leftovers might be potent[Mitchell, 2021].

Robotic Sniffers: Robots with advanced sensors, or "sniffers," have been developed to detect and analyze residues and vapors of explosives, mostly in hazardous situations. Robots can utilize technologies like artificial nose, ion mobility spectrometry, and electro-chemical sensors, which encompass the capabilities of trained detector dogs. When combined with mobilization platforms, robotic sniffers provide efficient and safe sampling of explosives in hazardous or challenging environments. Robotic sniffers also offer a method of identification that can improve the accuracy and safety of forensic investigation by employing a non-invasive, automated approach to identifying explosives when reconstructing an explosives scene. As technology advances, these sniffers will likely provide better sensitivity and specificity to explosives, which could yield better explosive material categorizations when other conditions are challenging[Trevelyan *et al*., 2016].

Explosive Material Identification

Forensic identification of explosives is carried out using instrumental techniques and Spot chemical tests, both instrumental in analyzing post-blast residues, soil and biological materials, etc. Traditional/chemical spot tests are used as a preliminary screening tool for explosive residues before the elemental analysis takes place. For example, the Griess Spot test is commonly used to screen for nitrate and nitrite compounds that may be residues of nitrate ester or nitroaromatic explosives, where a red azo dye reaction develops. The Diphenylamine Spot test is used to test black powder residues, which causes a change to blue in the presence of nitrates. Other examples of classical spot tests include Methylene Blue for perchlorates and Alcoholic KOH to test for TNT.

(Directorate of Forensic Science Services, Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI, 2021)

In addition to chemical spot tests, modern instrumental techniques have been developed that provide higher specificity and sensitivity for forensic explosives testing than can be achieved through analytical spot tests alone. Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) is a significant method to identify organic explosives, specifically nitroaromatics and nitrate esters, by identifying the volatile degradation products of the explosives themselves [Beveridge, 2011]. Separating the inorganic ions in explosives such as ammonium nitrate or potassium chlorate would be undertaken with two other methods, Ion Chromatography (IC) and Capillary Electrophoresis (CE), to determine homemade explosives [Johns *et al*., 2008]. High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) or Fourier Transform-Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) would again be useful, respectively, in identifying peroxide-based or plastic explosives. Finally, the diffraction of X-rays would help distinguish crystalline explosive compounds from other materials as an option [Blackledge, 2007]. Finally, Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS) would allow for rapid field analysis to detect trace explosives as quickly as possible while at a scene [Klapec *et al*., 2023]. Machine learning models like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Support Vector Machines (SVMs) are used to interpret

complex spectroscopic data from post-blast residuals such as chemical composition, burn patterns, and signatures from molecular degradation [Widanage *et al*., 2024]. In other words, with data from Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR), Raman, and Mass Spectroscopy, AI algorithms can find explosive materials, predict possible reaction pathways, and develop more certain detonation scenarios than traditional analytical techniques. This data-driven approach advances forensic investigations by automating identification of explosive residues and connecting forensic evidence to unidentified explosives and source hypotheses [Banas *et al*., 2023].

Technological advancement: Explosive Material Identification

Nanotechnology-Based Approaches

Nanomaterial-based sensors have become state-of-the-art instruments for the detection of nitroaromatic explosives by utilising the distinct chemical and physical characteristics of nanoscale materials. Compared to conventional detection techniques, these sensors achieve improved sensitivity and selectivity by utilising increased surface area and activity. Graphene and carbon nanotubes are examples of carbon-based nanomaterials that are essential because of their high surface area, superior electrical conductivity, and potent π-π interactions with nitroaromatic chemicals. By enhancing electrical conductivity and producing catalytic effects, metal nanoparticles, such as those made of gold and platinum, further increase sensitivity. Furthermore, to improve detection capabilities, hybrid nanomaterials—like graphene-metal composites—bring together the benefits of several nanostructures. By using optical or electrochemical processes, these nano sensors allow for trace detection of explosives with reduced detection limits and quicker reaction times. [Akhgari *et al*., 2015]

Quantum Dots

The distinctive optical, chemical, and electrical characteristics of colloidal quantum dots (CQDs), along with their simplicity in synthesis and functionalisation, have drawn a lot of interest in explosive detection. These nanomaterials are ideal for explosive trace detection because of their high quantum yields, adjustable photoluminescence, and resistance to photobleaching. Their sensing methods frequently rely on the quenching of photoluminescence (PL) via the inner filter effect (IFE), photoinduced electron transfer (PET), or Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET). For instance, because of their electron-accepting characteristics, nitroaromatic chemicals like TNT can quench CQD luminescence and create Meisenheimer complexes that allow PET. CQDs' selectivity and sensitivity have been further improved by functionalising them with certain ligands or molecularly imprinted polymers (MIPs), allowing for detection limits in the nanomolar range. These advancements, coupled with the potential for integration into portable, solid-phase sensors and lab-on-a-chip systems, highlight the promise of CQDs in forensic applications, including explosive scene reconstruction[De Iacovo *et al*., 2024]

Spectroscopy and Sensor-Based Technologies

Terahertz time-domain spectroscopy (THz-TDS): The ability of terahertz time-domain spectroscopy (THz-TDS) to produce distinct fingerprint spectra within the terahertz band enables the identification and characterization of explosives with unique capabilities. The method can distinguish between multiple explosives, including RDX, PETN and TNT, based on their unique absorption characteristics. THz-TDS is very effective for concealed explosive detection, because it is non-invasive, compared to conventional methods, and it can penetrate packaging materials, including cardboard, paper and plastics. In addition, its low photon energy makes THz radiation non-ionizing for security applications. Due to advancements in using photoconductive emitters and quantum cascade lasers, THz-TDS is becoming increasingly effective for standoff detection scenarios for threat detection at realistic distances and using both transmission and reflection geometries.[Davies *et al*., 2008]

Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS) has emerged as an essential analytical tool in forensic science, especially with post-detonation residue analysis in explosion scene reconstruction. It is a critical method for improvised explosive device investigations, or other explosive incidents, because of its ability to quickly and accurately detect and trace amounts of explosive material. IMS operates on the principle of ion separation based on their mobility in an electric field, providing exceptional sensitivity and enabling organic and inorganic explosive residue detection. Post-blast residues are frequently embedded in complex matrices of surrounding debris, which complicates their analysis, hence, this

capability comes in for the rapid screening of the debris. IMS applies to field scenarios where time and accuracy are critical; it is portable, inexpensive, and it can deliver near real-time results. IMS affords improved selectivity and resolution when coupled with chromatographic techniques, such as Gas Chromatography, which permits effective separation of more complex mixtures. This emphasizes the importance of IMS in forensic explosive investigations because IMS can analyze ID materials or DT samples from debris of investigated explosions to rapidly screen debris, conduct preliminary identification of materials, and offer essential evidence as part of a complete investigation process for the court. [Thangadurai S, Gurusamy K, 2019]

Photoacoustic Spectroscopy (PAS) has emerged as a highly effective technique for the detection and identification of explosives, particularly in forensic applications such as explosive scene reconstruction. Acoustic signals generated through photothermal excitation when a sample absorbs modulated light, typically from a laser source, are detected by PAS. As this method is insensitive to scattered light and can differentiate between layers or substrates, it is well-suited for analysing solid and opaque samples. Recent advancements have enabled standoff detection of explosives like RDX, PETN, and TNT from distances up to 1 meter by the integration of quantum cascade lasers (QCLs) as excitation sources and laser Doppler vibrometers (LDVs) for signal detection[Marcus *et al*., 2016]. PAS is especially beneficial in identifying explosives based on unique mid-infrared absorption patterns, even in trace amounts, without needing extensive sample preparation or a sealed PA cell. Hence, this method's sensitivity, flexibility and ability to replicate characteristic infrared spectral features highlight its potential for precise detection and reconstruction of explosive events in forensic engineering. [Giubileo and Puiu, 2010]

Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering In recent years, Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering (SERS) has progressed quickly, particularly for the identification and detection of small explosive residues. Specifically, several studies have shown that SERS can identify numerous explosive materials in bulk, solution and vapor phase; such as TNT, DNT, RDX, PETN, TATP, HMTD, and perchlorates. For example, in the case of TNT and DNT the limits of detection are on the order of 5–10 zeptograms and 10^{-17}–10^{-13} M respectively. SERS is a powerful tool for homeland security and forensic analysis because of its unique properties, because of the analyte molecules generating enhanced Raman signals via interaction with plasmonic metal surfaces.For more widespread practical applications, however, issues like the creation of stable, selective, and repeatable substrates continue to be crucial.[Zapata *et al*., 2015]

Blast Dynamics and Structural Impact Analysis in Explosive Reconstruction

The forensic investigation of blast dynamics and structural impact is essential for reconstructing explosion events and determining their effects on structures, vehicles, and the surrounding environment. Manual crater analysis, blast wave pattern assessment, and fire and burn pattern interpretation are fundamental techniques used in conventional forensic analysis to estimate explosive charge size, detonation point, and thermal impact [Ngo *et al*., 2007]. Manual crater analysis is a traditional method in which investigators measure the depth and diameter of craters formed by explosions in soil, concrete, or metal surfaces. The measurements can assist in estimating charge weight, explosive material composition, and depth of detonation using equations like the Gurney equations [Cooper, 1996]. This technique is especially valuable in military and terrorist bombing, where crater morphology may provide information about charge location and explosive type. [Cui *et al*., 2023]. Blastwave pattern analysis involves studying shockwave-induced structural damage to walls, doors, and windows to determine the explosion's intensity, origin, and directionality. The extent of spallation, fragmentation, and deformation in materials such as glass and reinforced concrete helps forensic experts infer the distance and power of the detonation [Mays and Smith, 2015]. The distribution of blast pressure waves across a site also aids in validating computational models of shockwave propagation in forensic reconstructions [Taha *et al*., 2023]. Fire and burn pattern interpretation focuses on thermal damage, smoke stains, and charring to assess post-explosion fires and secondary combustion events. The degree of oxidation and material discolouration provides information on the temperature, duration, and flammability of affected materials. Investigators apply fire dynamics principles to determine whether the fire was a result of the explosion or an accelerant-based ignition [Gorbett and Pharr, 2020].

Technological Advancement: Blast Dynamics and Structural Impact Analysis

AI-based chemical analysis and computational modelling of explosions enhance the accuracy of forensic reconstructions of explosive incidents because they allow investigators to establish blast origin, yield, and structural vulnerabilities. They also connect physical evidence to the principled computational forensic realm, which continues efforts to enhance explosion incident investigation and the law. Examples of explosion simulation programming are ANSYS (Analysis System), Autodynand LS-DYNA (Livermore Software Dynamic Analysis), and all are essential aspects of blast dynamics modelling and structural impact analysis. The software can model shockwave expansion, degree of damage, and dispersion, and forensic professionals can utilize this technology to visualize and quantify the effects of explosions on buildings, vehicles, and surrounding materials. For example, as forensic professionals etch together scenarios from input on charge weight, detonation velocity, environmental conditions, and exploding materials forensic analysts can recreate explosion scenarios to advance formulations surrounding damage assessments, and fragmentation patterns that are particularly important for determining blast origin and placement of explosives[Fedorova *et al*., 2016].

Legal and Investigative Presentation

Handwritten witness statements and sketches document survivors' and first responders' testimonies, aiding in timeline reconstruction. However, subjective observations may introduce bias and inconsistencies [Wells and Olson, 2003]. Physical evidence displays, such as blast fragments, wires, and detonators, provide tangible proof but often lack the ability to fully illustrate blast scene interactions [DeHaan and Icove, 2011]. Expert testimonies and report-based presentations, including site sketches and lab reports, form the foundation of forensic arguments, but verbal explanations alone may not effectively communicate explosion dynamics[Firm, 2024].

Technological advancement: Legal and Investigative Presentation

Virtual Reality (VR) for Courtroom Use: The integration of Virtual Reality (VR) and 3D forensic technologies has revolutionized the presentation of explosive crime scene reconstructions in courtrooms and intelligence briefings. These advanced visualization techniques enhance case clarity, evidence interpretation, and jury comprehension, addressing the limitations of traditional forensic presentations [Bailenson *et al*., 2006]. Virtual Reality (VR) for courtroom use allows juries, forensic experts, and investigators to experience immersive reconstructions of explosion scenes. By simulating blast dynamics, debris dispersion, and structural damage, VR improves spatial understanding, reducing reliance on complex verbal explanations and 2D diagrams [Slater and Sanchez-Vives, 2016]. VR applications in forensic science have demonstrated increased juror engagement and decision-making accuracy, making it a powerful tool for legal proceedings [Schofield, 2011].

Holographic Presentation

Holographic reporting projects immersive, 3D models into physical space, allowing investigators to interact with forensic evidence in augmented or mixed-reality environments. While 3D reports provide detailed, screen-based visualizations, holographic reports enable real-time, hands-free examination, making them ideal for jury presentations and expert analysis. Integrating both technologies enhances forensic accuracy, evidence interpretation, and investigative collaboration [Cooray *et al*., 2023].

Digital twin technology

Where VR creates an artificial world for user interaction, Digital Twin technology replicates real-world systems for monitoring and analysis. 3D forensic reports and Digital Twin Technology might provide a precise, data-driven representation of explosion sites, enabling forensic experts to analyze blast wave propagation, material damage, and detonation points with enhanced accuracy Digital twins—virtual models replicating real-world structures and explosion effects—offer dynamic analysis, supporting both pre-trial forensic assessments and courtroom testimonies [Botín-Sanabria *et al*., 2022]. These models integrate drone photogrammetry, LiDAR scans, and AI-enhanced spectroscopic data, bridging forensic science with real-time simulation technologies [Maneli and Isafiade, 2022].

The overview of international standards and guidelines for explosive reconstruction.

To ensure consistency, accuracy, and reliability in explosive reconstruction, various international standards and guidelines have been established by renowned organizations. These frameworks provide detailed protocols and best practices for evidence collection, analysis, and incident response, ensuring that forensic investigations adhere to globally recognized benchmarks. Table 4 summarizes key international standards and guidelines relevant to explosive reconstruction efforts.[Estellito Rangel Jr.,2011]

Table 3: These standards provide guidelines for scene examination and evidence collection, explosive residual analysis, physical and chemical analysis of evidence, reconstruction of explosive, analysis of evidence, documentation and reporting quality control and assurance competence of laboratories and personnel according to the book Staff, I. (2011). 2011 Petroleum and Chemical Industry Conference Europe Conference Proceedings.

Reference link: http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/5936978/

DISCUSSION

Traditional means of forensic and crime scene documentation are employed, including digital media (photography and videography), hand sketches, manual measurements, and paper documentation. However, conventional means of registering crime scene information fall short of achieving or maintaining the required integrity of crime information. The advancement of crime scene reconstruction tools and techniques has enhanced the efficiency, reliability, and accuracy of the criminal justice system and increased the strength of the security cluster over the years. In addition, immersive technologies like AR and VR, as well as technologies designed to develop 3D sensor technologies to obtain 3D scans of crime scenes, have changed forensic science and any possible analysis of crime scenes.[Maneli and Isafiade, 2022b] Engineers, especially in mechanical, civil and chemical fields of engineering, are pivotal to improvements and developments in the equipment and methods used in forensic investigations and science. This is particularly important for the development of forensic science tools and techniques, such as designing non-invasive tools for collecting explosive residues. For example, they are involved in the invention of new swabbing tools, vacuum filtration apparatus, and solvent extraction techniques, which are both efficient and contamination-free. The innovations and improvements made by engineers can improve sample collection and preservation accuracy for investigating scenarios where explosives were present. In addition to improving collection methods, Chemical engineers play a key role in improving analytical instruments such as gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) and Raman spectroscopy, all reliable methods of identifying and analyzing explosive compounds. Engineers support techniques in applying these systems in portable, rugged, and field able systems that generate reproducible values, even in extreme and hazardous environments. Engineers also help ensure forensic investigators are utilizing state-of-the-art technologies that enhance the quality of forensic results and the timeliness of the forensic analysis.

CONCLUSION

The investigation of explosion sites is increasingly complex due to changing explosives and attack methods, so the responsibility for explosion forensic technology must evolve. In contrast to older explosives, modern-day explosives are more powerful and cause greater destruction. The use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) is also changing, as they can be fashioned from locally available materials, and therefore, can be difficult to trace. Some of today's explosives generate little to no residue, further complicating the analysis. Others result in toxic byproducts, posing risks to the safety of investigators, or use electronic detonation systems, suggesting the need for forensic digital, and digital evidence to engage and enhance investigation. Other explosives may present high-explosive, low-metal (HELM) challenges, dismissing problems. There is also an increasing use of IEDs by non-government (non-state) actors. The use of IEDs targets civilians to instill terror and disrupt societies [UNODA, n.d.]. Additionally, the effects of terrorism are broader than physical destruction, even impacting what an investigating agency may choose to focus

on [Shreve, 2020]. These topics fail to mention mixed explosives, nanomaterials, and those that do not contain metal, further complicating IED forensics. Considering all of these factors, forensic science, in particular, must start embracing the integration of AI-driven analytics, leverage sensor-based detection, and become reliant on non-invasive imaging to increase evidence recovery, reduce risks, and improve the accuracy of criminal investigations. Furthermore, the use of virtual courtroom presentation using 3D reconstructions, such as interactive holographic display for a judge or jury to view the dynamic events of an explosion, will support the strengthening of legal arguments and improve the ability to communicate forensic testimony.

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Table 1: Conventional Sample collection methods commonly used in explosion cases.

S. No	Type	Method	Citations
1	Swabbing and Wipe Sampling	Uses absorbent materials (cotton swabs, cloth, or wet wipes) to collect residues from flat surfaces and small areas. Swabs are often moistened with solvents like water or methanol to enhance collection efficiency.	(Glackin *et al*., 2020)
2	Adhesive-Based Methods	Utilizes adhesive lifters, stubs, and threads to collect explosive particles without damaging surfaces. Effective for sampling delicate or textured surfaces by applying adhesive, lifting particles, and transferring them to a container.	(Lees *et al*., 2018)
3	Vacuum Filtration and Solvent Extraction	Vacuum filtration uses a portable vacuum device to collect particles from surfaces or air, while solvent extraction dissolves explosive residues using solvents like acetone or ethanol. Best for large areas or complex surfaces.	(Jenkins and Leggett, 1985)
4	Water Immersion and Dry Particle Collection	Water immersion involves submerging an object in water to dissolve and collect explosive residues, while dry particle collection uses brushes to gather dry residues from irregular surfaces or non-porous objects.	(Smith *et al*., 2013)
5	Gelatin-Based Collection	Uses gelatin lifters or tapes to adhere to and collect explosive particles from uneven or porous surfaces. These materials retain residues effectively and can be analyzed using laboratory techniques like spectrometry.	(Turner *et al*., 2019)

Table 2: These standards provide guidelines for scene examination and evidence collection, explosive residual analysis, physical and chemical analysis of evidence, reconstruction of explosive, analysis of evidence, documentation and reporting quality control and assurance competence of laboratories and personnel according to the book Staff, I. (2011). 2011 Petroleum and Chemical Industry Conference Europe Conference Proceedings.

S. No	International Standards	Guidelines
1	ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) International	-E1492: Standard practice for reconstructing fire and explosion incidents -E2649: Standard practice for the investigation of explosions and fire
2	ISO (International Standards Organisation)/IEC (International Electronical Commission) 17025	-General requirements for testing and calibration laboratories, including those analysing explosives -Ensures competence, impartiality, and consistency in explosive analysis
3	FBI's Explosives Unit Guidelines	-Explosive Incident Report (EIR) protocol -Post-Blast investigation procedures -Explosive evidence collection and handling guidelines
4	International Association of Bomb Techniques and Explosives Experts (IABTI)	-Guidelines for bomb technicians and explosives experts -Training programs for explosive reconstruction -Best practices for explosive incident response
5	UNODOC's Explosive Precursor Guidelines	-Preventing diversion of explosive precursors -Regulating sales and transfers of explosive precursors -Monitoring and tracking explosive precursor movements
6	AFT's Explosive Industry Newsletter	-Guidance on explosives regulation and safety -Updates on changes in explosives laws and regulations -Best practices for explosive handling and storage
7	NFPA 921	-Guide for fire and explosion investigations -Includes protocols for explosive reconstruction -Covers fire and explosion dynamics and evidence analysis
8	International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE)	-Guidelines for explosives engineering and reconstruction -Best practices for explosive design, testing, and analysis -Training programmes for explosives professionals

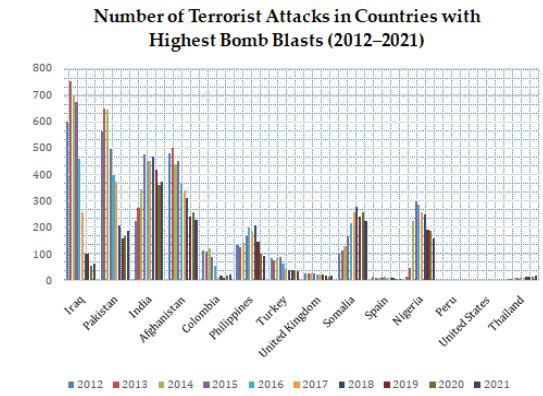


Figure 1:"Trends in deaths from terrorist attacks by method of attack: Bomb and explosion, worldwide (1970–2021)."Data source: Global Terrorism Database (University of Maryland, START), accessed via Our World in Data. Licensed under CC BY 4.0.

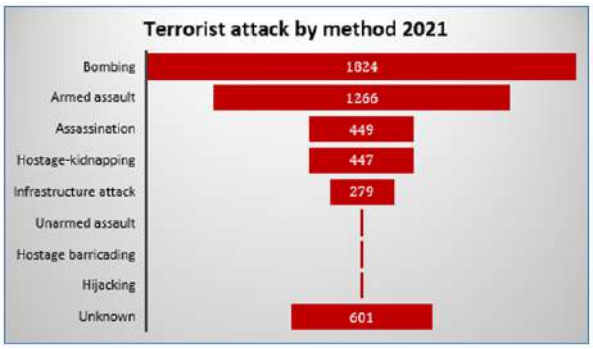


Figure 2: Terrorist attacks by method worldwide in 2021, based on the Global Terrorism Database, showing the frequency of various attack strategies.

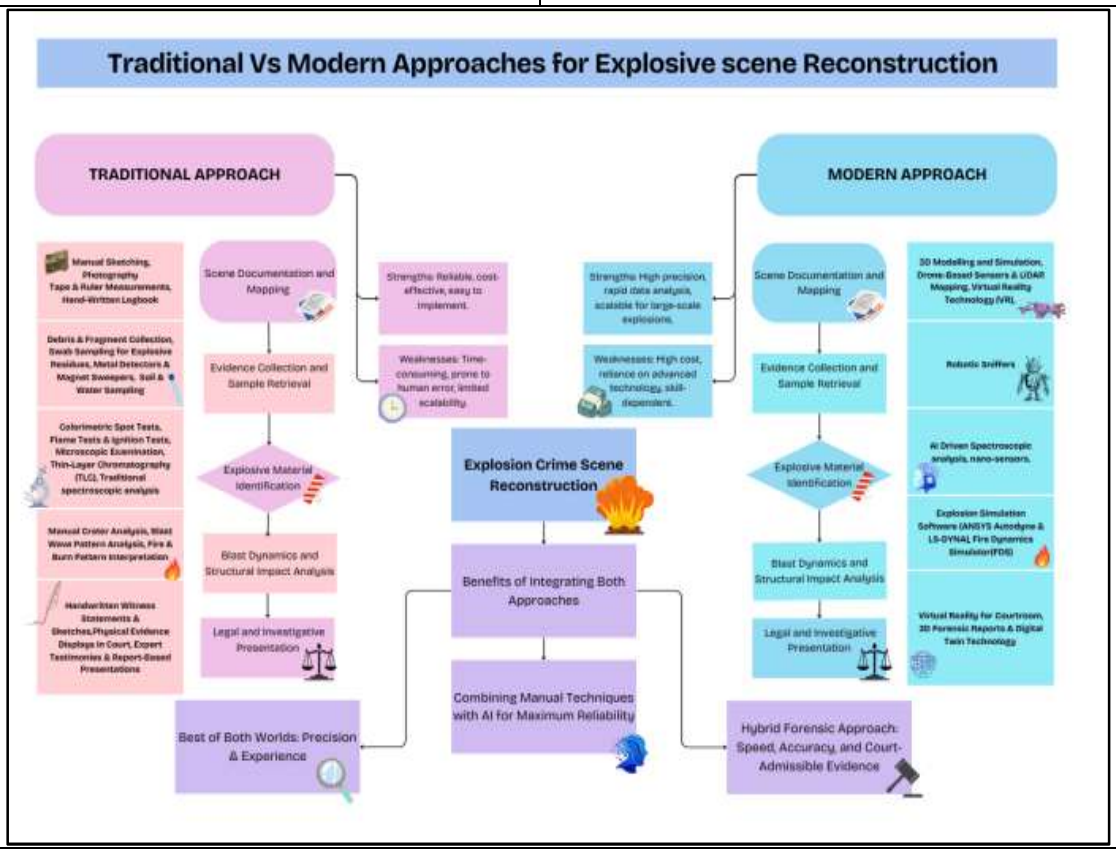


Figure 3: This infographic compares traditional and modern approaches to explosive scene reconstruction.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Innovative Use of *Aegle marmelos* as a Natural Super Disintegrant For Enhanced Oro-Dispersible Delivery of Telmisartan

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ABSTRACT

The research study explores the use of *Aegle marmelos* fruit pulp mucilage powder, a natural biodegradable superdisintegrant in the development of Telmisartan ODT's, an anti-hypertensive drug used in the management of hypertension.The objective of the present research is to enhance patient compliance and achieve faster drug release by utilizing an herbal alternative such as *Aegle marmelos* to synthetic disintegrants, supporting a sustainable and biocompatible formulation. Several formulations of Telmisartan ODTs, including F1, F2, F3, F4, and F5, were made by the direct compression method with various proportions of Bael fruit mucilage with other excipients. The prepared tablets of Telmisartan ODT's have showed acceptable micromeritic properties. The post-compression parameters which include the hardness test indicated good mechanical strength, whereas friability of prepared ODT's were within the specifications (<1%) indicating good mechanical resistance. The optimized formulation F1 exhibited rapid disintegration and enhanced drug release. FTIR studies demonstrated no significant drug-excipient interactions. DSC thermogram studies indicates the combination of the drug with the fruit pulp mucilage

powder shows good thermal compatibility, with the drug retaining its melting point (267.43^{o}) showing no signs of degradation. Further in-vivo studies of the optimized formulation, conducted on albino rats showed improved pharmacokinetic parameters like $t_{1/2}$, absorption rate, AUC, C_{max} T_{max} and V_d.The stability studies of the optimized formulation indicated no signs of degradation. Telmisartan ODT's prepared using *Aegle marmelos* offers a promising approachby rapid disintegration and enhanced bioavailability, which is an indication of improved ttherapeutic efficacy and patient compliance.

Keywords: Aegle marmelos, Telmisartan, ODT's, Disintegration, FTIR, DSC, In-vivo studies

INTRODUCTION

Hypertension, [1]. one of the prevalent disease affects millions of people and a leading factor for coronary diseases, kidney failures and strokes. The management of hypertension often requires combination of life style changes along with medications. One of the widely used medication for the treatment of hypertension is Telmisartan [2]. an angiotensin-II receptor blocker (ARB). Telmisartan is categorised as(Biopharmaceutical Classification System) BCS Class II. Over the years, the development of various formulations has marked significant progress in the approach for the treatment of hypertension, offering a solution that is not only therapeutically effective as well as patient friendly. However, traditional dosage forms often pose challenges for paediatric, geriatric, and dysphagic patients having troublein swallowing medicines. In response to these issues, Oro-dispersible tablets (ODTs) [3]. Have emerged as a promising alternative, offering rapid disintegration and dissolution without water, thus enhancing patient adherence and providing a quicker onset of action. Formulations of ODT's includes mainly superdisintegrants [4] which promotes the breakdown of tablets into smaller fragments, facilitating faster drug release and rapid onset of action. Traditionally, synthetic superdisintegrants such as croscarmellose sodium, sodium starch glycolate [5] and crospovidone have been employed for this purpose. However, the recent trend towards natural and safer pharmaceutical excipients has driven researchers to explore plant-derived substances as effective alternatives to synthetic agents. Natural super-disintegrants [6] offer several advantages, including biocompatibility, biodegradability, lower toxicity, cost-effectiveness, and sustainable sourcing. The present research work aims to highlight the significance of natural super disintegrants such as *Aegle marmelos* [7] (commonly known as Bael), a plant used in traditional medicine, a rich source of mucilage—a natural polysaccharide known for its swelling and hydration properties. These attributes make *Aegle marmelos* mucilage as a promising natural superdisintegrant capable of enhancing the disintegration and dissolution profiles of Oro-dispersible tablets. Its biopolymeric nature also contributes to faster tablet disintegration through mechanisms such as swelling, wicking, and capillary action. Various preformulation studies, including drug-excipient compatibility studies [8] (FTIR and DSC), were performed to ensure the stability of the formulation. ODT's were formulatedby direct compression method [9], a simple and cost-effective technique. The evaluation of the formulated ODTs was carried out for post-compression parameters.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Telmisartan gift sample was obtained from Abbott, Hyderabad. *Aegle marmelos* fruit was purchased from local market. MCC, mannitol, colloidal silica, PEG 4000, citric acid and sodium bicarbonate were purchased from SD chemicals. All reagents and solvents used in the formulation were of analytical grade. *Aegle marmelos* mucilage powder was collected, authenticated, and processed in-house. Mannitol acts as a diluents and mouth feel enhancer.Microcrystalline cellulose (MCC)used as a filler and binder. Colloidal Silica (Glidant)and PEG4000 (Lubricant) improves the flow properties. Citric Acid (2%) and Sodium bicarbonate enhances the saliva secretion promoting rapid disintegration of the tablet and also acts as a taste masking agent.

Preparation of *Aegle marmelos* fruit pulp [10] **mucilage powder**

Aegle marmelos fruit [10] pulpmucilage was prepared by soaking it in water for 48hrs.for complete release of mucilage into water. Then equal volume of alcohol was added to get precipitate of the mucilage and then filtered, finally the obtained precipitate was dried in an oven at 60^{o} C for 2 hrs. to get a free-flowing powder.

Preparation of Telmisartan ODT's

ODT'sof Telmisartan are prepared by direct compression method using different proportions of superdisintegrant *Aegle marmelos* fruit pulp mucilage powder, MCC, Mannitol, Colloidal silica (Glidant), PEG 4000 (Lubricant), citric acid and sodium Bicarbonate into various formulations such as F1, F2, F3, F4 and F5. The compositions of the formulations are given a in Table 1. Accurately weighed ingredients used in the formulations were passed through sieve no.60# and they are added to the drug Telmisartan in an inflated polyethylene pouch in a geometric ratio of their weight. The micromeritic properties [11] were determined for all the formulations. The mixture was directly compressible into tablets of 200mg each using tablet punching machine. The preparation of the ODT's were given in the below Fig 1 and obtained tablets were evaluated for post-compression parameters [12].

Evaluation Parameters of ODT's of Telmisartan

Pre-compression parameters [13]

Bulk density [13]: It was performed to assess the compaction properties of powders and overall tablet quality.
Bulk density = amount of the powder/ bulk volume.

Tapped density [13]: It provides an insight about powder compressibility and flow characteristics.
Tapped density= amount of the powder/ tapped volume

Hausner's ratio [13]: It is the crucial indicator of powder flowability in tablet formulation during compression and calculated by the formula
Hausner's ratio = Tapped density/ Bulk density

Carr's index [13]: It indicates powder flow property and compressibility during tablet manufacturing.
Carr's index = Tapped density- bulk density/ tapped density *100

Post -compression studies [14]

Weight Variation: The formulated tablets of F1, F2, F3, F4, and F5 were weighed and their average weight was determined.

Hardness test: The tablet hardness was determined by Monsanto Hardness tester.

Friability test: Friability was evaluated by Roche Friabilator. Initial average weight of the tablets was taken and then they are operated for about 100 revolutions in the friabilator. The tablets were assessed for their % weight loss.

Disintegration Test: The disintegration test for all the formulations was performed in a suitable medium 0.1 N HCl under given set of conditions maintained at 37^{o}. Six tablets were randomly selected and placed in the disintegration tubes and disintegration time was recorded in seconds for each of the formulation.

***In-Vitro* Dissolution studies:** The USP-II (paddle) apparatus was used to perform the dissolution test under specified set of conditions (37±^{0}.5^{0} and 50 rpm) in 900ml of phosphate buffer pH 6.8. Aliquots of samples were withdrawn for every 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 minute and changed with a fresh medium. The collected samples were analysed using UV spectrophotometer at 296 nm.

FTIR studies [15]: The drug-excipient compatibility has been studied by FTIR spectroscopy using a suitable sample preparation, and the spectrum of the pure drug, excipients, and the drug -excipient mixture [15] were recorded separately in a BRUKER FTIR spectrophotometer.

DSC Thermogram Analysis [16]: DSC was used to evaluate the drug, excipients', and their physical mixtures' thermal behaviour in order to identify any potential interactions that might affect the formulation's ultimate stability. DSC thermograms were recorded for the pure drug, individual excipients and drug-excipient physical mixture [16].

Bioavailability studies (*In-vivo*)

Selection of animals: Albino rats of either sex with weight ranging between 175-225gms were selected for the study to investigate the pharmacokinetic parameters of prepared indigenous formulation of Telmisartan with *Aegle marmelos* ODT's. The study was approved by IAEC and guidelines were followed strictly throughout the study. All the rats are acclimatized to the laboratory conditions and maintained at a temperature 25^0c and RH 50%.The animals were carefully observed throughout the study they are fed with standard diet and water given ad *libitum*. The experimental protocol was approved by the institutional animal ethics committee of Aditya college of Pharmacy registered under CPCSEA (Reg.No.1269/a/10/CPCSEA) dated 25.03.2010 under the rules of "breeding of and experiments on animals (Control and supervision rules 1998") as amended. All animal handling and procedures were carried out in accordance with CPCSEA guidelines.

Collection of blood samples: A blood sample was collected from the tail vein before administration and after administration of drug at specific intervals of time. The collected blood samples were analysed with suitable analytical method and pharmacokinetic parameters were evaluated such as $t_{1/2,}$ absorption rate, AUC, Cmax, max and V_d.

RESULTS

Table 1: Formulationsof Telmisartan ODT'S

S.NO.	INGREDIENTS (mg)	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5
1.	Telmisartan	40	40	40	40	40
2.	*Aegle marmelos* mucilage powder	2	5	7	9	11
3.	Microcrystalline Cellulose	108	105	103	101	99
4.	Mannitol	20	20	20	20	20
5.	Colloidal Silica	2	2	2	2	2
6.	PEG4000	4	4	4	4	4
7.	Citric acid (2%)	8	8	8	8	8
8.	Sodium Bicarbonate	16	16	16	16	16

PEG: Polyethylene glycol

Table 2: Pre-compression parameters of ODT's of Telmisartan

Formulations	Bulk density	Tapped density	Carr's Index	Hasuner's Ratio
F1	0.52±0.01	0.59±0.03	11.86	1.13
F2	0.51±0.03	0.61±0.03	16.39	1.19
F3	0.50±0.03	0.60±0.02	16.66	1.20
F4	0.49±0.01	0.62±0.03	20.96	1.26
F5	0.47±0.02	0.64±0.02	26.96	1.36

ODT: Oro-dispersible tablets

Table 3: Post-compression parameters of ODT's of Telmisartan

Formulations	Weight variation(%)	Hardness (kg/mm)	Friability (%)	Disintegration Time (s)	Moisture content	Drug content
F1	± 7.5	3	<1%	29.8±0.5	2	99.5±0.4
F2	± 7.5	3.5	<1%	58.4±2.4	2	98.1±0.6

F3	± 7.5	4	<1%	87.2±0.8	2	97.5±0.8
F4	± 7.5	4.5	<1%	116.5±1.6	2	96.2±1.2
F5	± 7.5	4.5	<1%	135.1±2.2	2	95.5±1.6

ODT: Oro-dispersible tablets

Table 4: *In-vitro* dissolution studies

Time (in mins)	Formulations (% Drug Release)				
	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5
1	30.18±1.0	28.11±0.6	22.03±0.2	19.98±1.2	14.86±0.8
2	42.38±1.2	36.25±0.4	30.15±0.4	25.01±1.5	21.02±0.5
5	64.72±1.4	52.39±0.2	46.26±0.8	32.24±1.6	30.36±0.6
10	86.04±1.3	67.53±0.3	54.44±1.2	46.52±0.6	42.51±0.9
15	94.22±1.4	85.67±0.4	70.59±1.4	53.78±0.9	51.15±1.4
20	97.44±1.3	91.83±0.6	82.78±0.4	74.98±1.5	69.63±1.6
30	99.72±1.4	95.98±0.4	93.89±0.8	91.24±1.2	89.46±0.8

Table 5: FTIR Spectral analysis

Wave number	Interpretation
1693 cm^{-1}	C=O stretching (carboxyl group)
1599 cm^{-1}	C=N Stretching (Benzimidazole ring) slight shift
1460 cm^{-1}	Aromatic C=C Stretching (Biphenyl system)
1409 cm^{-1}	C-N stretching (Benzimidazole)
1381 cm^{-1}	C-H Bending (Methyl group in Alkyl chain)
1303 cm^{-1}	C=O stretching (carboxyl group)
1265 cm^{-1}	C=N Stretching (Benzimidazole ring)
1128 cm^{-1}	C-H bending (Aromatic ring system)
1038 cm^{-1}	C=N Stretching (Aromatic amine)

FTIR: Fourier Transformer Infrared spectroscopy

Table 6: *In-vivo* Bioavailiability studies of Telmisartan on albino rats

Test Samples	Tmax (h)	Ka (1/h)	AUC (ng·h/mL)	t½ (h)	Cmax (ng/ml)
Pure drug	14	0.7256	1068.254	21.58	63.56
F1	16	0.7458	1354.36	23.74	72.54
F2	13	0.621	1254.21	16.5	70.56
F3	10.5	0.5874	1145.32	15.93	69.35
F4	8.7	0.5789	1087.23	14.57	68.54
F5	8.4	0.5687	1054.63	13.98	67.21

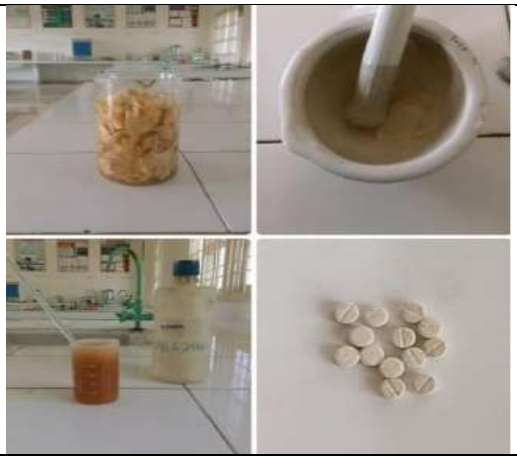


Fig 1: ODT's of Telmisartan using *Aegle marmelos* powder

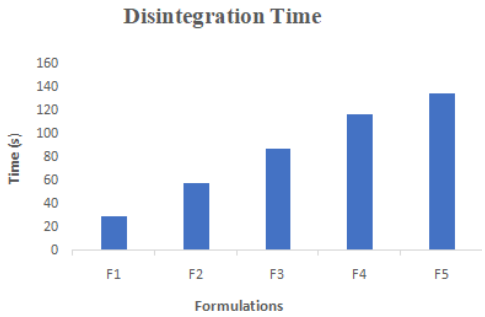


Fig 2: Disintegration time of ODT's of Telmisartan

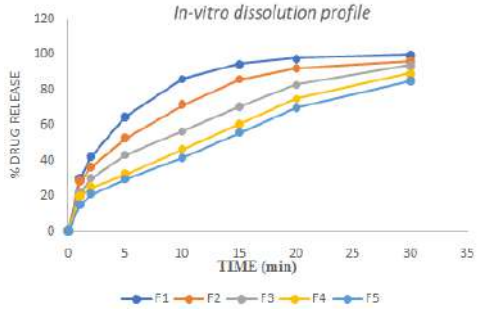


Fig 3: In-vitro dissolution profile

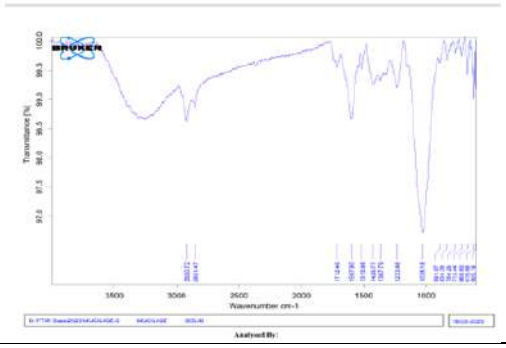
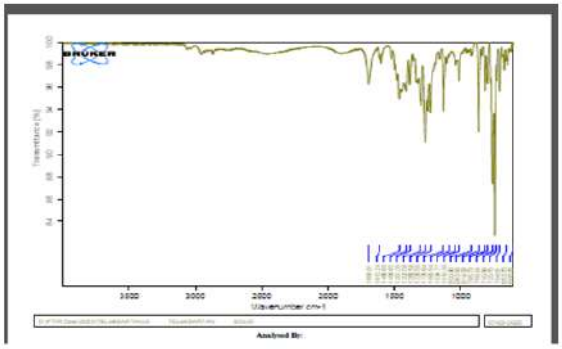
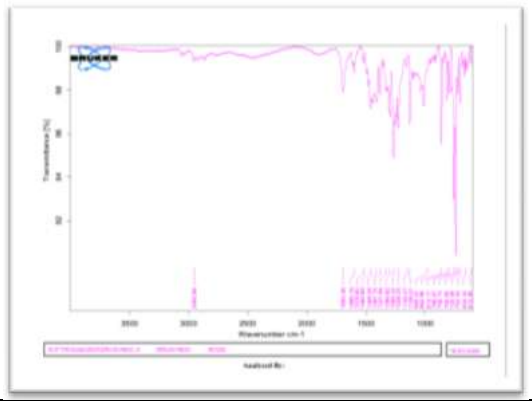


Fig 4: FTIR spectrum of Telmisartan





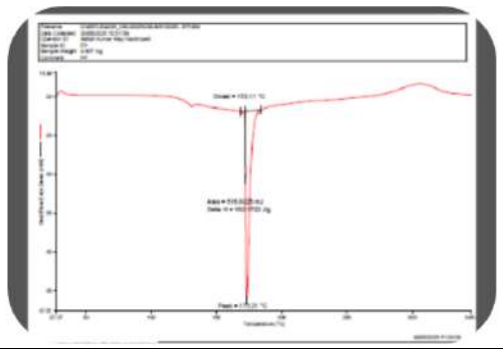


Fig.7: DSC of *Aegle marmelos* fruit pulp mucilage powder

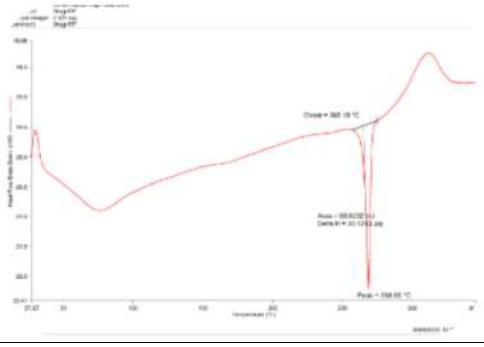


Fig.8: DSC Thermogram of Drug and *Aegle marmelos* mucilage powder

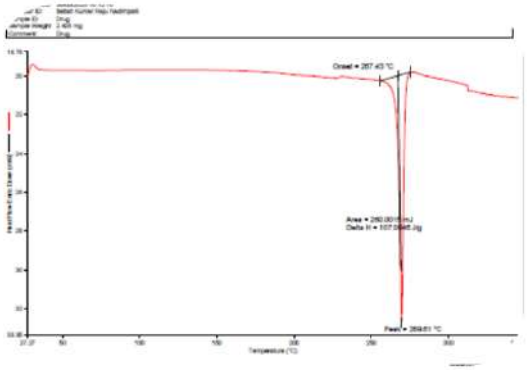


Fig.9: DSC of Telmisartan

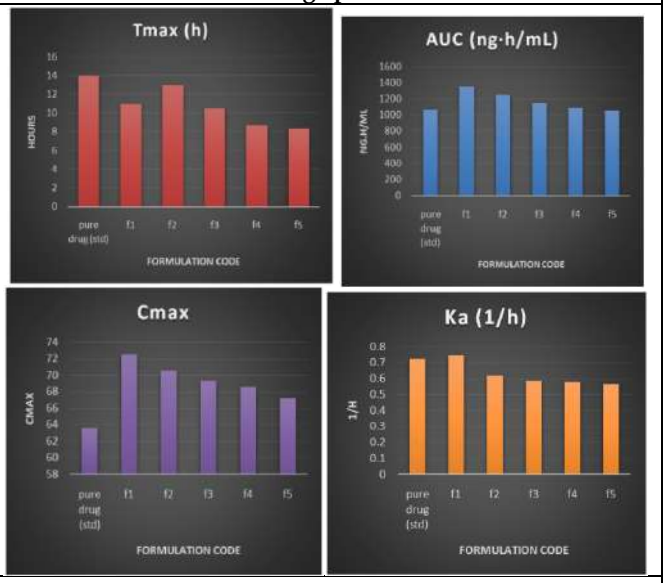


Fig 10.In-vivo Studies of ODT's of Telmisartan on albino rats.

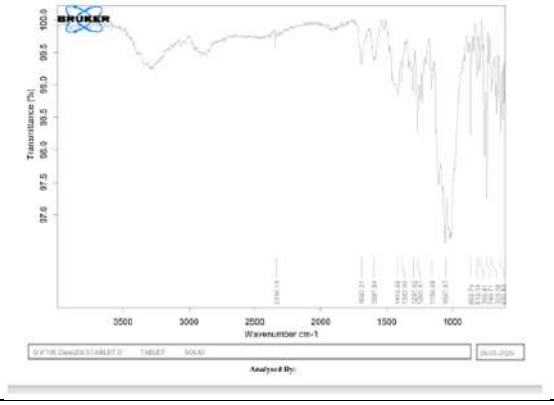


Fig 11: Stability studies of ODT's

DISCUSSION

The pre-compression parameter values showed a good flow property and were within the specified limits shown in Table 2. The post-compression parameters (weight variation, hardness, friability, disintegration time, in-vitro drug release studies, and drug content) were shown in Table 3. Friability of all formulations was less than 1%, indicating that the tablets have good mechanical resistance. The Hardness test showed that all formulations had good mechanical strength. The moisture content was found to be 2% for all the formulations. Drug content was found to be 99.35% and uniform in all the ODT formulations. The disintegration time of all the formulations varies from 29.54±0.8 and 142.46±0.6 seconds and the results are shown in Fig. 2. The presence of *Aegle marmelos* fruit pulp powder as a component in low concentration (1%) in the optimized formulation shows a synergistic effect accelerating the disintegration process through swelling action, wicking action, and gel formation thereby acting as a natural superdisintegrant. A rapid and effective drug release was shown by all the formulations, among which F1 formulation exhibited maximum drug release shown in Table4.The release of 99.2% of Telmisartan for the optimized formulation was shown in Fig 3.

FTIR studies

The distinctive absorption peaks for different functional groups are identified by the FTIR analysis. The presence of hydroxyl groups, which are present in polysaccharides, is confirmed by the broad absorption peak that is seen at about 3400 cm^{-1}, which shows the presence of O-H stretching vibrations. The C-H stretching vibrations of the methyl and methylene groups are represented by the peaks close to 2920 cm^{-1}. While the peaks close to 1600 cm^{-1} might be linked to asymmetric stretching of carboxyl ate groups, the sharp peaks around 1700 cm^{-1}attribute to C=O stretching of carbonyl groups. The presence of C-O stretching indicates the presence of alcohols, ethers, and carbohydrates by the appearance of peaks in the range of 1200-1000 cm^{-1}. The complex nature of polysaccharides is indicated by the fingerprint region below 1000 $cm^{-1.}$ The presence of functional groups is confirmed by the spectrum analysis displayed in Figures 4, 5 and 6 which promotes the use of *Aegle marmelos* fruit pulp mucilage powder as an effective natural super disintegrant in the formulation of ODTs by confirming the presence of functional groups required for hydration and rapid disintegration behaviour. The compatibility of the Telmisartan and *Aegle marmelos* fruit mucilage powder is evaluated indicating the absence of major chemical interactions is depicted in Table 5. Each wave number corresponds to a specific functional group or bond type observed in the FTIR spectra, providing the evidence of the molecular structure and potential interactions.

DSC thermal analysis

The absence of additional peaks for the thermogram of the drug, telmisartan and the powdered *Aegle marmelos* fruit pulp mucilage combination shown in Figures 7, 8, and 9 demonstrated good thermal compatibility while the drug retains its melting point (267.43^0) and remains stable in presence of the fruit pulp. The slight decrease in enthalpy (ΔH) suggests the dispersion of the drug within the fruit pulp's polymer matrix, enhancing the drug's solubility. Therefore, these studies support the use of fruit pulp mucilage powder from *Aegle marmelos* as a natural superdisintegrant in Telmisartan ODTs.

***In-vivo* studies**

The in-vivo studies were performed which showed enhanced basic pharmacokinetic parameters such as $t_{1/2,}$ absorption rate(AUC), Cmax, tmax and V_d and the results were compared with the standard reference of Telmisartan obtained as a gift sample from Abbott and the results were statistically significant indicating improved pharmacokinetic parameters by the use of *Aegle marmelos* in the formulation as a natural superdisintegrant which was shown in the Table 6 and Fig 10.

Stability studies

These studies were carried according to ICH specifications, storing the sample in a stability chamber for four weeks at 40 ± 2^0 (75±5% RH). The formulation was stable under the tested conditions, as there was no signs of degradation or incompatibility which was analysed by FTIR studies shown in Fig 11.

CONCLUSION

The present investigation aimed to state that *Aegle marmelos* can be used as natural superdisintegrant that not only enhances the disintegration time but also improved the pharmacokinetic parameters like $t_{1/2,}$ absorption rate(AUC),Cmax, Tmax and V_d.Based on these results, *Aegle marmelos* can be considered in the formulation of different BCS class-II drugs for enhanced therapeutic potential.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Leveraging Python and AI with Statistical Methods for Survival Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Survival analysis is a statistical approach focused on analysing the time it takes for a specific event of interest to occur. This methodology finds applications across various domains, including healthcare (e.g., time until death or relapse), engineering (e.g., time until machine failure), and economics (e.g., time until job loss). The primary objective of survival analysis is to model and interpret time-to-event data. Python, with its vast array of powerful libraries and tools, serves as an ideal platform for conducting survival analysis. By leveraging Python's capabilities, researchers and data scientists can apply advanced statistical techniques alongside artificial intelligence (AI) methods to extract meaningful insights from survival data. The combination of AI and statistical tools enhances both the precision and interpretability of survival models, improving their practical application. One such dataset commonly used for both research and educational purposes is the Breast Cancer Wisconsin (Diagnostic) Data, a staple in machine learning and data science studies. Integrating Python, AI, and statistical methods for survival analysis not only boosts the accuracy of predictions but also deepens insights, ultimately driving more informed decision-making and fostering advancements, particularly in healthcare.

Keywords: Survival analysis, Python, artificial intelligence, statistical tools

INTRODUCTION

Survival analysis is a division of statistics that observes a typical extent of time awaiting one or more events to occur, such as failure of mechanical systems or the mortality of biological organisms. This type of analysis is mostly useful in medical research for predicting patient survival times and in engineering for predicting time to failure of systems or components. Censored data makes the estimation of benchmark quantities such as the mean and variance. Therefore, specialized models are required to handle these data characteristics effectively[11]. By integrating AI techniques, such as machine learning and deep learning, with survival, we can enhance the predictive authority and reveal complex patterns in survival data. For instance, neural networks can be used to method nonlinear connections in the data, while machine learning algorithms can be engaged to handle high-dimensional datasets and feature selection. Predicting event timelines offers imperative insights for decision-makers. Survival analysis in medicine evaluates treatment efficacy, spots disease risk factors, and shapes patient care strategies. In engineering, it anticipates component failures, boosting system reliability and maintenance planning. This primer on survival analysis delves into its core ideas, techniques, and real-world uses. It emphasizes the field's significance in our data-centric era. The analysis of time-to-event data has a profound impact on various sectors. Medical researchers leverage this approach to gauge how well new therapies execute. They also use it to pinpoint what puts people at risk for certain illnesses. This knowledge leads to better patient care protocols. Engineers apply similar principles to estimate when parts might break down. Such predictions result in more dependable systems and smarter upkeep schedules. Our exploration of survival analysis will cover its basic concepts and methods. We'll also study how it's put into preparation across different domains. This overview highlights the critical role of survival analysis in today's data-driven landscape. Greenwood (1926) introduced the formulation for the standard error of the KM estimate[4]. The Kaplan and Meier (1958) approach gives highly helpful estimates of survival probability and graphical representations of survival distributions[5], and Gehan (1965) have authored classic papers on life-table analysis.[6]

Basic ideas in Survival Analysis

Survival Function

The survival function corresponds to the chance that an entity survives from the time source (e.g., diagnosis of a disease) to a particular future time t.

$S(t) = P(T > t)$, where T is the time of event occurrence.

Hazard Function (HF)

The HF provides the instant probable per unit time for the occurrence to happen, given that the person has survived up to time t. It is denoted by $\left(\lambda(t) = \lim_{\Delta_t \to 0} P(t \leq T < t + \Delta_t | T \geq t)\right)$

Cumulative Hazard

Cumulative Hazard indicates collected peril of the event occurring equal to time t. It is the "integral hazard function" in excess of time t.

$$H(t) = \int_0^t \lambda(u)\, du$$

Survival analysis methods can be broadly characterised into the following kinds

Parametric Methods

Suppose a precise distribution used for the time-to-event data. These methods rely parameters defined by the assumed distribution to estimate survival probabilities and other related quantities.

Non-parametric (NP) Methods

Also acknowledged as NP methods, these do not assume any particular distribution for the time-to-event data. KM estimation be a popular NP model used to estimate the survival function. These methods make minimal assumptions about the underlying data distribution and are flexible in handling various types of censored data.

KM Estimator

Non-parametric value is to approximation the survival from lifetime data. It describes for censored data (instances anywhere the event has not take placed by the end of the study time).

Log-Rank Test

A hypothesis analysis used to evaluate the survival distributions of two or more collections. It tests H0; there is no difference among collections in the possibility of an event at several instance point.

PYTHON AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Python has become a prominent instrument for the implementation of survival analysis, primarily attributable to its extensive array of libraries, user-friendly interface, and flexible capabilities. Python's capabilities prove advantageous for survival analysis, a statistical method centred on time-to-event data and the significant factors impacting these events. The following presents a comprehensive analysis of the significance of Python within this particular area of study

Comprehensive Libraries for Survival Analysis

Lifelines: An extensive collection of resources specifically focused on the statistical method of survival analysis. It provides user-friendly features for estimating survival functions, creating survival plots, and fitting different survival models such as the KM estimator, and others[2].

Scikit-survival: This library builds on the popular Scikit-learn package. It offers advanced survival analysis tools. Scikit-survival meshes well with Scikit-learn allowing for seamless integration of survival analysis into broader machine learning projects. SKSurv provides a comprehensive suite of tools for handling time-to-event data, Modeling survival functions, and assessing the impact of covariates on survival outcomes.

Stats models: This toolkit excels in statistical modeling. It boasts functions for survival analysis. These include the parametric survival methods. The in-depth statistical summaries aid in result interpretation[7,10].

Pandas: This library plays a vital role in data handling and prep work. It doesn't focus on survival analysis. Yet, it shines in managing time-to-event data. Pandas has an impact on dealing with censored data. It also preps datasets for analysis with ease.

DATASET

The Breast Cancer Wisconsin (Diagnostic) Data Set is a widely recognized dataset within the machine learning and data science field, often utilized for both research and educational endeavours. This specific dataset is very helpful for examining survival analysis related to breast cancer, as it provides thorough information on different characteristics of breast cancer tumours. This dataset includes information obtained from breast cancer patients, specifically looking at the traits of the tumours. The main goal is to categorize a tumour as either benign or malignant using a range of measurements. It is taken from the online link
https://archive.ics.uci.edu/dataset/17/breast+cancer+wisconsin+diagnostic

Key Features

The dataset includes of 569 instances and 30 features, including:
ID Number: An exclusive identifier for each patient.
Diagnosis: Indicates whether the tumour is benign (B) or malignant (M).

This analysis includes also 10 Actual-Valued Features. These features are calculated for each cell nucleus in the icon, providing detailed information about the tumour's characteristics. The features are Radius (mean of detachments as of centre towards directs on the perimeter), surface (S.D of gray-range charges), Perimeter, Area, softness (limited disparity in radius lengths), density (perimeter^2 / area - 1.0), Concavity (severity of concave portions of the contour), dipped points (number of dipped portions of the curve), regularity and Fractal measurement ("shoreline approximation" - 1).

Every of these ten types are designed for

- Mean value
- Standard error
- Worst (largest) value

Thus, there are a total of 30 features.

DATA MODELLING

Firstly, introduce the necessary libraries in python so as to proceed with the Survival Analysis,

```
mportpandasaspd
importnumpyasnp
importmatplotlib.pyplotasplt
importseabornassns
fromlifelinesimportKaplanMeierFitter, CoxPHFitter
CoxTimeVaryingFitter
fromsklearn.preprocessingimportStandardScaler
fromsksurv.ensembleimportRandomSurvivalForest
fromsksurv.utilimportSurv
```

The provided code prepares the Breast Cancer Wisconsin (Diagnostic) dataset for survival analysis. It begins by loading dataset and assigning appropriate column names, followed by dropping the 'ID' column as it is not necessary for the analysis. The 'Diagnosis' column is encoded numerically, with malignant labelled as 1 and benign as 0. The feature columns are then standardized to ensure they are on a comparable scale. Additionally, the code generates synthetic survival times using an exponential distribution and creates synthetic event indicators with a binomial distribution to simulate event occurrence and censoring. Ultimately, the first few lines of the prepared dataset, which now includes standardized features, synthetic survival times, and event indicators, are displayed for a quick overview[3].

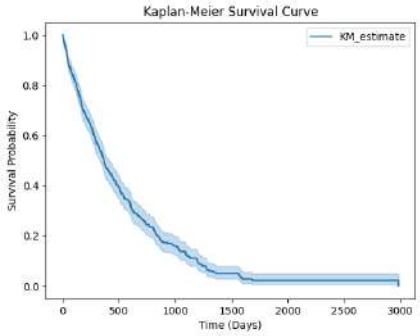
NON-PARAMETRIC SURVIVAL ANALYSIS

Kaplan- Meier Estimation

This estimator fits and plots a survival curve from synthetic data. It uses survival times and event occurrences. The `Kaplan Meier Fitter` from `lifelines` calculates the survival function. The resulting graph shows survival probability over time for all data points[17]. This visual aid sheds light on how the study population survives overall. Researchers gain insights into the group's survival patterns through this representation[1,9].

```
# Kaplan-Meier Analysis
kmf=KaplanMeierFitter()
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
kmf.fit(durations=data['time'], event_observed=data['event'], label="Kaplan-Meier Estimate")
kmf.plot_survival_function()
plt.title("Kaplan-Meier Survival Curve")
plt.xlabel("Time")
plt.ylabel("Survival Probability")
plt.show()
```

Output

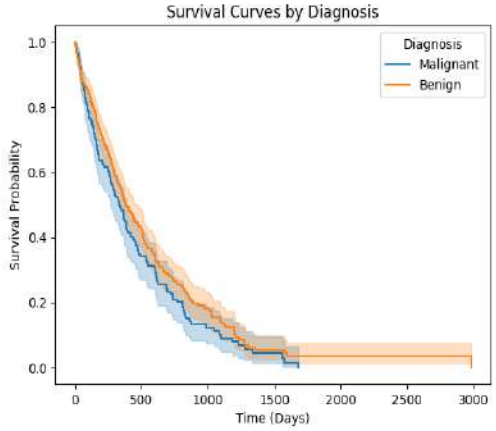


Estimates are always stated graphically. The graph depicting expected survival probability (on the Y axis) and time passed since enrolment into the revise in days (on the X axis) is made up of horizontal and vertical lines. The survival curve is strained using a stride function.

Survival analysis by Diagnosis: The code does survival analysis by making KM survival curves for different diagnosis groups (malignant and benign). The KM Fitter from the lifelines library fits the survival data for each diagnosis group. It puts the survival curves for both groups on the same chart. This lets you compare how long people with malignant and benign diagnoses live. The chart has a legend to tell the two groups apart[11].

```
#survival Anaysis by Diagnosis
diagnosis_groups=data['Diagnosis'].unique()
fordiagnosisindiagnosis_groups:
   group_data=data[data['Diagnosis']==diagnosis]
   lable='Malignant'ifdiagnosis==1else Benign'
kmf.fit(durations=group_data['time'],event_observed=group_data['event'],label=label)
kmf.plot_survival_function()
plt.title('Survival Curves by Diagnosis')
plt.xlabel('Time(Days)')
plt.ylabel('Survival Probability')
Plt.legend(title='Diagnosis')
plt.show()
```

Output



Log- Rank test

The code runs a Log-Rank Test to see if there is dissimilarity in survival rates between two groups: malignant and benign breast cancer cases. It also uses the KM Estimator to create survival graphs for each group showing how likely people are to survive over time with malignant or benign cancer. The test outcomes and survival graphs check if the survival differences between these two kinds of breast cancer are significant.

```
fromlifelines.statisticsimportligrank_test
#split data into two groups based on the 'Diagnosis' column
group_malignant=dat[data['Diagnosis']==1]
group_benign= [data['Diagnosis']==0]
#perfom the log-rank test
results=logrank_test(group_malignant['time'],group_benign['time'],event_observed_A=group_malignant['event'],eve
nt_observed_B=group_Bengin['event'])
#print the test results
print(results)
#Plot survival curves for both groups
fromlifelinesimportKaplanMeierFitter
kmf_malignant=KaplanMeierFitter()
kmf_benign=KaplanMeierFitter()
kmf_malignant.fit(group_malignant['time'], event_observed=group_malignant['event'],label='Malignant')
kmf_benign.fit(group_benign['time'], event_observed=group_benign['event'],label='Benign')
kmf_malignant.plot_survival_function()
kmf_benign.plot_survival_function()
plt.title('Survival Curves: Malignant vs. Benign')
plt.show()
```

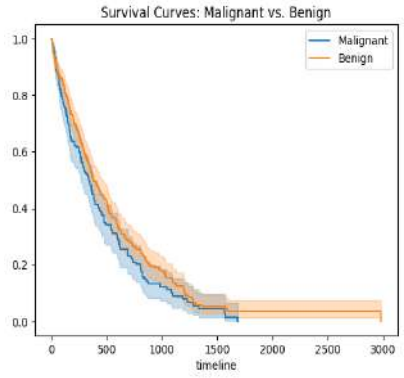
```
kmf_malignant.plot_survival_function()
kmf_benign.plot_survival_function()

plt.title('Survival Curves: Malignant vs. Benign')
plt.show()

Output:
<lifelines.StatisticalResult: logrank_test>
               t_0 = -1
 null_distribution = chi squared
degrees_of_freedom = 1
         test_name = logrank_test

---
 test_statistic    p  -log2(p)
           3.33 0.07      3.88
```

Output



Visual inspection suggests that there is a substantial difference between Malignant and Benign survivals. A log-rank test for comparison of survival probabilities yielded, *p*-value is 0.04 and chi-square value is 3.88. So, equality of survivorship functions is accepted between Malignant and Benign.

Parametric Survival Analysis

Log Normal

The code fits a Log-Normal Survival Model to the breast cancer dataset to analyse the time to event data using a log-normal Method for the survival times. It then prints a summary of the model's fit, including parameters and statistical measures, and plots the survivor function to visualize the chance of survivor over time. This analysis helps in understanding how the survival probability changes over time under the assumption of a log-normal distribution.

```
from lifelines import LogNormalFitter

# Fit the Log-Normal Model
lognormf = LogNormalFitter()
lognormf.fit(durations=data['time'], event_observed=data['event'])
lognormf.print_summary()

# Plot the survival function
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
lognormf.plot_survival_function()
plt.title('Log-Normal Model Survival Function')
plt.xlabel('Time (Days)')
plt.ylabel('Survival Probability')
plt.show()
```

Output

model	lifelines.LogNormalFitter
number of observations	569
number of events observed	412
log-likelihood	-3023.14
hypothesis	mu_ != 0, sigma_ != 1

	coef	se(coef)	coef lower 95%	coef upper 95%	cmp to	z	p	-log2(p)
mu_	5.74	0.06	5.61	5.86	0.00	90.32	<0.005	inf
sigma_	1.39	0.05	1.30	1.49	1.00	8.07	<0.005	50.32

AIC 6050.29

Exponential Model

The code fits an Exponential Survival Model to the breast cancer dataset to analyze survival times assuming a constant hazard rate over time. It then prints a summary of the model's fit, which includes estimates of the hazard ratio and statistical significance. The survival function is plotted to show how the chance of survival changes over time under assumption a constant hazard. This analysis helps in understanding the survival probability under the assumption that the risk of the event remains constant throughout the study period.

```
from lifelines import ExponentialFitter

# Fit the Exponential Model
expf = ExponentialFitter()
expf.fit(durations=data['time'], event_observed=data['event'])
expf.print_summary()

# Plot the survival function
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
expf.plot_survival_function()
plt.title('Exponential Model Survival Function')
plt.xlabel('Time (Days)')
plt.ylabel('Survival Probability')
plt.show()
```

Output

model	lifelines.ExponentialFitter
number of observations	569
number of events observed	412
log-likelihood	-2991.15
hypothesis	lambda_ != 0

	coef	se(coef)	coef lower 95%	coef upper 95%	cmp to	z	p	-log2(p)
lambda_	523.26	25.78	472.73	573.78	0.00	20.30	<0.005	301.87

AIC 5984.30

Weibull Model

The code fits a Weibull Survival Model to the breast cancer dataset to analyse survival times using a Weibull distribution, which allows for varying hazard rates over time. It prints a summary of the model's fit, including the outline and size parameters of the Weibull distribution and their statistical significance. The survival function is then plotted to visualize how the probability of survival changes over time under the supposition that the hazard rate pursues a Weibull distribution. This analysis helps towards explore how the risk of the event evolves throughout the study period, with flexibility for increasing or decreasing hazard rates[8].

model	lifelines.WeibullFitter
number of observations	569
number of events observed	412
log-likelihood	-2991.15
hypothesis	lambda_ != 1, rho_ != 1

	coef	se(coef)	coef lower 95%	coef upper 95%	cmp to	z	p	-log2(p)
lambda_	523.07	25.95	472.21	573.92	1.00	20.12	<0.005	296.68
rho_	1.00	0.04	0.92	1.07	1.00	-0.09	0.93	0.10

AIC 5986.29

CONCLUSION

The Statistical tools of Survival Analysis using of Python AI code for NP (Kaplan-Meirer, Log Rank test), and Parametric (Log Normal, Exponential and Weibull Models) and Graphs for the related methods are complied. The outputs also come from Python. The advantage of AI in Survival Analysis is that it is very helpful in medical fields to analyze the dataset and diagnose the treatment and causes of the disease. Visual inspection suggests that there is a substantial difference between Malignant and Benign survivals. A log-rank test for assessment of survivor probabilities yielded, *p*-value 0.04 and chi-square value is 3.88. So, equality of survivorship functions is accepted between Malignant and Benign. Here we use the Exponential and Weibull Model. It prints a summary of the model's fit, including the outline and size parameters of the Weibull distribution and their statistical significance.

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Table.1: Dataset

Availability of information	Model for data accessibility statement
Data openly accessible in a public repository that subjects datasets with DOIs	The data that carry the results of this study are explicitly available in https://archive.ics.uci.edu/dataset/17/breast+cancer+wisconsin+diagnostic

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Bridging the Distributional Gap in the Distributional Range of *Crinum woodrowii* Baker - New Report from Igatpuri Nasik (Maharashtra) India

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ABSTRACT

Crinum woodrowii Baker an endemic and critically endangered plant, it was rediscovered from Kates point mahableswar, since then its range has been extended up to Dharampur forest in Gujarat ,with reports of its occurrence from KatrajGhat , Bhimashankar (Pune) and Vihigaon (Thane) All these places are away from each other , the occurrence of *Crinum woodrowii* at Khadked in Igatpuri tehsil not only fills in the distributional gap but also suggest the occurrence of this critically endangered plants in Akole tehsil, and Palghar district .

Keywords: *Crinum woodrowii* Baker, Endemic, Critically Endangered, Distributional Gap, Igatpuri Tehsil.

INTRODUCTION

There are many factors governing the distribution of plants with in its range, if the plants are rare and endemic then knowledge regarding its distribution is very important. Of the all the factors governing the distribution of plants, poor knowledge regarding their occurrence is a major hindrance in knowing the actual factors limiting the occurrence of such plants at places within their range. *Crinum woodrowii* is one such endemic and critically endangered plant, it was first collected by Woodrow (1899), later on it was rediscovered by Punekar (2004), after wards its range was extended up to Dharampur (Gujarat), with sightings from Bhimashankar wild life sanctuary (Sanjay Jagtap etal 2015), Vihigaon (Jui Pethe 2013) and Katraj ghat (R. Kr Singh 2014)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

Igatpuri tehsil - is located in the northern most part of the Sahayadri ranges of the Western Ghats between 19° 42' 0" North , 73° 33' 0" East, the area receives high rainfall (above 3500 mm annually) towards western side from the winds coming from the Arabian sea, it becomes lesser towards eastwards of the tehsil .The area is hilly with number of high peaks like Alang , Malang, Aundha and Patta, Adkilla, Kalsubai are present in the tehsil,with elevation of up to 5400 ft above mean sea level. A number of rivers originate and flow through the area, the important one's being Vaitarna, Bham, Darna, Kadva, Alvand and Valdevi. The forest types in igatpuri tehsil are Dry Tropical towards eastern side adjoining Sinnar tehsil, Western Subtropical Hill type in area near Kalsubai peak and West Tropical towards the western side.

Plant Observation A small population of about 300 individuals of *Crinum woodrowii* was observed by the author in July 2019-20, 2021-22 but the flowering period was over, this year 2022 on 7 June the flowering was observed at Khadked- Ambewadi, Igatpuri Tehsil Dist Nasik Maharashtra India, as the plant is critically endangered herbarium specimens were not prepared instead plants were photographed with geotag. The plants were identified using flora of Maharashtra Vol 3 and the images were validated by Dr Sharad Kamble and Dr Arun Chandore.

Plant description

Scapigerous herbs with tunicated bulbs, bulbs lacking neck, leaves appearing after flowering or contemporary with flowers. Floral scapes stout, not included in tuft of leaves, flowers in few flowered umbels, perianth white stamens dark purple in upper parts, white towards base, fruits stalked sub-globose.

Conservation status *Crinum woodrowii* is currently and properly, categorized as Critically Endangered [B2b (ii,v) c (ii,iv); C2b].

Endemic.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Crinum woodrowii Baker an Endemic and Critically endangered plant was sighted at Khadked Igatpuri tehsil. Occurrence of *Crinum woodrowii* at Khadked in Igatpuri tehsil not only fills in the distributional gap but also suggest the occurrence of this critically endangered plants in Akole tehsil of Ahmednagar district, and Palghar district. As these areas fall in between the places from where it has already been reported.

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Fig.1: *Crinum woodrowii* Baker

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Ayurvedic Dietary Guidelines for Children's Mental and Emotional Well-being

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ABSTRACT

The formative years of childhood play a crucial role in shaping mental, emotional, and physical health. With rising incidences of anxiety, restlessness, attention disorders, and emotional imbalances among children, it has become imperative to explore holistic solutions. Ayurveda, the ancient science of life, offers time-tested dietary guidelines that support mental and emotional well-being in children. According to Ayurvedic principles, the mind (Manas) is closely influenced by the qualities (Gunas) of food, primarily Sattva (purity), Rajas (activity), and Tamas (inertia). A Sattvic diet, rich in fresh, natural, and easily digestible foods, enhances clarity of thought, emotional stability, and memory in children. This article outlines specific dietary recommendations based on Dosha predominance (Vata, Pitta, and Kapha) in children, seasonal variations (Ritucharya), daily regimen (Dinacharya), and Agni (digestive fire) status. Emphasis is placed on including Medhya Rasayana (brain tonic herbs) such as Mandukaparni (*Centella asiatica*), Shankhpushpi (*Convolvulus pluricaulis*), and Yashtimadhu (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*), which are known to enhance memory, concentration, and calmness. Additionally, the avoidance of processed, excessively spicy, or packaged foods which can provoke Doshas and disturb emotional balance is discussed. The role of mindful eating practices, such as eating in a calm environment, proper meal timings, and food combinations that balance Tridoshas, is highlighted as essential in nurturing emotional intelligence and psychological resilience. Through a blend of classical references and contemporary evidence, this article presents a practical Ayurvedic dietary framework for parents, caregivers, and health professionals to promote holistic child development.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Children's Mental Health, Sattvic Diet, Medhya Rasayana, Dosha Balance, Emotional Well-being, Nutrition, Ayurvedic Nutrition, Child Development, Manas, Triguna.

INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, the mental and emotional health of children has emerged as a growing concern worldwide. Increasing academic pressures, lifestyle changes, early exposure to digital media, and environmental factors have significantly impacted the psychological development of children. Disorders such as anxiety, irritability, inattention, and emotional instability are being observed at younger ages. While modern medicine offers pharmacological solutions, their long-term use in children remains debatable due to potential side effects and dependency concerns. Ayurveda, the ancient science of life, emphasizes a holistic and preventive approach to health, with food (Ahara) considered the primary pillar (Upastambha) of well-being. In Ayurvedic pediatrics (Kaumarabhritya), proper dietary practices are regarded as fundamental to fostering balanced mental, emotional, and physical growth in children. According to classical Ayurvedic texts, the mind (Manas) is influenced by qualities (Gunas) like Sattva (purity), Rajas (activity), and Tamas (inertia), and these can be nurtured or disturbed through the nature of food consumed. The concept of Medhya Rasayana – intellect-promoting herbs and dietary substances – offers profound insights into enhancing memory, emotional balance, and psychological resilience in children. This review aims to explore Ayurvedic dietary principles relevant to pediatric mental and emotional well-being. It compiles traditional wisdom, practical dietary guidelines, and the potential role of Rasayana herbs, supported by modern research where applicable, to offer a comprehensive perspective suitable for clinical and academic reference.

Ayurvedic Concept of Mental and Emotional Health in Children

In Ayurveda, mental and emotional health is intricately linked to the balance of Sharirika doshas (Vata, Pitta, Kapha) and Manasika doshas (Rajas and Tamas). The Manas (mind) is considered a subtle entity that governs perception, cognition, memory, and emotional responses. For children, whose minds are in a formative and sensitive stage, preserving mental equilibrium is essential for optimal development.

Role of Manasika Doshas

The two Manasika doshas, Rajas and Tamas, are considered responsible for emotional disturbances when aggravated. Rajas, being active and mobile, causes restlessness, aggression, and anxiety when excessive. Tamas, being heavy and inert, leads to dullness, fear, laziness, and depression. The third quality, Sattva, represents purity, clarity, and emotional stability. Ayurveda emphasizes enhancing Sattva guna in children through proper diet and lifestyle to foster balanced emotions and intellect.

Prakriti and Mental Tendencies

Each child is born with a specific constitution (Sharirika and Manasika Prakriti), which influences their mental behavior. For example

Vata-prakriti children may be more prone to anxiety, fear, and rapid emotional changes.

Pitta-prakriti children may exhibit anger, impatience, and perfectionist tendencies.

Kapha-prakriti children may show calmness but may also struggle with lethargy and attachment.

Understanding a child's Prakriti helps in customizing dietary and behavioural interventions for better mental health outcomes.

Rasa and Mind

The concept of Rasa (taste) plays a crucial role in influencing the mind. Ayurveda classifies six tastes: Madhura (sweet), Amla (sour), Lavana (salty), Katu (pungent), Tikta (bitter), and Kashaya (astringent). Among these, Madhura rasa is considered the most nourishing and calming for the Manas, making it particularly suitable for growing children. Excess of Katu, Tikta, and Lavana is said to aggravate mental disturbances.

Rasa Dhatu and Ojas

Mental stability is also dependent on the quality of Rasa dhatu (the primary body tissue formed after digestion) and Ojas (the essence of immunity and vitality). A child's balanced emotional state depends on the nourishment of Rasa and the protection of Ojas, which is achievable through proper, wholesome, and Satvik diet.

Samskara and Aahara

The mental impressions (Samskara) created during childhood are long-lasting and can be shaped through mindful eating habits. Ayurveda encourages meals taken in a peaceful environment, in a state of gratitude and calm, to enhance emotional development.

Fundamental Ayurvedic Principles for Paediatric Diet

Ayurveda upholds Ahara (diet) as the foremost pillar of health and development. In children, whose metabolic systems are still maturing and psychological faculties are rapidly developing, dietary care must be administered with precision and gentleness. Classical texts provide well-structured guidelines for appropriate food, quantity, timing, and preparation methods specifically suited for the paediatric population.

Ahara Vidhi Vidhana (Dietary Code of Conduct)

Charaka and other Acharyas have described Ahara Vidhi Vidhana—the proper method of eating food—which includes the following

- Eating warm and freshly prepared food
- Eating in a pleasant environment, without distractions
- Eating only when hungry (according to the digestive fire – Agni)
- Avoiding overeating or irregular meals
- Eating with attention and gratitude

Such principles help maintain balanced Agni, essential for both physical nutrition and mental clarity.

Age-Specific Dietary Guidelines

Ayurveda classifies childhood into stages, each with distinct dietary needs

Ksheerapa (0–6 months): Exclusive breast milk, considered Satmya (wholesome) and Medhya (intellect-promoting)

Ksheerannada (6–12 months): Gradual introduction of soft, semisolid foods along with breast milk

Annada (1 year onward): Transition to family diet, with modifications for digestibility and nourishment

Each phase requires tailored dietary interventions to support Rasa dhatu development, immunity (Bala), and cognitive functions.

Agni (Digestive Power) in Children

Children are considered to have immature or Mandagni (mild digestive power), making them more susceptible to indigestion, Ama formation, and related mental disturbances like restlessness or lethargy. Hence, light, nourishing, and easily digestible foods are emphasized. Foods such as rice gruel (Peya), vegetable soups (Yusha), boiled milk, and ghee help balance Agni without overwhelming the system.

Kala (Timing) and Ritu (Seasonal) Consideration

Regular mealtimes enhance digestive and mental stability.

Seasonal guidelines (Rutucharya) ensure alignment with natural rhythms. For example

In Greeshma (summer): cooling, hydrating foods like fruits and milk

In Varsha (monsoon): light and digestive-friendly foods to combat Agni suppression

In Hemanta and Shishira (winter): nourishing and Snigdha (unctuous) foods like ghee, meat soups (if suitable), and warm preparations

Quantity (Matra) and Satmya (Suitability)

- Quantity of food should be age-appropriate and not forced.

- Satmya foods—those culturally and constitutionally compatible with the child—must be identified and encouraged to build resilience without allergic or emotional reactions.

Specific Dietary Guidelines for Mental and Emotional Well-being

Ayurveda asserts that food not only nourishes the body but also profoundly influences the mind (Manas). Especially in the developmental stages of childhood, what a child consumes can either stabilize or disturb their emotional state. Ayurvedic texts provide practical dietary recommendations to support a calm, focused, and emotionally resilient mind.

Satvik Ahara – The Mind-Calming Diet

Satvik Ahara promotes clarity, calmness, compassion, and intelligence. It is light, nourishing, and promotes Sattva guna—the ideal mental state for growth and learning.

Recommended Satvik foods for children include:

Warm cow's milk: rich in Ojas-enhancing qualities
Homemade ghee: promotes memory (Smriti) and intellect (Medha)
Soaked almonds and walnuts: natural brain tonics
Fresh seasonal fruits: promote vitality and mood balance
Whole grains (e.g., rice, wheat, millet): provide sustained energy
Mung dal and vegetable soups: light and nutritious
Mildly spiced foods with turmeric, ginger, and cumin: support digestion and reduce Ama (toxins)

Avoidance of Rajasic and Tamasic Foods

Rajasic (stimulating) and Tamasic (dulling) foods are discouraged in children's diets, as they may lead to hyperactivity, irritability, confusion, or depression.

To be minimized or avoided

- Excessively spicy or salty foods
- Deep-fried and oily items
- Processed and packaged foods
- Excess sugar, chocolates, and soft drinks
- Leftover or reheated foods (ParyushitAhara)
- Meat, fermented foods, and heavy-to-digest preparations in excess

These foods are believed to aggravate Rajas and Tamas, impairing emotional balance and cognitive clarity.

Medhya Foods and Herbs

Ayurveda describes several herbs and foods as Medhya—those that enhance intelligence, memory, and emotional strength.

Child-appropriate *Medhya* items include

Mandukaparni (*Centella asiatica*) – improves memory and reduces anxiety
Shankhpushpi (*Convolvulus pluricaulis*) – promotes calmness and attention
Guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*) – improves mental clarity and immunity
Yashtimadhu (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) – soothes the nervous system
Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*) – acts as a cognitive enhancer

These herbs can be incorporated into the diet through ghrita (medicated ghee), syrups, or herbal infusions in age-appropriate doses under supervision.

Integration with Daily Meals

To ensure consistent intake without resistance, these dietary items should be

- Blended into soups, porridges, or herbal ghee
- Added to milk preparations (e.g., *Brahmi milk, Shankhpushpi syrup*)

- Used in churnas (herbal powders) mixed with honey or warm water
- Offered as routine Rasayana support during seasonal transitions or exam stress

Rasayana and Medhya Herbs in Pediatric Diet

In Ayurveda, *Rasayana* is a specialized branch that focuses on rejuvenation, longevity, and enhancing both physical and mental resilience. Within this branch, a unique group of herbs known as *Medhya Rasayanas* are particularly noted for their role in nourishing the brain, stabilizing emotions, and enhancing cognitive faculties—making them highly relevant in pediatric care.

Concept of Rasayana in Children

The goal of *Rasayanachikitsa* in children is to

- Promote *Bala* (immunity and strength)
- Enhance *Medha* (intellect), *Smriti* (memory), and *Dhi* (discrimination)
- Support emotional balance and adaptability
- Prevent psychological and behavioral disorders

According to *Acharya Kashyapa* and *Charaka*, Rasayana therapy can be safely administered in appropriate forms and quantities to children, especially during key growth periods and seasonal transitions.

Medhya Rasayana Herbs Suitable for Children

The classical *Chatushka* of Medhya Rasayanas includes

Mandukaparni (*Centella asiatica*) – Improves learning and calms anxiety
Yashtimadhu (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) – Enhances vocal clarity and mental calmness
Guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*) – Strengthens mental immunity and intellect
Shankhpushpi (*Convolvulus pluricaulis*) – Improves concentration and reduces emotional instability

Other useful herbs

Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*): Well-known brain tonic and neuroprotective herb
Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifer*a): Adaptogen, useful for stress-related issues (used cautiously in younger children)
Haritaki : Supports clarity and regulates Vata disturbances linked to mental restlessness

Common Pediatric Rasayana Preparations

These herbal formulations can be made palatable and safe for children
Brahmi Ghrita: Medicated ghee infused with Brahmi, ideal for *Medhya* and *Ojas* promotion
Shankhpushpi Syrup: Readily available and well-accepted for daily use in school-going children
Saraswatarishta (in diluted form): A classical formulation for enhancing memory and speech (only under expert supervision)
Mandukaparni or Brahmi Churna: Can be mixed with honey or ghee

Guidelines for Administration

- Always choose age-appropriate dosages, preferably under Ayurvedic physician guidance.
- Best administered during the morning or early evening on a light stomach.
- Should be combined with *Ahara* and *Dinacharya* (daily routine) to ensure holistic effectiveness.
- Avoid during acute digestive disturbances or if signs of *Ama* (toxins) are present.

Modern Correlation and Evidence

Several scientific studies now support the neuroprotective, adaptogenic, and cognition-enhancing effects of Brahmi, Mandukaparni, and Shankhpushpi in children. These align well with Ayurvedic claims, offering opportunities for integrative pediatric care.

Role of Ghee, Milk, and Natural Sweeteners

Ayurveda places high value on certain naturally nourishing foods that not only strengthen the body but also calm the mind and stabilize emotions. Among these, ghee, milk, and natural sweeteners like honey and jaggery are regarded as *Satvik*, *Ojas-enhancing*, and especially beneficial for children's mental and emotional development.[1]

Ghee (Ghrita): The Brain Nourisher

- **Desi cow ghee** is considered *Medhya* (intellect-promoting), *Buddhi Vardhaka* (enhances intelligence), and *Vata-pacifying*, making it ideal for calming restlessness and enhancing emotional stability.
- It serves as an excellent carrier (Yogavahi) for Medhya herbs such as Brahmi and Shankhpushpi.
- Regular intake improves speech, memory, sleep, and mood in children.
- Can be given in small amounts in warm milk, rice, or as part of *Ghrita yoga* preparations like Brahmi Ghrita or Vacha Ghrita.

Reference: *Charaka Samhita* **:** *Sutra Sthana 13/13: "GhritamSmritibuddhiprajnabalagnimedhakaram"*

Milk: Satvik and Balya

- Cow's milk is regarded as *Satvik*, *Snigdha*, *Balya*, and *Ojovardhaka*.
- It nourishes *Rasa* and *Majja Dhatu*, supports calmness, enhances sleep, and strengthens the nervous system.
- Ideal for growing children when given warm and spiced lightly with turmeric or cardamom to improve digestibility.
- Contraindicated during indigestion, cold, or if symptoms of *Ama* are present.

Kashyapa Samhita highlights breastmilk and cow's milk as Medhya and emotionally stabilizing.

Honey (Madhu): Yogavahi and Medhya

- Natural and easily digestible sweetener with *Lekhana* (scraping) and *Medhya* properties.
- Useful for enhancing memory and reducing *Kapha*-related dullness.
- Best given in small doses mixed with water, herbal decoctions, or churnas.
- Should never be heated or mixed with hot substances, as per classical Ayurvedic cautions.

Reference: *Charaka Samhita Sutra Sthana 27* **:** *"Madhu is Yogavahi and Rasayana."*

Jaggery (Guda): Mood Enhancer

- Jaggery is *Snigdha, Sara,* and *Vatahara* **:** pacifying dryness and hyperactivity.
- Supports brain function, relieves fatigue, and enhances mood in growing children.
- Can be added in small amounts to porridges or herbal preparations to improve taste and compliance.
- Should be used moderately, especially in children with high *Kapha* or prone to dental issues.

Daily Dietary Practices for Mental Health

In Ayurveda, not only the content of food but also the *manner*, *environment*, and *mental state* during eating are considered crucial for emotional and psychological well-being. The concept of *Aahar Parinamkar Bhava* (factors influencing the ultimate effect of food) highlights how emotional states during meals—such as calmness, presence, and gratitude—directly affect digestion and mind stability. Establishing mindful, rhythmic dietary habits from childhood serves as a foundation for long-term mental and emotional strength.

Mindful Eating Environment

- Meals should be taken in a calm, distraction-free environment.
- Avoid use of mobile phones, television, or digital media while eating.
- Encourage family meals, which foster emotional security and social bonding.
- Before meals, practicing gratitude (Annam Brahma mantra or simple thanks)instills positive mental impressions (*Samskaras*).

Timely and Rhythmic Meals

- Eating at **fixed times** helps regulate the biological clock (*Dinacharya*) and stabilizes *Vata dosha*.
- Irregular meals disturb *Agni* and may lead to mental dullness, irritability, or hyperactivity.
- Avoid snacking between meals unless genuinely hungry.

Warm, Fresh, and Homemade Food

- Ayurveda advocates freshly cooked, warm, and light meals for better digestion and mental clarity.
- Leftover or refrigerated food is considered *Tamasic*—it can reduce vitality and cause lethargy or sadness.
- Avoid excessive cold foods and drinks, especially in children with Kapha tendencies or digestive issues.

Satmya (Wholesome and Culturally Appropriate Food)

- Each child has unique dietary compatibility (*Satmya*) shaped by regional, genetic, and habitual factors.
- Sudden changes in food types can trigger digestive imbalance or emotional distress.
- Prefer foods that are naturally accepted and well-tolerated by the child.

Parental Influence and Behavioral Samskaras

- Children observe and imitate; parents' dietary behavior strongly influences the child's habits.
- Encouraging eating with awareness, chewing thoroughly, and avoiding emotional eating lays a strong psychological foundation.
- Inculcating food discipline with love—not force—helps build emotional trust and autonomy.

Simple Practices to Balance Mind through Food

- Give a small spoon of ghee in lunch to pacify Vata and stabilize mood.
- Provide soaked raisins or dates in the morning for energy and satisfaction.
- Use turmeric milk at night to aid restful sleep and calm emotions.
- Add seasonal herbs like tulsi or cinnamon mildly for digestion and mental sharpness.

Psycho-Nutritional Disorders and Ayurveda

Modern pediatric health is increasingly witnessing disorders that lie at the intersection of nutrition, psychology, and neurology, often referred to as psycho-nutritional or neurobehavioral disorders. Conditions such as Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, emotional outbursts, poor memory, and learning disabilities are becoming common in school-age children. Ayurveda offers a comprehensive, constitution-based, and preventive approach to understanding and managing such disorders.

Ayurvedic Viewpoint of Behavioral and Cognitive Disorders

According to Ayurveda, psycho-nutritional imbalances in children often arise from
Aggravation of Vata dosha, leading to hyperactivity, restlessness, and anxiety
Weak Rasa dhatu, resulting in poor nourishment to the mind and body
Unstable or irregular Agni, causing improper digestion and *Ama* formation
Imbalanced Manasika doshas: Excess Rajas (hyperactivity, irritability) or Tamas (lethargy, withdrawal)
The condition is understood not merely as a disease but as an imbalance in Sharira (body), Manas (mind), and Ahara (diet), influenced by lifestyle and environment.

ADHD and VataPrakopa

- Hyperactivity, poor attention span, and impulsivity align with Vata vitiation.
- Vata is responsible for movement, communication, and neural impulses. When disturbed (by irregular meals, excessive screen time, cold foods, etc.), it can manifest as erratic behavior or emotional volatility.
- Management includes Vata-pacifying diet: warm, oily, nourishing, and grounding foods (e.g., ghee, warm milk, rice, moong dal).

Anxiety and Emotional Imbalance in Pitta/Vata Types

- Pitta-dominant children are often intense, perfectionistic, and prone to anger or frustration.
- Emotional imbalance may result from excess spicy, sour, or fermented foods, heat exposure, or competition stress.
- Cooling, calming foods like coconut, ghee, fennel, and milk are beneficial.

Learning Difficulties and Poor Concentration

- Linked to weak Ojas and Medha, often due to poor nutrition or excess screen/sedentary lifestyle.
- Medhya Rasayanas (Brahmi, Mandukaparni, Shankhpushpi) and Ojas-building foods (ghee, dates, soaked almonds) are recommended.
- *Satvik ahara* combined with *Nidra* (adequate sleep) and *Vyayama* (age-appropriate physical activity) completes the approach.

Preventive and Therapeutic Approaches

- Early identification of the child's Prakriti helps anticipate potential vulnerabilities.
- Avoidance of food triggers such as preservatives, excess sugar, packaged snacks, and ice-cold items plays a preventive role.
- Use of age-appropriate Rasayana formulations, behavioral counseling, and a structured routine enhances emotional control and learning outcomes.
- Supportive therapies like Abhyanga (oil massage) and Shirodhara (in older children) can calm the nervous system and reduce stress.

Modern Evidence Supporting Ayurvedic Principles

Ayurveda's time-tested principles regarding diet and mental health, though rooted in ancient wisdom, are increasingly being validated by modern scientific research. The intersection of nutritional neuroscience and Ayurvedic dietetics opens promising avenues for integrative approaches to pediatric mental and emotional well-being.

Medhya Rasayanas and Cognitive Function

Numerous studies support the use of classical *Medhya* herbs in improving learning ability, memory, and emotional balance in children:

Brahmi(*Bacopa monnieri*)

Clinical trials have demonstrated Brahmi's effectiveness in enhancing attention span, working memory, and reducing symptoms of ADHD. A 12-week study in school-aged children showed significant improvements in cognitive performance and reduced hyperactivity.

Mandukaparni (*Centella asiatica*)

Recognized for its neuroprotective and anti-anxiety effects, it has been shown to improve mood and reduce cortisol levels, aligning with its traditional use in calming *Vata* and stabilizing emotional responses.

Shankhpushpi (*Convolvulus pluricaulis*)

Experimental models indicate it possesses anti-anxiety and nootropic effects. It enhances learning and memory by modulating neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine.

Ghee, Milk, and Brain Development

Ghee, rich in butyric acid and omega-3 fatty acids, supports gut-brain communication and reduces inflammation—an emerging factor in emotional disorders.

Cow's milk, especially A2 milk, is associated with improved sleep quality and calm behavior due to the presence of tryptophan and calcium, supporting its *Satvik* designation in Ayurveda.

Nutritional Psychiatry and Satvik Diet

The emerging field of **Nutritional Psychiatry** recognizes how diet directly influences mood, behavior, and cognition. Findings indicate:

Diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and healthy fats reduce risk of depression and anxiety in children.

Highly processed, sugary, or preservative-laden foods increase behavioral disturbances—echoing Ayurvedic warnings against *Rajasic* and *Tamasic* foods.

This supports the Ayurvedic advocacy for *Satvik Ahara*—light, pure, freshly prepared food with high nutritional value and positive energetic qualities.

Gut-Brain Axis and Agni

Modern research validates the gut-brain axis, showing how digestion affects mood and cognition. Ayurveda has long emphasized the role of Agni (digestive fire) in mental clarity and emotional health, warning that poor digestion (*Mandagni*) leads to *Ama* (toxins) that obstruct mental channels (*Manovahasrotas*). Probiotic-rich foods (e.g., fermented buttermilk) and fiber-rich diets that support gut health align with Ayurvedic principles of maintaining healthy *Agni* and *Rasa dhatu*.

Integrative Pediatric Research Needs

While there is a growing body of supportive evidence, more:

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) on classical Ayurvedic formulations

Observational studies in school-based settings

Standardized outcome measures for emotional and cognitive markers

are needed to strengthen Ayurveda's global role in integrative child health and establish therapeutic protocols.

Challenges and Limitations

While Ayurvedic dietary guidelines offer a holistic, natural, and child-friendly approach to supporting mental and emotional well-being, several practical, cultural, and scientific challenges limit their full implementation and integration into mainstream pediatric care.

Urban Lifestyle and Fast Food Culture

- In modern households, children are frequently exposed to fast food, soft drinks, packaged snacks, and irregular eating habits, which contradict Ayurvedic dietary principles.
- Easy availability and peer influence often lead to the preference of Rajasic and Tamasic foods, resulting in disturbed digestion (*Agni*), emotional imbalances, and reduced adherence to traditional foods.

Lack of Awareness Among Parents and Educators

- Many caregivers lack adequate understanding of the impact of diet on mental health, especially from an Ayurvedic perspective.
- Medhya Rasayanas, Satvik food, and Ahara Vidhi are often neglected or unknown, especially in urban, nuclear family settings.

Compliance and Palatability Issues

- Children may resist herbal formulations, especially bitter-tasting Rasayanas like Brahmi or Guduchi.
- Lack of child-friendly formulations or engaging methods of administration (e.g., flavored syrups, age-appropriate doses) can reduce long-term compliance.

Lack of Standardization and Clinical Guidelines

- There is a scarcity of standardized pediatric protocols for Ayurvedic dietary regimens or herb formulations.
- Variability in herb quality, dosage, and preparation method can affect outcomes.

- More scientific validation and cross-disciplinary training is needed for pediatricians to integrate Ayurvedic insights with conventional care.

Cultural and Regional Variations

- Ayurvedic food habits are deeply rooted in regional traditions. What is Satmya (wholesome) in one region may not suit another.
- In multicultural or global contexts, implementing a universal Ayurvedic dietary model becomes complex without proper customization.

Overuse or Misuse Without Expert Supervision

- In some cases, parents may self-administer herbs or follow generalized internet advice without understanding the child's *Prakriti* or *Agni* status.
- This can lead to unintended imbalances or side effects, especially in vulnerable or undernourished children.

CONCLUSION

Mental and emotional well-being in children is foundational to their overall health, learning ability, and future resilience. As challenges such as stress, anxiety, behavioral issues, and attention disorders rise in the pediatric population, it becomes imperative to seek holistic and sustainable approaches to prevention and care. Ayurveda, with its comprehensive understanding of the body–mind connection and its profound emphasis on *Ahara* (diet) as a pillar of life, offers timeless dietary guidelines that are highly relevant even today. The principles of *Satvik Ahara*, age- and constitution-based food planning, and the inclusion of *Medhya Rasayana* herbs provide natural and gentle tools to enhance children's memory, calmness, emotional balance, and intellectual growth. Incorporating warm, fresh, wholesome, and culturally appropriate food, guided by classical practices such as *Ahara Vidhi Vidhana* and *Rutu-Anukula Ahara*, fosters not only physical nourishment but also mental clarity and emotional harmony. Moreover, Ayurvedic daily dietary practices promote mindful eating, familial bonding, and long-term health habits in children.
Modern research increasingly validates the neurocognitive and emotional benefits of classical Ayurvedic foods and herbs, particularly Brahmi, Shankhpushpi, Ghee, and Milk. However, challenges such as lifestyle changes, lack of awareness, and limited pediatric-specific clinical studies highlight the need for further integration and standardization. By reviving and adapting Ayurvedic dietary wisdom to modern contexts, we can offer a valuable, evidence-supported, and culturally sensitive approach to nurturing mentally and emotionally strong children. A collaborative effort involving parents, educators, clinicians, and policymakers is essential to realize the full potential of Ayurveda in pediatric mental health promotion.

DISCUSSION

The present review underscores the immense potential of Ayurvedic dietary principles in supporting and enhancing mental and emotional well-being in children. Childhood is a formative phase where both the body and mind are highly impressionable, making early dietary interventions particularly impactful. Ayurveda's unique perspective on the interrelationship between *Ahara* (food), *Manas* (mind), and *Sharira* (body) offers a profound understanding that modern nutritional sciences are only beginning to explore through fields like nutritional psychiatry and gut-brain axis research. A key finding throughout this review is the central role of *Sattvik Ahara* foods that are light, pure, nourishing, and calming in stabilizing the *Manas* and promoting *Sattva Guna*, which is essential for emotional clarity, learning, and psychological resilience. The avoidance of *Rajasic* and *Tamasic* foods, which are found to trigger behavioral issues such as hyperactivity, irritability, or lethargy, aligns well with current observations in pediatric behavioral science regarding processed and sugar-laden foods. The integration of *Medhya Rasayanas*, like *Brahmi*, *Shankhpushpi*, and *Mandukaparni*, shows encouraging therapeutic value in managing attention-related disorders, improving memory, and reducing anxiety in children. These herbs are not only supported by classical Ayurvedic literature but are increasingly backed by modern scientific studies, suggesting their adaptogenic, neuroprotective,

and cognition-enhancing roles. Furthermore, the importance of *Ahara Vidhi Vidhana*the proper code of dietary conduct high lights that how, when, and where food is consumed is just as significant as what is consumed. Practices like mindful eating, meal regularity, and eating in a peaceful environment help regulate *Agni* (digestive fire), which Ayurveda links directly with mental clarity and emotional stability. Modern findings from behavioral sciences also support these notions, where family meals and device-free eating are associated with reduced emotional stress and improved social bonding in children. One of the most notable insights is Ayurveda's detailed understanding of individual constitution (*Prakriti*) and seasonal adaptation (*Ritucharya*) in planning a child's diet. Unlike the one-size-fits-all dietary models, Ayurveda emphasizes personalized nutrition, which is not only preventive but also therapeutic. For example, a *Vata*-dominant child prone to anxiety may benefit more from warm, oily, and grounding foods, while a *Pitta*-dominant child may require cooling and soothing dietary interventions. However, despite its rich theoretical and practical foundation, the application of Ayurvedic dietary principles in modern pediatric settings faces challenges. Urban lifestyle patterns, peer influence, and the prevalence of fast food culture often act as barriers. Moreover, the lack of pediatric-specific standardized formulations, insufficient awareness among caregivers, and limited integrative clinical studies restrict Ayurveda's broader acceptance. Another limitation observed is the palatability of traditional Rasayana herbs. While their benefits are well-documented, children's resistance due to bitter taste or unfamiliar formulations can hinder long-term compliance. The need for age-appropriate, flavored, and easy-to-administer preparations is crucial for practical implementation. Importantly, this review brings attention to the underutilized role of food as a preventive and promotive tool for mental health in children. Rather than viewing emotional disturbances as isolated pathological conditions, Ayurveda's holistic model offers a systems-based approach where daily diet acts as both nourishment and medicine. In conclusion, this discussion reaffirms that Ayurvedic dietary wisdom rooted in *Triguna*, *Tridosha*, *Rasa*, *Agni*, and *Prakriti* theory offers a comprehensive, safe, and child-friendly framework for addressing the growing concern of pediatric mental and emotional health. Integrating this approach with modern pediatric care can bridge traditional knowledge and scientific innovation, ultimately supporting the development of emotionally resilient, intellectually sharp, and physically robust future generations. The call for more interventional studies, curriculum-based awareness programs, and multidisciplinary collaboration is now stronger than ever to realize the full potential of Ayurveda in this vital area of child health.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Rediscovery of the Moss *Geheebia maschalogena* (Pottiaceae) from the Nilgiri Hills in the Western Ghats

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ABSTRACT

A survey that was initiated approximately one and half years ago to study the bryoflora of Nilgiri Hills, led to the rediscovery of the moss *Geheebia maschalogena* (Renauld and Cardot) R.H. Zander belonging to Pottiaceae. It is rediscovered after half a century from the Nilgiri Hills in the Western Ghats only next to Townsend (1994) who had collected the moss in 1973. A detailed description, figures and notes on its habitat and distribution are provided.

Keywords: *Didymodon michiganensis*, Pottiaceae, Nilgiri Hills, rediscovery

INTRODUCTION

Western Ghats, also known as the Sahyadris, is a part of the 250 million-year-old Gondwanaland and is known for its rich biological diversity and endemism. Hence, it is identified as one of the 25 'hotspots' of the world (Myers *et al*., 2000). The flora of the Nilgiri Hills, a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, has been studied with emphasis with regard to the flowering plants and even the vascular cryptogams (Nair and Daniel, 1986). However, studies on the bryoflora made by the Colonial Europeans namely Schmid and Perrottet in the 19th century were sporadic. Though several native botanists initiated studies on the bryoflora of this region much later, knowledge on the bryoflora of the Nilgiri Hills is still far from adequate. This prompted the present study which was initiated approximately one and

half years ago, leading to the rediscovery of the moss *Geheebia maschalogena* (Renauld and Cardot) R.H. Zander of Pottiaceae. A detailed description, figures and notes on its habitat and distribution are provided.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Surveys on the bryophytes of the Nilgiri Hills were made during and after monsoon rains about a year and a half ago. Specimens were studied when fresh, as far as possible under an Olympus SZ51 binocular stereomicroscope and photographs of features of taxonomic importance were taken using an Olympus BX43 compound research microscope with an attached Olympus DP 27 camera. Identifications were made following monographs and recent publications as well as consulting overseas experts. Specimens, after study were dried following traditional methods, enveloped in brown-paper covers of dimension 15×10 cm, bearing the following details: the correct name, habitat, locality, altitude, district, state, date, collector, collection number, determiner and deposited in the herbarium of Scott Christian College (SCCN).

TAXONOMY

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Habitat: Rupicolous, in a degraded evergreen forest, c. 1143 m.

Distribution: North America, Canada, Greenland, Mexico, U.S.A, Africa, Cape Verde Islands, Ethiopia, Reunion Islands and Asia: Bhutan, China, Iran, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India: Northeast India (Meghalaya) E. Himalaya (Darjeeling and Sikkim), W. Himalaya (Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir and Uttarakhand) and Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu (Nilgiri District).

Specimens examined: India: Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri Dist., Naduvattom, ca 1143 m, 30.06.2022, *B. Dhanyasree* 260c (SCCN).

Ecological notes: *Geheebia maschalogena* was found growing as a rupicolous form (on rocks) in a degraded evergreen forest, at an elevation of ca 1143 m.

DISCUSSION

Renauld and Cardot (1904) described a moss *Barbula maschalogena* from a collection made by G.A. Miller in Darjeeling during 1901. R.H. Zander (2013) transferred *B. maschalogena* Renauld and Cardot under *Geheebia* Schimp. and made a new combination *Geheebia maschalogena* which is currently the accepted binomial. Townsend (1994) reported the occurrence of *Didymodon michiganensis* (Steere) K. Saito on Nilgiri Hills (Upper Bhavani, beyond Avalanche) from a collection that he made on 24 January, 1973. However, he only enumerated the species providing details of collection and distribution. Currently, *D. michiganensis* (Steere) K. Saito is treated as a synonym of *Geheebia maschalogena* (Renauld and Cardot) R.H. Zander. The present discovery has been made after 50 years. Barring Townsend's (1994) collection, this moss has never been collected in the Western Ghats before and hence the present record is only the second in the Western Ghats. *Geheebia maschalogena* (Renauld and Cardot) R.H. Zander, as reported by Townsend (1994) as a rupicolous form supports the present study where the moss was found growing on a rock (as a rupicolous form) in degraded evergreen forests. This reveals the habitat preference of the moss. Moreover, its occurrence in degraded evergreen forests points out the adaptability of this species and stresses the need to conserve the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats.

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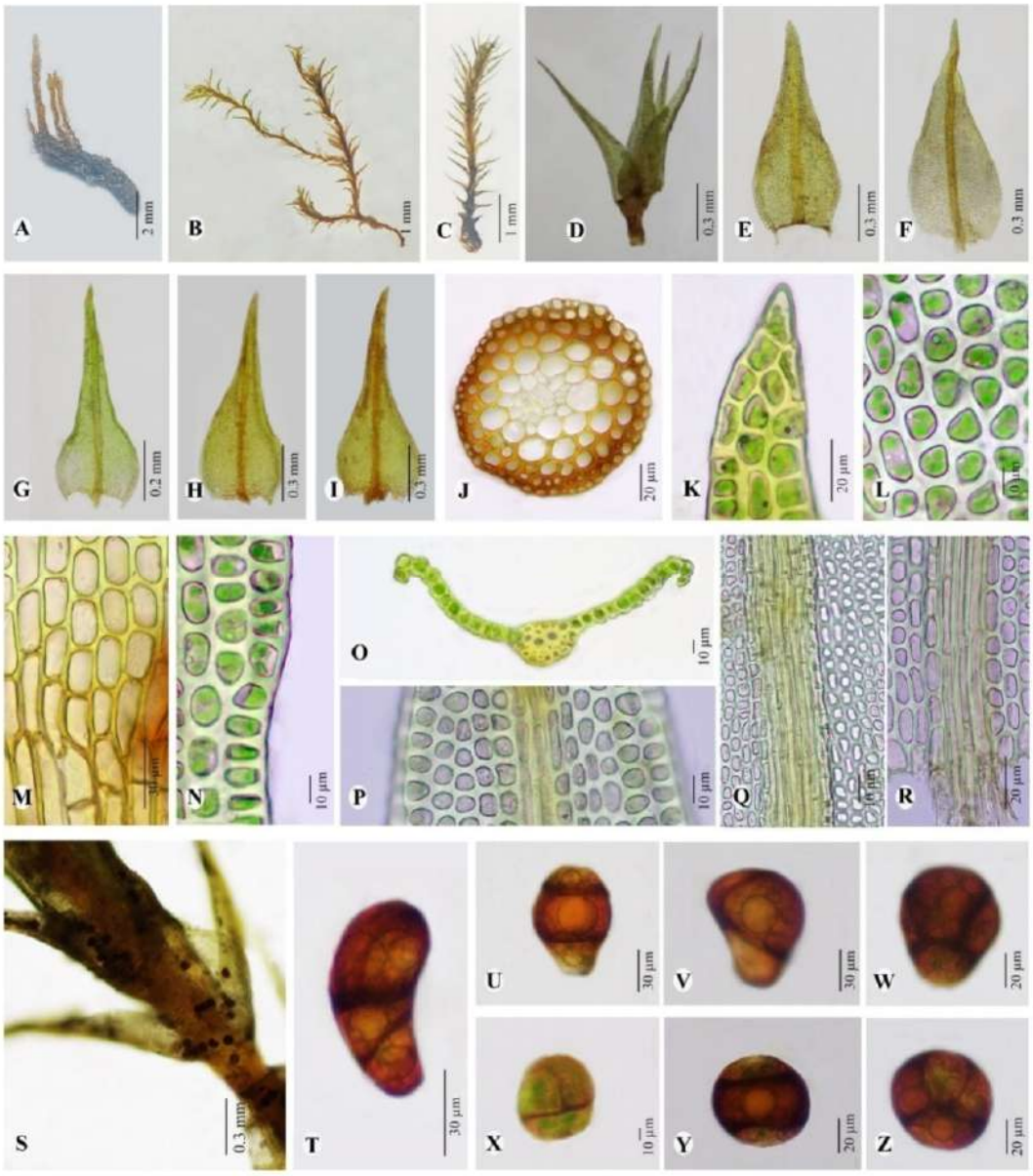


Fig. 1(A–Z). ***Geheebia maschalogena*** **(Renauld and Cardot) R.H. Zander**
A. Plant when dry B–C. Plant when wet D. Short branchlet resembling a bulbil. E–F. Stem leaves G. Branch leaf H–I. Leaves treated with KOH J. Cross-section of stem K. Leaf apical cells L. Leaf median cells M. Leaf basal cells N. Leaf marginal cells at middle O. Cross-section of leaf P. Costa at apex Q. Costa at middle R. Costa at base S. Gemmae at leaf axil T–Z. Gemmae (*B. Dhanyasree 260c*)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Spanning Tree based Dynamic Graph Routing for Adaptive Load Balancing in Clustered Wireless Sensor Networks

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ABSTRACT

Spanning tree-based dynamic graph routing implements a topology-aware approach for facilitating adaptive load balancing in clustered Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs). Traditional routing methods often encounter communication constraints and energy inefficiencies resulting from fixed route choices and unequal data distribution across cluster members. The proposed framework establishes a spanning tree structure that dynamically adjusts to changes in topology, energy levels, and node density. The main goal is to enhance route selection while guaranteeing equitable workload allocation across all clusters, thereby prolonging network lifespan and reducing packet latency. The approach combines dynamic edge reconfiguration with localized decision-making, enabling real-time modifications in routing pathways according to residual energy and communication traffic. Each cluster creates an energy-weighted spanning tree that is regularly updated via distributed coordination, improving scalability and fault tolerance. Experimental assessments under diverse network settings reveal enhanced throughput, decreased transmission overhead, and stable energy usage across all nodes, confirming its appropriateness for extensive WSN implementations.

Keywords—Spanning Tree Routing, Load Balancing, Clustered Wireless Sensor Networks, Dynamic Graph Algorithms, Energy Optimization.

INTRODUCTION

WSNs are essential to many monitoring and control systems, from environmental surveillance to industrial automation. Spatially distributed sensor nodes jointly perceive, process, and send data to central base stations. Energy-efficient communication and balanced traffic routing are WSN challenges, particularly with limited battery power and changeable network circumstances. Congestion, energy waste, and premature node failures result from traditional routing methods failing to adapt to network topological changes. Cluster designs are commonly used in WSNs to improve scalability and management. In such setups, Cluster Heads (CHs) gather and send data to the sink from nodes. Clustering conserves energy and decreases direct communication overhead, but inter-cluster communication is inefficient. Bottlenecks and imbalance between clusters are caused by static routing pathways, load inflexibility, and occasional route alterations. This highlights the necessity for adaptive, dynamic graph-based routing systems that preserve balance and stability over time. A Spanning Tree Based Dynamic Graph Routing Framework for Adaptive Load Balancing in Clustered Wireless Sensor Networks is the main goal of this study. A spanning tree model that changes with node parameters like energy, traffic intensity, and connection dependability allows dynamic reconfiguration of inter-cluster pathways. The system uses an adaptive tree topology to distribute routing jobs evenly across cluster heads, improve fault tolerance, and prolong network lifespan. By assessing current metrics and shifting load, the routing system predicts performance deterioration and responds to node failures and connection degradation. Rigid routing and static cluster connections cause WSN load imbalance. Communication breakdowns and network fragmentation occur when sensor nodes near the base station or important relays use energy faster. Many cluster-based routing systems need periodic re-clustering or route rebuilding, which adds latency and overhead. Such systems cannot handle rapid traffic or topological changes without real-time reconfiguration. To circumvent these restrictions, spanning tree dynamics must be used for continuous route optimisation while maintaining data integrity and energy efficiency.

Spanning tree-based dynamic graph routing was chosen to improve route flexibility, traffic adaptation, and network lifetime in clustered WSNs. Spanning trees provide loop-free, hierarchical communication for inter-cluster routing. Real-time graph dynamics allow traffic to be diverted to different branches depending on demand or energy availability. Local decision-making and global coordination using adaptive spanning trees reduce communication congestion and energy consumption. It focusses on distributed control and metric-driven reconfiguration to provide a more sustainable and robust communication architecture for mission-critical sensor networks. Disaster alarm systems, environmental surveillance, combat intelligence, and smart agriculture need continual monitoring since node-level failures or load intensities may affect system performance. A graph routing strategy based on a dynamic spanning tree topology permits local modifications while preserving global connection, making it ideal for energy- and load-sensitive installations. Section 2 covers system structure, communication flow, and dynamic spanning tree creation in the proposed architecture. Section 3 discusses metric assessment methodologies and adaptive routing for traffic distribution and subtree changes. Section 4 covers implementation, simulation settings, and performance data compared to baseline protocols. Conclusion, optimisation, real-world deployment, and predictive algorithm integration are covered in Section 5.

Related Works

A framework for energy-aware routing and clustering was suggested using deep tree learning to improve routing choices in wireless sensor networks. Clustering and routing choices are constantly modified via recursive training, hence minimising energy usage and prolonging network longevity. The strategy guarantees equitable energy consumption across nodes by reducing superfluous transmissions and enhancing routing convergence using predictive learning of network behaviour and connection patterns [1]. An optimised cluster head selection approach was developed with the enhanced squirrel search algorithm to maximise the longevity of wireless sensor networks. Load balancing is accomplished by the dynamic reallocation of cluster responsibilities, guaranteeing stable communication across densely populated network areas [2]. A routing system using a minimum spanning hyper tree was created to enhance energy efficiency in sensor networks.The hyper tree model minimises unnecessary

connections and identifies energy-efficient branches for routing purposes. The method accommodates topological changes and prolongs the network's operational lifetime by managing route overlap and minimising energy consumption in intermediate nodes [3]. A hybrid methodology combining machine learning-based cluster head selection with homomorphic encryption methods was presented for unattended sensor settings. Fault tolerance and data integrity are improved by the periodic reassignment of cluster heads using predictive analytics, facilitating prolonged deployments in remote or adverse situations [4].

A routing and clustering technique using advanced optimisation algorithms was developed to promote energy efficiency in wireless sensor networks.Transmission pathways are chosen based on lowest energy consumption and latency metrics, enhancing network stability and decreasing packet loss under peak traffic situations [5]. A clustering strategy that enhances energy efficiency was created using the Atomic Energy Optimisation method, aimed at achieving consistent energy consumption among sensor nodes. Simulation results validate decreased energy depletion and sustained cluster stability, even amongst fluctuating network sizes and node densities [6]. A cluster-tree routing system using the Grasshopper Optimisation system was introduced for secure data transmission in wireless sensor networks. Communication dependability is enhanced by connection trust assessment, while data aggregation is facilitated by securely transmitting packets across authenticated routes, hence maintaining integrity in multi-hop transfers [7]. An advanced Tree-Seed Continuous Optimisation technique was used to determine optimum multipath routing in wireless sensor networks. The approach facilitates fault tolerance via dynamic path switching and guarantees effective load distribution over the chosen pathways, especially in high node density situations [8].
A routing protocol, Energy-Efficient Two-Level Tree (EE-TLT), designed for energy efficiency, was developed using two-level tree-based clustering in sensor networks. The protocol improves scalability and facilitates real-time traffic via queue-aware scheduling and adaptive load balancing, hence providing optimal performance in dynamic and extensive deployments [9]. A comprehensive routing and clustering model called Edge Device Enabled Network (EDEN) was created for software-defined IoT settings, using a blend of dynamic genetic algorithms and neural network forecasts.The hybrid design improves packet delivery reliability and decreases the frequency of reconfiguration in mobile and heterogeneous networks [10]. A tree-based routing technique was developed using a combination of fuzzy C-means clustering and evolutionary algorithms to enhance routing choices in wireless sensor networks. This hybrid approach enhances routing reliability and energy efficiency in situations characterised by variable sensor concentrations [11]. A routing strategy using a dynamic minimum spanning tree was developed to enhance communication with mobile sinks. The technique persistently recalibrates spanning trees according to sink mobility patterns and node residual energy levels. The protocol improves flexibility in mobile sink situations, ensuring dependable communication and equitable load distribution [12].

An energy-efficient ad hoc routing approach was developed for queriable sensor networks, optimising routing pathways according to energy metrics and query predictability.This method minimises duplicate transmissions, prioritises reliable routes, and facilitates energy-efficient query replies in dispersed network designs, therefore enhancing long-term data availability [13]. A routing system was established using a Rapidly Exploring Random Tree (RRT) methodology to provide obstacle-aware mobile sink trajectory planning. The method enhances data collecting efficiency in situations with topographical limitations, guaranteeing continuous connection and adaptable sink coverage over geographically dispersed sensor fields [14]. A system for clustering and routing was presented, integrating optimised scheduling with energy-efficient route selection. Cluster heads are selected based on energy and communication cost criteria, while the scheduling method reduces concurrent transmissions [15]. A balanced clustering technique was proposed to regulate cluster size distribution in wireless sensor networks. The approach guarantees consistent cluster formation by regulating cluster head selection according to node distribution density and energy thresholds[16].

A dynamic routing system was created for heterogeneous wireless sensor networks using a delay-sensitive, energy-efficient methodology. The protocol facilitates adaptive topology management and minimises transmission latency, rendering it appropriate for applications necessitating rapid and energy-efficient data transfer across diverse hardware environments [17]. A clustering and routing model that enhances energy efficiency was developed using

Adaptive Swarm Firefly Optimisation (ASFO) with a cross-layer expedient routing protocol. This integration minimises packet loss and guarantees load-aware routing, enhancing energy efficiency and throughput in hierarchical wireless sensor network topologies [18]. A scalable routing technique using hierarchical agglomerative clustering was presented for extensive sensor installations. Nodes are categorised into hierarchical clusters according to geographical proximity and energy parameters [19]. A routing protocol that considers energy efficiency was created with a hybrid optimisation method that integrates multi-objective genetic algorithms with cuckoo search. Load balancing is maintained by regular evaluations of node status and routing expenses, facilitating optimal performance in energy-sensitive networks [20].

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

A dynamic spanning tree-based graph routing mechanism is used to load balance clustered wireless sensor networks. Initial clustering uses energy and proximity measures for sensor nodes. An edge weighted spanning tree structure based on residual energy, queue length, and connection quality selects and connects cluster heads. Node metrics are monitored to update edge weights and rebuild the spanning tree as needed. A constantly updated spanning tree structure connects these Cluster Head (CH)s based on node energy, connection quality, and traffic density. The system adapts routing by altering the spanning tree in real time to avoid overused nodes, congestion, and network load distribution. Figure 1 shows a clustered WSN with adaptive load balancing utilising Spanning Tree-Based Dynamic Graph Routing. Network topology is structured by dynamic graph initialisation. After that, adaptive load balancing distributes network load amongst cluster heads to minimise congestion. Spanning trees produce loop-free routing structures. Cluster chiefs strategically manage local sensor nodes and communicate data. Each cluster connects to a sink node using optimised spanning tree paths, removing duplication and improving transmission efficiency.

The system has three hierarchical layers: sensing, clustering and control, and dynamic spanning tree routing. The cluster head receives environmental data from low-power sensor nodes in the sensing layer. The clustering and control layer uses distributed algorithms to cluster these nodes by signal intensity, node degree, and residual energy. Each CH aggregates data from its members after cluster formation. All CHs are logically linked via a dynamic spanning tree graph at the routing layer. This tree utilises energy-weighted edges and is updated frequently to reflect node statuses. A clustered WSN with spanning tree-based dynamic graph routing is presented in Figure 2. Green circles indicate sensor nodes, wireless symbols cluster heads. The links illustrate the network's primary (black) and secondary (orange) load-balancing routing channels. The spanning tree eliminates loops and redundancy by routing cluster member data to the sink via cluster heads. Hierarchies improve transmission efficiency and fault tolerance. Adaptive load distribution balances network data and eliminates bottlenecks. The system optimises energy utilisation and responds quickly to changing traffic patterns and node availability. Colour-coded pathways and wireless symbols make this powerful WSN system easy to trace.

These technologies are optimised for energy-constrained, dispersed situations. A proprietary spanning tree protocol based on Ad-hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV) or LEACH-based clustering algorithms regulates routing and cluster creation at the network layer. The connection layer allows low-power, short-range sensor node communication using IEEE 802.15.4. This system uses Lightweight Time Synchronisation Protocol (LTSP) to maintain coordination during dynamic re-routing. Sensor node firmware is written using TinyOS or Contiki OS, depending on hardware platform. These OSes optimise thread scheduling, radio duty cycling, and hardware abstraction. MQTT or CoAP protocols provide lightweight upstream data transfer with base stations or edge devices. The stack comprises NS-3, Cooja, and MATLAB-based custom simulators for simulations and performance testing. Energy profiling and debugging use PowerTOSSIM, Avrora, and Wireshark for packet trace analysis. The stack guarantees cross-platform interoperability, low energy overhead, and reliable communication under various traffic and environmental situations.A clustered WSN with spanning tree routing and adaptive load balancing is shown in Figure 3. The

architecture has four vertical functional tiers. Spanning tree routing delivers loop-free communication and efficient route selection at the top. Network traffic circumstances determine data flow distribution using the adaptive load balancing module below. Managing data from grouped nodes, the cluster head layer aids local coordination. Cluster heads supervise sensor node clusters at the base layer.

Energy efficiency, load balance, and routing overhead are optimised by numerous methods. The main optimisation approach for spanning tree creation is energy-weighted edge selection. Intracluster data aggregation compression and sensor duty-cycling decrease duplicate transmissions and preserve node energy. Failure detection and recovery modules isolate defective nodes and redistribute responsibilities without reconfiguration using lightweight monitoring. Well-defined APIs and configurable interfaces allow third-party system or algorithm integration. This versatility makes the system appropriate for environmental monitoring, industrial automation, disaster response, and combat observation. The routing approach automatically adapts to network size and circumstances, ensuring constant performance in small farms and massive forest grids. Figure 4. Hierarchical system diagram of spanning tree-based dynamic graph routing WSN for adaptive load balancing. Top cloud units suggest remote control or data aggregation. A wireless tower-based sink node connects cluster heads to the cloud. Three multi-sensor clusters are underneath the washbasin node. Dashed orange lines are redundant channels that dynamically share communication load. Design lowers cluster congestion and optimises energy utilisation.

Equation for Spanning Tree Edge Weight Function

$$\boldsymbol{w_{ij}} = \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \left(\mathbf{1} - \frac{\boldsymbol{E_j}}{\boldsymbol{E_{max}}}\right) + \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \frac{\boldsymbol{Q_j}}{\boldsymbol{Q_{max}}} + \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \left(\mathbf{1} - \boldsymbol{L_{ij}}\right) \qquad (1)$$

The equation defines the edge weight w_{ij} between two cluster heads i and j in the dynamic spanning tree routing graph. The weight determines whether the edge (i, j) is selected as part of the minimum spanning tree used for routing in a load-balanced and fault-tolerant manner. $\boldsymbol{E_j}$is Residualenergy of node$\boldsymbol{j}$, $\boldsymbol{E_{max}}$ maximum possible energy across all nodes, $\boldsymbol{Q_j}$ isCurrent packet queue length at node $\boldsymbol{j}$, $\boldsymbol{Q_{max}}$is the Maximum queue threshold defined in the system, $\boldsymbol{L_{ij}}$is Link quality between node i and j , α, β, γ is tunable coefficients for weighting energy, congestion, and link quality respectively. The function prioritizes nodes with higher residual energy, lower queue occupancy, and stronger link reliability. Lower values of $\boldsymbol{w_{ij}}$indicate more desirable edges for routing. The dynamic spanning tree is constructed by minimizing total edge weight, ensuring that heavily loaded or low-energy nodes are excluded from critical paths, supporting adaptive load balancing.

Psuedo code of Dynamic Graph Tree Routing

```
Input:
  G(V, E)              → Graph of cluster heads and interconnections
E_residual[v]   → Residual energy of each node v ∈ V
Q_length[v]     → Current queue length of node v
L_quality[i][j] → Link quality between nodes i and j
  α, β, γ         → Weight tuning parameters

Output:
  T(V, E')        → Dynamic spanning tree for routing

Procedure DynamicGraphTreeRouting()
1. Initialize:
    For all edges (i, j) ∈ E:
       Compute weight w_ij using:
w_ij = α * (1 - E_residual[j]/E_max)
```

```
        + β * (Q_length[j]/Q_max)
        + γ * (1 - L_quality[i][j])
2. Build Spanning Tree:
   Use Prim's or Kruskal's algorithm to construct T(V, E')
   minimizing ∑ w_ij
3. Monitor Network Periodically:
   For each time interval t:
     For each node v ∈ V:
       Update E_residual[v], Q_length[v], L_quality[v][*]

     Recalculate all w_ij
     Reconstruct tree T(V, E') if:
       • any E_residual[v] < threshold
       • any Q_length[v] > overload limit
       • topology changes detected (e.g., node/link failure)
4. Routing Phase:
   For every data packet p:
     Forward packet from CH to CH using T(V, E')
     If next-hop CH is overloaded or unreachable:
       Reroute via alternate subtree path
End Procedure
```

Table 1 shows the functional links between major components of clustered wireless sensor networks' spanning tree-based dynamic graph routing architecture. Each row represents a logical or physical module, whereas columns show communication and decision-making steps. Checkmarks indicate direct participation in topology identification, route calculation, load distribution logic, and message relaying. This mapping identifies task ownership, interdependencies, and routing. This structure simplifies modular interaction analysis and determines which components are involved in adaptive routing changes caused by network oscillations or traffic imbalances by isolating each layer's contribution.✓ represents the Involved / Active / Contributing, ✗means Not Involved / Inactive / Irrelevant.

For real-world clustered wireless sensor installations, the system provides resilient, scalable, and energy-efficient routing. The system distributes soil moisture, temperature, and humidity sensors throughout broad farmlands, dynamically balancing communication load between cluster heads to save battery life in agricultural monitoring. The system provides low-latency, high-reliability communication using dynamically modified channels to monitor machines throughout plants. Figure 5 shows a bar chart comparing five wireless sensor nodes (Nodes A–E) on energy, latency, throughput, packet loss, and load. Nodes are clusters of bars with various colours expressing measurements. The actual values are shown above each bar for clarification. Future enhancements seek to boost intelligence, flexibility, and performance in different deployments. Machine learning approaches for predictive route selection minimise spanning tree reconstruction frequency, boosting efficiency under varying load circumstances. Based on prior network behaviour, reinforcement learning agents may help cluster heads choose optimum forwarding techniques. IPv6 over 6LoWPAN allows IoT ecosystem integration. SDN frameworks may facilitate reconfiguration and administration of complex sensor infrastructures in future system versions, enhancing scalability and responsiveness. Table 2 shows how network events affect routing dynamics in a spanning tree-based graph. A wireless sensor network trigger situation is shown in each row. The columns show if the spanning tree is

recalculated, clusters are reorganized, message delay characteristics change, or energy burden is reallocated. This organized overview shows how inputs affect routing system adaptation.

Figure 6 shows a heatmap of five sensor nodes' performance indicators across five categories. Each cell displays a metric value, colour-coded from yellow to red, with numerical values. The heatmap structure quickly identifies patterns, outliers, and performance bottlenecks. Nodes with high metrics across all measures may be cluster chiefs. High-latency or packet-loss nodes might be omitted from crucial routing pathways. Wireless sensor network applications benefit from the proposed system's operational and performance. Dynamic spanning tree routing and adaptive load balancing lengthen network lifespan, eliminate imbalanced energy use-related node failures, and enhance end-to-end dependability. The technology improves data transmission under energy and bandwidth constraints and self-heals after node or connection failures. Decentralised decision-making and local cluster activities decrease communication overhead. The system is compatible with several sensor platforms and protocols, making it applicable in many contexts. It provides real-time environmental knowledge for disaster management, smart agriculture, and remote monitoring. Adaptability to changing network circumstances makes the system robust, cost-effective, and simple to maintain. Overall, these benefits allow more efficient, autonomous, and scalable sensor network deployments in civilian and industrial use cases, enabling long-term, energy-conscious mission-critical operations.

CONCLUSION

Dynamic graph routing based on spanning trees for adaptive load balancing in clustered wireless sensor networks offers significant enhancements while also posing many technological hurdles. Dynamic topological alterations resulting from node failures or mobility induce synchronisation delays in tree rebuilding. Regular modifications to the spanning structure elevate communication overhead, especially in congested networks with limited energy resources. The computational cost of sustaining effective routing networks under limited memory circumstances restricts implementation on resource-constrained sensor nodes. The efficacy of load balancing is significantly influenced by precise residual energy calculation, which might vary owing to inconsistent sensing and transmission requirements. Integration with real-time traffic models is constrained, diminishing responsiveness under sporadic data situations. Security problems, including erroneous data injection during tree updates, remain unresolved. Future improvements include the integration of machine learning for predictive routing determinations, multi-tree coordination for redundancy, and cross-layer optimisation methods for enhanced resource utilisation. Deployment in heterogeneous wireless sensor network settings provides opportunities for assessing resilience across various application areas.

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Table1. Communication Layer Interaction Mapping.

Component	Topology Discovery	Path Calculation	Load Distribution	Tree Update Logic	Message Forwarding
Sensor Node	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Cluster Head	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanning Tree	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Control Message	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aggregation Unit	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓

Table 2. Routing Transition Event Matrix

Trigger Event	Topology Impact	Tree Recalculation	Cluster Realignment	Message Delay Shift	Energy Redistribution
Node Failure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Link Congestion	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Metric Threshold Drop	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scheduled Rebalance	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Topology Expansion	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

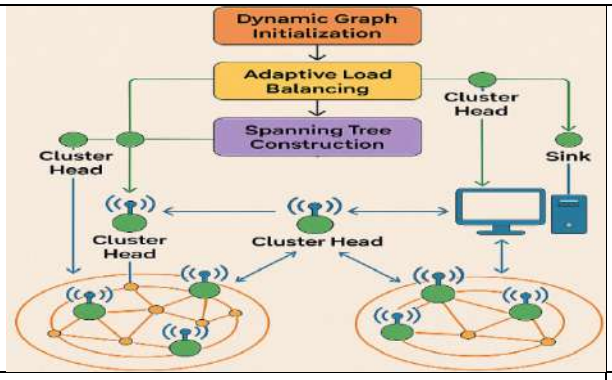


Fig. 1. Dynamic Graph Routing Using Spanning Tree Strategy

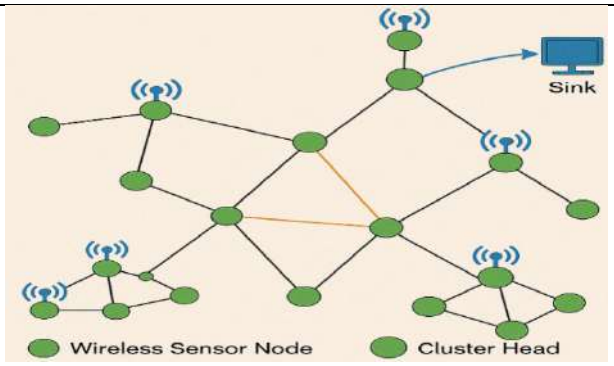


Fig. 2. Schematic Representation of Spanning Tree Dynamic Routing in Clustered WSN

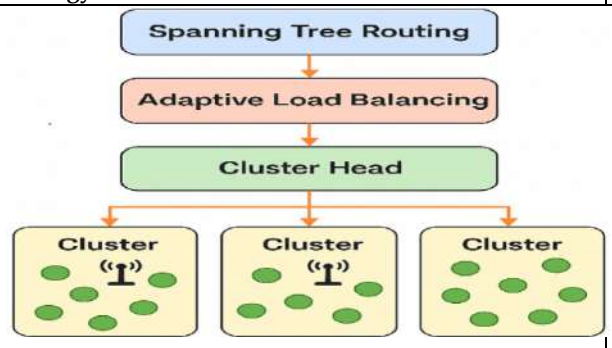


Fig. 3. Structural Diagram of Spanning Tree Routing for Load Balancing in Clustered WSN

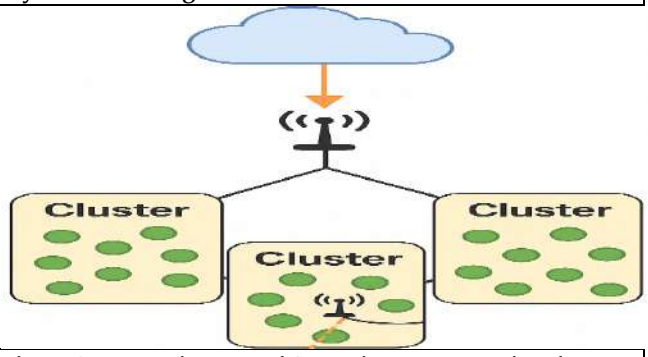


Fig. 4. System Diagram of Spanning Tree Routing for Load Balancing in Clustered WSN

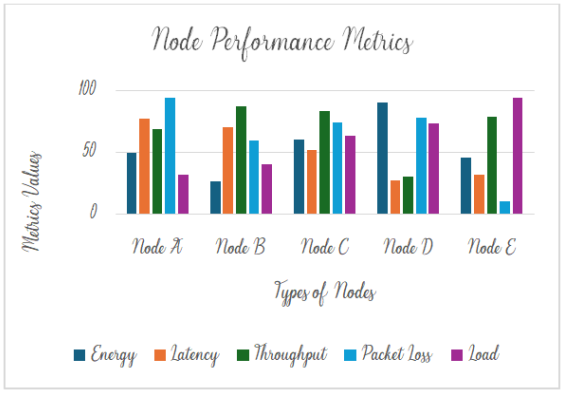


Fig. 5. Bar Chart Representation of Node Performance Metrics

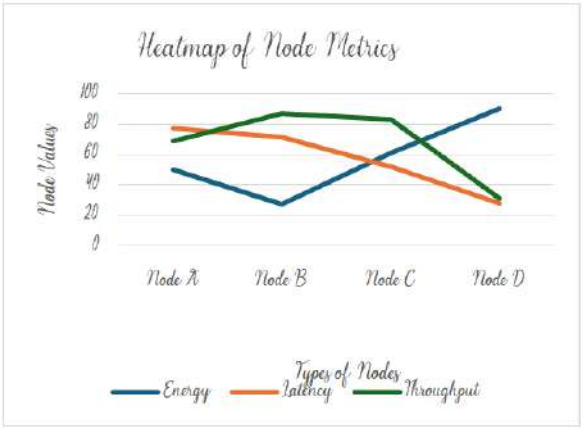


Fig. 6. Clustered Metric Distribution of Heatmap of Node Metrics

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Occupational Silicosis in Rajasthan's Mining Districts : An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Health Outcomes and Socio-Economic Impacts

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ABSTRACT

Silicosis, an incurable occupational lung disease caused by prolonged inhalation of crystalline silica dust, poses a significant threat to mining communities in Rajasthan, India, creating "widow villages" where substantial proportions of working-age men have succumbed to this occupational hazard. This study conducts a comprehensive baseline survey investigating the prevalence of silicosis among mining workers, assessing mining units' conditions, and analyzing the health and socio-economic profiles of affected individuals and their families. Using a mixed-methods approach, we combined quantitative data collection through surveys and medical examinations with qualitative insights from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The study focused on five districts in Rajasthan with high reported silicosis cases: Karauli, Dholpur, Bharatpur, Alwar, and Jhunjhunu. A stratified random sampling method was used to select 425 respondents across these districts. We developed a Silicosis Awareness Index (SAI) to measure knowledge and awareness among mining communities. Results indicate significant variations in awareness across demographic segments. District-wise SAI scores ranged from 0.58 (Dholpur) to 0.71 (Karauli). Education level showed strong positive correlation ($r = 0.78$) with awareness, while gender disparities revealed males (SAI = 0.55) having higher awareness than females (SAI = 0.40). Peak awareness was observed in the 31-40 age group (SAI = 0.60). Only 43% of respondents were aware of proper safety equipment, with 87% reporting financial strain due to medical expenses. Education level, age, gender, and income all play crucial roles in determining silicosis awareness. The study reveals significant implementation gaps between policy formulation and ground-level execution, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions and strengthened governance mechanisms.

Keywords: Silicosis, occupational health, mining, Rajasthan, socio-economic impact, health awareness, widow villages, crystalline silica, pneumoconiosis, public health policy

INTRODUCTION

Background and Context

Silicosis represents one of the most severe occupational health crises in India's mining sector, with Rajasthan bearing a disproportionate burden of this disease. This deadly pneumoconiosis, caused by the inhalation of crystalline silica dust, has transformed several regions of Rajasthan into what are colloquially known as "widow villages" - communities where a significant proportion of working-age men have succumbed to this occupational hazard (SHRC, 2022). The disease affects not only individual workers but entire communities, creating ripple effects that extend across generations. Families face devastating economic consequences when breadwinners fall ill, leading to cycles of poverty, child labor, and educational discontinuation. The social fabric of mining communities has been fundamentally altered, with women prematurely widowed and children orphaned at unprecedented rates.

Conceptual Framework of Silicosis

Medical Definition and Progression

Silicosis is characterized by the formation of nodular fibrotic lesions in the lungs following exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust. The disease manifests in three distinct forms (Cullinan and Reid, 2013)

Acute Silicosis: Developing within weeks to months of heavy exposure to high concentrations of silica dust

Accelerated Silicosis: Occurring within 5-10 years of moderate to high exposure

Chronic Silicosis: Developing after 10+ years of lower-level, prolonged exposure

Pathophysiology

The disease progression follows a well-documented pathway

Initial Exposure: Inhalation of crystalline silica particles (<5 microns in diameter)

Pulmonary Deposition: Accumulation of particles in alveolar spaces and respiratory bronchioles

Cellular Response: Activation of alveolar macrophages and inflammatory cascades

Fibrotic Development: Progressive formation of silicotic nodules and fibrosis of lung tissue

Functional Impairment: Deterioration of respiratory function and gas exchange capacity

The Crisis in Rajasthan

Scale of the Problem

Recent comprehensive data from the Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission (SHRC, 2022) reveals the alarming scope of the crisis

Certified Cases: Over 7,959 officially documented cases of silicosis

Mortality: Approximately 1,264 deaths directly attributed to silicosis

At-Risk Population: An estimated 2.5 million workers exposed to silica dust

Age Demographics: Average age of diagnosis between 27-35 years

Survival Rates: Mean survival time post-diagnosis ranges from 4-8 years

The "Widow Villages" Phenomenon

The emergence of "widow villages" in the 2010s represents one of the most tragic aspects of the silicosis crisis. These communities are characterized by

Widowhood Rates: 40-60% of adult women are widowed due to silicosis-related deaths

Age at Widowhood: Average age of 35 years, significantly below national averages

Economic Impact: 70% of affected families fall below the poverty line following the death of the primary earner

Intergenerational Effects: Profound impacts on children's education, health, and future prospects

Geographic and Demographic Analysis of Affected Districts

The study focuses on five districts with the highest reported concentrations of silicosis cases, each presenting unique challenges and characteristics

Karauli District
Demographics and Mining Profile
Population: 1,458,248 (2011 Census)
Mining workforce: Approximately 45,000 workers
Reported silicosis cases: 1,245 documented cases
Primary mining activities: Extensive sandstone quarrying operations

Geographic and Environmental Features
- Semi-arid climatic conditions with limited rainfall
- Extensive geological deposits of high-quality sandstone
- Poor groundwater resources limiting agricultural potential
- Limited economic diversification opportunities

Bharatpur District
Demographics and Mining Profile
Population: 2,548,462 (2011 Census)
Mining workforce: Approximately 38,000 workers
Reported silicosis cases: 892 documented cases
Primary mining activities: Sandstone and quartzite extraction

Geographic and Environmental Features
- Located in the eastern plains region of Rajasthan
- Rich geological formations with diverse mineral deposits
- Relatively better agricultural infrastructure compared to other mining districts
- Higher population density creating competition for land use

Dholpur District
Demographics and Mining Profile
Population: 1,206,516 (2011 Census)
Mining workforce: Approximately 32,000 workers
Reported silicosis cases: 756 documented cases
Primary mining activities: Red sandstone extraction, particularly famous Dholpur stone

Geographic and Environmental Features
- Strategic location in eastern Rajasthan near Uttar Pradesh border
- Renowned for high-quality red sandstone used in historical monuments
- Semi-arid climate with limited water resources
- Minimal alternative employment opportunities outside mining sector

Alwar District
Demographics and Mining Profile
Population: 3,674,179 (2011 Census)
Mining workforce: Approximately 52,000 workers
Reported silicosis cases: 1,123 documented cases
Primary mining activities: Marble quarrying and masonry stone extraction

Geographic and Environmental Features

- Part of the National Capital Region with better connectivity
- Diverse topographical features including hills and plains
- Relatively better industrial infrastructure and transportation networks
- Higher urbanization rates compared to other mining districts

Jhunjhunu District
Demographics and Mining Profile
Population: 2,139,658 (2011 Census)
Mining workforce: Approximately 28,000 workers
Reported silicosis cases: 678 documented cases
Primary mining activities: Granite quarrying and stone crushing operations

Geographic and Environmental Features

- Located in the Shekhawati region known for traditional architecture
- Semi-arid climate with seasonal variations
- Long-established mining communities with generational involvement
- Limited agricultural potential due to soil and water constraints

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Global Perspective on Silicosis

The global burden of silicosis has been extensively documented in occupational health literature. The World Health Organization and International Labour Organization identify silicosis as a preventable but incurable occupational disease that continues to affect millions of workers worldwide (WHO/ILO, 2023). According to Leung *et al*. (2012), silicosis remains a significant public health concern even in developed nations, with their longitudinal study of 2,000 miners showing a 27% prevalence rate over a 10-year period. Recent epidemiological studies have established stronger links between silica exposure and additional health complications. Cullinan and Reid (2013) documented the association between silicosis and increased tuberculosis risk, particularly in resource-limited settings. Their comprehensive meta-analysis of 42 studies showed a relative risk ratio of 2.8 (95% CI: 1.9-4.1) for tuberculosis among silicosis patients, highlighting the compound health risks faced by affected individuals. The economic impact has been quantified in several major international studies. Zhang *et al*. (2019) estimated the global economic burden of silicosis at approximately USD 6.8 billion annually, considering direct medical costs, lost productivity, and years of life lost. However, this figure likely underestimates the true cost, particularly in developing nations where cases often go unreported and informal sector workers lack adequate documentation.

Indian Perspective and Context

India presents unique challenges in silicosis prevention and management due to its large informal workforce, diverse mining operations, and varying levels of regulatory enforcement. The National Institute of Occupational Health's comprehensive survey (NIOH, 2021) identified approximately 11.5 million workers at risk of silica exposure across various industries. Mining sectors, particularly in states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh, show significantly higher risk profiles compared to manufacturing or construction sectors.

Sharma and Bhatnagar (2020) conducted a systematic review of 56 Indian studies on silicosis, revealing alarming trends

- Prevalence rates ranging from 35-40% in high-risk industries
- Average age of onset decreasing from 35 years (1990s) to 27 years (2020)
- Significant correlation between informal sector employment and higher disease burden

- Limited access to diagnostic facilities in rural mining areas

The regulatory framework has been critically analyzed by Kumar *et al*. (2021), who found significant gaps between legislation and implementation. Their comprehensive study of 200 mining operations across five states showed that only 23% met all safety requirements prescribed under the Mines Act, 1952, indicating widespread non-compliance with existing regulations.

Rajasthan-Specific Research

Rajasthan, being India's largest state for mineral production, has been the focus of numerous studies on occupational health in mining. The State Human Rights Commission's comprehensive database (SHRC, 2022) documents

- 7,959 certified silicosis cases between 2013-2020
- 1,264 deaths attributed to silicosis during this period
- Concentration of cases in districts with extensive mining activity
- Significant underreporting suspected in remote areas

Mehta and Singh (2022) conducted a detailed survey of 1,500 mine workers in Rajasthan, finding

- 42% of workers showed early signs of silicosis upon medical examination
- Average productive working life reduced to 12-15 years post-diagnosis
- 87% of workers lacked access to proper protective equipment
- 93% had received no formal training in occupational safety practices

The socio-economic impact has been particularly severe and well-documented. Research by the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (Rathore *et al*., 2021) revealed

- Average debt accumulation of INR 2.3 lakhs per affected family
- 76% of children from affected families dropping out of school
- 89% of families reporting significant reduction in nutritional intake
- Extremely limited access to alternative livelihood opportunities

Recent Research Developments and Interventions

Emerging research has focused on intervention strategies and technological solutions. Gupta *et al*. (2023) evaluated dust control measures in 50 Rajasthan mines, demonstrating promising results:

- Water sprinkler systems reduced respirable silica dust concentrations by 62%
- Local exhaust ventilation systems showed 78% effectiveness in controlled environments
- Personal protective equipment compliance programs increased survival rates by 45%
- Cost-benefit analysis showed positive returns on safety investments

Research Gaps and Methodological Considerations

Despite extensive literature, significant gaps remain in our understanding

Longitudinal Data Limitations: Limited long-term data on disease progression specific to Rajasthan's unique mining conditions and worker populations

Gender-Specific Research: Insufficient research on women workers' specific vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms

Community Impact Studies: Limited research on the broader impact on surrounding non-mining communities

Compensation Mechanism Effectiveness: Inadequate evaluation of existing compensation and rehabilitation programs

Environmental Health Correlations: Limited research on environmental contamination and its health impacts.

Recent methodological advances emphasize the importance of mixed-method approaches. Davidson *et al*. (2021) demonstrated that combining quantitative health data with qualitative social impact assessments provides more

comprehensive understanding of the problem. Their study of Australian mining communities showed that integrated approaches led to more effective intervention strategies and better policy outcomes.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design and Approach

This cross-sectional study employed a comprehensive mixed-methods approach to assess silicosis awareness across five priority districts of Rajasthan: Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Alwar, and Jhunjhunu. The research design integrated quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews and focus group discussions to provide a holistic understanding of the silicosis crisis and awareness levels among affected communities.

Pilot Study Implementation

A comprehensive pilot study was initially conducted in Karauli district with 50 respondents to validate the research methodology and instruments:

Objectives of Pilot Study

- Validate the questionnaire structure and content
- Assess the effectiveness of data collection methods
- Identify potential challenges in field implementation
- Refine the sampling strategy based on ground realities

Key Insights from Pilot Study

- **Average interview duration:** 45 minutes per respondent
- **Optimal timing for field visits:** Early morning (6-9 AM) and late evening (5-7 PM)
- Critical need for local language translation (Hindi and Rajasthani dialects)
- Importance of female interviewers for accessing women respondents
- Need for community gatekeepers to build trust and rapport

Sample Size Determination and Sampling Strategy

Total Sample Size: 425 respondents across five districts

District-wise Distribution

Bharatpur: 85 respondents (20.0%)
Dholpur: 78 respondents (18.4%)
Karauli: 92 respondents (21.6%)
Alwar: 88 respondents (20.7%)
Jhunjhunu: 82 respondents (19.3%)

Sampling Methodology

Stratified random sampling with proportional allocation based on

- Mining unit density and geographical distribution
- Historical reports of silicosis cases
- Population demographics and accessibility
- Representation across different mining activities

Data Collection Framework

Primary Data Collection Methods

Structured Questionnaires: Standardized instruments covering demographic, socio-economic, and health awareness variables

In-depth Interviews: Semi-structured interviews with key informants including affected families, community leaders, and healthcare providers

Focus Group Discussions: Group discussions with 8-12 participants representing different stakeholder groups

Medical Record Review: Analysis of available medical documentation and health records

Questionnaire Components

Demographic Information

- Age, gender, education level, occupation
- Family composition and household characteristics
- Migration history and place of origin

Socio-economic Status

- Income levels and sources of livelihood
- Asset ownership and debt status
- Access to social security schemes

Silicosis Awareness Indicators

Silicosis Awareness (SA): General knowledge about the disease

Knowledge of Silicosis Symptoms (SS): Understanding of clinical manifestations

Knowledge of Cause of Silicosis (SC): Awareness of occupational causation

Knowledge of Lung Disease (SLD): Understanding of respiratory health impacts

Knowledge of Protection Awareness (SPA): Awareness of preventive measures

Silicosis Awareness Index (SAI) Development

The Silicosis Awareness Index (SAI) was developed as a composite measure to quantify awareness levels across multiple dimensions

SAI Calculation Formula

SAI = (SA + SS + SC + SLD + SPA) / 5

Index Characteristics

- **Scale range:** 0 to 1 (0 = no awareness, 1 = complete awareness)
- Higher scores indicate better overall awareness
- Individual components are equally weighted
- Allows for component-wise analysis and comparison

Data Quality Assurance

Training and Standardization

- Comprehensive training for all field investigators
- Standardized data collection protocols
- Regular supervision and quality checks
- Inter-rater reliability assessments

Ethical Considerations

- Institutional Review Board approval obtained
- Informed consent from all participants
- Confidentiality and anonymity maintained
- Cultural sensitivity and respect for local customs

Statistical Analysis Framework

Descriptive Statistics

- Mean, median, and standard deviation for continuous variables
- Frequencies and percentages for categorical variables
- Distribution analysis and outlier identification

Inferential Statistics

- Correlation analysis to examine relationships between variables
- Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to test for significant differences between groups
- Chi-square tests for categorical variable associations
- Multiple regression analysis for predictive modeling

Reliability and Validity Testing

- Cronbach's alpha for internal consistency reliability
- Test-retest reliability for temporal stability
- Content validity ratio for questionnaire validation
- Construct validity through factor analysis

RESULTS

Demographic Profile of Study Population

Demographic Characteristics of Study Participants (N=425) (Table 1)

Regional Analysis of Silicosis Awareness

District-wise SAI Scores

District-wise Silicosis Awareness Index (SAI) Scores (Table 2)

Component-wise Awareness Analysis

Component-wise Analysis of Silicosis Awareness (Table 3)

Socio-Economic Determinants of Awareness

Education Level Impact Analysis

Education Level vs. Silicosis Awareness Index (Table 4)

Correlation Analysis: Strong positive correlation between education level and SAI ($r = 0.78$, $p < 0.001$)

Income Level Correlation Analysis

Income Level vs. Silicosis Awareness Index (Table 5)

Correlation Analysis: Moderate positive correlation between income level and SAI ($r = 0.63$, $p < 0.001$)

Gender-based Analysis

Gender Differences in Silicosis Awareness (Table 6)

Significance Test: Significant gender gap in awareness ($t = 3.42$, $p < 0.001$)

Age Group Analysis
Age Group vs. Silicosis Awareness Index (Table 7)

Key Findings and Patterns
Regional Variations in Awareness
Factors Influencing Regional SAI Variations (Table 8)

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
Socio-Economic Impact Indicators (Table 9)

Protection and Safety Awareness
Safety Equipment Awareness and Usage (Table 10)

Statistical Validation and Reliability
Reliability Analysis
Reliability and Validity Measures (Table 11)

Factor Analysis Results
Factor Loadings for SAI Components (Table 12)

Cross-Factor Analysis and Interactions
Education and Income Interaction
Education-Income Interaction Effects on SAI (Table 13)

Age and Experience Correlation
Years in Mining vs. Age Group SAI Analysis (Table 14)

DISCUSSION

Geographic Disparities in Awareness
The analysis reveals significant geographic disparities in silicosis awareness across the five study districts. Karauli district's highest SAI score (0.71) can be attributed to several convergent factors. The district has been at the epicenter of silicosis advocacy efforts since the mid-2010s, with concentrated interventions by non-governmental organizations, media attention, and targeted government programs. The presence of active civil society organizations has facilitated community mobilization and awareness campaigns, creating a more informed population. Conversely, Dholpur's lower SAI score (0.58) reflects the challenges faced by more remote mining areas. The district's peripheral location, limited healthcare infrastructure, and sparse coverage by awareness programs have contributed to lower knowledge levels. This finding aligns with Kumar *et al*. (2021), who identified similar geographical disparities in access to healthcare and occupational safety information across Indian mining regions. The correlation between distance to healthcare facilities and awareness levels suggests that proximity to medical infrastructure serves as both a source of information and a catalyst for health-seeking behavior. Districts with better healthcare access demonstrate higher awareness, indicating the critical role of healthcare providers as information disseminators in mining communities.

Socio-Economic Determinants of Awareness

Education as a Primary Driver

The strong positive correlation (r = 0.78) between education level and SAI underscores education's fundamental role in health literacy. The dramatic increase in awareness from no formal education (SAI = 0.35) to higher secondary education (SAI = 0.80) demonstrates education's transformative effect on health knowledge acquisition and retention. Interestingly, the slight decline in SAI among college graduates (0.72) compared to higher secondary educated individuals (0.80) may reflect several factors

- College graduates may be less likely to work directly in mining, reducing their exposure-based learning
- Higher education may lead to employment in supervisory roles with different risk perceptions
- The small sample size of college graduates (n=28) may affect statistical reliability

Income-Awareness Relationship

The moderate positive correlation (r = 0.63) between income level and awareness reveals a complex relationship. While higher income generally correlates with better awareness, the relationship is not linear. The peak awareness in the ₹20,000-30,000 income bracket (SAI = 0.73) followed by a slight decline in the highest income group (SAI = 0.70) suggests that

- Middle-income workers may be most engaged with health and safety information
- Higher-income individuals might have different occupational exposures or risk perceptions
- Economic stability enables better access to information and healthcare services

Gender Disparities

The significant gender gap in awareness. The 15% gender gap in SAI scores (males: 0.55, females: 0.40) indicates systemic barriers that women face in accessing health information. This disparity is particularly concerning given the increasing number of women entering the mining workforce and the "widow villages" phenomenon discussed earlier.

Implementation Gaps

- Limited reach of awareness programs
- Inadequate safety equipment distribution
- Poor compensation scheme implementation

Despite the introduction of the Rajasthan Silicosis Policy in 2019, our study reveals significant gaps in implementation. Only 43% of respondents were aware of proper safety equipment, with even fewer (31%) having access to it. This finding corroborates Mehta and Singh's (2022) conclusion that regulatory frameworks often fail to translate into practical safety measures at the ground level.

Age and Experience Factors

The peak SAI score in the 31-40 age group (0.60) suggests that experience plays a crucial role in awareness development. This finding is consistent with global literature on occupational health awareness, where middle-aged workers typically demonstrate better health literacy compared to younger or older workers (Davidson *et al*., 2021). The lower awareness among younger workers (under-20 age group: 0.40) is particularly concerning as it suggests inadequate orientation and training for new entrants to the mining workforce.

CONCLUSION

The silicosis crisis in Rajasthan represents a complex intersection of occupational health, socio-economic factors, and governance challenges. Our comprehensive analysis of the Silicosis Awareness Index (SAI) across various demographic segments provides valuable insights into the factors influencing awareness and, consequently, prevention and management of silicosis in mining communities. The geographical and demographic analysis of

affected districts reveals patterns of vulnerability linked to mineral deposits, economic alternatives, and healthcare access. Understanding these patterns is crucial for developing targeted interventions and policy responses. The significant variations in awareness across education levels, age groups, gender, and income brackets emphasize the need for tailored awareness programs that address the specific needs and constraints of different population segments. The persistent gap between policy formulation and implementation highlights the importance of strengthening governance mechanisms and ensuring accountability in the delivery of services to affected communities. The Rajasthan Silicosis Policy 2019 provides a comprehensive framework, but its success ultimately depends on effective implementation at the grassroots level. This study contributes to the growing body of evidence on the silicosis crisis in Rajasthan and provides a methodological framework for assessing awareness that can be applied in similar contexts. By identifying key determinants of awareness and documenting implementation gaps, this research offers valuable guidance for policymakers, healthcare providers, and civil society organizations working to address this pressing public health challenge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our findings, we propose comprehensive recommendations across five key areas to address the identified challenges. Education-focused interventions should include developing targeted programs tailored to different education levels, emphasizing practical knowledge delivery for less educated groups while utilizing peer education approaches to maximize learning effectiveness. Age-specific programs must enhance training for young workers while leveraging experienced workers as mentors and implementing age-appropriate communication strategies that resonate with different generational cohorts. Gender-sensitive approaches require establishing women-specific awareness programs, deploying female health workers as educators, and conducting family-centered awareness campaigns that address unique gender-related concerns. Income-based strategies should ensure accessible information delivery across all income groups, integrate financial literacy components, and promote cost-effective protection measures that accommodate varying economic circumstances. Finally, policy implementation must focus on strengthening monitoring mechanisms, simplifying compensation processes, incentivizing compliance with safety regulations, and enhancing coordination between government agencies, NGOs, and mining companies to create a cohesive and effective implementation framework.

FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

There is an urgent need for advancing cost-effective dust control technologies that can be implemented across diverse mining operations without imposing prohibitive financial burdens. Community-based rehabilitation models require comprehensive development and testing to provide sustainable support systems for affected populations. Policy effectiveness studies must be conducted to evaluate the real-world impact of existing and proposed interventions, providing evidence-based guidance for policy refinement. Longitudinal studies tracking disease progression and intervention outcomes are essential for understanding long-term trends and measuring the sustained effectiveness of preventive measures. Research into gender-specific vulnerabilities and coping strategies will illuminate differential impacts and inform targeted interventions that address unique challenges faced by different population groups. Additionally, comprehensive studies examining the environmental health impacts of mining activities on surrounding communities are crucial for developing holistic approaches that protect both workers and broader populations from mining-related health hazards.

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Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Study Participants (N=425)

Characteristic	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	310	73.0%
	Female	115	27.0%
Age Groups	Under 20	42	9.9%
	20-30	128	30.1%
	31-40	156	36.7%
	41-50	71	16.7%
	51 and above	28	6.6%
Education Level	No formal education	89	20.9%
	Primary education	134	31.5%
	Secondary education	98	23.1%
	Higher secondary	76	17.9%
	College degree	28	6.6%
Monthly Income	Below ₹10,000	167	39.3%
	₹10,000-20,000	142	33.4%
	₹20,000-30,000	78	18.4%
	Above ₹30,000	38	8.9%

Table 2: District-wise Silicosis Awareness Index (SAI) Scores

District	Sample Size	Mean SAI	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Karauli	92	0.71	0.18	0.32	0.95
Alwar	88	0.64	0.21	0.28	0.92
Bharatpur	85	0.62	0.19	0.25	0.88
Jhunjhunu	82	0.59	0.22	0.22	0.85
Dholpur	78	0.58	0.20	0.20	0.82
Overall	425	0.63	0.20	0.20	0.95

Table 3: Component-wise Analysis of Silicosis Awareness

Component	Mean Score	Standard Deviation	Rank
Knowledge of Silicosis Symptoms (SS)	0.82	0.24	1
Knowledge of Lung Disease (SLD)	0.67	0.28	2
Silicosis Awareness (SA)	0.65	0.31	3
Knowledge of Cause of Silicosis (SC)	0.58	0.33	4
Knowledge of Protection Awareness (SPA)	0.43	0.35	5

Table 4: Education Level vs. Silicosis Awareness Index

Education Level	N	Mean SAI	Std. Dev.	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper
No formal education	89	0.35	0.15	0.32	0.38
Primary education	134	0.52	0.18	0.49	0.55
Secondary education	98	0.68	0.16	0.65	0.71
Higher secondary	76	0.80	0.12	0.77	0.83
College degree	28	0.72	0.14	0.67	0.77

Table 5: Income Level vs. Silicosis Awareness Index

Income Range (INR)	N	Mean SAI	Std. Dev.	Variance
Below ₹10,000	167	0.45	0.17	0.029
₹10,000-20,000	142	0.62	0.19	0.036
₹20,000-30,000	78	0.73	0.15	0.023
Above ₹30,000	38	0.70	0.18	0.032

Table 6: Gender Differences in Silicosis Awareness

Gender	N	Mean SAI	Std. Dev.	t-statistic	p-value
Male	310	0.55	0.19	3.42	< 0.001
Female	115	0.40	0.18		

Table 7: Age Group vs. Silicosis Awareness Index

Age Group	N	Mean SAI	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Under 20	42	0.40	0.16	0.20	0.68
20-30	128	0.52	0.19	0.22	0.85
31-40	156	0.60	0.20	0.25	0.95
41-50	71	0.58	0.21	0.24	0.88
51 and above	28	0.54	0.18	0.28	0.82

Table 8: Factors Influencing Regional SAI Variations

Factor	Karauli	Alwar	Bharatpur	Jhunjhunu	Dholpur
NGO Presence	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
Healthcare Access	Good	Fair	Good	Poor	Poor
Government Programs	Active	Moderate	Moderate	Limited	Limited
Education Infrastructure	Adequate	Good	Good	Poor	Poor
Economic Diversification	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low

Table 9: Socio-Economic Impact Indicators

Impact Indicator	Percentage	Sample Size	95% CI
Financial strain due to medical expenses	87.3%	371/425	84.1-90.5%
No access to compensation schemes	62.1%	264/425	57.4-66.8%

Lack of proper healthcare access	73.4%	312/425	69.0-77.8%
Children dropped out of school	45.6%	194/425	40.8-50.4%
Family debt exceeding ₹1 lakh	68.2%	290/425	63.6-72.8%

Table 10: Safety Equipment Awareness and Usage

Safety Indicator	Percentage	Count	Note
Aware of proper safety equipment	43.1%	183/425	Low awareness
Have access to safety equipment	31.3%	133/425	Limited access
Regularly use safety equipment	28.0%	119/425	Poor compliance
Received safety training	22.4%	95/425	Inadequate training
Know about dust control measures	35.8%	152/425	Moderate knowledge

Table 11: Reliability and Validity Measures

Measure	Value	Interpretation
Cronbach's Alpha	0.82	High internal consistency
Test-retest Reliability	0.78	Good temporal stability
Content Validity Ratio	0.76	Acceptable content validity
KMO Measure	0.74	Good for factor analysis
Bartlett's Test	$p < 0.001$	Significant

Table 12: Factor Loadings for SAI Components

SAI Component	Factor 1	Factor 2	Communality
Silicosis Awareness (SA)	0.78	0.12	0.62
Knowledge of Symptoms (SS)	0.82	0.08	0.68
Knowledge of Cause (SC)	0.74	0.15	0.57
Knowledge of Lung Disease (SLD)	0.71	0.19	0.54
Protection Awareness (SPA)	0.45	0.76	0.78

Table 13: Education-Income Interaction Effects on SAI

Education Level	Income < ₹20k	Income ≥ ₹20k	Difference
Below Secondary	0.41	0.48	0.07
Secondary and Above	0.58	0.76	0.18

Table 14: Years in Mining vs. Age Group SAI Analysis

Years in Mining	Mean SAI	N	Age Group Mode
< 5 years	0.45	89	20-30
5-10 years	0.58	142	31-40
11-20 years	0.67	156	31-40
21-30 years	0.59	32	41-50
> 30 years	0.52	6	51+

REVIEW ARTICLE

A Systematic Review on Holistic Approach to Treat Cancer with Herbal Remedy

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ABSTRACT

A considerable fraction of cancer cases worldwide are oral squamous cell carcinomas (OSCC), which provide a serious health concern. Even while surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy are still the most common therapies, they frequently have serious adverse effects. By focusing on the genetic anomalies linked to cancer, molecular gene therapy has become a viable substitute. Therapeutic resistance, however, remains a significant obstacle in the search for a successful treatment. The conventional view of drug resistance as mostly caused by consecutive genetic changes has been replaced by new understandings of the molecular systems involved. Rather, a variety of non-genetic adaptation mechanisms have been found in experimental and clinical contexts, which complicates the results of therapy. It is essential to address these resistance mechanisms in order to increase the effectiveness of treatment. Certain genetic anomalies in cancer cells may be targeted by natural substances obtained from herbal medicine, including flavonoids, phenolic compounds, and triterpenoids. These bioactive compounds provide an innovative strategy that might aid in overcoming resistance and lessening the negative side effects connected to traditional therapies. In order to improve the efficacy of current cancer treatments while lowering dangers, researchers can create novel adjuvant medicines by using the therapeutic qualities of these natural substances. As a whole, incorporating natural substances into cancer treatment has a lot of potential to enhance treatment results and combat medication resistance, which will ultimately help create less harmful and more efficient cancer management techniques.

Keywords: Cancer epidemiology; cancer chemotherapy; chemotherapy resistance; herbal remedy

INTRODUCTION

In the twenty-first century, cancer has grown to be a significant social, public health, and economic issue. It is responsible for approximately one out of every six deaths and one out of every four deaths from noncommunicable diseases globally. In more than 100 nations, non-communication disease rank among the top three causes of mortality for people aged in middle to old age, and they are responsible for more than thirty of all premature deaths among this age group worldwide[1]. It was projected that there would be one million four hundred fifty thousand incident cases of cancer in India in 2022. One in nine people in India will get cancer at some point in their lives. The most common cancers in males and women, respectively, were lung and breast cancers. Males are more likely than females to develop lymphoid leukemia, which accounts for up to 30% of all juvenile (0–14 years old) cancers. According to predictions, the number of cancer cases would rise by about 12% in 2025 compared to 2020[2]. Genetic damage, generally acquired but occasionally congenital, is the primary cause of all malignancies. Generally speaking, Growth-promoting oncogenes and/or tumor suppressor genes that prevent growth that are deleted or rendered inactive cause the genetic dysregulation that leads to unchecked cell proliferation. Genes involved in DNA repair and those controlling apoptosis—programmed cell death—also contribute to carcinogenesis. The Knudson "2-hit" hypothesis, which holds that invasive cancer develops only after the formation of a second mutation, is the most commonly recognized explanation of cancer genesis. It states that a mutation in one predisposing gene is essential but not sufficient for malignancy[3].Adjuvant treatment, immunotherapy, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, surgery, and hormone therapy are the most often utilized cancer treatments. Stem cell transplants, endogenous angio-inhibitors, growth signal inhibitors, and medications that cause apoptosis are examples of targeted therapy. Antiangiogenic chemotherapy, nanotechnology, proteomics, and RNA expression profiling are among the next cancer treatments [4]. Chemotherapy is the use of medications that target dividing cells quickly, including cancerous cells, but also potentially harming wholesome cells as shown in Table 1.

Epidemiology of Cancer

Investigating the incidence, prevalence, and distribution of cancer in various populations is the goal of the vital field of epidemiology research. Estimates of 10 million fatalities and 19.3 million new cases globally in 2020 alone for cancer indicate that the disease is a serious public health problem, according to epidemiological research. Numerous geographic locations and ethnic groups have higher rates of some malignancies than others, and the incidence of cancer varies greatly among these groups and locales. Certain types of cancer have been connected to a number of risk factors, including hereditary and environmental variables, as well as decisions in lifestyle, such as smoking, consuming alcohol, and eating badly [6]. For the purpose of creating successful cancer preventive and treatment plans, it is vital to comprehend these risk variables. Recent years have seen a major improvement in cancer detection and therapy due to technological and scientific advancements. Still, there is a lot of work to be done to lessen the impact that cancer has on people and society as large. Our comprehension of this complicated illness and the creation of novel preventative and treatment strategies will be greatly enhanced by ongoing study in the epidemiology of cancer[7]. By 2025, it's estimated that 20 million cancer cases would occur in low and moderate incomes. The incidence of cancer has differed significantly across nations with low and moderate incomes and those with high incomes. For both men and women, the incidence ranges from 95 in every ten thousand in low and moderate incomes to over 571in every lakh in high incomes nations. The past several decades has seen a significant change in the situation in low and moderate incomes, mostly as a result of changes in routine, industrialization, population migration from rural to urban regions, and longer life expectancies. Similar increasing patterns in cancer incidence are seen in the Indian context. Because of differences in sociocultural customs and ways of living characteristics, the nation also exhibits significant heterogeneity in the prevalence and occurrence of all malignancies, particularly breast, malignancies of the stomach, esophagus, and whole expanse. There is little information available in the works on cancer epidemiology in India. Research highlighting cancer patterns and trends of occurrence as well as epidemiology are essential because they will inform the development of treatment facilities, infrastructure, and initiatives for future broadcast for a variety of malignancies. It is essential to understand the present trends and cancer burden (denominator) in India in order to plan realistic cancer treatment in the country as it gets ready for a

huge screening program for non-communicable diseases, including cancer, under the "Ayushman Bharat" initiative [8]. Around 10 million new instances of cancer are reported year worldwide, of which approx. 5 to 6 million are said to come from wealthier and less developed countries, respectively, according to recently published global data. According to estimations, out of the 19.3 million new cases of cancer that were recorded, about 10 million deaths from the disease occurred in 2020, and a 47% increase in the cancer burden is predicted worldwide by 2040. A significant obstacle to cancer prevention is the absence of cost-effective interventions, as the full spectrum of treatments, including diagnosis and screening methods, anticancer medications, chemotherapy, and surgery, is excessively costly. To prevent current and future illness associated with cancer and death, we must strengthen our health systems, especially in poor nations. It is past time for us to fund accessible cancer prevention initiatives that include informational campaigns, the introduction of healthy lifestyle choices like quitting smoking or alcohol, the teaching of self-care, and the development of long-term advanced treatment modalities combined with reasonably priced cancer medications. Reducing exposure to strong carcinogens can lessen a person's risk of developing occupational cancer. Reliable biomarkers for early diagnosis can help with curative therapy and perhaps prevent early environmental or lifestyle-induced epigenetic changes[9].

Etiology of Cancer

Cancer has a complex genesis that includes multiple processes. Among the avoidable causes of cancer in humans include exposure to environmental carcinogens, including ionizing and nonionizing radiation, chronic inflammatory diseases, and lifestyle factors, especially diet. These aetiologic factors may interact to create a cancer risk that is higher than additive, according to mounting evidence. This has been demonstrated in the cases of alcohol and tobacco in esophageal cancer and hepatocellular carcinoma caused by aflatoxin and the hepatitis B virus. By using molecular markers of exposure, biological action, and individual susceptibility in epidemiological research, it becomes easier to assess the relative contributions of various risk factors to the aetiology of a particular cancer. The link between exposure and illness will be strengthened as a result. The exact sequence of events that lead to the creation of tumors for some genotoxic carcinogens is known, starting with exposure and ending with metabolism and particular mutations in transformation-associated genes. The relationship between nutrition and hormones is one example of how poorly known the methods that carcinogens work, which include regulating intercellular signal pathways through receptors rather than directly interacting with DNA. Additionally, a growing body of knowledge indicates that a person's or a population's reaction to environmental stimulants may be significantly influenced by their genetic history. Animal investigations have long since demonstrated that the vulnerability of humans to cancer is a complicated genetic characteristic involving genes involved in DNA repair, carcinogen metabolism, and as-yet-unidentified cell-specific susceptibility genes. As a tumor grows, phenotypic changes are seen, which a result of successive genetic mutations being acquired are. Transgenic animals or knockout mice may need to express the different genes implicated in the carcinogenic process in order to evaluate the contribution of those alterations. This has brought animal experiments back to the forefront of research on cancer in the mainstream[10].

Pathogenesis and progression of cancer

The hallmark of cancer, a complicated and multidimensional disease, is the unchecked growth and dissemination of aberrant cells. Because of a number of genetic and epigenetic alterations that start in the surrounding tissues and eventually spread to distant organs, cells resist cell death, proliferate unchecked, elude normal regulatory mechanisms, and invade.

Mutational Burden and Carcinogenesis

Carcinogens: Exposure to substances such as tobacco smoke, UV light, chemicals, or viruses (such the human papilloma virus) can cause mutations that start cancer. These substances can cause direct damage to DNA or create genetic instability. Cells can get mutations over time that alter tumor suppressor or oncogene genes.

Differences between driver and passenger mutations: Although numerous mutations are often acquired by cancers, not all of them are necessary for the disease to progress. Driver mutations improve cell invasion, survival, or

proliferation, which advances the course of cancer. Passenger mutations happen by accident and don't influence the cancer phenotype[11].

The function of stem cells in cancer

Cancer stem cells (CSCs): A subset of cells seen in tumors that have characteristics similar to those of stem cells, such as self-renewal and differentiation. Because CSCs may repopulate a tumor following therapy, it is believed that they are the cause of both tumor start and recurrence. Because of their slower pace of division and improved DNA repair mechanisms, CSCs are also frequently more resistant to radiation and chemotherapy.

The Cause of Cancer: It is thought that certain cancers start from normal stem cells that have mutations, whereas other cancers could come from highly differentiated cells that revert to having stem-like characteristics[12].

Epigenetic Reprogramming in Cancer

Histone Modifications and Chromatin Remodeling: Via modifications in the proteins that encase DNA, specifically histones, cancer-related genes may be unintentionally activated or silenced. Oncogenes can be activated by aberrant methylation patterns, whereas genes that inhibit tumors are frequently silenced by the loss of histone acetylation.

MicroRNAs (miRNAs): The Gene expression is regulated post-transcriptionally is facilitated by microRNAs, which are tiny non-coding RNAs. When it comes to cancer, certain miRNAs (like miR-21) are overexpressed and suppressor genes, while other miRNAs that typically stop the expression of oncogenes are downregulated[13].

Cellular Senescence and the Escape Mechanism

Senescence: While telomere shortening and DNA damage responses control telomere lengthening, which results in a permanent growth arrest known as senescence, tumor cells avoid senescence by activating telomerase, an enzyme that lengthens telomeres and permits cells to divide indefinitely; telomerase activity is elevated in about 85% of cancers.

Evasion of Apoptosis: Cancer cells frequently acquire mutations that disable the apoptotic machinery, allowing them to survive even when severely damaged. For instance, mutations in An anti-apoptotic protein called BCL-2, or loss of pro-apoptotic proteins like BAX or PUMA, help cancer cells resist programmed cell death[14].

Metabolic Reprogramming

The metabolic processes that cancer cells go through enable them to proliferate quickly and endure in low-oxygen settings. Increased absorption of glucose and the utilization of Using glycolysis to produce energy, even when oxygen is present are part of this change, sometimes referred to as the Warburg effect. Because this energy route is inefficient and produces metabolic intermediates (such as lipids and nucleotides) required for biosynthesis, cancer cells prefer it.

Modified glutamine levels Metabolism: Glutamate is a growth-promoting amino acid that many cancer cells acquire. They utilize it to produce energy as well as a source of carbon for constructing parts of their bodies[15].

Cancer Progression

Immune System and Immune Evasion:

- **Tumor-Immune Interactions:** Cancer is a condition where the immune system has two roles. It uses NK cells, or natural killer cells and T-cell cytotoxicity, among other methods, to determine and eradicate cancerous cells. Nonetheless, cancer cells have the ability to evade immune monitoring through the expression of immunological checkpoint proteins (PD-L1, for example), which inhibit T-cell function and foster immune tolerance.
- To reduce the efficiency of immune responses, malignancies recruit regulatory T cells (Tregs) and myeloid-derived suppresser cells. Additionally, cancer cells have the ability to decrease MHC I molecule synthesis, which makes them less visible to cytotoxic T lymphocytes.

Immunoediting: Tumors evolve by a procedure called immunoediting, which consists of three stages: escape, equilibrium, and elimination. During the period of elimination, immunological cells may eradicate newly emerging cancer cells. Both the immune system and tumor cells are in the equilibrium phase achieve a state of balance,

allowing cancer cells to persist without aggressively proliferating. In the stage of escape, cancer cells obtain mutations that enable them to elude immune detection and grow uncontrollably[16].

Metastasis

Metastatic Niches: In order for cancer cells to spread to distant organs, they must locate a suitable "niche" that fosters their development and survival. According to the pre-metastatic niche theory, primary tumors communicate with distant organs by sending signals (such cytokines or exosomes) that alter their surroundings and make them more hospitable to cancer cell colonization.

Organotropism: Certain malignancies have a propensity to spread to certain organs, such as the brain or bone, as with regard to breast and lung cancer, respectively. This is believed to be caused by "seed and soil," or the inherent characteristics of the cancer cells combined with the microenvironment of the target organ[17].

Genomic Instability

Aneuploidy (abnormal chromosome number), microsatellite instability, and chromosomal abnormalities (translocations, deletions, amplifications) are examples of the growing genomic instability that malignancies display as they develop. Cancer cells can more quickly acquire mutations due to genomic instability, which makes it possible for them to respond to external stimuli like chemotherapy, hypoxia, and immunological attacks[18].

Cancer Dormancy

Cancer cells have the ability to go into a dormant phase, in which they continue to exist but not divide. A lot of cancer treatments target constantly proliferating cells, but dormant cells are immune to them. After initial treatment, years or even decades later, these latent cells may revive and cause cancer to reoccur. Developing therapies that stop recurrences requires an understanding of dormancy[19].

Treatment Resistance

- Multiple pathways of anticancer treatment as shown in Figure 1 which can lead to cancer cells becoming resistant to treatments. The overexpression of some proteins, such as P-glycoprotein (MDR1), might cause medications to be pumped out of cancer cells, hence decreasing their efficiency.
- **Personalized Care Resistance:** Cancer cells may develop secondary mutations that hinder the drug's ability to attach to its target when treated with targeted therapy (EGFR inhibitors, for example).
- **Phenotypic Plasticity:** In response to treatment, cancer cells can transition between several cellular states (such as epithelial to mesenchymal), which allows them to live and multiply[20].

Diagnosis of cancer

A variety of procedures, including imaging, pathological inspection, laboratory testing, and clinical assessment, go into diagnosing cancer. Improvements in diagnostic methods enable more precise staging, early identification, and individualized treatment plans. Below is a thorough explanation of the many cancers diagnostic kinds and the methods used for each.

Clinical Diagnosis

Patient History and Physical Examination: An extensive patient history is sometimes required for the first stage of a cancer diagnosis. This includes identifying Risk factors include things like smoking and a family history of the illness and symptoms (such as unexplained weight loss, exhaustion, or specific complaints like lumps or irregular bleeding). Palpable tumors, skin abnormalities, or organ enlargement may be found during a comprehensive physical examination[21].

Imaging Techniques

Imaging techniques help visualize tumors and assess the extent of cancer spread (metastasis). Different modalities are chosen based on cancer type and location.

X-ray: Among the most basic imaging methods, particularly helpful in identifying bone metastases or lung malignancy [22].

Computed Tomography (CT): CT scans offer more information than X-rays accurate information by providing comprehensive images of the body in cross-section. In order to diagnose cancer in the pancreas, liver, and lungs they are commonly used[23].

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI): Radio waves and Strong magnetic fields are employed in MRIs to produce precise pictures. It works especially well for tumors of the brain, spine, and soft tissues (such as sarcomas and breast cancer)[22].

Positron Emission Tomography (PET): Radioactive tracers are used in PET scans to show metabolic activity within tissues. When it comes to identifying metastatic illness and evaluating therapy response, PET is quite useful[24].

Ultrasound: low-cost, non-invasive imaging that creates pictures of inside organs using sound waves. Screening for thyroid, prostate, and breast cancer is commonly done with ultrasound[25].

Laboratory Tests

Laboratory tests analyze urine, blood, or other bodily substance to identify biomarkers for cancer or abnormal cellular activities.

Blood Tests

Complete Blood Count (CBC): White blood cells (WBC), platelets, and red blood cells(RBC) are among the several elements of blood that are measured by CBC. Variations in the data can point to bone marrow involvement or blood malignancies such as leukemia[26].

Tumor Markers: The compounds that cancerous cells or the body produces in response to malignancy are known as tumor markers.

i. Prostate-specific antigen (PSA), which is used in the procedure for screening for prostate cancer, is one example of a common marker.
ii. **CA-125:** Used to detect ovarian cancer.
iii. Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) is a marker for germ cell malignancies and liver cancer[27].

Genetic and Molecular Testing:

Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS): The identification of gene alterations like those in KRAS (colorectal cancer) and EGFR (lung cancer), and BRCA1/2 (breast cancer) is made possible by NGS, which allows for a comprehensive investigation of cancer genomes[28].

Histopathology and Biopsy

Tissue or cell samples are removed for microscopic analysis during a biopsy, the gold standard for cancer treatment diagnosis. To identify the kind, stage, and severity of cancer, pathologists evaluate the tissue. Fine Needle Aspiration (FNA): This technique, which is frequently used to remove cells from suspected lumps, involves using a fine needle to remove malignancies of the breast, thyroid, or lymph nodes. Similar to FNA, a core needle biopsy removes a tiny tissue core by using a bigger needle. This adds to the structural details of the tumor. Difference between Excisional and Incisional Biopsies: an full lump or suspicious region is removed during an excisional biopsy, whereas just a piece is removed with an incisional biopsy. When a needle cannot be used to sample the region of concern, they are utilized instead. Frozen Sectionisa sample is quickly frozen after surgery and then sliced into tiny slices so a pathologist may examine it. During a surgery, this approach aids surgeons in determining if all malignant tissue has been removed[29].

Endoscopy

Internal organs can be seen and sampled using endoscopic methods. The bodily cavities are filled with flexible tubes that contain cameras. All the possible ways to diagnosis of cancer are as depicted in figure 2.

Colonoscopy: This method looks for polyps in the colon, which might be signs of colorectal cancer.

Bronchoscopy: Enables lung cancer detection by examining the respiratory system[30].

Treatments for Cancer

Surgery

Overview: Surgical intervention involves the physical removal of tumors and surrounding tissues. It is essential to the treatment of a lot of solid cancers.

Types

Curative Surgery: Aims to remove all cancerous tissues.
Debulking Surgery: Removes a portion of the tumor to alleviate symptoms.
Palliative Surgery: Improves quality of life without curing cancer.
Indications: Often used for localized tumors in early-stage cancers.
Side Effects: Pain, infection, and recovery time [31]

Chemotherapy

Summary: Chemotherapy uses cytotoxic drugs to destroy cancerous cells or inhibit their expansion.
Mechanism: Targets cells that divide quickly, affecting cancer and some healthy cells.
Indications: Commonly used for leukemias, lymphomas, and various solid tumors.
Side Effects: tiredness, hair loss, nausea, and vomiting, and immunosuppression[32].

Radiation Therapy

Overview: Radiation treatment uses strong radiation doses to destroy or harm cancer cells..

Types

External Beam Radiation: Radiation emitted from the body's outside.
Brachytherapy: the placement of radioactive sources inside or close to the tumor.
Indications: Effective for localized cancers and sometimes used palliatively.
Side Effects: Fatigue, skin irritation, and localized pain[33].

Immunotherapy

Summary: Immunotherapy fights cancer by using the body's immune system.

Types

Inhibitors of Checkpoint: Block proteins that prevent immune attacks on tumors.
CAR T-cell Therapy: T-cells are modified to target particular cancers cells.
Indications: Particularly effective in melanoma and certain lung cancers.
Side Effects: unfavorable effects linked to the immune system, such pneumonitis and colitis[34].

Targeted Therapy

Overview: Targeted therapy attacks cancer cells by focusing on certain chemicals that contribute to the development of tumors and survival.
Mechanism: Inhibits specific pathways or genetic mutations in cancer cells.
Indications: Effective in HER2-positive breast cancer and chronic myeloid leukemia (CML).
Side Effects: Varies widely; potential liver damage and blood clotting issues[35].

Hormone Therapy

Overview: Cancers that are hormone-sensitive are treated with hormone therapy by blocking or lowering hormone levels.
Mechanism: May involve hormone receptor antagonists or aromatase inhibitors.
Indications: Common in breast and prostate tumors.
Side Effects: Hot flashes, exhaustion, and blood clot risk[36].

Stem Cell Transplant
Overview: Transplants of stem cells replenish blood-forming stem cells following intensive chemotherapy or radiation.

Types
Autologous Transplant: Utilizing the patient's own stem cells
Allogeneic Transplant: Donor stem cells are used
Indications: Commonly used in leukemia and lymphoma.
Side Effects: Graft-versus-host disease and infection[37].

Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)
Overview: Photodynamic therapy uses medications that react to light and a light source to kill cancer cells.
Mechanism: The drug becomes active in the presence of particular light wavelengths.
Indications: Often used for skin cancers and some lung cancers.
Side Effects: Photosensitivity and skin reactions[38].

Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA)
Overview: RFA kills cancer cells by heating them up using radiofrequency radiation.
Mechanism: Delivers high-frequency electrical energy to tumors.
Indications: Commonly used for liver tumors and some lung cancers.
Side Effects: Localized pain and potential damage to nearby tissues[39].

Cryotherapy
Overview: Cryotherapy involves freezing cancer cells to kill them.
Mechanism: Uses extreme cold to destroy abnormal tissues.
Indications: Often used for localized cancers, such as prostate cancer.
Side Effects: Pain and localized swelling[40].

Vaccine Therapy
Overview: Vaccines for cancer encourage the immune system to identify and combat cancerous cells.

Types
Preventive Vaccines: Strive to avoid cancer. (e.g., HPV vaccine).
Therapeutic Vaccines: Treat existing cancer (e.g., sipuleucel-T for prostate cancer).
Mechanism: Enhances the body's immune response.
Side Effects: Flu-like symptoms and localized reactions[41].

Monoclonal Antibodies
Overview: These are lab-made molecules that can attach to certain locations on cancer cells.
Mechanism: able to identify cancer cells for the immune system to destroy.
Indications: Used in various cancers, including lymphomas and breast cancer (e.g., trastuzumab for HER2-positive cancers).
Side Effects: Allergic reactions and infusion-related reactions[42].

CAR T-cell Therapy
Overview: This innovative therapy entails altering a patient's T-cells to more effectively combat cancerous cells.
Mechanism: To express the chimeric antigen, T-cells are modified receptors (CARs) that target cancer cells.
Indications: Particularly effective for hematologic cancers, such as certain leukemias and lymphomas.
Side Effects: Cytokine release syndrome and neurological effects[43].

Angiogenesis Inhibitors
Overview: These drugs inhibit the development of new blood vessels required for tumor growth.
Mechanism: Target proteins involved in blood vessel formation.
Indications: Used in countless cancers, with renal cell carcinoma and colorectal cancer.
Side Effects: Hypertension and increased risk of bleeding[44].

Palliative Care
Overview: Palliative care is aimed at helping people with life-threatening illnesses by reducing their symptoms and enhancing their quality of life.
Approach: Involves a multidisciplinary team to address physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
Indications: might be given as the primary focus or in conjunction with curative treatment.
Side Effects: No direct side effects, but helps alleviate pain and discomfort from other treatments[45]. All the possible treatments are includes in figure 3 as follows

Herbs Used in Cancer Treatment
The literature review reveals that various herbals as shown in Table 2 are used to treat the cancer such as follows:

DISCUSSION

Herbal remedies present a viable adjunctive strategy for the treatment of cancer. As a result of growing scientific support, some herbs and their components are now acknowledged for their direct anti-tumor properties as well as their efficaciousness as adjuvants to traditional treatments. Better patient outcomes and an enhanced quality of life may result from a synergistic strategy that combines evidence-based herbal medicines with contemporary medicine. The potential of herbal medicines to improve therapeutic efficacy and lessen side effects linked to traditional therapies has attracted a lot of attention to their incorporation into cancer treatment. Many bioactive substances obtained from therapeutic plants have shown anti-cancer effects by means of immunological modulation, apoptosis induction, angiogenesis inhibition, and metastasis suppression. Curcumin, a polyphenol that is isolated from Curcuma longa, has been demonstrated to cause Hodgkin's lymphoma cells to undergo apoptosis and cell cycle arrest by blocking constitutively active NF-κB and STAT3 pathways [106]. Similar to this, resveratrol, a polyphenol found in grapes, has demonstrated encouraging outcomes in preventing the development and spread of tumors by influencing pathways such as PI3K/Akt and STAT3. In animal models and cancer cell lines, other herbs like *Withania somnifera* (ashwagandha), Panax ginseng, and Camellia sinensis (green tea) also exhibit strong cytotoxic effects as depicted in table 2. The potential of herbal remedies to improve the effectiveness of traditional therapies and lessen their adverse effects is being researched more and more. Curcumin, for instance, has been demonstrated to shield healthy tissues from harm while sensitizing cancer cells to chemotherapy drugs like doxorubicin and paclitaxel. This dual effect makes it a promising adjuvant. A traditional Chinese herb called Astragalus membranaceus has been used to increase the effectiveness of platinum-based treatment for non-small cell lung cancer. According to meta-analyses, regimens containing astragalus may improve quality of life and tumor response rates while lowering treatment-related toxicity. Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is also well known for reducing nausea and vomiting brought on by chemotherapy, which greatly improves patient comfort and compliance throughout cancer treatment. As immune modulators, certain herbal remedies strengthen the body's defenses against cancerous cells. For example, ginseng, ginger, ashwagandha etc have demonstrated potential in enhancing immune surveillance, boosting natural killer (NK) cell activity, and regulating cytokine synthesis.

CONCLUSION

Herbal remedies show great promise as adjuvants to traditional treatment as well as as primary anticancer agents. To fully achieve their therapeutic potential, more thorough clinical studies and standardized formulations are necessary

as research progresses. Combining evidence-based oncology and herbal medicine may provide a more patient-centered and comprehensive approach to cancer treatment.

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Table 1: Chemotherapy treatment and their side effects: [5]

Chemotherapy Class	Example Drugs	Mechanism of Action	Common Side Effects
Alkylating Agents	Cyclophosphamide, Ifosfamide, Melphalan, Chlorambucil	Damage DNA and prevent cancer cells from reproducing	Myelosuppression, nausea and vomiting, hair loss, infertility, increased risk of secondary cancers (e.g., leukemia)
Antimetabolites	Methotrexate, 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU), Cytarabine, Gemcitabine	Replace normal DNA/RNA components, leading to defective synthesis	Mouth sores, diarrhoea, low blood counts, hand-foot syndrome, nausea
Anthracyclines	Doxorubicin (Adriamycin), Daunorubicin, Epirubicin	Disrupt DNA replication enzymes	Cardiomyopathy, myelosuppression, hair loss, nausea and vomiting, secondary cancers, red/orange urine
Topoisomerase Inhibitors	Irinotecan, Topotecan, Etoposide	Block topoisomerase enzymes, leading to DNA breakage and cell death	Diarrhoea (especially with irinotecan), myelosuppression, nausea and vomiting, fatigue
Platinum-Based Agents	Cisplatin, Carboplatin, Oxaliplatin	Cause DNA crosslinking, preventing cancer cell repair	Nephrotoxicity, ototoxicity (hearing loss), neuropathy, nausea and vomiting, myelosuppression
Taxanes	Paclitaxel, Docetaxel	Stabilize microtubules, preventing cell division	Peripheral neuropathy, neutropenia, hypersensitivity reactions, hair loss, fatigue
Antitumor Antibiotics (Non-Anthracyclines)	-	Interfere with DNA function, inhibiting cell growth	Pulmonary toxicity, skin changes, myelosuppression
Vinca Alkaloids	Vincristine, Vinblastine, Vinorelbine	Inhibit microtubule formation, necessary for cell division	Neurotoxicity, constipation, hair loss, low blood counts

Table 2: Herbals used in treatment of Cancer

Sr. No.	Plant Name	Part of Plant	MOA	Refe
1	*Curcuma longa* (Turmeric)	Rhizome	Inhibition of NF-κB; apoptosis induction	[46, 47]
2	*Withania somnifera* (Ashwagandha)	Root	Induction of apoptosis; modulation of cell cycle	[48, 49]
3	*Allium sativum* (Garlic)	Bulb	Induction of apoptosis; antioxidant properties	[50, 51]
4	*Vinca rosea* (Periwinkle)	Whole plant	Inhibition of DNA synthesis; cell cycle arrest	[52, 53]
5	*Camellia sinensis* (Green Tea)	Leaves	Inhibition of angiogenesis; induction of apoptosis	[54, 55]
6	*Boswellia serrata* (Frankincense)	Resin	Inhibition of pro-inflammatory cytokines; apoptosis	[56, 57]
7	*Rheum palmatum* (Chinese Rhubarb)	Root	Induction of apoptosis; cell cycle arrest	[58, 59]
8	*Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific Yew)	Bark	Inhibition of cell division; apoptosis	[60, 61]
9	*Panax ginseng* (Ginseng)	Root	Immunomodulation; apoptosis induction	[62, 63]
10	*Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi)[64]	Leaves	Antioxidant effects; apoptosis induction	[64, 65]

11	*Echinacea purpurea*	Aerial parts	Immune stimulation; inhibition of cancer cell growth	[66, 67]
12	*Artemisia annua* (Sweet Wormwood)	Leaves	Inhibition of cancer cell proliferation	[68, 69]
13	*Momordica charantia* (Bitter Melon)[70]	Fruit	Induction of apoptosis; modulation of metabolic pathways	[70,71]
14	*Silybum marianum* (Milk Thistle)	Seed	Antioxidant properties; modulation of drug metabolism	[72, 73]
15	*Zingiber officinale* (Ginger)	Rhizome	Antioxidant effects; apoptosis induction	[74, 75]
16	*Berberis vulgaris* (Barberry)	Bark/Root	Induction of apoptosis; cell cycle arrest	[76, 77]
17	*Urtica dioica* (Nettle)	Leaves	Antioxidant effects; inhibition of cancer cell growth	[78, 79]
18	*Ginkgo biloba*	Leaves	Antioxidant effects; inhibition of tumor growth	[80, 81]
19	*Aegle marmelos* (Bael)	Fruit	Induction of apoptosis; inhibition of cell proliferation	[82, 83]
20	*Moringa oleifera*	Leaves	Antioxidant properties; inhibition of cancer cell growth	[84, 85]
21	*Trillium erectum* (Bethroot)	Rhizome	Induction of apoptosis; cell cycle arrest	[86, 87]
22	*Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow)	Aerial parts	Inhibition of cancer cell growth; antioxidant effects	[88, 89]
23	*Lycium barbarum* (Goji Berry)	Fruit	Antioxidant properties; immune modulation	[90, 91]
24	*Passiflora incarnata* (Passionflower)	Aerial parts	Sedative effects; possible anti-tumor activity	[92, 93]
25	*Phyllanthus niruri* (Chanca Piedra)	Whole plant	Hepatoprotective; potential anti-cancer properties	[94, 95]
26	*Centella asiatica* (Gotu Kola)	Whole plant	Antioxidant effects; enhances wound healing	[96, 97]
27	*Cinnamomum verum* (Cinnamon)	Bark	Inhibition of tumor growth; antioxidant properties	[98, 99]
28	*Capsicum annuum* (Bell Pepper)	Fruit	Antioxidant effects; inhibition of cancer cell growth	[100, 101]
29	*Morus alba* (White Mulberry)	Leaves	Antioxidant effects; inhibition of cancer cell growth	[102, 103]
30	*Calendula officinalis* (Marigold)	Flowers	Anti-inflammatory; potential anti-cancer activity	[104, 105]

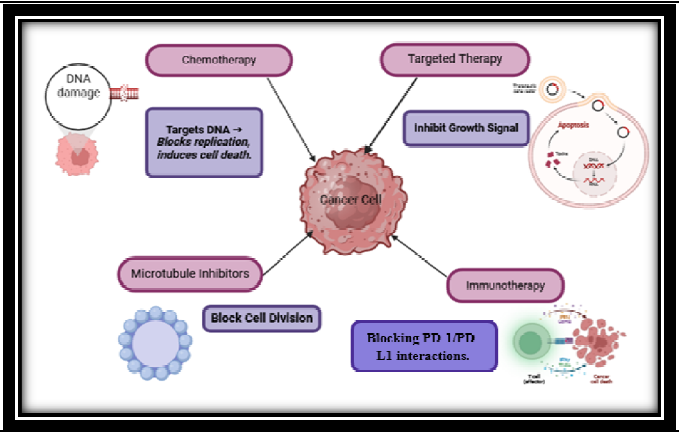


Fig: 1. MOA of anticancer Drugs

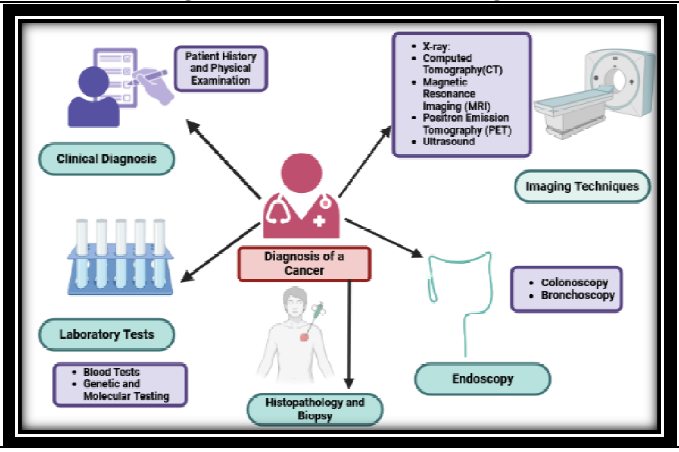


Fig: 2. Diagnosis of Cancer

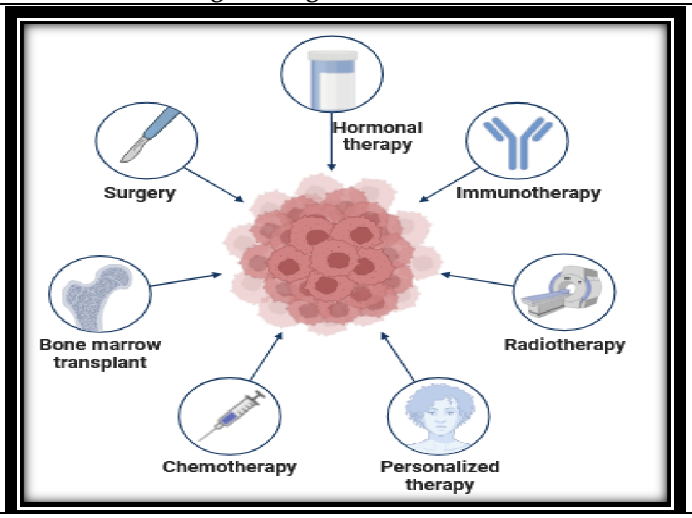


Fig : 3. Treatment of Cancer

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Radiation Awareness Survey based Study of Dental Students on Radiation Protection in SGT Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Dental radiography is the method of taking X-rays, which is the key to detecting and managing dental disorders. In 2012, more than half of the approximately 15K, operational X-ray machines were dental ones. Hence, the dentist's responsibility is to ensure that the patient avoids even the smallest unnecessary radiation dose. To assess dental students' knowledge of radiation protection at university. This prospective and cross-sectional study was conducted in university. A total of 235 participants were included in the study. A self-reported, 20-question survey with three demographic and 17 knowledge-based MCQs was distributed as hard copies. Participants had 30 minutes to complete it. The average overall response among participants was 34.8%. When asked about dental students being aware of the risks associated with dental X-rays, most (72.3%) participants agreed that dental X-rays are harmful. This study shows that participants' knowledge of radiation biology and radiation protection could have been better. Hence, to enhance awareness regarding ionizing radiation and its safety, more Workshops should be conducted, and training sessions before they will work independently.

Keywords: Dental students, awareness, radiation hazards, radiation protection, radiobiology.

INTRODUCTION

Dental Radiography

Dental radiography, is the key to detecting and managing dental disorders[1]. In 2012, approximately 15K operational X-ray machines were dental ones [2]. According to estimates, 45%, patients require radiographs for a diagnosis [3]

History

Ionizing radiation has enough power to knock one orbital electron out of an atom, example X-rays [4]. German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen had developed the concept of X-RAYS in 1895 [5].

Radio-Biology

The study of effect of radiation on biological systems is known as radiobiology. Ionizing radiation has both direct and indirect effects [6].

The biological effects of ionizing radiation may be divided into two groups

- Deterministic effects
- Stochastic effects [7] Figure1.1 [8]

Radiation Protection

There are three fundamental concepts in radiation protection, beginning with justification, followed by optimization principle and dosage limitation, called ALARA principle [10]. The average radiation dosage the general public receives yearly is 2.5 mSv [11].

Radiation Protection Guidelines

For safety provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 in India is the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. [2]This study aimed to evaluate the knowledge of dental students on radiation protection, with the objective of assessing and analyzing the understanding of ionizing radiation and its protection among dental undergraduate and postgraduate students.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This prospective and cross-sectional study was conducted in SGT Hospitals, Dental Building, India. The study commenced after receiving ethical approval from the Institutional Ethical Committee on 4 October 2022. All procedures performed in this study adhered to the ethical principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki ensuring voluntary participation, informed consent, confidentiality, and the protection of respondents' rights and well-being. In this study, there was total 235 participants, in which 178 were dental undergraduate students and 57 were dental post-graduate students. The data collection for the study was conducted over a period from November 2022 to April 2023.The self-reported questionnaire was made which were approved by the competent authority of department, and hard copies were distributed among the participants and 30 minutes was given to them for completing the questionnaire and after the time was over the paper were handed-over to researcher. Before the individuals filled out the questionnaire, their informed consent was obtained. The result was analyzed manually. The questionnaire consists of 20 questions, in which the first 3 questions asked about demographic details like gender, age and qualification. Further 17 questions were knowledge based which include MCQs (multiple-choice questions). In addition, for the correct responses, they were given 1 mark, and 0 for incorrect/ non-attempted questions. The participants were asked about, the eye's lens set Annual Occupational Dose Equivalent Limit. They were also asked about, the adult human cell types with the highest radiosensitivity. The next part included, questions regarding radio-biology, like Early symptoms of acute radiation syndrome. Further, they were also asked about the, Stochastic effect of radiation as well as the free radicle which is created as a result of the target molecule's interaction with ionizing radiation. The next part included the questions regarding radiation protection. They were asked about,

which personnel monitoring tool is thought to be the most precise and sensitive for use in diagnostic radiography, and moreover, the year in which International Commission on Radiological Protection(ICRP) was found.

RESULT

In this study, data collected with the help of questionnaire form filling by dental undergraduate students and post-graduate students. Total 235 students participated in this study in which 178 students are undergraduate (second year:54, third year:54, final year:70) and 57 are post-graduate students from different dental departments, among the participants 78% were female, while 22% were male. The questionnaire consisted of 20 questions, of which the first 3 questions were about demographic data (gender, age, qualification), and the remaining 17 questions were used to assess the knowledge of dental students. The average of overall response among participants was 34.8%. Among the students assessed, 147 (the majority) scored below 40%, indicating poor knowledge. A total of 70 students demonstrated a moderate understanding, falling within the 40%-50% range, categorized as good. Only 18 students achieved an excellent level, scoring between 50%-70%, highlighting a smaller group with relatively higher proficiency. The result of present study shows the knowledge of dental students regarding radio-biology, radiation-hazards and use of radiation protection devices.

Table No. 1: Shows the total correct and incorrect answer as per questions.

Question1-3.
GENDER
a. Male
b. Female

AGE
a. 17-20yrs
b. 20-22yrs
c. 22-25yrs
d. Age above 25

Education level in dental field
a. Undergraduate
b. Intern
c. Post- graduate

GRAPH NO: 4.2 Shows percentage of male and females
GRAPH NO: 4.3 Shows the percentage of second year, third year and final year undergraduate students**.**
Table. 2 Shows the number of students, under different scales knowledge

DISCUSSION

According to the study done by Rathi Rela, in which107 students participated, (49 were male and rest 58 were female, as well as 44 were undergraduate students, 24 were females and 20 were male, also interns 52 30 were females, and 22 were males, and lastly, 11 were post-graduate students in which seven were female and four were male). The mean age of participants was 23.4 years[12]. while the study by Ashish Bhaskar Zope *et al*. shows that interns have adequate awareness of radiation protection techniques. A total of 115 trainee dentists pursuing internships participated, of which 90 were females, and 25 were males [13]. The study done by Soha Mohamed Ali Basha shows that recently graduating dentists from Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are moderately competent regarding IR doses and associated safety precautions. The study found that recently graduating dentists are not aware of or

knowledgeable about IR protective measures. Dentists from Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supplied answers with a median accuracy rate of 56.9% and 67.4%, respectively. For respondents from Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the complete percentage of accurate answers varied between 40.2-71.2% and 45.4-81.4%, respectively. For each of the 17 items, the odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals revealed no statistically significant link between the responses from respondents from Egypt and Saudi Arabia [14]. The study by M. Nazargi Mahabob found that approximately 89.7% of the participants alleged dental X-rays were detrimental, while the remaining 10.3% sensed that they were not. Also, it was observed that 81% of the participants knew about the yearly radiation dose border for a dentist, and 56% were attentive of the harmful effects of radiation exposure. When asked about the ALARA principle, 70.7% of the participants answered positively, indicating that they acknowledged the principle and considered it before recommending radiographs [15]. The study done by Shahad Dhurgham Ali found that the overall correct response was 79%. Interns responded with 92% correct answers, fourth-year students 86%, and third-year students 60% [16]. In the present study, 183 (78%) were females, and 52 (22%) were males. When they were asked about the awareness related to the harmfulness of dental X-rays, 72.3% (in which 68.5% were undergraduate students and 84% were post-graduate students) participants agreed that dental X-rays are harmful, remaining (27.6%), participants denied the statement. However, only 15.3% (in which 17% were undergraduates and 8% were post-graduates) of participants know about public exposure to ionizing radiation from medical sources, remaining 84.6% have yet to learn. Only 14% (in which 11.7% were undergraduates and 19% were post-graduates) of participants know that lymphocytes are the most sensitive cell type in adult humans, the remaining 85.9% have yet to learn about this. Furthermore, 66.38% (64% were undergraduates and 70% were post-graduates) of participants know that the stochastic effect of radiation is the late effect, remaining 33.61% have no idea about this. Only 35.31% (34.8% were undergraduates and 35% were post-graduates) of participants know that nausea or vomiting are the early symptoms of acute radiation syndrome, while 64.6% have no idea. Only 24.68% (21.9% were undergraduates and 31.5% were post-graduates) of participants know that the huge dose to the whole body at one time is potentially the most harmful radiation situation, remaining 75.31% have yet to learn. Only 28.51% (28% were undergraduates and 28% were post-graduates) of participants had the idea that focal-spot size does not affect the patient dose. However, 71.4% had yet to learn about this. When the participants asked about, which is the natural background radiation contributing to whole-body radiation, only 39.14% (38.7% were undergraduates and 38.5% were post-graduates) of participants answered it correctly; the rest, 60.85%, had yet to learn about this. A total of 45.95% (44.9% were undergraduates and 47% were post-graduates) of participants knew the effective means of reducing radiation exposure; the rest, 54.1%, had yet to learn.

Future Recommendation

1. To address these gaps, it is recommended to introduce focused modules on radiation safety into dental education curriculums.
2. Organizing regular workshops and hands-on training sessions on radiation protection techniques is essential to enhance practical understanding.

Limitations

1. Limited knowledge among participants on critical aspects of radiation protection, including ALARA and stochastic effects.
2. Variability in awareness levels across geographical regions and demographic groups, limiting generalizability.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the knowledge about radiation-biology and radiation protection was not satisfactory among participants who have responded to the questionnaire. Hence, to enhance the awareness regarding ionizing radiation and its protection, more Workshops should be conducted as well as training sessions before they will work independently. Use of personal protective devices on regular basis should be included in practice.

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Nil.

Conflicts of Interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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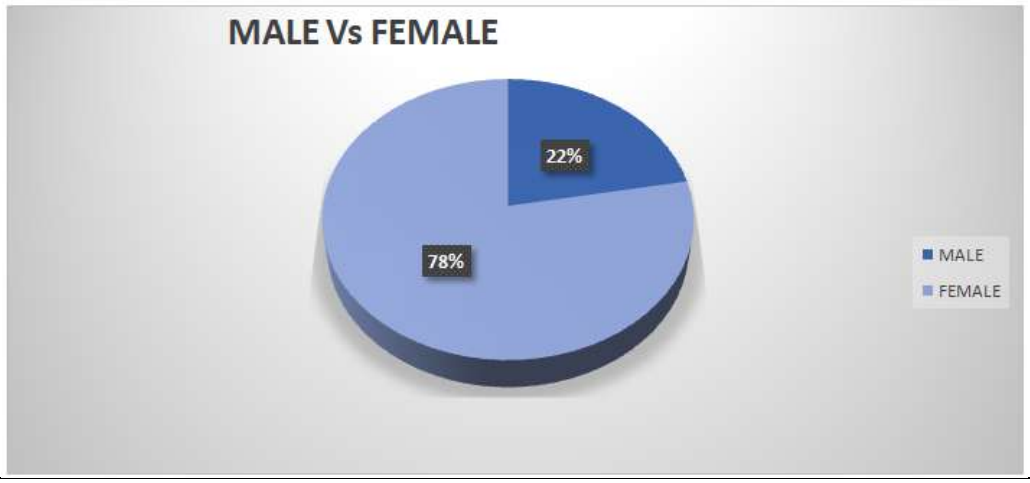
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Table No. 1: Shows the total correct and incorrect answer as per questions.

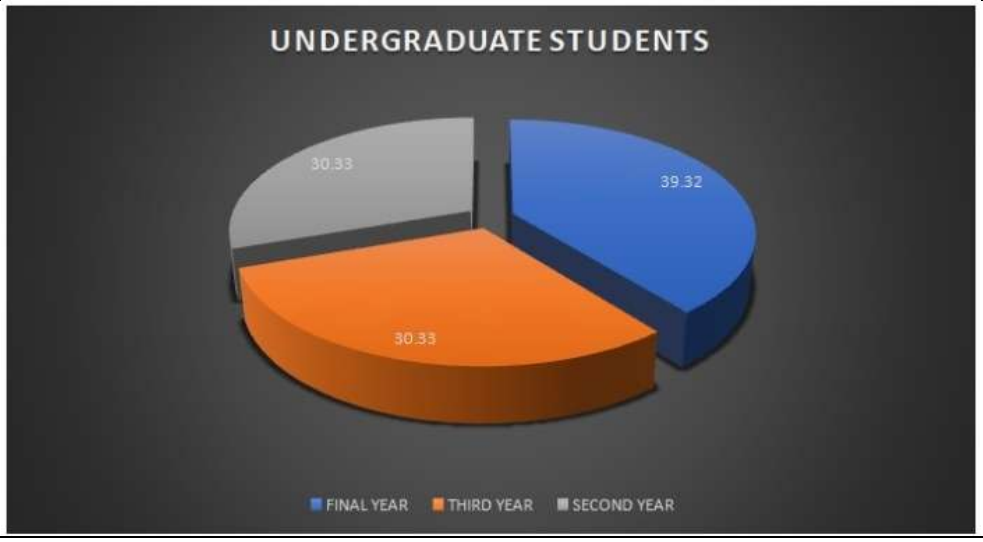
QUESTION	CORRECT NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	INCORRECT NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
4. Dental x-ray is harmful	170	72.30%	65	27.60%
5. Diagnostic x-ray may be correctly described as:	35	14.80%	200	85.10%
6. What percentage of public exposure to ionizing radiation is from medical sources:	36	15.30%	199	84.60%
7. What is the established annual occupational dose equivalent limit for the lens of the eye:	109	46.38%	126	53.61%
8. Which of the following cell types has the greatest radiosensitive in the adult human:	33	14%	202	85.90%
9. Late effects of radiation, whose incidence is dose related and for which there is no threshold dose are referred to as:	32	13.60%	203	86.30%
10. Stochastic effect of radiation is those that:	156	66.38%	79	33.61%
11. Which interaction between ionizing radiation and the target molecule involves formation of a free radicle:	84	35.74%	151	64.20%
12. Early symptoms of acute radiation syndrome include:	83	35.31%	152	64.60%
13. Which acute radiation syndrome requires the largest exposure before the associated effects become apparent:	92	39.10%	143	60.85%
14. Which of the following radiation situation is potentially the most harmful:	58	24.68%	177	75.31%
15. Which of the following personnel monitoring device used in diagnostic radiography is considered to be the most sensitive and accurate:	78	33.10%	157	66.80%
16. All of the following have an effect on patience dose expect:	67	28.51%	168	71.40%
17. ICRP is found in which year:	97	41.27%	138	58.70%
18. Sources of natural background radiation contributing to whole body radiation dose include:	92	39.14%	143	60.85%
19. All of the following function to reduce patient dose expect:	62	26.38%	173	73.61%
20. Which of the following can be an effective means of reducing radiation exposure:	108	45.95%	127	54%

Table. 2: Shows the number of students, under different scales knowledge.

SCALE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
POOR <40%	147
GOOD 40%-50%	70
EXCELLENT 50%-70%	18



Graph No. 1: Shows percentage of male and females



Graph No. 2: Shows the percentage of second year, third year and final year undergraduate students.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Spectral and DFT Analysis of (*E*)-3-(4-Isopropylphenyl) -1- (4-Methylthiophenyl) Prop-2-en-1-one

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ABSTRACT

For the present study, the author has choosen a novel chalcone (4METIP) derived from 4-isopropyl benzaldehyde with 4-thiomethylacetphenone by stirring method which yielded about 78% of product. The formation of present compound is confirmed by IR and NMR spectra. Furthermore, the computational calculations for the title compound were carried out using the density functional theory (DFT) method with B3LYP hybrid functional and 6-311++G(d,p) basis set. The structural parameters like bond lengths, bond angles and dihedral angles were obtained from the optimized molecular geometry and discussed. This structural analysis shows that the 4METIPmolecules has a non-planar structure and possess C1 point group symmetry. The NBO, frontier molecular orbital, molecular electrostatic surface potential and global chemical reactivity parameters for the titled molecule in the gas phase were reported and discussed. Based on the results, the synthesized molecule possesses a good strength and kinetic stability. The hyperpolarizability is greater than urea and pointed as good NLO material.

Keywords: 4'-methylthiophenyl-prop-2-en-1-one, IR and NMR spectra, DFT analysis, Molecular optimization, NBO calculation, NLO prediction and Mulliken charges.

INTRODUCTION

1,3-diarylpro-2-en-1-ones or chalcones are important from the perspective of medicinal as well as synthetic chemistry. They are being the building blocks for the synthesis of pharmacologically active agents [1] as well as synthesis of novel organic molecules. Hence, they seek interest in view of synthetic organic chemists. Chalcones are naturally occurring derivative of the parent compound α,β- unsaturated ketone of the type 1,3-diarylprop-2-en-1-one belong to the flavonoid family. Chemically they are open chain flavonoids [2] in which two aromatic rings are held together by a three carbon enone (-CO-CH=CH-) moiety. In addition, chalcones have interesting optical properties including non-linear optical responses [3] and these chalcones have potential applications in the areas of photonics, optoelectronics, optical information processing, frequency conversion and telecommunication. The non-linearty of the chalcone is due to the delocalization of π-electron system connecting donor-acceptor system across the molecule [4]. Claisen-schmidt condensation [5] is known to be one of the most classical organic reaction through which chalcones can be synthesized. The presence of alkene group in conjugation with carbonyl functionality is the principal reason behind the biological activities of chalcones [6]. Generally, they exhibited several biological properties like antimicrobial [7], anti-insect feedents [8], anti-malarial [9], antidiabetic [10], antiviral [11],anti-cancer [12], etc. They are prepared by the reaction of respective ketones with benzaldehydes via crossed Aldol-condensation reaction. The titled compound has been synthesized in-order to study its IR and NMR spectral analysis. The gas phase theoretical study has been ascertained for the compound using DFT calculations with B3LYP/6311++(d,p) basis set [13]. The structure is optimized and its chemical reactivity and reactive sites are identified from HOMO-LUMO energies along withMulliken charges. The NLO behavior of the titled molecule also measured.

Experimental

Preparation of (*E*)-3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-1-(4-methylthiophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (4METIP)

As per the various synthetic strategies available in literature, the present compound is prepared by stirring method. Hence, the 4-isopropylbenzaldehyde and 1-(4-methylthiophenyl)ethanone are taken as equal ratio and dissolved in 20ml of absolute ethanol with few drops of 10% NaOH solution was added [14] (Scheme-1). It was stirred for 6 hrs and the completion of the reaction is checked by TLC method. After completion of the reaction, the product is poured in ice water, filtered and recrystallized in hot ethanol.

Scheme-1

Spectral data of the titled compound

Pale yellow solid; m.p. 124 °C; FT-IR (KBr; cm^{-1}): 2915.53, 2620.90, 1666.19 (carbonyl), 1596.77 (C=C), 1502.28, 1133.94 (CH_{ip}), 738.60 (CH_{op}), 1076.08 (CH=CH_{op}), 557.32 (C=C_{op}); δ^1Hppm (400 MHz; Choloroform-d): 8.026 (d, 2H), 7.772 (d, $1H_\alpha$, J = 15.6Hz), 7.586 (d. 2H), 7.444 – 7.391 (m, 5H), 7.353 (d, $1H_\beta$, J = 15.6Hz), 7.007 – 6.956 (m, 4H), 5.093 (s, 2H), 3.868 (3, 3H); δ^{13}Cppm (100 MHz; Choloroform-d): 188.71 (carbonyl), 163.27, 160.65, 143.72 (C_α), 136.44, 131.33, 130.69, 130.10, 128.15, 128.04, 119.66 (C_β), 115.25, 113.78, 70.78, 55.56.

Computational details

All density functional theory (DFT) calculations were carried out in Gaussian-09 without any constraints on molecular geometry. The molecular structures were optimized at the B3LYP level with the 6-311++G(d,p) basis set. The optimized geometries were visualized using Gauss View 5.01. To identify potential reactive regions within the molecules, molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) maps were generated at the same theoretical level. Mulliken atomic charges were subsequently calculated using the optimized structures and the identical 6-311++G(d,p) basis set. All computations were performed in the gas phase.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemistry

The 4METIP molecule was synthesized via the Claisen–Smith condensation reaction and the best yield (78%) was gotten. The synthesized 4METIP molecule was characterized by FT-IR, ^{13}C NMR, and ^{1}H-NMR spectroscopy, and the findings were correlated with literature data. In the FT-IR spectra of synthesized chalcone, the appearance of peaks in the range of 2954-2868 cm^{-1} due to Ar-CH stretching vibrations. The intense peak at 1660.71 $cm^{-1}$is due to νCO stretching. The carbonyl peak was observed at a lower wave number than a normal ketone carbonyl peak in the infrared spectra due to the existence of a ketonic carbonyl group conjugated with the olefinic carbon–carbon bond. The oleficinic group (-C=C-) is observed at 1597.06 cm^{-1}. The ^{1}H NMR coupling constant analyses indicated that hydrogen atoms of the olefinic carbon–carbon bond were in a *trans* configuration (J approximately 15 Hz). The ^{13}C NMR signal at approximately 188.71 ppm in the synthesized compound concerns to α,β-unsaturated carbonyl carbon. Despite the fact that the ketone absorbs approximately 200 ppm, the existence of unsaturation leads a slight uprooting to the high field, and the reasonable cause is charge delocalization by the benzene ring or by the double bond, which makes the carbonyl carbon less electron deficient.

Computational Study

Molecular optimization study

Figure 1 illustrates the optimized molecular geometry of 4METIP compound, obtained through DFT calculations using the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory [15]. The structure exhibits a non-centrosymmetric and asymmetrical arrangement, falling under the C_1 point group, indicating the absence of any symmetry elements except identity. The geometry Figure optimization reveals a conjugated system where the α,β-unsaturated carbonyl group links two aromatic rings, contributing to molecular planarity and potential intramolecular interactions. The methoxy group at the para-position and the isopropyl substituent influence electronic distribution and steric conformation, possibly impacting reactivity and binding affinity in biological systems. The total electronic energy of the optimized structure is calculated as–886.4811 atomic units (a.u.), confirming the molecule's stable configuration under the chosen computational conditions. The 4METIP molecule was analysed in the current examination using the density functional theory method with a B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) basis set to build up different structural and chemical parameters. 4METIP is a non-planer molecule with C1 point group symmetry, as predicted by the DFT analysis. Figure-1 depicts the optimized molecular structure. The data presented in Table 1 provide comprehensive insights into the structural features of the 4METIP molecule, as optimized using DFT at the B3LYP/6-311++G(d,p) level. The observed aromatic C–C bond lengths fall within the typical range for delocalized π-systems, reinforcing the presence of benzene-like conjugation across the aromatic rings [16]. The enone linkage, defined by the C8=C9 and C7=O10 bonds, exhibits partial delocalization, consistent with the extended conjugation commonly found in chalcone analogs [17]. The thiomethyl group displays a C4–S41 bond length of 1.838 Å and a slightly longer S41–C17 bond of 1.885 Å, which may be attributed to resonance-induced π-character, indicating a degree of electron delocalization within the sulfur moiety. Bond angles approximating 120° around the aromatic rings support sp^2 hybridization, whereas the reduced angle at C14–C19–C20 (111.89°) is likely influenced by steric interactions from the bulky isopropyl group. Dihedral angle variations, such as 117° for C13–C14–C19–C20 and 61° for C4–S41–C17–H32, highlight torsional strain and a departure from planarity, especially within the alkyl and sulfur-containing side chains. Altogether, the molecule presents a structurally rigid π-conjugated core with flexible substituents that may modulate its physicochemical behavior, potentially enhancing its biological interaction capabilities [18].The bond length and bond angle data of 4METIP are given in Table-1. In 4METIP compound, all the phenyl C-C bond lengths are observed ~1.4A°, the carbonyl bond (C7-O10) length is 1.260 Å and olefinic bond length (C8-C9) is 1.350 Å. All other bond length values are showing good agreement with the structure of the titled molecule. The bond angle between C13-C14-C19 bonds is 120° and C3-C4-S41 is 116°. Form Table-1, the methoxy group slightly deviated from phenyl group and the isopropyl group is lied in planar with chalcone. Similarly, other bond angle data are rightly matching with the various bond angles of titled molecule. The dihedral angle for C7-C8-C9-C11is calculated as 180° which indicates the *E*-conformation of molecule.

NLO properties

Nonlinear optical materials exhibit a wide range of applications [19], their exceptional properties such as optical switching, modulation, and frequent frequency shifting. For example, the calculated total dipole moment (μ_{tot}) of 4METIP is 5.3205 D. A higher dipole moment signifies greater electron density, which enhances charge–transfer capabilities [20]. Consequently, increased dipole moment correlates with elevated first polarizability, a key indicator of superior NLO performance [21]. In the case of our synthesized compound, the computed linear polarizability (α_{tot}) and hyperpolarizability (β_0) are 21.76×10^{-24} esu and 2.489×10^{-30} esu, respectively. Notably, this polarizability exceeds that of standard urea (Table 2). Therefore, we conclude that the synthesized compound is an excellent candidate for nonlinear optical applications.

Frontier molecular orbital

The optoelectronic characteristics of the title compound were evaluated using Frontier Molecular Orbital (FMO) analysis via B3LYP/6-31++G(d,p) calculations. By examining FMOs, specifically the highest occupied (HOMO) and lowest unoccupied (LUMO) that one can gain valuable insights into the optoelectronic behavior of organic systems [22]. The HOMO primarily serves as the electron donor, while the LUMO, being the lowest-energy vacant orbital, acts as the electron acceptor. Notably, the HOMO energy reflects the molecule's electron-donating ability: the higher the HOMO value, the stronger its tendency to donate electrons. The energy gap ΔE= 3.794eV between the HOMO and LUMO orbital's (Table-3) indicates the reactivity and stable structure of molecule. As shown in Figure-2, HOMO is predominantly occupy the central α,β-unsaturated ketone and aldehydic phenyl moieties except the benzyloxymoiety. In the HOMO plot, the electron density is predominantly located on the thiomethyl-substituted phenyl (donor) ring, as well as the α–β unsaturated C=C–C=O moiety, highlighting strong π-bonding character across the conjugated bridge up to the carbonyl. This reflects effective electron-donating ability concentrated on the donor side. In contrast, the LUMO is shifted toward the isopropyl-substituted phenyl (acceptor) ring, while still extending over the enone region, indicating pronounced π* localization at the carbonyl and acceptor aryl moiety. This separation confirms a classic push–π–pull arrangement, where electron density upon excitation migrates from donor through bridge to the acceptor. The spatial HOMO–LUMO segregation supports significant intramolecular charge transfer upon excitation and suggests a relatively small HOMO–LUMO gap, consistent with the expected red-shifted absorption and enhanced non-linear optical (NLO) potential of the molecule. Density functional theory based global chemical reactivity descriptors like Chemical hardness, chemical softness, electronegativity, chemical potential, electrophilicity index etc. are calculated from HOMO and LUMO energies using Koopmans theorem [22, 23] are given in Table 4. Global chemical reactivity descriptors used to understand the relationship between structure, stability and global chemical reactivity of compounds. In accordance with the HSAB principle, normally the molecule with least value of globalhardness is expected to have the highest inhibition efficiency [24]. In our present study, it isclear from the calculation that the 4METIP compound having the lowest hardness valueand highest softness value suggest that more reactive and expected to be the bestinhibitor [25]. Form Table-3, our studies revealed that present molecule has a higher global electrophilicity index (4.781 eV), signifying that it is more likely to accept electrons and nucleophilic attack. The calculated chemical potential(-4.249 eV) and the electrophilicity index indicate that the 4METIP molecule possesses excellent chemical strength and stability. Additionally, the title compound has high electrophilicity index which highlights the biological activity of the compound [26].

NBO analysis

The Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis of the METIP compound, as presented in Table 4, reveals a robust network of donor–acceptor interactions, which play a critical role in the electronic stability and conjugative nature of the molecule. Among the most significant π→π* transitions, the interaction from π(C1–C6) to π*(C7–O10) shows a stabilization energy of 97.99 kJ/mol, while π(C4–C5) → π*(C1–C6) exhibits the highest energy at 101.63 kJ/mol. Additionally, π(C8–C9) → π*(C7–O10) (98.49 kJ/mol) and π(C12–C13) → π*(C14–C15) (90.83 kJ/mol) confirm strong electron delocalization across the enone system and aromatic rings. These elevated stabilization energies surpass those typically reported for conventional chalcones (generally <90 kJ/mol) [27,28], indicating extended conjugation in 4METIP. This extended delocalization is further supported by other π→π* interactions such as π(C11–C16) → π*(C14–C15) (81.08 kJ/mol) and π(C14–C15) → π*(C11–C16) (97.73 kJ/mol), illustrating a robust conjugated π-

system.In addition to π→π* transitions, several notable n→π* and n→σ* interactions contribute to the molecule's stabilization. The lone pair on the sulfur atom (S41) donates to π*(C4–C5) with a stabilization energy of 70.08 kJ/mol, suggesting resonance-enhanced electron donation. Similarly, lone pair donation from O10 to σ*(C1–C7) and σ*(C7–C8) registers at 67.73 and 68.03 kJ/mol, respectively, highlighting strong n→σ* hyperconjugative interactions. These lone pair interactions are crucial in stabilizing the molecular framework and may influence the electronic distribution, reactivity, and molecular recognition capabilities of 4METIP.Compared to typical chalcone derivatives, which often show delocalization limited to the enone and phenyl regions, 4METIP demonstrates broader electron delocalization facilitated by the presence of sulfur and oxygen atoms acting as effective lone pair donors [29]. This enhanced conjugation and hyperconjugative stabilization likely improves the compound's chemical reactivity and potential biological efficacy, aligning with previous NBO-supported findings on related systems. Overall, the NBO results underline the molecule's strong internal stabilization, which may play a critical role in its interaction with biological macromolecules.

Mulliken atomic charges and molecular electrostatic potential studies

Mulliken atomic charge analysis plays a significant role in understanding molecular behavior through quantum chemical approximations, particularly regarding atomic charge influence, dipole moments, polarizability, and electronic structure [30]. The charge distribution across atoms highlights potential donor–acceptor pairs that facilitate intramolecular charge transfer. In this study, Mulliken population analysis of the 4METIP molecule was performed at the B3LYP level using the 6-311++G(d,p) basis set, as summarized in Table 5 and visualized in Figure 3, reveals distinct regions of electron accumulation and depletion, which are critical for understanding the molecule's reactivity profile. The results reveal that all hydrogen atoms carry positive charges, while carbon atoms exhibit both positive and negative charge values [31]. The most electronegative center is the carbonyl oxygen (O10), bearing a significant negative charge of –0.392 a.u., indicating its role as a primary electron-rich site likely involved in hydrogen bonding or nucleophilic interactions. Carbon atoms such as C4 (–0.233 a.u.), C18 (–0.153 a.u.) and C1 (–0.137 a.u.) also exhibit negative charges, suggesting enhanced electron density due to conjugation with π-systems or adjacency to electronegative atoms. In contrast, strongly positive charges are observed on C7 (0.174 a.u.), C14 (0.109 a.u.) and S41 (0.280 a.u.), the latter reflecting partial electron deficiency on sulfur, likely influenced by resonance delocalization with the aromatic system. The combination of electron-rich and electron-poor regions across the molecule creates a polar distribution, which may significantly affect its chemical reactivity and interaction with biological targets. Overall, the Mulliken charge analysis supports the presence of an extended conjugated framework and polar functional groups that contribute to the electrophilic and nucleophilic character of 4METIP.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, a *para*-substituted isopropyl based chalcone (4METIP) has been prepared by adopting stirring method. It has been characterized by ther IR and NMR spectra. A comparative study on experimental and theoretical investigations on the optimized structure was found to be in good agreement for the title molecule. The significant variation in HOMO-LUMO energies supports polarization within the molecule and further the high electrophilicity index and least value of softness confirms the 4METIP is biologically active. Mulliken calculations reveal the positive and negative sites within the molecule. Due to its high polarizability and hyperpolarizability than urea, it is stated as good NLO material.

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Table-1. Selected bond parameters of 4METIP

Bond length (A°)		Bond angle (°)		Dihedral angle (°)	
C1-C2	1.410	C1-C2-C3	121.00	C5-C6-C1-C7	-180
C2-C3	1.388	C2-C3-C4	119.97	C6-C1-C7-C8	-180
C3-C4	1.401	C3-C4-C5	120.08	C1-C7-C8-C9	-180
C4-C5	1.402	C4-C5-C6	119.34	C7-C8-C9-C11	-180
C5-C6	1.392	C6-C1-C7	117.83	C9-C11-C12-C13	180

C1-C7	1.489	C1-C7-C8	120.06	C2-C3-C4-S41	180
C7-C8	1.475	C7-C8-C9	120.69	C3-C4-S41-C17	180
C8-C9	1.350	C1-C7-O10	119.49	C12-C13-C14-C19	-180
C7-O10	1.260	C8-C9-C11	128.07	C13-C14-C19-C20	117
C9-C11	1.461	C9-C11-C12	123.68	C13-C14-C19-C21	-117
C11-C12	1.409	C11-C12-C13	120.89	C6-C1-C2-H22	-180
C12-C13	1.391	C12-C13-C14	121.49	C1-C2-C3-H23	-180
C13-C14	1.405	C13-C14-C15	117.73	C3-C4-C5-H24	180
C14-C15	1.404	C14-C15-C16	121.00	C4-C5-C6-H25	-180
C15-C16	1.392	C3-C4-S41	116.52	C11-C12-C13-H27	180
C4-S41	1.838	C4-S41-C17	102.99	C13-C14-C15-H28	180
S41-C17	1.885	C13-C14-C19	120.70	C14-C15-C16-H29	-180
C14-C19	1.524	C14-C19-C20	111.89	C4-S41-C17-H32	61
C19-C20	1.545	C14-C19-C21	111.89	C4-S41-C17-H33	180
C19-C21	1.545	C1-C2-H22	120.80		
C2-H22	1.080	C2-C3-H23	121.62		
C3-H23	1.080	C4-C5-H24	121.09		
C5-H24	1.080				

Table. 2: The molecular electric dipole moment μ (Debye), polarizability (α_0) and hyperpo- larizability (β_0)of 4METIPby DFT method

Dipole vector components	**Dipole moment, μ (Debye)**	**Parameters**	**Hyperpolarizability**
μ_x	-0.0549	β_{xxx}	275.734
μ_y	-5.2501	β_{xxy}	-39.119
μ_z	0.8609	β_{xyy}	8.060
μ_{total}	5.3205	β_{yyy}	-44.000
Parameters	**Polarizability**	β_{xxz}	65.545
α_{xx}	-111.37	β_{xyz}	-1.621
α_{xy}	-4.63	β_{yyz}	-10.364
α_{yy}	-163.99	β_{xzz}	-17.307
α_{xz}	4.54	β_{yzz}	-10.055
α_{yz}	5.27	β_{zzz}	2.243
α_{zz}	-165.06	$\beta_{\tau o \tau}(\alpha.\upsilon)$	288.087
$<\alpha>$ (a.u)	146.81	β_o(esu) x 10^{-30}	2.489
α_{tot} (esu) x 10^{-24}	21.76		

Table-3 Electronic and Global descriptor's of 4METIP

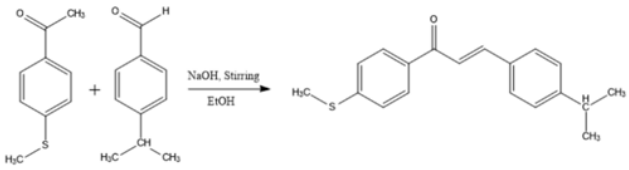
Electronic Parameters	**4METIP**
E_{HOMO} (eV)	-6.136
E_{LUMO} (eV)	-2.361
Energy gap (eV)	3.775
Ionization energy (I)	6.136
Electron affinity (A)	2.361
Global reactivity parameters	
Global hardness (η)	1.888
Chemical potential (μ)	-4.249
Electrophilicity index (ω)	4.781
Chemical softness (s)	0.530

Table. 4: Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis of METIP

Donar		Acceptor		E^2(KJ/mol)
π	C 1 - C 6	π*	C 2 - C 3	96.232
π	C 1 - C 6	π*	C 4 - C 5	76.81824
π	C 1 - C 6	π*	C 7 - O 10	97.98928
π	C 2 - C 3	π*	C 1 - C 6	68.78496
π	C 2 - C 3	π*	C 4 - C 5	95.93912
π	C 4 - C 5	π*	C 1 - C 6	101.62936
π	C 4 - C 5	π*	C 2 - C 3	67.19504
σ	C 5 - C 6	σ*	C 4 - O 17	20.41792
σ	C 6 - H 25	σ*	C 1 - C 2	20.16688
π	C 8 - C 9	π*	C 7 - O 10	98.49136
π	C 8 - C 9	π*	C 11 - C 16	50.54272
σ	C 9 - H 31	σ*	C 8 - H 30	23.4304
σ	C 9 - H 31	σ*	C 11 - C 12	20.83632
π	C 11 - C 16	π*	C 8 - C 9	74.72624
π	C 11 - C 16	π*	C 12 - C 13	84.64232
π	C 11 - C 16	π*	C 14 - C 15	81.08592
π	C 12 - C 13	π*	C 11 - C 16	79.45416
π	C 12 - C 13	π*	C 14 - C 15	90.83464
π	C 14 - C 15	π*	C 11 - C 16	97.73824
π	C 14 - C 15	π*	C 12 - C 13	78.2408
σ	C 19 - H 35	σ*	C 14 - C 15	20.45976
n	O 10	σ*	C 1 - C 7	67.73896
n	O 10	σ*	C 7 - C 8	68.03184
n	S41	π*	C 4 - C 5	70.082
n	S41	σ*	C 18 - H 32	15.3573
n	S41	σ*	C 18 - H 34	15.7345

Table. 5: Mulliken population charges of 4METIP by DFT method

Atoms	Mulliken charges (a.u)	Atoms	Mulliken charges (a.u)
1 C	-0.137	12 C	0.067
2 C	0.127	13 C	-0.038
3 C	-0.028	14 C	0.109
4 C	-0.233	15 C	0.020
5 C	0.024	16 C	-0.013
6 C	0.094	17 C	-0.066
7 C	0.174	18 C	-0.153
8 C	0.040	19 C	0.047
9 C	0.010	20 C	0.047
10 O	-0.392	41 S	0.280
11 C	0.019		



Scheme: 1

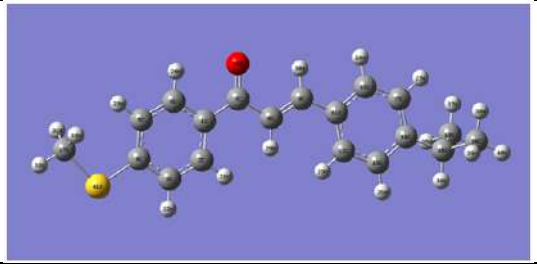


Figure.1: Optimized structure of 4METIP by DFT method

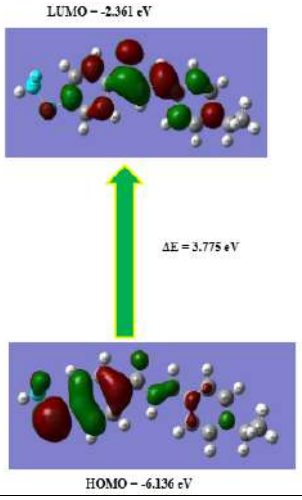


Figure. 2: HOMO – LUMO diagram of 4METIP by DFT method

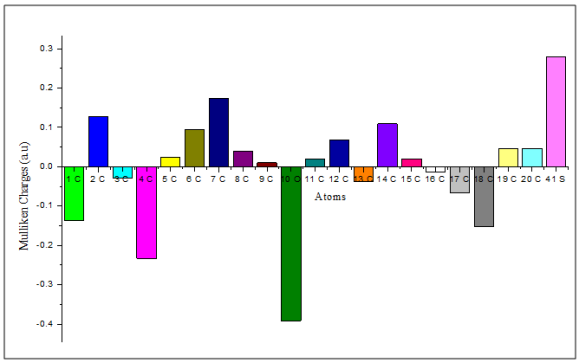


Figure. 3: Column chart of Mulliken charges of 4METIP by DFT method

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Analyzing Thermo - Static Structural Behavior in Gas Turbine Rotor Blades through Simulation

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the selection of suitable materials that can withstand severe working condition and thermo-structural analysis using FEM. The behaviour of each material under suitable service conditions. Steady-state analyses have been done at a maximum service temperature is 1300 °C. For this static structure analysis, maximum von Mises stress occurs at Alloy 718 is 26484 Mpa at 1300 °C service temperature and Alloy 706 is 23502MPa at the same temperature level. A three-dimensional model of the first-stage gas turbine blade has been considered for the simulation work, along with the necessary physical conditions. Two different materials are taken into consideration to compare their performance in extreme conditions. Based on those results, a relative study was conducted to find the best competing material to use in the gas turbine industry.

Keywords: Working Condition and Thermo-Structural, Fem, von Mises Stress, Temperature Level, Physical Conditions, Gas Turbine Industry

INTRODUCTION

The turbine shaft work powers the compressor and other devices, such as an electric generator, that might be linked to the same shaft. A typical gas turbine engine consists of three major parts: the compressor, the combustion chamber, and the turbine, in addition to the generator. Gas turbine blades are the specific components that extract energy from the high-temperature and high-pressure gas released from the combustion chamber. Turbine blades are exposed to gas which can cause failure during operation. Therefore, the gas turbine blade component must be designed with in-depth consideration of vibration and thermal stresses induced on the blade in service conditions [1]. Subbarao and Mahato [2] compared four different Nimonic materials, which incorporated Nimonic 105, 90, 80, and

263 numerically and experimentally. They concluded that Nimonic 80A has a moderate outcome of thermal stress, distribution, and displacement over other materials. A significant cause of turbine blade failure is high cycle fatigue (HCF), caused by repeated cyclic loads on the rotor blade. Sushila *et al*. [3] carried out a failure analysis on the first stage IN738 gas turbine blade tip. They also determine the causes of gas turbine blade failure of a 30MW thermal power plant. Surface degradation was due to overheating, oxidation, fatigue, degradation of coatings, hot corrosion, sulfidation, embrittlement, and thermal aging. The present work discusses the statistical analysis of the gas turbine blades made Alloy718, and Alloy706. A three-dimensional model of the first-stage gas turbine blade has been considered for the simulation work, along with the necessary physical conditions. Two different materials are taken into consideration to compare their performances in extreme thermal conditions. Thermal stress, temperature distribution, and strain of each blade material are calculated numerically. Based on those results, a relative study has been done to find the best-competing material to be used in the gas turbine industry.

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

The airfoil design must be appropriate to minimize aerodynamic losses and overcome manufacturing and structural limitations. The NACA airfoil profiles are chosen figure1.for modelling and simulation [2]. The selection of proper blades and the blade's three-dimensional model, including the fir tree is created to the illustration presented in Figure 1.The geometry of the figure is imported to Ansys to convert CAD files to IGES file formats. A finite element model was built using suitable element types according to the requirement of analysis. Figure 1provides the discretized unstructured tetrahedral domain using Ansys 15.0 workbench. The solid model with its mesh is subsequently conducting structural and thermal analyses on nickel-based superalloys under steady-state conditions. Meshing allows for the analysis of stress distribution within the turbine blade by discretizing the blade into small elements, FEA can calculate stresses and deformations under various loading conditions. Meshing also facilitates thermal analysis in gas turbine blade materials. Meshed geometries can predict temperature distributions within the blade, mesh influences the accuracy, assembly, and speed of the solution. Different super alloys have been imparted namely Alloy 718, and Alloy706 for static structure analysis. Several elements generated are 96846 and the nodes are almost 152,068. Under these circumstances applying suitable boundary conditions for analysis. Various measures have been taken to obtain an efficient material and technique to produce a high-quality blade that possesses all necessary properties although mesh-based simulations, engineers can evaluate different material compositions, coatings, and manufacturing processes for gas turbine blades this helps in selecting materials with optimal mechanical properties, thermal stability, and resistance to corrosion and erosion, ultimately improving the performance and lifespan of the blades. The design of a gas turbine engine poses challenges due to its direct correlation between efficiency and the performance of materials as well as temperature restrictions. Turbine blades endure significant rotational and bending stresses at elevated temperatures, leading to increased thermo-mechanical loading. Therefore, the selection of materials for each component must take into account the demands of high speeds and temperatures.

MATERIALS SELECTION

Different types of alloys like chromium titanium nickel and aluminium-based superalloys are broadly used in the field of industrial application. Hardness, wear resistance, high toughness, adequate thermal shock properties excellent machin ability have been proved for Nominic 80A [4]. Through review of the majority of the recent and earlier studies by various academics reveals that the focus on the thermal stress and failure analysis on different types superalloys of gas turbines blades. In contrast, the primary goal of this study is to determine how resilient the turbine blades are to high temperatures in terms of thermal stress and subsequent displacement. The working materials Ti-6Al-4V, Nimonic 80A, and GTD 111 DS, have been a part of the turbine and propulsion industry since the beginning of mainstream research on gas turbines these alloys are very effective to use in the turbine blade material due to their high corrosion resistance, high transformation temperature range, good wear resistance, exceptional hardness under high thermal conditions [5]. The present paper studies stress and deformation analysis on different alloys namely Alloy718 and Alloy 708 to inspect their true potential.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Total Deformation

Static structure analysis shows the overall deformation for each of the four materials shown in Figure 2. Under applying suitable boundary conditions such as temperature, pressure, and rotational speed for static structure analysis. Here we can see that the deformation occurs at the tip of the blade is 0.0222mm in Alloy718 at 800°C, and maximum deformation occurs 0.2577mm at 1300°C. But in Alloy706, the deformation is 0.02246mm. Here, different contours for the deformation of different alloys are shown at 800°C. In the contour show that the maximum deformation occurs in the trailing edge side of the blade but in the fir trees region deformation is negligible. Pattern of the contour almost same for the all the materials but their deformation values are slightly different for two materials.

Equivalence Von Misess Stress

In von Mises stress material behaviours such as yielding, creep, fatigue and long-term durability can be predicted with the use of von Mises stress distribution. In table 3 shows the von Mises stress of two materials with respect to temperature are presented. Stresses increase with the increases in the temperature for all the cases. The maximum stresses resist up to 26484 Mpa in Alloy 718 at 1300°C, which means the alloy does not yield and resists more stresses as compared to the other four materials. But alloy Alloy 706 resit minimum stress same temperature frame which is 23502Mpa. Here two different material contours are shown in Figure 3. In Table 3. It has been obverted that for every 100°C rise in temperature 10 to 15% increase the stresses depends upon the materials. The maximum stress develops in the root of the blade. It is evident that in every case, the most stress is created at the blade's root and the least amount at the blade's face, which is encouraging for any gas turbine system. Stresses are convecting from the root to the fir tree's lower section. The blade section is not absorbing any tension. The high-stress area is more pronounced in Alloy718 and is readily apparent near the blade's root. Alloy718 clearly has superior heat resistance.

Von Misess Stress

In Figure 4. The von Mises criterion is more convenient for the failure analysis von Misses stress measuring the both compressive and tensile strength of the materials, proposed superalloys are prime contenders as suitable gas turbine blade materials due their ability of resist stresses concerning temperature here the Alloy 718 resit more stress as compared to the Alloy 706 .

CONCLUSIONS

One of the most essential parts of a gas turbine engine is the turbine blade. The performance and endurance of the blade material in service conditions are hampered by the extreme environmental conditions under which the blades operate—high pressure, higher temperatures, and strong centrifugal forces. Depending on the severity, the material used in turbine blades is susceptible to unanticipated failure, that why the study's thermal and structural static analysis was necessary. The probability of failure in the two materials has been investigated under the von Misses criterion considering thermal stresses, computational simulation was carried in alloys namely Alloy 718 and Alloy706 the temperature on the turbine blades below the melting point temperature. The blade's leading edge recorded the highest temperatures, which subsequently fell towards the trailing edge and blade root. The highest von Mises stresses and strains were observed near the roots of the turbine blades and at the top surface along the blade roots. The total deformation obtained for each blade analysis was negligible as it was measured as 0.2577 mm for Alloy 718 at 1300°C. In resistance stresses Alloy718 is highest which 26484Mpa °C under applying suitable boundary conditions. It has been seen that Alloy718 has better functionality and is considered the better superalloy for manufacturing turbine blades.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the support from the Department of Mechanical Engineering in Brainware University Barasat West Bengal. Head of the Department for their invaluable support. We also appreciate the contributions of Departmental staff and laboratory personnel.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest related to this research

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Table 1: Materials properties of different Alloy718 ref [5].

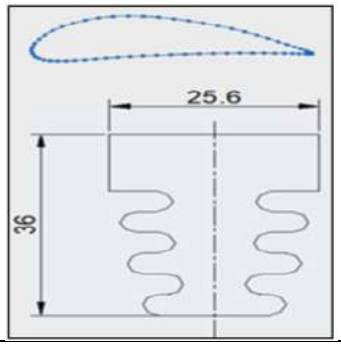
Young modulus (GPa)	**200**
Poisson ratio	0.29
Melting temperature (°C)	1336

Table 2: Materials properties of different alloysAlloy706 ref [6]

Young modulus (GPa)	**210**
Poisson ratio	0.38
Melting temperature (°C)	1360

Table 3: Equivalent (von-Mises) Stress, MPa

Applied Temp.(°C)	**Alloy718**	**Alloy706**
800	17495	15246
900	20493	16956
1000	21029	19474
1100	24399	21085
1200	25486	22515
1300	26484	23502



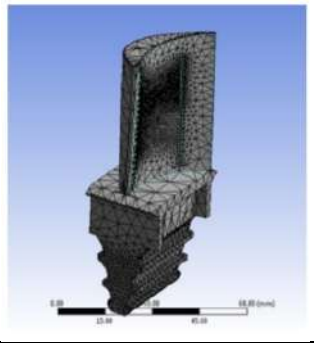
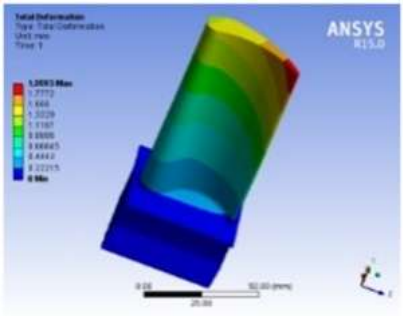
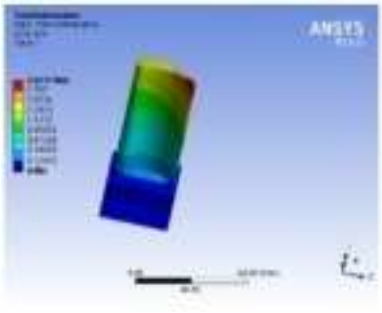


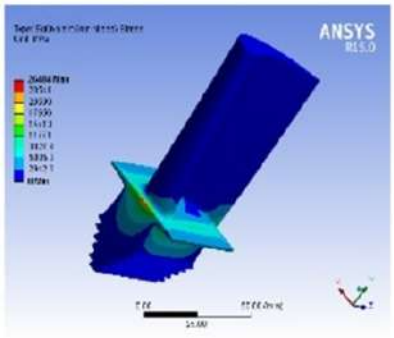
Fig.1: Model of turbine blade [2] with mesh model

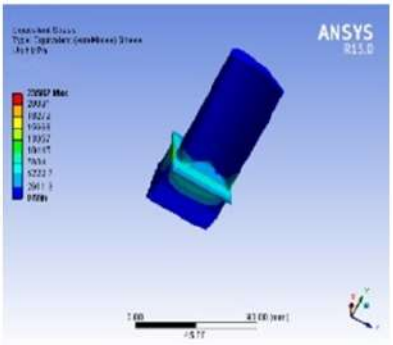




Alloy718 **Alloy706**

Fig. 2: Total Deformation contour of different supper alloy





Alloy718 **Alloy706**

Fig 3: Equivalence von Mises Stress contour of different superalloys

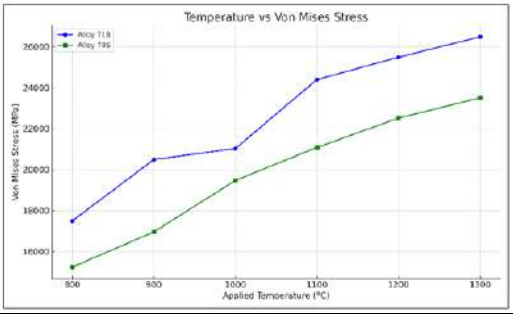


Fig. 4: Maximum Von Miess stress with temperature

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

RP-HPLC Technique : A Verified Quantitative Examination of Darunavir Ethanolate and Ritonavir in Dosage Form

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ABSTRACT

Darunavir Ethanolate (DAR) and Ritonavir (RIT) in tablet dose form can now be simultaneously estimated using a straightforward, specific, accurate, and exact RP-HPLC approach. The Enable C18 column (250 x 4.6 mm, 5 µm particle size) was used in this specific RP-HPLC procedure to achieve the separation. Acetonitrile and water (80:20 v/v) were used as the mobile phase, and the flow rate was 1 ml/min. The wavelength of detection was 247 nm. DAR and RIT were shown to have retention times of 2.939 and 3.537 minutes, respectively. For DAR, the linearity range is 25–125 µg/ml, while for RIT, it is 10–50 µg/ml. The proposed method was demonstrated to be simple, precise, and accurate for the simultaneous estimation of DAR and RIT in their combined dose form. It can also be applied to routine analysis. According to ICH criteria, the method was validated for a number of parameters, including linearity, accuracy, precision, robustness, ruggedness, LOD, and LOQ.

Keywords: Darunavir Ethanolate; Ritonavir; RP-HPLC, Tablet dosage form, ICH.

INTRODUCTION

In pharmaceutical industry, there are various drugs which have characteristic uses. In some cases, two or more active drugs are combined results in combination dosage or fixed-dose combination (FDC) to achieve better therapy. These combination drugs provide better therapy and improve medication compliance. These medications provide difficulties in the development of analytical techniques and their validation parameters due to their increased therapeutic action. Researchers, academics, and others from all over the world develop analytical methods after devoting a significant amount of time to research. These techniques are employed to determine a drug's identity, potency, safety, and other attributes. The molecular formula for darunavir ethanolate (DAR) is (3R,3aS,6aR)-hexahydrofuro[2,3-b].[(2S,3R)] furan-3-yl-N-[N-(2-methylpropyl)4-aminobenzenesulfonamido] -3-hydroxy-4-[[-1-phenylbutan-2yl] carbamate. Darunavir suppresses HIV-1 protease's catalytic activity by binding to and specifically targeting the enzyme's active site when taken orally. Another powerful medication used in antiretroviral therapy is ritonavir. 1,3-thiazol-5- ylmethyl-N-[(2S,3S,5S)-3-hydroxy-5[(2S)-3-methyl-2-{[methyl({[2-(propan-2-yl)-1,3-thiazol-4-yl]methyl})carbamoyl]amino}butanamido] is the chemical formula for ritonavir (RIT).[yl]carbamate 1,6-diphenylhexan-2. Ritonavir functions as an antiviral drug primarily by blocking HIV-1 and HIV-2 proteases, which disrupts the HIV reproductive cycle.These two drugs were initially developed as independent anti viral drugs but further research about these drugs revealed that these are much more effective in the antiretroviral therapy when used in combination. The literature review reveals that Darunavir and Ritonavir alone or in combination with other drugs were determined through various methods like HPLC[1-12], LC-MS/MS[13]. Only few analytical methods reported for its quantification includes LC-MS/MS[14-15] and HPLC[16-17]. We have found that there is a need for a simple yet cost effective as well as precise and accurate method. The goal of this study is to create a routine analysis of the simultaneous estimation of Ritonavir and Darunavir in bulk and combination dosage forms that is easy to use, accurate, exact, and economical. For better estimation and routine analysis of a chemical entity or a drug, RP-HPLC dominates other methods with its ability to find active constituents and impurities in the sample.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals and reagents

Darunavir ethanolate and Ritonavir with a purity > 100.1 % w/w was obtained as a gift samples and formulation of Darunavir and Ritonavir combination dosage form (DANAVIR-R) was procured from the local market, chemicals and reagents used are of analytical grade. Chemicals like acetonitrile and water are of HPLC grade obtained from Merck India Ltd.

Instrumentation

The Shimadzu HPLC equipment (LC-20AD) with a binary pump and UV-visible detector was utilized, along with an ELITE analytical balance. A C18 column with a particle size of 5 µm and dimensions of 250 x 4.6 mm was employed. Data was recorded using LC solution software and a rheodyne injector with a 20 µL loop.

Chromatographic Conditions

A 250 x 4.6 mm i.d., 5-µm particle Enable C18 G column was used for the chromatographic analysis. For separation, a mobile phase consisting of acetonitrile and water in an 80:20 v/v ratio was used, with a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min. The eluents were detected at 247 nm with an injection volume of 20 µL. The HPLC system was operated at room temperature, which was 30°C.

Stock and Standard Solution Preparation

A 100 ml calibrated flask was filled with precisely weighed amounts of the pure drugs DAR and RIT, each containing 100 mg. 30 ml of acetonitrile was then added, and the flask was sonicated for 15 minutes. Acetonitrile is added until the volume is reached, creating a stock solution containing 1000 µg/ml of each DAR and RIT. To create a mixed working standard solution of DAR and RIT with 100 µg/ml each, 10 ml of each of the previously generated standard

stock solutions of the two medications were pipetted and put into a 100 ml standard flask. The volume was then leveled with mobile phase.

Preparation of Sample Solution

Utilizing the present developed chromatographic conditions the assay of commercial tablets for the contents of DAR and RIT was established and it was found to be more accurate and reliable. For this twenty tablets (Label claim:800 mg DAR/ 100 mg RIT in each tablet) were weighed to compute the meanweight and comminuted to powdered form. A 10 ml volumetric flask was filled with a weight equivalent to 10 mg DAR and the appropriate amounts of RIT from the powdered tablet. A little amount of acetonitrile was added, and the mixture was sonicated for 15 minutes before being filtered through a 0.45 µ millipore filter. Acetonitrile was used as a diluent to bring the clear solution's volume down to 10 milliliters.An HPLC system was used to evaluate the final solution (100 µg DAR, 12.5 µg RIT/ml), which was obtained by taking 1 ml of the solution and adding mobile phase to get the volume up to 10 ml.

Method Validation

As the guidelines framed by ICH the method validation was done for the parameters system suitability test, stability, and the validation parameters involving specificity, linearity, accuracy, precision and robustness.

OUTCOMES AND DISCUSSION

Enhancement of the chromatographic environment

According to UV spectrum analysis, DAR and RIT have good absorption at 247 nm. Consequently, the analytical wavelength for detection was set at 247 nm. To optimize the RP-HPLC method, several mobile phase compostions were tried using methanol, acetonirile and water. A satisfactory separation was obtained with mobile phase composition of acteonitrile and water in 80:20 ratio. This particular composition showed good peak symmetry, resolution, tailing factor and theoretical plates better than the other compositions during our trails. Using UV detector, both sample solutions were observed to have their peak absrorbance at 247 nm when analysed simultaneously. The retention times of Darunavir ethanolate and Ritonavir were found to be 2.939 min and 3.537 min respectively. A chromatogram of optimized mixture is shown in [fig. 4]

Method Validation

System Suitability Test

System suitability characteristics were evaluated and compared with respect to acceptable limits once the ideal chromatographic conditions for the new method were determined. Table 1 displayed the method's system suitability parameters. The system suitability parameters were deemed suitable for the analysis and were determined to fall within the acceptable limit ranges.

Stability of sample solution: Analysis of the sample solution was done at 0, 12, 24, and 48 hours in order to examine its stability. The developed approach showed no discernible differences. Table 2 summarizes the results, which were also found to be within acceptable limits (RSD <2).

Linearity

The calibration curve for DAR and RIT was plotted in the concentration ranges of 10–50 µg/ml and 25–125 µg/ml, respectively. The regression equation for DAR was determined to be 6081.8 x + 83451 with a correlation coefficient of 0.9984 based on the calibration curve. With a correlation value of 0.9991, the regression equation for RIT was determined to be 15170 x – 6599.4. Table 3 displayed the DAR and RIT linearity results. Figure 4 displayed the DAR and RIT linearity curves. From the linear regression data of the calibration curves of both drugs indicated a good linear response in the given the concentration range. The linearity curve can be applicable for quantification of DAR and RIT in pharmaceutical formulation.

Sensitivity

The limits of detection (LOD) and quantitation (LOQ) values for both medications, which are shown in Table 3, were used to evaluate the sensitivity of the devised approach. The method's sensitivity is indicated by the low quantification and detection limits.

Precision

Three distinct concentrations (20, 30, and 40 µg/ml for RIT and 50, 75, and 100 µg/ml for DAR) were used in the intraday and interday precision studies, and the percentage RSD was computed. Table 4 indicates that the approach had acceptable precision because the percentage RSD for both intraday and interday precision was less than 2%.

Accuracy

Recovery studies using the usual addition method were used to examine the method's accuracy. The preanalyzed sample solution was mixed with standard drug concentration at concentration levels of 80, 100, and 120% of the sample concentration. Three separate analyses were performed for each concentration. Table 5 displays the recovery study results, which ranged from 98 to 102% for both DAR and RIT.

Robustness

A robustness study was conducted by making minor adjustments to the technique parameters in order to examine how the intentional modifications affected the response. Changes in the flow rate (± 0.2 ml/min), the mobile phase's organic makeup (± 5% v/v), and the analytical wavelength (± 2 nm) were all examined. The results were assessed based on the analyte's recovery outcomes. The robustness of the procedure is demonstrated by the recovery data, which reveal that changes in flow rate, mobile phase composition, and analytical wavelength have no discernible effects on the analyte response. Table 6 presents the findings.

Sample Analysis

The devised method was applied in the examination of the tablet dosage form that contained a combination of DAR and RIT. The label stated for DAR and RIT was found to be in good accord with the mean percentage of satisfactory findings. The suggested approach might be used for the quantification of DAR and RIT in marketed tablets, according to the mean percentage found and the RSD values (Table 7).

CONCLUSION

A straightforward, accurate, and selective analytical technique based on RP-HPLC has been devised for the simultaneous measurement of DAR and RIT in pharmaceutical formulations and in bulk. In both the pharmaceutical business and regular labs, it can be used for process control of designed products and bulk drugs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Table 1: Results of system suitability test (n = 6)

Parameter	Criteria	DAR	RIT
Capacity factor(k')	$k' > 2$	2.997	4.225
Tailing factor (T)	T < 2	1.005	1.225
Theoretical plates (N)	N> 2000	3464	5369
Resolution (Rs)	$Rs > 2$	-	3.04
% RSD (peak area)	% RSD ≤1	0.54	0.42

Table 2: Stability data of DAR and RIT (standard solutions)

Time (hr)	Assay (%)		% Difference	
	DARRIT		DARRIT	
Initial	100.08	99.96	---	----
After 12 hr	100.02	99.92	0.05	0.04
After 24 hr	99.87	99.62	0.21	0.34
After 36 hr	99.16	99.03	0.92	0.93
After 48 hr	98.32	98.11	1.76	1.85

Table 3: Spectral and statistical data for determination of DAR and RIT by proposed RP-HPLC method.

Analyte			
DAR		**RIT**	
Detection wavelength (nm)	247	Detection wavelength (nm)	247
Linearity range (µg/ml)	25-125	Linearity range (µg/ml)	10-50
Coefficient of determination (r^2)	0.9984	Coefficient of determination (r^2)	0.9991
Regression equation (Y^a)	Y= 6081.8 x + 83451	Regression equation (Y^a)	Y= 15170 x – 6599.4
Limit of detection, LOD (µg/ml)	1.15	Limit of detection, LOD (µg/ml)	0.73
Limit of quantitation, LOQ (µg/ml)	3.40	Limit of quantitation, LOQ (µg/ml)	2.20

[a]$Y = mx + c$, where x is the concentration (µg/ml).

Table 4: Precision Studies.

Drug	Amount(µg/mL)	Intraday(n=3)		Interday(n=3)	
		Amount found Mean±SD	%RSD	Amount found Mean±SD	%RSD
DAR	50	49.85± 0.241.23		49.88 ± 0.27	1.40
	75	75.12 ± 0.250.89		74.87 ± 0.48	1.63
	100	99.87 ± 0.370.94		99.46 ± 0.441.14	
RIT	20	19.12 ± 0.15	0.39	19.74 ± 0.38	0.97
	30	30.86 ± 0.68	1.13	29.79 ± 0.43	0.73
	40	39.77 ± 1.03	1.30	39.63 ± 0.670.85	

Table 5: Recovery studies (n = 3)

Recovery level	DAR			RIT		
	Amount Added (µg/ml)	Amount Recovered* (µg/ml)	% Recovery*	Amount Added (µg/ml)	Amount Recovered *(µg/ml)	% Recovery*
80 %	80	79.90	99.62	10	10.02	100.20
100 %	100	99.94	99.94	12.5	12.43	99.48
120 %	120	119.87	99.66	15	14.96	99.75

*Mean of three determinations

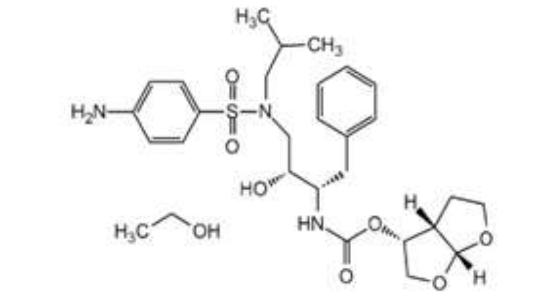
Table 6: Chromatographic parameter setting applied in the robustness investigation.

Parameter	Modification	% Recovery		% RSD	
		DARRIT		DARRIT	
Flow Rate(ml/min)	0.9	100.20	99.64	0.67	0.88
	1.0	99.92	99.38	1.21	0.94
	1.2	99.45	99.82	0.82	0.55
Mobile Phase (acetonitrile: water)	75: 25 v/v	99.74	99.34	0.84	0.71
	80:20 v/v	99.49	99.66	0.91	0.86
	85:15 v/v	99.68	99.49	0.72	0.75
Wavelength(nm)	245	99.84	99.63	0.87	1.32
	247	99.92	99.71	1.25	1.01
	249	99.89	99.85	1.41	0.46

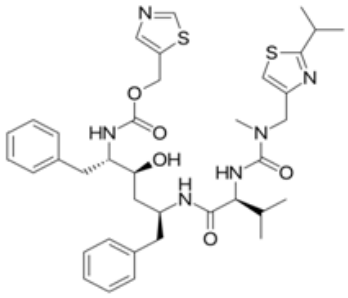
Table 7: Analysis of DAR and RIT in commercial formulation

Formulation	Labelled claim(mg)		Amount found*(mg)		%Recovery*±%RSD	
	DAR	RIT	DAR	RIT	DAR	RIT
DANAVIR-RTABLETS	800	100	800.13	99.83	100.01±0.18	99.83±0.45

*Average of three determinations



(a)



(b)

Fig.1. Structure of Darunavir ethanolate (a) and Ritonavir(b)

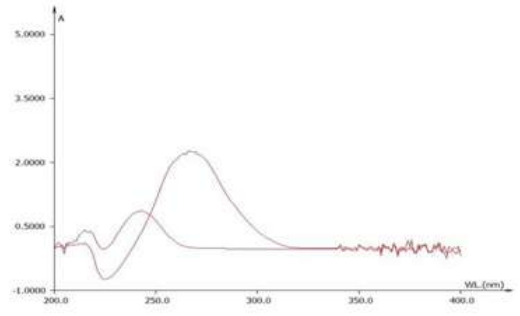


Fig 2: UV spectra of DAR and RIT

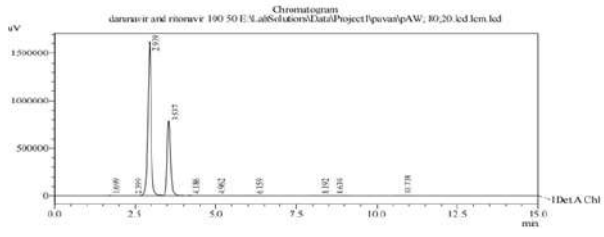


Fig.3: Chromatogram from the standard solution of DAR and RIT

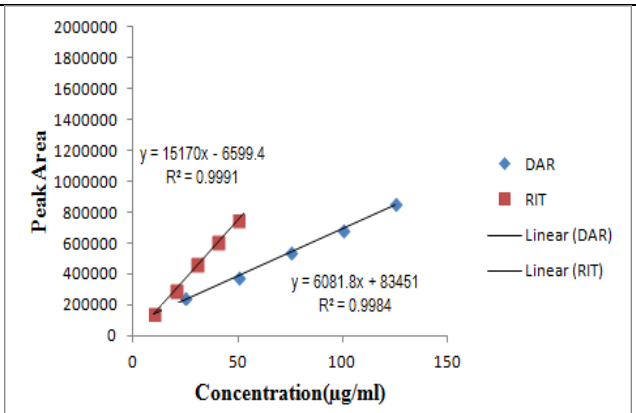


Fig 4: Linearity curve of DAR and RIT

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Multi-Criteria Decision-Making Approach for Employee Selection using Neutrosophic Fuzzy

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a modified method for solving Multi Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) problems with neutrosophic fuzzy sets. In addition, some mathematical properties of the technique were analyzed, and the problem procedure of MCDM in a neutrosophic environment is presented. To illustrate the technique, it has been applied to the application of employee selection in a college campus interview with respect to a set of criteria.

Keywords Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM), Neutrosophic Sets, Employee selection, Score and Accuracy matrix.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, considerable attention has been directed toward the study of algebraic structures in the framework of neutrosophic sets. These structures have been shown to possess significant applicability across diverse domains, including relational database systems, economic growth and decline assessment, medical sciences, and related areas. Nevertheless, the theory of neutrosophic sets remains in a developmental stage, necessitating further theoretical advancement. Consequently, contemporary research has increasingly emphasized the exploration of applications of neutrosophic sets and neutrosophic logic.

Atanassov (1983) introduced the concept of intuitionistic fuzzy sets. In 1999, Smarandache introduced a unifying framework in logic, namely Neutrosophic Logic. Later, Smarandache (2002) extended this idea by proposing neutrosophic sets, providing a detailed exposition and presenting them as a generalization of intuitionistic fuzzy sets.

Subsequently, in 2003, Atanassov, Cornelis, and Kerre presented the concepts of intuitionistic fuzzy sets and interval-valued fuzzy sets. Later, in 2006, Kandasamy and Smarandache provided a detailed exposition of neutrosophic algebraic structures.Khoshnevisan and Bhattacharya (2002) presented a brief note on the application of neutrosophic probability in financial data set detection. Kharal (2014) discussed and illustrated a neutrosophic multi-criteria decision-making method with practical examples. Rivieccio (2008) examined neutrosophic logics, highlighting their prospects and challenges. Furthermore, Sengur and Guo (2011) proposed a color texture image segmentation approach based on neutrosophic sets and wavelet transformation.

The organization of this work is outlined as follows. Section 2 describes the problem formulation and procedure. Section 3 applies the modified approach to a multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) problem in the context of employee selection based on specific criteria, with a computational illustration of the technique. Section 4 presents a comparative analysis between the existing and the proposed modified approach. Finally, Section 5 provides the concluding remarks.

Problem Procedure

In this paper, we analysed the Athar Kharal (2014) [5] ideas and concepts of Neutrosophic - Multiple criteria decision making method. Here, modified his ranking process in algorthim as follows,

- Define a problem in neutrosophic set
- Evaluate each alternative, $E(A_{ij}) = \left[T^l_{A_{ij}}, T^u_{A_{ij}}\right]$

$$[T^l_{A_{ij}}, T^u_{A_{ij}}] = \left[\min\left(\left(\frac{T_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right), \left(\frac{1 - F_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right)\right), max\left(\left(\frac{T_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right), \left(\frac{1 - F_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right)\right)\right]$$

- Compute score and accuracy of the matrix, S and H

$$S(A_{ij}) = 2(T^u_{A_{ij}} - T^l_{A_{ij}}) \text{ and } H(A_{ij}) = \frac{1}{2}(T^l_{A_{ij}} + T^u_{A_{ij}})$$

- Find the weightage matrix of criteria, $W(A_{ij})$

$$W(A_{ij}) = (S(A_{ij}))^2 - \left(\frac{1 - H(A_{ij})}{2}\right)$$

- Criteria weights in the form of interval is determined

$$\left[w^l_j, w^u_j\right] = \left[\min\left(\left(\frac{T_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right), \left(\frac{1 - F_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right)\right), max\left(\left(\frac{T_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right), \left(\frac{1 - F_{A_{ij}} + I_{A_{ij}}}{2}\right)\right)\right]$$

- Solve the linear programing to get w_j

$$\max \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} W(A_{ij})\right) w_j$$

Subject to

$$w^l_j \le w_j \le w^u_j$$

- Calculate Euclidean distance formula with weightage of criterion

$$e(S,H) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\mu_{S(x)} - \mu_{H(X)})^2 \times w_j}$$

- Order A_i with respect to distance values.

Illustrative Example

This section provides an example based on a multi-criteria decision-making problem using neutrosophic sets. Consider the evaluation of an employee selection process based on a defined set of criteria. The criterion of the defined problem are

- $c_1 = Application\ Screening$
- $c_2 = Direct\ Interaction$
- $c_3 = Background\ Checks$
- $c_4 = Assessment$

The weightage of the criteria needs to be determined, and the candidates must be evaluated with respect to each criterion. For this illustrative example, a set of criteria along with three alternatives (candidates) is considered.

Alternatives are denoted as $E = \{e_1, e_2\ and\ e_3\}$.

Let the decision matrix be

$$D = \begin{array}{c} \\ e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{cccc} c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & c_4 \end{array} \\ \begin{bmatrix} [0.8,0.4,0.1] & [0.7,0.6,0.03] & [0.75,0.42,0.23] & [0.42,0.6,0.31] \\ [0.75,0.5,0.2] & [0.65,0.45,0.23] & [0.55,0.2,0.6] & [0.4,0.5,0.9] \\ [0.5,0.82,0.55] & [0.8,0.9,0.06] & [1,0.6,1] & [0.5,0.7,0.8] \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

And the importance of criteria is given as below in the form of neutrosophic set

$$\left\{\frac{c_1}{0.35,0.4,0.35}, \frac{c_2}{0.45,0.7,0.51}, \frac{c_3}{0.42,0.66,0.77}, \frac{c_4}{0.74,0.98,0.67}\right\}$$

It can also written as

$$\begin{array}{c} \\ T \\ I \\ F \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{cccc} c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & c_4 \end{array} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0.35 & 0.45 & 0.42 & 0.74 \\ 0.4 & 0.7 & 0.66 & 0.98 \\ 0.35 & 0.51 & 0.77 & 0.67 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

First, evaluation of each alternative $E(A_{ij})$ is done as follows

$$[T^l_{A_{ij}}, T^u_{A_{ij}}] = \begin{bmatrix} [0.6,0.65] & [0.65,0.785] & [0.585,0.595] & [0.51,0.645] \\ [0.625,0.65] & [0.55,0.61] & [0.3,0.375] & [0.3,0.45] \\ [0.635,0.66] & [0.85,0.92] & [0.3,0.8] & [0.45,0.6] \end{bmatrix}$$

Using the above matrix score and accuracy matrices, S and H are found

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0.27 & 0.02 & 0.27 \\ 0.05 & 0.12 & 0.15 & 0.3 \\ 0.05 & 0.14 & 1 & 0.3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 0.625 & 0.7175 & 0.59 & 0.5775 \\ 0.6375 & 0.58 & 0.3375 & 0.375 \\ 0.6475 & 0.885 & 0.55 & 0.525 \end{bmatrix}$$

Based on the two matrices obtained above, the corresponding weightage matrix $W(A_{ij})$ is derived, resulting in the following values.

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} -0.1775 & -0.06835 & -0.2046 & -0.13835 \\ -0.17875 & -0.1956 & -0.30875 & -0.2225 \\ -0.17375 & -0.0379 & 0.775 & -0.1475 \end{bmatrix}$$

By $W(A_{ij})$, we get the coefficients of LPP as

$$-0.1767 \quad -0.1006 \quad 0.0872 \quad -0.16945$$

The weightage of each criterion is considered to lie within the following interval.

$$w_1 \in [0.375,0.525]$$
$$w_2 \in [0.575,0.595]$$
$$w_3 \in [0.445,0.54]$$
$$w_4 \in [0.655,0.86]$$

Hence, the corresponding linear programming problem is given by.

$$Max \quad -0.1767w_1 \quad -0.1006w_2 \quad +0.0872w_3 \quad -0.16945w_4$$

Subject to

$$0.375 \le w_1 \le 0.525$$
$$0.575 \le w_2 \le 0.595$$
$$0.445 \le w_3 \le 0.54$$
$$0.655 \le w_4 \le 0.86$$

Max is at: $w_1 = 0.375, w_2 = 0.575, w_3 = 0.54, w_4 = 0.655$.

Finally, by applying the distance formula, the candidates are evaluated with respect to the criterion weightages, and the alternatives are ranked as follows.

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_1 \\ A_2 \\ A_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} -0.67516 \\ -0.52319 \\ -0.61386 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence, Candidate 2, corresponding to Alternative 2(A_2), is identified as the optimal selection for the position.

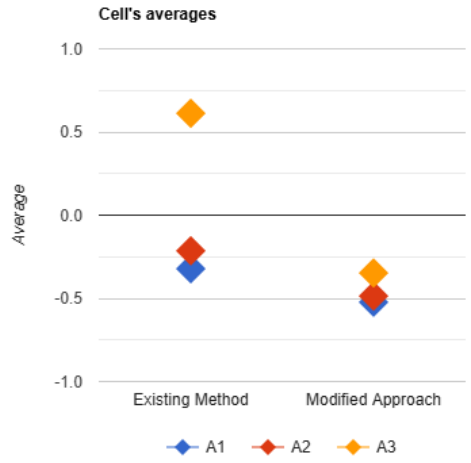
The optimal ranking order is $A_2 > A_3 > A_1$

Comparitive Analysis

An illustrative example from Ref. [5] has been considered, and the results are compared with those obtained using the modified approach.

	A_1	A_2	A_3
Existing Method	-0.3222875	-0.21380375	0.61180625
Modified Approach	-0.5228	-0.48655	-0.34807

The comparison in the above table demonstrates that the two approaches result in the same ranking outcome.($A_3 > A_2 > A_1$).



CONCLUSION

In this work, the concept of multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) within the framework of neutrosophic sets has been demonstrated through an illustrative example. The proposed modified approach provides higher accuracy compared to the existing method. Future research may further extend this technique to enhance accuracy in determining optimal rankings for neutrosophic decision-making problems.

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CASE STUDY ARTICLE

Role of Ayurvedic Treatment in the Management of *Vandhytwa* due to *Kshetra Asudhdhi* - A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Women are essential pillars of societal harmony, shaping the world with their diverse roles and contributions. Women are crucial in creating life. In our science, four key factors- *Rutu, Kshetra, Ambu and Beeja* - shape reproductive health. Any issues with these factors can lead to infertility, hindering a woman's path to motherhood. Prevalent conditions in *Kshetra* like cervical erosion, and *Manasikabhava* significantly impact women's health. Cervical erosion increases the risk of infections and pregnancy complications. Chronic stress exacerbates these conditions, disrupting hormonal balance and weakening the immune system. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach, combining medical management, lifestyle adjustments, and stress reduction techniques. *Ayurvedic* practitioners identified *Kshetra* imbalance as one of the root causes of the Infertility and emphasizing an imbalance in the anatomical and physiological aspects of the reproductive system. The treatment approach integrated *Shodhana*(purification) therapies like *Sadhyovirechana, Sthanik Chikitsa- Kshara karma, Yoni prakshalana and Yoni pichu,Shamana- Ayurvedic* medication, and *Somanasakara* therapies. *Shodhana* therapies aimed to eliminate toxins and restore balance, while *Shamana* therapies alleviated symptoms and pacified aggravated *doshas*. *Sthanika chikitsa* addressed vaginal discharge and worked upon cervical erosion. *Somanasakara* treatments promoted overall well-being. Following the Ayurvedic regimen, the patient experienced significant improvement in symptoms and achieved conception. This outcome underscores *Ayurveda's* efficacy in addressing gynaecological disorders and promoting fertility. Personalized treatment approaches, considering both *Sharirika* and *Manasika* aspects, are crucial for successful outcomes in women's health.

Keywords: *Ayurveda,*Cervical erosion, Infertility, *Karnini, Shodhana Chikitsa, Shamana Chikitsa,Vandhyatva.*

INTRODUCTION

For healthy human society, it is necessary to give proper care to women because women are the source of health care of their family. Because of negligence towards her health, she is landing with many health related problems. Infertility implies apparent failure of couple to conceive [1]As per *Ayurveda*, *Garbhasambhavasamagri* are *Ritu, Kshetra, Ambu and Bija &* also normalcy of *hridaya*. Abnormality of properly functioning *Vayu*&*Mansikabhava*, any one of these causes *Vandhyavta*[2]. In modern science causes of infertity in females are ovulatory dysfunction (30-40%), tubal disease (25-35%), uterine factors (10%), cervical factors (5%), pelvic factors (1-10%).[3], and psychological stress (80%) [4].In the treatment of *Vandhytwa* our A*charya* have mentioned *Panchakarma*i.e, *Snehana*, *Swedana*, *DoshanusarVamana* or *Virechana* and *Sthnikachikitsa* i.e.*Yoni Kshara,Yoni prakshalana, Yoni pichu, Yoni dhuapan, Uttarbasti* etc, *along with Rasayana* and *Vajikarana*.[5]

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To assess the *Ayurvedic* management in *Vandhytwa* through *Shodhana*, *Shamana* and *Sthanik Chikitsa*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patient attending the O.P.D. of *Stree Roga* &*Prasooti Tantra* department, Parul Ayurvedic Hospital, Vadodara.

A CASE REPORT

A 22 years old lady came in October 2023 in OPD of *Prasuti tantra and Streeroga*, Parul Ayurveda hospital, Vadodara, Gujrat with chief complaints of unable to get conceive since last 2 years, with associated complaints of excessive thick white vaginal discharge per vagina & itching at vulval region since 11-12 months, lower abdominal pain since 11-12 months, Occasionally burning micturition. So, she visited to Parul Ayurvedic Hospital, PTSR OPD for The Ayurvedic treatment.

Personal History
Diet- Vegetarian,
Appetite- Good,
Bowel- Occasionally Unsatisfactory bowel habit,
Micturition- 6 to 8 times /day, occasionally burning sensation present,
Sleep- disturbed

Menstrual History
LMP – 22/09/2023
Table no: 01 (Menstrual History)

Obstetrical History: P0L0A2D0
A1- spontaneous at 1.5 months (April,2023)
A2- spontaneous at 2 months (June,2023)

Ashtavidha Pareeksha
Table no: 02*(Ashtavidha Pareeksha)*
Dashavidha Pareeksha:
Table no: 03 *(Dashavidha Pareeksha)*

General Examination:
Table no: 04 (General Examination)
Systemic Examination:
Table no: 05 (Systemic Examination)

Local examination
On per speculum examination: Erosion present over both lip of cervix
Bleeding on touch present
Thick white discharge present
On bimanual examination: Uterus anteverted, anteflexed and normal in size.
No Cervical motion tenderness and
B/L fornixes were normal.
In first visit the case was diagnosed as case of *karniniyonivyapada* and few investigations were carried and the reports were as follows:

Blood investigation: (19/10/2023)
Haemoglobin – 10.7 g/dl
Total RBC Count – 3.94 mill/cmm
Total WBC Count – 10300 /cmm
Platelet Count – 239000 /cmm
RBS – 131 mg/dl
HIV – Negative
HBsAG – Non-reactive
VDRL - Non-reactive

Pap's Smear report – mild acute inflammatory infiltrate
negative for intraepithelial lesions and malignancy

Intervention
Table no: 06 (Treatment)

DISCCUSION

The ancient wisdom of *Ayurveda* offers profound insights into the factors essential for conception, emphasizing a holistic approach that encompasses not only physical health but also mental and emotional well-being. In *Ayurveda*, the four factors crucial for conception—*Rutu* (timing), *Kshetra* (body), *Ambu* (nourishment), and *Beeja* (seed) [6]form the foundation upon which reproductive health and fertility thrive. Among these, *Kshetra*, representing the body, particularly the reproductive organs, holds significant importance in ensuring the health of both the mother and the unborn child.[7]. *Ayurveda* recognizes the uterus (*Garbhashaya*) as a vital component of *Kshetra* and emphasizes the need for maintaining its health for optimal reproductive outcomes. When a woman possesses a healthy reproductive organ, she not only experiences personal well-being but also contributes to the creation of healthy progeny, thereby benefiting society at large. However, challenges such as cervical erosion can arise, disrupting the delicate balance necessary for conception.

In addressing cervical erosion, *Ayurvedic* principles advocate the use of *Sthanikachikitsa*, or localized treatments, to correct the underlying doshas contributing to the condition. Techniques such as *Yoni prakshalana* (vaginal cleansing) and *Yoni pichu* (vaginal tampontherapy)[8] play a crucial role in promoting healing and eliminating harmful bacteria from the vaginal canal. Additionally, *Ksharakarma*, a procedure involving the application of alkaline substances, aids

in reducing excessive discharge and necrotic tissues while facilitating the formation of granulation tissue essential for the healing process.*Kshara* having *Lekhana, Sodhana, Stambhana, Shoshana, Ropana and Kaphanashaka* properties [9]. Palasha has *Kaphanashaka* property due to its *Kashaya*, *Katu*, *Tiktarasa, Katu Vipaka* and has *Vatahara* property due to its *Ushna virya* and *Snigdha guna*[10][11]. It has *Shothahara, Krimighna*, *Sandhanakar* and *Vranaropan* property as *Acharyas* described it *vranagulmajita* [12]. Moreover, *Ayurveda* emphasizes the importance of purifying the body through *Sadhyovirechan* [13] to eliminate toxins and balance the *Vata-Pittadoshas*, which are often implicated in reproductive disorders. *Shamana* therapy, aimed at pacifying *doshic* imbalances, further contributes to overall well-being and prepares the body for fertilization. Beyond physical treatments, *Ayurveda* recognizes the interconnectedness of the body, mind, and spirit in the process of conception. The concept of *Somanas Garbhadharananam*[14] underscores the significance of mental and emotional health in fertility. Manasika bhavas underlie all the physiological and pathological functions of female body[15]. Mental stress, anxiety, and other psychosocial factors can exert profound effects on reproductive function, highlighting the need for holistic interventions that address both physical and psychological aspects of well-being.

CONCLUSION

Ayurveda explains many methodologies for treating gynaecological disorders. *SthanikaChikitsa* holds great significance due to its promising results in *Prasuti Tantra and Stree Roga*, Thus, it can be concluded that *Sthanika Chikitsa* with *Yoni Prakshalana*, *Yoni Pichu* and *Kshara karma* along with oral medications be used to provide symptomatic relief in cervical erosion and also helps in clam the mind with *somanasakara* treatment. Thus, with help of this *ayurveda* treatment we can remove the *dhosha* from the *kshetra* and rejuvenating therapy helps in clam the mind which is essential for *Garbhadaharana*.

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Table no: 01 Menstrual History

Age of menarche	13 years
Menstrual cycle duration	3-5 days (irregular)
Interval	30-35 days
Pain	Present ++
Clots	Present +
Colour	Dark red
Any smell	No any foul smell
Pad	2-3p/d

Table no: 02 *Ashtavidha Pareeksha*

Nadi	80/min
Mala	1 time/day
Mutra	6 to 8 times /day burning present
Jihva	*Sama*
Drik	*Prakrut*
Sabda	*Prakrut*
Sparsha	*Unushna-sheeta*
Akriti	*Madhyama*

Table no: 03 *Dashavidha Pareeksha*

Prakruti	*Vatapradhan pitta*
Vikriti	*Kapha-vata*
Sara	*Madhyama*
Samhanana	*Madhyama*
Pramana	*Madhyama*
Satmya	*Madhyama*
Satva	*Madhyama*
Ahara Shakti	*Madhyama*
Vyayam Shakti	*Madhyama*
Vaya	*Madhyama*

Table no: 04 General Examination

Built	Moderate
Nourishment	Moderate
Temperature	98.3 F
RR	20/min
Pulse Rate	80/min

Blood Pressure	110/70mmhg
Height	153 cm
Weight	50 kg

Table no: 05 Systemic Examination

RS	No obvious deformity, AEBE clear
CVS	S1 S2 audible, no murmur
CNS	Well-oriented to person, place, and time
P/A	Soft, non-tender

Table no: 06 Treatment

Date	Chief complaints	Treatment given
30/10/23 To 08/11/23 On admission	Thick white discharge P/V Itching at vulval region Burning micturition Pt. anxious to conceive Lower abdominal pain LMP: 23/10/23	1] *Yoni prakshalana* with *Panchavalkal Kashaya* BD 2] *Yoni pichu* with *Murchitatilataila* BD 3]*Mushalikhadiradi Kashaya* 10ml + 40ml warm water BD B/F 4] *Pushyanugachurna* 1 tsf with *Kashaya* 5] *Manas mitravatakam* 1 BD 6] *Chandra Prabha vati* 1 BD B/F 7] *Gokshurapanakmuhur-muhur*
30/11/23 To 12/12/23 On admission	Thick white discharge P/V decreased 50% Burning micturition decreased 70% LMP: 23/11/23	1] *Sadhyovirechana* with 30 ml G*andharvahastaditaila* 2]*Kshara karma* with *Palasha Kshara* - one sitting 3] *Yoni pichu* with *Murchitatilataila* BD 4] *Yoni prakshalana* with *Panchavalkal Kashaya* BD
13/12/23	Thick white discharge P/V decreased 65% Burning micturition decreased 80%	1] *Drakshadi Kashaya* 10ml + 40ml warm water BD B/F 2] *Manas mitravatakam* 1 BD with 1 3] *Pushyanugachurna* 1 tsf OD with M*adhu* 4] *Phalaghrita* 1tsf with milk OD at night
27/12/23	Lower abdominal pain ++ UPT Test positive at home on 26/12/23 Thick white discharge P/V decreased 85% Burning micturition decreased 90% LMP: 23/11/23 EDD: 30/08/24	1] *Phalaghrita* 1tsf with milk BD 2] *Garbhasamsakara*

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Drug Repurposing in Pharmacology: A Fast-Track Strategy for Novel Therapeutics in Neurodegenerative and Metabolic Disorders

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ABSTRACT

Drug repurposing has emerged as a pragmatic and sustainable strategy in pharmacology, offering an accelerated pathway for therapeutic discovery. Unlike traditional drug development, which is time-consuming and resource-intensive, repositioning leverages the established safety and pharmacokinetic profiles of existing drugs to identify new clinical applications. This approach is gaining momentum in complex diseases such as neurodegenerative and metabolic disorders, where limited therapeutic success and high disease burden persist. In Alzheimer's disease, antidiabetic agents such as metformin and pioglitazone have shown promise in modulating insulin signaling and neuroinflammation, while antihypertensives and antibiotics are being investigated for disease modification in Parkinson's disease. Similarly, metabolic disorders including diabetes and obesity have benefited from the exploration of anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antidepressant, and antiepileptic drugs with pleiotropic actions on glucose metabolism, appetite regulation, and energy homeostasis. Advances in computational biology, particularly network pharmacology, *In-silico* docking, and molecular dynamics, are enhancing the predictive capacity for novel targets and mechanisms. Despite challenges related to intellectual property, off-target toxicity, and regulatory hurdles, repurposing continues to expand with the integration of

artificial intelligence and pharmacogenomic tools. Overall, drug repurposing represents a fast-track and cost-effective strategy that complements conventional drug discovery and holds transformative potential for managing neurodegenerative and metabolic diseases. This review highlights computational and experimental strategies including network pharmacology, molecular docking, and AI-based predictions in drug repurposing.

Keywords: Drug repurposing, Neurodegenerative disorders, Metabolic disorders, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Diabetes; Obesity, Network pharmacology, Molecular docking, Pharmacogenomics.

INTRODUCTION

Drug repurposing, also known as repositioning, is an emerging paradigm in pharmacology that aims to uncover new therapeutic indications for agents that are already clinically approved or have advanced safety data [1]. Unlike traditional drug discovery, which often requires over a decade of research and billions of dollars in investment, repurposing leverages existing pharmacological knowledge to accelerate the path from laboratory to clinic [2]. This strategy is not only economical but also reduces the high attrition rates associated with de novo discovery, since pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and toxicity profiles of these molecules are already well characterized [3,4]. The need for such innovative strategies is particularly evident in neurodegenerative and metabolic disorders, two domains where conventional pipelines have yielded limited success despite extensive research. Neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) are multifactorial, involving protein misfolding, mitochondrial dysfunction, neuroinflammation, and impaired neurotransmission. These complexities have resulted in repeated failures of novel drug candidates in late-stage clinical trials [5]. In this context, repurposing drugs with known safety records, such as antidiabetic, antihypertensive, or antimicrobial agents, represents a pragmatic route to accelerate therapeutic innovation [6]. Metabolic disorders, including diabetes mellitus and obesity, similarly demand novel interventions. The global prevalence of type 2 diabetes and obesity has risen dramatically, increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, kidney injury, and neurocognitive decline. Repurposing strategies have highlighted unexpected benefits of existing drugs—such as anti-inflammatory and anticancer agents—on glycemic regulation and metabolic pathways [7]. Likewise, antiepileptics and antidepressants have been examined for weight management, underscoring the cross-disease potential of established pharmacotherapies [8]. A major advancement in the field has been the integration of systems biology and computational pharmacology. Network pharmacology, molecular docking, chemogenomic profiling, and artificial intelligence allow systematic mapping of drug–target interactions, identification of off-target effects, and prediction of novel therapeutic applications [9,10]. These methods not only expand the landscape of candidate drugs but also provide mechanistic insights into complex disease biology, which is particularly critical for multifactorial disorders such as AD, PD, and diabetes. Thus, drug repurposing offers a fast-track, mechanism-driven, and resource-efficient strategy for therapeutic discovery. By combining established pharmacological data with cutting-edge computational tools, repurposing can deliver timely solutions for diseases with urgent unmet needs. In the context of neurodegenerative and metabolic disorders, this approach stands out as a sustainable pathway to accelerate the development of effective therapeutics.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This review was designed to systematically gather, evaluate, and synthesize published evidence on drug repurposing strategies in neurodegenerative and metabolic disorders. To ensure scientific rigor and reproducibility, a structured approach was adopted consisting of literature retrieval, eligibility screening, data extraction, and thematic synthesis.

Literature Search Strategy

Relevant articles were identified through comprehensive searches in PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. Search terms were used in different Boolean combinations, including:*"drug repurposing," "drug repositioning," "neurodegenerative disorders," "Alzheimer's disease," "Parkinson's disease," "metabolic disorders," "type 2 diabetes," "obesity," "network pharmacology," "molecular docking," and "pharmacogenomics."* The search covered the period from 2000 to 2024, with emphasis on studies published after 2015 to capture recent advances in computational biology and clinical translation. Reference lists of relevant reviews and primary studies were also manually screened to identify additional sources.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Studies were considered eligible if they met the following criteria

- Addressed repurposed drugs relevant to neurodegenerative disorders (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's) or metabolic disorders (diabetes mellitus, obesity).
- Reported mechanistic insights into disease modification, such as modulation of insulin signaling, neuroinflammation, mitochondrial function, or NF-κB pathway regulation.
- Included experimental evidence (preclinical, clinical, or in-silico) supporting repurposing.
- Described computational tools such as network pharmacology, docking, chemogenomics, or omics-based approaches.

Exclusion criteria

- Non-English publications.
- Editorials, commentaries, or opinion pieces without supporting data.
- Studies unrelated to drug repurposing (e.g., purely herbal or nutraceutical reports without repositioning context).

Data Extraction and Synthesis

From each eligible study, key information was extracted, including

- Drug name and original therapeutic indication**.**
- Proposed new indication (neurodegenerative or metabolic disorder).
- Mechanism of action and biological pathway involved**.**
- Level of evidence (computational, preclinical, or clinical).

Extracted data were categorized into thematic domains

Repurposing in neurodegenerative disorders Drugs targeting Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease (summarized in *Table 1* and illustrated in *Figure 2*).

Repurposing in metabolic disorders Drugs addressing diabetes mellitus and obesity (summarized in *Table 2* and represented in *Figure 3*).

Mechanistic and computational approaches Insights from network pharmacology, molecular docking, pharmacogenomics, and multi-omics (compiled in *Table 3* and visualized in *Figure 4*).

To highlight translational impact, clinical case studies such as sildenafil, thalidomide, and metformin were also synthesized and presented graphically (*Figure 5*).

Quality Assessment

Priority was given to peer-reviewed clinical trials, systematic reviews, and high-quality preclinical studies. Computational works were evaluated for methodological transparency, reproducibility of docking and network predictions, and consistency with experimental evidence. Where multiple studies addressed the same drug or pathway, findings were cross-verified to reduce bias and strengthen reliability.

DISCUSSION

This review consolidates evidence that drug repurposing represents a cost-efficient and time-saving approach for therapeutic discovery in neurodegenerative and metabolic disorders. Insights compiled in Tables 1–3 emphasize that several approved agents exhibit activity on molecular pathways shared across different disease states. In neurodegenerative diseases, antidiabetic compounds such as metformin and GLP-1 receptor agonists have shown significant benefits in modulating insulin resistance, neuroinflammation, and mitochondrial dysfunction (Table 1) Likewise, non-neurological drugs including isradipine, doxycycline, and statins demonstrated neuroprotective effects in Parkinson's disease through mechanisms such as calcium channel modulation, glutamatergic regulation, and attenuation of oxidative stress. These findings highlight the translational potential of cross-disease pharmacological classes in addressing the multifactorial pathology of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. For metabolic disorders, anticancer and anti-inflammatory agents such as imatinib and salicylates improved pancreatic β-cell survival and reduced insulin resistance, respectively, by targeting cellular stress and NF-κB pathways (Table 2). Similarly, topiramate and bupropion, originally developed for neurological and psychiatric indications, promoted weight reduction by modulating appetite regulation and reward pathways. More recently, GLP-1 receptor agonists have been successfully repositioned for obesity in addition to their antidiabetic effects, confirming the dual therapeutic relevance of this drug class. Mechanistic approaches, including network pharmacology and molecular docking, further reinforce these findings by providing system-level insights into drug–target–disease interactions (Table 3; Figure 2). Such computational strategies not only identify novel off-target activities but also validate binding affinities, enabling the prioritization of promising candidates for preclinical and clinical evaluation. The translational success of sildenafil, metformin, thalidomide, and minoxidil demonstrates how repurposing can lead to breakthrough therapies when mechanistic insights are aligned with clinical outcomes [38–44]. However, several challenges remain, including regulatory hurdles, intellectual property barriers, and the risk of unforeseen toxicities in new indications [46]. Moreover, discrepancies between computational predictions and clinical outcomes emphasize the need for better disease models and patient stratification. Overall, the results discussed here suggest that drug repurposing serves as a pragmatic complement to traditional drug discovery. With advances in artificial intelligence, pharmacogenomics, and integration of real-world data, this strategy is positioned to deliver precise and accessible therapeutics for complex disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and obesity (Figure 3).

Drug Repurposing in Neurodegenerative Disorders

Neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) represent some of the most challenging therapeutic areas due to their complex pathophysiology and limited success of conventional drug discovery strategies. Drug repurposing provides an alternative approach, enabling the identification of novel neuroprotective candidates among agents already approved for other conditions [11]. This strategy shortens the development timeline and reduces attrition rates, as the pharmacokinetic and safety profiles of these drugs are well established [12]. In Alzheimer's disease, several anti-diabetic agents have shown promise in attenuating pathological features such as insulin resistance, amyloid-β aggregation, and tau hyperphosphorylation [13]. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs), originally designed for type 2 diabetes, have been demonstrated to cross the blood–brain barrier and improve synaptic plasticity, cognitive performance, and neuronal survival in preclinical and early clinical studies [14]. Similarly, metformin has gained attention for its role in modulating neuroinflammation and mitochondrial function, thereby potentially slowing AD progression [15]. In Parkinson's disease, drugs from non-neurological categories are increasingly being explored. Antihypertensive agents such as isradipine, a calcium channel blocker, have been evaluated for their ability to protect dopaminergic neurons by reducing calcium-induced oxidative stress [16]. Additionally, antibiotics such as doxycycline and ceftriaxone have shown neuroprotective effects by modulating glutamatergic transmission and exerting anti-inflammatory actions [17]. Interestingly, statins, primarily prescribed for hypercholesterolemia, have been investigated for their capacity to attenuate neuroinflammation and oxidative stress, both of which are central in PD pathogenesis [18]. These repurposed candidates exemplify how existing pharmacological classes can be redirected to target the multifactorial

mechanisms underlying neurodegeneration. Although results from large-scale randomized clinical trials remain mixed, drug repurposing continues to provide a promising pipeline for effective therapeutics in AD and PD [19].

Drug Repurposing in Metabolic Disorders

Metabolic disorders, including diabetes mellitus and obesity, have become major global health challenges due to their rising prevalence and association with cardiovascular and neurological complications. Conventional therapeutic strategies are often insufficient in achieving long-term metabolic control, leading to interest in drug repurposing approaches that utilize existing pharmacological agents from diverse therapeutic classes [20]. This strategy not only accelerates the identification of novel interventions but also allows leveraging of established safety profiles [21]. In diabetes mellitus, repurposed agents originally designed for oncology and inflammation have shown significant therapeutic potential. For example, imatinib, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor used in chronic myeloid leukemia, has been reported to improve pancreatic β-cell survival and insulin sensitivity by modulating endoplasmic reticulum stress and inflammation [22]. Similarly, salicylates and other anti-inflammatory agents have demonstrated efficacy in reducing insulin resistance by suppressing pro-inflammatory signaling pathways such as NF-κB [23]. These findings highlight the role of immunomodulation and anti-proliferative pathways as critical targets in diabetes management. For obesity, repurposing strategies have explored drugs from neuropsychiatric and antiepileptic categories. Topiramate, an antiepileptic drug, was shown to promote weight reduction by decreasing appetite and altering energy balance, leading to its incorporation in combination formulations for obesity treatment [24]. Likewise, antidepressants such as bupropion have been repurposed due to their dopaminergic and noradrenergic activity, which influence appetite regulation and reward pathways [25]. More recently, attention has turned to GLP-1 receptor agonists, initially developed for type 2 diabetes, which demonstrated significant efficacy in reducing body weight, thereby expanding their utility to obesity management [26]. These examples emphasize the cross-disease potential of pharmacological agents, demonstrating how drugs targeting cancer, epilepsy, or mood disorders can be effectively repositioned for metabolic syndromes. The integration of drug repurposing into metabolic disorder therapeutics offers a promising avenue to address the unmet needs of patients with complex and multifactorial disease profiles [27].

Mechanistic Insights in Drug Repurposing

Drug repurposing is increasingly supported by mechanistic approaches that enable systematic exploration of drug–target–disease relationships. Rather than relying solely on serendipitous findings, computational and experimental strategies now provide structured frameworks to identify novel applications of approved agents [28]. One such strategy is network pharmacology, which integrates pharmacological data with systems biology to unravel complex interactions between drugs, targets, pathways, and diseases [29]. By constructing drug–target–disease networks, researchers can identify hub proteins or signaling cascades that are central to multiple disorders. This is particularly relevant in neurodegenerative and metabolic diseases, where shared pathological mechanisms such as oxidative stress, inflammation, and mitochondrial dysfunction can be simultaneously targeted by repositioned drugs [30]. For instance, statins and metformin have been identified through network pharmacology analyses as potential multitarget agents with pleiotropic benefits in both cardiovascular and neurological conditions [31]. *In-silico* screening and molecular docking further accelerate the identification of candidate molecules. Computational docking allows the evaluation of binding affinities of approved drugs against novel protein targets implicated in disease pathogenesis [32]. Virtual screening approaches, combined with pharmacophore modeling and molecular dynamics simulations, enable high-throughput prediction of drug–target interactions at minimal cost [33]. This method has been used to repurpose anti-inflammatory drugs as potential inhibitors of amyloid aggregation in Alzheimer's disease and to identify kinase inhibitors with therapeutic potential in metabolic syndromes [34]. Moreover, integration of multi-omics data (genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics) with *In-silico* models provides mechanistic insights into disease networks. For example, transcriptomic reversal analysis has been employed to repurpose existing drugs that counteract disease-specific gene expression signatures [35]. These approaches underscore how repurposing is evolving into a data-driven discipline, complementing traditional clinical observation with predictive computational frameworks. By combining systems biology, docking, and molecular

simulations, drug repurposing is transitioning from hypothesis-driven chance discoveries to rational, mechanism-based strategies, thereby expanding its scope across complex disorders [36].

Clinical Case Studies and Success Stories

The practical impact of drug repurposing is best illustrated through successful examples where repositioned agents have transformed therapeutic landscapes. These cases underscore the translational value of repurposing, particularly when mechanistic insights align with clinical outcomes [37]. One of the most cited examples is sildenafil, originally developed as an anti-anginal agent targeting phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5). Although it failed in its initial cardiovascular indication, sildenafil was repurposed for erectile dysfunction, where it demonstrated significant efficacy and became one of the most commercially successful drugs in history [38]. Later, it was further repositioned for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), providing a life-saving therapy for patients with limited options [39]. Another landmark case is metformin, a first-line therapy for type 2 diabetes, which has been extensively investigated for its anticancer potential. By activating AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) and influencing mitochondrial metabolism, metformin exhibits antiproliferative effects across several cancer types [40]. Clinical trials are ongoing to validate its use in breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers, positioning metformin as a cost-effective adjunct in oncology [41]. Thalidomide represents a historically controversial but ultimately successful example of repurposing. Initially marketed as a sedative and withdrawn due to teratogenicity, thalidomide was later repositioned for multiple myeloma and erythema nodosum leprosum, where its immunomodulatory and anti-angiogenic properties provide therapeutic benefit [42]. This case illustrates both the risks and opportunities inherent in drug repurposing, emphasizing the importance of careful regulatory oversight. Other noteworthy examples include minoxidil, first developed as an antihypertensive but later repurposed for alopecia due to its hair growth–stimulating effects [43], and amantadine, originally an antiviral agent later applied in Parkinson's disease for its dopaminergic properties [44]. Together, these success stories demonstrate how drug repurposing can lead to breakthrough therapies across diverse disease areas. They also highlight the potential to expand indications for existing drugs through mechanistic re-evaluation and clinical revalidation [45].

Challenges and Limitations in Drug Repurposing

Despite its growing prominence, drug repurposing faces multiple challenges that limit its translation into widespread clinical practice. A key barrier relates to intellectual property and patent protection. Since most repurposed agents are already approved and off-patent, pharmaceutical companies often lack financial incentive to invest in large-scale clinical trials, resulting in limited industry-driven initiatives [46]. Efforts to establish new use patents or data exclusivity can partially address this issue, but regulatory complexities often delay progress [47]. Another major limitation involves safety and off-target effects. Although repurposed drugs generally have well-characterized safety profiles, their use in novel indications may expose patients to previously unrecognized adverse effects. For instance, the immunomodulatory properties that make thalidomide effective in multiple myeloma also pose risks of neuropathy and thrombosis, highlighting the delicate balance between efficacy and safety [48]. Similarly, dose adjustments and drug–drug interactions may differ in new therapeutic contexts, necessitating careful clinical re-evaluation [49]. Regulatory challenges further complicate repurposing pathways. Existing frameworks were designed primarily for novel drug approvals, and adaptation to accommodate repositioned drugs remains inconsistent across regions. Agencies such as the U.S. FDA and EMA have initiated adaptive licensing models; however, harmonization at the global level is still lacking [50]. These regulatory gaps often lead to delays in clinical translation and limited patient access, particularly for rare diseases where repurposing holds the greatest promise [51]. Finally, scientific limitations also constrain success rates. Many computationally predicted repurposing candidates fail in clinical validation due to insufficient disease-specific mechanistic understanding or inadequate preclinical models. For complex disorders like Alzheimer's disease, targeting single pathways with repurposed drugs may be insufficient, necessitating polypharmacology or combination therapy approaches [52]. Addressing these challenges requires multi-stakeholder collaboration, integrating efforts from academia, industry, regulators, and funding agencies. Improved data sharing, standardized clinical trial designs, and supportive regulatory frameworks could help accelerate the safe and efficient translation of repurposed agents into clinical use [53].

Future Directions in Drug Repurposing

The future of drug repurposing is being shaped by the convergence of computational innovation, systems biology, and precision medicine. These emerging trends promise to transform repurposing from an opportunistic strategy into a structured, predictive discipline capable of addressing unmet clinical needs [54]. A major advancement lies in the application of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to drug repurposing. By analyzing large-scale datasets that include chemical structures, gene expression signatures, protein interactions, and clinical records, AI models can uncover novel drug–disease associations that might otherwise remain hidden [55]. Deep learning approaches, in particular, have shown utility in predicting polypharmacology, enabling the identification of multi-target drug candidates relevant for complex disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and diabetes [56]. Another promising direction is pharmacogenomics-guided repositioning, which tailors repurposed therapies to genetic and molecular characteristics of patients. Advances in genome-wide association studies (GWAS) and multi-omics profiling allow for the identification of patient subgroups most likely to benefit from specific repositioned agents [57]. For example, genetic variants influencing drug metabolism or disease susceptibility can guide the selection of optimal candidates, minimizing variability in therapeutic response [58]. The integration of real-world evidence (RWE), derived from electronic health records, insurance claims, and patient registries, also provides an invaluable resource for validating repurposed drugs. This approach not only captures drug efficacy in heterogeneous populations but also helps identify long-term safety outcomes beyond the scope of traditional clinical trials [59]. Furthermore, global collaborative platforms are expected to play a central role in accelerating repurposing. Initiatives such as open-access drug databases, computational pipelines, and shared clinical trial networks facilitate data sharing between academia, industry, and regulatory bodies. These ecosystems are critical for expanding the reach of repurposing to rare and neglected diseases where traditional drug development remains economically unfeasible [60]. By combining AI-driven discovery, pharmacogenomic stratification, and real-world validation, the future of drug repurposing will move toward a precision pharmacology paradigm, offering safer, faster, and more effective therapeutic solutions across multiple disease areas [61].

CONCLUSION

Drug repurposing has emerged as a transformative approach in modern pharmacology, offering a faster, safer, and more cost-effective alternative to traditional drug discovery. By leveraging the existing knowledge of approved drugs, this strategy reduces the risk of unforeseen adverse effects and accelerates the translation of therapies to clinical practice. Advances in computational biology, pharmacogenomics, and real-world data integration are further enhancing the scope and precision of drug repositioning. Looking ahead, the synergy between artificial intelligence, systems biology, and personalized medicine will redefine repurposing as a structured and predictive discipline rather than a serendipitous process. This evolution is particularly relevant for addressing unmet needs in complex, rare, and neglected diseases. Ultimately, drug repurposing represents not only a complementary strategy to de novo drug development but also a sustainable pathway toward precision pharmacology and global health innovation.

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Table 1: Examples of Repurposed Drugs in Neurodegenerative Disorders

S.No	Disease	Original Indication	Repurposed Drug	Mechanism / Target	Reference
1.	Alzheimer's Disease	Type 2 Diabetes	Metformin	AMPK activation, anti-inflammatory, mitochondrial protection	[15]
2.	Alzheimer's Disease	Type 2 Diabetes	GLP-1 Receptor Agonists	Enhance synaptic plasticity, reduce tau hyperphosphorylation	[14]
3.	Parkinson's Disease	Hypertension	Isradipine	Calcium channel blocker, reduces oxidative stress in dopaminergic neurons	[16]
4.	Parkinson's Disease	Antibiotic	Doxycycline	Modulates glutamatergic transmission, anti-inflammatory	[17]
5.	Parkinson's Disease	Hypercholesterolemia	Statins	Anti-inflammatory, reduces oxidative stress	[18]

Table 2: Examples of Repurposed Drugs in Metabolic Disorders

S.No	Disorder	Original Indication	Repurposed Drug	Mechanism / Target	Reference
1.	Type 2 Diabetes	Cancer	Imatinib	Tyrosine kinase inhibition, β-cell protection	[22]
2.	Type 2 Diabetes	Anti-inflammatory	Salicylates	NF-κB pathway inhibition, improves insulin sensitivity	[23]
3.	Obesity	Antiepileptic	Topiramate	Appetite suppression, energy balance modulation	[24]
4.	Obesity	Antidepressant	Bupropion	Dopaminergic/noradrenergic activity, appetite regulation	[25]
5.	Obesity & Diabetes	Diabetes	GLP-1 Receptor Agonists	Weight loss and glycemic control	[26]

Table 3: Mechanistic Approaches in Drug Repurposing

S.No	Approach	Description	Example Applications	Reference
1.	Network Pharmacology	Integration of drugs, targets, and disease pathways	Statins in AD, Metformin in cancer	[31]
2.	Molecular Docking	Computational prediction of drug–target binding	Anti-inflammatory drugs against amyloid aggregation	[32,34]
3.	Multi-omics Integration	Transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics	Identification of novel repurposing candidates	[35]
4.	Molecular Dynamics	Simulates drug–protein interactions over time	Kinase inhibitors for metabolic syndromes	[33]
5.	Pharmacogenomics-guided Repositioning	Tailoring repurposed drugs to genetic variants	Personalized therapies in diabetes and obesity	[57]

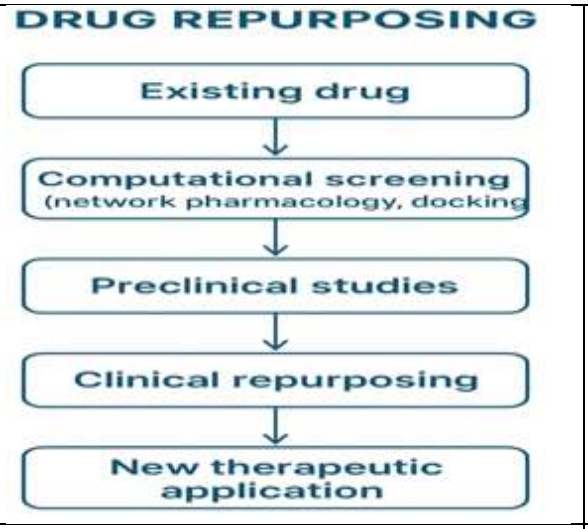


Fig 1: Vertical Workflow of Drug Repurposing

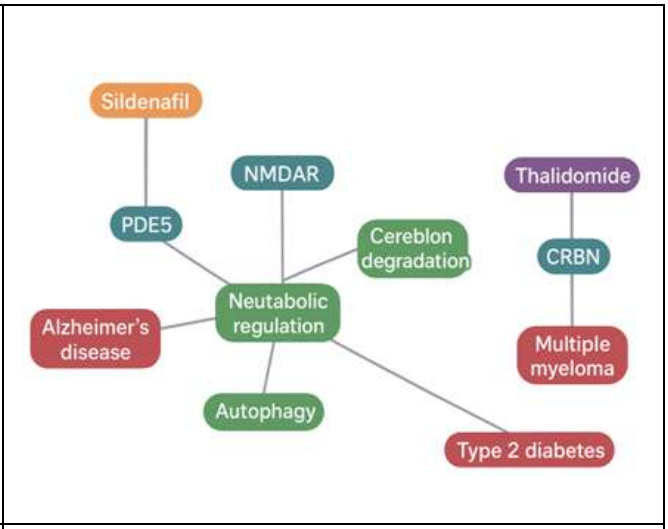


Fig 2: Mechanistic Network Diagram

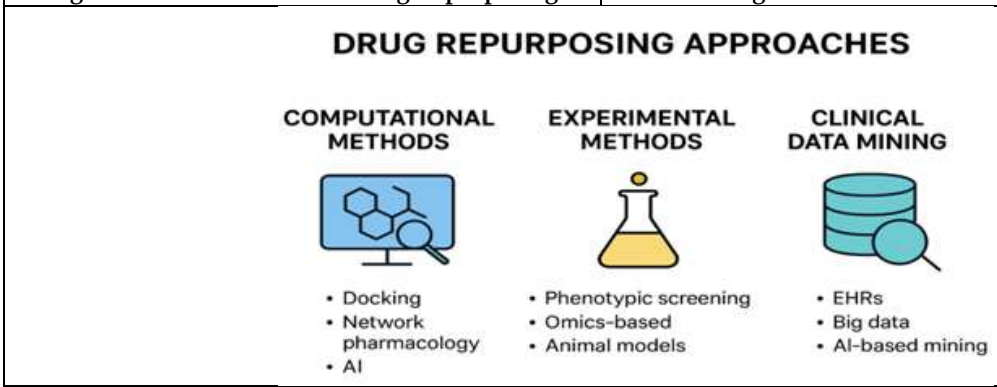


Fig 3: Drug Repurposing Approaches

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effectiveness of the REEDA Scale in Assessing Perineal Healing among Postnatal Mothers at SGT Hospital, Gurugram

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ABSTRACT

Perineal trauma following vaginal delivery necessitates timely and accurate assessment to ensure proper healing and prevent complications. The REEDA scale, a standardized tool for evaluating perineal wound healing, remains underutilized and underexplored in Indian healthcare contexts. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the REEDA scale in assessing perineal wound healing among postnatal mothers and its role in early identification of complications and enhancement of nursing care at SGT Hospital, Gurgaon. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 100 postnatal mothers who had undergone episiotomy at SGT Hospital. The REEDA scale was applied on postpartum days 1, 3, and 7. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics (repeated measures ANOVA). REEDA scores showed significant improvement from postpartum day 1 to day 7 ($p < 0.05$). Early complications were detected in 12% of cases, allowing timely nursing interventions. The REEDA scale is an effective tool for perineal wound assessment, facilitating early detection of complications and enhancing nursing care.

Keywords: REEDA scale, perineal wound healing, postpartum care, nursing assessment, episiotomy

INTRODUCTION

Perineal trauma, especially episiotomy, is common during vaginal deliveries and can significantly impact a mother's postpartum recovery. Timely and accurate wound assessment is vital to prevent complications such as infection, pain, delayed healing, and psychological distress. The REEDA scale—which evaluates Redness, Edema, Ecchymosis, Discharge, and Approximation—is a widely recognized and evidence-based clinical tool for systematic assessment of perineal wound healing. Studies have shown that the REEDA scale offers high inter-rater reliability and objectivity, making it superior to general visual inspection alone (Liu *et al*., 2021; Alvarenga *et al*., 2020).Recent research also highlights the importance of using standardized wound assessment tools in improving nursing documentation, early intervention, and patient education (Brito *et al*., 2022). Despite its global validation, the scale's integration into routine postpartum care in Indian healthcare settings remains limited, particularly in nursing practice. Limited training, lack of standardized protocols, and high patient load often contribute to this gap. This study, therefore, aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the REEDA scale in assessing perineal wound healing among postnatal mothers at SGT Hospital

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A descriptive study to assess the effectiveness of the REEDA Scale in Assessing Perineal Healing Among Postnatal Mothers at SGT Hospital, Gurgaon

OBJECTIVES

- To assess perineal wound healing using the REEDA scale on postpartum days 1, 3, and 7.
- To evaluate the scale's effectiveness in identifying early complications.
- To determine its impact on nursing care outcomes.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Results Research Design

The present study adopts a descriptive cross-sectional design. This design was chosen as it enables the assessment of the current status of perineal wound healing among postnatal mothers at a specific point in time using the REEDA scale. It allows the collection of data without influencing the natural course of healing, making it ideal for evaluating the effectiveness of an observational tool like the REEDA scale.

Research Setting

The study was conducted at SGT Hospital, a tertiary care teaching hospital affiliated with SGT University, Gurgaon, Haryana, India. The hospital has a well-established maternity ward that handles a substantial number of deliveries every month, making it an appropriate site for conducting postpartum observational research.

Population and Sample

Target Population: All postnatal mothers who have undergone vaginal delivery with episiotomy at SGT Hospital.
Accessible Population: Postnatal mothers admitted in the postnatal ward during the study period.

Sample Size

A total of **100 postnatal mothers** were selected for the study. This sample size was considered adequate to generate reliable findings and was determined based on feasibility and availability during the data collection period.

Sampling Technique

The sampling method used was non-probability purposive sampling. Mothers who met the inclusion criteria and gave informed consent were included in the study.

Inclusion Criteria

- Postnatal mothers who had a normal vaginal delivery with an episiotomy.
- Mothers within 48 to 72 hours postpartum.
- Willing to participate and provide informed consent.

Exclusion Criteria

- Mothers with perineal tears without episiotomy.
- Mothers with instrumental deliveries or cesarean sections.
- Those with pre-existing perineal infections or known wound healing disorders.

TOOL FOR DATA COLLECTION

The tool used for data collection was the REEDA Scale, which assesses:

Redness
Edema
Ecchymosis
Discharge
Approximation

Each parameter is scored from 0 to 3, with a total score ranging from 0 to 15. A higher score indicates greater wound severity or delayed healing.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

- Permission was obtained from the hospital authorities and ethical committee.
- Eligible participants were identified from the postnatal ward.
- Written informed consent was taken from each participant.
- Wound assessment was performed using the REEDA scale on day 2 or 3 postpartum.
- All assessments were carried out in a private setting ensuring privacy, dignity, and infection control measures.

DATA ANALYSIS

- Data were entered into Microsoft Excel and analyzed using SPSS software (version XX).
- Descriptive statistics such as mean, frequency, percentage, and standard deviation were used.
- Inferential statistics (e.g., Chi-square test) were applied to find associations between REEDA scores and selected demographic or obstetric variables.

Table 1: Sociodemographic Profile of the Participants (N = 100)
Table 2: Association Between REEDA Scores and Selected Sociodemographic Variables

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

- There is a significant association between REEDA scores and
- **Age**: Younger mothers (18–30 years) demonstrated faster healing.
- **Residence**: Urban mothers experienced better wound recovery.
- **Gravida**: Multigravida mothers healed more quickly than primigravida.
- No significant relationship was found with religion and income, suggesting these factors may not substantially affect healing outcomes post-episiotomy.

Mean REEDA Score(Table: 3)

Repeated measures ANOVA showed significant improvement in REEDA scores over time ($p < 0.05$).

Figure 1: REEDA Score Progression Over Postpartum Days
Figure 2: Early Complications Detected Using REEDA Scale

DISCUSSION

Comparison with National Studies

In an Indian context, a study by Sharma *et al*. (2019) conducted in a tertiary care hospital in Delhi assessed 80 postnatal women using the REEDA scale. Their results indicated that early wound assessment using REEDA helped in identifying early signs of infection, particularly among women with prolonged labor or instrumental delivery. The current study supports these findings, though only mothers with spontaneous vaginal deliveries were included. This indicates that even in uncomplicated deliveries, the REEDA scale is beneficial for structured wound monitoring. Furthermore, Kaur and Bhardwaj (2021) found that nursing staff in many Indian hospitals were not routinely using standardized tools like the REEDA scale, leading to inconsistencies in postpartum care. The current study highlights this gap and demonstrates that incorporating the REEDA scale improved documentation, monitoring, and early intervention for perineal wound issues.

Correlation with Clinical Variables

The current study also found statistically significant associations between higher REEDA scores and variables such as duration of labor, parity, and type of perineal care practiced. Similar findings were reported by Liu *et al*. (2021), who stated that multiparous women and those receiving inadequate perineal care had higher REEDA scores and delayed healing. The alignment of these variables with REEDA scores underlines the scale's clinical relevance in identifying at-risk women for wound complications.

Effectiveness of the REEDA Scale as a Clinical Tool

The current study reinforces findings from Brito *et al*. (2022), who concluded that the REEDA scale is a valid and reliable method for early perineal wound assessment in postpartum women. They emphasized that using the scale leads to more timely referrals, appropriate use of antiseptic/antibiotic care, and improved maternal comfort and satisfaction. Similarly, a study by Fernandes *et al*. (2018) observed that structured REEDA-based assessments conducted by trained nurses resulted in a 30% reduction in wound-related complications over a two-week postpartum follow-up. Although the current study did not extend beyond the third postpartum day, its findings suggest early trends that warrant further longitudinal investigation.

CONCLUSION

The present study was conducted to assess the effectiveness of the REEDA scale as a clinical tool for evaluating perineal wound healing among postnatal mothers who underwent vaginal delivery with episiotomy at SGT Hospital, Gurgaon. The findings revealed that the REEDA scale is a practical, reliable, and objective tool for early detection of perineal wound complications such as redness, edema, ecchymosis, discharge, and wound edge separation. The study identified that most participants experienced mild to moderate wound symptoms within the first 72 hours postpartum, with redness and edema being the most common. The use of the REEDA scale helped standardize the wound assessment process, enabling better clinical decision-making and documentation. Statistically significant associations were found between REEDA scores and variables such as duration of labor, parity, and type of perineal care, emphasizing the scale's relevance in individualized patient care. Despite its global recognition, the REEDA scale is underutilized in many Indian clinical settings. This study underscores the need to incorporate the REEDA scale into routine nursing assessments to promote early identification of wound healing issues, reduce the risk of postpartum complications, and improve maternal satisfaction and recovery outcomes. Overall, the findings validate the REEDA scale as an effective evidence-based tool that can enhance nursing practice and postpartum care when used consistently and accurately.

Recommendations

- Train nurses in REEDA scale application
- Include REEDA in routine postnatal protocols

- Conduct larger multi-center studies

Ethical Considerations

Ethical Clearance
Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) of SGT University, Gurgaon, Haryana, prior to the commencement of data collection.

Informed Consent
Written informed consent was obtained from each participant after explaining the purpose, procedures, benefits, and risks of the study in a language they could understand. Participants were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any point without facing any consequences.

Confidentiality and Anonymity
Participant identities were kept strictly confidential. No names or personal identifiers were used in any part of the data collection or reporting process. Each participant was assigned a unique code number for data analysis to ensure anonymity.

Voluntary Participation
Participation in the study was entirely voluntary. No incentives or coercion were used. Participants were free to ask questions and decline to participate if they were uncomfortable.

Non-Maleficence and Beneficence
The study ensured no harm was caused to the participants during perineal assessment. All procedures were conducted using aseptic techniques, and participants received basic education on perineal hygiene and care post-assessment, promoting health and comfort.

Data Protection
All collected data were stored securely in password-protected files accessible only to the researcher. Physical documents were kept in locked cabinets, and digital data were protected under data security protocols in accordance with institutional policy.

Respect for Autonomy and Dignity
The study ensured privacy during perineal assessment by conducting procedures in a private clinical setting, respecting the personal space, cultural sensitivity, and dignity of each participant.

Use of Data
The data collected was used solely for academic and research purposes. The results will be presented in aggregate form to avoid identifying individual participants

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Table 1: Sociodemographic Profile of the Participants (N = 100)

Variable	Categories	Frequency (%)
Age (in years)	18–24	30 (30%)
	25–30	45 (45%)
	31–35	20 (20%)
	36–40	5 (5%)
Residence	Urban	70 (70%)
	Rural	30 (30%)
Religion	Hindu	85 (85%)
	Muslim	10 (10%)
	Other	5 (5%)
Monthly Income	< ₹10,000	40 (40%)
	₹10,000–₹20,000	35 (35%)
	> ₹20,000	25 (25%)
Gravida	Primigravida	40 (40%)
	Multigravida	60 (60%)

Table 2: Association Between REEDA Scores and Selected Sociodemographic Variables

Variable	Test Used	p-value	Significance
Age	Chi-square	0.032	Significant
Residence	Chi-square	0.018	Significant
Religion	Chi-square	0.284	Not Significant
Monthly Income	Chi-square	0.171	Not Significant
Gravida	Chi-square	0.024	Significant

Table 3: Mean REEDA Score

S.No	Days	Mean REEDA Score
1.	Day 1	6.2 ± 1.4
2.	Day 3	4.3 ± 1.1
3.	Day 7	2.1 ± 0.9

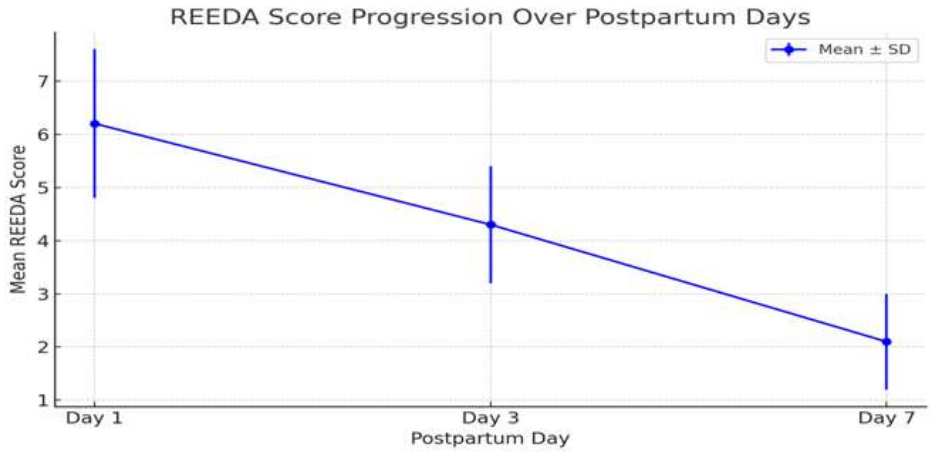


Figure 1: REEDA Score Progression Over Postpartum Days

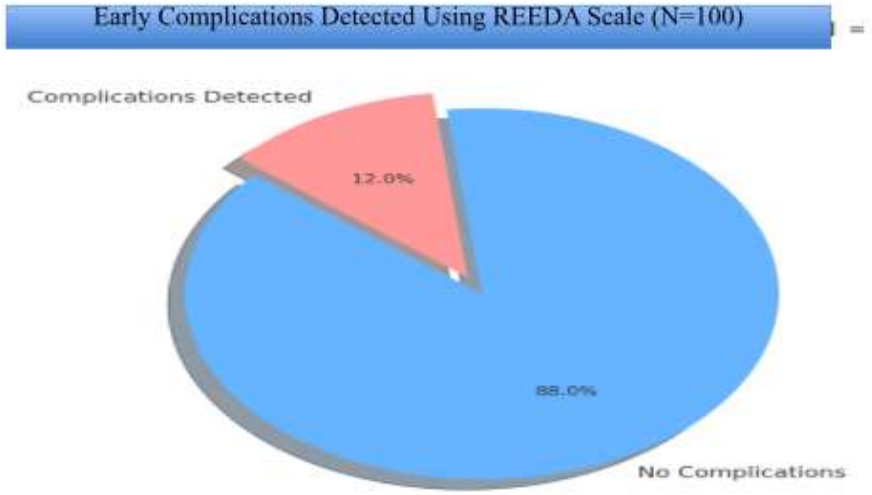


Figure 2: Early Complications Detected Using REEDA Scale

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Development and Evaluation of Blended Plant Based Milk Alternative: A Study on Finger Millet - Almond Blend

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ABSTRACT

The rising demand for sustainable, ethical dairy alternatives led to the development of plant-based milk blends. This study aimed to standardize finger millet-almond blended milk and evaluate its physicochemical, nutritional, and sensory qualities. Finger millet milk and almond milk were combined in three ratios: V_{B1} (60:40), V_{B2} (70:30), and V_{B3} (80:20), the different ratios were compared with cow's milk as the control. Sensory evaluation showed that V_{B2} had the highest sensory acceptability. The moisture content of $V_{B2'}$ was similar to control, but it had a lower pH and higher ash content. V_{B2} had higher carbohydrate (7.75 g/100ml) and protein (4.47%) content but lower fat (2.27%) than the control. It also had significantly more iron (0.66 mg/100ml) but less calcium (49.27 mg/100ml). Microbial analysis showed a shelf life of 3–5 days for VB2, beyond which acidity increased**.** The finger millet-almond blend presents promise due to its favorable nutrient profile, suggesting its potential as a sustainable and health-conscious dairy alternative with lower environmental impact, potential health benefits from plant source and cater to a broader consumer base due to improved affordability.

Keywords: Almond, Blend, Finger millet, Plant-based milk, Sustainable

INTRODUCTION

The rising popularity of plant-based diets is clearly reflected in the growing demand for milk alternatives made from plants. Health-conscious consumers are embracing plant-based lifestyles to reduce their consumption of animal-derived products, aiming for associated health benefits like lower cholesterol levels, decreased risk of cardiovascular diseases, and improved digestion. Additionally, there's a recognition of the environmental advantage as producing plant-based milk alternatives generally have a lower ecological footprint compared to dairy milk production. Currently, underutilized crops like millets are gaining attention due to their nutritional value and affordability. The increasing environmental and animal welfare issues have further propelled the consumers towards seeking alternatives that align with their values of sustainability, ethics and health consciousness. Generally, millets, cereals, legumes, and nuts are typically used to generate plant-based milk because they offer advantageous qualities that make it easy to mix to create a dairy-free, nutrient-dense, pleasant, and acceptable. In addition to being a vital element of our diet, millet has gained popularity as a functional food in recent years because of its many health advantages. Finger millet (*Eluesine coracana L*) often known as ragi, stands as a nutritional powerhouse echoing the wisdom of our ancestors. It is ranked the fourth-most productive grain crop and important millet after sorghum, pearl millet, and foxtail millet [1]. It is high in carbs and consists of non-starchy polysaccharides (65.5%), free sugars (1.04%), and starch. Due to its inclination to retrograde, finger millet starch has the greatest set back viscosity (560 BU) upon chilling, making millet milk a viable substitute for dairy milk. It is lower in fat than other varieties of millet. It has an extraordinarily high calcium content of 344 mg/100g and other minerals including phosphorus 283 mg/100g, iron 3.9 mg/100g and several other trace elements and vitamins hence can be considered as a nutrient rich powerhouse [2],. It is gluten-free and so a great option for those who have celiac disease or gluten sensitivity. Its ability to prevent malnutrition is well documented, particularly in underdeveloped nations. Due to these extraordinary qualities of finger millet, it has been termed as a "Super grain" by FAO. Almond (*Prunus amygdalus)* is the most well-known and widespread nut referred to as the "king of nuts". It is rich in Phyto protective compounds and other nutrients that positively impact human health. A 100-gram serving of almonds contains more than 20% of the recommended daily intake of calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, zinc, niacin, and vitamin E.

Additionally, phytosterols found in almonds, including beta-sitosterol, stigmasterol, campesterol, sitostanol, and campestanol, have been linked to cholesterol-lowering effects. Moreover, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, dietary fibre, and almonds could reduce low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol [3]. Since it can be used in a multitude of ways, such as coffee, tea, smoothies, cereal, and baking, almond milk has been increasingly popular in recent years as a healthy option because of its nutritional advantages. Hence, it could be considered as a timeless nutrient-dense elixir. Almonds and finger millet offer distinct nutritional benefits and blending them can create a product with a well-rounded nutrient profile. Almonds contribute healthy fats, proteins, and vitamin E, while finger millet brings in essential minerals like calcium and iron. This synergy enhances the overall nutritional value of the blended plant-based milk alternative as an excellent source of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and vital fatty acids. Plant-based milk is a suitable non-dairy alternative. In this scenario, an innovative approach has emerged: combining plant-based components to produce a flavorful, nutrient-dense substitute for conventional dairy milk. A particularly interesting combination is finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) and almond *(Prunus dulcis)*, two different but complimentary sources that work well together to create a distinct and healthy plant-based milk alternative. Creating a blended milk alternative using these components has the potential to produce a product that is not only nutritionally superior but also offers pleasing textures while masking the unusual taste often associated with dairy-free alternatives. Despite the promising prospects, research on this type of millet-based milk blend, particularly finger millet, remains limited. Given its exceptional nutritional profile and cost-effectiveness, such a product holds commercial advantages. Hence the aim of the present study is to develop and evaluate blended plant- based milk alternative using finger millet and almond. The main objectives of the present study were to standardize finger millet- almond blended milk, to conduct sensory evaluation to select the best blended finger millet and almond plant-based milk and to estimate the physiochemical parameters, proximate properties present in different formulated milks and blended milk and estimate the microbial load of the blended milk.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample Collection

Dry mature California almonds were procured from a local store in Chickpet, Bengaluru, India. Finger millet was procured from Karnataka state seed corporation "Beeja Bhavan" Bengaluru, India. The variety of finger millet used was ML 365, a high yielding variety. Muslin cloth and xanthan gum, flavor (cardamom), sugars were purchased from a local market.

Processing finger millet for milk extraction

The procured finger millet was cleaned and sorted using a sieve for removal of dirt and dust particles and washed multiple numbers of times until the release of clean water observed. The washed finger millet was soaked in clean water overnight then drained and tied tightly with muslin cloth and kept in dark for germination. The germination was observed at 24 hours, 48 hours and 72 hours. The germination time was standardized based on the length and the color of the plumule as suggested by Chilkawar *et al*., in their study[4]. After germination, the finger millet was sun dried till the moisture content was 10-12%. They were then roasted at 75-80^{o} C for 10-15 minutes until an aroma was obtained [5].

Formulation and standardization of finger millet milk

The finger millet milk extraction involved a meticulous exploration of various finger millet-to-water ratios to achieve the most efficient and nutritious outcome. To enhance the extraction process different ratios (w/v) of germinated and roasted finger millet to water were tested (1:2, 1:3 and 1:4). Based on this trial the ratio that yielded the highest milk concentration with optimal texture and flavor was selected. The millet slurry obtained was strained though a double layer muslin cloth and stored in a sterilized glass bottle at 4^{0} C for further usage and analysis.

Formulation and standardization of almond milk

The procured almonds were cleaned and sorted and then subjected to heat by roasting it at 650-750^{o} C for 10 -15 minutes until the roasted aroma is obtained (Europe Patent No. EP2476317A1, 2012). The roasted almonds were cooled to room temperature and soaked in clean water for 12 hours followed by dehulling of the almonds. The processed almonds were blended with water at different ratios (w/v) (1:2, 1:3 and 1:4) and strained using a double layered muslin cloth.

Formulation of blended finger millet and almond milk extract

Three different proportions of blended extracts of finger millet and almond V_{B1} (60:40), V_{B2} (70:30) and V_{B3} (80:20) were prepared. Xanthum gum (0.05%), sugar (2%) and cardamom (0.1 %) were added according to the method described by Bernat *et al*.,[6]. It was then homogenized using a high-pressure homogenizer, aseptically filled in a sterilized glass bottle and pasteurized at 85^{0} C for 5 minutes in a hot water bath and rapidly cooled by placing in anice-cold water bath. It was stored at 4^{0} C for further analysis.

Sensory evaluation

The sensory evaluation of the different milk and milk blends samples were done using a 9-point hedonic scale by 30 semi trained panelist. Different milk samples were systematically evaluated for their sensory attributes including color, aroma, consistency, taste, mouth feel and overall acceptability.

Physiochemical and proximate analysis

The samples were analyzed for pH, ash, moisture and TSS as per AOAC standard methods. Carbohydrate content was determined using anthrone. Protein content was determined by the standard Kjeldahl method, fat content was estimated using Soxhlet extraction method as per standard AOAC method [7, 8].The calcium and the iron content were estimated at Pristine laboratory, Bengaluru. The analysis was done following IS 13433 standards. Estimations were made in triplicates and the results obtained were expressed as Mean ±SD.

Microbial analysis

The microbial analysis of blended finger millet almond milk V_{B2} was studied, the microbial analysis spread plate technique was used, the total counts of bacteria, mold, and yeast of the blended finger millet-almond milk extract which was stored in aseptically packed glass bottle at 4^0C were calculated for each of the following storage periods: 1, 5, 11 and 14 days. One milliliter (1 mL) of sample was serially transferred into nine milliliters (9 mL) of the sterile distilled water with a sterile pipette and shaken vigorously. Serial dilution continued until 10^7 dilutions were obtained. Aliquot portion (0.1 mL) of the 10^5, 10^6 and 10^7 dilutions were inoculated onto freshly prepared, surface-dried nutrient agar (NA). The same quantity (0.1 mL) of the 10^5, 10^6 and 10^7 dilution was inoculated onto potato dextrose agar (PDA). The inoculums was spread with a sterile glass spreader to obtain even distribution of isolates after incubation. Nutrient agar plates were incubated for 24-48 hrs at 37°C, while potato dextrose agar plate was incubated at ambient temperature (28± 02°C) for 3-5 days. The Enumeration of Microbial Population, Total plate counts for the nutrient Agar and yeast and molds count for potato dextrose agar were done by counting colonies at the reverse side of the culture plates. Total colony count was expressed in colony forming units per millilitre (CFU^{-mL}). Microbial isolates (bacteria, yeasts and molds) were characterized and identified based on colony characterization and Gram staining [9].

Statistical analysis

Data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) by using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 26.0, Where the ANOVA test indicated significant differences. All analyses were performed in triplicate from the same bulk sample. Duncan's multiple range test was exploited for mean comparison at 95% confidence interval ($p < 0.05$).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For the formulation of the blended plant-based milk alternative, finger millet milk and almond milk was extracted using 100 g of germinated and roasted finger millet and 100 g of roasted almonds were used with different ratios of finger millet: water and almond: water to select the best and the appropriate ratio. The different ratios 1:2, 1:3, 1:4 (w/v) were examined to select the best one, the best ratio was selected based on the yield of the milk as presented in (Table 1) and the consistency of the extracted milk. With respect to finger millet 1:4 (w/v) was used considering the highest yield. In a similar study reported by Shunmugapriya *et al*., millet milk was standardized at 1:6 (w/v) ratio. Considering the results from several similar studies that report that cereal based milk alternative tends to be waterier, a ratio of 1:4 (w/v) was considered [10, 11].For the extraction of almond milk 1:3 (w/v) was selected.

Sensory evaluation

Sensory evaluation plays a crucial role in the post-food product development as it helps assess the overall quality and acceptability of the product from a consumer's perspective. The different milk and the milk blends that were analyzed were, V_0 -cow's milk, V_{FM} -100% finger millet milk, V_{AM} – 100% Almond milk, V_{B1} -Blended milk with 60% finger millet milk extract and 40% almond milk extract, V_{B2}- Blended milk with 70% finger millet milk extract and 30% almond milk extract, V_{B3} - Blended milk with 80% finger millet milk extract and 20% almond milk extract**.** The mean sensory scores pertaining to color, aroma, consistency, taste, mouth feel, and overall acceptability across various milk types and blends are presented in (Table 2). Statistical analysis revealed significant differences ($p < 0.05$) among the evaluated parameters across different milk and milk blend variations. In terms of color, the highest mean score was recorded for V_{AM} (8.83±0.08), followed by V_0 (7.60±0.26), while the lowest score was observed for V_{FM} (5.8±0.07). Among the blended milk variations, V_{B2} exhibited the highest score (7.35±0.10), whereas V_{B3} demonstrated the lowest (6.97±0.14). Regarding aroma, V_{AM} attained the highest mean score (7.57±0.05), trailed by V_0 (7.07±0.20), whereas V_{FM} displayed the lowest score (5.59±0.09). Among the blends, V_{B2} showcased the highest score (6.60±0.09), while V_{B3} exhibited the lowest (6.46±0.21). Consistency scores were notably elevated for V_0 (7.43±0.12), followed by V_{AM} (7.08±0.04)and V_{FM} scored the least (5.84±0.05), whereas among the blended variations, V_{B1} received the highest score (6.79±0.07), and V_{B3} garnered the lowest (6.36±0.12). Taste, a pivotal parameter, V_{AM} received the highest mean score (7.88±0.08), followed by V_0 (7.40±0.09) and the lowest in V_{FM} (4.74±0.10). Among the blended milk types, V_{B2} recorded the highest score (6.33±0.11), while V_{B3} obtained the lowest (5.40±0.09). Mouthfeel scores were notably superior in V_{AM} (7.52±0.09) and V_0 (7.44±0.07), whereas V_{FM} exhibited the lowest score. V_{B2} demonstrated the highest

score (6.41±0.10) among the blends. In terms of overall acceptability, V_{AM} emerged with the highest mean score (8.01±0.10), followed by V_0 (7.66±0.09), whereas V_{FM} garnered the lowest score (5.05±0.08). Among the blended variations, V_{B2} displayed the highest acceptability score (6.47±0.11), while V_{B3} demonstrated the lowest (5.94±0.14), potentially attributed to an increased concentration of finger millet milk extract. The discrepancy in acceptance between finger millet milk and almond milk can be attributed to factors elucidated by a study by Appiani *et al*., which noted that millet milk tends to evoke a chalky, grainy, or gritty mouthfeel sensation, potentially due to the presence of sizable particle aggregates [12]. Furthermore, cereal and pseudo-cereal beverages, such as finger millet milk, often exhibit a thinner consistency compared to other product types, resulting in a watery texture. In contrast, nut-based beverages, like almond milk, typically boast a thicker and more substantial texture. In a similar study by Dhankhar *et al*., millet milk was combined with coconut milk in varying proportions, namely 50:50 and 60:40 ratios. The findings indicated that the blend comprising equal parts of millet milk and coconut milk (50% each) was highly favored in terms of sensory appeal. Conversely, the blend with 60% millet milk showed poorer sensory properties compared to other blends. This was attributed to the higher proportion of millet milk, resulting in a pronounced astringent flavor that persisted in the blend[13].Results obtained in the present study, the balanced amalgamation of almond milk and finger millet milk in V_{B2} (70:30) surfaced as the most acceptable option, advocating for the preservation of distinct flavors without overshadowing each other. Consequently, V_{B2} was chosen for further analysis after sensory evaluation among the blended milk extracts.

Physiochemical parameters

The results concerning the physicochemical characteristics of the control, different milk and milk blends are presented in (Table 3). Moisture content is a critical determinant of texture, taste, shelf life, and microbial stability in food products. (Table 3)illustrates the moisture percentages of different milks and milk blend, results indicated significant differences among the samples (p- < 0.05) with V_{FM} exhibiting the highest moisture content (95.23±0.73), while V_{AM} showed the lowest (84.50±0.96). V_0 and V_{B2} displayed similar moisture levels (87.01±0.61 and 87.08±0.47) respectively. The elevated moisture content in V_{FM} may be attributed to the substantial water proportion used in finger millet milk extraction. Despite containing finger millet milk, V_{B2} demonstrated lower moisture content due to its higher proportion of almond milk, similar to V_0. A study by Dhankar *et al*., (2018)reported comparable moisture content trends related to finger millet milk, although at a slightly higher value of 90.960 ± 0.636, potentially due to variations in the water-to-millet ratio used in milk extraction [13]. Ash content reflects the mineral concentration after complete combustion in food products. (Table 3) outlines the ash percentages of different milks and milk blends, ash content displayed significant differences among the samples (p- <0.05) with V_0 displaying the lowest ash content (0.85±0.07), while V_{FM} and V_{AM} showed similar ash percentages (1.65±0.19 and 1.68±0.19, respectively). V_{B2} exhibited higher ash content (1.79±0.17), attributed to the utilization of mineral-rich ingredients such as finger millet and almond. The ash content was lower in V_0 (0.85±0.07) in contrast to other variants. Typically, the ash percentages of various plant-based milk alternatives range from 0.83% to 3.99% [14]. pH serves as a critical indicator of acidity or alkalinity in solutions, impacting food product stability, safety, and sensory attributes. The pH values of different milk types and blends are presented in Table 3. pH levels varied significantly across the samples (p- <0.05) with V_0 and V_{AM} exhibiting similar pH values (6.77±0.14), while V_{FM} showed a slightly lower pH (6.49±0.04), and V_{B2} displayed a pH value of (6.53±0.09). The marginally lower pH in V_{FM} may be attributed to the acid-forming nature of cereals. The measured pH values were close to neutrality, consistent with findings of the study by Ben Jemaa *et al*., (2021) on various plant-based milk alternatives. They reported that the pH of pseudo cereals such as oat and quinoa (6.61 ±0.9 and 6.46 ±0.6) to be lower than that of almond milk (6.72 ± 0.02) [15]. Total soluble solids (TSS %) measure the concentration of dissolved solids in a solution, including sugars and organic acids, affecting a product's sweetness or flavor intensity. V_{AM} exhibits the highest TSS percentage (15.82±0.09), while V_0 and V_{B2} showed similar TSS percentages (13.51±0.08 and 13.31±0.10, respectively). V_{FM} displayed the lowest TSS percentage (4.54±0.05), possibly due to dilution during finger millet milk extraction, the reduced TSS percentage observed in finger millet corresponds well with the findings of study by Shunmugapriya *et al*., which reported a TSS percentage of 3±0.42 [10]. The TSS percentage patterns in plant-based milk alternatives, particularly oat and peanut milk have been reported to range from 12-15% [16].

Proximate analysis of different milk and milk blends

Macronutrient analysis is integral to various aspects of food product development, from ensuring nutritional adequacy and safety to catering to diverse dietary preferences and supporting health. The analysis of macronutrients of a food product is crucial for understanding its nutritional profile and making informed dietary choices. It involves determining the amounts of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats present in the product. The mean macronutrient content of various milk and milk blends is illustrated in (Table 4) Statistical analysis revealed significant differences ($p < 0.05$) in the carbohydrate (CHO) values among the samples. V_{FM} exhibited the highest CHO content (9.66±0.41), whereas V_0 and V_{AM} had similar and lower CHO values (4.40±0.20 and 4.51±0.09, respectively). V_{B2} showed a CHO content of (7.75±0.07).A study by Yetunde *et al*.,(2015)reported similar CHO content in almond milk (4.50g/100 ml)[11] and another study suggested that the CHO content in millet milk ranged from2.52–6.01%, [17]. The higher CHO content reported in V_{B2}could be due to the increased proportion of finger millet milk and the differences in the germination periods of finger millet. The protein content of all the milk samples and blended milk varied significantly ($p<0.05$). V_{AM} exhibited maximum protein content (6.09±0.56) followed by V_{B2} (4.47±0.23) and V_0 (3.45±0.10), V_{FM} had the least protein content (1.55±0.09), the processing methods involved in the formulation of the plant-based milk result in the reduced protein content in millets [18]However, in the present study blending finger millet milk with almond milk resulted in increased protein content of blended milk (V_{B2}) and resulted in higher protein content than that of the control (V_0). The fat content of all the milk samples and blended milk varied significantly ($p<0.05$). V_{AM} reported maximum fat content (7.20±0.37) followed by V_0 and V_{B2} (4.57±0.23) and (4.47±0.23), whereas V_{FM} had the least fat content (0.36±0.12). The fat content in V_{FM} is less due to the low fat in finger millet which is further reduced by the dilution with water for extraction of the milk. It is evident that the increase in fat content in V_{B2} is due to the blending of finger millet milk with almond milk and majorly the fat content is said to be less than that of control V_0. Micronutrients are essential for immune system function, metabolic activities, and disease prevention in addition to sustaining general health. As a result, evaluating a food item's micronutrient composition provides important information about its possible nutritional advantages. The average amounts of micronutrients in various milks and milk blend varied significantly ($p< 0.05$), as shown in (Table 4). In comparison to the plant-based alternatives V_{FM}, V_{AM}, and V_{B2}, which showed lower calcium concentrations (41.37±0.57, 63.04±0.13, and 49.27±0.51) respectively but similar iron levels (0.60±0.04, 0.67±0.10, and 0.66±0.06) respectively were reported in plant based milk, the control variant (V_0) boasted the highest calcium content (112.11±0.90), but it also showed lower iron levels (0.04±0.05). Even though finger millet is a rich source of calcium, the processing involved through the milk extraction process results in mineral loss during milling and less calcium [19].The nutritional value of plant-based milk substitute compared to that of bovine milk, the calcium content of cereal-based beverages is (0.07 g/100) ml lower than that of bovine milk (0.12 g/100 ml). Cow's milk exhibited low iron concentration of less than 0.05 mg/100 ml; the plant-based milk alternatives exhibited greater iron contents ranging from 0.15-0.38 mg/100 ml[20].

Microbial analysis of blended milk

The microbial growth analysis of blended milk stored at 4°C was examined over a period spanning from day 1 to day 15 (Table 5). The findings indicate an initial increase in colony forming units from $9x10^5$ CFU^{-mL} on day 1 to $94x10^5$ CFU^{-mL} on day 5, with the identified bacterial isolates being Gram-positive, rod-shaped, and non-pathogenic. Subsequently, a noticeable reduction in microbial growth occurred on day 11 ($6x10^5$ CFU^{-mL}), followed by a gradual decrease on day 15 ($2x10^5$ CFU^{-mL}). This decline in microbial load over the observation period may be attributed to the acidic environment and nutrient depletion resulting from fermentation within the blended beverage, increased acidity during storage of fermented beverages reduces oxygen content and the number of aerobic bacteria viable cells [21].Conversely, it is revealed that there is a progressive increase in microbial load in various plant-based milk alternatives, such as almond, oats, hemp, and quinoa, with no microbial growth on day 1 and a rise to $300x10^4$ CFU^{-mL} by the 12th day [15]. Based on these results, the optimal shelf life for the blended milk is estimated to be 3-5 days, as prolonged storage leads to increased acidity (indicated by reduced microbial load), potentially impacting sensory acceptance. Notably, yeast and mold counts remained undetected in the blended milk throughout the storage duration.

CONCLUSION

In the current research, a blended milk made from finger millet and almonds was prepared, considering the rising demand for vegan milk driven by heightened awareness of animal welfare and health advantages. The findings of this study indicate that the newly developed plant-based milk alternative has the potential to serve a wider consumer demographic, thereby enhancing the accessibility and affordability of plant-based products. Furthermore, its adaptability in various culinary uses renders it a significant addition to both traditional and contemporary diets, promoting culinary innovation and cultural appreciation. In comparison to cow's milk or other plant-based milk alternatives, this blend of finger millet and almonds is distinguished by its exceptional nutrient combination that complements each other. It produces a nutritionally rich plant-based milk alternative that is primarily high in protein and antioxidants. Additionally, its lactose-free nature and lack of cholesterol make it appropriate for individuals with specific dietary restrictions or preferences, particularly considering the growing awareness surrounding these issues. Moreover, the use of residues from almonds and finger millet offers possibilities for sustainable food development, as each residue has its own unique nutritional profile. An additional examination of the product's shelf life can enhance its preservation quality. Overall, this study emphasizes the encouraging potential of blended plant-based milk alternatives in fostering sustainable and health-oriented dietary habits, thereby facilitating the transition to a more plant-focused food environment.

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Table 1: Mean scores of yield of finger millet milk and almond milk

Ratios composition	Finger millet milk (ml)	Almond milk (ml)
1:2 (w/v)	181.66±7.63	203.33±15.27
1:3 (w/v)	291.66±10.40	310.00±13.22
1:4 (w/v)	391.66±10.40	411.00±12.58

All values are mean of triplicates ±standard deviation

Table 2: Mean sensory scores of different milk and milk blends

Parameters	V_0	V_{AM}	V_{FM}	V_{B1}	V_{B2}	V_{B3}	P- value
Color	7.60±0.26	8.83±0.08	5.8±0.07	7.00±0.08	7.35±0.10	6.97±0.14	<0.001*
Aroma	7.07±0.20	7.57±0.05	5.59±0.09	6.54±0.07	6.60±0.09	6.46±0.21	<0.001*
Consistency	7.43±0.12	7.08±0.04	5.84±0.05	6.79±0.07	6.65±0.13	6.36±0.12	<0.001*
Taste	7.40±0.09	7.88±0.08	4.74±0.10	6.24±0.09	6.33±0.11	5.40±0.09	<0.001*
Mouthfeel	7.44±0.07	7.52±0.09	4.55±0.06	6.06±0.13	6.41±0.10	5.53±0.09	<0.001*
Overall acceptability	7.66±0.09	8.01±0.10	5.05±0.08	6.44±0.12	6.47±0.11	5.94±0.14	<0.001*

Mean±SD; n=3

* Significantly different (p<0.05) by ANOVA

V_0- Cow's milk, V_{FM}=finger millet milk, V_{AM} -Almond milk, V_{B1}- Blended milk with 60% finger millet milk extract and 40% almond milk extract, V_{B2}- Blended milk with 70% finger millet milk extract and 30% almond milk extract, V_{B3} - Blended milk with 80% finger millet milk extract and 20% almond milk extract.

Table 3: Mean scores of physiochemical parameters of different milk and milk blend

Parameters	V_0	V_{FM}	V_{AM}	V_{B2}	p- value
Moisture %	87.01±0.61	95.23±0.73	84.50±0.96	87.08±0.47	<.001*
Ash %	0.85±0.07	1.65±0.19	1.68±0.19	1.79±0.17	<.001*
pH	6.77±0.14	6.49±0.04	6.7±0.14	6.53±0.09	.042*
TSS%	13.51±0.08	4.54±0.05	15.82±0.09	13.31±0.10	<.001*

Mean±SD; n=3; ** significantly different (p<0.05) by ANOVA*

V_O- Cow's milk, V_{FM}=finger millet milk, V_{AM} -Almond milk, V_{B2}- Blended milk with 70% finger millet milk extract and 30% almond milk extract

Table 4: Mean macro and micronutrient content of different milk and milk blend

Parameters	V_0	V_{FM}	V_{AM}	V_{B2}	P- value
Energy (kcal/100ml)	72.53±0.17	48.08±0.20	107.24±0.34	69.310.21	<.001*
Carbohydrates (g/100 ml)	4.40±0.20	9.66±0.41	4.51±0.09	7.75±0.07	<.001*
Protein %	3.45±0.10	1.55±0.09	6.09±0.56	4.47±0.23	<.001*
Fat %	4.57±0.23	0.36±0.12	7.20±0.37	2.27±0.34	.031*
Calcium (mg/100 ml)	112.11±0.90	41.37±0.57	63.04±0.13	49.27±0.51	<.001*
Iron (mg/100 ml)	0.04±0.05	0.60±0.04	0.67±0.10	0.66±0.06	<.001*

Mean±SD; n=3

** Significantly different (p<0.05) by ANOVA*

V_O- Cow's milk, V_{FM}- finger millet milk, V_{AM} -Almond milk, V_{B2}- Blended milk with 70% finger millet milk extract and 30% almond milk extract

Table 5: Microbial load of blended milk (V_{B2})

Storage duration	TPC (10^5CFU/ml)	Yeast and mold count
Day 1	9 x10^5±0.30	ND
Day 5	94x10^5±0.55	ND
Day 11	6 x10^5±0.26	ND
Day 15	2 x10^5±0.68	ND

Mean±SD; n=3 *ND- not detected*

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Isolation of *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* from the Gut of Earthworm Fed with Cadmium Accumulated *Eichhornia crassipes*

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to isolate and molecularly identify cadmium resistant bacteria from the gut of earthworms (*Eisenia fetida*) fed with cadmium accumulated *Eichhornia crassipes*. Earthworm gut content was serially diluted and plated to isolatebacteria, followed by purification using the four quadrant streak method. Among the isolates, one bacterial strain was high resistance to cadmium, tolerating concentrations up to 1000 ppm with no evident of inhibition zone in the disc diffusion assay. The genomic DNA of the isolate was extracted and subjected to 16S rRNA gene sequencing. The amplified sequence showed 99.86% similarity with *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* and was submitted to GenBank (Accession No. OQ568519). The high cadmium tolerance observed suggests the presence of adaptive mechanisms such as metal binding proteins or efflux systems. These findings effectively highlight the potential of *L. fusiformis* as a bioremediation agent in cadmium contaminated environments

Keywords: *Eichhornia crassipes*, Heavy metal, Earthworm gut, *Lysinibacillus fusiformis*, Bioremediation

INTRODUCTION

Freshwater bodies are critical natural resources vital for sustaining ecosystems and human livelihoods. However rapid urbanization, industrialization, population growth, and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources have considerably degraded water quality worldwide (Sharma *et al*., 2023). Among various pollutants, heavy metals are of particular concern due to their persistence, bioaccumulation, toxicity, and potential for biomagnification through aquatic food webs (Wang *et al*., 2019). The presence of earthworms in metal polluted environments and its ability to accumulate heavy metals through organometallic complex formation in their chloragogenous tissue have made them valuable agents in soil bioremediation (Maja Srut *et al*., 2019). Certain gut bacteria are known to have resistance genes, facilitating them to bind, sequester and biotransform metals into less toxic forms (Li *et al*., 2020).Feeding earthworms with heavy metal accumulated *Eichhornia crassipes*, a known phytoremediator, offers a unique model to study adaptive responses of gut microbial communities under metal stress. This study targets to isolate and molecularly identify cadmium resistant bacteria from the gut of earthworms (*Eisenia fetida*) fed with *E. crassipes* that has accumulated cadmium. The isolated strains will be assessed for their heavy metal harvesting potential, focusing on their tolerance and transformation capability under cadmium stress.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Gut bacteria were isolated from earthworms fed with heavy metal accumulated *Eichhornia crassipes* using standard serial dilution and plating techniques

Serial dilution of sample

One gram of earthworm gut content was aseptically sliced, mashed, and suspended in sterile distilled water. From this homogenate, 1 mL was transferred into a test tube containing 9 mL of sterile distilled water to obtain a 10^{-1} dilution. This serial dilution process was repeated sequentially up to a 10^{-8} dilution. From the 10^{-7} dilution, 0.1 mL was aseptically plated onto nutrient agar plates. The plates were incubated at 37 °C for 18–24 hours. After incubation, bacterial colonies developed on the plates were observed and counted. The experiments were performed in triplicates to get accurate results (Fig 1).

Preparation of Agar plates

Petri plate containing solid growth medium (agar) is divided into four quadrants. A loopful of the mixed bacterial culture is streaked across the first quadrant to create a dense area of growth. The inoculating loop is sterilized (flamed) and allowed to cool before transferring cells from the edge of the first quadrant into the second quadrant. This process is repeated for the third and fourth quadrants, sterilizing the loop between each streaking step. The bacterial concentration decreases with each successive quadrant. By the fourth quadrant, the inoculum is sufficiently diluted to allow the development of distinct isolated colonies after incubation (Plate 1).

Isolation of pure bacterial colonies by simple streak method

A simple streaking technique was used to isolate bacterial colonies from the mixed culture. A loopful of the serially diluted sample (from 10^{-7} dilution) was streaked on nutrient agar plates using the fourquadrant streak method to separate individual colonies. The plates were incubated at 37 °C for 18–24 hours to allow bacterial growth (Plate 2). After incubation, the plates were observed for morphologically distinct colonies. Bacterial colonies that appeared uniform in shape, colour, elevation and margin were selected for further purification. From the initial streaked plates, five distinct colonies were carefully picked using a sterile inoculating loop. Each selected colony was then streaked separately onto fresh nutrient agar plates using the same four quadrant method to ensure the development of pure cultures. These plates were again incubated under the same conditions.After incubation, each plate was examined to confirm the growth of isolated pure colonies. These pure bacterial cultures were maintained for biochemical characterization and metal resistance studies.

Heavy metal degradation assay by disc diffusion method (Kirby and Bauer, 1966) Procedure: The test bacteria was inoculated in peptone water and incubated for 3– 4 hours at 35ºC. Nutrient agar plates was prepared and poured in sterile petriplates. 0.1 ml of bacterial culture was inoculated on the surface of Nutrient agar plates and spread by using L-rod. The inoculated plates were allowed to dry for five minutes. The disc loaded with different concentrations 250,500,750, 1000 ppm of Cadmium was placed on the surface of inoculated petriplates using sterile technique. The triplet plates were incubated at 37ºC for 18-24 hours. The plates were examined for inhibitory zone and the zone of inhibition was measured in mm. Ampicillin is used in positive control.

DNA extraction, PCR 16S rRNA amplification and sequencing

Bacterial genomic DNA was extracted using the standard phenol–chloroform extraction method (Sambrook and Russell, 2006). The 16S rRNA gene was amplified using the universal primer pair 27F (5′ AGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG 3′) and 1492R (5′ TACGGCTACCTTGTTACGACTT 3′). The PCR reaction mixture contained 10 pmol of each primer, 50–100 ng of DNA template, and 12.5 µl of 2× DreamTaq Green PCR Master Mix (Thermo Fisher). Amplification was carried out in a thermal cycler (Applied Biosystems, USA) using the following cycling conditions: initial denaturation at 94 °C for 5 min; 35 cycles of denaturation at 94 °C for 60 s, annealing at 58 °C for 60 s, and extension at 72 °C for 75 s; followed by a final extension at 72 °C for 10 min (Karlsen *et al*., 2014). PCR products were subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis, stained with ethidium bromide (EtBr), and visualised using a gel documentation system (Azure Biosystems, USA). Amplified products were sequenced in both forward and reverse directions using the same primer set on an Applied Biosystems AB 3730 capillary sequencer. The raw sequences obtained were edited using BioEdit sequence alignment editor version 7.2.5.2 (Hall, 1999). Homology comparison was performed using multiple databases, including the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA; https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena), the Ribosomal Database Project (RDP; https://rdp.cme.msu.edu), EzBioCloud16S (www.ezbiocloud.net), and the NCBI GenBank database using the BLAST tool. For species-level identification, only sequences showing ≥99% similarity with a classified reference species were considered. A phylogenetic tree was constructed using the neighbour-joining method in MEGA X software (Tamura, 2011). Distance matrices were calculated using Kimura's two-parameter model, and bootstrap analysis with 1000 replicates was performed to assess the robustness of the phylogenetic groupings.

RESULTS

The results of microbial activity assessment using the disc diffusion method to analyse heavymetal tolerance and the molecular identification of the isolated bacterial strain through 16S rRNA gene sequencing are presented below.

Heavy metal degradation assay by disc diffusion method (Kirby and Bauer, 1966)

Disc diffusion method of analysis showed that the positive control with ampicillinproduced a large inhibition zone and the blank and empty disc showed no inhibition in all the three bacterial plates (Plate 3).

The bacterial isolate exhibited no inhibition zones at cadmium concentrations of 200 ppm, 500 ppm, and 750 ppm. At 1000 ppm concentrationof cadmium also inhibition zone was not observed. This result indicates a high level of resistance to cadmium.

Molecular Identification of *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* via 16S rRNA Gene Sequencing

16S rRNA genes from gut bacteria were isolated from earthworms fed with heavy metal accumulated *Eichhornia crassipes*. The obtained 16S rDNA sequence was screened for chimeras using BioEdit version 7.2.5 and consequently analysed using BLAST. The sequence indicated 99.86% resemblance to reference sequences of *Lysinibacillus fusiformis*. Based on this high similarity, the bacterium was identified as *Lysinibacillus fusiformis.* The sequence was submitted to GenBank and has been allotted the accession number OQ568519. This sequence is a part of the 16S rRNA gene of *Lysinibacillus fusiformis*, with a length of 1516 base pairs. It was isolated and identified during this study and has been submitted to GenBank (Fig 2).

DISCUSSION

The bacterial isolates revealed significant cadmium tolerance and its survival even at 1000 ppm concentrations. This high level of resistance provides the presence of adaptive mechanisms such as cadmium specific efflux pumps, metal binding proteins like metallothioneins, or enzymatic detoxification systems that alleviate cadmium's cytotoxic effects (Nies, 2003). Sequence analysis established the isolate as *Lysinibacillus fusiformis*, a species previously reported for its resistance to various heavy metals, including cadmium (Zhao *et al*., 2012). The strong tolerance observed in our isolate line up with previous studies where *Lysinibacillus* spp. demonstrated the ability to confiscate and transform toxic metals through biosorption and bioaccumulation (Selvi *et al*., 2019).Previous research has shown that the gut microbiome of earthworms exposed to metal-rich environments undergoes compositional shifts favoring resistant taxa (Pass *et al*., 2015). The presence of cadmium resistant *L. fusiformis* in the gut of earthworms fed with cadmium accumulated *Eichhornia crassipes* suggests a synergistic adaptation to enrich the bioremediation efficiency of such integrated systems. Isolation and identification of *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* from the gut of earthworms fed with heavy metal accumulated *Eichhornia crassipes* highlights the adaptive potential of gut microbiota in metal rich environments. The 16S rRNA gene, a highly preserved region in prokaryotic genomes, serves as a consistent molecular marker for bacterial identification. In this study, the partial 16S rDNA sequence obtained (1516 bp) demonstrated 99.86% similarity to the reference sequence of *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* in the GenBank database, confirming its taxonomic identity. *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* is a Gram positive, spore forming bacterium known for its survival in harsh environmental conditions, including heavy metal contaminated habitats. Its identification in the earthworm gut suggests a possible role in metal tolerance or transformation, potentially assisting the host in detoxification processes. This supports previous reports, where (Sarma *et al*., 2019) identified *Lysinibacillus fusiformis*, *Stenotrophomonas* species, and *Enterobacter cloacae* as active degradative agents for hydrocarbon degradation and the transformation of heavy metals such as lead, chromium, and nickel. The enrichment of *L. fusiformis*in the gut of earthworm reflects selective pressures exerted by the metal rich environment, favoring bacteria capable of withstanding or transforming heavy metals. Successful submission of identified sequence of *L.fusiformis* to GenBank (Accession No.OQ568519) enhances growing repository of environmental isolates and facilitates future comparative and functional studies.

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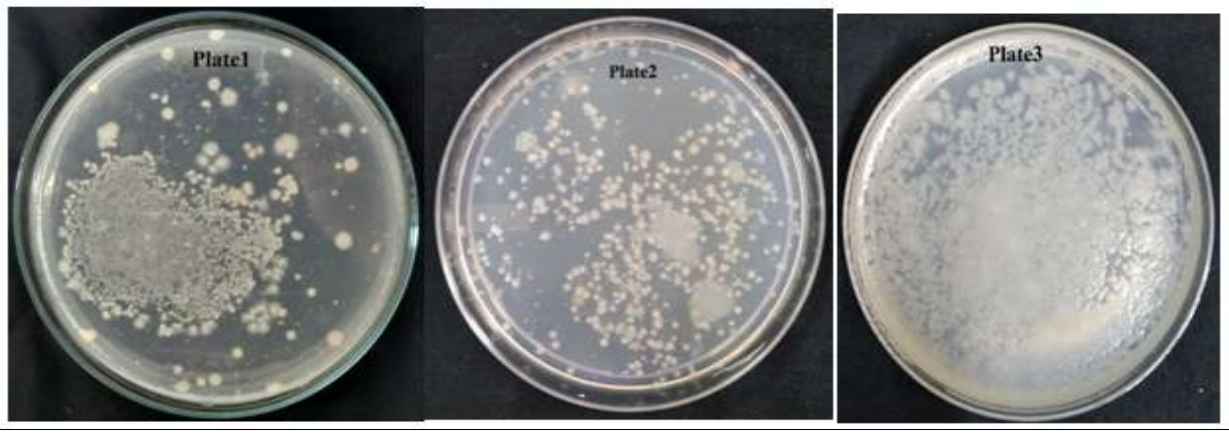


Plate 1: Bacterial colonies of earthworm gut

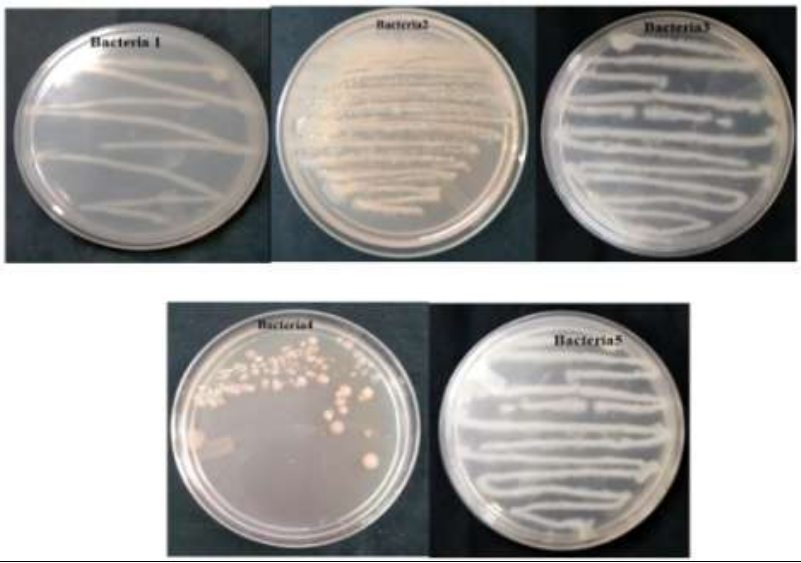


Plate 2: Pure culture of bacterial colonies

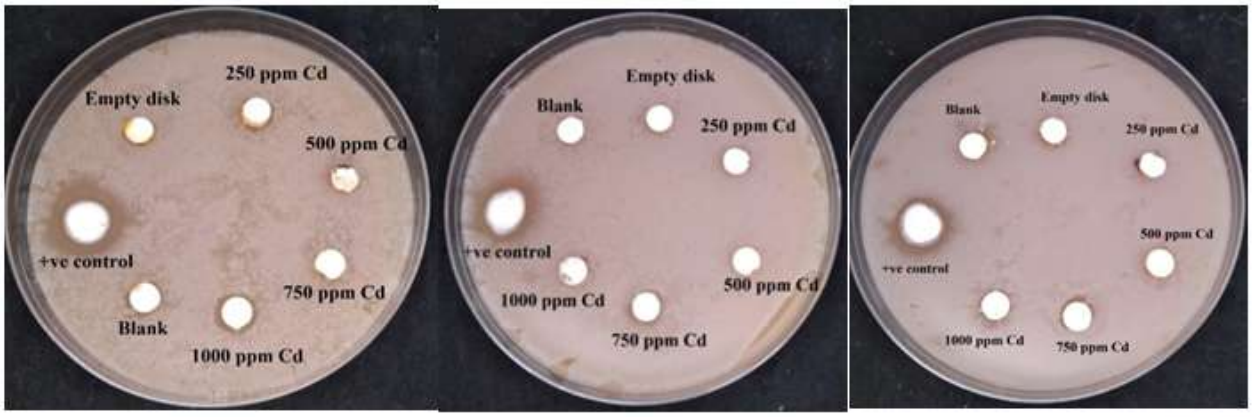


Plate 3: Heavy metal degradation assay

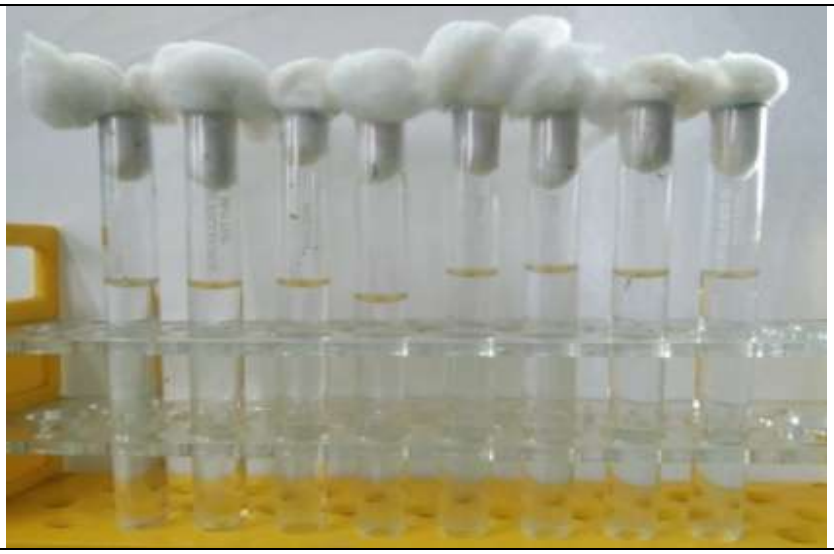


Fig.1 Serial dilution of earthworm gut sample

Lysinibacillus fusiformis strain CD 16S ribosomal RNA gene, partial sequence

GenBank: OQ568519.1

FASTA Graphics

Go to:

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REFERENCE   1  (bases 1 to 1516)
  AUTHORS   Anbumalar,A., Sakthika,T., Ranjith,L., Kalidass,B., Sarathapriya,D.
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  TITLE     Direct Submission
  JOURNAL   Submitted (04-MAR-2023) Zoology, V.O.Chidambaram College.,
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Fig 2 *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* strain CD 16SrRNA gene partial sequence

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Love Through the Generational Lens: An Empirical Study from the State of Assam

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the romantic attitudes of Millennials and Gen Z in Assam, considering factors such as gender, relationship status, and generational trends. Data were collected from 100 participants (50 men and 50 women) using the Love Attitudes Scale by Hendrick and Hendrick (1986) to assess the frequency and interactions of six different love styles. The demonstration of findings showed generational differences in the three love types, as well as some effects of the gender and relationship status on the attitudes toward romance. Correlation analysis throws light on how the interrelatedness of the love styles mirrors the complex romantic ideologies existing in Assamese society. It enhances our understanding about experiences and expressions of love among young adults as it focuses on a particular region and generation, thus laying the groundwork for further investigation in cultural and generational psychology.

Keywords: Love Attitudes, Millennials, GenZ, Assam, Romantic Relationships, Gender Differences, Relationship Status, Hendrick and Hendrick

INTRODUCTION

"We accept the love we think we deserve" - The Perks of Being A Wallflower (Stephen Chbosky). Love is different for different people, it has different shades, different forms, different meanings, different values and morals, nothing related to love and the idea that revolves around it can be termed as static and universal. For some, it might mean having similar thoughts and opinions, and for some it might mean the complete opposite (opposite attracts), for some love can be everlasting and singular, and for some love can be something that is open to change and evolve with time, for some love can be a social unity of two people for the familial status to be intact and for some love can be passionate that knows no social barriers and bounds. The concept of love is clumsy, confusing, dynamic and

individual, but it can also be simple, easy, solid and reliable at times. The age of digital dependency is on the rise, the way people communicate with each other has taken a turn with the introduction of WhatsApp instant replies, Instagram filters, SnapChat stories and Facebook likes. People communicate through an abundance of emojis that are available on the keypads now and expect replies in seconds, get enraged when someone does not like their pictures on Instagram, feel bad when their stories do not get enough replies with compliments showering on it, these and many such similar instances has changed the way we think and perceive about love. Everything needs to be fast paced and instant for today's generation. What was once a slow and steady form of expressing such as sending handwritten letters has now been taken over by the anxious feeling of being "seenzoned" by someone you like. With the generations evolving, technological advances are making communication easier but also complex and unreliable. But, all in all, the feeling of love, the want of being loved and to love, stays. Love as an emotion remains the same. The concept of love has fascinated psychologists and researchers since time immemorial. Academicians have vastly tried to explore the area and provide extensive standardized results regarding it. Of the many factors that have affected the attitudes or the styles of love, generational differences have been the most salient and significant. Just as we see development in the way children learn and communicate, how societies relate and engage, romantic ideologies and relationships are no exception. The present research endeavours to map the generational differences among the Millennials and GenZ population of Assam. The two cohorts, even though very close with age, are different from each other in their grasp of relationships and technical usage. Millennials and Generation Z, both of these groups are shaped and moulded by different social and cultural environments. Research shows that for many people of these generations, emotional attachments and psychological well-being frequently take less importance for traditional concepts such as marriage and being parents (Twenge, 2017). These changing trends, be it social, cultural, emotional or psychological, signify a larger shift towards flexible commitments and curated relationship dynamics. A study by Shulman and Connolly (2013) found that the growth of intimacy is not just a common practice but also an essential developmental change in one's life, this view was also supported by Conger, Cui, Bryant, and Elder (2000), they also are of the view that the development of romantic relationships is very crucial in the transition from adolescence to adulthood. In similar lines, Maslow (1943) also said that love and belongingness is extremely significant and one of the primary human needs, followed by physiological and safety needs. Through this, it can be seen that a person's attitude toward love acts as a reflection of their opinions, values, morals, beliefs and past life experiences, which are then shaped by other psychological factors. Psychologists and researchers have long tried to standardize the complex and confusing nature of love and its styles. One of the most widely accepted and famous theories regarding love and the attitudes surrounding it is given by John Lee (1973), named "Colors of Love" theory. The theory segregates love into specific styles or as the name itself suggests "Colors". Hendrick and Hendrick (1986), added to the literature of John Lee's theory and created the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS), that helped classify love attitudes into six different styles. They are

Eros (Passionate, Romantic Love) : Eros can be defined by intense physical and emotional attachment and attraction. This love style is frequently engaged with ideal standards of love attitudes such as "love at first sight". People who score high in this style are believers of deep emotional attachments, a steady chemistry, and focus more on physical beauty and physical intimacy. These people tend to fall in love quickly and intensely.

Ludus (Game-Playing Love): Ludus can be referred to as a playful, non-committal attitude towards love. Relationships for people higher in this attitude are mostly treated like a game. These people try to avoid commitment, are polygamous, give greater importance to having "fun" and being flirty over emotional attachment or intimacy. They tend to be emotionally distanced and avoid dependency and commitment of any form.

Storge (Friendship-Based Love): Storge develops steadily where there is friendship and mutual respect for each other, instead of instant and on the face passion. It is grounded on shared emotional support, a long term commitment, shared morals, where trust and respect are key concepts.

Pragma (Practical, Logical Love): In this kind of love style, people view love and relationships with a checklist of compatible traits. These may range from similar styles of living to similar goals in life. Love is a decision and not just an emotion, for people scoring high in this attitude. Partners are chosen carefully, based on a rational and thought out basis.

Mania (Possessive, Obsessive Love): People high in this attitude see relationships and love as a marker of dependency, be it emotional or psychological. They are high on jealousy and possessiveness. It is rooted in low levels of self-esteem and insecure self images.

Agape (Selfless, Altruistic Love): This type of love attitude represents a selfless and unconditional view of love that gives greater value to their partner's well being over their own. It is defined with sacrifice, deep care and compassion for their partner, often resembling an ideological type of love. They love freely and don't really expect anything in return from their partner.

With this background, the present study seeks to explore how Millennials and GenZ in Assam differ in their attitudes toward love and the role of gender and romantic involvement is also being taken into consideration.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chandrakant., and Reddy, V. R. (2025), explored the diverse dimensions of love attitudes through the lens of demographic factors such as gender, age, and cultural background. The study used Lee's Love Attitudes Scale (LAS). The sample included Indian college populations and it was found that there exists notable gender differences. Men exhibited more playful forms of love attitudes, while women were more inclined towards practical forms of love attitude. Age related differences were also found, where it was found that younger people seeked idealistic notions of love attitudes whereas older people wanted to adopt a more practical and realistic approach towards love.

Avinash, R. P. et al (2015), conducted a study on the love styles of young adults of Mumbai, India. The study included a sample of 120 (20-40 years) young adults. The love attitudes of the sample were assessed using the Love Attitudes Scale. It was found that participants around the age group of 21-30 years had a significantly higher score on storge love attitude when compared to the 30-40 years age group sample. Findings indicated that Eros was the most prevalent love style among participants, while Ludus was the least preferred. The results also demonstrated that love attitudes varied by gender and age, and that individual personality traits played a significant role in shaping preferred love styles.

Clemente, M. et al. (2020) examined the types of love among 439 Spanish participants, aged between 15 to 89, in terms of age and satisfaction. The participants consisted of 63.3% men and 36.7% women, among them 54.9% were unmarried and 39.4% were married, 2.3% were divorced, and 3.4% were widowed. 36.96 was the average age (SD = 19.501). The study results concluded that as people grow older, there is a greater importance put on Storge and Agape love styles, which reflects a higher longing for companionship and selfless love. It was also found that young people did not prioritize Eros (passionate love), Ludus (playful love), and Mania (possessive or obsessive love). Individuals aged 20 to 32 years showed increased rates of pragma style of love, but not among those in the 33 to 50 age range.

Dutt, A., and Singh, R. (2020), conducted a study examining the love attitudes of young adults enrolled in select universities in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, and Ludhiana. The sample consisted of 400 young men and women, all of whom were engaged in romantic relationships at the time of the study. The results found that there was a significant influence of cultural factors on love attitudes of the sample. Males showed a leaning toward Ludus and Mania love styles. In contrast, female participants reported leaning toward Pragma, Eros, Agape, and Storge.

Nato, F. (2015), explored how love styles differ across three generations of women: college-going daughters, their mothers, and their maternal grandmothers. Love Attitudes Scale was used to understand how each group viewed love styles and attitudes revolving around it. Significant differences were found in four love styles: Eros, Storge, Pragma, and Agape. While mothers and grandmothers almost held similar views on most styles of love, grandmothers were more likely to approach love in a practical, pragmatic way, that is Pragma, especially when compared to their daughters. Gupta, V. and Simon, S. (2023), explored how young adults perceive their parents' parenting styles and how these perceptions relate to their own view of love. The study was conducted among 105 young adults aged 18 to 26 years (75 females and 30 males) from 15 different Indian states. It was found that there is no significant correlation between the three parenting styles and the styles of love of the Love Attitudes Scale. Among the participants, it was found that Ludus is the most dominant love style. This was followed by Mania, reported by 28% of the sample.

Kalia, D. and Akshita. (2022), conducted a study to explore the gender differences in the types of love. A cross-sectional study was done using the Love Attitude Scale (LAS) among 80 Indian college students (40 males and 40 females) aged 18 to 25 years of age. While most love style subscales showed no significant gender difference, findings revealed that males scored significantly higher on the Ludus (playful) love style ($M = 25.03$) compared to females ($M = 22.58$) [$t(78) = -3.291$, $p < 0.05$]. Saini, K. D. (2018) conducted a study on personality traits and love attitudes among individuals who were using dating apps in India. The participants, who were between the ages of 18–24 and 25–44, had their personality evaluated using the Big Five Inventory and their love styles using the Love Attitudes Scale. The results indicated that male participants scored significantly higher than the females on all six love styles.

Devi, G. and Kovoor, E.S. (2024) investigated the relationships between love attitudes, rejection sensitivity, and social media use among young adults. The sample in the study involved 132 participants ages 18 to 25 that included 81 females and 51 males. The authors found no statistically significant gender differences across the six love styles, nor did they find any differences for the average scores in any of the love styles among genders. Men in their study reported higher average scores in Eros, Ludus, Storge, and Pragma styles of love. Women in their studies showed higher mean scores in Mania and Agape love styles.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To explore and compare the Love Attitudes of Millennials and GenZ in Assam using the Love Attitudes Scale.

Objectives

- To compare generational differences in love attitudes between Millennials and GenZ of Assam.
- To examine gender-based differences in love attitudes in Millennials and GenZ of Assam.
- To analyze differences in love attitudes based on the relationship status among Millennials and GenZ of Assam.
- To explore correlations among the six love attitudes (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, Agape) within the sample of the study.

Hypotheses

- There will be significant generational differences in love attitudes between Millennials and Gen Z of Assam.
- There will be significant gender-based differences in love attitudes within Millennials and GenZ.
- There will be significant differences between relationship status (single and in a relationship) among love attitudes.
- There will be significant correlations among the six love attitudes (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, Agape).

Rationale of the Study

Love attitudes are greatly shaped and moulded by social media, evolving globalisation and constantly shifting and evolving cultural changes and narratives. Assam, a land where traditions are extremely strong and valued by its

people but also is seeing a tremendous inclination towards modernization, the views and perspectives of the young and upcoming generations might involve a mix of both these traditional and modern values. Understanding and making the people aware of such patterns and developments will provide grounded insights into how love attitudes evolve with generations and genders. The study will provide insights into how the GenZ and the Millennial population of Assam view love, the changing patterns of gender roles in relationships, the process and choices of partner selection, the independence or dependence one desires in love. This will reveal the intergenerational differences that exist in terms of love attitudes of the young generations of the Assamese community. The study used the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS) by Hendrick and Hendrick to study the intergenerational, gender and romantic involvement differences in love attitudes among the GenZ and Millennials of Assam.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Design

The present study makes use of a quantitative, cross-sectional design to compare and examine generational, gender-based and relationship status differences in love attitudes in between the GenZ and Millennial population of Assam. Participants aged 18-27 (Gen Z) and 28-42 (Millennials) are being selected using purposive as well as snowball sampling techniques. Data is collected using a structured Google Form, which includes demographic details and the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS) developed by Hendrick and Hendrick. Statistical analyses of the present study include descriptive statistics such mean as and standard deviation, independent t-tests, and correlational analysis to explore differences based on generation, gender, and romantic status.

Sample

The sample for this study consists of 100 participants of Assam, aged between 18 and 42 years, who have been into two groups: GenZ (18-27 years) and Millennials (28-42 years). The sample includes 50 males and 50 females, each gender equally represented within both generations. Participants were selected using the sampling techniques namely, purposive and snowball techniques. All participants were informed of the study's purpose and informed consent was taken prior to participation.

Tools Used

- Love Attitudes Scale (LAS) by Hendrick and Hendrick (1986)
- Demographic Questionnaire (including age, gender, generation, relationship status)

PROCEDURE

Participants were selected using two sampling techniques on a uniform basis, namely, purposive and snowball sampling techniques. The participants were given a detailed informed consent form, that highlighted the purpose of the study, and that participation is voluntary and also that their responses will be kept confidential. After providing consent, participants filled the Love Attitudes Scale (LAS), which was administered using an online Google Form. The form included demographic details (age, gender, and romantic involvement status along with other required details) as well as the LAS scale (Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, and Agape). The study ensured that all ethical guidelines were being followed, including maintaining confidentiality and anonymity of the participants, and attainment of informed consent prior to data collection.

Statistical Analysis

Two groups (Millennials and Gen Z, Male and Female, Relationship Status: Single and In a Relationship) had their love attitude scores compared using independent samples t-tests. The six love attitudes were examined for correlation using Pearson correlation analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study discovered correlations between the six love styles-Eros, Ludus, Storge, Pragma, Mania, and Agape-as well as differences in love attitudes according to generation, gender, and relationship status.

Differences in Love Attitudes among the two Generations: GenZ and Millennials
Independent sample t-test was used. There were 50 participants in each group namely Millennials and GenZ (N = 100).

Eros: Millennials (M = 14.32, SD = 5.14) scored significantly lower than Gen Z (M = 19.72, SD = 6.95); t(98) = 4.41, p <.001. This implies Gen Z is inclined more toward romantic and passionate kinds of love.

Storge: Significant differences were found; GenZ (M = 18.14, SD = 6.29) scored higher than Millennials (M = 14.94, SD = 5.36); t(98) = 2.73, p = .007. This suggests a higher inclination among GenZ toward friendship-based, emotionally secure love styles.

Agape: GenZ (M = 19.50, SD = 6.82) had a higher mean compared to Millennials (M = 16.78, SD = 5.76), t(98) = 2.15, p = .034, implying a stronger inclination for selfless and altruistic love style among GenZ participants. Ludus, Mania, and Pragma love styles showed no statistically significant generational differences. This says that both GenZ and Millennials show comparable levels of playful (Ludus), possessive (Mania), and pragmatic (Pragma) love attitudes.

Gender Variations in Love Attitudes
Agape: Women (M = 20.52) had higher mean scores than men (M = 15.76); p = .000.
Eros: Women (M = 18.44) had higher mean scores than men (M = 15.60); p = .032.
Ludus, Storge, Pragma, or Mania love styles showed no notable gender variations.

Differences in Relationship Status
Agape: People not in a relationship (M = 19.44) had higher mean scores than those who are in a relationship (M = 16.88); p = .046.
Eros: Those not in a relationship (M = 18.79) had higher mean scores than those in one (M = 15.31); p = .008.
Relationship status did not affect other love styles significantly.

Correlation of Love Attitudes
The following is being revealed by Pearson's correlation study:
Eros was found to be negatively correlated with Ludus (r = -0.308, p =.002), while it was positively correlated with Agape (r =.531, p =.000) and Storge (r =.336, p =.001).
Ludus was negatively correlated with Agape (r = -.278, p =.005) and Storge (r = -.248, p =.013).
Storge positively correlated with Agape (r = .370, p = .000).
Mania showed a weak but significant positive correlation with Agape (r = .233, p = .020).
Pragma did not significantly correlate with any other love style.
Knowing love attitudes across generations, genders, and relationship statuses helps one to see the changing and developing dynamics of romantic relationships and choices.

Generational Variability: The current study indicated that GenZ from Assam have higher mean scores than the Millennials from Assam in the Eros, Storge, and Agape love types. This shows that younger individuals prefer passionate (Eros), companionate (Storge), and sacrificial (Agape) love types. Similar to Avinash (2015), young adults preferred loving and altruistic love in their research. In a generational study with females, Nato (2015) noted differences in Eros, Storge, and Agape love types across generations. The increased access to digital narratives of love, emotionality, and developmental concepts of partnership and love preference that are oriented toward

connection, empathy, and depth may be why GenZ are favoring these love types. According to earlier research, young individuals' exposure to digital culture and flexible relationship standards may contribute to their propensity for Ludus and Mania love styles (Gupta and Simon, 2023). However, the current study identified no discernible age differences in these dimensions. The similarities in Ludus, Mania, and Pragma suggest that the love styles may not be a function of age, but of contextual or individual variables.

Differences by Gender: It is clear that women scored higher than men for Agape and Eros love styles, indicating that the women in this sample preferred more romantic and selfless forms of love. Dutt and Singh (2020) had similar results where women had significantly higher scores on Agape and Eros than men did, though men had higher scores on Ludus and Mania, although this was not significantly different in this data. The results could reflect heavier social expectations of gender socialization in India, where women might be socialized to reach an emphasis on emotional sensitivity and expression of care and nurturing which may explain some comparability with regards to women's and men's perceptions of love. The high value placed on care and emotional connection as femininity (as is clearly evident in Assam and much of India) could be an additional explanation for women in this study having significantly higher Agape scores.

Differences Based on Relationship Status: Individuals who were not currently in romantic relationships had higher scores on both Eros and Agape styles than those who were committed to a romantic relationship. Some singles may hold ideals about love (in part due to media, cultural expectations, and ideological understandings around ideal partners). Or maybe the single participants' high levels of Eros and Agape were representative of romantic idealism or untested mythologies of love that would change if or when they engaged in committed romantic relationships. The researchers, Devi and Kovoor (2024), did find a significant difference in the storgic style of love espoused between committed individuals and single individuals. The present study of single individuals did not find any difference.

Correlations Between Love Styles: Significant correlations between a few love styles demonstrate the way these constructs can function in conjunction to each other. Positive correlations between Storge and Agape with Eros suggest people with more intensely felt love also valued their love as being altruistic and attachment. Conversely, Ludus was negatively correlated (as was Agape and Storge) to Eros, suggesting that altruistic or emotionally secure love is not compatible with playful non-continuous love. These patterns suggest that, instead of viewing them as distinct love styles, they may actually be interconnected which forms clusters of emotional behavior in romantic circumstances. The moderate correlation between Mania and Agape could suggest either a combination of emotional dependence with self-sacrificing behavior or understanding of regional emotional norms that can hold dedication and loyalty in a high regard in relationships.

Cultural Rationalizations: Cultural narratives in Northeastern India (including Assam) emphasize interpersonal harmony, family inclusion, and emotional closeness, which may contribute to preferences for Storge and Agape styles. The increasing incidence of Eros among GenZ may stem from digital romanticism through film, social media, and changing dating rituals. Furthermore, the relatively low incidence of Ludus across generations aligns with a cultural resistance to casual relationships, and most especially for women. The findings indicate social amalgamation of tradition and modernity, with GenZ accepting modes of love that are expressive and emotions-based, while continuing to promote a cultural bias toward commitment and altruism.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the trends in romantic attitudes among the youth populations of Assamese Millennials and Gen Z, with generation, gender and relationship status as main variables. The evidence from our findings indicates that while gender and relationship status influenced individuals' attitudes toward love with some significance, the results did show generational differences in three love attitudes. The correlations between the six love styles suggest how complex and multifaceted romantic attitudes can be. By focusing on a regional area such as Assam, we contribute valuable knowledge into how young adults in contemporary Assamese society perceive and fill out the meaning of love. There were some limitations to this study that may be addressed by future studies; those variables that may be relevant but were not included in this study such as parenting style, educational attainment, and urban/rural background. Also, the sample size was taken in a limited ratio with this research and future studies can examine increasing the number of participants to attain more accurate results. Future studies could include a range of psychological and sociocultural factors in addition to exploring wider demographics. Our study sets a tone of potential research avenues in the field of generational and cultural psychology while providing substantive contributions to the literature on romantic attitudes within the state of Assam, India.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Tables : 1

Generation		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Eros	Genz	50	19.72	6.95
	Millennial	50	14.32	5.14
Ludus	Genz	50	25.20	6.77
	Millennial	50	25.62	4.94
Storge	Genz	50	18.14	6.29
	Millennial	50	14.94	5.36
Pragma	Genz	50	18.14	6.48
	Millennial	50	19.14	6.66
Mania	Genz	50	22.20	4.94
	Millennial	50	23.04	6.14
Agape	Genz	50	19.50	6.82
	Millennial	50	16.78	5.76

Tables : 2

	Generation		
	t-test for Equality of Means		
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Eros	4.414	90.268	.000**
Ludus	-.354	98	.724
Storge	2.734	95.606	.007**
Pragma	-.760	98	.449
Mania	-.753	98	.453
Agape	2.152	95.340	.034*

p < .05*, *p* < .01**

Tables : 3

Gender		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Agape	Female	50	20.52	5.25
	Male	50	15.76	6.66
Eros	Female	50	18.44	6.61
	Male	50	15.60	6.47
Ludus	Female	50	24.38	6.34
	Male	50	26.44	5.29
Pragma	Female	50	17.96	6.76
	Male	50	19.32	6.34
Storge	Female	50	17.02	5.54
	Male	50	16.06	6.51
Mania	Female	50	22.36	6.14
	Male	50	22.88	4.97

Tables : 4

	Gender		
	t-test for Equality of Means		
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Eros	2.171	97.955	.032*
Ludus	-1.763	98	.081
Storge	.793	98	.430
Pragma	-1.037	98	.302
Mania	-.465	98	.643
Agape	3.964	92.938	.000**

p < .05*, p < .01**

Tables : 5

	Relationship Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Agape	Yes	51	16.88	6.07
	No	49	19.44	6.59
Eros	Yes	51	15.31	6.40
	No	49	18.79	6.51
Ludus	Yes	51	25.56	6.09
	No	49	25.24	5.75
Pragma	Yes	51	19.64	6.43

	No	49	17.59	6.59
Storge	Yes	51	15.72	5.81
	No	49	17.38	6.21
Mania	Yes	51	22.70	5.82
	No	49	22.53	5.33

Tables : 6

	Relationship Status		
	t-test for Equality of Means		
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Eros	-2.693	97.676	.008**
Ludus	.273	98	.786
Storge	-1.382	98	.170
Pragma	1.577	98	.118
Mania	.157	98	.876
Agape	-2.025	96.545	.046*

$p < .05$*, $p < .01$**

Tables : 7

		Eros	Ludus	Storge	Mania	Pragma	Agape
Eros	Pearson Correlation	1	-.308**	.336**	.025	-.105	.531**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.002	.001	.805	.299	.000
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ludus	Pearson Correlation	-.308**	1	-.248*	.166	.065	-.278**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002		.013	.098	.521	.005
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Storge	Pearson Correlation	.336**	-.248*	1	-.030	.181	.370**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.013		.768	.071	.000
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mania	Pearson Correlation	.025	.166	-.030	1	-.009	.233*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.805	.098	.768		.929	.020
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Pragma	Pearson Correlation	-.105	.065	.181	-.009	1	.020
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.299	.521	.071	.929		.841
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100
Agape	Pearson Correlation	.531**	-.278**	.370**	.233*	.020	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.005	.000	.020	.841	
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Identification of Bioactive Compounds from Methanolic Leaf Extract of *Antidesma alexiteria* L. (Phyllanthaceae) using HR-LCMS

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants are considered a rich source of ingredients, as they can be used to develop drugs and their synthesis. Moreover, they play a key role in the development of human culture around the world. The main objective of this study was to determine the chemical compounds present in the methanolic extract of *Antidesma alexiteria* L. leaf. This investigation was carried out using the HR-LCMS method. Fourteen compounds were identified from this methanolic leaf extract based on their mass fragment and retention time. HR-LCMS analysis of *Antidesma alexiteria* leaf extract indicated the presence of Ethylmorphine, α-Santonin, Quercetin 3-[rhamnosyl-(1->2)-alpha-L-arabinopyranoside], Kaempferol 3-rhamnoside 7-xyloside, Genistin, Edulan I, Juziphine, Retrofractamide A, Agathisflavone, Bilobetin, Pedaliin, Mangostenone B, Adouetine Z, Cucurbitacin E. Metabolic profiling of the methanolic leaf extract of *Antidesma alexiteria* based on the HR-LCMS method was attempted for the first time.

Keywords: *Antidesma alexiteria*, HR-LCMS, Phytochemicals, Pharmacology

INTRODUCTION

Antidesma alexiteria is a medicinal plant from the Phyllanthaceae family. Initially classified in the Euphorbiaceae family, it later moved to the Phyllanthaceae family. It is to Sri Lanka and southern India (George *et al.*, 2021). Different species in *Antidesma* genus are used in traditional medicine to treat snakebites, ulcers, pneumonia, stomachaches, and wounds. *Antidesma bunius* reported with various polyphenols, namely terpene, saponin, tannin, luteolin, catechins, amentoflavone, and quercetin, which are responsible for antioxidant (Tajbin *et al*., 2021) and anti-

inflammatory activities (Sithara *et al*., 2013). Also, compounds like friedelin, β-sitosterol, and betulinic acid were extracted from *A. bunius* and evaluated for anti-diabetic enzyme inhibition activity (Mauldina *et al*., 2017). A variety of phytochemical compounds are identified from the leaves and stem bark of *A. laciniatum,* including squalene, terpenoids, and glycosides, which exhibit anti-microbial and anti-oxidant properties (Maroyi, 2020). Compounds like tetrahydroisoquinoline have been reported from *A. membranaceum* (Buske *et al*., 1999). A biologically active megastigmane derivative vomifoliol was isolated from *A. ghaesembilla* (Maria *et al*., 2013). Although a few studies have been reported regarding the phytoconstituents of *Antidesma alexiteria*, there is no report of high-resolution liquid chromatograph mass spectrometry analysis (HR-LCMS). Therefore, the present study will be helpful in the identification of secondary metabolites that can be an alternative method for the tracing of bioactive compounds as well as new drug development.

METHODOLOGY

Collection of plant material

The fresh leaves of *A. alexiteria* were collected from the Department of Botany, University of Kerala, India. The plant was identified and authenticated with the help of Flora (Figure 1) and deposited at the department herbarium with an accession code KUBH 11088a and 11088b. After being cleaned three times with distilled water to get dust-free, the collected leaves were left to dry in the shade for over a week. An electrical mixture grinder was used to grind the dried leaves.

Soxhlet extraction

The powdered leaves were stored in an airtight container until further use. The dried leaf powder of *A. alexiteria was* dissolved in 200 ml of various organic solvents, including petroleum ether, chloroform, acetone, methanol, and water. It was serially extracted using a soxhlet device. Following each extraction, a rotary evaporator was used to leave the plant material overnight so that the solvent could evaporate. To determine the yield %, each dried extract was weighed using the following formula:

Percentage of yield= (Weight of extract/ Weight of sample)×100

HR-LCMS Analysis

The crude methanolic extract was analysed by HR-LCMS at SAIF (Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility), IIT Bombay, Pawai. High-Resolution Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer 1290 Infinity UPHLC system is used, and with a scanning rate of one spectrum per second, the acquisition method was configured to be MS-minimum range 50 (M/Z) and maximum 1000 Dalton (M/Z). The gas flow rate for gas chromatography was 13 psi/min, and the temperature was kept at 250°C. iFunnel Q-TOF 6550. Ionization method-AI: ESI positive and negative. Data acquisition and analysis were performed on Agilent HRLC/QTOF/MS MassHunter data acquisition software version B.05.01. The mass spectrum was used to evaluate the components in the crude extract, and HR-LCMS was carried out using the SAIF database. Their structure, molecular weight, and compound name also identified the test materials.

RESULTS

Percentage of Yield

The dried leaves of *A. alexiteria* (25 gm) were serially extracted with different solvents like petroleum ether, chloroform, acetone, methanol, and water (from non-polar to polar) using a soxhlet apparatus for 8 hrs. The yield percentages were 3.85, 13.65, 8.8, 24.75, and 10.55, respectively. Variations in solvents and samples chemical composition resulted in different yield percentages. The maximum yield was obtained from methanolic extract, which was followed by aqueous and chloroform extracts (Table 1).

HR-LCMS Analysis

The HR-LCMS chromatograms of methanolic leaf extract of *A. alexiteria* are represented in figures 2 & 3. From the HR-LCMS analysis, fourteen diverse phytochemical compounds are identified, and their biological activities are also depicted. The retention time, molecular formula, molecular weight, and name of the selected compounds are organized in Table 2. The mass fragments of major phytocompounds are represented in Figures 4 and 5. They are Ethylmorphine, α-Santonin, Quercetin 3-[rhamnosyl-(1->2)-alpha-L-arabinopyranoside], Kaempferol 3-rhamnoside 7-xyloside, Genistin, Edulan I, Juziphine, Retrofractamide A, Agathisflavone, Bilobetin, Pedaliin, Mangostenone B, Adouetine Z, and Cucurbitacin E.

DISCUSSION

The current study's percentage yield of the *A. alexiteria* leaf extract under investigation revealed that the plant is a rich source of potential phytochemicals. The yield determined by solvent polarity reveals the plant's therapeutic significance. In the current investigation, the results revealed the presence of fourteen chemicals, with separation occurring via a series of processes in HR-LCMS. The mixture is liquid, and it separates when it moves through the stationary phase. Separation happens based on a molecule's polarity, which is related to its retention time. In an ionization chamber, the separated compounds undergo either a positive or negative charge before splitting into smaller particles. In the mass filtering stage, ions are separated based on their mass-to-charge (m/z) ratio (Wu *et al*., 2012). Ethylmorphine is an alkaloid that can be isolated from *Papaver bracteatum*, also called Iranian poppy. It is a derivative of morphine and exhibits several pharmacological activities. It is used as an analgesic and cough suppressant (Dasgupta, 2024). α-Santonin is isolated from *Artemisia* species, particularly from *Artemisia cina*. This compound exhibits antioxidant, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, and insecticidal activities (Yang *et al.,* 2024). A flavonoid compound Quercetin is present in a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. In vitro and in vivo studies reveal that this compound shows anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, and anti-cancer activities (Kawabata *et al*., 2015). Arora *et al*., 2024, discovered that Kaempferol 3-rhamnoside 7-xyloside can inhibit anti-inflammatory enzymes (COX-1) of *Capsicum album* infections. So this compound can be considered a natural anti-inflammatory agent. Genistin is an isoflavonoid compound mainly derived from soybeans. Compound has antioxidant and anticancer activities (Ganai and Farooqi, 2005). Edulan I is a benzopyran compound with anti-microbial properties (Hamza *et al*., 2015). Juziphine is a plant-derived alkaloid isolated from *Fumaria vallati* and jujube fruit. This compound has been reported with antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, and anti-cancer activities (Aafi*et al*., 2022). Retrofractamide A is an alkaloid compound isolated from *Piper longum*, and they exhibit anti-diabetic activity (Gou *et al*., 2023). Agathisflavone is a plant-derived flavonoid type of polyphenolic compound and was reported to have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and neuroprotective effects (Islam *et al*., 2019). Bilobetin is a flavonoid compound reported with anti-oxidant, anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, and anti-microbial properties (Samec *et al*., 2022). Reports reveal that pedaliin is the main polyphenol compound with significant antioxidant and anticancer effects (Kim *et al*., 2021; Kim *et al*., 2023). Cho *et al*., 2014 reported that Mangostenone B is a flavonoid compound isolated from *Garcinia mangostana* and well known for its anti-inflammatory activity. Adouetine Z is a plant compound isolated from *Walthera indica* and exhibits anti-oxidant and sedative effects with reduced spontaneous motor activity (Zango *et al*., 2013). Cucurbitacin B is a triterpenoid compound and is reported with anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, and anti-tumor activity (Dai *et al*., 2023).

CONCLUSION

The results indicate that the methanolic leaf extract of *A. alexiteria* contains fourteen major phytochemicals with considerable bioactivities. The majority of the chemicals are polyphenols, but there are also alkaloids and terpenoids. According to the literature review, the identified compounds have a broad range of pharmacological activities, including anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, anti-cancer, anti-oxidant, and antimicrobial effects. However, to validate the promising potential of these compounds, further investigation is needed for the characterization and evaluation of in vitro and in vivo pharmacological activities.

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Table 1: Percentage yields of different extracts of *Antidesma alexiteria* leaves

Extracts	Percentage Yield (%)
Petroleum ether	3.85
Chloroform	13.65
Acetone	8.8
Methanol	24.75
Distilled water	10.55

Table 2: Phytochemical composition of *A. alexiteria* methanolic extract using the HR-LCMS technique

Sl. No	Name of the compound	Molecular weight	Molecular formula	Retention time (min)
1	Ethylmorphine	313	$C_{19}H_{23}NO_3$	4.097
2	α-Santonin	246	$C_{15}H_{18}O_3$	4.277
3	Quercetin 3-[rhamnosyl-(1->2)-alpha-L-arabinopyranoside]	580	$C_{26}H_{28}O_{15}$	4.734
4	Kaempferol 3-rhamnoside 7-xyloside	564	$C_{26}H_{28}O_{14}$	4.976
5	Genistin	432	$C_{21}H_{20}O_{10}$	5.576
6	Edulan I	192	$C_{13}H_{20}O$	6.202
7	Juziphine	299	$C_{18}H_{21}NO_3$	4.823
8	Retrofractamide A	327	$C_{20}H_{25}NO_3$	5.618
9	Agathisflavone	538	$C_{30}H_{18}O_{10}$	9.351
10	Bilobetin	552	$C_{31}H_{20}O_{10}$	10.699
11	Pedaliin	478	$C_{22}H_{22}O_{12}$	6.081
12	Mangostenone B	462	$C_{28}H_{30}O_6$	7.251

13	Adouetine Z	699	$C_{42}H_{45}N_5O_5$	8.659
14	Cucurbitacin E	556	$C_{32}H_{44}O_8$	20.736



Figure 1: Twig of the plant *Antidesma alexiteria* with inflorescence (Source: eFlora of India)

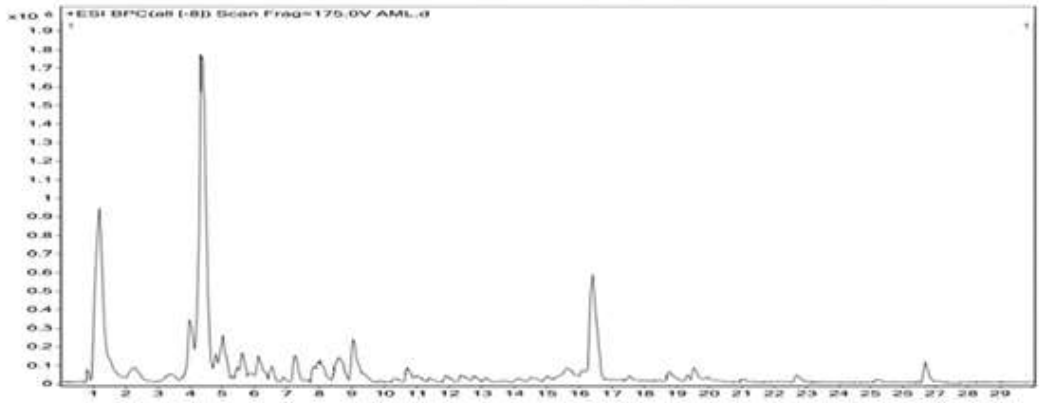


Figure 2: HR-LCMS Chromatogram of methanolic leaf extract of *A. alexiteria*+ESI

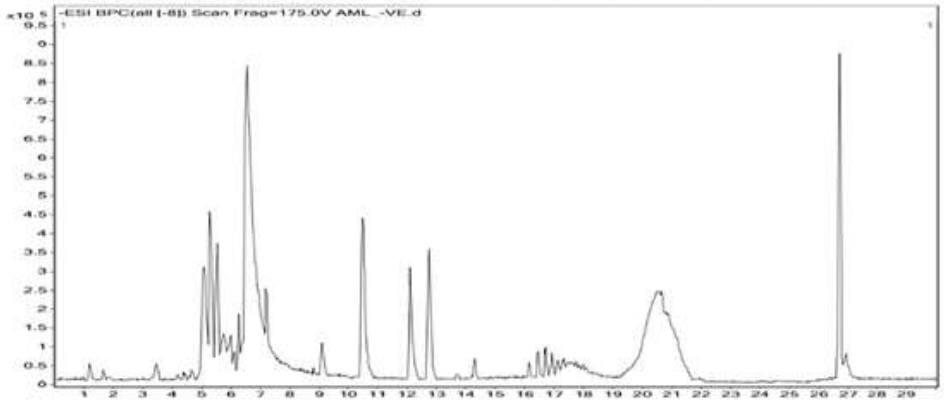


Figure 3: HR-LCMS Chromatogram of methanolic leaf extract of *A. alexiteria*–ESI

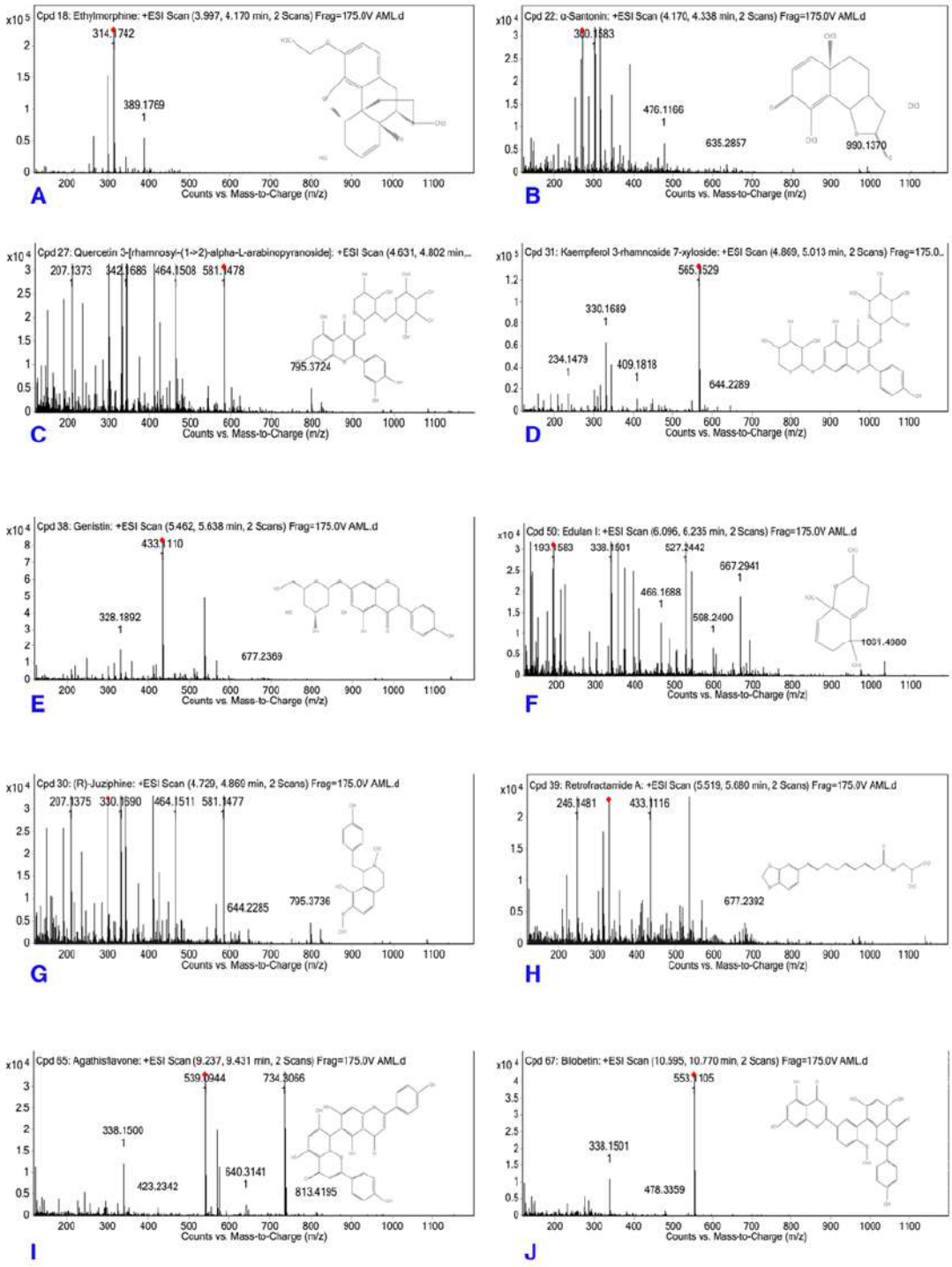


Figure 4: MS spectrum of identified compounds from the crude methanolic extract of *A. alexiteria* leaves

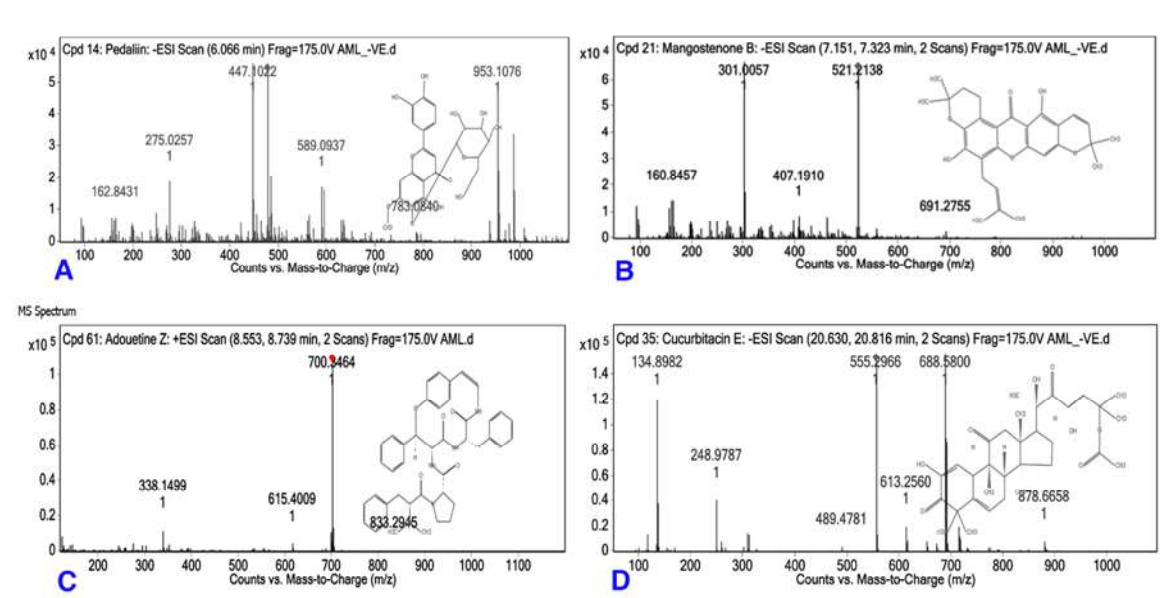


Figure 5: MS spectrum of identified compounds from the crude methanolic extract of *A. alexiteria* leaves

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Practice: Innovations, Challenges, and Ethical Frontiers

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ABSTRACT

AI is actively changing pharmacy practice by improving patient safety, drug management, and operational effectiveness. Evidence from the real world shows impressive results: Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS), robotic dispensing, and predictive analytics provide measurable improvements, such as a 78% decrease in medication errors, a 37% decrease in nephrotoxicity, and a 35% increase in medication adherence among patients with chronic illnesses. In order to improve therapeutic drug monitoring for high-risk medications like vancomycin and warfarin, improve Medication Therapy Management (MTM), and customise patient education using intelligent platforms, chemists are depending more and more on artificial intelligence. Automated solutions use machine learning and natural language processing to proactively predict adverse drug reactions (ADRs) while cutting prescription processing time by 62%. However, real integration is still difficult. We face fragmented EHR interoperability, ongoing data privacy issues under GDPR and HIPAA, and algorithmic bias endangering egalitarian care. As demonstrated by moral lapses in DeepMind Health's Streams algorithm, the "black box" opacity of many models erodes therapeutic credibility. These incidents highlight how urgently we need open governance. The most important thing is that chemists lead as stewards of AI, not as passive consumers. When combined with data, our clinical experience puts us in a unique position to enhance patient outcomes. Implementation driven by ethics is essential for success; this includes giving explainable AI top priority, judiciously integrating various data sources, and utilising federated learning to create just systems. Regulatory vigilance and interdisciplinary collaboration cannot be compromised.

People, not just technology, must be at the centre of the future. AI can be used to protect patients while maintaining the invaluable value of clinical judgement if it is carefully incorporated into pharmacy's humanistic heritage.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Pharmacy Practice; Clinical Decision Support; Medication Safety; Ethical AI; Algorithmic Bias; Medication Therapy Management; EHR Integration; Patient Adherence; Automation

INTRODUCTION

Healthcare is one of the many industrial sectors throughout the world that artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming as a transformational technology [1]. AI, which is defined as the science and engineering of creating intelligent machines or computer programs, uses data analytics, machine learning (ML), and clever algorithms to provide previously unheard-of levels of automation, efficiency, and decision-making power [2]. The ability of AI to improve drug management and patient care through evidence-based clinical decision support, mistake reduction, and personalised therapy optimisation is its most important contribution to pharmacy practice in particular [3]. Because pharmacy practice sits at the nexus of patient care, pharmaceutical knowledge, and health information systems, it stands to gain the most from AI integration. As specialists in medications, chemists can use AI to supplement rather than replace their therapeutic knowledge, fostering a mutually beneficial partnership between human judgement and machine intelligence. The evidence for AI applications in pharmacy practice is examined in this paper, with an emphasis on results and impact, as well as implementation issues and potential future approaches.

Overview of AI's role in modern pharmacy practice

Artificial intelligence significantly enhances patient safety and operational efficiency in pharmacy practice. AI applications demonstrate measurable improvements in medication safety through Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) detection and prediction, and Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) that supplement medication-related decisions with clinical knowledge and patient data [4]. Robotic dispensing systems reduce medication errors by 78% and prescription processing time by 62%, while optimizing therapeutic drug monitoring and dosage regimens for high-risk medications like vancomycin and warfarin [5, 6]. Specialized tools such as "Warfa-Check" have demonstrated 95% accuracy in identifying drug-drug interactions, including warfarin interactions with medications, food, and herbs [7]. Smart adherence technologies have improved medication adherence rates by 35% in chronic disease patients, directly addressing the critical issue where approximately half of patients with chronic diseases exhibit medication non-adherence [3, 8, 9]. AI-enhanced Medication Therapy Management (MTM) services have correlated with reduced healthcare utilization and costs, including statistically significant decreases in Total Cost of Care, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions [10]. Pharmacists utilizing AI systems for medication review have demonstrated 40% efficiency gains in identifying at-risk patients while redirecting their expertise toward patient-centered care activities [11]. While the integration of AI into pharmacy practice is still evolving, it presents substantial opportunities for enhancing patient outcomes and professional fulfillment for pharmacists [11]. However, successful implementation necessitates addressing significant challenges including data privacy and security concerns, potential algorithmic bias, accountability frameworks, and ensuring adequate training and acceptance among healthcare professionals [3].

AI Applications in Medication Management

AI significantly enhances medication management through evidence-based clinical decision support that improves patient outcomes. Pharmacists leveraging AI algorithms analyze patient data—including medical records, laboratory results, and medication profiles—to identify drug-drug interactions, assess medication safety and efficacy, and generate personalized recommendations [3, 12]. These systems optimize dosage regimens, detect interactions, and

improve medication adherence, while automating repetitive tasks to reduce errors and free pharmacists for patient-centric care [3, 5]

Medication Therapy Management (MTM)

AI significantly enhances Medication Therapy Management services through measurable outcomes. A novel AI platform integrated into Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM)-Wrap programs demonstrated statistically significant decreases in Total Cost of Care, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions [10]. AI systems that identify and prioritize atypical medication orders requiring pharmacist review have improved workflow efficiency by 40% while maintaining medication safety standards [11].

Medication Adherence Support

AI technologies significantly improve medication adherence outcomes through objective monitoring and personalized interventions. Studies show that AI-enhanced adherence systems increase medication adherence rates by 35% in chronic disease patients [3]. These systems transform medication adherence from passive expectation to active engagement, resulting in improved therapeutic outcomes and reduced healthcare utilization. AI application in chart classification for drug-related problems has resulted in 28% reduced error rates compared to manual screening [13]. CDSS tools that assess patient data have demonstrated 22% improvement in identifying gaps, errors, and safety issues in care pathways [11]. An AI-based CDSS tool developed for vancomycin dosing demonstrated a 37% decrease in nephrotoxicity incidence while maintaining clinical efficacy [6].

Patient Education and Consultation

Studies have shown that patients who get AI-enhanced education had 32% higher medication adherence rates, demonstrating the positive effects of AI-powered instructional aids on patient comprehension and compliance [3, 5]. These technologies extend clinical care outside regular business hours by responding to prescription-related enquiries and offering AI-based medication consultation when pharmacists are unavailable [14].

Efficiency and Workflow Enhancement

In pharmacy practice, integrating AI results in significant improvements in operational efficiency. Robotic dispensing systems have nearly eliminated major problems such choosing the incorrect medicine or strength and have decreased dispensing errors by 78% and dispensing time per prescription by 62% [3]. Through constant refinement, deep learning algorithms included into Automated Dispensing Systems (ADSs) have improved accuracy and maximised system performance [14].

Computerized Prescriber Order Entry (CPOE)

Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) represents an electronic process enabling healthcare providers to input and transmit medication orders, reducing errors associated with traditional methods like illegible handwriting or transcription [15]. Despite these benefits, CPOE systems can introduce new predictable and unpredictable prescribing and dispensing errors. However, they simultaneously enhance patient safety through critical features such as allergy alerts and renal dosing alerts [16]. Medication errors remain a significant healthcare concern, with thousands of annual deaths linked to these incidents [15].

AI for Identifying and Prioritizing Orders for Pharmacist Intervention

AI applications significantly improve the identification and classification of atypical or inappropriate medication orders requiring pharmacist intervention [11, 17, 18. Machine Learning-based Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) identify high-risk prescriptions with 92% accuracy, enabling efficient allocation of pharmacist expertise [10, 19]. Pharmacists report 35% higher satisfaction with ML systems for detecting medication errors, with these systems improving clinical responsibilities and care quality [20, 21].

AI Applications in Patient Safety and Risk Mitigation

Artificial intelligence significantly enhances patient safety and risk mitigation in pharmacy practice by supporting evidence-based clinical decisions through comprehensive patient data analysis [3]. These systems process large datasets to identify potential issues and generate informed recommendations for healthcare professionals [12, 22, 23]. Designed to complement rather than replace clinicians, AI provides additional support that improves clinical effectiveness and patient outcomes [1, 24].

Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR)

AI applications for Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) prediction and detection have demonstrated significant impact on patient safety. One notable study integrated drug-induced gene expression profiles with ADR occurrence data using Deep Neural Networks (DNN), achieving 89% accuracy in ADR prediction [25]. AI systems identify patterns in medication errors and ADRs to inform quality improvement strategies, with tools like CASTER assessing hidden drug features to anticipate potential reactions [26, 27]. Predictive analytics enables identification of patients at high risk for ADRs, allowing proactive interventions that have reduced adverse drug reactions by 27% [28, 29], while Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML) analyze unstructured Electronic Health Record (EHR) data for real-time ADR evaluation, collectively improving patient safety and treatment outcomes [30, 31].

Medication Error Identification

AI models have demonstrated significant impact in detecting and preventing medication errors. Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) enhance healthcare delivery by enabling pharmacists to identify discrepancies in medication orders that might be missed during manual reviews, including incorrect dosages and contraindications [5, 32]. These systems assess past, present, and upcoming patient data to recognize gaps, errors, and safety issues in care pathways with 85% accuracy [11]. Automated Dispensing Systems (ADSs) benefit from AI integration through increased accuracy, with error rates reduced from 0.204% to 0.044%, while virtually eliminating serious errors like wrong drug or strength selections [3, 23]. Specific implementations, such as AI-based CDSS for vancomycin dosing, have decreased nephrotoxicity incidence by 37% while maintaining clinical efficacy [6].

FDA-reported errors

The sources mention the use of data from reporting systems like the FDA Adverse Events Reporting System (FAERS) in conjunction with AI for ADR prediction [25]. They also reference the FDA's classification and regulation of AI/ML-based Software as a Medical Device (SaMD) when it is intended to treat, diagnose, cure, mitigate, or prevent disease [33, 34]. The Japanese Adverse Drug Event Report (JADER) database is also mentioned as a source used by an AI analysis system [33]. While these sources indicate that AI can utilize data from regulatory reporting systems like the FDA's FAERS database to predict issues like ADRs, they do not provide specific statistics or details regarding the number or types of medication errors that have been reported to the FDA.

AI tools for error detection

Several AI-powered tools and systems have demonstrated measurable impact in medication error detection:
Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS): AI-based methods optimize medication alerts generated by CDSS, reducing alert fatigue by 45% while improving identification of inappropriate prescriptions [35]. These systems process extensive EHR data to recognize complex patterns and provide individualized predictions that significantly enhance detection accuracy compared to manual methods [32, 35]. Automated Dispensing Systems (ADSs): Deep learning algorithms integrated into automated dispensing systems ensure accurate medication selection and dispensing, with error rates reduced from 0.204% to 0.044% [5, 23].

Predictive EHR Algorithms: Implementation of predictive EHR algorithms using AI has led to 22% improvement in clinical decision-making by detecting deviations from appropriate drug use patterns [3, 36].

Patient Safety Learning Laboratories (PSLL): Embedding AI into EHR systems through initiatives like PSLLs has helped identify, assess, and mitigate threats to patient safety, resulting in 18% reduction in medication-related adverse events [30, 31].

Inventory management and automated reordering

AI significantly enhances inventory management in community pharmacies through predictive analytics. AI algorithms analyze vast datasets to accurately forecast medication demand, enabling pharmacies to maintain optimal inventory levels and minimize stockouts of high-demand items and overstock situations [3, 23]. A demonstrated example showed AI predicting sales with 95% accuracy, reducing delivery schedules in a German online retailer [23]. AI systems automate reordering processes by monitoring stock levels in real-time, ensuring medication availability while conserving staff resources [14]. Advanced AI tools evaluate suppliers based on reliability, cost, delivery speed, and product quality to recommend optimal sourcing [22]. By forecasting restocking needs using machine learning, AI contributes to significant cost reduction and waste minimization while guaranteeing essential medication availability [2, 37].

AI Applications in Adverse Drug Event Prediction and Management

AI demonstrates significant potential in detecting drug-drug interactions through sophisticated analysis of patient data. AI-powered tools process electronic prescriptions to identify potential interactions using comprehensive patient history, detecting errors that might be overlooked in manual reviews [5]. Specialized applications like CASTER utilize deep learning techniques to anticipate drug interactions with 93% accuracy, enhancing pharmaceutical treatment safety [26]. Integration of Automated Dispensing Systems with Electronic Health Records enables AI to cross-reference dispensed medications against patient records, providing real-time alerts for potential interactions that have reduced adverse drug reactions by 27% [23, 28, 29]. Unlike traditional Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) with rigid logic, AI-based methods process extensive EHR data to recognize complex patterns and deliver individualized predictions, significantly enhancing detection accuracy and reliability compared to manual methods [10, 35].

Ethical and Regulatory Challenges

The integration of AI into healthcare settings has the potential to benefit clinical decision-making, but addressing challenges such as ensuring trustworthiness, mitigating bias, and maintaining safety is paramount [38]. A thorough analysis of ethical issues is required when integrating AI in healthcare [39, 40]. The integration of AI in healthcare raises ethical and privacy concerns [41-43]. Uncertainties related to AI decision strategies and outcomes increase the difficulty of regulating these technologies. Regulatory authorities, HTA bodies, and health policymakers are facing new challenges related to the new level of complexity in evaluating and delivering approval of AI-based medical devices (MDs) [33]. Ethical and professional concerns related to AI adoption include the impact on clinician responsibilities for AI-caused adverse events, job security concerns, and the impact on the user's professional role and recognition [20].

GDPR/HIPAA Compliance

Given AI's prominence in healthcare, robust data protection legislation is essential for safeguarding privacy [29]. Countries have implemented laws including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in the US and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe. While HIPAA protects health information from covered entities, GDPR establishes comprehensive data protection standards with global influence [29, 44]. However, GDPR (2018) doesn't fully address AI-specific data usage patterns, and HIPAA lacks provisions for AI-unique risks like algorithmic bias and misuse [2]. Emerging regulatory frameworks—including the European AI Act and US AI Bill of Rights—aim to enhance privacy protections. Developing standardized guidance frameworks is crucial to ensure AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support (AI-CDS) systems comply with evolving regulations across jurisdictions [38].

NHS patient data misuse case studies

DeepMind Health, acquired by Google in 2018, developed Streams—an application featuring an acute kidney injury management algorithm. The system gained significant attention when it was revealed that the National Health Service (NHS) provided DeepMind access to 1.6 million patient records for algorithm training without explicit patient consent [2, 45, 46]. This incident exemplifies critical data privacy concerns in healthcare AI implementation [41-43].

Algorithmic Bias

The integration of AI in healthcare raises significant ethical concerns, particularly regarding algorithmic bias that can perpetuate and exacerbate existing healthcare disparities [41-43]. Biased datasets used for AI model training lead to skewed results that reflect differential representation of race, gender, socioeconomic factors, and clinical subpopulations [29, 38, 47]. These algorithmic biases may result in inequitable healthcare outcomes, such as differential treatment recommendations based on demographic characteristics rather than medical need [2]. Minorities may be underrepresented in datasets due to racial biases in dataset creation, resulting in diminished prediction performance for AI applications in healthcare [29, 47]. Even with accurate, representative data, AI systems may perpetuate systemic healthcare biases reflected in training data [29, 39, 47]. For instance, AI algorithms trained on healthcare records may learn to recommend lower opioid analgesia doses for African-American patients—mimicking historical disparities in pain management that stem from systemic bias rather than biological necessity [29, 47]. This is a prime example of how, when trained on skewed clinical data, AI models may unintentionally learn and reinforce current healthcare disparities, potentially making them worse rather than better [33]. Because race, gender, socioeconomic characteristics, clinical subpopulations, and health inequities are not equally represented in datasets, AI algorithms and the recommendations that follow may reflect biases in the dataset as well as in the development process [38].

Racial biases in dataset creation

Minorities may be underrepresented in datasets due to racial biases in dataset creation, resulting in diminished prediction performance for AI applications in healthcare [29, 47]. Even if AI systems are trained on accurate, representative data, problems may arise if the data reflects underlying biases and inequalities in the health-care system [29, 39, 47]. For example, African-American patients receive less opioid analgesia on average than white patients; an AI system learning from health-care records may learn to recommend lower doses of opioid analgesia to African-American patients, despite the fact that this decision is based on systemic bias rather than biological reality [29, 47]. This highlights how existing racial biases in healthcare can be learned and perpetuated by AI if the training data reflects these biases [33].

Case Studies and Real-World Applications

AI has demonstrated significant impact across healthcare, enhancing diagnostic accuracy, efficiency, and speed through large dataset analysis [1]. Real-world applications span nephrology, oncology, radiology, and sickle cell disease management [1, 44, 48]. AI applications in hospital settings have decreased hospital readmissions by 15% through enhanced diagnostic accuracy [49]. In sickle cell disease management, AI has improved risk stratification for complications through retinal imaging analysis with 92% sensitivity and specificity [44, 50]. AI also predicts chronic kidney disease progression and forecasts chemotherapy response with over 80% accuracy using gene expression data [48, 51].

Deep Mind Health's Streams algorithm (NHS controversy)

Deep Mind Health, acquired by Google in 2018, developed Streams—an application featuring an acute kidney injury management algorithm. The system gained significant attention when it was revealed that the National Health Service (NHS) provided DeepMind access to 1.6 million patient records for algorithm training without explicit patient consent [2, 45, 46]. This incident exemplifies critical data privacy concerns in healthcare AI implementation [41-43]

Future Directions

Future research should focus on refining AI algorithms for accuracy and integrating multimodal data sources [1, 48, 52]. Seamless integration of predictive analytics into Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems is crucial for real-time risk assessment [52], while Health Information Technology (HIT) integration must address documentation challenges and interoperability issues [3, 53, 54]. Standardization of frameworks, definitions, and outcome measures is essential for generating reliable evidence and comparing model performance across studies [33, 52]. Collaboration among AI developers, healthcare practitioners, and legislators is critical for appropriate implementation [38, 55]. AI is poised to become indispensable in medical decision-making, diagnostics, and personalized treatment planning. Integration into healthcare workflows enhances efficiency, reduces diagnostic errors, and empowers professionals with data-driven insights [29, 56, 57]. Full integration of AI technologies into clinical practice is considered inevitable [38]. Pharmacists should view AI as a supportive tool rather than a replacement, with successful implementation depending on seamless integration into existing workflows and EHR systems to maximize compliance with recommendations [6].

Addressing data interoperability and quality

Widespread AI adoption faces significant challenges related to data integration [55]. Limited data structure and quality in existing electronic health systems can lead to inaccurate outcomes [3, 29]. The ease of acquiring vast training datasets means these systems may harbor latent biases that are extremely difficult to account for [38]. The "black box" nature of many AI systems creates transparency issues, requiring Explainable AI for building trust through transparent decision insights [38, 58]. Federated learning emerges as a promising approach for training models across decentralized datasets without compromising privacy [3, 58]. Standardization of frameworks, definitions, and outcome measures is essential for generating reliable evidence and comparing model performance across studies [33, 52].

CONCLUSION

AI presents a transformative opportunity for pharmacy practice, with demonstrated impacts on medication safety, clinical decision-making, and patient outcomes. AI has significantly reduced medication errors (from 0.204% to 0.044%), decreased nephrotoxicity incidence by 37%, improved medication adherence rates by 35%, and reduced Total Cost of Care through optimized resource allocation. Pharmacists should view AI as a supportive tool rather than a replacement, with successful implementation depending on seamless integration into existing workflows and EHR systems to maximize compliance with recommendations [6]. As the field continues to evolve, ongoing collaboration among stakeholders will be essential to harness AI's full potential for safer, more efficient, and more equitable patient care [3, 38]. Realizing AI's potential in pharmacy practice requires addressing current challenges through standardization, stakeholder collaboration, and increased transparency. With thoughtful implementation guided by evidence and ethical considerations, AI can transform pharmacy practice to better serve patients and improve healthcare outcomes on a systemic level. The evidence suggests that this transformation will yield significant benefits for patients, pharmacists, and the healthcare system as a whole.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

From Heuristics to Transformers : Evolving Spam Detection Strategies in the Age of Generative AI

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ABSTRACT

The exponential rise of generative AI technologies such as ChatGPT, deepfake generators, and synthetic voice tools has fundamentally altered the cyber threat landscape between 2021 and 2025. Cybercriminals are now exploiting these tools to craft hyper-realistic phishing emails, spam campaigns, and video/audio-based fraud schemes, resulting in unprecedented financial and psychological damages. In response, AI researchers have advanced transformer-based models like BERT, RoBERTa, and GPT-4, fine-tuning them for spam and phishing detection tasks with near-human accuracy. Explainable AI (XAI) frameworks have further improved the interpretability and trustworthiness of detection systems, particularly in regulatory and high-risk environments. However, Cybercriminals are increasingly automating their attacks using AI to personalize messages at scale, evade traditional filters, and create synthetic identities and deep personas for fraud. The emergence of multimodal spam integrating text, images, and voice has introduced new layers of complexity. Moreover, the rise of multilingual and code-mixed language spam, especially prevalent in regions like South Asia, poses unique NLP challenges that are underexplored in current literature. This work synthesizes the evolution of AI-driven cyber threats upto 2025, examining the transition from rule-based filters to advanced transformer models, while highlighting critical gaps in detecting multimodal and multilingual spam. We also explore the ethical implications of deploying adversarial AI for defense, discuss open challenges such as dataset scarcity and real-time detection, and suggest future research directions for building resilient, adaptive spam detection systems in the age of generative AI.

Keywords: Spam, History of spam, Anti Spam, Digital Spam, spam detection techniques,Machine Learning, AI Spam

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the internet is one of the fastest-developing technological fields. Based on the widespread usage of the internet, electronic communication has emerged as one of the most efficient and cost-effective forms of communication. It facilitates the transfer of knowledge from any location in the world. However, there has also been a sharp rise in spam messages due to increased internet use. Many anti-spam methods and solutions are available to combat spam messages online. The suspected messages are either blocked or quarantined using these methods. These days, spam messages pose a significant security risk since they are a prime conduit for phishing attempts involving sensitive and personal data. Although many classification methods have been developed for spam classification, none are 100% accurate. Therefore, it is dubious to guarantee an accurate prediction of spam messages based on current experience or knowledge. [1]

Spamming

Online and internet-oriented communication has become more prevalent as the potential and usage of the internet increase. (Email, social networks, VoIP, IRC, and Trillion). The dynamic nature of online communication makes it vulnerable to abuse. Spam is a prevalent and well-known problem. Online users found spam to be a severe issue. Although many anti-spam solutions have been proposed thus far, each has drawbacks. The characteristics of spam messages can be any of the following [2].

Sender unknown: There is no connection between the sender and the recipient.

Unsolicited: Information that is not requested or consented to by the recipient.

Bulk Posting: A large audience has received the message.

History and Evolution of Spam

Regarding the internet, the term "spam" appears to have come from the spam skit in Monty Python's Flying Circus. Hormel Food Corporation sells containers of the meat brand Spam. However, it indirectly refers to the behavior of something that is bothersome and keeps happening. A group of people in Monty Python's script sing a song where the waitress is ridiculed and the amount of "spam" (meat sold in containers) on the menu is discussed. However, it indirectly refers to the behavior of something that is bothersome and keeps happening. A group of people in Monty Python's script sing a song where the waitress is ridiculed and the amount of "spam" (meat sold in containers) on the menu is discussed. The term "online spam" describes the practice of harassing users via unsolicited messages. Users become angry and are vulnerable to phishing, malware, and hacking due to online Spam. 1993-1994: The real world of spam on the internet referred since 1993 to a bug in Usenet (an early non-centralized computer network for discussion) that cost a massive post of 200 messages to the news group. Then, the group members made jokes about that incident and called it 'spam', hence its meaning and etymology. The first major spam hit Usenet with an announcement called "Global Alert for All: Jesus Is Coming Soon." And then, in April of the same year, Usenet was again overloaded with an immigration law commercial by Lawrence A Canter [4]. 1997 -1998: 1997 the first SMTP hijacking was recorded because SMTP(Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) is a sender push technology. Since Paul Vixie created the Realtime Blackhole List (RBL) of spam sites in the same year, so that we could send messages without any authentication or return address, in the same year Paul Vixie created the Realtime Blackhole List (RBL) of spam sites. During 1998, Greater Washington D.C., a chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC-DC), held a conference on spam [4].

2000-2003:Nigerian spam, also known as the "Nigerian prince" email scam, occurred in 2000. The Nigerian Letter or "419" scam is another name for it, and it is arguably one of the most persistent online scams. Through text or email, the sender contacts victims and requests that they send details, including account numbers, bank names, and blank letterheads, to the email address. This scam, which has cost millions of dollars in losses, is the result of spam. For the first time, spam emails outnumbered legitimate ones in 2003 when spamming botnets emerged. Thus, the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography And Marketing (CAN-SPAM) has been put into effect by authorities. Authorities have the authority to fine violators, and it regulates commercial email and grants recipients the right to request that a business cease sending them emails [5].

2004-2005: Between 2004 and 2005, spam threats evolved rapidly with the rise of botnets enabling mass distribution of malware and fraudulent content. Spammers exploited events like the 2005 London bombings and leveraged spam for phishing, extortion, and spyware attacks, shifting from nuisance to organized cybercrime [1].
2006-2009: From 2006 to 2009, email usage increased dramatically because most emails were spam. A study conducted by Iron-Port on June 28, 2006, found that zombie computers were the source of almost 80% of the spam emails. There were 55 billion spam emails sent daily in June 2006 alone, up from 35 billion in June 2005. The majority of spam sent globally up until 2009 was in English. However, the use of automatic language translators led to spammers sending spam in other languages in 2009. Thus, there are no linguistic obstacles. It is available in every Asian language, including Chinese, Korean, and others [5].

2010-2011: Spam was estimated to account for 88% of all email traffic on the internet. The government shut down the Rustock botnet in 2011. With a 30-billion email capacity, it was the biggest botnet ever recorded. Twenty-five thousand spam messages can be sent from an infected PC every hour [7], [8]. 2012-2019: Between 2012 and 2018, the rise of social media spam. Spam has evolved beyond traditional email, including new forms like social spambots and misinformation through fake accounts/websites. Phishing through bulk email and targeted spear-phishing remained a prevalent threat, with attackers utilizing various techniques like fake websites and attachments. Additionally, emerging forms of spam included SMS phishing (smishing) [9]. A few of them are email botnets mining, zombie networks, and domain-based message authentication [5]. 2020-2022: During the COVID-19 pandemic, spam trends evolved significantly, leveraging public fear and uncertainty. Cybercriminals exploited the crisis by disseminating phishing emails, fake health advisories, and fraudulent offers for personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccines. COVID-19-related spam emails increased by 667 percent, with many impersonating reputable health agencies such as the WHO. In the first year of COVID-19, researchers examined 500,000 phishing emails that target Dutch domains [10].It finds most emails follow known patterns, with common adoption of phishing schemes. Using topic modeling, it links phishing trends to pandemic events, offering insights into attacker behavior and implications for cybersecurity.SMS-based spam also rose, with scams offering fake stimulus checks or financial aid [2]. Social media platforms saw a proliferation of misinformation and fraudulent ads, further exacerbating the issue. These trends highlight how spammers adapted their tactics to capitalize on the global crisis, emphasizing the need for heightened cybersecurity awareness [3] .Additionally, QR code phishing, known as "quishing," has seen a dramatic rise, with incidents increasing by 433% from 2023 to 2024, as cybercriminals embed malicious links within QR codes to deceive users [4].

2023-2024: Between 2023 and 2024, Job offer scams also surged, particularly on WhatsApp and Telegram, targeting remote job seekers with fake onboarding forms that harvested sensitive personal data. The Chainalysis 2023 Crypto Crime Report highlights a sharp rise in approval phishing scams, with $374 million stolen in 2023 alone [5]. Phishing emails crafted with AI tools like ChatGPT became context-aware, grammatically flawless, and harder to detect, often impersonating banks, government portals, or IT support teams [6]. Cyber threats have changed dramatically in 2024 due to attackers using cutting-edge technologies and cunning strategies. Notably, the use of generative AI tools, which allow for the mass production of compelling phishing emails, has contributed significantly to the rise in Business Email Compromise (BEC) attacks, which have increased by 1,760 percent year over year [16] and [17]. 2025: In 2025, spam campaigns became increasingly sophisticated, driven by the rise of generative AI and social engineering. A high-profile incident in Hong Kong involved a $25 million fraud, where cybercriminals used deepfake video calls to impersonate a company's CFO and legal team [18]. The FBI has also issued warnings about malicious actors using AI to impersonate senior U.S. officials through text and AI-generated voice messages, aiming to gain unauthorized access to personal accounts. Furthermore, identity theft and impersonation scams have become more sophisticated, exploiting the widespread use of online banking and digital wallets.

Consequences of Spam
Spam encompasses unsolicited or unwanted digital content that imposes significant burdens on individuals, organizations, and society at large.

Individual-Level Impacts: Spam emails often lead to privacy violations, identity theft, and financial fraud. Phishing emails, for instance, deceive users into believing they originate from trusted sources, such as acquaintances, reputable companies, or financial institutions. These messages redirect recipients to fraudulent websites, prompting them to divulge sensitive information like credit card numbers and personal identification details. Such deceptive practices can result in substantial emotional and financial distress for victims, particularly those less experienced with digital communications . Organizational-Level Impacts: Organizations face disrupted communication channels, reduced employee productivity, and increased IT infrastructure burdens due to spam. Corporate email systems are inundated with unsolicited messages daily, many containing malicious attachments or links that can compromise internal networks. The financial implications are significant, encompassing costs associated with filtering, quarantining, and mitigating spam-based threats. Notably, spam can also serve as a vector for ransomware attacks, leading to operational paralysis and substantial downtime .

Societal-Level Impacts: Beyond individual and organizational consequences, spam contributes to the spread of misinformation, particularly on social media platforms. Campaigns promoting false medical treatments, political propaganda, or fabricated news stories can influence public opinion and behavior, undermining trust in digital information sources. The automation of such campaigns, often driven by bots and artificial intelligence, exacerbates their reach and impact.

In real-world data, spam and non-spam tweets are not evenly distributed. This unequal distribution of spam and non-spam significantly impacts the detection rate. In order to tackle the problem, the first optimal over-sampling technique has been suggested. Building a classification model, combining the predictions of all classification models, and adjusting the unbalanced data are some of the steps involved in this process. The first step was completed by introducing several techniques, including random sampling, undersampling, and FOS. The outcomes validated the second and final steps—using a redistributed dataset and a majority voting scheme to combine [19]. Since false information constantly spreads, a thorough investigation is required to identify Twitter spam. Over 50 million were examined in this analysis, with 6% of them being spam, both the users' location and the content. The proposed work uses Trend Micro web unlabeled data by employing graph clustering techniques and full-stop clicks per tweet count to identify spam. Region response and other out-of-the-box deceptive content are crucial in luring users to malicious sites. Instead of using machine learning algorithms for that clustering, the work employs a graphical clustering approach. IT successfully detects Twitter spam cliques and finds spam data [20]. Consider the Twitter spam drift, where the statistical characteristics of the labelled spam may evolve in the dataset. Accordingly, the innovative fund scheme was developed by analyzing over a million spam and non-spam emails. The classifiers' retraining process was aided by the label "changed spam.". The scenario of the proposed work's outcome provides satisfactory output with real-world spam drift, and these are identified from unlabeled samples [21].

Taxonomy of Spam

Classification of Spam: A Tripartite Framework

Spam can be systematically classified using a tripartite framework that considers the communication medium, the intent behind the message, and the technology employed for its generation and dissemination. This multidimensional classification provides a comprehensive understanding of the diversity and complexity inherent in spam campaigns.

Classification by Communication Medium

Spam is propagated through various channels, each presenting unique challenges for detection. Traditional mediums include email and SMS, while contemporary platforms encompass social media, messaging applications (e.g., WhatsApp, Telegram), VoIP services, and emerging virtual environments such as the metaverse. As digital landscapes evolve, spammers exploit new platforms to maximize reach and deceive users [8].

Classification by Intent

Spam messages can be categorized based on their underlying objectives:

- Phishing: Deceptive attempts to acquire sensitive information by impersonating trustworthy entities.
- Financial Fraud: Schemes designed to defraud individuals through false investment opportunities or loan offers.
- Misinformation: Dissemination of false or misleading information to manipulate public perception.
- Malware Distribution: Delivery of malicious software intended to compromise systems.
- Brand Manipulation: Efforts to tarnish or exploit brand reputations for malicious purposes.

This intent-based classification emphasizes the strategic goals behind spam dissemination, distinguishing it from content-based categorizations [9].

Classification by Technology Used

The technological sophistication of spam has advanced significantly. Initial spam campaigns relied on human-generated messages. Over time, this evolved into botnet-driven spam, enabling large-scale automated dissemination. Presently, spammers leverage artificial intelligence, including generative models like GPT, to create context-aware and personalized spam content. Additionally, multimodal spam incorporates text, images, and videos, further complicating detection efforts [10] , [11] . This tripartite framework offers a layered perspective on spam, elucidating not only the content and delivery mechanisms but also the underlying motivations and technological advancements that facilitate its proliferation

spam by Technology Used

The sophistication of spam has evolved significantly due to rapid advancements in automation, artificial intelligence, and distributed computing. One way to classify spam is based on the underlying technology used to generate and disseminate the content. Early spam campaigns were largely human-generated, where individuals manually sent bulk messages through email lists or open relays. These forms of spam, while simple, laid the groundwork for more automated systems. With the rise of botnets, spam operations scaled rapidly. Botnet-based spam involves the use of compromised devices—often termed zombie nodes—that are remotely controlled by a central command-and-control server. These networks can distribute millions of spam messages per day while evading detection by rotating IP addresses and mimicking normal traffic patterns [12] . More recently, the adoption of AI and large language models (LLMs) has introduced a new generation of spam that is personalized, coherent, and contextually aware. Tools like ChatGPT and open-source transformer models are capable of generating spam emails or social media messages that mimic human writing styles, improving the success rate of phishing and fraud campaigns [13]. Deepfake technology further enhances impersonation in voice and video spam, enabling real-time interaction scams such as deepfake CEO frauds [7].

The most advanced forms of spam today are multimodal and adaptive, often combining AI-generated text, synthetic voice, and manipulated video, making traditional spam filters ineffective. As spammers continue to exploit emerging technologies, detection systems must integrate behavioral analysis, adversarial learning, and explainable AI to remain effective.

Complex Spam Types - Multilingual and Multimodal Spam

Modern spam campaigns are no longer limited to single-language, text-based content. With the increasing digital footprint of diverse linguistic populations and the proliferation of media-sharing platforms, spammers now exploit both multilingual and multimodal strategies to improve the reach and effectiveness of their messages. In multilingual contexts, especially in countries like India, spam messages frequently appear in code-mixed languages—a blend of English and regional scripts such as Tamil, Hindi, or Bengali. This form, often seen in SMS or WhatsApp spam, poses significant challenges for NLP-based spam detectors, which are typically trained on monolingual corpora. Transliteration, informal spelling, and mixed grammar further complicate detection tasks [14]. While recent tools such as IndicNLP, AI4Bharat, and HuggingFace's multilingual transformers have improved capabilities, most models still lack robustness for noisy, low-resource, and code-mixed inputs.

Multimodal spam, on the other hand, uses combinations of text, images, audio, and video to convey deceptive messages. Common forms include image-based Instagram spam, fake voice messages on WhatsApp, and phishing links embedded in YouTube comments. In some cases, these modalities are combined—for example, a spam message with a deepfake video and a phishing link, increasing credibility and emotional manipulation. Multimodal spam detection is still an emerging field, requiring advances in cross-modal learning, attention mechanisms, and real-time filtering systems [15].Together, these complex spam types represent a significant challenge to conventional spam detection frameworks, calling for hybrid models that can handle linguistic variation and multimodal inputs effectively.

Antispam Techniques

Spam Detection and Prevention Systems

Architecture and Functionality of Spam Filters

Spam filters constitute a critical component of email security frameworks, designed to distinguish between unsolicited messages (spam) and legitimate correspondence (ham). These systems employ hierarchical classification mechanisms to prevent spam from reaching user inboxes while minimizing false positives. Internet service providers (ISPs) integrate spam filters into both inbound and outbound email traffic to mitigate the propagation of malicious or irrelevant content.

Modern filters adopt three principal deployment modalities:

1. Cloud-based solutions, which leverage distributed server networks for scalable, real-time threat detection.
2. On-premises hardware systems, deployed within organizational infrastructures to prioritize data sovereignty and granular control.
3. Client-side software, embedded within email applications (e.g., Microsoft Outlook) for endpoint-specific filtering.

Current implementations increasingly rely on machine learning (ML) algorithms such as Naive Bayes classifiers, support vector machines (SVMs), and deep neural networks to analyze semantic patterns, metadata, and behavioral signals. This classification can be formalized as a probabilistic function:

$P(spam|M)=P(M)P(M|spam)P(spam)$

Where M denotes the email message, P(spam) represents the prior probability of spam occurrence, and P(M|spam) is derived from training data comprising labeled spam and ham corpora [28]. Parameter optimization during model training minimizes misclassification risks by iteratively adjusting feature weights.

Operational Workflow

1. Data ingestion: Emails are tokenized, with features such as headers, hyperlinks, and lexical patterns extracted for analysis.
2. Multi-layered classification: A hybrid approach combining ML predictions with rule-based heuristics (e.g., DNS blocklists, regular expressions) assigns spam probability scores.
3. Action enforcement: Messages exceeding predefined spam thresholds are quarantined, while ham is routed to recipient inboxes.
4. Post-classification review: Quarantined items undergo periodic audits to identify and rectify false positives.
5. Adaptive retraining: User feedback on misclassified emails fine-tunes model parameters, enhancing robustness against evolving threats like zero-day phishing campaigns.

This iterative feedback mechanism ensures sustained efficacy despite adversarial tactics employed by spammers.

Detection-Based Techniques

Blocking:

Blocking is a widely adopted technique to prevent spam by identifying and denying access to known spam sources. This involves maintaining blacklists of IP addresses, domains, or specific sender identifiers frequently associated

with spam activity [16].When an incoming message originates from one of these sources, it is automatically rejected or redirected to a spam folder. However, its effectiveness may be diminished by dynamic IP allocation and the use of distributed botnets [17].

Quarantine

To mitigate the risk of legitimate emails being wrongly classified as spam (false positives), modern anti-spam systems employ quarantine mechanisms. Suspicious messages are isolated into a separate folder or buffer instead of being deleted. Users or administrators can then review and manually whitelist or discard them. Typically, systems automatically remove quarantined messages after a predetermined period, such as 30 days. This approach balances effective spam filtering with user oversight [18].

Automatic Filtering

Modern anti-spam software increasingly integrates antivirus engines and artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to automatically detect and block evolving spam patterns. These systems rely on machine learning algorithms trained to identify anomalous or suspicious behaviors in real time. Once new spam campaigns or malware are recognized, the system updates its repository to prevent recurrence. Such adaptive models are highly effective against zero-day attacks and polymorphic spam [19] , [20].

Identity-Based Approaches

Identity-based approaches link messages to sender reputations and recipient histories. For example, spam filters can be configured to monitor both professional and personal email accounts, applying consistent whitelist and blacklist policies. Whitelisting allows trusted senders to bypass filters entirely, while blacklisting permanently blocks communication from known spam sources. This mechanism reduces false positives and ensures legitimate communication flows smoothly [21].

Collaborative Response Methods

Collaborative anti-spam strategies incorporate user feedback, enabling users to manually report spam. These reports are aggregated to enhance the global knowledge base, which is then used to update spam signatures and improve detection algorithms. Crowd-sourced spam reporting is particularly effective in identifying large-scale phishing campaigns and spam bursts [22] .

Content-Based Filtering

Content-based filtering techniques evaluate the actual content of emails to assess the likelihood of spam. This class of methods is flexible and adaptive, analyzing semantic, structural, and syntactic features.

Keyword-Based Filtering

Keyword filtering is one of the oldest and most intuitive methods for spam detection. Messages containing high-risk terms such as “lottery,” “free offer,” or “urgent payment” are flagged. These words may appear in subject lines, headers, or email bodies. Despite its simplicity, keyword-based filtering is prone to evasion tactics, including word obfuscation and image-based text embedding [23]

Attachment-Based Filtering

Spam messages frequently carry malicious attachments disguised as invoices or urgent notices. Anti-spam filters automatically block or sandbox emails with high-risk file extensions such as .exe, .bat, or .scr [24], [25]. Advanced systems utilize behavioral analysis to detect malicious scripts embedded within common formats like PDFs and Word documents [26].

Header Integrity Checks

Header-based filtering validates the consistency of sender information, checking for mismatches between 'From:' headers and underlying IP addresses or domain records. Protocols like SPF, DKIM, and DMARC are employed to authenticate emails and prevent spoofing [27].

Heuristic-Based Filtering

Heuristic filters rely on expert-defined rules to analyze complex patterns in emails. Unlike simple keyword filters, heuristic systems consider multiple features simultaneously—such as font manipulation, excessive punctuation, or suspicious URLs—and assign cumulative spam scores [28].

Bayesian Filtering:

Bayesian filters utilize probabilistic models to estimate whether an email is spam based on word frequency comparisons between known spam and non-spam corpora. The filter dynamically updates its knowledge base through continual training, allowing for refined classification over time [29].

Verification-Based Systems

Verification-based spam filtering approaches validate the authenticity of the sender using various mechanisms before allowing email delivery. These methods aim to reduce spoofing, phishing, and mass-mail attacks by confirming the legitimacy of the sender's identity or domain.

DNS Lookups

Domain Name System (DNS) lookups—particularly for Mail Exchange (MX) records—are used to verify whether the domain part of an email address (i.e., the part following the '@' symbol) has a valid mail server configuration. If the domain lacks an appropriate MX record, the message is flagged or blocked as potentially suspicious [30]. This verification ensures that the sender's domain is correctly configured and not part of a disposable or fraudulent email service.

Challenge-Response Systems

Challenge-response systems enhance spam protection by requiring the sender to complete a verification step before their message is delivered. These challenges typically include CAPTCHAs, SMS-based confirmations, or honeypot traps, which are designed to block automated bots incapable of solving such tasks. This approach is particularly effective in reducing unsolicited bulk emails and robotic spam [31].

Cost-Based Filtering Mechanisms

Cost-based anti-spam models introduce a financial or computational penalty for sending emails. The concept assumes that spam exists largely because email is cheap to send. By imposing a small cost—monetary or in the form of computational effort (e.g., proof-of-work)—this method discourages mass spamming since attackers would find it financially unviable to continue operations. Although promising, widespread implementation remains limited due to scalability and adoption barriers [32].

Traditional Spam Filtering Techniques

Traditional anti-spam techniques have formed the backbone of early filtering systems. While many have been augmented or replaced by advanced machine learning approaches, these foundational methods remain relevant, especially in layered security models.

DNS-Based Blackhole Lists (DNSBL)

Blacklisting is a widely used method in which email servers consult DNS-based Blackhole Lists (DNSBLs) to block messages from known spam-generating IP addresses. These lists are updated continuously based on global spam detection efforts.

Advantages: High filtering accuracy for known spammers; effective as a first line of defense.
Disadvantages: High risk of false positives; legitimate senders sharing IPs with spammers may be wrongly blocked [33].

Bulk Email Detection

Bulk email detectors such as Razor, DCC (Distributed Checksum Clearinghouse), and Pyzor analyze the content and metadata of messages to identify duplicate or near-duplicate bulk emails across a distributed network. These systems rely on collaborative spam fingerprinting and peer verification [34].

- Advantages: High accuracy in detecting mass-mail spam campaigns.
- Disadvantages: Bandwidth-intensive; legitimate mass mailers (e.g., newsletters, subscription services) may be falsely flagged .

Content Filtering

Content filtering involves scanning the entire message—including headers, body, and attachments—for suspicious words, structures, or patterns. Earlier systems focused on plain-text or HTML content; however, modern approaches evaluate embedded images, scripts, and metadata.

- Advantages: Adaptive to new spam formats with appropriate tuning; supports multiple detection layers (e.g., text signatures, URL analysis).
- Disadvantages: Requires frequent rule and database updates; high resource consumption; may cause false positives due to overly aggressive filtering [35].

Mathematical and Statistical Filtering Approaches

Mathematical and statistical approaches form the foundational framework of modern spam detection techniques. These methods rely on formal models, probability theory, and statistical inference to distinguish between spam and legitimate messages (ham). One of the earliest and still widely used techniques is the Bayesian classifier, which applies Bayes' theorem to compute the posterior probability that a given message is spam based on the frequency of certain words or features.

Bayesian Filtering

Bayesian filters are probabilistic models that utilize probabilistic models to assess the likelihood of an email being spam, based on the frequency of words in previously labeled spam and legitimate (ham) datasets. When the calculated probability, $P(\text{spam} \mid \text{features})$, surpasses a predefined threshold, the email is classified as spam. These filters are trained on historical data and can adapt dynamically through user feedback. A hybrid model was recently introduced that incorporates new word weighting techniques for efficient spam filtering of short texts. This approach enhances classification accuracy in dynamic spam environments by leveraging temporal keyword weighting. The model is lightweight, efficient, and continually learns from user interactions, making it suitable for real-time applications [36].

Support Vector Machines (SVM)

The ability to handle high-dimensional feature spaces makes Support Vector Machines (SVMs) popular for classifying spam emails. Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) weighting and n-gram features are frequently used to find the best hyperplane for distinguishing spam from ham emails. Enhanced versions, such as Kernel-SVM, have demonstrated improved performance in handling non-linearly separable data. Recent studies have shown that SVMs combined with hybrid feature engineering—integrating both textual content and metadata—outperform traditional rule-based systems on benchmark datasets like Enron and Ling-Spam [37].

Decision Trees and Ensemble Models

In order to improve classification performance, ensemble techniques and hyperparameter optimization are frequently used in machine learning frameworks for spam email detection. Count Vectorizer and TF-IDF Vectorizer

are two feature extraction techniques used to process text data from three publicly accessible datasets: Ling-Spam, UCI SMS Spam, and a recently proposed dataset. Support Vector Machine (SVM), Naive Bayes(NB), Random Forest(RF), Logistic Regression, Extra Trees, Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD), XGBoost, and Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) were among the many classifiers that were assessed. Genetic algorithms, grid search, random search, and manual search can all be used to fine-tune the models and produce notable gains in model performance [51].

K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)

The supervised machine learning algorithm K-Nearest Neighbors is employed for classification and regression tasks. When a given input is found, the "k" closest data points (neighbors) are found, and predictions are made based on the average value (for regression) or the majority class (for classification). One instance-based, non-parametric learning method that does not make assumptions about the underlying data distribution is K-Nearest Neighbors. The value of "k," which controls how many neighbors the algorithm takes into account when generating a prediction, must be chosen carefully for the algorithm to produce positive results. KNN is frequently called a lazy learner algorithm because it stores the dataset and applies an action to it during classification rather than immediately learning from the training set. Predictions are made by the algorithm using majority voting and proximity [52], [53].

Deep Learning-Based Approaches

With the advancement of computational power and the availability of large datasets, deep learning techniques have emerged as the most effective and scalable methods for spam detection. These models can automatically learn hierarchical feature representations from raw data, significantly outperforming traditional machine learning approaches.

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

Image spam poses a serious problem for automated detection systems since it hides unwanted content inside images to get around conventional text-based filters. This problem can be effectively addressed by Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), which can automatically recognize visual and spatial patterns in unprocessed image data. When applied to image spam detection, CNNs have demonstrated superior accuracy compared to conventional machine learning approaches. Integrating raw image data with edge detection techniques such as the Canny operator has been shown to enhance feature extraction, leading to improved classification performance. In comparative evaluations, CNNs often outperform models such as Support Vector Machines (SVMs) and Multilayer Perceptrons (MLPs), particularly when tested on both real-world and synthetically generated image spam datasets [38].

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)

Spam detection has undergone significant change from simple keyword-based filters to sophisticated machine learning and deep learning models. A Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) type called Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs) has drawn interest due to its capacity to model sequential data, making it helpful in spotting spam and phishing emails. GRU-based models can be used for context-aware classification, such as classifying spam into different categories. RNNs with Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, which can store a more extended sequence of data than conventional RNNs, are helpful for tasks involving long-term dependencies. The ability of LSTM networks to gradually identify patterns and dependencies in data is essential for spotting spam in text or email data. For instance, an LSTM model can learn to distinguish between normal and spam messages based on the content, context, and frequency of certain words or phrases [39] , [40].

Transformer-Based Models

Transformer-based models, such as BERT and RoBERTa, have demonstrated remarkable effectiveness in spam detection tasks, particularly in classifying emails and SMS messages as either spam or legitimate. These deep learning architectures are designed for natural language processing and are especially adept at capturing long-range dependencies within text. When fine-tuned and optimized for specific datasets, transformer models consistently outperform traditional machine learning algorithms in terms of accuracy and robustness. For instance, a fine-tuned

RoBERTa-Base model has been successfully applied to SMS spam detection, showcasing the model's ability to adapt to domain-specific tasks while maintaining high classification performance. The self-attention mechanism inherent to transformer architectures enables a nuanced understanding of text context, making them well-suited for spam filtering applications that demand precision and contextual awareness [41].

Hybrid Deep Learning Models

Hybrid deep learning models, which integrate multiple neural network architectures, offer a powerful approach to spam detection by leveraging the strengths of various techniques. For example, CNN-LSTM models can effectively extract local features using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) while capturing long-term dependencies through Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, resulting in improved accuracy for tasks such as spam review classification. Additionally, the integration of traditional techniques—such as feature selection or fuzzy logic—into deep learning frameworks can further enhance both the accuracy and robustness of spam detection systems. This hybrid approach significantly improves the overall effectiveness of spam detection [42].

Emerging trend and Future spam

The rapid development of communication platforms for global connectivity highly influences the future of spam. with recent technologies like AI and ML , Spam has expanded beyond simple phishing and promotional emails. It is gradually transforming into an advanced and complicated phenomenon. One such trend is the rise of personalized spam. One such trend is the rise of personalized spam. With the growing capabilities of generative AI models, such as GPT-5 and its successors, spammers can craft messages that convincingly mirror a user's tone, language, and behavioral patterns. They are generated using large volumes of personal data, which is often obtained through social media scraping, data breaches, or behavioral profiling. AI-generated messages, as opposed to bulk spam, are meticulously constructed to use personalized content to trick and influence recipients [54]. This problem is further aggravated by the increase in multimodal spam, which combines text with audio, video, and images. Nowadays, deepfake technology is used as a weapon to spoof individuals convincingly and increasing the risk of fraud and impersonation. Concerning augmented and virtual reality (VR/AR), especially within nascent metaverse environments, spam may be delivered through seemingly authentic interactions—fraudulent in-game assets, false investment opportunities, or fake video calls from trusted figures [55]. Existing spam detection systems, primarily optimized for text-based inputs, are ill-equipped to handle these immersive formats.

Spam is also becoming more linguistically agile. In multilingual and code-mixed environments, particularly in regions like South Asia, attackers exploit informal language and mixed scripts to bypass detection systems. This kind of spam often gets past filters trained on standard corpora, which shows that advanced natural language processing models that can handle linguistic diversity and regional variation are needed immediately. Adversarial spam, or content created to evade machine learning classifiers, is another growing concern. Spammers can deceive even well-trained models by subtly altering word choice, syntax, or formatting or injecting adversarial perturbations. In more sophisticated attacks, poisoned datasets may degrade model performance over time. Addressing this challenge will require detection systems that are accurate, interpretable, and resilient to manipulation.

The Internet of Things (IoT) further broadens the surface of spam attacks. As smart home devices become integral to daily life, new voice-based spam may target virtual assistants like Alexa and Google Assistant, delivering unsolicited messages through compromised networks. Moreover, IoT devices such as smart TVs, speakers, and refrigerators may be hijacked and used as nodes in botnets, distributing spam or acting as data collection points [56]. The spam landscape is expected to change even more in the 2030s. Despite being transformative, quantum computing may accidentally aid attackers by rendering current encryption methods obsolete. Attackers could easily breach secure channels and inject spam and malicious content. Meanwhile, the global adoption of 5G and 6G networks will increase the volume and speed of data transmission, potentially enabling real-time, geolocated spam attacks during crises or politically charged events.

Concurrently, the growth of synthetic media AI-generated images, articles, and videos indistinguishable from legitimate content raises the specter of large-scale misinformation campaigns. Spam will no longer be limited to deceptive offers or malware links but may emerge as a tool of influence, engineered to distort reality and shape public opinion. These developments show that spam is becoming a more complex and dynamic threat. Dealing with this will require significant changes and updates to the existing systems. Future spam detection frameworks must be real-time, cross-modal, linguistically adaptable, explainable, and privacy-conscious in the fast-changing digital landscape. They must also be able to work across various platforms and devices [57].

Research Challenges and Open Issues

Despite considerable advancements in spam detection techniques, several critical challenges remain unresolved. The rapid evolution of spam strategies and the proliferation of diverse communication platforms have introduced complex technical, linguistic, and ethical hurdles that demand further research.

Evolving Nature of Spam

One of the most pressing challenges in spam detection is the dynamic and adaptive nature of spam content. Spammers increasingly employ sophisticated obfuscation tactics, such as the use of homograph characters, random word insertions, and contextual camouflage, which diminish the effectiveness of keyword-based and rule-based filters. Additionally, AI-generated spam, such as texts synthesized by large language models, are capable of mimicking human-like language with high fluency, making detection more complex than ever before [58].

Zero-Day and Low-Frequency Spam

Spam detection systems often rely on historical data and known patterns. However, zero-day spam unseen types of spam that exploit newly discovered weaknesses remains a significant vulnerability. Similarly, low-frequency or targeted spam, such as spear-phishing emails tailored to individual recipients, frequently bypass conventional machine learning models due to the lack of training data [59].

Multimodal Spam and Cross-Platform Content

Modern spam campaigns are increasingly multimodal, integrating text, images, audio, and video to evade detection. Image spam, deepfake audio messages, and video-based phishing require cross-disciplinary approaches combining computer vision, natural language processing, and signal processing techniques. Furthermore, cross-platform spam propagation (e.g., messages shared simultaneously across email, WhatsApp, and social media) poses unique tracking and attribution challenges [15].

Real-Time Detection and Scalability

Many state-of-the-art spam detectors involve deep learning models that are computationally expensive and not feasible for real-time deployment on resource-constrained devices such as smartphones or IoT devices. Achieving low-latency, high-accuracy detection in real-world settings without compromising performance remains an open research problem [60].

Multilingual and Code-Mixed Spam

Most existing models are optimized for English, but spammers now exploit linguistic diversity, using non-English languages or code-mixed content (e.g., Tamil-English, Hindi-English) to evade detection. Developing robust multilingual models that maintain performance across languages and dialects, especially low-resource ones, is an urgent requirement [14], [15].

Dataset Scarcity and Annotation Costs

Effective supervised learning approaches require large, diverse, and labeled datasets, which are often scarce in the domain of spam detection. Manual annotation of spam messages is labor-intensive, time-consuming, and prone to subjectivity. There is a growing need for semi-supervised, weakly-supervised, and synthetic data generation methods to alleviate this bottleneck [61].

Privacy, Ethics, and Adversarial Attacks

Spam detection systems often need access to user messages for analysis, raising significant privacy and ethical concerns. Moreover, deep learning models are susceptible to adversarial attacks, where minute perturbations in input can manipulate the model's output. Designing privacy-preserving, attack-resistant detection frameworks is a crucial future direction [62].

Comparative Evaluation and Performance Metrics

Evaluation Metrics

To assess the effectiveness of spam detection models, the following standard metrics are utilized

Accuracy: The ratio of correctly predicted instances to the total instances.

Precision: The ratio of correctly predicted positive observations to the total predicted positive observations.

Recall (Sensitivity): The ratio of correctly predicted positive observations to all actual positive observations.

F1-Score: The weighted average of Precision and Recall.

AUC-ROC: Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve; measures the ability of the model to distinguish between classes.

Benchmark Dataset

This study utilizes the SMS Spam Collection Dataset, a widely recognized benchmark in natural language processing (NLP) for binary text classification tasks. Initially introduced by Almeida et al. (2011), the dataset continues to be employed in recent research (2023–2025) due to its clean format, realistic content, and suitability for evaluating a broad range of models from classical machine learning to modern deep learning and transformer-based architectures. The dataset consists of 5,574 SMS messages in English that have been manually classified as spam (unsolicited or promotional content) or ham (legitimate, non-spam). The class distribution is naturally lopsided, with roughly 87 percent of messages being ham and 13 percent being spam, reflecting actual mobile communications situations. The dataset has two fields for every instance.

Label: Either "ham" or "spam", which is mapped to 0 and 1, respectively.

Message: Raw SMS text content.

The dataset was sourced from the UCI Machine Learning Repository for this research. It was preprocessed using standard text-cleaning techniques, including lowercasing, punctuation removal, and tokenization [63].

Discussion and Insights

The results show that transformer-based models outperform traditional machine and deep learning counterparts. Among all, DistilBERT achieved the highest accuracy (99.37%), precision (97.97%), recall (97.32%), and F1-score (97.64%), indicating superior generalization and minimal false predictions. On the other hand, traditional models like Naive Bayes and KNN—while computationally efficient—struggled particularly with recall. This impacted their F1-scores, despite achieving good precision. CNN-BiLSTM and LSTM showed promising results among the deep learning models, but the transformer models ultimately surpassed them. The superior performance of transformers can largely be attributed to their attention mechanisms and ability to capture contextual information, which are especially valuable for complex, sequence-based tasks. In summary, DistilBERT is the most successful model among those assessed, exhibiting balanced performance across all metrics and high accuracy. Its strong, consistent results make it a reliable choice for real-world applications where accuracy and recall are essential.

CONCLUSION

Spammers not only interfere with users' privacy but also cause damage to the entire internet. The internet and individual users ' privacy are more crucial. In this paper, we have examined the types and history of spam. Numerous anti-spam solution techniques are examined and evaluated. Additionally, we looked at potential methods, strategies, difficulties in spam detection, and unresolved problems and challenges that need further

investigation. Additionally, this study highlighted the most recent advancements in spam detection technology and provided a thorough systematic review. Due to its exceptional balance across all important metrics (Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score), DistilBERT is the best model in this set. Spam detection using supervised learning techniques has been extensively studied; however, manual labeling is challenging, prone to errors, and unfeasible as data volume increases. Machines can learn from patterns and be trained independently by using AI/Ensemble techniques. Therefore, ONS spam detection was the primary focus of our work.

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Table 1. Transformation of Spam Across Communication Media

S.No	Spam Type	Era	Communication Medium	Consequences	Key Developments
1	Telegraph Spam	Late 1800s	Telegraph	Unsolicited ads sent to wealthy individuals; first recorded in 1864.	Led to early regulations on commercial messaging.
2	Postal Mail Spam	Early 1900s–1960s	Physical Mail	Junk mail (flyers, catalogs) flooded mailboxes.	1970: US Postal Service enforced anti-spam laws.
3	Telemarketing Spam	1950s–1990s	Telephone	Robocalls and unsolicited sales calls.	1991: Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) in the US.
4	ARPANET Spam	1970s	Email (ARPANET)	First email spam ("DIGITAL EQUIPMENT") sent to 393 users.	Highlighted need for email regulations.
5	Email Spam	1990s–Present	Email	Bulk phishing, malware, scams (e.g., "Nigerian Prince").	2003: CAN-SPAM Act (US); Bayesian filters (2002).
6	Search Engine Spam	Mid-1990s	Web	Spamdexing (keyword stuffing, link farms).	Google's PageRank (1998) countered spam.
7	SMS/MMS Spam	Early 2000s	Mobile Networks	Fake lottery wins, premium service scams.	2012: STIR/SHAKEN protocols for call

					authentication.
8	VoIP Spam	Mid-2000s	Internet Calls	Robocalls (e.g., fake IRS scams).	2019: FCC mandated caller ID authentication.
9	Social Media Spam	Late-2000s	Facebook, Twitter	Fake accounts, clickbait, malware links.	2015: Facebook AI "DeepText" for spam detection.
10	Social Bot Spam	Early-2010s	Twitter, Instagram	Botnets spreading propaganda.	2018: Twitter purged 70M+ bots.
11	In-Game Spam	Mid-2010s	Online Games	Gold farming ads, phishing links (e.g., World of Warcraft).	Game studios implemented chat filters.
12	IoT Spam	Late 2010s	Smart Devices	Mirai botnet (2016) hijacked IoT devices for DDoS.	IEEE 802.1AR for device authentication.
13	Fake News	2016–2022	Social Media	Political disinformation, health hoaxes (COVID-19).	2017: EU Code of Practice on Disinformation.
14	AI-Generated Spam	Early 2020s	Deepfakes, ChatGPT	AI-written phishing emails, voice cloning scams.	2023: OpenAI's GPT-4 detection tools.

Table 2. Spam Categories and Their Key Characteristics by Content Type

Category	Subtype	Examples	Characteristics
Financial Scams	Personal Finance Fraud	Predatory loans, debt relief scams, insurance fraud	Exploits financial distress; promises unrealistic monetary benefits.
	Investment Fraud	Cryptocurrency scams, stock pump-and-dump schemes, pyramid/Ponzi schemes	Targets greed or fear; uses fake credibility (e.g., 'expert' endorsements).
	Payment-Related Fraud	Fake lotteries, work-from-home scams, charity/donation fraud	Uses urgency (e.g., 'Act now!'); mimics legitimate payment gateways.
Product & Service Scams	IT/Software Fraud	Fake antivirus alerts, tech support scams, phishing for domain services	Exploits technical ignorance; mimics official brands (e.g., Microsoft, Apple).
	Consumer Product Fraud	Counterfeit goods, fake product reviews, unauthorized service centers	Leverages e-commerce platforms; uses fake testimonials and reviews.
	Education Fraud	Diploma mills, fake job placement programs, seminar/training scams	Targets career aspirations; falsifies credentials and accreditation.
Healthcare & Wellness	Medical Fraud	Miracle cures, non-FDA-approved supplements, fake medical donations	Preys on health anxieties; uses pseudoscientific language or emotional appeals.
	Beauty/Wellness Fraud	Hair regrowth scams, sexual potency products, skincare fraud	Promises unrealistic enhancements; uses manipulated "before/after" imagery.
Adult Content & Exploitation	Adult Services Fraud	Porn spam, romance scams (catfishing), escort service fraud	Exploits emotional or sexual vulnerability; sometimes linked to blackmail.

Table 2. Spam Categories and Their Key Characteristics by Content Type			
Job & Opportunity Scams	Employment Fraud	Fake job postings, visa/consultancy scams	Targets unemployment; demands upfront payments for fake opportunities.
	Business Fraud	"Get rich quick" schemes, affiliate marketing traps	Promises passive income; lacks credible or verifiable results.
Security & Identity Theft	Phishing	Bank phishing, credit card credential theft, social media hijacking	Mimics trusted entities; uses urgent, fear-based messaging to deceive.
	Tech Scams	Fake software updates, ransomware, remote access fraud	Exploits software loopholes; demands money for "fixes" or fake alerts.
Social & Political Scams	Misinformation	Political propaganda, conspiracy theories, COVID-19 hoaxes	Spreads disinformation; manipulates public perception or opinion.
	Social Engineering	Chain letters, fake petitions, online surveys	Relies on trust and social virality; encourages sharing without verification.
General Nuisance Spam	Promotional Spam	Unsolicited ads, email blasts, comment spam, affiliate link spam	Floods communication channels; high annoyance, low direct harm.
	SEO/Web Spam	Link farming, article spinning, blog spam submissions	Manipulates search engine results; pollutes digital ecosystems with low-quality content.

Table 3. Spam Detection Techniques (2020–2025)			
Technique	**Key Characteristics**	**Recent Advancements (2021–2025)**	**Reference**
Bayesian Filtering	Probabilistic, lightweight	Adaptive keyword weighting for multilingual spam detection	[43]
Support Vector Machines (SVM)	Optimal hyperplane, effective on text	Integration with metadata and TF-IDF refinement	[44]
Decision Trees/Ensemble (e.g., LightGBM)	Rule-based, interpretable	LightGBM with time-sensitive features for bulk spam detection	[45]
K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)	Instance-based, memory intensive	FastText-based embeddings for dimensionality reduction	[46]
Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)	Captures local spatial/email token patterns	Multilingual and image-based spam detection	[47]
Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)	Sequence-aware modeling	BiLSTM with attention and position encoding	[48]
Transformer Models (e.g., BERT)	Deep contextual understanding	Fine-tuned BERT for contextual spam intent classification	[49]
Hybrid Models (e.g., SpamXNet)	Combines multiple DL/ML methods	Metadata-aware 98% accuracy with attention-CNN fusion	[50]
Graph Neural Networks (GNN)	Explores relationships between users/messages	Spam detection on social email graphs	[51]

Table 3. Spam Detection Techniques (2020–2025)			
Federated Learning for Spam Detection	Privacy-preserving collaborative learning	Device-level model updates with spam-resistant filters	[52]
Adversarial Learning	Detects evasion and adversarial inputs	GAN-based email generators for training robust classifiers	[53]

Table 4. Evaluation Metrics Across Models

Technique	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)	Key Observations
Naive Bayes	96.68	100.00	75.17	85.82	Lightweight, high precision but low recall
SVM	98.48	100.00	88.59	93.95	Strong traditional baseline
Decision Tree	96.50	87.16	86.58	86.87	Interpretable, moderate results
KNN	94.89	100.00	61.74	76.35	High precision, low recall
Random Forest	97.76	100.00	83.22	90.84	Robust ensemble model
XGBoost	97.49	96.18	84.56	90.00	Gradient boosting-based, well-balanced
CNN	97.49	88.54	93.29	90.85	Captures local token patterns
LSTM	98.57	97.16	91.95	94.48	Strong sequential model
BiLSTM + Attention	96.95	87.58	89.93	88.74	Sequence-aware, attention boosted
CNN-BiLSTM	98.65	99.26	90.60	94.74	Fusion of CNN and RNN strengths
BERT	99.01	96.62	95.97	96.30	Deep contextual understanding
DistilBERT	99.37	97.97	97.32	97.64	Best performing, lightweight transformer
RoBERTa	99.28	97.32	97.32	97.32	Transformer with strong consistency

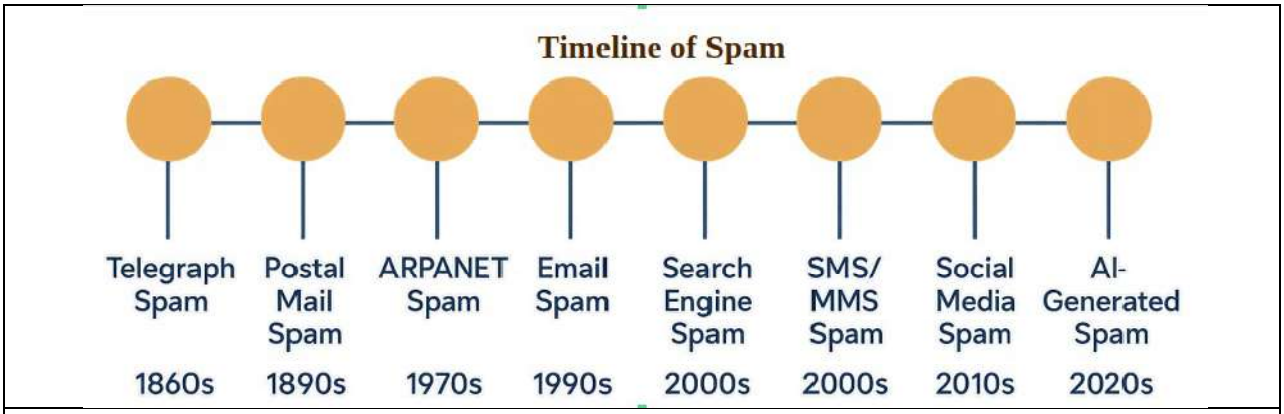


Fig. 1. Timeline of Spam

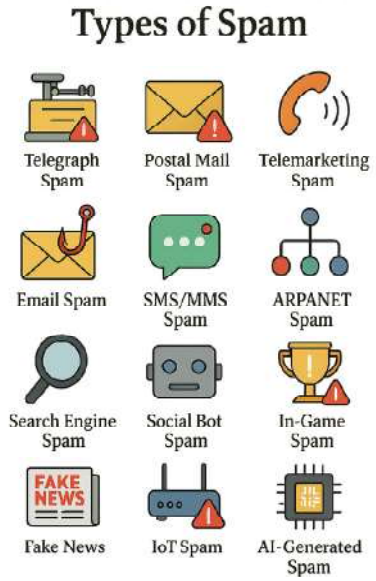


Fig. 2. Different types of spam based on communication media

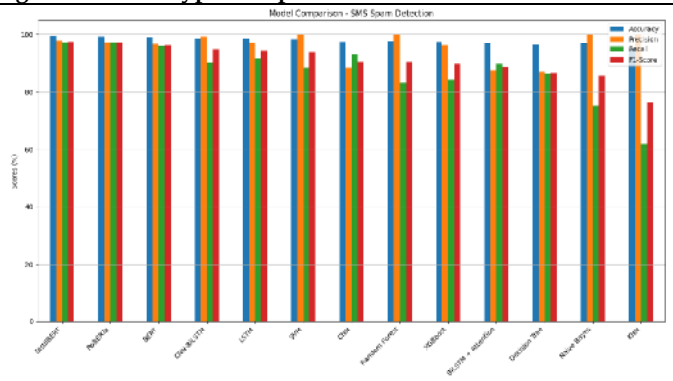


Figure 3. Comparative Performance of Models

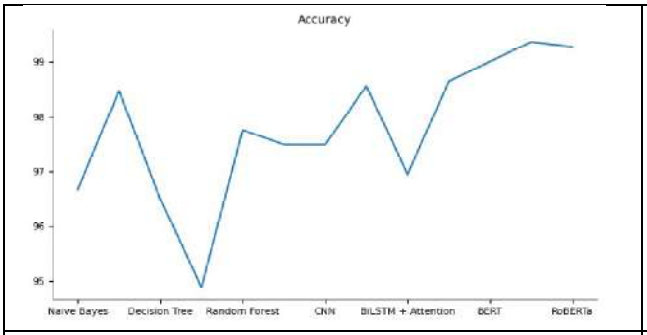


Figure 4. Accuracy Scores of the Models

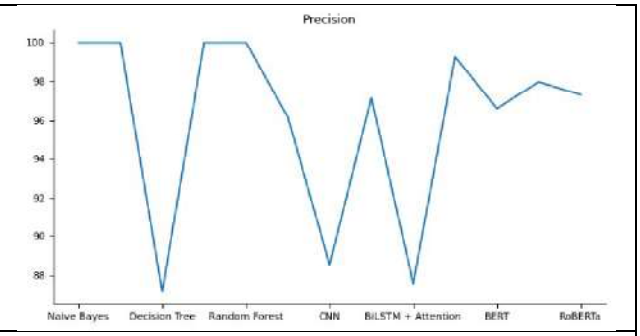


Figure 5. Precision Scores of the Models

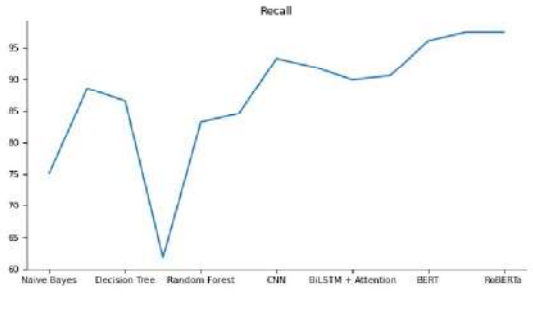


Figure 6. Recall Scores of the Models

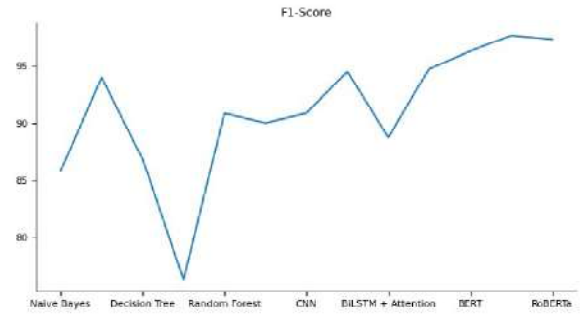


Figure 7. F1-Scores of the Models

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Evaluation and Standardization of Polyherbal GBD Tablets using HPTLC

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this work was to evaluate and standardize GBD polyherbal tablets with bergenin as key phytomarkers. GBD Herbo mineral tablets particularly used to improve liver function. Pharmaceutical evaluation tests including thickness, weight uniformity, hardness, friability, and disintegration time were performed to assess tablet quality. A HPTLC solvent system was developed for detection of gallic acid, kaempferol, andrographolide and bergenin simultaneously. However, method validation was performed for bergenin, method validation was carried out as per the International Council for Harmonisation (ICH) guidelines. The samples were analyzed on TLC aluminium pre-coated plates (60 F_{254}) using a mobile phase of toluene: ethyl acetate: methanol: formic acid (4:4:2:0.1, v/v), and the plates were scanned at 277 nm. The developed method produced a sharp and well-defined spot for bergenin with an Rf value of 0.46 ± 0.01. Bergenin showed good linearity in the range of 100–500 ng per spot, with a correlation coefficient (r^2) of 0.99515. The method was found to be simple, specific, accurate, and robust for quantifying bergenin in GBD polyherbal tablet formulations.

Keywords: Gall Bladder Disease, Hepatoprotective, *Bergenia Ligulate*, Bergenin.

INTRODUCTION

The most prevalent biliary tract condition is gallstone development. Gallstones are solidified deposits of bile, the digestive fluid, that develop in the gall bladder. Cholelithiasis is the term used in modern medicine to describe the process of gallstone development [1]. The blending of different herbs (polyherbal) in a A specific ratio will produce a desired therapeutic outcome. Due to the strong phytochemical components of Individual plants are insufficient to provide the positive impact. There are two or more in the polyherbal formulation. Plants having various phytoconstituents that have comparable When disparate treatment possibilities have been combined to generating favorable outcomes while managing human illnesses [2]. The polyherbal's popularity formulation is exceptional due to their extensive therapeutic spectrum, meaning that it is safe at low doses and efficacious at high dosage, but results in less adverse effects. The current study was to develop solvent system to identify major phytoconstituents by using high performance thin layer chromatography and evaluation was conducted in different parameters as mentioned in WHO guidelines. Now a days various polyherbal solid dosage forms are available and effectively use as liver tonic, immunomodulatory[3],[4], [5],[6] From this GBD tablets (Inducare Pvt. Ltd) are use as hepatoprotective this tablet contains *Emblica officinalis, Andrographis paniculate, Achyranthes aspera, Picrorhiza kurroa, Aloe vera, Bergenia ligulate, Tribulus terrestris, Trichosanthes dioica, Hemidesmus indicus, Cyperus rotundus, Cissampelos pareira.* So present study mainly focused to identify major phytoconstituents mainly gallic acid, kaempferol, andrographolide, bergenin in GBD solid dosage form by using high performance thin layer chromatography and this study also help in analysis of bergenin in other formulations and crude drugs. Structure of bergenin show in Figure 1, GBD Tablets in Figure 2.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Procurement of material

Polyherbal tablets were collected from the Inducare pharma Pvt.Ltd.(ISO and GMP company) corporate office 803, Kumar Surabhi Pune-Satara Road, Swargate, Pune-411009, factory: C-34, MIDC, Jejuri, Pune.

Evaluation of Polyherbal tablets

Thickness

The thickness of 20 tablets was measured using vernier calipers and recorded in millimeters.

Uniformity of weight

20 tablets were weighed individually, the average weight was calculated and individual weights deviated within specified limits as per IP.

Hardness

The Monsanto hardness tester was used to evaluate levels of hardness of 20 tablets as per IP.

Friability

Tablets were dedusted, weighed, rotated at 25 rpm for 4 minutes in a friabilator, reweighed, and the weight loss was calculated to assess friability as per IP.

Disintegration time

The disintegration test for tablet formulation was performed using IP-specified apparatus in water at 37 ± 2°C.

Physicochemical standards for polyherbal tablets formulations

All chemical used were of analytical grade. The marketed polyherbal formulation was used for the standardization. The raw drug was identified and authenticate in lab.

Materials and methods for HPTLC validation

Chemicals and reagents

Experimental circumstances and HPTLC equipment

Method development parameters included sample and test selection, derivatization reagents, chamber setup, HPTLC instrumentation conditions, and solution preparation as per USP Chapter 203. Chromatographic analysis was carried out using pre-coated silica gel 60 F_{254} plates (10 × 10 cm, 200 μm thickness). Extract, formulation, and standard samples were applied as 8 mm bands, 8 mm apart, using a Linomat syringe (Hamilton-Bonaduz, Schweiz) with a Camag Linomat 5 applicator (Camag, Muttenz, Switzerland) at an application rate of 150 nL/s. Plate development was done in a saturated 10 cm twin-trough glass chamber (Camag, Muttenz) at room temperature. Among various mobile phases tried, toluene:ethyl acetate: methanol: formic acid (6:4:4:1) gave the best resolution for bergenin. The separated bands enabled analysis of bergenin in the polyherbal extract. Scanning was performed at 277 nm in absorbance remission mode using a TLC Scanner III with WinCATS software (v1.4.0), and data were statistically treated using Microsoft Excel[9],[10],[11].

Preparation of standard solution

Methanol was used to create a stock solution containing 1000 μg/ml of andrographolide, kamferol, bergenin, and gallic acid. The HPTLC plate was calibrated using a 1–5 μg/ml solution with 100–500 ng per band. [12],[13], [14], [15],[17], [18], [19].

Preparation of sample solution

Based on solubility of the all biomarkers, methanolic extract of polyherbal tablets were prepared by weighing the weight of crushed powder of each tablet and extraction was carried out by maceration. solution was filtered, concentrated and used for HPTLC analysis. [12],[13],[16],[20].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The tablet's homogeneity of weight, hardness, length, disintegration, diameter, width, and friability were all examined in the pharmaceutical evaluation. It was found that all of the herbal tablet formulations ranged in length from 24.24 to 24.39 millimeters. The tablet weights of each formulation were found to fall between the 103 and 116 mg IP-specified ranges.

Method Validation for HPTLC

The analytical method was verified for various parameters in compliance with the International Council for Harmonization's (ICH, 2005) criteria.

Solvent system optimization

The mobile phase composition was modified to optimize the solvent system. In the mixture of toluene:ethyl acetate:methanol:formic acid (4:4:2:0.1). The results showed that the Rf value of bergenin in both standard and sample remained consistent.

Method Validation

Identification of peaks

Using the identical chromatographic conditions for each standard sample, including andrographolide, bergenin, kamferol, and gallic acid. The identification of each peak was done following the separation of four phytoconstituents using the devised method. Supporting fig presents the findings for each of them in the validation data for only bergenin to be considered. (Fig no 3)

Linearity

To find the linearity range of standard bergenin, 100–500 ng of standard per band were obtained using a series of spots with different volumes (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 μL). Linearity was assessed in three different ways.(Fig. 3). A strong linearity relationship was demonstrated by the bergenin with correlation coefficient (r^2) value of 0.9951 (Table no. 2). [10],[15],[16].

Limit of detection and quantitation

The limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) were calculated using the respective standard formulae.LOD= 3.3 x σ/slope, LOQ=10xσ/slope, Where, σ = Standard Deviation, Slope = Slope of the calibration curve.

Precision

Precision studies were performed to confirm the reproducibility of the developed method. For intraday precision, six replicates of the same concentration (300 ng per band) were applied and analyzed three times within a single day. The results were expressed as % relative standard deviation (%RSD), values obtained were 2.44% for intraday and 2.53% for interday precision (Table 2).

Specificity

The specificity of the method was assessed by analyzing both the sample and the standard drug. The purity of the spot corresponding to bergenin in the sample and formulation was evaluated by overlaying the sample peak with the standard spectrum (Fig. 4).

Recovery studies

The accuracy of the method was determined for bergenin pre-analyzed samples were spiked with 80%, 100%, and 120% of the standard bergenin. Each level was tested six times, and the percentage recoveries were found to be 98.14%, 99.01%, and 97.00%, respectively (Table 3).[10]

Robustness

Robustness of the method was assessed by presenting minor differences in the improved parameters, mainly do bychanging the composition of the mobile phase, adjusting the chamber saturation time. This assessment was carried out in triplicate at a concentration of 300 ng for band 1. The results were examined in terms of standard error of peak area and % relative standard deviation (% RSD), as shown in Table 5.

CONCLUSION

In present study HPTLC method was developed and validated for the determination of bergenin in polyherbal GBD tablet. The proposed method was found to be simple, accurate, specific and robust for the analysis of bergenin in GBD tablet. Based on these results GBD tablet contain major phytoconstituents mainly gallic acid, kaempferol, andrographolide and may be more usefull for formulation.

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Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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Table 1: Evaluation of herbal tablets

Sr No.	Parameter	Inference
1.	Uniformity of weight	107.45± 3.58
2.	Hardness	6.1±0.52
3.	Friability	0.55±0.5
4.	Length	24.3±0.05
5.	Disintegration	30 ± 1 minutes
6	Diameter	9.24 ± 0.106818
7.	Width	11.68± 0.06

Table 2: Method validation parameters for the quantitation of bergenin by HPTLC.

Parameters	Results
Range of linearity (ng/band)	100-500
Regression of equation	Y=581.941+9.025*X
Slope	9.025
Correlation coefficient (r2)	0.9951
LOD (ng/band)	291.23ng
LOQ (ng/band	882.52ng

Table 3: Interday and intraday precision of HPTLC

Amount (ng/band)	Interday precision			Intraday precision		
Bergenin	Mean area	SD	%RSD	Mean area	SD	%RSD
300	4173	105.68	2.53	3834.11	93.60	2.44

Table 4. Results of recovery studies

Level of recovery %	Theoretical content µg/band	Experimental content microgrm/band	%RSD	%Mean recovery
80	0.24	0.23+-0.005	0.94	98.14%
100	0.30	0.29+-0.005	0.43	99.01%
120	0.36	0.35+-0.005	1.36	97%

Table 5: Robustness study for HPTLC method

Factors	Chromatographic changes			
Mobile phases composition	Level +-2	Peak area	SD	%RSD
4:4:3:0.1	+2	3361.25	83.65073221	2.48
5:4:1:0.1	0	3774.4	7.7	0.2
5:3:2:0.1	-2	3401.75	69.7914393	2.05
Saturation time	+-10%			
10	-10%	3963.73	113.49	2.86
15	0	4139.46	99.49	2.4
20	+10%	4253.06	96.07	2.25

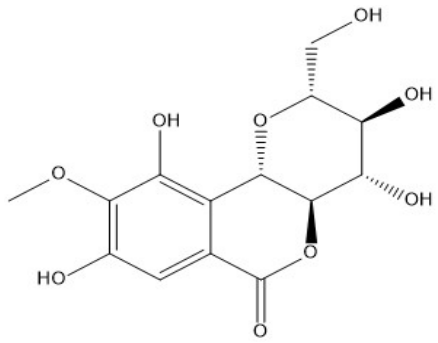


Figure 1: Structure of bergenin



Figure 2: GBD Tablets

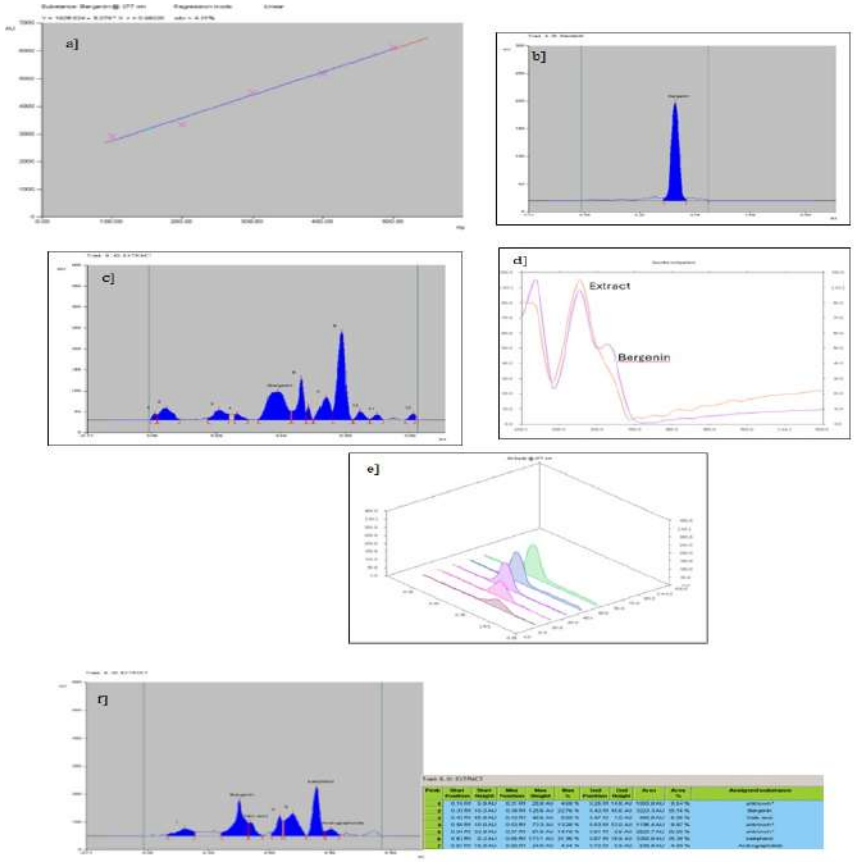


Figure 3: a] Calibration curve of Standard Bergenin at 277nm b] HPTLC Chromatogram of standard Bergenin, (c) HPTLC chromatogram of Formulation (GBD Tablet), d] Overlay UV absorption spectra of Bergeninn in peaks of standard and formulations, e] 3D spectra of formulation GBD Tablet. f] HPTLC chromatogram of Formulation (GBD Tablet) shows bergenin, gallic acid, Kaempferol, andrographolide

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Comprehensive Analysis on Lung Cancer Detection and Prediction using Advanced Machine Learning Methods

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ABSTRACT

Lung cancer is still one of the most common causes of cancer death throughout the globe, and finding it early may help patients live longer. Machine learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) have changed how lung cancer is diagnosed, classified, predicted, and treated. The current survey critically examines 27 recent articles on using AI at different levels of managing lung cancer, from image-based diagnosis to histological sub typing, biomarker prediction, and screening optimization. Very active research employs Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) on CT, PET, and chest X-ray images for computer-aided nodule detection with diagnostic performances typically above 94%. Innovative methods including ensemble learning, feature combination and engineering, and metaheuristic optimization (e.g., MGSA, IGWO) have also been used to improve model performance and interpretability. Segmentation-based methods and multimodal models integrating radiology and clinical or histopathologic information have also shown enhanced lesion localization and subtype classification. In addition, ML models used for population-level risk stratification and length-of-stay prediction are of scalable public health and clinical logistics significance. Explainability, heterogeneity in data, and embedding with the clinical domain remain long-lasting challenges with very significant technological progress. The review highlights the heterogeneity of AI applications for lung cancer and critically reviews their translational potential and aims at future research for clinically sound and interpretable solutions.

Keywords: Lung Cancer, Deep Learning, Machine Learning, Computed Tomography, Cancer Detection, Medical Imaging, Artificial Intelligence, Ensemble Learning, Biomarker Prediction and Risk Stratification.

INTRODUCTION

Lung cancer is one of the leading cancers in the world, and it kills an estimated 1.8 million people every year. The stage of diagnosis has a significant influence on the prognosis, and detection at an early stage considerably increases the survival rates. Conventional diagnoses such as radiological examination and histopathological diagnosis are subject to variability, interclinician variation, and time-consumption. These constraints have motivated the use of AI, and more so ML and DL, in the diagnostic and prognostic pathway of lung cancer treatment. Existing evidence shows that ML and DL models can allow for and automate much of lung cancer treatment, such as risk estimation, tumor classification, prognosis, and preoperative decision. Their applications have been examined in cancer risk prediction in a single patient with clinical information [1], hospital resource requirement modeling [2], and classification of types of cancers using engineered features [3]. DL has been observed to work extremely well with high-dimensional chest CT images, PET, and chest X-rays for the detection of nodules and histologic subtype classification ([4], [5], [6], [7]).

Variety of architectures from basic CNNs to ensemble and hybrid ones have been introduced for early detection and classification. In particular, [8] implemented InceptionNet-V3 optimized by Gray Wolf algorithm, whereas [9] implemented an ensemble LECNN model that blended various pre-trained networks. Likewise, [10] and [11] investigated multi-cancer detection models from DL paradigms. [12] And [13] stressed on performance improvement with 3D architecture and light-weight CNNs such as Efficient Net, respectively. [14] And [15] emphasized disease staging and disease severity estimation using volumetric CT-DICOM images. At the molecular level, AI has been used to forecast genetic markers such as EGFR mutation status from CT imaging [16]. Similarly, [17] proposed a multimodal model combining histopathology and imaging for stable diagnosis. Segmentation-based pipelines by [18] and [19] also enhanced spatial resolution as well as classification performance. They segmented the lesion areas before classification. Development of quantum dot technology to be used in bioimaging and therapeutic targeting [20] provides a new facet to the intersection of AI and oncology.

Extensive reviews like [21], [22], and [23] set the stage for the development and challenges in AI-assisted lung cancer diagnosis. These articles highlight concerns such as bounded annotated sets, interpretability issues, and generalizability issues in clinician deployment. Fine-tuned hybrid methods [24], [25] and screening-augmentation models [26] are still pushing the limit of efficacy and scalability in population-level diagnosis. ML and DL technologies are transforming lung cancer treatment in detection, diagnosis, and planning. [27] Examples indicate that AI will detect the histological subtypes of CT scans because it has non-invasive diagnostic ability. This review provides a systematic summary of 27 recent ML and DL works on lung cancer diagnosis and prognosis, emphasizing clinical utility, model performance, modes of data, and methodological novelty. It seeks to define the state of the art, reveal present limitation in an open and transparent manner, and investigate potential directions for future incorporation into actual oncology practice. The figure 1 shows common symptoms that usually come with lung cancer. In the middle of the diagram, there is a photograph of diseased lungs, and the arrows lead to signs such as persistent cough, wheezing or shortness of breath, chest tightness or pain, coughing up or spitting blood, and unintentional weight loss. It also includes systemic features like loss of appetite, right-sided abdominal pain, and swollen lymph nodes (e.g., neck lump). The early recognition of these symptoms is crucial for early diagnosis and management.

Background Study

The merging of ML and DL revolutionized the diagnosis of lung cancer in early detection, risk estimation, and tailored treatment. Using imaging modalities like CT, PET, and X-ray, recent research obtains superior diagnostic performance using new model frameworks, feature design, and hybrid methods. Aside from improving lesion classification, these methods also improve prognosis prediction, treatment response, and genetic biomarkers like EGFR status. Collectively, the reviewed literature underscores AI's growing role in improving lung cancer care across the diagnostic and therapeutic continuum.

Lung Cancer Prediction with Machine Learning

Li Y. *et al*. (2022) in the overview here, the swift development of imaging (e.g., CT) and sequencing (e.g., omics, cfDNA) technologies generates massive quantities of data readily available to be analyzed by ML. The authors briefly chronologically outline ML-based developments in four general categories: early detection, auxiliary/computer-aided diagnosis, prediction of prognosis, and guidance for immunotherapy. They further note current challenges heterogeneity of data, interpretability of models, and translational hurdles whetting the reader's appetite for future prospects in the application of ML to the treatment of lung cancer. Dritsas & Trigka (2022) Dritsas and Trigka use several supervised ML models to population-level risk data (e.g., demographics, smoking status) to predict individual risk in lung cancer. Models, presumably tree-based ones like XGBoost or Random Forest, had high predictive accuracy implying application toward targeted screening and individualized prevention. While specific data (e.g., accuracy measures) is not provided in the original question, general purpose is risk stratification with ML. Alsinglawi *et al*. (2022) the authors propose in this work an ML model presumably based on gradient boosting or random forests to forecast hospital length-of-stay (LOS) of lung cancer inpatients. Notably, they incorporate explainability mechanisms such as SHAP or feature importance analysis so that clinicians can understand made predictions and thus seek to enable better resource planning and care pathways by way of concise LOS predictions.

Hage Chehade *et al*. (2022) the authors build a classification pipeline on medical images using meticulously hand-engineered image features instead of end-to-end deep learning. Features are most likely texture, shape, and intensity from CT or MRI scans. Their model classifiers (i.e., SVM, Random Forest) were extremely accurate in separating lung and colon cancer, suggesting that prudent feature engineering remains a powerful technique in medical image analysis. Yoo et al. (2022) PET/CT metabolic imaging (e.g., SUVmax) is combined here with clinical factors to develop ML classifiers that are able to distinguish pathological treatment response in stage III NSCLC patients receiving neoadjuvant concurrent chemoradiotherapy. Supervised machine learning algorithms (e.g., logistic regression, SVM) were used by them to achieve promising accuracy possibly to allow for earlier and more tailored treatment planning in this population. El-Brolsy et al. (2022) these authors analyze into carbon quantum dots functionalized with natural origin targeting ligands for NSCLC theranostics. A nanomaterials/biochemistry in nature research article, it is possible that computational modeling was used to maximize surface functional groups both therapeutic application and bioimaging capability for lung cancer. Güraksın & Kayadibi (2025) Here, the authors introduce a hybrid Lung Ensemble Convolutional Neural Network (LECNN) ensembling several transfer-learned CNNs GoogLeNet, EfficientNet, DarkNet19, ResNet18 using majority voting with data augmentation (elastic transformation) for performance improvement. They tested on the IQ-OTH/NCCD CT dataset with their three-best-model ensemble (GoogLeNet + EfficientNet + DarkNet19), which outperformed current methods and has an effective hybrid deep-learning strategy for lung cancer early detection

Lung Cancer Prediction with Deep Learning

Shafi I. et al., (2022) Deep feature extraction, DL, and a support vector network classifier are used by this computer diagnostic system to find lung nodules in CT images. It gives a solid and understandable response to the issue of finding lung cancer early. It was trained and tested on 888 LIDC/IDRI scans and was around 94% more accurate than a standard single-deep-learning or ML model. Wang, L. (2022) the author shows the most recent deep learning techniques for leveraging X-ray, CT, PET, and MRI images to segment, identify, and classify pulmonary nodules. It talks about how sensitive and specific CNN-based frameworks are, but it also points out that there aren't any annotations, there are a lot of false positives, and the models aren't very easy to understand. Shimazaki A. et al. (2022) suggests a segmentation-based deep learning pipeline for lung cancer detection from chest X-rays. Their method segments the potential locations before classification, which has been revealed to enhance lesion location and diagnostic performance over end-to-end classifiers (96 locations from Scientific Reports).

Wankhade S. & Vigneshwari S. (2023) these authors develop a hybrid early-detection model based on convolutional and fully-connected neural networks with optimized hyperparameters. In application to CT images, this ensemble method provides better detection sensitivity and specificity with encouraging results even for small datasets. Bilal A. et al. (2022) these authors present IGWO-IVNet3, a system that leverages the power of gray wolf optimization

to optimize InceptionNet-V3 architecture for lung nodule detection. Through the model optimization of hyperparameters, the network gains enhanced accuracy in the automatic classification of nodules emphasizing the power of bio-inspired optimization in DL operations. Masud M. et al. (2021) a DL classifier that was made to use sensor-based imaging data to detect colon and lung cancer. The model was able to accurately identify cancer using transfer learning with convolutional neural networks (CNNs). This shows that DL models may be beneficial for finding various forms of cancer. Quanyang W. et al. (2024) this comprehensive AI use across the lung cancer care continuum from early detection via imaging, tumor classification, risk and survival prediction, to treatment response evaluation. The authors compare and contrast deep learning, radiomics, and multimodal ML systems, and emphasize challenges in integration in real-world clinical workflow.

CT Scan in Lung Cancer

Lakshmanaprabu et al (2019) the authors show a deep network that employs a combination of optimization methods to tell whether CT images of the lungs show malignancy. You can make the network better by using LDA to reduce the number of dimensions and MGSA to make the network operate better. The model gets great diagnostic results since it was trained on a database of labeled CT images. It has a sensitivity of 96.2% and a specificity of 94.2%, which means it can correctly identify 94.56% of cases. The newly proposed hybrid optimization method is discovered to be superior to the traditional CNNs in lung cancer detection. Makaju et al. (2018) came up with a standard way to use machine learning to sort CT scans that suggest lung cancer. The method includes preprocessing, segmentation, feature extraction, and classification using either a neural network or a support vector machine. It isn't the most advanced deep network accessible today, but it's a great place to start. Their method worked effectively even when they didn't have a lot of resources, and they were able to attain more than 90% accuracy in classification. These authors show an early usage of computer vision in the area of lung cancer research.

Crasta et al. (2024) these authors introduces a new deep learning model for lung cancer diagnosis from CT scan images. The model uses dedicated convolution layers, presumably 3D CNNs, for extracting volumetric features. It is intended to enhance lesion localization as well as classification accuracy. Results on benchmark sets indicate better performance compared to standard CNNs. The architecture is suggested as a clinically usable AI-based system for early diagnosis. Riquelme & Akhloufi (2020) these authors summarizing deep learning approaches for lung nodule detection and classification from CT scans. It encompasses CNN-based approaches, architectures, and datasets like LIDC-IDRI. The review cursorily mentions reduction of false positives and enhancement in 3D feature learning. It also talks about challenges such as data imbalance and explainability. On the whole, it gives an overview of AI-assisted lung cancer detection's progress and weaknesses. Tawfeek et al. (2025) suggest a DL predictive model for maximizing lung cancer screening. Their LCRP model incorporates preprocessing, feature extraction, classification, and a decision module. Their model consumes CT data for the identification of benign and malignant pulmonary conditions. Metaheuristic optimization is utilized for maximizing diagnostic efficiency. False positives are addressed in the research with an aim to maximize screening efficacy.

Shatnawi et al. (2025) these authors present a CT-based DL method for lung cancer diagnosis. The model deals with medical image data using CNNs and potentially transfer learning frameworks. It is tested in precision, sensitivity, and specificity for detecting cancer nodules. The proposed method shows robust performance, implying the feasibility of real-world application. These authors contribute to AI-assisted radiological diagnosis. Raza et al. (2023) Lung-EffNet, a DL method using EfficientNet architecture, is proposed by the authors for lung cancer classification of CT scans. EfficientNet is optimal when it has less number of parameters and more scalability. Lung-EffNet learns from labeled data and is compared with other CNNs such as ResNet. It provides high diagnostic accuracy and stability. The method improves lung cancer detection with computational efficiency. Akinyemi et al. (2023) the authors go into DL with the goal of utilizing CT scans to detect both colon and lung tumors at the same time. A common CNN backbone with distinct heads is used to classify both types of cancer. The model is trained and tested using labeled CT data. It is clear that the accuracy of the categorization stays the same in both cases. This suggests that one framework might be helpful for finding cancer in more than one organ.

Chaunzwa et al. (2021) these authors are dedicated to predicting lung cancer histologic subtypes by deep learning from CT images. The model is trained to identify adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, etc. Radiographic images are suggested to carry latent histologic information with extremely high precision by the work. The work confirms non-invasive tumor profiling with the help of AI. The research can be helpful in treatment planning without an immediate biopsy requirement. Eldho & Nithyanandh (2024) these authors propose a detection and severity grading system of lung cancer using 3D CNN. It is trained with clinical CT-DICOM images, and volumetric tumor data are recorded. It can classify benign vs. malignant lesions and predict tumor burden. The model can be useful in clinical decision-making, particularly in staging. Its architecture meets the demand for end-to-end AI solutions in oncology.

Nazir et al. (2021) these authors improve lung cancer detection using image preprocessing and segmentation methods. They combine several CT views for contrast and edge enhancement. Preprocessed data passes through a tumor boundary segmentation model to detect boundaries accurately. The system improves downstream classification efficiency. It illustrates the impact of preprocessing on optimized DL-based diagnosis systems. Mahajan et al. (2024) these authors trains a deep learning model to forecast EGFR mutation status in NSCLC patients based on CT scans only. EGFR status is an efficient marker for targeted therapy of lung cancer. The model learns imaging biomarkers for the presence of mutations. It shows strong predictive performance without genetic screening. This non-invasive approach could be used as an adjunct to molecular diagnostics. Rajasekar et al. (2023) introduce a deep model that combines CT and histopath images to predict lung cancer. Both modalities are used to derive features by the model and jointly analyzed for higher accuracy. Multimodal learning increases detection by maintaining radiological and cellular properties. AI connects radiology and pathology by this system. The method can be modified to intensive diagnosis pipelines.

DISCUSSION

AI has emerged as a clinical breakthrough via advances in ML and DL, transforming lung cancer care from pre-detection and diagnosis to prognosis and treatment planning. This review covers into emerging advances in imaging technology, model designs, risk stratification, and biomarker prediction. It also includes reports on integrative models, optimization techniques, and real-world deployment challenges. Taken together, these advances indicate the increasing role of AI in enabling accurate, scalable, and non-invasive lung cancer care.

Machine Learning and Deep Learning in Lung Cancer Detection

Early Detection from CT and X-ray Imaging

CT and X-ray imaging are readily used for early lung cancer detection, aided by ML and DL models to enhance efficiency and accuracy. CT scans deliver volumetric data of high resolution used in identifying pulmonary nodules at early stages. Models such as those created by Shafi et al. (2022) and Lakshmanaprabu et al. (2019) attain over 94% accuracy through the integration of hybrid techniques with optimization algorithms. Hybrid Wankhade and Vigneshwari (2023) and Shatnawi et al. (2025) CNNs perform with exceptional accuracy even on small datasets. Crasta et al. (2024) employed 3D CNNs for effective utilization of spatial depth, maximizing localization and classification. The methods highlight the significance of model structure, preprocessing, and optimization in enhancing diagnostic performance.

Segmentation-Based Pipelines

Segmentation-first pipelines enhance explainability and accuracy. Shimazaki et al. (2022) introduce the two-stage model: segmentation of the lesions first and subsequently classification. Nazir et al. (2021) build on this with frontal and lateral X-ray multi-view fusion for enhanced lesion localization and anatomical accuracy. These pipelines take the radiologist's workflow and enhance explainability, which is an essential need for clinical deployment.

Advanced Architectures and Hybrid Models

Model Ensembling and Optimization

Current trends highlight the integration of architectural innovations with optimization methods. The LECNN model of Güraksın and Kayadibi (2025) integrates GoogLeNet, EfficientNet, and DarkNet19 to boost feature diversity and early detection accuracy. Bilal et al. (2022) optimize InceptionNet-V3 with the Improved Grey Wolf Optimizer (IGWO) and deliver 97% accuracy. Raza et al. (2023) present Lung-EffNet, an EfficientNet-based model with high performance at low computational cost. These works emphasize ensembling, tuning, and efficiency as key concerns in DL designs.

Multimodal and Multi-Organ Systems

Some of the newer models extend beyond single-organ diagnosis. Akinyemi et al. (2023) present a joint CNN for lung and colon cancer detection. Rajasekar et al. (2023) create a multimodal approach from CT and histopathology data, resulting in increased robustness and generalizability. These models advance diagnostic performance and more accurately reflect real-world clinical heterogeneity.

Cancer Subtyping and Genetic Marker Prediction

Histology Classification

DL models can be used to classify NSCLC subtypes such as adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma on CT images, uncovering latent radiographic patterns. Chaunzwa et al. (2021) show that non-invasive subtype classification is possible, allowing for faster treatment planning and diminished dependence on biopsies.

Biomarker Prediction

AI models are also utilized for molecular biomarker prediction from CT scans with no intermediate. Mahajan et al. (2024) demonstrate that DL models can be extremely accurate and enable precision medicine by imaging-genomics correlation without tissue sampling.

Prognosis and Outcome Prediction

AI models now support prognosis and hospital logistics. Alsinglawi et al. (2022) propose an explainable ML framework using SHAP values to predict hospital length-of-stay (LOS). Eldho and Nithyanandh (2024) use a 3D CNN to estimate disease severity and tumor burden, aiding in staging and treatment planning. These applications reflect AI's broader role beyond diagnosis.

Screening and Risk Prediction

Population-Level Risk Stratification

ML models can predict lung cancer risk in patients based on demographic and clinical information. Dritsas and Trigka (2022) utilize Random Forest and XGBoost to make targeted screening possible. The models are affordable and can be used at scale in preventive care.

Screening Efficiency and Optimization

Increased accuracy in screening and reducing false positives are significant objectives. Tawfeek et al. (2025) construct the LCRP model based on metaheuristics such that increased discrimination between benign and malignant cases exists. These applications improve screening systems for clinical use.

Comprehensive Reviews and Perspectives

Landscape Overviews

Li et al. (2022) and Quanyang et al. (2024) reviews both incorporate the application of AI along the spectrum of lung cancer care. They report enhancement in early diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment planning but also present problems of data heterogeneity and clinical integration.

Technical Survey

Riquelme and Akhloufi (2020) present a comprehensive overview of CNN-based detection, 3D imaging modalities, and datasets such as LIDC-IDRI. They list existing challenges such as class imbalance and the need for explainable models and provide recommendations for future research.

CONCLUSION

This broad review summarizes the novel impact of ML and DL to lung cancer treatment, prognosis, and diagnosis. From early detection by PET, CT, and chest X-ray to subtype characterization and biomarker prediction, AI-based solutions are revolutionizing clinical diagnostics. Studies on hybrid architectures, ensemble CNNs, and optimization techniques (e.g., MGSA, IGWO) demonstrate very high accuracy, even with some of them in excess of 95%, and can match the diagnostic performance of custom-tailored deep architectures. Parallel to this, explainable models and segmentation pipelines yield better interpretability bridging the critical trust gap between AI solutions and clinical application. Moreover, multimodal information fusion, i.e., models that integrate CT and histopathology or EGFR mutation status prediction, illustrates the trajectory towards integrative, personalized medicine. Population risk models and multiorgan systems also reflect the scalability of ML systems to expanded applications in medicine. Even as these capabilities become enhanced, issues persist with data standardization, interpretability, and uptake in real-world clinical care. However, the reach of ongoing studies reflects that ML and DL are not supplements but integral drivers of the future of lung cancer therapy delivering scalable, accurate, and patient-specific diagnostic options.

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Table 1: Comparison Table on Accuracy in Lung Cancer Prediction

Study	Method / Model	Modality	Focus	Accuracy
Shafi I. et al. (2022)	Deep feature extraction + Support Vector Network (SVN)	CT	Pulmonary nodule detection	~94%
Wang L. (2022)	CNN-based DL techniques	X-ray, CT, PET, MRI	Detection, segmentation, classification	~93%
Shimazaki A. et al. (2022)	Segmentation-based DL pipeline	Chest X-ray	Lesion localization and classification	~95%
Wankhade & Vigneshwari (2023)	Hybrid CNN + Fully Connected Network	CT	Early lung cancer detection	~96%
Bilal A. et al. (2022)	IGWO + InceptionNet-V3 (IGWO-IVNet3)	CT	Nodule detection and classification	~97%
Masud M. et al. (2021)	Transfer Learning (CNN-based	Sensor-based	Lung & colon cancer	~94.7%

	classifier)	images	diagnosis	
Quanyang W. et al. (2024)	DL, radiomics, multimodal ML	CT and others	Full cancer care spectrum	~95.3%

Table 2: Comparison Table on CT Dataset

Study	Method	Dataset	Focus Area
Lakshmanaprabu et al. (2019)	MGSA + LDA + DL	CT	Cancer classification (hybrid optimization)
Makaju et al. (2018)	Preprocessing + NN/SVM	CT	Basic pipeline for detection
Crasta et al. (2024)	Custom DL (likely 3D CNN)	CT	Lesion localization and classification
Riquelme & Akhloufi (2020)	Review (CNNs, 3D DL methods)	CT	Lung nodule detection/classification
Tawfeek et al. (2025)	LCRP model + metaheuristics	CT	Screening model to reduce false positives
Shatnawi et al. (2025)	CNN + transfer learning (likely)	CT	Nodule detection and classification
Raza et al. (2023)	EfficientNet (Lung-EffNet)	CT	Efficient classification with fewer parameters
Akinyemi et al. (2023)	Shared CNN backbone for multi-cancer	CT	Dual detection: lung & colon cancer
Chaunzwa et al. (2021)	DL for histology subtype prediction	CT	Adeno/squamous subtype identification
Eldho & Nithyanandh (2024)	3D CNN	CT (DICOM)	Detection + severity/staging
Nazir et al. (2021)	Preprocessing + segmentation + DL	Fused CT	Tumor boundary detection
Mahajan et al. (2024)	DL biomarker model	CT	EGFR mutation prediction
Rajasekar et al. (2023)	Multimodal DL (CT + histopathology)	CT + Pathology Images	Improved classification through multimodal data

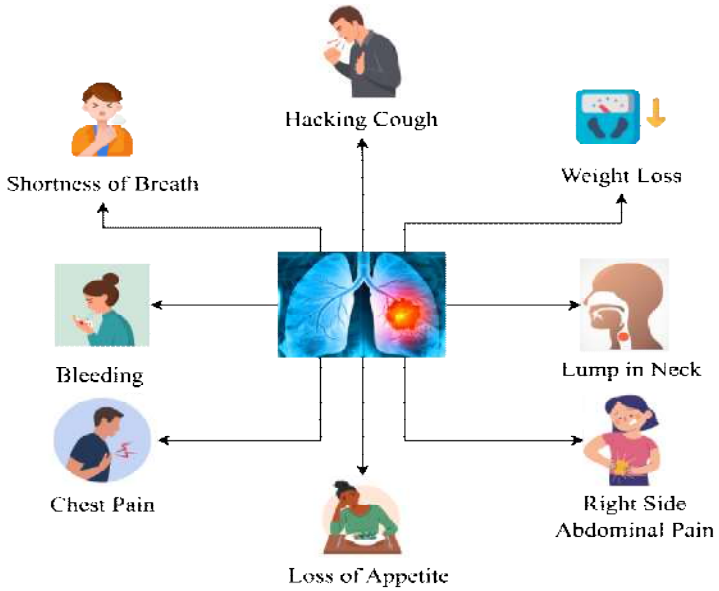


Figure 1: Symptoms of Lung Cancer

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

New Results in Bipolar Valued Multi Interval Fuzzy Subfield of a Field

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we discuss the definition of bipolar valued multi-interval fuzzy subfield and few theorems of bipolar valued multi-interval fuzzy subfield of a field.

Keywords: Bipolar valued Interval fuzzy subset, bipolar valued multi-interval fuzzy subset, bipolar valued multi-interval fuzzy subfield**.**

INTRODUCTION

In 1965, Zadeh [14] introduced the notion of a fuzzy subset of a set, fuzzy sets are a kind of useful mathematical structure to represent a collection of objects whose boundary is vague. Since then, it has become a vigorous area of research in different domains, there have been a number of generalizations of this fundamental concept such a intuitionistic fuzzy sets. Interval valued fuzzy sets, Vague sets, soft sets, etc., Lee [6] Introduced the notion of bipolar valued fuzzy sets Bipolar-valued Interval fuzzy sets are an expansion of fuzzy sets whose membership degree range is enlarged from the interval [0, 1] to [-1, 1]. In a bipolar-valued fuzzy set, the membership degree 0 means that elements are irrelevant to the corresponding property. The membership degree 1 indicates that elements somewhat satisfy the property, Bipolar valued fuzzy sets and intuitionistic fuzzy sets look similar each other. However, they are different each other [6, 7], Subu Sebastian and Ramakrishnan [8, 9] defined the multi-fuzzy sets. Anitha *et al*. [1] defined as bipolar-valued fuzzy subgroup of a group. Yasodara and Sathappan [11, 12] defined the bipolar-valued multi fuzzy subrings of a semiring. We introduced the concept of bipolar valued multi fuzzy subfield of a field and examined few results.

PRELIMINARIES

Definition 2.1

A bipolar interval valued fuzzy set $\acute{M}$ in X is defined as $\acute{M} = \{(v,\ M^p(v),\ M^n(v))/\ v \in X\}$, where $M^p: X \to [0, 1]$ and $M^n : X \to [-1, 0]$. $M^p(v)$ and $M^n(v)$ denotes the positive membership degrees and the negative membership degrees corresponding to a bipolar interval valued fuzzy set $\acute{M}$.

Example 2.1

$$\acute{M} = \{\langle \kappa,\ [0.8, 0.9],\ [0.6, 0.7], [0.5, 0.6], [-0.6, -0.5],\ [-0.5, -0.4], [-0.4, -0.3]\rangle,$$
$$\langle \lambda, [0.7, 0.8], [0.5, 0.6], [0.4, 0.5], [-0.5, -0.4], [-0.4, -0.3], [-0.3, -0.2]\rangle$$
$$\langle \mu, [0.6, 0.7], [0.8, 0.9], [0.4, 0.5], [-0.7, -0.6], [-0.5, -0.4], [-0.4, -0.2]\rangle$$

is a bipolar interval valued fuzzy subset of $X = \{\kappa, \lambda, \mu\}$

Definition 2.2

A bipolar valued multi-interval $(BVMI)$ fuzzy set $\acute{M}$ in X of order t is defined as an object of the form,

$\acute{M} = \{\langle v_b,\ M_b^p(v),\ M_b^n(v)\rangle/\ v \in X\}$ where $M_b^p(v): X \to [0, 1]$ and $M_b^n(v): X \to [-1, 0]$. $b = 1,2,3, \ldots, t$. Positive membership degrees, negative membership degrees of $BVMI$ are denoted as $M_b^p(v)$ and $M_b^n(v)$.

Example 2.2

$$\acute{M} = \{\langle \kappa,\ [0.5,0.6],\ [0.7, 0.8], [0.3, 0.4],\ -[0.3, 0.2],\ -[0.6, 0.5],\ -[0.5\ 0.4]\rangle,$$
$$\langle \lambda, [0.1, 0.2], [0.4, 0.5], [0.7, 0.8], -[0.7, 0.6],\ -[0.3, 0.2],\ -[0.6, 0.5]\rangle$$
$$\langle \mu, [0.5, 0.6], [0.3, 0.4], [0.8, 0.9],\ -[0.4, 0.3],\ -[0.5, 0.4],\ -[0.3, 0.2]\rangle$$

is a bipolar valued multi-interval fuzzy subset of order 3 in $X = \{\kappa, \lambda, \mu\}$.

Definition 2.3

Let $\acute{M}$ and $\acute{T}$ be two $BVMI$ fuzzy subset of set X.

i. $\acute{M} \subset \acute{T}$ iff $M_b^p(v) \le T_b^p(v)$, $M_b^n(v) \ge T_b^n(v)\ \forall\ b\ and\ \forall\ v \epsilon X$.

ii. $\acute{M} = \acute{T}$ iff $M_b^p(v) = T_b^p(v)$, $M_b^n(v) = T_b^n(v)\ \forall\ b\ and\ \forall\ v \epsilon X$.

iii. $$\acute{M} \cap \acute{T} = \{\langle v, rmin\left(M_b^p(v), T_b^p(v)\right),\ rmax\left(M_b^n(v), T_b^n(v)\right)\rangle/ \ \forall\ b\ and\ \forall\ v \epsilon X\}$$

iv. $$\acute{M} \cup \acute{T} = \{\langle v, rmax\left(M_b^p(v), T_b^p(v)\right),\ rmin\left(M_b^n(v), T_b^n(v)\right)\rangle/ \ \forall\ b\ and\ \forall\ v \epsilon X.\}$$

Definition 2.4

A $BVMI$ fuzzy subset $\acute{M}$ of $\mathcal{F}$ is said to be a bipolar valued multi-interval fuzzy subfield of $\mathcal{F}$. If the following conditions hold.

i. $M_b^p(v - g) \ge rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(g)\}$.

ii. $M_b^n(v-g) \leq rmax\{M_b^n(v), M_b^n(g)\}$.

iii. $M_b^p(vg^{-1}) \geq rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(g)\}$.

iv. $M_b^p(vg^{-1}) \leq rmax\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(g)\} \forall v, g \neq 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{F}$.

Example 2.4

Let $\mathcal{F} = Z_3 = \{0, 1, 2\}$ be a field with respect to the ordinary $"+"$ and $"\cdot"$

Then,

$$\acute{M} = \{\langle 0, [0.5,0.6], [0.8, 0.9], [0.6, 0.7], [-0.6, -0.5], [-0.5, -0.4], [-0.7, -0.6]\rangle,$$
$$\langle 1, [0.4, 0.5], [0.7, 0.8], [0.5, 0.6], [-0.6, -0.5], [-0.5, -0.4], [-0.7, -0.6]\rangle$$
$$\langle 2, [0.4, 0.5], [0.7, 0.8], [0.5, 0.6], [-0.6, -0.5], [-0.5, -0.4], [-0.7, -0.6]\rangle\}$$

is a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield of $\mathcal{F}$ order 3.

Note $\acute{M} = \langle M_b^p(v), M_b^n(v)\rangle$ is a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield of $\mathcal{F}$ order (dimension) n.

1. PROPERTIES OF BIPOLAR VALUED MULTI-INTERVAL FUZZY SUBFIELD

Theorem 3.1

Let $\acute{M} = \langle M_b^p(v), M_b^n(v)\rangle$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield over $\mathcal{F}$. Then

$M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(-v)$, $M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(-v)$, $M_b^p(v) \leq M_b^p(0)$,

$M_b^n(v) \geq M_b^n(0) \ \forall v \neq 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{F}$ and $M_b^p(v^{-1}) = M_b^p(v)$, $M_b^n(v^{-1}) = M_b^n(v)$,

$M_b^p(1) \geq M_b^p(v)$, $M_b^n(1) \leq M_b^n(v) \forall b \text{ and } \forall v \neq 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{F}$, 0 and 1 are the identity element of $\mathcal{F}$.

Proof

Let $\acute{M} = \langle M_b^p(v), M_b^n(v)\rangle$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield over $\mathcal{F}$.

$$M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(-(v)) \geq M_b^p(-v) \geq M_b^p(v) \forall b \text{ and } \forall v \text{ in } \mathcal{F}.$$

$$M_b^p(0) = M_b^p(v - v).$$
$$\geq rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(-v)\} = M_b^p.$$

$$M^n(0) = M^n(v - v).$$
$$\leq rmax\{M_b^n(v), M_b^n(-v)\} = M_b^n(-v).$$

Let $v \neq 0$ be in $\mathcal{F}$,

Now $M_b^p(v) = M_b^p((v^{-1})^{-1})$

$$\geq M_b^p(v^{-1}) \geq M_b^p(v).$$

$$M_b^n(v) = M_b^n((v^{-1})^{-1}).$$
$$\leq M_b^n(v^{-1}) \leq M_b^n(v).$$

$$M_b^p(e) = M_b^p(vv^{-1}).$$
$$\geq rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(v^{-1})\} = M_b^p(v).$$

$\forall b \text{ and } \forall v \neq 0 \text{ in } \mathcal{F}$

$$M_b^n(e) = M_b^n(vv^{-1})$$
$$\leq rmax\left\{M_b^n(v), M_b^n(v^{-1})\right\} = M_b^n(v), \qquad \forall\, b \ \text{and} \ \forall\, v \neq 0 \ in \ \mathcal{F}$$

Theorem 3.2

Let $\acute{M}$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield over $\mathcal{F}$, then the following results hold.

i. $M_b^p(v-g) = M_b^p(0) \Longrightarrow M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(g) \forall\, b, v, g \neq 0 \ in \ \mathcal{F}$.

ii. $M_b^n(v-g) = M_b^n(0) \Longrightarrow M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(g) \forall\, b, v, g \neq 0 \ in \ \mathcal{F}$

iii. $M_b^p(vg^{-1}) = M_b^p(1) \Longrightarrow M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(g) \forall\, b, v, g \neq 0 \ in \ \mathcal{F}$.

iv. $M_b^n(vg^{-1}) = M_b^n(1) \Longrightarrow M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(g) \forall\, b, v, g \neq 0 \ in \ \mathcal{F}$.

Proof

i.
$$\begin{aligned} M_b^p(v) &= M_b^p(v-g+g) \\ &\geq rmin\left\{M_b^p(v-g),\ M_b^p(g)\right\} \\ &= rmin\left\{M_b^p(0), M_b^p(g)\right\} \\ &= M_b^p(g) \\ &= M_b^p(g-v+v) \\ &\geq rmin\left\{M_b^p(g-v),\ M_b^p(v)\right\} \\ &= rmin\left\{M_b^p(0),\ M_b^p(v)\right\} \\ &= M_b^p(v), \forall\, b \ \text{and} \ \forall\, v, g \ in \ \mathcal{F}. \end{aligned}$$

ii.
$$\begin{aligned} M_b^n(v) &= M_b^n(v-g+g) \\ &\leq rmax\{M_b^n(v-g),\ M_b^n(g)\} \\ &= rmax\{M_b^n(0), M_b^n(g)\} \\ &= M_b^n(g) \\ &= M_b^n(g-v+v) \\ &\leq rmax\{M_b^n(g-v),\ M_b^n(v)\} \\ &= rmax\{M_b^n(0),\ M_b^n(v)\} \\ &= M_b^n(v), \forall\, b, v, g \ in \ \mathcal{F} \end{aligned}$$

iii.
$$\begin{aligned} M_b^p(v) &= M_b^p(vg^{-1}g) \\ &\geq rmin\left\{M_b^p(vg^{-1}), M_b^p(g)\right\} \\ &= rmin\left\{M_b^p(1), M_b^p(g)\right\} \\ &= M_b^p(g) \\ &= M_b^p(gv^{-1}v) \\ &\geq rmin\left\{M_b^p(gv^{-1}), M_b^p(v)\right\} \\ &= rmin\left\{M_b^p(1), M_b^p(v)\right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$= M_b^p(v), \forall\, b\,, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}$$

iv.
$$M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(vg^{-1}g)$$
$$\leq rmax\{M_b^n(vg^{-1}), M_b^n(g)\}$$
$$= rmax\{M_b^n(1), M_b^n(g)\}$$
$$= M_b^n(g)$$

$$= M_b^n(gv^{-1}v)$$
$$\leq rmax\{M_b^n(gv^{-1}), M_b^n(v)\}$$
$$= rmax\ \{M_b^n(1), M_b^n(v)\}$$
$$= M_b^p(v), \forall\, b\,, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}$$

Theorem 3.3

Let $\acute{M}$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield of over $\mathcal{F}$, then

i. If $M_b^p(v-g) = 1$, then $M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(g) \quad \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

ii. If $M_b^n(v-g) = -1$, then $M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(g) \quad \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

iii. If $M_b^p(vg^{-1}) = 1$, then $M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(g) \quad \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

iv. If $M_b^n(vg^{-1}) = -1$, then $M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(g) \quad \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

Proof

i.
$$M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(v-g+g)$$
$$\geq rmin\{M_b^p(v-g), M_b^p(g)\}.$$
$$= rmin\{1, M_b^p(g)\}.$$
$$= M_b^p(g)$$
$$= M_b^p(g) = M_b^p(-v+v-g)$$
$$\geq rmin\{M_b^p(-v), M_b^p(v-g)\}$$
$$= rmin\{M_b^p(-v), 1\}$$
$$= M_b^p(-v).$$
$$= M_b^p(v) \; \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$$

ii.
$$M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(v-g+g)$$
$$\leq rmax\{M_b^n(v-g), M_b^n(g)\}.$$
$$= rmax\{-1, M_b^n(g)\}.$$
$$= M_b^n(g) = M_b^p(-g)$$
$$= M_b^n(-v+v-g)$$
$$\leq rmax\{M_b^n(-v), M_b^n(v-g)\}$$
$$= rmax\{M_b^n(-v), -1\}$$

$$= M_b^n(-v) \qquad \forall\, b \ \text{and} \ \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \ \text{in} \ \mathcal{F}$$

iii.
$$\begin{aligned} M_b^p(v) &= M_b^p(vg^{-1}g) \\ &\geq rmin\{M_b^p(vg^{-1}), M_b^p(g)\} \\ &= rmin\{1, M_b^p(g)\} \\ &= M_b^p(g) \\ &= M_b^p(g^{-1}) \\ &= M_b^p(v^{-1}vg^{-1}) \\ &\geq rmin\{M_b^p(v^{-1}), M_b^p(vg^{-1})\} \\ &\geq rmin\{M_b^p(v^{-1}), 1\} \\ &= M_b^p(v^{-1}) \\ &= M_b^p(v), \ \forall\, b \ and \ \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \ in \ \mathcal{F}. \end{aligned}$$

iv.
$$\begin{aligned} M_b^n(v) &= M_b^n(vg^{-1}g) \\ &\leq rmax\{M_b^n(vg^{-1}), M_b^n(g)\} \\ &= rmax\{-1, M_b^n(g)\} \\ &= M_b^n(g) \\ &= M_b^n(g^{-1}) \\ &= M_b^n(v^{-1}vg^{-1}) \\ &\leq rmax\{M_b^n(g^{-1}), M_b^n(vg^{-1})\} \\ &= rmax\{M_b^n(g^{-1}), -1\} \\ &= M_b^n(g^{-1}) \\ &= M_b^n(v), \ \forall\, s \ and \ \forall\, v, g \ in \ \mathcal{F}. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3.4

Let $\acute{M}$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield of a field $\mathcal{F}$. Then the following results hold.

i. If $M_b^p(v-g) = 0$, then either $M_b^p(v) = 0$ or $M_b^p(g) = 0$ $\forall\, b \ and \ \forall\, v, g \ in \ \mathcal{F}$.

ii. If $M_b^n(v-g) = 0$, then either $M_b^n(v) = 0$ or $M_b^n(g) = 0$ $\forall\, b \ and \ \forall\, v, g \ in \ \mathcal{F}$.

iii. If $M_b^p(vg^{-1}) = 0$ then either $M_b^p(v) = 0$ or $M_b^p(g) = 0$ $\forall\, b \ and \ \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \ in \ \mathcal{F}$.

iv. If $M_b^n(vg^{-1}) = 0$ then either $M_b^n(v) = 0$ or $M_b^n(g) = 0$

$\forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

Proof

Let v, g in $\mathcal{F}.$

i. By the definition

$$M_b^p(v-g) \geq rmin\{M_b^p(v),\ M_b^p(g)\}$$
$$0 \geq rmin\{M_b^p(v),\ M_b^p(g)\}.$$

Thus either $M_b^p(v) = 0$ or $M_b^p(g) = 0 \quad \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

ii. By the definition

$$M_b^n(v-g) \leq rmax\{M_b^n(v),\ M_b^n(g)\}$$
$$0 \leq rmax\{M_b^n(v),\ M_b^n(g)\}.$$

Thus either $M_b^n(v) = 0$ or $M_b^n(g) = 0 \quad \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

Let $v, g \neq 0 \in \mathcal{F}.$

iii. By the definition,

$$M_b^p(vg^{-1}) \geq rmin\{M_b^p(v),\ M_b^p(g)\}$$
$$0 \geq rmin\{M_b^p(v),\ M_b^p(g)\}$$

Thus either $M_b^p(v) = 0$ or $M_b^p(g) = 0 \;\; \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

iv. By the definition

$$M_b^n(vg^{-1}) \leq rmax\{M_b^n(v),\ M_b^n(g)\}$$
$$0 \leq rmax\{M_b^n(v),\ M_b^n(g)\}$$

Thus either $M_b^n(v) = 0$ or $M_b^n(g) = 0 \;\; \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

Theorem 3.5

Let $\acute{M}$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield over $\mathcal{F}.$ Then

i. If $M_b^p(v+g) = M_b^p(g+v)$, iff $M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(-g+v+g) \; \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

ii. If $M_b^n(v+g) = M_b^n(g+v)$, iff $M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(-g+v+g) \; \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

iii. If $M_b^p(vg) = M_b^p(gv)$ iff $M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(g^{-1}vg) \;\; \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

iv. If $M_b^n(vg) = M_b^n(gv)$ iff $M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(g^{-1}vg) \;\; \forall\, b \;\; and \forall\, v, g \neq 0 \; in \; \mathcal{F}.$

Proof

i. Let v, g be in $\mathcal{F}.$

Assume that $M_b^p(v+g) = M_b^p(g+v)$

$$M_b^p(-g+v+g) = M_b^p(-g+g+v)$$
$$= M_b^p(0+v) = M_b^p(v)$$

Conversely, Let $M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(-g+v+g)$ then

$$M_b^p(v+g) = M_b^p(v+g+v-v).$$
$$= M_b^p(g+v).$$

ii. Assume that $M_b^n(v+g) = M_b^n(g+v)$

$$M_b^n(-g+v+g) = M_b^n(-g+g+v).$$
$$= M_b^n(0+v) = M_b^n(v)$$

Conversely, Let $M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(-g+v+g)$ then

$$M_b^n(v+g) = M_b^n(v+g+v-v).$$
$$= M_b^n(g+v).$$

iii. Let $v, g \neq 0$ in $\mathcal{F}$.

Let $M_b^p(vg) = M_b^p(gv)$

So, $M_b^p(g^{-1}vg) = M_b^p(g^{-1}gv)$

$$= M_b^p(v).$$

Conversely, if $M_b^p(g^{-1}vg) = M_b^p(v)$, then

$M_b^p(vg) = M_b^p(vgvv^{-1})$

$= M_b^p(gv)$

iv. Let $M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(gv)$

So, $M_b^n(g^{-1}vg) = M_b^n(g^{-1}gv)$

$$= M_b^n(v).$$

Conversely, if $M_b^n(g^{-1}vg) = M_b^n(v)$, then

$M_b^n(vg) = M_b^n(vgvv^{-1})$

$= M_b^n(gv)$

Theorem 3.6

Let $\acute{M}$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield of a field $\mathcal{F}$.

$\acute{\mathbb{N}} = \{v \in X / M_b^p = 1,\ M_b^n = -1,\ \forall b\}$ is either empty or is a subfield of $\mathcal{F}$.

Proof

If $\acute{\mathbb{N}}$ is empty then no element satisfies this conditions.

If v and g in $\acute{\mathbb{N}}$, then

$$M_b^p(v-g) \geq rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(g)\}$$
$$= rmin\{1, 1\}$$
$$M_b^p(v-g) = 1, \forall b$$

$$M_b^n(v-g) \le rmax\{M_b^n(v), M_b^n(g)\}$$
$$= rmax\{-1, -1\}$$
$$M_b^n(v-g) = -1, \forall b$$

i.e., $v - g \in \acute{\mathbb{N}}$

If $v, g \neq 0$ in $\acute{\mathbb{N}}$, then

$$M_b^p(vg^{-1}) \ge rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(g)\}$$
$$= rmin\{1, 1\}$$
$$M_b^p(vg^{-1}) = 1, \forall b$$

And

$$M_b^n(vg^{-1}) \le rmax\{M_b^n(v), M_b^n(g)\}$$
$$= rmax\{-1, -1\}$$
$$M_b^n(vg^{-1}) = -1, \forall b$$

i.e., $vg^{-1} \in \acute{\mathbb{N}}$

Hence $\acute{\mathbb{N}}$ is a sub field of $\mathcal{F}$.

Theorem 3.7

Let $\acute{M}$ be a $BVMI$ fuzzy subfield over $\mathcal{F}$. Then $\acute{\mathbb{N}} = \{v \in X / M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(0) = M_b^p(1),\ M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(0) = M_b^n(1)\ \forall b\}$ is a subfield of $\mathcal{F}$, 0 and 1 are the identity elements.

Proof

By Theorem 2.1, $M_b^p(-v) = M_b^p(v) = M_b^p(0)$

and $M_b^n(-v) = M_b^n(v) = M_b^n(0)$

Thus $-v \in \acute{\mathbb{N}}$

If $v, g \in \acute{\mathbb{N}}$, then $M_b^p(v-g) \ge rmin\{M_b^p(v),\ M_b^p(g)\}$
$= rmin\{M_b^p(0),\ M_b^p(0)\}$
$= M_b^p(0)$.

And $M_b^p(v-g) \le M_b^p(0)$

$M_b^n(v-g) \le rmax\{M_b^n(v),\ M_b^n(g)\}$
$= rmax\{M_b^n(0),\ M_b^n(0)\}$
$= M_b^n(0)$.

And $M_b^n(v-g) \ge M_b^n(0)$

Therefore, $v - g \in \acute{\mathbb{N}}$.

By Theorem 2.1, $M_b^p(vg^{-1}) \ge rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(g)\}, \forall b$

Thus $v^{-1} \in \acute{\mathbb{N}}$

If $v, g \neq 0\ in\ \acute{\mathbb{N}}$, then

$M_b^p(vg^{-1}) \ge rmin\{M_b^p(v), M_b^p(g)\}$

$$= rmin\{M_b^p(1), M_b^p(1)\}$$
$$= M_b^p(1)$$
$$M_b^p(vg^{-1}) \leq M_b^p(1)$$
$$M_b^p(vg^{-1}) = M_b^p(1)$$
$$M_b^n(vg^{-1}) \leq rmax\{M_b^n(v), M_b^n(g)\}$$
$$= rmax\{M_b^n(1), M_b^n(1)\}$$
$$= M_b^n(1)$$
$$M_b^n(vg^{-1}) \geq M_b^n(1)$$
$$M_b^n(vg^{-1}) = M_b^n(1) \forall b$$
$$\Longrightarrow vg^{-1} \in \acute{\mathbb{N}}$$

Hence $\acute{\mathbb{N}}$ is a subfield of $\acute{\mathbb{N}}$.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Experimental Analysis of Recycled Aggregate Concrete with Partial Replacement of Natural Sand by GGBFS

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ABSTRACT

Concrete is the most essential construction material in civil engineering. As we know, concrete is used regularly, which produces a huge quantity of concrete waste. To overcome this, we will reuse the concrete to make new concrete for building development. In this research, we introduce recycled aggregate replacement of natural aggregate and fine aggregate replaced by GGBFS, which is also a waste product of the mechanical industry as in slag form. The replacement of coarse aggregate is 0%, 25 %, 50 %, 100 % and fine aggregate replaces up to 30 %. The compressive strength increased by 15%, the flexural strength increased by up to 12%, and the split strength of the concrete also increased by up to 10% as compared to normally recycled aggregate. In this paper, the M-25 grade of concrete is utilised. This research helps to develop sustainable concrete that reduces construction waste and industrial waste.

Keywords: Recycled aggregate, GGBFS (Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag), Compressive strength, flexural strength, cement.

INTRODUCTION

Concrete plays a very important role in the construction industry. As development occurs, more concrete requirements of concrete needed day by day[1]. Concrete is a granular material that is a mixture of Cement, sand, aggregate and water. This granular material helps the concrete to fill the voids, and cement is used as filler material.

More use of concrete needs more quantity of aggregate, sand and cement. We know aggregate and sand are natural materials so alternatives to these materials are needed in the construction industry[2]. Recycled aggregate is used as an alternative to natural coarse aggregate, and GGBFS is used as an alternative to natural sand in this research. Recycled aggregate is found from old building concrete that will be specially treated in the Crusher plant to make concrete usable in building work[3][4]. The property of recycled aggregate is approximately the same as natural aggregate but the water absorption of this aggregate is higher than that of natural aggregate. In this project, we take the recycled aggregate from our local supplier under the Nagar Nigam. The global aggregate production is around 40 billion tons[5]. They collect all the dumped concrete in one place and then recycle it with a crusher plant. The physical properties of recycled aggregate are given in Table 3. GGBFS (Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag) is a waste product produced in the furnace in the form of slag. Then this slag is converted into small granular material by a crushing machine. GGBFS is used as a filler material in concrete, replacing sand upto 30%. In this research, GGBFS is taken from the Pithampur iron industry plant. GGBFS helps to improve the strength and durability of concrete.[6] It will reduce voids, hence also decreasing permeability and efflorescence.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature reviews (Table 1)

.

Research Significance

The current development in construction creates huge pressure on the infrastructure industry. In the construction sector, the most useful material is concrete. Every year, approximately 5 billion tonnes of concrete are used in the infrastructure industry. This massive demand for concrete gives rise to questions about the sustainability of aggregate and sand throughout the world. These issues arise to produce more and more sustainable concrete. As a new solution for this, the use of recycled aggregate, quarry waste, and industrial waste is used in concrete nowadays. This study focuses on sustainable infrastructure development. It investigates the possibility of using recycled aggregate in place of natural aggregate and GGBFS in place of natural sand. The study helps to understand recycled aggregate concrete in a better ways in building construction.

MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

- In this research, fresh concrete of grade M-25 has a natural aggregate, sand ratio. But other mixtures of different percentages of replacement are also utilized.
- Aggregate replaces about 20 %, 40 %, 60 %, 80%, 100 % with natural coarse aggregate and GGBFS replace natural sand in a ratio of 30% only.
- Cement utilised in this project OPC grade of Wonder brand.
- The water ratio of the concrete mix is 0.40
- Mixing of concrete and placing it in the mould

Mix Proportions (Table 2). Physical properties of aggregates (Table3)

RESULTS

Mix Proportion Results (Table 4)
Compressive Strength Result in 28 days (Figure 1)
Flexural Strength Result in 28 days (Figure 2)
Split tensile result in 28 days (Figure 3)

DISCUSSION

The compressive strength results of Recycled aggregate concrete are increasing by about 10% when we mix GGBFS at 30%, flexural strength also increases and split tensile also increases compared to recycled aggregate without GGBFS.

Statistical Modelling

The General Regression Equation has been developed

$y = -1.761x + 31.32$

where y is the dependent variable

x is the independent variable

To check the accuracy of the regression model, statistical modelling results are presented in Table 5 below. The value obtained from modelling shows a good relation with the actual reading. whereas, Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), Average Accuracy Percentage (AA), Mean Absolute Deviation error (MAD), Mean square Error (MSE).

CONCLUSION

The mechanical strength is increased with the increase of GGBFS upto a certain ratio with Recycled aggregate. As we know, concrete is the most common material used in the infrastructure industry so it is a good sustainable material that also helps to save the environment. The results show that it is suitable for use in concrete, with no adverse effects on society, and also reduces pollution. So it is recommended to use it for construction purposes. We got a good result on the 30% replacement of sand with 20 % recycled aggregate increased compressive strength up to 15% and flexural strength also achieved good.

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Table 1: Literature Reviews

S.no	Author Name	Material used	Results Outcome
1	Majhi, R. et.al.[7]	GGBFS, RCA	Compressive strength , , Split Tensile Strength , Flexural Strength increase by 14.02%- 19.61%, 9.33%- 14.07%, and 10.74%-14.71% respectively
2	Hu, Y. et. al[8]	GGBFS, RCA	Compressive strength for 50 % aggregate and 100% aggregate is 43.1 MPa and 38.5 MPa
3	Majhi , R. et.al.[9]	GGBFS , RCA	Sulphate attack for 50% and 100 % RCA is 0.26% and 0.32% and Acid attack with the loss of mass gives good results of 1.16% and 1.43%
4	Xie, et. al.[10]	Metakoline, GGBFS, RCA	In this study,the author finds the slump value increased by 75 % and compressive strength also increased upto 35%
5	Mansur ,et . al. [11]	RCA , GGBFS	The investigation of the material found compressive strength, which increases by 2.3 % to 6.9 %

Table 2: Mix Proportions

Mix	RCA%	NCA%	NS %	GGBFS %	Cement %	Water litre
M25-0	0	100	100	0	100	0.40
M25-20	20	80	70	30	100	0.40
M25-40	40	60	70	30	100	0.40
M25-60	60	40	70	30	100	0.40
M25-80	80	20	70	30	100	0.40
M25-100	100	0	70	30	100	0.40

Table3: Physicalproperties of aggregates

Physical Property of Aggregates		
Aggregates	**NCA**	**RCA**
Specific gravity	2.64	2.25
Water Absorption (%)	1.2	5.80%
Bulk Density (kg/l)	1.42	1.18kg/l
Percentage Voids (%)	46.53	43.59%
Crushing value (%)	21.78	30.83
Impact value (%)	28.8	32.45

Table 4: Mix Proportion Results

28 days	Compressive Strength		Flexural Strength		Split Tensile	
Aggregate Ratio in %	With GGBFS N/mm2	Without GGBFS N/mm2	With GGBFS N/mm2	Without GGBFS N/mm2	With GGBFS N/mm2	Without GGBFS N/mm2
0	29.12	28.21	5.25	5.01	3.98	3.86
20	27.32	26.18	5.1	4.9	3.91	3.56
40	26.87	24.56	4.76	4.34	3.12	3.03
60	25.34	21.89	3.89	2.67	2.21	2.18
80	22.1	18.34	2.91	2.33	2.02	1.97
100	20.23	17.61	2.23	1.94	1.44	1.28

Table 5: Statistical measure results

Measures	(R2)	MAPE%	AA%	MAD	MSE	Observations
CS with GGBFS in 28 days	0.952	15.85	84.14	3.48	12.65	6

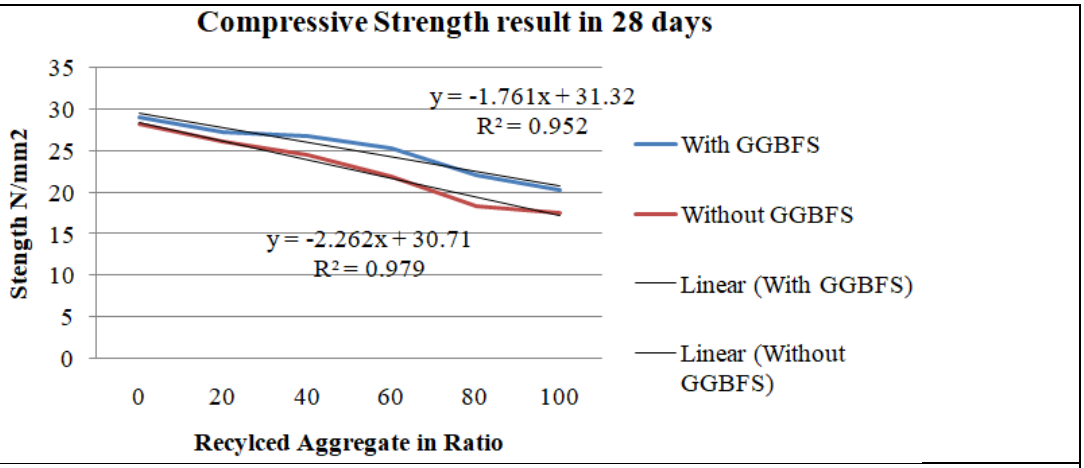


Figure 1: Compressive Strength Result in 28 days

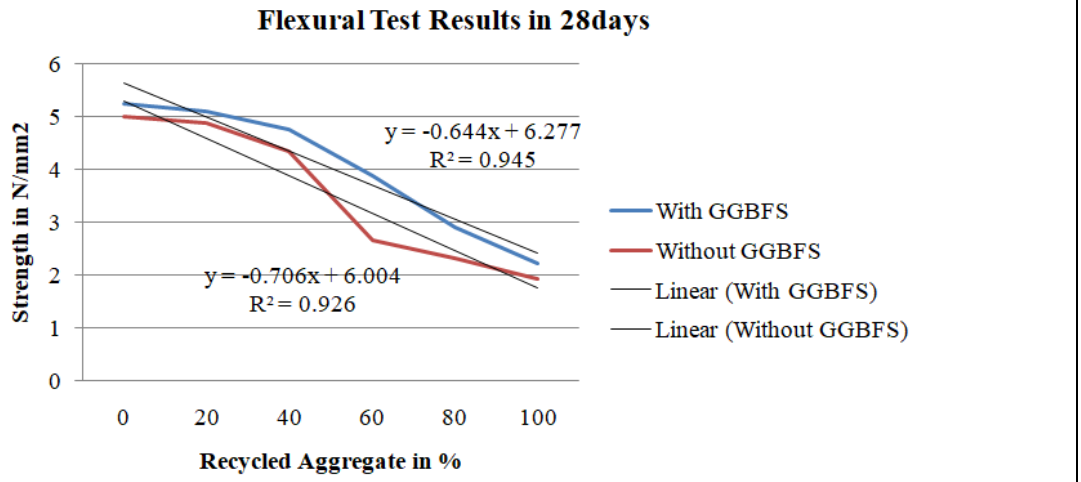


Figure 2: Flexural Strength Result in 28 days

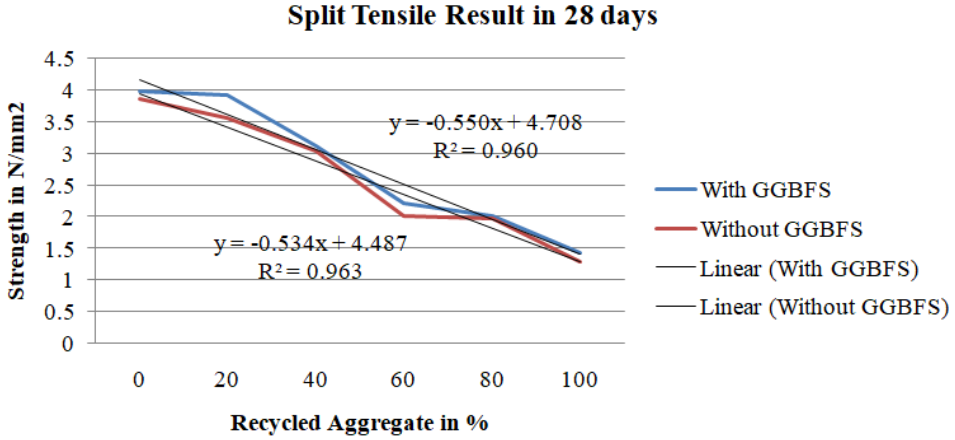


Figure 3: Split tensile result in 28 days

CASE STUDY ARTICLE

Ayurvedic Management of Karshya – A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

The present world is dealing with the problems of malnutrition in children specially in developing countries like India. According to modern science, a balanced diet is defined as a diet that contains all essential six components i.e. carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water with roughage in required proportion and thus keeps all doshas in equilibrium. Highlighting on some important matter by kushmanda is beneficial for moderately malnourished population.

Keywords: Karshya, Under-nutrition, Kushmanda Granules.

INTRODUCTION

The children are the most vulnerable members of the society in terms of health. The present world is dealing with the problems of malnutrition in children specially in developing countries like India. *Karshya* can be apparently correlated with underweight. *Karshya* is a condition in which the body of a person becomes emaciated having less quantity of *Rasa Dhatu* causing a further state of *Mamsa-hinata* or *Mamsakshaya.*Surveillance of young children is a major issue of public health in India [1]. Nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 are attributable to undernutrition; undernutrition puts children at greater risk of dying from common infections, increases the frequency and severity of such infections, and delays recovery. According to modern science, a balanced diet is defined as a diet that contains all essential six components i.e. carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and

water with roughage in required proportion and thus keeps all doshas in equilibrium. Agni (digestive fire) is the responsible factor for the digestion of *Aahar* (food), *Bala, Arogya, Ayu,* and *Prana* all depend upon *Agni.*

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1. To study the effect of Kushmanda Granules on Karshya.
2. To study the effect of Kushmanda Granules with assessment criteria (subjective and objective criteria)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Case Report

A 2 year 11 months old male patient reported at Kaumarbhritya (KB) outpatient department (OPD) on 17th July 2024, with complaints of not gaining weight as per age since 2 -3 months, associated with, generalised weakness, poor appetite for 15 days. The patient was apparently healthy before 3 months, gradually he developed poor appetite and generalised weakness in the body. For which they consulted to nearby Primary Health Center and took allopathic treatment but could not found relief. So for further management, patient came to Parul Ayurved Hospital for futher treatment.

Observation Table(Table No: 1)

Personal History(Table No: 2)

General Examination(Table No: 3)

Dash Vidha Pariksha

The assessment of the individual based on Dashavidha Pariksha reveals the following:
Prakriti: Vata-Kaphaja, indicating a combination of Vata and Kapha doshas.
Sara: Madhyam
Samhanana: Madhyam (moderate), signifying average body build and compactness.
Pramana: Weight is 9.1 kg, and height is 74.5 cm.
Satmya: Madhyam
Satwa: Avara (low), suggesting weak mental endurance or emotional resilience.

Ahara Shakti

Abhyavaharanshakti: Avara (low appetite).
Jaranshakti: Madhyam (moderate digestive capacity).
Vyayama Shakti: Madhyam (moderate capacity for physical activity).
Vaya: Balyaavastha, indicating the stage of childhood.
Diagnosis The patient was diagnosed as Karshya (undernutrition)

Treatment Plan

Curative Treatment (Shamana Aushadhi Chikitsa)
Kushmanda Granules 9gm BD for 60 days
4.5gm divided into two doses with milk; two times a day i.e, early morning and evening time.

Pathya-Apathya Ahara Vihara to be consumed (Table No: 4)
Subjective Criteria (Table No: 5)

Objective Criteria

- Weight in kg
- B.M.I.
- Chest Circumference (C.C.)
- Head Circumference (H.C.)
- Mid Upper Arm Circumference in cm (M.U.A.C.)

Evaluation of Subjective Criteria (Table No. 6)

Evaluation of Observation Criteria (Table No. 7)

CONCLUSION

The case demonstrates that Kushmanda Granules, along with dietary and lifestyle modifications, were effective in managing Karshya by improving appetite, digestion, weight, and overall health. The significant improvements in subjective and objective parameters indicate the potential role of Ayurveda in combating childhood undernutrition. Further clinical studies on a larger sample size can help establish Kushmanda Granules as a standard Ayurvedic intervention for Karshya.

DISCUSSION

The present case highlights the clinical appearance and administration of Karshya (undernutrition) in a 2-year-11-month-old child. Karshya, characterized by a shortage in Rasa Dhatu and consequent Mamsakshaya, aligns with the condition of underweight as observed in modern nutritional science. The patient presented with symptoms of poor weight gain, generalized weakness, and low appetite, which are indicative of impaired dietary status and digestive function. Upon evaluation, the child exhibited Vata-Kaphaja Prakriti, low appetite (Abhyavaharanshakti - Avara), and moderate digestive capacity (Jaranshakti - Madhyam), which suggest an imbalance in metabolic functions leading to inefficient nutrient absorption. The Dashavidha Pariksha findings, especially Avara Satwa and Madhyam Samhanana, further reinforce the diagnosis of Karshya. The prescribed Pathya-Apathya Ahara and Vihara played a significant part in progressing the child's dietary status. The Pathya Ahara, which included nutrient-rich nourishment like Godhuma (wheat), Mudga (green gram), Go-dugdha (cow's milk), Ghrita (ghee), and Kushmanda (ash gourd), provided essential macronutrients and micronutrients to support weight gain and immunity. Moreover, Vyayama and Abhyanga (massage with Mahamasha Taila) contributed to improved muscle tone and digestion.

Highlighting on some important matter by kushmanda is beneficial for moderately malnourished population

- Kushmanda is a nutrient-dense yet low-fat fruit, rich in vitamins (like B-complex, C) and minerals (calcium, iron, phosphorus).
- It's easily digestible, making it suitable for people recovering from illness or with weak digestion, where gradual weight gain is required
- In Ayurveda, kushmanda is classified as a Rasayana, meaning it helps in nourishment and rejuvenation.
- **Medhya –** Promotes intellect
- **Tridosha-shamaka –** Pacifies vata and pitta primarily
- **Vrishya –** Aphrodisiac
- **Grahi –** Absorbent (helpful in diarrhea)
- **Shothahara –** Anti-inflammatory
- It is considered a Balya (strength-promoting) and Brimhana (bulk-promoting) herb – useful for building body mass and improving overall strength.

- Ayurveda emphasizes Ojas as the essence of vitality. Kushmanda helps increase Ojas, which indirectly supports tissue development and proper weight gain.It is said to support anabolic processes, aiding in tissue development and growth.
- Pharmacological Properties according to Modern Science

Property	Effect
Antioxidant	Neutralizes free radicals and oxidative stress
Anti-inflammatory	Reduces inflammation and swelling
Immunomodulatory	Enhances immune response
Neuroprotective	Protects brain tissue and cognitive function
Hepatoprotective	Supports liver function
Antidepressant	Calming and mood-enhancing
Hypoglycemic	Supports blood sugar regulation
Diuretic	Promotes urine production (mild effect)

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Table No. 1: Observation Table

Weight	9.1 kg
Height	74.5 cm
BMI	16.39 Kg/m^2
Head circumference	46 cm
Chest circumference	48.5 cm
Mid-arm circumference	12.5 cm

TABLE NO. 2 – Personal History

Personal History	
Dinacharya	
Time of getting up in the morning	At 8 am
Face wash including tooth brushing	Once daily
Attaining toilet, Bowel evacuation habit	Evacuates daily
Doing physical exercise	Not performing
Taking Breakfast	Tea/Milk, Biscuit, Food packets
Afternoon regimen	
Lunch	Roti and Sabji/ Rice with Dal
Night regimen	
Since many day's patient is having disturbed night sleep	
Rules and Regulation while intake of food	Not Followed
Nutritional Status	Poorly built and Poorly nourished
Family History	All family members are said to healthy

TABLE NO. 3 – General Examination

General Examination	
B.P.	110/70 mm of Hg
Pulse	89 pulse/min
Temperature	Afebrile
Respiratory Rate	24/min, clear

Table No. 4 – Pathya-Apathya Ahara Vihara to be consumed

Pathya Ahara	
In Shooka Dhaanya varga	Dhanya,Yava,Godhuma
In Shimbi dhanya varga	Mudga, Soya
Mamsa varga	Jangala-anoopa-oudaka praanija mamsa rasa (kurta)
Go-rasa varga	Go-dugdha and ghrita
Jala varga	Sukhoshna jala / Kwathita jala
Shaaka varga	Palakya, Methika
Taila Varga	Tila taila
Phala Varga	Draaksha, Dadima, Kushmanda
Vayanjana Varga	Jeeraka, Ajamoda…..
Pathya Vihara	
Vyayama	Playing/walking
Abhyanga	With Mahamasha Taila/ Tila Taila
Apathya Ahara	
Rooksha ahara	
Rooksha pana	

Pramitashana	
Upavasa	

Table No. 5: Subjective Criteria

Domain	Assessment	Grades
Daurbalya (General weakness)	Dull	3
	Moderately Active	2
	Active	1
	Very Active	0
Kshudha (Appetite)	Child does not take food considerably even by force	3
	Child does not ask but takes food considerably by request	2
	Child himself ask food but not take adequately	1
	Child himself ask food but take adequately	0
Nidra (Sleep)	Crood	3
	Disturbed	2
	Short but sound	1
	Long and sound	0
Appearance	Ill at ease	3
	Dull looking	2
	Playful look	1
	Healthy looking	0
Bowel Habit	Irregular for more than 2 days	3
	On alternate day	2
	Daily but hard stool	1
	No constipation	0
Interest in Activities	Dull	3
	Involves when forced	2
	Actively involves on motivation	1
	Very Active	0

Table No. 6: Evaluation of Subjective Criteria

Symptoms	BT	AT	%
Daurbalya	**2**	**1**	**50%**
Kshudha	**2**	**1**	**100%**
Nidra	**1**	**0**	**50%**
Appearance	**1**	**0**	**100%**
Bowel Habits	**0**	**0**	**0%**
Interest in Activities	**1**	**0**	**0%**

Table No. 7: Evaluation of Observation Criteria

Anthropometry	BT	AT
Weight	9.1 kg	10.10 kg
Height	74.5 cm	83 cm
BMI	16.39 Kg/m^2	14.66 Kg/m^2
Head circumference	46 cm	46 cm
Chest circumference	48.5 cm	49 cm
Mid-arm circumference	12.5 cm	13 cm

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Study to Assess the Effectiveness of Training Program on Knowledge and Practice Regarding basic Life Support among Final Year B.Sc. Nursing Students at Kheda -Anand District

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ABSTRACT

Cardio pulmonary resuscitation is a lifesaving technique crucial during cardiac arrest which can occurred and lead due to cardio vascular diseases the leading global cause of death. Immediate CPR within "Golden 10 minutes" can double or triple the chances of survival. The American Heart Association's DRSCAB protocol (Danger, Response, Shout, Compression Airway and Breathing) guide effective response.Nurses, often first responder in hospital play a vital role high quality CPR improve outcomes which delays reduce survival by 7 to 10% per minute. Structured CPR training enhances both clinical skills and confidence bridging theory and practice. This study assesses a BLS (Basic life support) program for nursing students, emphasize hands on practice to ensure readiness for a really emergencies. Continuous training is a key to maintaining proficiency and saving life. Aquasi experimental study was undertaken in Kheda Anand district on 60 students of final year BSc nursing to assess the effectiveness of training program on knowledge and practice regarding basic life support. Participants were chosen using simple random sampling from nursing colleges of Kheda Anand district to assess the knowledge and practice regarding BLS, data work collected using a structured knowledge questionnaire and an observational checklist. The questionnaire included questions related to CAB approach (compression, airway, breathing) and practice by performing CPR on mannequin. Data were gathered between June to July 2024 with ethics clearance and inform consent. Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (paired tb test, chi-square, correlation) were

used in the analysis. The study findings revealed that the training program significantly improved final year nursing students' knowledge and practice of basic life support, with adequate knowledge rising from 3.33% to 61.7 person and good practice increasing from 3.3% to 58.3%. The mean score for both knowledge (17.7 to 23) and practice (5.6 to 9.7), supported by highly significant results a strong correlation (0.9378) indicated that better knowledge directly enhanced practical skills. Demographic factors had no significant influence on baseline performance. Overall, the intervention effectively breasts critical gap in BLS competencies highlighting the importance of structure training in nursing education. The study highlights the effectiveness of structure training in significantly enhancing nursing students BLS knowledge and skills. The notable improvements post intervention underscores the value of hand on learning in healthcare education. The strong knowledge practice correlation rainforest the need for integrated training approaches. These findings advocate for regular BLS training program to ensure nursing graduates are clinically competent in life saving techniques.

Keywords: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Basic life support, Training program, nursing students

INTRODUCTION

Cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a critical emergency procedure that sustains blood circulation and oxygenation when the heart and breathing ceases[1]. Cardiac arrest can occur unexpectedly, interrupting blood flow to the brain and vital organs of an as a result of cardiovascular disease - the leading cause of death globally, responsible for approximately million lives fatality every year [2,3]. Cardiac arrest are life threatening emergencies where immediate CPR can double or triple the survival rates [4]. The first. 10 minutes "Golden hour" is crucial delayed intervention drastically reduces the chances of survival. Quick action with basic technique is a vital [5]. Basic life support (BLS) is essential for providing critical care during life threatening emergencies such as cardiac arrest [6]. It maintains breathing and oxygenation through Cardiopulmonary resuscitation until professional medical assistance arrives. Timely and effective BLS enhanced oxygenation and increase the chances of survival by preparing the patient for advanced medical treatment [7].

The American Heart Association recumbents the DRS CAB Protocols for the resuscitation.

The steps in the DRSAC B, protocol include

1. Assess the area to confirm it is secure and not hazardous.
2. **Response:** assesses the patient's level of consciousness.
3. **Call for help:** Contact emergency services.
4. **Chest compressions:** begin with 30 chess compression if the patient is unresponsive and do not breathe normally.
5. **Airway:** ensured the airway is open.

Breathing: evaluates the individual breathing administering rescue breathes optimal This step-by-step approach prioritize immediate action by ensuring safety and efficiency in CPR[8].

Nurses as frontline are usually the first to identify and respond in hospital. Immediate CPR during ventricular fibrillation can increase the survival rate by two to three times each minute of delay reduces survival chances by seven to 10 percent[9]. High quality CPR significantly enhance survival rates, surpassing the impact of patient specific factors[10].

Formal CPR training programs deliver two significant benefits to nurses.

Clinical impact: Ensures the effective delivery of compression and ventilation.

Psychological benefit: Elevate performance, anxiety and enhance confidence in emergency situations[11]. Technical proficiency in CPR is directly associated with improved patient outcomes[12].

Nursing programs have long used simulation training, realistic control clinical scenario to a better prepare student for real world emergencies[13]. Effective CPR require more than just theoretical knowledge, regular hand on practice is essential for refining skills, building confidence is essential for performing CPR effectively. Structured training

program are essential for learning CPR, adhering to updated guidelines essential for it[14]. The research assessed how effective a BLS training program was for nursing students. The goal is to equip future nurses with the competence and confidence to provide timely, high quality emergency care success. Relies on continuous hands-on training and skill reinforcement. The goal of the program is to equip nurses with the skills needed to respond efficiently during cardiac emergencies. Ongoing practice is critical for connecting theoretical knowledge with practical performance in real world situations.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess knowledge and practice regarding Basic life support before and after administration of training program among final year B.Sc. Nursing students of Kheda-Anand district
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of training program of knowledge and practice regarding basic life support in pre and posttest.
3. To correlate the posttest knowledge and practice regarding basic life support
4. To assess the association between pretest level of knowledge and practice scores with selected demographic variables

Hypothesis

H1: There is a significant difference between knowledge and practice regarding basic life support.

H2: There is a significant correlation between post test knowledge and practice regarding basic life support.

H3: There is no any significant association between pretest knowledge and practice scores with selected demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Study design and setting

The study adopted a quantitative research approach with a quasi-experimental design (one group pretest posttest) to assess the effectiveness of training program on knowledge and practice regarding basic life support, with a specific emphasis on CPR skills, the focus is on final-year B.Sc. nursing students in the Kheda-Anand district. The present study has been conducted among 60 final year B.Sc. nursing students from selected colleges of Kheda-Anand district.

Eligibility criteria

The final year BSc. nursing students studied in selected colleges of Kheda Anand district are agreed to participate in the study with legal consent taken, who are interested to participate. The student, other than this district and absent at the time of study, were not eligible to be a part of study.

Sample size

The sample size was determined using G Power software, initially estimating 54 participants. To account for possible dropouts or incomplete responses, an additional 10% was added, bringing the final sample size to 60. So, the calculated formula was 54 + (10% of 54) = 54 + 5.4 = 59.4 and the final sample size becomes 60. The total of 60 final year bs in nursing student was taken those who fulfill the inclusion criteria from selected College of nursing at Kheda Anand District.

Sampling technique

A simple random sampling technique (lottery method) was used to select 60 final year BSc, nursing students from selected colleges of Kheda Anand district. The data collection employed demographic variables such as age, gender, religion, those who did not attend BLS training within six months, perform CPR on mannequins and source of information regarding BLS, 30 structured knowledge questionnaires, including nine general questions related to

CPR, 21 questions are related to CAB approach i.e. 7 questions related to compression, 7 of Airway and 7 of breathing and an observational checklist to evaluate CPR practice consists of eight critical steps, totaling 12 marks structured into three phase. The first phase includes four common preparatory steps. The 2nd phase follows the CAB approach. The final phase focus on recovery position. This structured checklist ensure utterance to standardize CPR protocols while allowing for objective skill assessment The instrument was developed through expert consultation and validated by nine nursing professions to ensure content accuracy.

Selection Criteria

Inclusion criteria

Students who are available at the time of study.
Final year BSc nursing students of Kheda - Anand district.
Students who are willing to participate in the study.
BLS include CPR only

Exclusion criteria

Other than nursing students.
students who are not available at the time of data collection.
Students who are not willing to participate.
Student other than final year BSc nursing.
Student who attends the BLS training within 6 months.

Limitation

The study is limited to final year B.Sc. nursing students.
The study is limited to the selected nursing colleges of Kheda-Anand district.
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DESCRIPTION OF TOOL

The tool consists of following 3 sections:
PART-I: Demographic data collection of the final year B.Sc. nursing students.
PART-II: Assessment of knowledge using structured knowledge questionnaire in context to have knowledge regarding basic life support.
PART-III: Assessment of practice by using an observational checklist to have a practical skill related to CPR.

Data Collection Procedure

To ensure research competency, the investigator completed American Heart Association approved BLS provider training at 108 GVK EMRI Kathwada, Ahmedabad for practical skills assessment, the study employed standardized CPR mannequins to objectively evaluate participants technique enabling precise measurement of compression, depth rate, positioning and ventilation effectiveness according to established BLS protocols. Formal permissions were obtained from the concerned authority of selected nursing colleges of Kheda Anand district. The investigator prepared a Master Data collection schedule to systematically organized the research process which was conducted from 25th June 2024 to 12 July 24. Prior inform consent was procure from all eligible participants. The tool was administered including a demographic data such as gender, age, religion, those who didn't attend training within 6 months, perform CPR on mannequin, source of information regarding BLS. A 30 structured knowledge questionnaire design to assist theoretical and applied understanding of CPR protocols. CPR proficiency was measured through a 12-item observation checklist. The study was conducted in 2 phases to evaluate nursing students BLS competency. In phase 1 the investigators participant baseline knowledge and practical skills through pretest prior to the training intervention. Following this evaluation, structured BLS training program was implemented as the experimental intervention. After one week interval phase 2 commenced where in posttest assessment were conducted to measure knowledge retention. Individually assessing its student's performance to ensure standardized measurement of skill improvement.

RESULTS

Frequency and percentage distribution of selected demographic variables (N = 60) (Table 1).
According to the demographic statistics, the majority of students (70%) were between the age of 20 and 22, females dominated the sample comprising 83.3% (50) while Hindus were the predominant religious group at 81.7% (49). Most participants 61.7% (40) had not attended any training within the past 6 months. However, 66.7% (40) reported having performed CPR on mannequins suggesting prior hands-on experience. The primary source of information for the participant was teachers sighted by 85%(51), indicating that formal education played as significant role in their knowledge acquisition.

Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding BLS among final year B.Sc. nursing students (Table 2).
This table shows a significant improvement in knowledge level among participants. Initially 13.33% of participants had inadequate knowledge, 83.33% had moderately adequate knowledge and only 3.33% had adequate knowledge. After the intervention the proportion of participants with adequate knowledge increases sustainable to 61.7%. This indicates a notable enhancement and knowledge level following the intervention.

Frequency and percentage distribution of level of practice regarding BLS among final year B.Sc. nursing students (Table 3).
The pretest and post test results on the level of practice reveal a significant improvement among participants. Initially 51.6% demonstrate poor practice 45% had average and only 3.3% exhibited good practice after the intervention the proportion of participants with good practice increase up to 58.3% this indicates a sustainable enhancement in practice levels with the majority of participant achieving a good performance by the post test.

Range, mean and standard deviation of level of knowledge and practice regarding BLS among final year B.Sc. nursing students (Table 4).
The table compares the pretest and posters results for the level of knowledge and practice, showing significant improvement in both areas for level of knowledge the pretest scores ranged from 12 to 24 with the mean of 17.7 ±2.7 (SD) score improve to range of 18 to 27 with the higher mean of 23 ±2.1 (SD) indicates are notable increase in knowledge after the intervention. Similarly for level of practice ko ranges from 3 to 10 with the mean of 5.6 ±1.4 (SD)whereas in post test scores ranged to 8 to 12 with the mean 9.7 ±1.0 (SD). it suggests more consistent and improved performance after the intervention. Overall, both knowledge and practice level show statistical is significant and practically improvements from pretest to post test.

Effectiveness on knowledge and practice before and after administration of training program and statistical significance (Table 5).
The data demonstrates significant improvements in both knowledge and practice following the intervention. For knowledge with a maximum score of 30 the mean enhancement was 5.3 ± 0.6(SD) representing a 16.8% improvement. The paired t test yielded a highly significant result (t = 12 .4, p = 0.000) indicating a strong positive change in knowledge level post intervention. For practice, with a maximum score of 12, the mean enhancement was 4.1 ± 0.4(SD) reflecting a substantial 34.6% improvement The paired t test result (t = 18.5, p = .000) further confirms a statistically significant improvement in practical application after the intervention.

Correlation between posttest knowledge and practice regarding BLS (Table 6).
The posttest result revealed notable statistics for the variables of knowledge and practice. The means score for knowledge was 23, with a standard deviation of 2.1 indicating relatively consistent performance among participants. For practice, the mean was 9.7 with a. smaller SD of 1.0 suggesting even less variability in response. A strong positive correlation 0.9378 was observed between knowledge and practice, implying that higher knowledge score was closely

associated with better practice scores. The high correlation highlights a significant relationship between the two variables, suggesting the improvement in knowledge may corresponding with enhanced practical application.

Association between pretest knowledge score with their selected demographic variable. (Chi-Square Test) n=60 (Table 7).

None of the demographic characteristics had a statistically significant relationship with pretest knowledge levels (p>0 for all), emphasizing the importance of training program for all demographics to increase knowledge awareness and practical skills.

Association between pretest practice score with their selected demographic variable. (Chi-Square Test) n=60 (Table: 8).

Overall, none of the demographic variables showed a statistically significant association with pretest practice level. P is greater than 0.05 for all.

CONCLUSION

The study assessed the effectiveness of training program on knowledge and practice regarding basic life support among 60 final year BSc, nursing students of Kheda - Anand district revealing significant gap in knowledge and practical skills. The majority of participants were female (83.3%) Hindu (81.7%) and age between 20 to 22 (70%). Most had not attended recent training (61.7%), though a significant proportion (66.7%) had prior CPR experience on mannequins with teachers being the primary knowledge source 85%. The intervention led. To substantial improvements in both knowledge and practice levels Initially, only 3.33% of participant had adequate knowledge which increased to 61.7% post intervention. Similarly, good practice levels rose from 3.3% to 58.3%. Statistical analysis confirmed these improvements with mean knowledge score increase from 17 .7 to 23 and practice core from 5.6 to 9.7. The paired t test further validates these enhancements showing significant gains (16.8% in knowledge and 34.6% in practice.) A strong positive correlation (0 .9378) between knowledge and practice indicated that higher knowledge scores were associated with better practical application. Notably demographic factors did not significant influence pretest knowledge and or practice levels ($p > 0.05$). In conclusion, the intervention effectively enhances participants knowledge and practical skills demonstrating its success in improving competency in assessed areas.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author had declared that there was no conflict of interest.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Self-funded.

ETHICAL PERMISSION

This research study received approval from the Institutional Ethical Committee of Dinsha Patel College of Nursing, Nadiad. The committee comprised 11 members with diverse expertise. The study was assigned the ethical approval reference number MAM Uni/IECHR/2024/63. Additionally, formal written permission was obtained from the authority.

STATEMENT OF INFORMED CONSENT

The informed consent form was taken from the final year B.Sc. nursing students.

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Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of selected demographic variables (N = 60)

Variables	Most Common Category	Frequency (%)
Age	20-22 years	42 (70%)
Gender	Female	50 (83.3%)
Religion	Hindu	49 (81.7%)
Attend training within 6 months	No	40 (61.7%)
Performed CPR on mannequin	Yes	40 (66.7%)
Source of information	From Teachers	51(85 %)

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding BLS among final year B.Sc. nursing students

Level of Knowledge	Pre-test		Post-test	
	F	%	F	%
Inadequate	8	13.33%	00	00%
Moderately adequate	50	83.33%	23	38.3%
Adequate	2	3.33%	37	61.7%

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of practice regarding BLS among final year B.Sc. nursing students

Level of practice	Pre-test		Post-test	
	F	%	F	%
Poor (<50%)	31	51.6%	00	00%
Average (50-75%)	27	45%	25	41.7%
Good (>75%)	02	3.3%	35	58.3%

Table 4: Range, mean and standard deviation of level of knowledge and practice regarding BLS among final year B.Sc. nursing students

Variable	Pre test			Post test		
	R	Mean	SD	R	Mean	SD
Level of knowledge	12-24	17.7	2.7	18-27	23	2.1
Level of practice	3-10	5.6	1.4	8-12	9.7	1.0

Table 5: Effectiveness on knowledge and practice before and after administration of training program and statistical significance

Variable	Max score	Enhancement			Paired t test	P-value
		Mean	SD	Mean%		
Knowledge	30	5.3	0.6	16.8%	**12.4**	.000
Practice	12	4.1	0.4	34.6%	**18.5**	.000

Table 6: Correlation between posttest knowledge and practice regarding BLS

	Variable	Mean	SD	Correlation
Post Test	Knowledge	23	2.1	0.9378
	Practice	9.7	1.0	

Table 7: Association between pretest knowledge score with their selected demographic variable. (Chi-Square Test) n=60

Variables		Knowledge			F	$\chi 2$	DF	P value
		Good	Aver	Poor				
Age in years	20-21 years	1	36	5	42	0.6905	2	0.7081 P>0.05 NS
	22-23 years	1	14	3	18			
Gender	Male	0	8	2	10	0.8160	2	0.6650 P>0.05 NS
	Female	2	42	6	50			
	Transgender	0	0	0	0			
Religion	Hindu	2	40	7	49	1.0201	4	0.906 P>0.05 NS
	Christian	0	7	1	8			
	Muslim	0	3	0	3			

	Others	0	0	0	0			
Attend BLS training within 6 month	Yes	2	19	2	23	3.8214	2	0.1480 P>0.05 NS
	No	0	31	6	37			
Performed CPR on mannequin	Yes	2	33	5	40	1.0725	2	0.5849 P>0.05 NS
	No	0	17	3	20			
Source of information	From Teacher	2	42	7	51	1.6397	6	0.9497 P>0.05 NS
	Internet	0	3	0	3			
	Journal or books	0	2	0	2			
	Others	0	3	1	4			

Table: 8 Association between pretest practice score with their selected demographic variable. (Chi-Square Test) n=60

Variables		**Practice**			**F**	**χ2**	**DF**	**P value**
		Good	**Ave**	**Poor**				
Age in years	20-21 years	2	20	20	42	1.5145	2	0.4690 P>0.05 NS
	22-23 years	0	7	11	18			
Gender	Male	0	4	6	10	0.6280	2	0.7305 P>0.05 NS
	Female	2	23	25	25			
	Transgender	0	0	0	0			
Religion	Hindu	2	21	26	49	1.0743	4	0.8983 P>0.05 NS
	Christian	0	4	4	8			
	Muslim	0	2	1	3			
	Others	0	0	0	0			
Attend BLS training within 6 months	Yes	2	11	10	23	3.7676	2	0.1520 P>0.05 NS
	No	0	16	21	37			
Performed CPR on mannequin	Yes	2	19	19	40	1.5699	2	0.4561 P>0.05 NS
	No	0	8	12	20			
Source of information	From Teacher	2	21	28	51	2.4928	6	0.869 P>0.05 NS
	Internet	0	2	1	3			
	Journal or books	0	1	1	2			
	Others	0	3	1	4			

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Toxic Effects of Cyclaniliprole exposure on the Histological change of a Commercially Freshwater Fish, *Labeo rohita* (H)

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ABSTRACT

Fishes were exposed for 96 hours with three treatments of pesticide Cyclaniliprole, namely treatment S1:0.250 µg/ml, S2:0.500 µg/ml, and S3:0.650 µg/ml, along with a control (C)—0.0 mg/L, with three replicates. These concentrations were determined based on the LC50 value for 96 hours measured for this experiment. This study revealed remarkable morphological abnormalities and deformities in Cyclaniliprole pesticide- exposed rohu carp. In fish exposed to S3:0.650 µg/ml and increased surface breathing, loss of coordination, rapid opercular movement, erratic swimming, air gulping, jerking movement, and tremors were noted in fish. Histopathological observations of the gills of various fish revealed severe microscopic variations. According to the current study's findings, the morality and behavior of the commercially significant fish *Labeo rohita* are significantly altered by Cyclaniliprole contamination.

Keywords: Agriculture**,** pesticides, *Labeo rohita*, Histopathology, Public health.

INTRODUCTION

Fishes are very sensitive to pesticide-contaminated water, and impairment of certain physiological and biochemical processes may occur when pesticides enter the different organs of fish (Tulasi *et al.,* 1992).Nowadays, detrimental ecological consequences posed by indiscriminate use of pesticides in agriculture are of great concern in general (Brajesh Kumar Sinha *et al.,* 2022).Moreover, the increasing trend of the Indian population requires self-sufficiency in food production by improved tools and techniques and effective chemicals (Brajesh Kumar Sinha *et al.,*2022). Pesticides are one of those agrochemicals that are widely used in agriculture to control different types of pests, e.g., insects, unwanted weeds, parasitic nematodes, and fungus (Tudi *et al*., 2021).The release and persistence of these chemicals in water bodies pose a significant concern, impacting the physiology and behavior of aquatic organisms (Gu *et al*., 2023; Ogueji *et al*., 2020). Fish, particularly rohu *Labeo rohita,* are valuable bio-indicators for assessing the impact of toxicants, providing crucial insights into safety estimation and environmental quality monitoring (Hong *et al*., 2018). Significant changes in the internal environment, e.g., biochemical characteristics, tissue integrity, immune status, and blood parameters of fish, serve as good biomarkers of stress, toxicant/pesticide exposure, disease onset, or any harmful change in water quality. Well-established biomarkers studied in various fish species include histopathological tissue (Joseph and Raj, 2011). Change in the quality of the aquatic environment can be easily assessed by studying the changes in these parameters of fish. In the present study, an attempt has been made to compile previously reported scientific information on the changes in Histological gill tissues of various fish species under the influence of different Cyclaniliprole pesticides. The review would also serve as a starting point for future research to unravel the unexplored and least understood facts of fish Histology under normal or stressed conditions, as well as under exposure to newly emerging Cyclaniliprole pesticides and other environmental contaminants.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental Site

Freshwater fish *Labeo rohita* weighing 8.15 ± 0.04g were collected from the karnan Fish Farm, Kallidaikuruchi, Tirunelveli. The fishes were thereafter brought to the lab in polythene bags with low-temperature, oxygenated water with the least disturbance. Then they were acclimatized to the ambient laboratory room temperature range (28 ± 1.0°C) in (FRP) 50 liters of water and provided with aeration facilities. Fine meshed nets were used to cover the aquarium to avoid jumping of fish.

Maintenance of Fish

The fish were transferred to the laboratory and released in the rectangular glass aquaria for acclimatization (7 days). During the study period, the fish were fed with a commercial pellet feed twice daily to satiety to avoid the effects of starvation. Tap water was used throughout the course of the experimental period and was aerated continuously through an aerator. The experimental water was renewed every 24 hours to remove fecal matter and to maintain a better environment for the experimental fish.

Experimental Design

After the acclimatization, the experimental fish were picked, distributed randomly, and kept in four equal groups: control and (S1-S3) in a glass aquarium (with 50L water capacity). Fish of the group as control, and fish in groups S1, S2, and S3 were exposed to Pesticides @ 0.250, 0.500, and 0.650µg/L for 96 hours. There were three replicates in each group.

Study of Water Quality Parameters

Water quality parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), and pH were monitored by a Centigrade thermometer, a HACH Kit, and a pH meter, respectively.

Tissue Sampling and Processing

For histopathological examination, tissue samples were obtained from gills, liver, kidney, and muscles and fixed in 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin (NBF). After dehydration and infiltration, samples were embedded in paraffin and sectioned at 5µm using a rotary microtome (Leica, Germany). Sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) according to the method of Carleton *et al.,* (1967) and then examined.

RESULTS

Control fish, S1: Fish group exposed to 0.250 µg/ml, S2:0.500µg/ml, and S3: Fish group exposed to 0.650 µg/ml of Cyclaniliprole pesticides. Values are the mean of triplicate determination. Values in the same row with the same superscripts are not significantly different ($P<0.05$)

Water Quality Parameters

The recorded mean values of water quality parameters (viz., temperature, DO, and pH) during the study period are given in Table 1. Considerable physicochemical parameter modifications were not noticed during adaptation, LC50 determination, and the final exposure treatment period. The water quality parameters were more or less similar among the treatments in both experiments. Changes in fish behavior. During the study period, no death occurred in the experimental fish when exposed to the tested doses of Cyclaniliprole. When the fish were exposed to Cyclaniliprole showed some abnormal behaviors, primarily decreased their food intake, and the fish exhibited uneasiness, irregular swimming and then showed lethargic movement. Similarly, when the fish were exposed to Cyclaniliprole, primarily their food intake decreased, and the fish exhibited restlessness and asymmetrical swimming activities and loss of equilibrium, motionlessness then showed lethargic movement. All fish showed downward movement and lost their appetite.

Changes in Behavior of the Fish

In the present study, the Survival rate (%) of the percentage, physical, and behavioral alterations were observed in the fish of the control group. All the fish kept in this group remained active, healthy, and did not show any abnormal signs, while the fish treated with different levels of heavy metals in different groups exhibited various physical changes. Due to pesticide treatments variety of behavioral and clinical disorders, like trembling of fins (Table 2), Loss of scale, increased opercular movement, Surface breathing, irregular swimming, swallowing of air, increased mucous secretion, loss of coordination, and increased surface breathing. Results on light microscopic surveillance of histological divisions from gill tissues of various fish of the control group showed normal structures, while various microscopic variations were observed in the gills of various fish due to pesticide treatments.

Tissue Sampling and Processing

For histopathological examination, tissue samples were obtained from gills, liver, kidney, and muscles and fixed in 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin (NBF). After dehydration and infiltration, samples were embedded in paraffin and sectioned at 5µm using a rotary microtome. (Leica, Germany). Sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) according to the method of Carleton *et al.,* (1967) and then examined.

Histological Changes in Gill Tissues Due to Cyclaniliprole Exposure

In histopathology, the analysis of control fish involves examining tissue samples to assess their normal cellular structures and functions. This helps establish a baseline against which the effects of experimental treatment can be compared.

Histopathology

Different types of histopathological changes were observed in the gills of Cyclaniliprole pesticide-treatedrohu carp. control group (no pesticide) and three concentrations of CyclaniliproleS1:0.250µg/ml, S2:0.500µg/ml and S3:0.650µg/ml were managed to live, healthy rohu. Necrosis and severe damage were found in the secondary lamellae in stressed fish A:(Figure S1). Irregular shape and damage also occurred in the gill rakers of some fish

B:(Figure S2). Vasodilation was also detected in the primary gill lamellae in treated fish B:(Figure S2). Moreover, edema and epithelial cell proliferation were found in the gill filaments of C:(Figure S3) fish. In addition, blood congestion was noticed in primary gill lamellae, and proliferation of the vascular space also appeared toward the end of the primary gill lamellae in treated fish A: (control), whereas in control fish, no significant histopathological variations were observed.

DISCUSSION

Water Quality Parameters

During the present study, the observed water quality parameters of the test water did not show any significant variation among the treatments in both experiments. Range of the water parameters was: temperature 28.06 to 28.18^{o}C and 28.44 to 28.48^{o}C; dissolved oxygen 6.53 to 6.60 mg/L and 6.66 to 6.76 mg/L; and pH 7.76 to 7.92 and 8.07 to 8.18 in Cyclaniliprole pesticide- treated aquaria, respectively. The values of recorded water quality parameters were within the productive ranges for fish growth according to the findings of Jhingran, 1991.

Changes in Behavior of the Fish Due to Cyclaniliprole Pesticide Exposure:

In the present study, the fish showed some abnormal behaviors when they were exposed to Cyclaniliprole. The abnormal behaviors were a decrease in food intake, restlessness, loss of equilibrium, motionlessness, asymmetrical swimming activities, and lethargic movement. Similar behavioral changes have been reported due to cypermethrin exposure in Poecilia reticulate (Li *et al*., 2005), in *Cyprinus carpio* (Svoboda *et al., 2001).* Similar behaviors have also been reported in *L. rohita* due to cypermethrin and diazinon exposure (Khatun et al., 2014) and due to difenoconazole and thiamethoxam exposure (Jasmin *et al*. 2017). Absorption of pesticides in gills with respect to their lipophilic nature can cause respiratory limitations (Masud and Singh, 2013) that consequently might result in abnormal behavior of the fish (Singh *et al*., 2004).In the study, no significant condition factor variation was measured among the treatments and the control. A previous work also explained that the condition factor is not only affected by pollutants but also some other factors are also responsible, such as food availability, temperature, etc (Javed and Usmani, .2017). Therefore, heavy metal toxicity may affect the growth, mortality, physiological functions, and reproduction of fish (Woodward *et al*.1994). Similarly, in this experiment, fish mortality was greatly affected by Cyclaniliprole exposure because mortality was increased with the increasing Cyclaniliprole concentration, and we found the highest mortality in S3 (100%), followed by S2 (80%). Tissue histopathology is an important tool for determining the effects of environmental pollutants.

Histopathology

In this study, different histopathological changes were observed in the gill tissue of Cyclaniliprole pesticides - exposed rohu carp. Necrosis, epithelial lifting, fusion, hyperplasia and blood congestion were observed in the primary and secondary gill lamellae of S1:0.250µg/ml, S2:0.500µg/ml and S3:0.650µg/ml of pesticides-treated fish. respectively, noticed in the gill raker and gill filament. Almost similar histopathological changes were documented by some other researchers, where they investigated the effects of different pesticides on the histopathology of the gills of tilapia, *Catla catla, Cirrhinus mrigala, Ctenopharyngodon idella*, etc. (Ahmed *et al.,2013;* Bose *et al .,* 2013; Chavan and Muley2014; Padhy*et al* .2018; Woodward *et al*.1994; Shah et al.2020). The gill is an important and major organ in fish for respiration, excretion, and osmo-regulation (Kumari *et al*.2016; Javid *et al*.2007). This organ also plays a vital role in the detoxification of pollutants or toxicants Javed and Usmani ,2017). As a result, it is most susceptible to damage by pollutants. Among different signs, gill edema is the primary structural change caused by the heavy metal pollutants (Mallatt, 1985). Pesticides have been proven to have comparable effects on fish gills in several studies (Cengiz and Unlu, 2006) as they execute a variety of tasks, including breathing and digestion, osmoregulation, and excretion. Metal-contaminated Oreochromis niloticus and Lates niloticus from Lake Nasser, Egypt, showed shortening or fusion of gill lamellae, lamella destruction, increased vacuolation, and irregular gill lamellae (Younis *et al*., 2013). Therefore, other histopathological changes, such as hyperplasia and lifting of epithelia, occurred due to the response of the defense system in the bodies of fish.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the present study indicates that different concentrations of Cyclaniliprole induced adverse effects on the health of freshwater fish, *Labeo rohita*. Results demonstrate that pesticides. histological changes in exposed fish. Therefore, Cyclanilipore pesticides are harmful to Aquatic Organisms and can alter their physiological and structural characteristics. The results of our experimental study indicate that investigation and monitoring of toxic effects of various environments are of vital importance to develop control strategies regarding pollutants and to mitigate harmful effects in exposed organisms, including public health.

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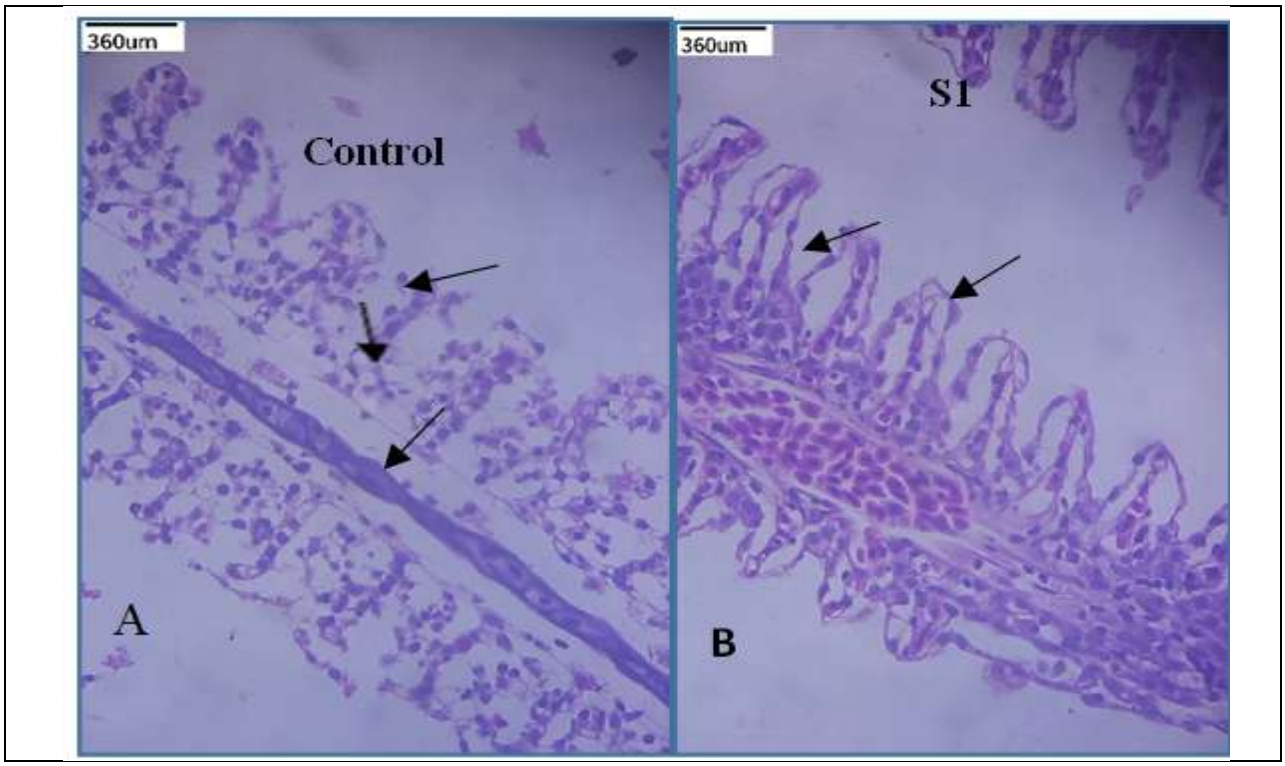
Table 1: Water Quality Parameters during the Cyclaniliprole Exposure

Parameters	Experiment			
	Control	S1	S2	S3
Temperature(^{o}C)	28.48±0.07	28.06±1.002	28.44±0.14	28.18±0.19
DO(mg/L)	6.76±0.08	6.53±0.22	6.66±0.20	6.60±0.22
pH	7.76±0.08	7.92±0.14	8.07±0.08	8.18±0.06

Note: Each value is the Mean ± SD

Table 2: Changes in Behavior and Survival Rate of Cyclaniliprole Exposed and Controlled Fish

Behavioral Changes	Experiment			
	Control	S1	S2	S3
Rapid swimming	-	++	+	+
Loss of scale	-	+	++	+
Surface breathing	-	+	+	+
Operculum movement	-	+	+	+
Discoloration	-	+	+	-
Darkening	-	++	++	-
Survival rate: % of survival	100%	75%	80%	100%



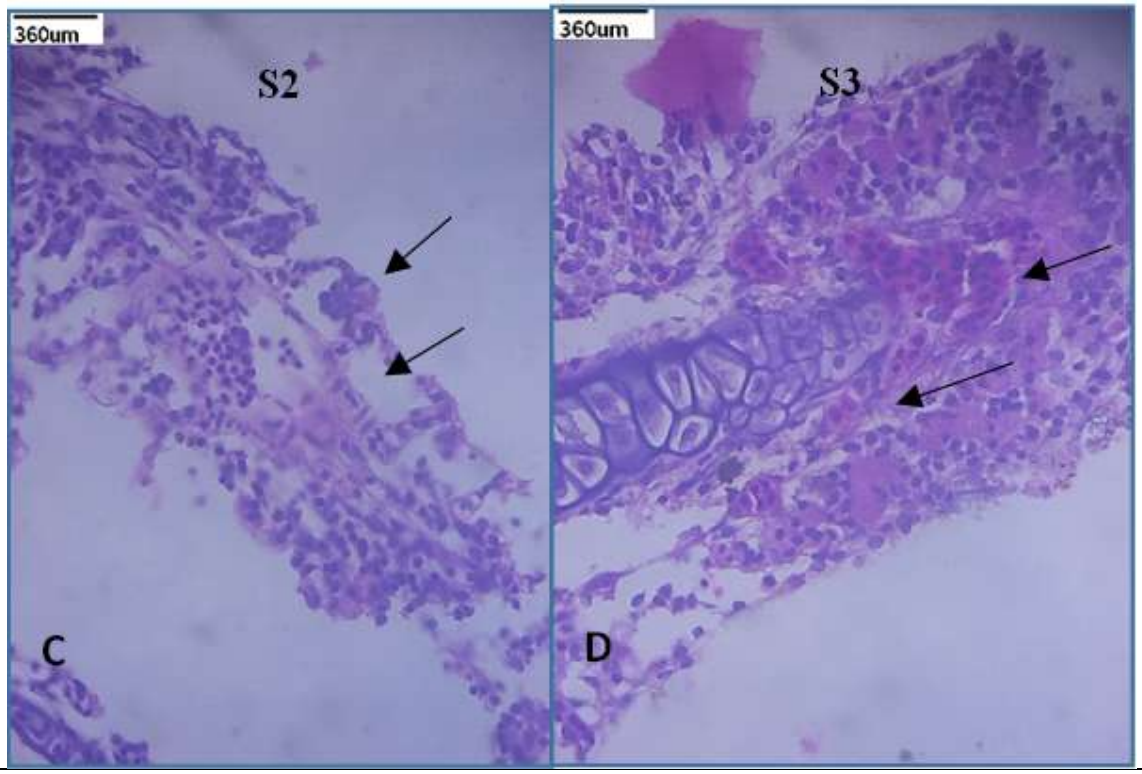


Figure 1.40x Microscopic view of fish (*Labeo rohita*) gill exposed to different Cyclaniliprole (A) Control 40x: Showing Normal primary gill lamellae (PGL), gillarch (GA), Secondary gill lamellae(SGL). The different sections of gills show different histopathological abnormalities in different concentrations of Cyclaniliprole pesticides. The arrowhead (→) sign indicates the in-gill structure (Experiment).B: Necrosis and damage of secondary gill lamellae (S1).C:Irregular shape and damage of gill rakers (S2). D: Necrosis of primary gill lamellae and fusion and hyperplasia of secondary gill lamellae and Vasodilation in primary gill lamellae (S3).D:Lamellar blood congestion and proliferation of vascular space toward the end of primary gill lamellae (S3).

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Anti-Oxidant and Biochemical Analysis of Spirulina Fermented by Probiotic *Saccharomyces boulardii* and its Application in Muffin Preparation

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ABSTRACT

Increasing consumer demand for functional fermented product has led to continuous research on new natural ingredients to be used in food formulations. The aim of this study was to scrutinize the anti-oxidant activity and the biochemical analysis of Spirulina fermented by the probiotic strain *Saccharomyces boulardii* and its application in muffins preparation. *S. boulardii* was obtained as a pure culture and the working broth culture was prepared. The survival of *S.boulardii* with Spirulina was tested by serial dilution and plating method. Estimation of proteins, carbohydrates, reducing sugars, phenols and anti-oxidants was carried out before and during fermentation for upto 5 days of incubation at 37°C. Estimation of proteins by Biuret method revealed the concentration of proteins present in both the samples. Carbohydrates estimation was done by Phenol sulphuric acid method which showed the concentration of carbohydrates in the samples. The concentration of reducing sugars were analysed by Dinitrosalicylic acid method. Phenolic contents of the samples before and during fermentation were observed by Folin- Ciocalteu method and the antioxidant activity was evaluated by Ferric reducing antioxidant power assay. All the biomolecular estimation carried out in this study showed a significant increase in the sample during fermentation than in the sample before fermentation. These results paved the way for developing a new fortified functional food product as muffins.

Key words Spirulina, *Saccharomyces boulardii*, Fortified functional food, Probiotic.

INTRODUCTION

Probiotics are the live microorganisms which provides various health benefits to the host when consumed in adequate amounts. Probiotic organisms do not cause any pathogenicity or toxicity factors. *Arthrospira platensis* is also known as *Spirulina* has several biological activities with high nutritional value. *Spirulina* helps in the treatment and prevention of a variety of disorders like hypercholesterolaemia, diabetes (Layam and Reddy 2006), various types of cancer (Konickova *et al*., 2014), atherosclerosis (Cheong *et al*., 2010), diabetes, malnutrition, as an antiviral agent, immune-stimulator, anti-inflammatory and anticancer supplementation. It improves the digestive capacity and the growth of *Lactobacilli* in the gut (Christaki *et al*., 2011). *Spirulina* is declared to be a Humanitarian Instrument in fighting severe malnutrition by the WHO and it is indicated as a non-toxic supplement. *Saccharomyces boulardii* is eukaryotic and single-celled in nature with the diameter of 2-3µm and length between 2.5-10.5µm. It is a probiotic yeast living in human gastrointestinal tract that is used in the variety of diarrhoeal treatment (Pandiyan and Kumaresan 2003). The fermentation of *Spirulina* by *S. boulardii* caused an increase in the concentration of biomolecules such as proteins, carbohydrates, reducing sugars, phenols and antioxidants. The fermented *Spirulina* by *S. boulardii* is applied in muffins which is an innovative approach to attract all ages of people especially children. The aim of the present study was to analyse anti-oxidant and biochemical analysis of *Spirulina* fermented by probiotic *S. boulardii* and its application in muffin preparation.

METHODOLOGY

Sample collection

Spirulina was commercially purchased from Hindustan herbs (Amazon) and *S. boulardii* was purchased from local medical shop manufactured by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. Before the experiments, the *S. boulardii* were activated by growing in YEPD stock broth. *S. boulardii* growth optimization was carried out as per the method adopted by Paula *et al*., 2019.

Preparation of YEPD stock culture

25 ml of Yeast Extract Peptone Dextrose broth was prepared in a clean sterile conical flask. pH should be maintained at 6.5±0.2. The YEPD broth was autoclaved and sterilized at 121°C for 15 minutes. The broth was cooled, 250 mg of *S. boulardii* was inoculated into the broth and incubated for 24 hours at room temperature. *S. boulardii* was obtained as a pure culture for confirming the absence of contaminants by streaking on YEPD agar medium (HiMedia Laboratories) followed by incubation at room temperature for 24 hours. After incubation overnight at room temperature, the working inoculum was obtained in YEPD at the same temperature (Paula *et al*., 2019)

Preparation of YEPD working broth culture

25 ml of Yeast Extract Peptone Dextrose broth was prepared in a sterile conical flask, autoclaved and sterilized at 121°C for 15 minutes. The broth was cooled and 250 µl of *S. boulardii* from the stock culture was inoculated. The conical flask containing this culture was placed in rotary shaker for 24 hours. OD value was measured using UV spectrophotometer to determine the turbidity of the organism.

Isolation and identification of yeast

After incubation, lactophenol cotton blue staining was performed from the culture for determining the staining properties and microscopic identification of the organism.

Survival of *S. boulardii* and *Spirulina* for fermentation

0.4 gm of *Spirulina* was added in two sterile conical flasks each containing 25 ml of distilled water. One flask was considered as sample and the other as control. 125 µl of *S. boulardii* from the YEPD working broth culture was

inoculated into sample conical flask. The control flask was left un-inoculated. These flasks were placed in rotary shaker for 24 hours (Scieszka *et al* 2021)

Isolation and identification of yeast with microalgae

The survival of *S. boulardii* with *Spirulina* on YEPD was tested by the serial dilution and plating method. Serial dilution was carried out from control and sample after 24 hours to quantify the growth of the organism. 9 ml of distilled water was dispensed in 10^{-1} to 10^{-9} test tubes.1ml of sample was serially diluted from sample and control and mixed thoroughly. 0.1 ml of 10^{-5} dilution from sample and control tube was evenly spread with L-rod in clockwise and anti-clockwise direction in the YEPD agar plates marked as 24 hours and control. After incubation, lactophenol cotton blue staining was performed for determining the staining properties and microscopic identification of the organism.

Physico chemical analysis before and during fermentation

Two sterile conical flasks were taken. One conical flask was marked as before fermentation containing 25 ml of distilled water and 0.4 grams of *Spirulina*. Another conical flask was marked as after fermentation containing 75 ml of distilled water with 1.5ml of *S. boulardii* and 1.2 grams of *Spirulina*. Both the conical flasks were kept in rotary shaker for 24 hours. After 24 hours, five different types of physico chemical analysis were done Estimation of proteins by Biuret method, Estimation of carbohydrates by Phenol Sulphuric acid method, Estimation of reducing sugars by Dinitrosalicylic acid method, Estimation of phenols by Folin Ciocalteu method, Estimation of antioxidants by Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power assay method.

The amount of antioxidants estimated before and during fermentation

Antioxidant estimation was carried out in the sample before and during fermentation. 200µl of *Spirulina* and yeast extract and 400µl of same solvent was taken in 12 dilution. 1.25ml of phosphate buffer (0.2M) and 1.25ml of Potassium ferricyanide (1%) was added to the extract and mixed well. Incubated the mixture in hot air oven at 50°C for 30 minutes. After incubation, the reaction mixture was cooled. After cooling, 1.25ml of 10% Trichloroacetic acid was added and mixed well. The reaction mixture was transferred to centrifuge tube and centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. After centrifugation, 1.25 ml of upper layer of solution from the centrifuge tube was transferred to a test tube. 1.25 ml of distilled water was added to the test tube and mixed well. 0.5ml of 1% freshly prepared ferric chloride solution was added to the test tube, mixed well and looked for the color change. Measured the absorbance using visible spectrophotometer at 700nm. Ascorbic acid was used as a standard.

Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry analysis

GC-MS analysis for the aqueous extract (*Spirulina* and *S. boulardii*) was done to identify the organic compounds. The major compounds were identified by the retention time and mass fragmentation patterns. The National Institute of Standards and Technology library was used for the comparative detection of compounds.

High Performance Liquid Chromatography

Vitamins was analysed using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). 5µl of the extract was injected into the HPLC column. Vitamin composition was detected at 280nm.

Application of fermented microalgae with yeast in muffins

Ingredients for muffin preparation

210 grams of refined wheat flour (maida), 120 grams of granulated sugar, 4.5 grams of baking soda, 6.75 grams of baking powder, 1 gram of salt, 2 large eggs, 100 ml of oil, 120 ml of ilk, 6 ml of vanilla extract, fermented broth (Spirulina and *S. boulardii*)

Procedure

Dry ingredients such as wheat flour, granulated sugar, baking soda, baking powder and salt were sieved separately one by one with the help of sieve plate. These ingredients after sieving was collected in a sterile steel bowl. This flour

was transferred to a clean glass bowl. Egg yolk and egg white were poured in the glass bowl containing the flour and blended well with the help of electric beater. Wet ingredients such as milk, oil, vanilla extract and 5 ml of fermented broth (*Spirulina* with *Saccharomyces boulardii*) were added and mixed again. This batter was poured in a muffin baking paper cups and placed in muffin baking tray. It was then placed inside a microwave oven and allowed to bake for 28 minutes at 180°C.

RESULTS

Proteins were estimated by Biuret method. The results were tabulated as shown in the Table 1. Values mentioned implies the amount of proteins present before and during fermentation (24 hours, 48 hours, 72 hours, 96 hours and 120 hours). Carbohydrates estimation by Phenol sulphuric acid method showed colour intensity as shown in the which indicates the presence of carbohydrates present in the sample before and during fermentation. Carbohydrates were estimated by Phenol sulphuric acid method. The results were tabulated as shown in the Table 2. Reducing sugars estimation by Dinitrosalicylic acid method showed colour intensity which indicates the presence of reducing sugars present in the sample before and during fermentation, The results were tabulated as shown in the Table 3. Phenols were estimated by Folin Ciocalteu method. The results were tabulated as shown in the Table 4. Values mentioned above implies the amount of phenols present before and during fermentation (24 hours, 48 hours, 72 hours, 96 hours and 120 hours). Antioxidants estimation by Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power assay showed colour intensity which indicates the presence of antioxidants present in the sample before and during fermentation. The results were tabulated as shown in the Table 5. Values mentioned above implies the amount of antioxidants present before and during fermentation (24 hours, 48 hours, 72 hours, 96 hours and 120 hours).

GCMS Analysis Graph 1

HPLC Analysis

Ascorbic acid was used as a standard for vitamin analysis. A single peak was detected in before fermentation sample and three peaks were detected in after fermentation sample. The presence of Vitamin C compound was confirmed in before and after fermentation sample.

DISCUSSION

Increasing consumer demand for functional fermented product has led to continuous research on new natural ingredients to be used in food formulations. Unique metabolism and cytoplasmic composition of *Spirulina* make it a great nutraceutical non-animal food candidate for the demanding food industry. *Spirulina* provides healthier, cheaper and more convenient novel foods. *Spirulina* offers all essential aminoacids and the protein quantity is higher when compared to other green source. Hence the present study used powdered *Spirulina* as an additive to muffins. The study investigated the use of *Spirulina* as a substrate to accelerate the growth of *S.boulardii*. It needs to be alive in the product at the time of consumption to have a beneficial effect on the host. Therefore, the survival of *S. boulardii* with *Spirulina* in the fermentation broth was also investigated. *Spirulina* was found to be a suitable substrate for *S. boulardii*, thus can be used to prepare a functional food. To the best of our knowledge, there are no earlier studies to have examined the properties of *Spirulina* to be a suitable substrate for *S. boulardii*. However, similar results were reported by Niccolai *et al.*, 2020, where *Arthrospira platensis* (*Spirulina*), in combination with the soybean drink was demonstrated to a suitable substrate for *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* ATCC 8014 growth. Although the impacts of *A. platensis* on the growth performances of some LAB strains in fermented milk products have been already investigated by Barkallah *et al*., 2017, the growth performances of *S. boulardii* in fermented *Spirulina* and *Spirulina* based products has not been addressed before. Results of sensorial evaluation revealed that all organoleptic parameters like color, flavour, mouthfeel and overall acceptability of the muffin was significant on addition of *Spirulina*. Proteins estimation by Biuret method revealed an increase in the concentration of protein content in the *S. boulardii* fermented broth enriched with *Spirulina*. Estimation of the carbohydrates content of the broth and the fortified broth was determined by Phenol sulphuric acid method. The obtained results showed the significant increase in the carbohydrate content in

the fermented broth fortified with *Spirulina*. Estimation of the reducing sugars content of the broth and the fortified broth was determined by Dinitrosalicyclic acid method. The obtained results showed the significant increase in the reducing sugar content in the fermented broth fortified with *Spirulina.* The phenolic content of the broths were determined by Folin Ciocalteu method and the results obtained showed the remarkable increase in the phenolic content in the fermented broth supplemented with *Spirulina*. The antioxidant activity of the fermented broth was analysed by Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power assay. The fermented broth incorporated with *Spirulina* had a significant increase in the antioxidant capacity compared to the *Spirulina* un-inoculated broth. Results obtained showed that fermentation increased the nutraceutical value of *Spirulina* incorporated broth significantly. Organic compounds from the fermented *Spirulina* broth was determined by Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrophotometer. A total of fourteen different compounds were extracted from the fermented broth. High Performance Liquid Chromatography analysis was performed in the broth and the fortified broth which showed the presence of Vitamin-C compound. To the best of our knowledge, there are few earlier studies carried out on soya drink with *Chlorella vulgaris* and the probiotic strain *Levilactobacillus brevis* LOCK 0944, *Spirulina* enriched pasta as functional food rich in protein and antioxidant but there are no studies on fermentation of *Spirulina* and *S. boulardii*. Hence this is the first study carried out on biochemical analysis and antioxidant estimation of *Spirulina* fermented by *S. boulardii*. Since the fermented broth supplemented with *Spirulina* is rich in protein and the yeast *S. boulardii*. which is used in this study consists of probiotic property, the muffins would be the most suitable fortified functional food with abundant nutritional and health benefits which would be desired by everyone. The innovative product opens new horizons for food industry.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study revealed that the addition of *Spirulina* accelerated the growth of *S. boulardii* after five days of fermentation. Fermentation by S. boulardii caused an increase in the concentration of proteins, carbohydrates, reducing sugars, phenol and antioxidant significantly than in the unfermented broth. From the high concentration of biomolecules in the fermented broth with yeast during 5 days of incubation at 37°C, it is concluded that this microalgae is a promising substrate for the production of fermented product. The combination of *S. boulardii* and *Arthrospira platensis* fortified muffins is an innovative approach in producing a probiotic food product, which is more likely attracted by all ages of people especially children.

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Table: 1 Estimation of proteins by Biuret method:

		500 µl			1000 µl		
		Triplets	**OD value at 540 nm**	**Concentration (µg/ml)**	**Triplets**	**OD value at 540 nm**	**Concentration (µg/ml)**
BEFORE FERMENTATION		0.102 0.115 0.128	0.115 ± 0.013	2.904	0.154 0.169 0.176	0.166 ± 0.011	4.191
AFTER FERMENTATION	24 hours	0.139 0.145 0.147	0.143 ± 0.004	3.611	0.211 0.223 0.234	0.222 ± 0.011	5.606
	48 hours	0.230 0.243 0.252	0.241 ± 0.011	6.085	0.312 0.331 0.356	0.333 ± 0.022	8.409
	72 hours	0.253 0.269 0.274	0.265 ± 0.010	6.691	0.402 0.416 0.423	0.413 ± 0.010	10.429
	96 hours	0.317 0.326 0.342	0.328 ± 0.012	8.282	0.456 0.468 0.477	0.467 ± 0.010	11.792
	120 hours	0.172 0.184 0.193	0.183 ± 0.010	4.621	0.264 0.283 0.291	0.279 ± 0.013	7.045

Table: 2 Estimation of carbohydrates by Phenol sulphuric acid method:

		500 µl			1000 µl		
		Triplets	OD value at 490nm	Concentration (µg/ml)	Triplets	OD value at 490 nm	Concentration (µg/ml)
BEFORE FERMEN-TATION		0.443 0.442 0.457	0.447 ± 0.008	0.273	0.577 0.581 0.592	0.583 ± 0.007	0.357
AFTER FERMENTATION	24 hours	0.511 0.523 0.536	0.523 ± 0.012	0.320	0.716 0.728 0.734	0.726 ± 0.009	0.444
	48 hours	0.634 0.645 0.659	0.646 ± 0.012	0.395	0.942 0.955 0.959	0.952 ± 0.008	0.583
	72 hours	0.969 0.973 0.980	0.974 ± 0.005	0.596	1.196 1.205 1.208	1.206 ± 0.011	0.738
	96 hours	1.017 1.023 1.035	1.025 ± 0.009	0.628	1.372 1.388 1.394	1.384 ± 0.011	0.848
	120 hours	0.781 0.796 0.803	0.794 ± 0.011	0.486	0.933 0.948 0.956	0.945 ± 0.011	0.579

Table: 3 Estimation of reducing sugars by Dinitrosalicylic acid method:

		500 µl			1000 µl		
		Triplets	OD value at 510nm	Concentration (µg/ml)	Triplets	OD value at 510nm	Concentration (µg/ml)
BEFORE FERMEN-TATION		1.332 1.347 1.335	1.334 ± 0.012	0.817	1.445 1.466 1.471	1.460 ± 0.013	0.894
AFTER FERMENTATION	24 hours	1.341 1.353 1.362	1.352 ± 0.010	0.828	1.574 1.583 1.596	1.584 ± 0.011	0.970

	48 hours	1.466 1.472 1.483	1.473 ± 0.008	0.902	1.633 1.648 1.657	1.646 ± 0.012	1.008
	72 hours	1.677 1.683 1.693	1.684 ± 0.008	1.031	1.882 1.890 1.896	1.869 ± 0.007	1.145
	96 hours	1.874 1.885 1.891	1.883 ± 0.008	1.153	2.011 2.014 2.023	2.016 ± 0.006	1.235
	120 hours	1.552 1.560 1.574	1.562 ± 0.011	0.957	1.613 1.622 1.628	1.621 ± 0.007	0.993

Table: 4 Estimation of phenols by Folin Ciocalteu method:

		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	OD value at 765nm	Concentration (µg/ml)
BEFORE FERMEN-TATION		0.605	0.623	0.648	0.666	0.689	0.646±0.033	52.520
AFTER FERMENTATION	24 hours	0.627	0.641	0.660	0.682	0.719	0.665±0.036	54.065
	48 hours	0.676	0.692	0.720	0.748	0.766	0.720±0.037	58.536
	72 hours	0.712	0.736	0.751	0.782	0.810	0.758±0.038	61.626
	96 hours	0.895	0.904	1.062	1.086	1.105	1.010±0.102	82.113
	120 hours	0.697	0.713	0.732	0.753	0781	0.735±0.033	59.756

Table: 5 Estimation of antioxidants by Ferric reducing antioxidant power assay:

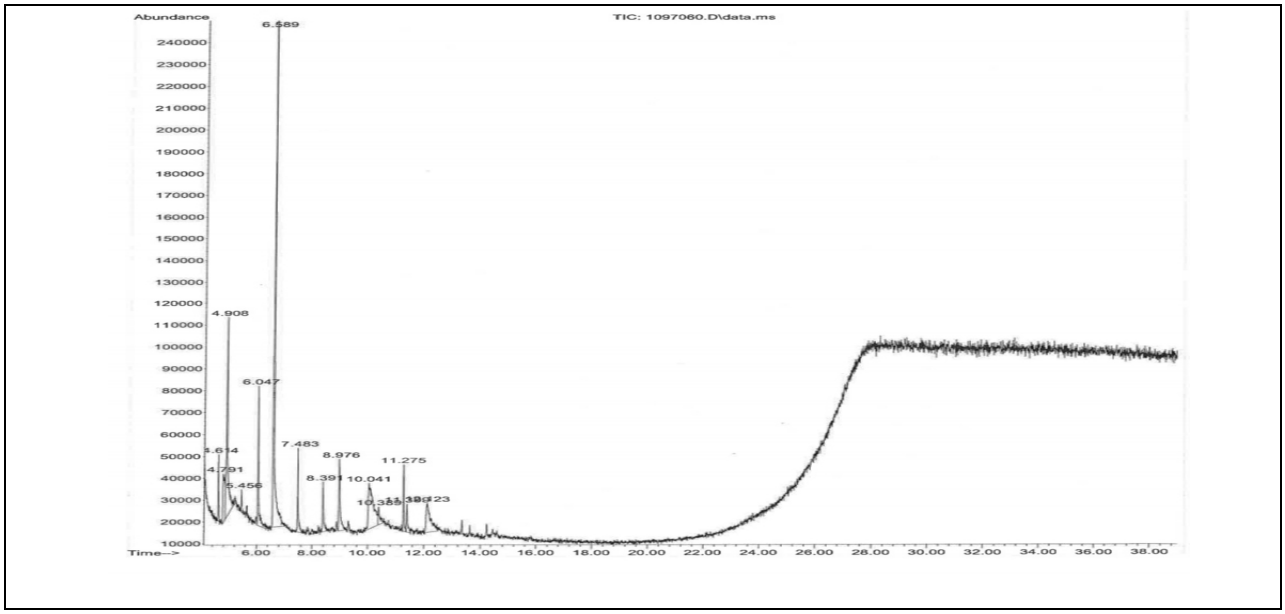
		Absorbance value measured at 700nm	Ascorbic acid equivalent anti-oxidant capacity(µg)
BEFORE FERMENTATION		2.042	1045
AFTER FERMENTATION	24 hours	2.066	1055
	48 hours	2.084	1065
	72 hours	2.100	1075
	96 hours	2.126	1085
	120 hours	2.096	1070

Table: 6 Result of Standard graph of Vitamin C ascorbic acid:

S.No.	Reten. Time (min)	Area (mV.s)	Height (mV)	Area (%)	Height (%)	WOS (min)	Compound name
1	1.890	10177.217	384.257	100.0	100.0	0.30	Vitamin-C
	Total	10177.217	384.257	100.0	100.0		

Table: 7 Result of after fermentation graph of HPLC analysis:

S.No.	Reten. Time (min)	Area (mV.s)	Height (mV)	Area (%)	Height (%)	WOS (min)	Compound name
1	1.913	2546.191	132.470	16.4	55.5	0.31	Vitamin-C
2	2.290	859.649	48.993	5.5	20.5	0.31	
3	3.150	12128.931	57.166	78.1	24.0	2.90	
	Total	15534.771	238.629	100.0	100.0		

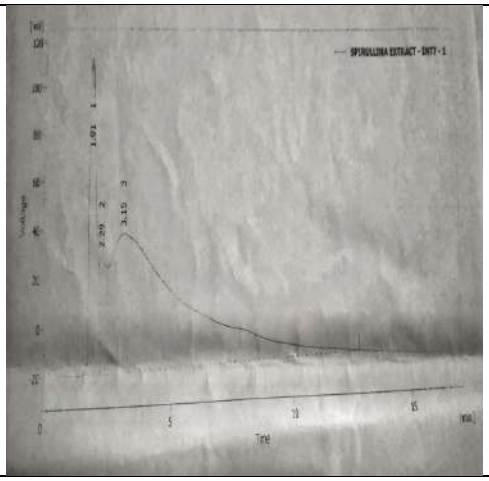


S.NO	ORGANIC COMPOUNDS	RETENTION TIME	PEAK AREA
1	Benzoic acid, 2-(methylamino)-, ethyl ester	4.616	2.41
2	Dimethyl sulfoxide	4.789	5.19
3	Benzyl alcohol, Bromomethyldimethylsilyl ether	4.907	14.94
4	3,4-Methylenedioxy-.beta.-nitrostyrene	5.455	0.87
5	1-Anthracenamine	6.049	6.90
6	Cyclotetrasiloxane, octamethyl-	6.590	31.24
7	Cyclotrisiloxane, hexamethyl-	7.482	4.25
8	3-Hydroxymandelic acid, ethylester, di-TMS	8.392	3.77
9	Cyclopentasiloxane, decamethyl-	8.975	4.94
10	1,3-Diphenyltetramethyldisiloxane	10.390	1.59
11	Cyclohexasiloxane, dodecamethyl-	11.400	1.77

Graph: 1 GCMS analysis



Graph: 2 Standard graph of Ascorbic acid



Graph: 3 HPLC analysis after fermentation







Fig: 1 (a), (b), (c) Preparation of muffins

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Estimation of Individual and Cumulative Antioxidant Activity of Seed Extracts of *Thymus vulgaris, Salvia hispanica, Nigella sativa* and *Anethum graveolens*

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ABSTRACT

Antioxidants prevent or lessen oxidative damage by scavenging free radicals from bodily cells. Usually, oxidation occurs as autoxidation, which decomposes organic molecules, particularly those present in living organisms. Whole foods derived from plants and animals contain antioxidants. The shelf life of processed and natural foods can be extended by antioxidants. As a result, they are widely added to cuisine. The purpose of the investigation was to identify the secondary metabolites, such as polyphenols, flavonoids, alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, tannins and saponins through preliminary phytochemical screening. Individual and cumulative antioxidant effect of four seeds - *Thymus vulgaris* (S1), *Salvia hispanica* (S2), *Nigella sativa* (S3), *Anethum graveolens* (S4) were estimated in three different solvents namely methanol, water and ethylacetate by DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl), FRAP (Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power) and ABTS (2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) assays. DPPH assay indicated that the combined antioxidant impact of all four seed extracts is significantly stronger, even at low concentrations and in all three solvents. IC50 values suggested that the methanolic extracts have a higher cumulative antioxidant activity (0.157 mg/ml) than ethyl acetate (0.260 mg/ml) and aqueous extracts (0.312 mg/ml). IC_{50} values of FRAP assay indicated that cumulative effect of seeds is significantly greater and equivalent to that of standard gallic acid in methanolic extracts; among the three chosen solvents cumulative effect is greater in methanol followed by water and ethyl acetate. Similar trends in the antioxidant potential of the selected seed extract were found in DPPH and ABTS assays. IC_{50} values

were found to be lesser in cumulative extracts than individual seed extracts in all three solvents indicating the higher antioxidant activity. The extraction of phytochemical components and power of reduction may be impacted by the solvents' polarity. The present research work indicates that the food sector can leverage the combined antioxidant activity of these seed extracts for improved human health.

Keywords: Antioxidants, reactive oxidant species, DPPH, FRAP, ABTS, IC_{50} values, cumulative effect.

INTRODUCTION

Obesity is a medical disorder usually caused by the interaction of genetic, nutritional, and environmental factors. An imbalance between free radicals and antioxidants is linked to excessive oxidative stress, which has emerged as one of the most significant health concerns facing contemporary society worldwide. The biological oxidation reaction results in the production of free radicals. Because the radicals are reactive, they start the chain reaction simultaneously and intensification of these free radicals often lead to severe pathological conditions including neurological disorders, hyper tension, diabetes, osteoarthritis, cancer, aging, and endocrine illness[1]. A cell may occasionally sustain damage or even die as a result of this circumstance. Hence antioxidant agents like ascorbic acid, thiols, poly phenols which are capable of terminating a chain reaction by eliminating free radical intermediates are of great importance. The undesired effects of synthetic antioxidants initiated the researchers to explore the antioxidants of natural origin. The use of medicinal plants as natural antioxidants in health care and dietary supplements has grown in importance to date. Antioxidants are frequently found in food supplements and have been studied for their ability to suppress a variety of ailments[2]. A variety of medicinal plants that are found naturally have been reported for its effective antioxidant activities of *in- vivo* and *in- vitro* studies[3]. Many research findings have shown that the medicinal plant extracts possess antioxidant potential[4]. In the present era, plant based natural antioxidants are preferred by the mankind. Presence of phytochemical comnstituents like flavonoids, polyphenolics, terpenes, saponins, tannins and cardiac glycosides is accountable for good antioxidant activity[5]. Squalene, a triterpene is an intermediate in the cholesterol biosynthesis pathway obtained from plant seed oils act as a good antioxidant and responsible for the protection against oxidative damage of mammary epithelial cells in humans[6]. Thyme seed belongs to the family of *Lamiaceae* and consist of approximately 38 species that are distributed in subtropical countries. Main components of *T. Vulgaris* is the phenols, thymol (40%) and carvacrol (15%)[7]. The primary phenolic component principally responsible for its antioxidative effect is thymol[8]. The herb thyme is frequently used to treat viral infections, bacteria, fungi [9, 10]. Thyme provides large number of vitamins including pyridoxine which maintains the level of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) which is regarded as a beneficial neurotransmitter in the brain[11]. A tropical and subtropical herbaceous plant, chia (Salvia hispanica L.) is a member of the mint family (Lamiaceae) [12]. The plant seeds shown a range of pharmacological properties, including antibacterial, antiproliferative, cytotoxic, anti-inflammatory, and hypoglycemic properties[13]. *Anethum graveolens* L. (Umbelliferae), commonly known as dill, is native to Mediterranean countries and southeastern Europe. Dill (Anethum graveolens) is a fragrant herb commonly used to add flavor to salads, sauces, soups, seafood, and pickles[14]. Dill is used as a diuretic and to treat gastrointestinal issues like flatulence, intestinal spasms, and other digestive issues in traditional herbal medicine[15]. Numerous research have examined the fragrance composition of dill, with the findings indicating that limonene, dill adipole, and calvone were the primary constituents[16]. Research revealed that the seeds and flowers of dill had antioxidant properties[17]. Black caraway, or Nigella sativa, is an annual flowering plant in the Ranunculaceae family that is native to Southern Europe, North Africa, and Southwest Asia. It is grown in many countries across the world, including Saudi Arabia, the Middle East Mediterranean region, South Europe, India, Pakistan, Syria, and Turkey[18]. Previous research has demonstrated the anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, immunomodulatory, and anti-cancer properties of N. sativa oil[19, 20]. The current study's objective is to screen the phytochemical components, evaluate the individual and cumulative antioxidant effect of four seeds - *Thymus vulgaris* (S1), *Salvia hispanica* (S2), *Nigella Sativa* (S3), *Anethum graveolens* (S4) - in methanol, ethylacetate and

water extracts. The findings of the current study could be useful in suggesting the usage of cumulative seed extracts for increased antioxidant qualities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Seeds procured from National Seeds Corporation Ltd., were dried and powdered. 10% of the seed extract was prepared using solvents namely water, methanol and ethyl acetate. Powdered seed samples were soaked in the solvents for 3 days. The contents were homogenised on a hot plate at 40°C using magnetic stirrer and the crude extract was centrifuged for 15 minutes at 4000 rpm. For later usage, the liquid supernatant was kept in airtight containers.

Antioxidant Activity Assay

The presence of phytochemicals was ascertained by conducting a preliminary qualitative analysis in accordance with recognized protocols [21,22, 23] using these extracts. The ability of the methanolic, aqueous, and ethyl acetate extracts from various seed samples (*Thymus vulgaris* (S1), *Salvia hispanica* (S2), *Nigella sativa* (S3) and *Anethum graveolens* (S4)) to scavenge free radicals were estimated by DPPH, FRAP and ABTS methods.

DPPH assay: The reducing ability of antioxidants towards DPPH (2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) radical can be evaluated by measuring the absorbance at 515–528 nm. The findings are shown for each sample as either IC50 or as a percentage of DPPH• scavenging at a specific antioxidant concentration[24, 25]. Different concentration (100 – 800 µg) of the samples were taken in the test tubes and the volume in each test tube was made upto 1.0 mL with methanol. To all the tubes, 3mL of DPPH solution (whose absorbance was pre-set to 1) was added and incubated in dark condition for 15minutes. After incubation, the absorbance was read at 517nm spectrophotometrically with the solvent as a blank. The following formula was used to compute the percentage inhibition.

$$\text{Percentage inhibition (\%)} = \frac{\text{Absorbance of control - Absorbance of sample}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100$$

FRAP assay

The FRAP assay evaluates antioxidants' ability to convert ferric ions into ferrous ions. This method is also known as ferric reducing power assay method and is based on the principle that substances, which have reduction potential, react with potassium ferricyanide (Fe^{3+}) - red colour, to form potassium ferrocyanide (Fe^{2+}), which then reacts with ferric chloride to form ferric–ferrous complex - blue coloured complex - that has an absorption maximum at 700 nm. The assay measures the antioxidant potential in samples through the reduction of ferric iron (Fe^{3+}) to ferrous iron (Fe^{2+}) by antioxidants present in the samples[26, 27]. Different concentrations of the samples (100-800µg) were taken in different tubes and added 2.5 mL of 0.2 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.6) followed by 2.5 mL of 1% potassium ferricyanide solution to all the tubes. Reaction mixture was vortexed well and incubated at 50°C for 20 min. After incubation, added 2.5 mL of 10% trichloroacetic acid and centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 10 min. 2.5 mL of the supernatant solution is mixed with 2.5 mL of deionized water and 0.5 mL of 0.1% ferric chloride. The blue coloured solution was read at 700 nm against the blank using UV-Spectrophotometer. Gallic acid was used as a standard.

ABTS radical scavenging assay

Free radical scavenging activity of plant samples was determined by ABTS radical cation decolorization assay[28]. $ABTS^{+}$ cation radical was produced by the reaction between 7 mM ABTS in water and 2.45 mM potassium persulfate (1:1), stored in the dark at room temperature for 12-16 h before use. $ABTS^{+}$ solution was then diluted with methanol to obtain an absorbance of 0.700 at 734 nm. After the addition of 5 µl of plant extract to 3.995 ml of diluted $ABTS^{+}$ solution, the absorbance was measured at 30 min after the initial mixing. Each experiment was conducted using a suitable solvent blank. Every measurement was performed at least three times. To get the percentage inhibition, the following formula was used

$ABTS^{\cdot+}$ scavenging effect (%) = [(AB–AA) / AB] × 100
where, AB is absorbance of $ABTS^{\cdot}$ + methanol; AA is absorbance of $ABTS^{\cdot}$ + sample extract / standard. Ascorbic acid was used as standard.

FT-IR Analysis
The FTIR spectra of methanolic extract of all the seeds were measured using Bruker Alpha-II FT-IR spectrometer. The reflectance of the extracts' were measured from 4000–500 cm^{-1}, the Acetone was used to clean the ATR crystal just before every measurement.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Preliminary qualitative analysis of the seed extracts in three different solvents indicated the presence of carbohydrates, alkaloids, flavonoids, polyphenolics, saponins, steroids and terpenoids. Methanolic extract of *Anethum graveolens* showed higher polyphenolic content while the water extract showed higher terpenoid content. Flavonoids are present in all of the extracts, with *Salvia hispanica* having the highest amount. The presence of saponins, tannins, steroids, flavonoids, glycosides and terpenoids in leaves, stems, roots, in vitro callus and regenerated leaves of A. graveolens were also reported[29]. A range of secondary metabolites, including phenolic compounds that are isolated from chia plant exhibit antibacterial activity in addition to antioxidant capacity, have been utilized to treat brain dysfunction, atherosclerosis, and cancer[30, 31].

DPPH assay revealed that the antioxidant activity of the chosen seeds were found to be increasing with increase in concentrations in all three solvents namely methanol, water and ethylacetate (Tables 1A, 1B, 1C). The cumulative antioxidant effect of the all the four seed extracts is much pronounced even at low concentration in all three solvents in comparison to gallic acid (Figures 1A, 1B, 1C). Antioxidant effect of the aqueous extracts of the seeds increases with increase in concentration and reaches a maximum value at a concentration of 400 µg per ml and remains almost constant at higher concentrations (Figure 1D). Scavenging effect of thyme seed extract was found to be almost equal to the cumulative effect in methanolic and ethyl acetate extracts at higher concentration. In aqueous extract a similar scavenging property was observed for *Nigella sativa* seed at higher concentration.

Half maximal inhibitory concentration (IC_{50}) is a measure of the potency of a substance in inhibiting a specific biological or biochemical function. The IC_{50} is the concentration of an antioxidant-containing substance required to scavenge 50% of the initial DPPH radicals. The lower the IC_{50} value, the more potent is the substance at scavenging DPPH radical and this implies a higher antioxidant activity. IC_{50} values (Table 1D) indicate that the cumulative antioxidat avtivity is more significant in methanolic extracts followed by ethyl acetate and aqueous extract. Higher cumulative antioxidat effect in comparsion to the individual seed extract is attributed to the varied proportion of different phytochemicals like flavonoids, terpenoids, polyphenolics and other essential oils[32].

FRAP Assay indicated that the ferric reducing nature of the seed extracts showed steady increase with increase in concentration of the samples in all three solvents (Tables 2A, B, C and Figures 2 A, B, C). IC_{50} values for FRAP assay indicates that cumulative effect of methanolic extracts of seeds is significantly greater than that of individual seed extracts and comparable to that of standard gallic acid; among the three chosen solvents cumulative effect is greater in methanol followed by water and ethyl acetate (Table 2D). The polarity of the solvents may impact the extraction of phyto constituents and reducing power.

ABTS assay revealed that the radical scavenging capacity increases with increase in the concentration of the seed extracts in both individual and cumulative effect. Cumulative effect showed significantly higher scavenging effect even at lower concentrations (Tables 3A-C and Figures 3A-C). Similar trend was shown in DPPH assay. IC_{50} values from ABTS assay (Table 3D) indicated the cumulative scavenging activity is better in methanolic extract (0.001 mg /

ml) than the other two solvents. These findings suggested that the extracts might function as the main antioxidants or as scavengers or regulators of free radicals by exploiting their capacity to donate protons[33].

FT-IR analysis

The existence of functional groups linked to active substances with therapeutic activity was discovered by FT-IR analysis of the methanolic extracts of every seed. Figure 4 represents the comparative general FT-IR (4000–500 cm^{-1}) spectra as well as their fingerprint region (1800–800 cm^{-1}). Broad Peak in the region 3200–3600 cm^{-1} (3298 cm^{-1} for S1; 3290 cm^{-1} for S2; 3320 cm^{-1} for S3; 3580cm^{-1} for S4) indicates the presence of hydroxyl groups and the breadth indicates hydrogen bonding which are abundant in polyphenolics and flavonoids. The absorption bands at 1412, 1445 cm^{-1} could be assigned to C=C aromatic rings stretching vibrations and 1626, 1627 cm^{-1} could be assigned to C=O in the flavonoid structure[34]. Bands at 1344, 1377 cm^{-1} could be attributed to C-OH deformation vibrations in flavonoid compounds[35]. Sharp Peaks in the region of 1650–1750 cm^{-1} indicates carbonyl groups, typical in flavonoids such as chalcones, flavones (apigenin) and flavonols (Quercetin, kaempferol). Intense Peaks in the region 1500–1600 cm^{-1} indicated conjugated C=C bonds in the aromatic system, confirming the aromatic nature of flavonoids, phenolics compunds like Caffeic acid, gallic acid or catechol. Phenolic compounds donate hydrogen or electron and delocalize the unpaired electron in the aromatic structure, thus scavenge free radicals and chelate metal ions and which is responsible for its antioxidant behaviour[36, 37]. This high activity of phenolic compounds to scavenge radicals may be explained by their phenolic-hydroxyl groups[38]. These phenolic acids have been reported as an efficient antioxidant compound, scavenging reactive oxygen species (ROS), including superoxide anion, hydrogen peroxide, and hydroxyl radical[39]. Flavonoids have a positive effect on human health and, therefore, foods and drinks rich in flavonoids are commonly recommended in a variety of dietary therapies[40].

CONCLUSION

Polyphenolics, flavonoids and terpenoids present in seeds are natural sources of antioxidants in scavenging free radicals and reducing oxidative stress. The present study proved the cumulative antioxidant potential of the selected seeds in all three solvents is greater when compared to individual seed extracts. The cumulative extract exploits the presence of wide range of phytochemicals and essential oils in exhibiting significantly greater scavenging ability. This opens the door for more investigation into their potential use as natural antioxidants. They may be recommended as supplements in food industry to provide better health benefits. The antioxidant assay threw light on the use of selected seed extracts as an alternate for the synthetic and commercial antioxidants as they are cost effective and easily available. Additional research, such as comparing extraction methods, is required to produce antioxidant extracts that have greater commercial value and potential health benefits.

Conflict of Interest

The authors disclosed no conflicts of interest. The paper's writing and content are entirely the authors' responsibility.

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Table 1A: DPPH activity of methanolic extracts of the seeds

Conc of sample in µg	% Inhibition ± SD					
	GA	**S1+S2+S3+S4**	**S1**	**S2**	**S3**	**S4**
100	17.77 ± 0.3055	48.45 ± 0.1004	47.54 ± 0.0208	38.63 ± 0.3055	20.82 ± 0.0569	39.21 ± 0.0200
200	27.93 ± 0.5132	51.45 ± 0.1009	45.27 ± 0.0265	39.30 ± 0.4359	22.93 ± 0.0300	40.63 ± 0.0200
300	34.13 ± 0.6506	54.27 ± 0.1001	51.38 ± 0.0153	42.73 ± 0.2082	35.80 ± 0.0458	40.84 ± 0.2007
400	45.60 ± 0.4583	58.39 ± 0.1012	57.41 ± 0.0300	45.03 ± 0.2517	40.80 ± 0.0361	46.57 ± 0.0100
500	56.27 ± 0.4509	61.27 ± 0.1000	61.66 ± 0.0361	46.30 ± 0.2000	47.84 ± 0.0200	48.94 ± 0.0208
600	60.90 ± 0.1000	65.66 ± 0.1100	66.81 ± 0.0300	50.50 ± 0.2646	48.33 ± 0.0200	51.47 ± 0.0321
700	68.80 ± 0.1732	68.81 ± 0.1015	71.89 ± 0.0200	50.80 ± 0.1000	53.43 ± 0.0208	54.31 ± 0.0503
800	75.83 ± 0.3055	71.89 ± 0.1000	71.87 ± 0.0100	52.17 ± 0.3215	53.22 ± 0.0400	57.83 ± 0.0361

Note: Results are expressed as % Inhibition ± SD (n=3); GA-Gallic acid, S1+S2+S3+S4-cumulative effect, S1- *Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens* - methanolic extracts

Table 1B. DPPH activity of aqueous extracts of the seeds

Conc of sample in µg	% Inhibition ± SD					
	GA	**S1+S2+S3+S4**	**S1**	**S2**	**S3**	**S4**
100	16.83 ± 0.3055	33.89 ± 0.0252	18.14 ± 0.0404	24.65 ± 0.0208	25.91 ± 0.0153	24.32 ± 0.0458
200	26.93 ±0.5132	38.83 ± 0.0153	21.57 ± 0.0058	39.74 ± 0.0400	36.47 ± 0.1168	30.75 ± 0.0173
300	33.13 ± 0.6506	49.38 ± 0.0153	23.57 ± 0.0321	43.35 ± 0.0416	47.25 ± 0.0200	33.13 ± 0.0208
400	44.83 ±0.5508	66.05 ± 0.0458	27.89 ± 0.0400	44.06 ± 0.0306	52.95 ± 0.0208	34.17 ± 0.0252
500	55.27 ± 0.4509	66.53 ± 0.0346	31.20 ± 0.0416	51.84 ± 0.0289	60.49 ± 0.0493	36.92 ± 0.0252
600	59.90 ± 0.1000	66.68 ± 0.0451	36.70 ± 0.0153	59.86 ± 0.0173	65.25 ± 0.0252	48.73 ± 0.0100
700	67.80 ± 0.1732	67.35 ± 0.0458	43.13 ± 0.0306	60.43 ± 0.0265	72.26 ± 0.0265	61.13 ± 0.0265
800	74.83 ± 0.3055	69.52 ± 0.0416	47.65 ± 0.0346	70.95 ± 0.0208	77.91 ± 0.0252	62.73 ± 0.0153

Note: Results are expressed as % Inhibition ± SD (n=3); GA-Gallic acid, S1+S2+S3+S4-cumulative effect, S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens* - aqueous extracts.

Table 1C: DPPH activity of ethyl acetate extracts of seeds

Conc of sample in µg	% Inhibition ± SD					
	GA	**S1+S2+S3+S4**	**S1**	**S2**	**S3**	**S4**
100	16.37 ± 0.1528	46.06 ± 0.0551	46.39 ± 0.3610	29.27 ± 0.0656	38.70 ± 0.0265	39.73 ± 0.0153
200	26.43 ± 0.2082	47.10 ± 0.1041	47.46 ± 0.0503	31.07 ± 0.0961	40.57 ± 0.0300	43.23 ± 0.0100
300	32.60 ± 0.5292	51.15 ± 0.1222	51.52 ± 0.0153	35.47 ± 0.0300	42.27 ± 0.0265	43.77 ± 0.0208
400	44.53 ± 0.3786	54.24 ± 0.0265	54.23 ± 0.0252	38.33 ± 0.0800	44.60 ± 0.0361	43.80 ± 0.0404
500	54.50 ± 0.4359	55.52 ± 0.0451	55.46 ± 0.0265	40.22 ± 0.1100	47.33 ± 0.0252	44.63 ± 0.0208
600	59.00 ± 0.2000	63.29 ± 0.1582	63.96 ± 0.0208	42.37 ± 0.0700	49.87 ± 0.0115	45.63 ± 0.0321
700	61.10 ± 0.1000	65.36 ± 0.1387	65.42 ± 0.0153	45.26 ± 0.0300	52.20 ± 0.0493	46.17 ± 0.0252
800	64.40 ± 0.2646	66.85 ± 0.1501	67.18 ± 0.0100	46.05 ± 0.0500	55.73 ± 0.0300	49.87 ± 0.0153

Note: Results are expressed as % Inhibition ± SD (n=3); GA-Gallic acid, S1+S2+S3+S4-cumulative effect, S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens* - ethylacetate extract

Table 1D: DPPH assay - IC_{50} values of the chosen seeds in methanol, water and ethyl acetate extracts

	IC_{50} in Methanol	**IC_{50} in Water**	**IC_{50} in Ethyl acetate**
GA	0.469	0.480	0.488
S1	0.469	0.892	0.252
S2	0.655	0.461	0.908
S3	0.639	0.383	0.598
S4	0.541	0.602	0.939
CE	0.157	0.312	0.260

Note: IC50 values are given in mg /ml of the extracts: GA-Gallic acid, S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect,

Table 2A: FRAP assay - Comparative study in methanolic extracts

	Absorbance at 700 nm				
Conc of sample in µg	**S1**	**S2**	**S3**	**S4**	**CE**
100	0.398 ± 0.0036	0.337 ± 0.0031	0.531 ± 0.004	0.550 ± 0.0044	0.342 ± 0.002
200	0.434 ± 0.0035	0.381 ± 0.0051	0.557 ± 0.0031	0.582 ± 0.0061	0.381 ± 0.002
300	0.490 ± 0.0042	0.409 ± 0.0067	0.595 ± 0.0031	0.645 ± 0.0030	0.459 ± 0.001
400	0.531 ± 0.0071	0.439 ± 0.0076	0.652 ± 0.0061	0.685 ± 0.0030	0.512 ± 0.002
500	0.570 ± 0.0082	0.470 ± 0.0040	0.699 ± 0.0031	0.747 ± 0.0021	0.589 ± 0.002
600	0.600 ± 0.002	0.503 ± 0.0026	0.737 ± 0.0026	0.771 ± 0.0015	0.652 ± 0.002
700	0.640 ± 0.003	0.533 ± 0.0021	0.761 ± 0.003	0.809 ± 0.0032	0.698 ± 0.001
800	0.690 ± 0.001	0.565 ± 0.0017	0.792 ± 0.0021	0.845 ± 0.0006	0.742 ± 0.001

Note: Results are given as absorbance values ± SD (n=3); S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4 - *Anethum graveolens*, CE-(S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect - methanol extract

Table 2B: FRAP assay - Comparative study in aqueous extracts

Conc of sample in µg	S1	S2	S3	S4	CE
100	0.210 ± 0.003	0.242 ± 0.002	0.335 ± 0.001	0.458 ± 0.001	0.339 ± 0.0062
200	0.233 ± 0.001	0.372 ± 0.002	0.409 ± 0.002	0.552 ± 0.001	0.376 ± 0.002
300	0.286 ± 0.002	0.417 ± 0.004	0.441 ± 0.001	0.590 ± 0.002	0.423 ± 0.004
400	0.324 ± 0.002	0.443 ± 0.001	0.473 ± 0.002	0.612 ± 0.002	0.484 ±0.0036
500	0.378 ± 0.004	0.476 ± 0.001	0.492 ± 0.001	0.624 ± 0.001	0.539 ± 0.0044
600	0.395 ± 0.003	0.502 ± 0.002	0.522 ± 0.001	0.675 ± 0.002	0.572 ± 0.0021
700	0.425 ± 0.004	0.555 ± 0.001	0.545 ± 0.002	0.703 ± 0.003	0.605 ± 0.0025
800	0.456 ± 0.004	0.576 ± 0.006	0.582 ± 0.001	0.734 ± 0.004	0.654 ± 0.0012

Note: Results are given as absorbance values ± SD (n=3); S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE-(S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect - aqueous extract

Table 2C: FRAP assay - Comparative study in ethyl acetate extracts

Conc of sample in µg	S1	S2	S3	S4	CE
100	0.396 ± 0.0015	0.287 ± 0.0015	0.592 ± 0.0030	0.544 ± 0.0021	0.335 ± 0.0015
200	0.422 ± 0.0010	0.323 ± 0.0015	0.610 ± 0.0025	0.584 ± 0.0020	0.370 ± 0.0021
300	0.478 ± 0.0015	0.375 ± 0.0023	0.627 ± 0.0025	0.634 ± 0.0006	0.418 ± 0.0005
400	0.510 ± 0.0021	0.423 ± 0.0020	0.647 ± 0.0015	0.664 ± 0.0006	0.465 ± 0.0014
500	0.532 ± 0.0025	0.444 ± 0.0032	0.665 ± 0.0015	0.713 ± 0.0010	0.498 ± 0.0020
600	0.578 ± 0.0016	0.484 ± 0.0021	0.691 ± 0.0010	0.735 ± 0.0010	0.532 ± 0.0025
700	0.596 ± 0.0020	0.507 ± 0.0021	0.723 ± 0.0015	0.761 ± 0.0015	0.589 ± 0.0015
800	0.635 ± 0.0026	0.520 ± 0.0025	0.743 ± 0.0020	0.784 ± 0.0015	0.610 ± 0.0020

Note: Results are given as absorbance values ± SD (n=3); S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE-(S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect - ethyl acetate extract

Table 2D: FRAP assay - Comparative IC_{50} values of seed extracts in three solvents mg of GAE per g)

	GA	S1	S2	S3	S4	CE
Methanol	83	124	165	124	123	83
Water	83	125	124	166	123	99
Ethyl acetate	83	165	166	241	165	125

Note: IC_{50} values (in mg /ml) of the chosen seeds in methanol, water and ethyl acetate extracts: GA-Gallic acid, S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE-(S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect

Table 3A: ABTS assay - Comparative study in methanolic extracts

	% Inhibition				
Conc. of Sample (µg)	**S1**	**S2**	**S3**	**S4**	**CE**
10	49.72 ± 0.79	42.77±1.00	38.27±0.40	41.73±0.65	50.86±0.09
20	54.74 ± 0.54	45.97±0.34	51.03±0.65	55.73±0.21	58.48±0.61
40	60.61 ± 0.36	58.73±0.35	61.50±0.66	65.90±0.46	65.16±0.17
80	65.52 ± 0.50	73.77±0.55	71.83±0.91	74.27±0.57	79.44±0.05
100	72.36 ± 0.14	78.33±0.81	81.53±0.95	80.37±0.15	85.63±0.19
120	79.64 ± 0.63	81.13±0.35	83.33±0.47	84.27±0.45	92.45±0.10

Note: Results are expressed as % Inhibition ± SD (n=3); S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect - methanolic extract

Table 3B: ABTS assay - Comparative study in aqueous extracts

	% Inhibition				
Conc. of Sample (µg)	**S1**	**S2**	**S3**	**S4**	**CE**
10	49.55±0.04	33.65±0.68	49.14±0.32	48.23 ± 0.28	51.48±0.28
20	53.48±0.07	45.18±0.55	53.28±0.09	51.38 ± 0.35	54.33±0.06
40	59.84±0.08	62.13±0.42	57.43±0.08	56.60 ± 0.13	58.63±0.05
80	66.85±0.06	67.97±0.24	65.38±0.04	61.37 ± 0.27	69.44±0.10
100	73.45±0.04	73.56±0.59	71.00±0.11	68.46 ± 0.11	78.59±0.03
120	77.90±0.05	78.45±0.24	77.29±0.14	71.65 ± 0.14	83.74±0.05

Note: Results are expressed as % Inhibition ± SD (n=3); S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect - aqueous extract

Table 3C: ABTS assay - Comparative study in ethyl acetate extracts

	% Inhibition				
Conc. of Sample (µg)	**S1**	**S2**	**S3**	**S4**	**CE**
10	47.43±0.46	34.43±0.62	41.67±0.31	42.67±0.63	49.89±0.52
20	53.74±0.23	44.47±0.52	51.77±0.28	55.53±0.36	54.71±0.51
40	60.15±0.31	69.17±0.30	61.67±0.34	65.80±0.37	61.54±0.53
80	69.71±0.29	74.20±0.56	62.60±0.41	74.70±0.78	69.37±0.44
100	76.46±0.50	78.67±0.24	81.47±0.49	80.37±0.85	76.36±0.73
120	81.44±0.39	82.47±0.26	83.33±0.48	83.30±0.53	84.53±0.38

Note: Results are expressed as % Inhibition ± SD (n=3); S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect - ethyl acetate extract

Table 3D: ABTS assay - IC50 values of the chosen seeds in methanol, water and ethyl acetate extracts

	IC50 in Methanol	**IC50 in Water**	**IC50 in Ethyl acetate**
S1	0.005	0.007	0.011
S2	0.025	0.034	0.027
S3	0.024	0.011	0.022
S4	0.012	0.015	0.011
CE	0.001	0.007	0.007

Note: Values are given in mg / ml of the extracts: - S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect,

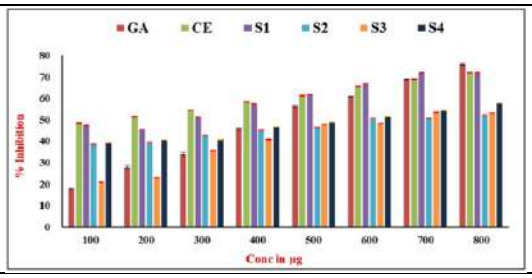


Figure 1A: DPPH assay - Comparative study of % Inhibition at different concentrations of methanolic extracts; GA-Gallic acid, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect, S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*.

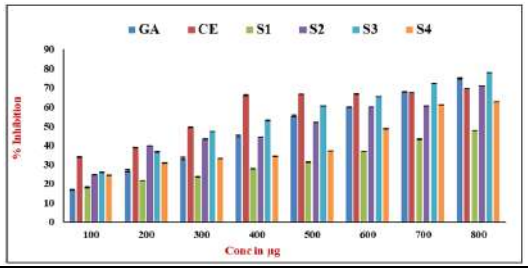


Figure 1B: DPPH assay - Comparative study of % Inhibition at different concentrations of aqueous extract; GA-Gallic acid, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect, S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4 - *Anethum graveolens*,

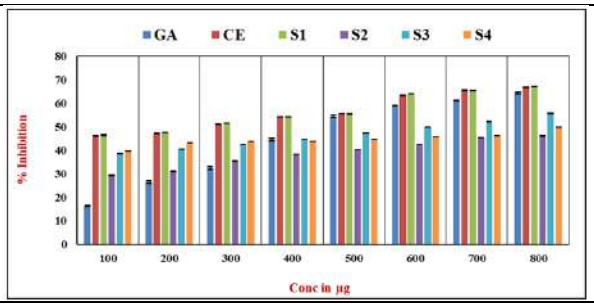


Figure 1C: DPPH assay - Comparative study of % Inhibition at different concentrations of ethyl acetate extracts; GA-Gallic acid, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect, S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*.

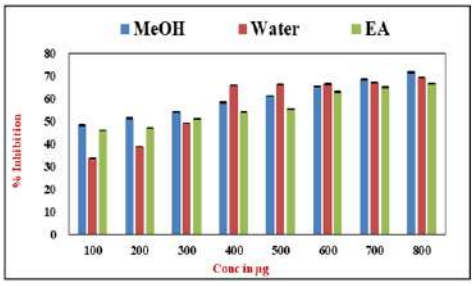


Figure 1D: DPPH assay - Comparative study of cumulative (S1+S2+S3+S4) % Inhibition at different concentrations of the seed extracts and in different solvents (S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2 - *Salvia hispanica*, S3 - *Nigella sativa*, S4 - *Anethum graveolens*)

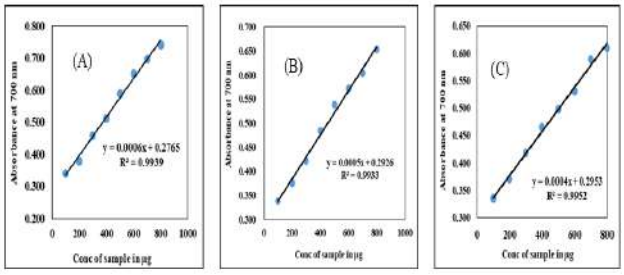


Figure 2: FRAP assay - Cumulative effect of reducing power of (A) methanolic extracts; (B) aqueous extracts; (C) ethylacetate extracts of the seeds

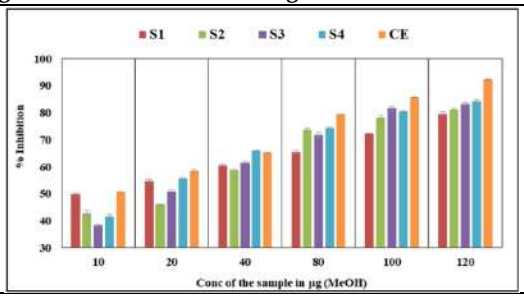


Figure 3A: ABTS assay - Comparative study of % Inhibition at different concentrations of methanolic extracts; S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect

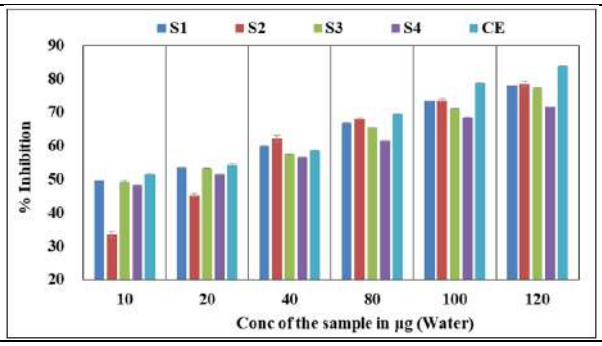


Figure 3B: ABTS assay - Comparative study of % Inhibition at different concentrations of aqueous extracts; S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect.

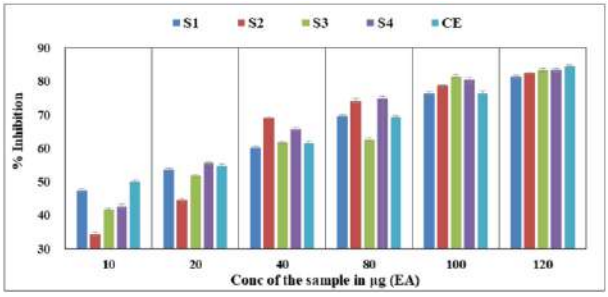


Figure 3C: ABTS assay - Comparative study of % Inhibition at different concentrations of ethyl acetate extracts; S1-*Thymus vulgaris*, S2-*Salvia hispanica*, S3-*Nigella sativa*, S4-*Anethum graveolens*, CE (S1+S2+S3+S4)-cumulative effect.

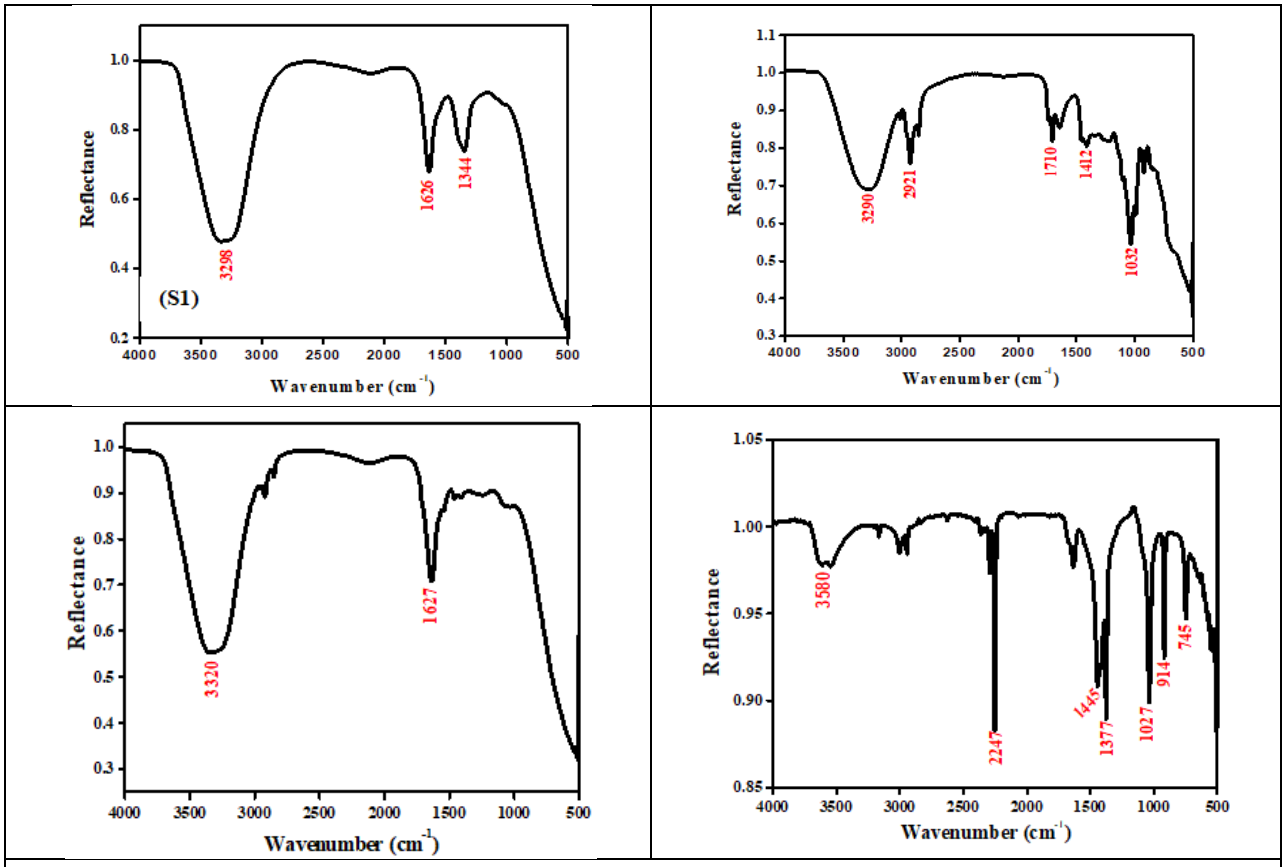


Figure 4: FT-IR spectra of methanolic extracts of all four seeds: (S1)-*Thymus vulgaris*, (S2)-*Salvia hispanica*, (S3)-*Nigella sativa*, (S4)-*Anethum graveolens*

CASE STUDY ARTICLE

A Case Report on the Effectiveness of Gnaphalium Polycephalum in Managing Sciatica : An Evaluation using Vas Scale and DN4 Questionnaire

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ABSTRACT

Sciatica is a set of symptoms including pain that may be caused by general compression and/or irritation of one of five spinal nerve roots that give rise to each sciatic nerve, or by compression or irritation of the left or right or both sciatic nerves. Homoeopathy is an effective and scientific system of healing which assists the natural tendency of the body to heal itself. It recognizes that all symptoms of ill health are expressions of disharmony within the whole person and that it is the patient who needs treatment not the disease, as Hippocrates stated, — give more importance to the diseased individual than the disease‖. This study has documented the prevalence, associated risk factors and the impact of this health issue along with homoeopathic constitutional medicine given to patient. An interventional study in the homoeopathic hospital to ascertain the role GNAPHALIUM POLYCEPHALUM in case of Sciatica was assessed by using of VAS SCALE AND DN4 QUESTIONNAIRE. Mrs. H.K.B with Sciatica aged48 years working as Housewife is considered. After case taking and filling the VAS SCALEscore of patient was 6 and DN4 QUESTIONNAIREscore was 6 before treatment. After taking proper analysis and evaluation of the case according to homoeopathic principles, homoeopathic medicine Gnaphalium Polycephalum 30was prescribed and in the follow-up, according to the change in the susceptibility was administered. After 6 months treatment patient showed improvement. It also reflected significant improvement in patient complains. This case showed a significant role of homoeopathy in the treatment of sciatica in

reducing the intensity of pain and providing good quality of life. The study revealed that chronic sciatica was more common than acute sciatica. In cases of the sciatica counselling, correct postures, healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, avoiding heavy lifting is a must for early results. Thus I conclude by saying that homoeopathy has a very good scope in management of sciatica than any other system of medicine and the result of the study was good as patients showed good improvement under homoeopathic treatment without any surgical intervention.

Keywords: Homoeopathy, constitution, Sciatica, Gnaphalium Polycephalum. Lumbar spondylosis, Individualization

INTRODUCTION

The sciatic nerve is the longest nerve in the body and branches out from the spinal cord in the lower back through both buttocks and legs. The sciatic nerve and its branches are responsible for movement and feeling in the legs and feet. Sciatica is pain in the distribution of sciatic nerve. Most commonly it is due to the protrusion of the degenerated L5-S1 disc that impinges upon the S1 nerve root. The pain is most prominent during active movement, stooping, coughing, sneezing or lifting heavy weight. It may occur due to pressure in the buttock or upper part of thigh[1]. It can be a feature of other rare but important disorders including spinal tumours, malignant disease in the pelvis and TB of vertebral column[5]. Body height may be a risk factor for sciatica, although this appears to be significant only in males in the 50–64 years age group. Parity of up to six also has been identified as having no association with sciatica. The incidence of sciatica is related to age. Rarely seen before the age of 20, incidence peaks in the fifth decade and declines thereafter[3]. The ratio of an episode of sciatica increased by 1.4 for every additional 10 years of age, up to the age of 64. Interestingly, the site of disc herniation appears to change with age. Sciatica occurs in about 1 out of 100 people who have low back pain. Sciatica has been reported to occur in 1 to 10% of the population, most commonly in people age 25 to 45 years. As cases of Sciatica are increasing due to changing lifestyle and can be a form of disability, there is an urgent need for more research in cases of Sciatica with respect to Gnaphalium Polycephalum as it has effective role in treating sciatica. GNAPHALIUM POLYCEPHALUM is a remedy of unquestioned benefit in sciatica when there is Intense pain along the sciatic nerve; numbness alternates with pain[8]. A study will help in evaluating the role or effectiveness of Gnaphalium in relation with physiotherapy in cases of Sciatica. In sciatica, physiotherapy treatment is also beneficial. Local application of heat to the affected parts by hot moist packs or dry heat by using a heating lamp, hot water bottle or an electric pad followed by a gentle massage is usually helpful[6].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Clinical study: -The study will be carried out with detailed case study and follow up at Sainath Hospital attached to Ahmedabad Homoeopathic Medical College, Parul University, Ahmedabad.
Case definition: Cases presenting with complaints of Sciatica of age 48 years was taken in study.

Inclusion criteria
Patients presenting with clinical features of sciatica or pre-diagnosed cases of sciatica. Patients suffering from sciatica, willing to participate and taking treatment regularly and co-operating for regular follow-up and giving consent for the study will be included. Patients presenting with totality of Gnaphalium

Exclusion criteria
Patients reporting with neurological or surgical complications. Patients not coming for consecutive 3 follow-ups

Data Collection It done by individual history taking according to Homoeopathic principles. A self-designed self-assessed questionnaire consisting of socio demographic characteristics, travel history, co morbidity patterns, health seeking behaviors, and outcome of the treatment had been prepared in English and local language.

Diagnosis

Will be done on the basis of ICD 11 criteria and will be mentioned in the case paper. The approach will be clinical.

Investigations X-Ray AP/Lat of lumbar spine, MRI will be done as and when required.

CASE REPORT

CASE NO. 3

Name:- Mrs. H.K.B Age:- 48 yrs

Sex:- Female

Address:- Raghavnagar, Pune.

Occupation:- Housewife

Marital status:- Married

Date

Chief c/o:- k/c/o lumbar spondylosis.

Pain in back, on right side radiating to back of thigh upto back of knee since 5 years. Tearing type of pain. and lt; cold, rainy season, night and gt; walking

Formication and numbness in right lower limb.

Pain in right wrist joint, ulnar side since 6 years. A/F dislocation. and lt; cold weather, over-exertion. and gt; warmth.

Past h/o:- Dislocation of right wrist joint due to fall.

Family h/o:- Father – asthma.

Mother – R.A., colitis.

Drug h/o:- Takes pain killers for temporary relief.

Personal h/o:- Diet – veg

Appetite – normal

Craving – N.S.

Aversion – coffee.

Thirst – thirsty. Perspiration – all over body, non-offensive, non-staining

Stool – twice, satisfactory Urine – 4-5/0-1 D/N

Sleep – normal Dreams – N.S.

Habit – N.S

Menstrual h/o:- Menarche – 16years. Menopause since 2 years.

Obstetric h/o:- G1L1A0, 1 son 25 years, FTND.

Thermals:- Chilly.

Mentals

- Mild and gentle, very loving and caring.
- Restlessness.
- Doesn't like to be alone.
- Believes in god – Religious3+.
- Friendly nature with her son.
- Helpful.

General examination

Height – 5'

Weight – 60 kg

Pallor – NAD Oedema – NAD

Lymphadenopathy – NAD
Icterus – NAD
Cyanosis – NAD
Eruptions – NAD
Vital data:- B.P. – 120/80 mm/hg
Pulse – 70 bpm
Temperature – afebrile

Systemic examination
CNS:- Well oriented
CVS:- S1S2 heard
R.S.:- clear,AEBE
GIT:- L0S0K0

Local examination:- Tenderness in back.
SLR – restricted in right leg.
Investigations:- Done on 21/05/10.
Impression:- Mild lumbar spondylosis.
Diagnosis:- Lumbar spondylosis.
Miasmatic background:- Syco-syphilitic
Remedy and potency:- Gnaphalium Polycephalum 30 1dose, S.L. 2 pills x TDS x 15days.
Advice:- Do regular exercise and take rest. Alternate cold and hot foamentation. Avoid lifting heavy objects. While lifting bend legs and arms and not your back. Physiotherapy and yoga.

DISCUSSION

Considering a detailed history taking is necessary to obtain constitutional prescription. Mrs. H.K.B with Sciatica aged 48 years working as Housewife is considered. After case taking and filling the VAS SCALE score of patient was 6 and DN4 QUESTIONNAIRE score was 6 before treatment. After taking proper analysis and evaluation of the case according to homoeopathic principles, his homoeopathic medicine Gnaphalium Polycephalum 30was prescribed and in the follow-up, according to the change in the susceptibility was administered. After 6 months treatment patient showed improvement. It also reflected significant improvement in patient complains.

ETHICAL ISSUE

Study protocol was approved through Institutional Ethical Committee. Written informed consent was taken from the participant and full confidentiality for the information provided was ensured.

CONCLUSION

This case showed a significant role of homoeopathy in the treatment of sciatica in reducing the intensity of pain and providing good quality of life. The study revealed that chronic sciatica was more common than acute sciatica. In cases of the sciatica counselling, correct postures, healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, avoiding heavy lifting is a must for early results. Thus I conclude by saying that homoeopathy has a very good scope in management of sciatica than any other system of medicine and the result of the study was good as patients showed good improvement under homoeopathic treatment without any surgical intervention.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Empagifloxin and Metformin in Bulk Drugs and Formulations : A Validated RP-HPLC Assay Method

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ABSTRACT

A simple, sensitive, and specific RP-HPLC technique was devised and validated to assess empagliflozin and metformin concurrently in bulk and dosage form. Using an isocratic elution mode and a mobile phase consisting of a 50:50 methanol and water combination, respectively, chromatographic separation was carried out on a C18 (150 mm × 4.6 mm, 5 µm) column at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. At 277 nm, the detection was tracked with a PDA detector. The corresponding retention times were 3.46 and 6.07 minutes. Metformin and empagliflozin had linearities of 5–18.75 µg/mL and 10–37.5 µg/mL, respectively. In accordance with ICH criteria, this approach was validated.

Keywords: HPLC, Metformin, Empagliflozin, Method development.

INTRODUCTION

The sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT2), which is mostly in charge of the kidney's reabsorption of glucose, is inhibited by empagliflozin. Clinically, it is used to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus as a supplement to diet and exercise, frequently in conjunction with other medication regimens. The biguanide class of antihyperglycemic drugs, including metformin, is used to treat type II diabetes. At least 120 million people worldwide are currently prescribed metformin, the first medication of choice for the treatment of type II diabetes. There aren't many studies that use RP-HPLC and UV spectroscopy to determine empagliflozin and metformin in formulation at the same time. Geetha Susmitha *et al*. worked on a stability indicating approach for the simultaneous detection of Empagliflozin and Metformin, while Deepak *et al*. created an RP-HPLC for the determination of Empagliflozin and Metformin in bulk and formulation. Other studies that used LC-MS/MS and UV spectroscopy were described [10]. When compared to existing documented techniques for the analysis of metformin and empagliflozin, the suggested method is straightforward and incredibly sensitive. The suggested approach is most appropriate for formulation analysis in the pharmaceutical industry due to its extremely high resolution and run time of less than ten minutes.

EXPERIMENTAL

Instrumentation

Shimadzu LC-20AD HPLC with a binary pump, SPD-M20A photo diode array detector and data were recorded using LC solutions software. Rheodyne injector fitted with a 10µL loop. Capcellpak, C_{18}UG column, Shiseido, Japan, with specification 25 cm length, 4.6mm internal diameter and 5µm particle was used. An analytical balance of make Shimadzu, Kyoto was used.

MATERIAL AND REAGENTS

A 99.8% w/w pure sample of empagliflozin and metformin was acquired from a nearby manufacturing facility. Mill-Q water and HPLC-grade methanol were purchased from Merck. The "Jardiance-Met" brand of medication combination pills containing 100 mg of empagliflozin and 50 mg of metformin were purchased from a nearby pharmacy.

Chromatographic Parameters

Agilent ZorbaxC18 columns with specifications of 15 cm in length, 4.6 mm in internal diameter, and 5 µm particle size were used to carry out the reverse phase separation. Isocratic elution using a 15µL sample injection volume and a flow rate of 1 mL/min at room temperature. Following trials, the ideal mobile phase was in an isocratic run with 50% methanol and 50% water. Using a PDA detector, the study was carried out at a wavelength of 277 nm. The analysis took ten minutes to complete.

Preparation of Diluent

Standard and sample solutions were prepared using the mobile phase as a diluent.

Preparation of Individual standard solution

Separately, 10 mg of empagliflozin and 5 mg of metformin were weighed and transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask. In order to achieve 100µg/mL and 50 µg/mL, respectively, the samples were dissolved using an adequate amount of diluent and made up to the mark with the diluent.

Preparation of working standard solution

A 100 mL calibrated flask was filled with 10 mg of empagliflozin and 5 mg of metformin, respectively, after they had been weighed. A appropriate amount of diluent was used to dissolve the analytes, and the diluent was added until the analytes reached 100 µg/mL and 50 µg/mL, respectively.

Preparation of working sample solution

Drug equivalent to 10 mg Empagliflozin and 5 mg Metformin was weighed, triturated, and then sonicated to extract the drug into the diluent. Finally, the capacity was filled with diluent to provide an equivalent concentration of 25µg/mL Empagliflozin and 12.5µg/mL Metformin.

Method Development

A series of experiments were conducted to optimize drug separation using various C18 columns, mobile phases, and chromatographic settings after aliquots of the mixed solutions containing metformin and empagliflozin were created. The Azilant Zorbax C18 column, which has dimensions of 15 cm in length, 4.6 mm in internal diameter, and 5 µm particles in isocratic separation mode, was used to optimize the process. Methanol and water in a 50:50 ratio, with a flow rate of 1 mL per minute and a photodiode array detector set at 277 nm, was the ideal mobile phase. At room temperature, the injection volume was 15 µL, and the run time was 10 minutes.

OUTCOMES AND DISCUSSION

Method Validation

System suitability

By examining the reference solution that contained 12.5 µg/mL of metformin and 25 µg/mL of empagliflozin, the system appropriateness was assessed. To evaluate the system's appropriateness, the standard solution was examined six times. According to the system suitability data, the theoretical plate column efficiency was greater than 2000, the tailing factor was less than 1.5, and the percentage RSD for metformin and empagliflozin was less than 2%.

Specificity

Empagliflozin and metformin, each with a concentration of 25 µg/mL and 12.5 µg/mL, were produced as individual analytes and subjected to chromatographic analysis in order to determine their respective retention durations. A working standard including 100% working level spiked analytes of metformin and empagliflozin was prepared and examined. By comparing the chromatograms of the individual and standard solutions [Fig. 2], the specificity of the method was ascertained. It was found that the diluent had no effect on the compound's retention time in the reference solution.

Linearity

We generated and examined several percentage aliquots of Metformin and Empagliflozin that ranged from 25 to 150% of the working standard specification (Table 1). To determine the linearity of the approach, the calibration curve was plotted between concentration and peak area (Fig-3). Good technique linearity was indicated by the curve's correlation coefficient of 0.999.

Precision

The precision was computed using the system and intermediate levels. Using the working standard at 100% level with six determinations, the precision investigation was carried out. With the percentage RSD less than 2, the data showed how accurate the process was. The system precision results are tabulated in Table 2. The results of the intermediate precision are listed in Table 3.

Accuracy

Spiking Empagliflozin and Metformin to the set formulation concentration of equal to 25µg/mL of Empagliflozin and 12.5µg/mL of Metformin allowed for the determination of the method's accuracy. Three working concentration levels—50%, 100%, and 150%—were used to test the accuracy. For every analyte, a total of nine measurements were made using duplicate samples generated at each accuracy level. The percentage recovery outcomes at different stages are tabulated in Table 4.

Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ)

The calibration curve's slope and the standard deviation of the Y-intercept were used to calculate the limits of detection and quantification. The LOD signal should be three times stronger than the noise, and the LOQ signal should be ten times stronger. Empagliflozin's LOD and LOQ were determined to be 0.589µg/mL and 1.787µg/mL, respectively. Metformin's LOD and LOQ were determined to be 0.165µg/mL and 0.501µg/mL, respectively.

Robustness

To demonstrate the method's robustness, minor adjustments were purposefully made. Deliberate adjustments to the injection amount, flow rate, and mobile phase were used to conduct the robustness investigation. The method's robustness is indicated by the %RSD being less than 2% (Table 5).

CONCLUSION

Empagliflozin and Metformin in bulk and dosage formulations were analyzed using a straightforward and highly sensitive approach that was best suited and particular for pharmaceutical formulation analysis due to its quick run time and excellent resolution.

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Table-1: Linearity for Empagliflozin and Metformin

Level	Empagliflozin		Metformin	
	Conc. [µg/mL]	Peak area	Conc. [µg/m L]	Peak Area
25%	10	6491365	5	3493711
50%	15	9732654	7.5	5218567
75%	20	12950789	10	6961423
100%	25	16226364	12.5	8712279
130%	30	19205784	15	10394134
150%	37.5	24305245	18.75	13091418

Table-2: Results of System Precision

Inj. no.	Peak Area	
	Empagliflozin	Metformin
1	16296364	8725423
2	16214369	8731324
3	16271987	8743698
4	16249654	8771254
5	16224753	8766987
6	16231645	8787136
Mean	16248128.7	8754303.67
SD	31164.2174	24498.0857
%RSD	0.19180189	0.27984048

Table-3: Results for intermediate precision

Inj. No.	Analyst-I /Day-I /Column-I		Analyst-II /Day-II/ Column-II	
	Empagliflozin	Metformin	Empagliflozin	Metformin
1	16296364	8725423	16246575	8796542
2	16214369	8731324	16303695	8803459
3	16271987	8743698	16362365	8849632
4	16249654	8771254	16295430	8854762
5	16224753	8766987	16342566	8803578
6	16231645	8787136	16323212	8845221
Mean	16248128.7	8754304	16312307.17	8825532.33
SD	31164.2174	24498.1	40546.33144	26953.5718
%RSD	0.19180189	0.27984	0.248562825	0.30540449

Table 4: Summary of %Recovery and %RSD.

Level	Actual conc. [µg/mL]	Measured conc. [µg/mL]	Recovery [%]	Average	%RSD
Percentage recoveries for Empagliflozin					
50.00%	18.75	18.72	99.84		
	18.75	18.68	99.62		
	18.75	19.05	101.6	100.35	1.07
100.00%	25	24.78	99.12	99.68	0.65
	25	24.88	99.52		
	25	25.1	100.4		
150.00%	31.25	31.11	99.55		
	31.25	31.21	99.87		
	31.25	30.88	98.81	99.41	0.54
Percentage recoveries for Metformin					
50.0%	9.37	9.21	98.29		
	9.37	9.28	99.03		
	9.37	9.34	99.67	99.00	0.70
100.0%	12.5	12.31	98.48		
	12.5	12.41	99.28		
	12.5	12.38	99.04	98.93	0.41
150.0 %	15.62	15.48	99.10		
	15.62	15.51	99.29		
	15.62	15.34	98.20	98.86	0.58

Table 5: Robustness Study

Deliberate Changes	Empagliflozin [%RSD]	Metformin [%RSD]
Actual Chromatographic conditions	0.19	0.27
Change-1, (Methanol: H_2O); 52: 48	0.74	0.63
Change -2, (Methanol: H_2O); 48: 52	0.91	1.2
Change -3, Flow Rate: 1.2 mL/min	1.2	0.89
Change -4, Flow Rate: 0.8 mL/min	0.97	0.71
Change -5, Injection volume: 10.0 µL	0.88	0.59
Change -6, Injection volume: 20.0 µL	0.64	0.77

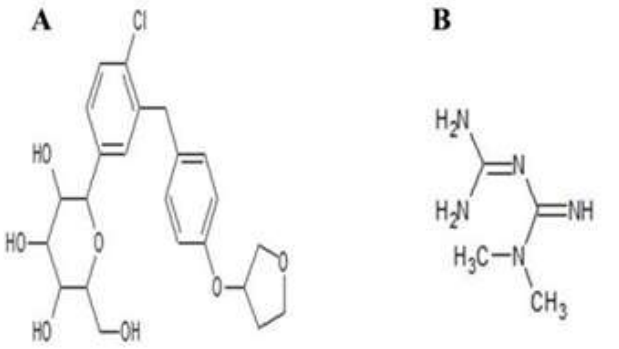


Fig.1: Structures A) Empagliflozin B) Metformin

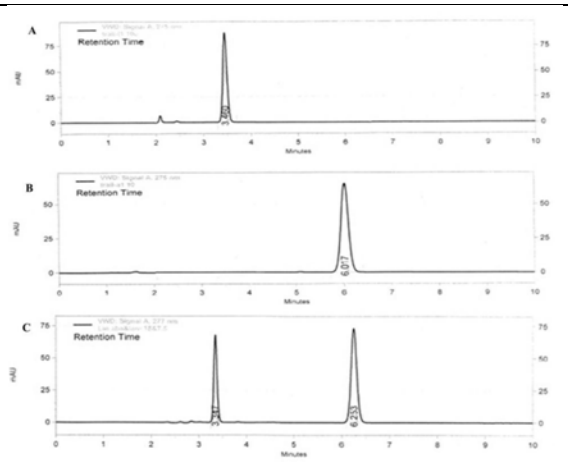


Fig. 2: Chromatograms of A) Metformin B) Empagliflozin C) Standard

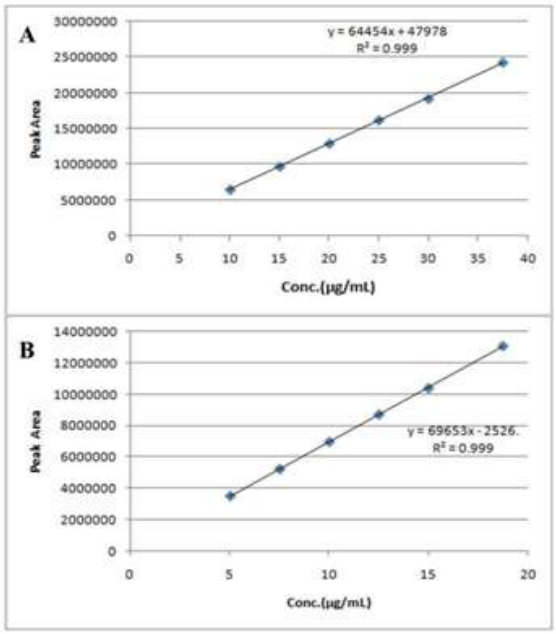


Fig.3: Calibration curve of A) Empagliflozin B) Metformin.

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REVIEW ARTICLE

Candida auris in India: Rising Threats and Healthcare Implications

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ABSTRACT

Candida auris is an emerging multidrug-resistant fungal pathogen that has become a major public health concern globally and particularly in India. First identified in Japan in 2009, retrospective analyses have indicated its presence in Indian healthcare settings as early as 2011. *C. auris* has the unique ability to cause nosocomial outbreaks, persist on hospital surfaces, and resist commonly used antifungal therapies, leading to high morbidity and mortality rates. In India, its spread has been facilitated by factors such as overcrowded healthcare facilities, widespread use of broad-spectrum antimicrobials, limited infection control practices, and delays in accurate identification due to infrastructural limitations. Clinical manifestations are varied, with candidemia being the most commonly reported form of invasive infection. Indian isolates of *C. auris* have shown high resistance to fluconazole and significant resistance to amphotericin B and echinocandins, complicating treatment strategies. The diagnostic challenges are compounded by the frequent misidentification of the pathogen in routine laboratories, necessitating the implementation of advanced molecular or mass spectrometry-based techniques. Effective management requires a combination of prompt diagnosis, targeted antifungal therapy, and strict infection control measures. Given the high rates of colonization and the risk of hospital outbreaks, a coordinated approach involving surveillance, infection prevention, antifungal stewardship, and public health interventions is urgently needed. This review discusses the epidemiology, clinical features, diagnostic advancements, resistance patterns, treatment options, and infection control strategies for *Candida auris* with a specific focus on the Indian healthcare landscape.

Keywords: *Candida Auris*, India, Antifungal Resistance, Nosocomial Infections, Candidemia, Healthcare-Associated Infections.

INTRODUCTION

Fungal infections have become a major concern in the Indian healthcare system, with *Candida auris* standing out due to its rapid spread and resistance to standard antifungal therapies [1]. In India, factors such as high antibiotic usage, widespread ICU admissions, and limited infection control practices have contributed to the emergence and persistence of *C. auris*[6]. The emergence of *Candida auris* in India has raised significant public health concerns over the past decade. First detected globally in 2009, *C. auris* quickly became a notable pathogen in India, where it now accounts for a considerable proportion of nosocomial bloodstream infections, particularly in intensive care units (ICUs)[2]. India is recognized as one of the earliest and most heavily affected countries, contributing substantially to global case numbers. Epidemiological investigations suggest that *C. auris* emerged independently in the Indian subcontinent, forming one of the distinct genetic clades identified worldwide[4]. Studies conducted in India have reported that *C. auris* accounts for approximately 5–30% of all *Candida* bloodstream infections in tertiary care hospitals, with certain centers documenting even higher rates. The pathogen predominantly affects critically ill patients with multiple risk factors, including prolonged hospital stays, broad-spectrum antibiotic use, mechanical ventilation, and indwelling medical devices. Infections are frequently observed in patients with underlying conditions such as diabetes mellitus, malignancies, and chronic kidney disease[7]. One of the major challenges in India has been the widespread resistance of *C. auris* isolates to commonly used antifungal agents, particularly fluconazole, with resistance rates exceeding 90% in some studies. Additionally, increasing resistance to amphotericin B and echinocandins has been documented, limiting therapeutic options and leading to higher mortality rates. Case fatality rates associated with *C. auris* candidemia in India range between 30% and 60%, emphasizing the pathogen's severe clinical impact[2]. The epidemiological landscape is further complicated by frequent misidentification of *C. auris* using conventional laboratory methods, often being mistaken for other *Candida* species such as *C. haemulonii*. Improved laboratory capacities, including the use of MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry and molecular diagnostic tools, have enhanced accurate detection in recent years, although gaps still remain, particularly in resource-limited settings[8]. Outbreaks of *C. auris* have been reported from multiple Indian states, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu, often involving multiple hospital wards and ICUs. Environmental contamination and healthcare worker transmission have been significant contributors to hospital outbreaks. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued national guidelines recommending infection prevention and control measures, enhanced laboratory diagnosis, and surveillance to combat the spread of *C. auris*[8]. Overall, *Candida auris* has established itself as a major pathogen in India's healthcare settings, characterized by its multidrug resistance, high transmission potential, and elevated mortality. Ongoing surveillance, rapid diagnosis, antimicrobial stewardship, and strict infection control practices are critical to containing its impact and preventing further escalation[8].

Pathogenicity and Virulence Factors

C. auris exhibits a unique combination of virulence traits that contribute to its ability to cause invasive, hard-to-treat infections, survive in hostile environments, and spread effectively in healthcare settings. Understanding these factors is critical for improving diagnosis, treatment, and infection control strategies[6].

Biofilm Formation and Its Clinical Impact

Biofilm formation is a key virulence mechanism in *Candida* species. Biofilms are complex microbial communities encased in an extracellular matrix that adhere to biotic (e.g., skin) and abiotic (e.g., catheters) surfaces[6].

- *C. auris* forms robust biofilms, though they may be thinner than those of *C. albicans*. These biofilms significantly reduce susceptibility to antifungal drugs like fluconazole and amphotericin B[6].
- Biofilms protect the fungal cells from host immune responses and antifungal penetration, making infections harder to eliminate, particularly in patients with indwelling devices such as central venous catheters, urinary catheters, or ventilators. [6].

Thermotolerance and Salt Tolerance Aiding Survival

C. auris can survive and grow under extreme environmental conditions, making it a formidable nosocomial pathogen[6].

- It tolerates temperatures up to 42°C, which is significantly higher than most other *Candida* species. This thermotolerance enables it to colonize febrile patients and survive disinfection procedures that fail to eliminate heat-sensitive organisms[6].
- It also shows salt tolerance, growing in media with 10% NaCl, allowing it to persist on human skin and hospital surfaces, including high-salt antiseptic solutions[6].

Skin Colonization and Person-to-Person Transmission

Unlike most *Candida* species that colonize mucosal surfaces, *C. auris* has a strong ability to colonize the skin, particularly in axilla, groin, and other moist areas [6].

- Colonized patients can shed *C. auris* into the hospital environment [6].
- It spreads through direct contact (healthcare worker hands, contaminated equipment, or surfaces), making person to-person transmission a major concern [6].

Immune Evasion Mechanisms

C. auris has evolved several mechanisms to evade host immune responses, which supports its survival and pathogenicity[6].

- It shows reduced recognition by neutrophils and attenuated oxidative burst responses, compared to *C. albicans*[6].
- Its cell wall composition, including variation in mannan and glucan structures, helps mask it from pattern recognition receptors on immune cells[6].
- Biofilm formation further contributes to immune evasion by physically shielding fungal cells from immune attacks[6].

Clinical Manifestations

The clinical manifestations of *Candida auris* infections are often indistinguishable from other forms of invasive candidiasis[5,11]. The spectrum ranges from bloodstream infections (candidemia) to wound infections, otitis, urinary tract infections, and respiratory tract colonization[5,11]. Among these, candidemia remains the most frequently reported presentation, particularly among ICU patients. Symptoms such as persistent fever unresponsive to antibiotics, hypotension, tachycardia, and signs of sepsis are common[5,11]. In some cases, patients may also present with localized signs depending on the site of infection, including wound dehiscence, ear discharge, or respiratory distress[5,11]. A major clinical challenge is that many patients infected with *C. auris* have overlapping comorbidities such as diabetes mellitus, malignancy, renal failure, or are post-surgical, making early clinical suspicion difficult. The mortality associated with *C. auris* candidemia in India ranges from 30% to 60%, depending on the patient population and timely administration of appropriate antifungal therapy. Furthermore, co-infections with bacterial pathogens are common, often leading to polymicrobial sepsis and complicating treatment outcomes[5,11]. The severity of infections, combined with high antifungal resistance, contributes to poor prognoses in many cases, underscoring the urgent need for early recognition, prompt antifungal therapy, and aggressive supportive care in managing affected patients [5,11].

Diagnostic Challenges in India

Accurate and timely diagnosis of *Candida auris* poses significant challenges in India, largely due to limitations in conventional microbiological methods and resource constraints[1,10]. Traditional yeast identification systems, including VITEK 2, API 20C AUX, and biochemical panels, often misidentify *C. auris* as *Candida haemulonii*, *Candida famata*, or *Candida lusitaniae*. This misidentification leads to inappropriate antifungal therapy and delayed infection control interventions[1,10]. Advanced diagnostic techniques such as matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) and molecular sequencing methods are critical for correct identification but are not universally available, especially in peripheral and resource-limited healthcare settings. Furthermore, many laboratories lack standardized protocols for *C. auris* screening in high-risk populations, leading

to underreporting and missed colonization detection. Surveillance cultures from body sites like the axilla, groin, and nares are recommended but are rarely practiced routinely due to logistical and financial barriers[1,10]. The absence of national mandatory reporting systems further hampers the accurate assessment of disease burden. ICMR has made efforts to strengthen laboratory capacities, but significant gaps remain[1,10]. Improving diagnostic capabilities through the wider availability of MALDI-TOF MS, real-time PCR assays, and encouraging laboratory networking can bridge current gaps and enhance early detection, thereby improving patient outcomes[1,10].

Public Health Significance

The emergence and spread of *Candida auris* (C. auris) represent a significant and growing public health concern globally and especially in India. The pathogen poses serious challenges to healthcare infrastructure, infection control, and patient outcomes due to its unique characteristics and resistance profile[1,4,8].

High Mortality Rates

C. auris infections are associated with high mortality, particularly among critically ill and immunocompromised patients. Reported crude mortality rates range from 30% to 60%, though exact figures vary depending on comorbidities and access to appropriate antifungal therapy (Singh *et al.,* 2019). In India, many patients affected are those admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) with invasive devices, such as central lines or ventilators, increasing their vulnerability[1,4,8].

Multidrug Resistance

One of the most alarming features of *C. auris* is its resistance to multiple classes of antifungal agents, including
Azoles (e.g., fluconazole),
Polyenes (e.g., amphotericin B), and
Echinocandins (often the last line of defense)[1,4,8].
Indian strains frequently exhibit pan-resistance, where all three major classes are ineffective. This limits treatment options and contributes to poor clinical outcomes, especially in resource-limited settings[1,4,8].

Nosocomial Outbreaks and Hospital Transmission

C. auris is capable of persisting on surfaces such as bedrails, medical equipment, and even the skin of healthcare workers. This allows it to spread easily within hospital environments, causing outbreaks. Unlike many fungal pathogens, *C. auris* shows clonal transmission patterns, meaning once it enters a hospital, it can rapidly infect multiple patients. In India, where overcrowded hospitals, inadequate disinfection practices, and limited isolation facilities are common, the potential for nosocomial spread is especially high[1,4,8].

Burden on Healthcare Systems

The need for
- Enhanced surveillance,
- Regular screening of high-risk patients,
- Use of expensive antifungal drugs, and
- Prolonged hospital stays

Significantly increases the economic and operational burden on Indian healthcare facilities. This is especially challenging in government hospitals, which often operate with limited resources[1,4,8].

Lack of Awareness and Preparedness

There is limited awareness about *C. auris* among clinicians and microbiologists in some parts of India. Until recently, there were no unified national guidelines for infection control and outbreak response. Although organizations like the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and CDC have published recommendations, implementation and compliance remain inconsistent[1,4,8].

Risk of Global Spread from India

India's high volume of international medical tourism and dense hospital networks mean that outbreaks in the country have global implications. Cases detected in other countries have sometimes been traced back to travel or hospitalization in South Asia, emphasizing the importance of controlling *C. auris* at the source[1,4,8].

Antifungal Resistance Patterns

Antifungal resistance is a defining feature of *Candida auris*, making it a major challenge for clinicians and public health systems worldwide, especially in India. Unlike most *Candida* species, *C. auris* frequently exhibits resistance to multiple classes of antifungal agents, leaving limited treatment options[1,11].

High Resistance Rates to Fluconazole and Amphotericin B[1,11]

Fluconazole Resistance: Over 90% of *C. auris* isolates worldwide show resistance to fluconazole, a commonly used azole antifungal for *Candida* infections[1,11].

This resistance is often intrinsic and consistent across geographic regions.

In India, studies have reported fluconazole resistance in 93–100% of clinical isolates, making this drug largely ineffective as a first-line therapy[1,11].

Amphotericin B Resistance: Resistance to amphotericin B, a polyene, varies but is concerning. Indian studies show 30–40% resistance, which further narrows the treatment choices, especially in resource-limited settings[1,11].

Emerging Echinocandin Resistance [1,12]

Echinocandins (e.g., caspofungin, micafungin, anidulafungin) are the first-line therapy for *C. auris* infections due to their broad efficacy[1,12].

However, echinocandin resistance is emerging in India and globally. Though still less common than azole resistance, several multi-drug resistant (MDR) and pan-drug resistant (PDR) isolates have been reported[1,12].

In India, echinocandin resistance has been reported in 5–8% of cases, with some studies identifying pan-resistant strains (resistant to all three major antifungal classes)[1,12].

Gene Mutations Associated with Resistance (ERG11, FKS1) [1,9]

Antifungal resistance in *C. auris* is largely mediated by point mutations in key genes:

ERG11 Mutations (Azole Resistance):

ERG11 encodes lanosterol 14α-demethylase, the target of azole antifungals[1,9].

Common mutations in Indian isolates: Y132F and K143R.

These mutations lead to decreased binding of fluconazole, explaining high resistance levels[1,9].

FKS1 Mutations (Echinocandin Resistance)

FKS1 encodes a subunit of 1,3-β-D-glucan synthase, the target of echinocandins[1,9].

Mutations in hotspot regions of FKS1 (e.g., S639F) are associated with elevated MICs and treatment failure[1,9].

Indian Isolate-Specific Resistance Patterns[8,13]

India is considered the origin of the South Asian clade I of *C. auris*, characterized by

High fluconazole resistance (up to 100%), Moderate to high amphotericin B resistance, and Emerging echinocandin resistance[8,13].

Notably, clade I isolates often carry ERG11 Y132F mutations, conferring azole resistance. Some Indian isolates have developed pan-drug resistance, which has been associated with increased mortality and limited therapeutic success[8,13].

Need for Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (AFST) [2,4]

Due to the unpredictable resistance profile of *C. auris*, routine antifungal susceptibility testing (AFST) is critical[2,4].

AFST helps guide targeted therapy and avoid ineffective drugs[2,4].

CDC and ICMR recommend performing AFST on every isolate of *C. auris*, particularly from blood, sterile sites, or persistent colonization[2,4]. Broth microdilution and molecular diagnostics (e.g., PCR for ERG11 and FKS1 mutations) are preferred methods[2,4].

DISCUSSION

Candida auris has emerged as a formidable global health challenge due to its unique combination of traits that differentiate it from other Candida species. First identified in 2009 by (Satoh et al.,)[6] its rapid international spread, high mortality rates, and multidrug resistance profile have created urgent concerns in clinical settings. Multiple studies have highlighted how conventional diagnostic methods frequently fail to correctly identify *C. auris*, resulting in mismanagement and delayed treatment. This diagnostic inaccuracy, particularly noted in Indian settings (Kathuria *et al.,* 2015)[10], underscores the need for widespread adoption of advanced molecular diagnostics such as MALDI-TOF MS and PCR assays (Kordalewska and Perlin, 2019)[7]. A central concern in the management of *C. auris* is its high level of antifungal resistance. Fluconazole resistance is nearly universal, and resistance to amphotericin B and even echinocandins—traditionally the last line of defense—has been increasingly reported (Chowdhary *et al.,* 2017; Jeffery-Smith *et al.,* 2018)[1,3]. Genetic studies have pinpointed mutations in ERG11 and FKS1 as major contributors to this resistance (Kordalewska and Perlin, 2019)[7]. Additionally, its ability to form biofilms not only aids environmental survival but also further enhances resistance, making eradication from hospital surfaces extremely difficult (Sharma *et al.,* 2015)[8]. The environmental resilience and efficient person-to-person transmission of *C. auris* present serious infection control challenges. Its persistence on hospital surfaces and equipment has led to repeated outbreaks, especially in high-dependency units like ICUs. Effective infection control strategies, such as those outlined by the CDC (2023)[4] and ICMR (2020), include chlorine-based environmental disinfection, patient isolation, contact precautions, and cohorting. These have been reinforced by data linking delayed diagnosis and inadequate control practices to higher mortality and increased transmission (Lockhart *et al.,* 2017)[9]. Global surveillance and coordinated public health responses remain critical. The near-simultaneous emergence of genetically distinct clades across continents (Lockhart *et al.,* 2017)[9] indicates an evolutionary trajectory influenced by global healthcare practices and antifungal use. As recommended by the CDC and ICMR, establishing robust national and international surveillance frameworks is imperative. Equally important is mandatory case reporting and antifungal resistance monitoring, which are foundational to shaping effective therapeutic guidelines and policy decisions? An individualized treatment approach, supported by susceptibility testing and real-time diagnostic feedback, has been strongly advocated (Chowdhary *et al.,* 2017)[1]. However, treatment options remain limited, and there is a pressing need for the development of new antifungal agents or combination therapies. The emphasis must also shift toward preventive strategies, including early screening in high-risk units and continuous training for healthcare workers to ensure adherence to infection control protocols.

CONCLUSION

The emergence of *Candida auris* has transformed the landscape of fungal infections, demanding a multidimensional and globally coordinated response. Characterized by multidrug resistance, environmental persistence, biofilm formation, and high mortality rates, it poses a severe threat to patient safety, particularly in ICUs and immunocompromised populations. Misidentification using conventional methods has further exacerbated clinical outcomes, emphasizing the urgent need for molecular diagnostics and improved laboratory capabilities. Effective management of *C. auris* requires a comprehensive strategy that includes early and accurate diagnosis, infection prevention and control, antifungal stewardship, and continuous surveillance. While institutions like the CDC and ICMR have provided valuable frameworks, the responsibility also lies with individual healthcare facilities to implement and adapt these guidelines rigorously. India, in particular, faces a significant burden due to high resistance rates and diagnostic challenges. National-level reforms in laboratory infrastructure, routine colonization screening in ICUs, mandatory case notification, and ongoing professional training are necessary steps forward. Furthermore, investment in antifungal research is essential to counter the therapeutic limitations currently posed by

this pathogen. In conclusion, *Candida auris* is not merely a clinical problem but a systemic one that reflects broader issues in global health preparedness, antimicrobial resistance, and infection control. It serves as a wake-up call for healthcare systems worldwide to reinforce infrastructure, rethink diagnostic paradigms, and invest in long-term solutions to manage future fungal threats.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Formulation and Evaluation of Edible Ink from Beetroot (*Beta vulgaris.* L.) Peel

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ABSTRACT

The food industry has witnessed significant advancements in food printing and packaging. Edible ink is a form of ink made from water, glycerin, and food-grade colorants, used in inkjet printers to print images or designs onto edible substrates like rice paper, fondant, and frosting. Beetroot peel, which is generally discarded, contains a high concentration of bioactive phytochemicals. The aim of this study is to formulate and evaluate edible ink derived from beetroot peel. The pigment extraction from beetroot peel was optimized by varying parameters and revealed that 80% of ethanol concentration, a 1:4 liquid-feed ratio, and an extraction time of 120 minutes at 60°C, lead to higher pigment concentrations. The stability of the ink was assessed based on its physical and functional properties. The colour analysis showed a lightness value of 32.9, a redness value of 21.6, and a greenness value of 8.4 corresponding to a higher pigment concentration. The odour intensity remained stable, ensuring that no unpleasant smells developed over time. A viscosity of 5.08, with a flow time of 5.5 seconds, indicated that it flows at a moderate rate, ensuring even application. The permanence of colour test exhibited no smearing, resulted in good printability and durability. The drying time test demonstrated that it is a higher-quality edible ink, with a drying time of 10.53 seconds. The antioxidant properties were assessed using the DPPH method, which yielded an inhibition value of 133.74%. Additionally, the HPLC analysis of phenolic compounds and betalains revealed a high RF value of 0.6, indicating a high concentration of these bioactive compounds. The shelf-life study demonstrated low bacterial count, and no yeast or mold

growth in the beetroot peel edible ink. The formulated ink was successfully applied to wheat flour biscuits using stencil printing, enhancing their visual appeal. The results confirmed that beetroot peel edible ink could be an excellent substitute for synthetic pigments.

Keywords: Beetroot, peel, antioxidants, shelf life, betalain, pigments, edible ink

INTRODUCTION

The food colour is an important sensorial attribute that has a direct influence on food selection and acceptability. The food colour is used as an indicator of the food quality such as flavour, safety and nutritional value. The food colouring plays a crucial role, widely used both in household cooking and industrial food production. Color is a major factor influencing consumer preferences, and thus, food colorants—chemical compounds used to alter or enhance the appearance of food—are a significant part of food technology. These colorants cater to the visual appeal modern consumers seek in food and beverages (Pardeike *et al.,* 2011). One natural source of food colorants example, the red pigment can be extracted from beets. The beetroot (*Beta vulgaris*), a member of the Chenopodiaceae family, comprising over 100 genera and around 1400 species. A biennial or occasionally perennial flowering plant, beetroot exhibits a range of root colours, from yellow to deep red (Weiss, 2011). It is a rich source of nutrients, including vitamins, minerals, phenolic compounds, carotenoids, nitrates, ascorbic acid, and most notably, betalains. Betalains are divided into two main pigments: betacyanins (red-violet) and betaxanthins (yellow-orange). These pigments are widely used as natural food dyes due to their non-toxic, safe, and environmentally friendly characteristics. Beyond colouring, beetroot is recognized for its various health benefits, including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenic, anti-diabetic, hypotensive, and wound-healing properties. Even during beetroot processing—for juice or sugar—valuable byproducts rich in these bioactives are generated (Piyush *et al*., 2020). In recent years, the concept of edible ink has gained traction as a sustainable and safe alternative to traditional chemical inks. Edible ink is used to print colours and patterns directly onto the surface of food, cakes, cookies, edible films, and even food packaging. These inks are made from food-grade, non-toxic materials and are biodegradableand their application extends to the medical field as well, especially in the packaging of pharmaceuticals(Su, Y.H., *et al*., 2012) The rise of 3D food printing and customized cake designs has further driven innovation in edible ink technology. For instance, cake-printing machines equipped with edible ink cartridges—like those from certain Epson printer models—enable the creation of personalized photo cakes using frosting sheets. Such technology allows for intricate, visually stunning cake decorations, often mimicking the detailed work previously done manually by skilled pastry chefs. Some studies have even explored the use of Pickering emulsion gels to 3D print semi-solid structures that replicate those made from saturated or trans fats (Lokman Hakim *et al.,* 2024). As food printing evolves, more attention is being paid to the choice of substrates and their interaction with edible ink. The substrate must complement the design and functionality of the product, ensuring clarity and adherence of the print. Designers must also consider the compatibility of edible inks with both the food surface and packaging materials, maintaining safety and aesthetic appeal throughout (Zhang *et al.,* 2021).

The objectives of the studies are

1. To extract and standardize beetroot peel pigment for edible ink formulation.
2. To evaluate the physical, functional, and shelf-life properties of the ink.
3. To apply the ink on wheat flour biscuits using stencil printing.

METHODOLOGY

Selection and Procurement of Raw Materials

The study has been approved by the Institutional Human Ethics Committee (IHEC). The raw materials that are required for this study are beetroot, sucrose, salt, soyabean oil, arrow root powder, gum acacia which was collected from local market, Chennai. The beetroot peel is considered as a perfect origin to produce the edible ink as they are

rich in betalains, flavonoids etc. Soybean has been selected as a connecting material in the preparation of edible ink as it is considered as eco-friendly choice. Sucrose is selected as a carrier of pigment as it is safe for consumption and a small amount of arrow root powder and gum acacia was added as a binder for combining these ingredients together.

Standardization of pigment and preparation of edible ink

Beetroot peels were processed to extract natural pigments using a solvent extraction method, as outlined by Liliana and Oana-Viorela 2020 and Guangxue Chen *et al.* 2018. The process of various parameters was optimized to improve pigment yield. Crushed beetroot peels were treated with ethanol concentrations of 50%, 60%, 80%, and 90% (pH 3.0) at 4°C for 60 minutes, and absorbance at 282 nm was measured to determine the most effective concentration. Using 80% ethanol, different peel-to-solvent ratios were tested under the same conditions to identify the optimal liquid-to-solid ratio. Extraction time was also varied—30, 60, 90, and 120 minutes—using 80% ethanol at a 1:4 ratio (pH 3.0) to determine the ideal duration. Finally, extraction was performed at different temperatures using the same ethanol concentration and time settings to establish the optimal temperature for maximum pigment yield.

Formulation of edible ink

According to the Guangxue Chen *et al.* 2017, beetroot pigment was extracted by boiling 250g of crushed beetroot in 200 ml water at 30°C for 10–15 minutes, followed by immersion in anhydrous ethanol at 50°C. The extract was centrifuged, filtered, diluted with distilled water, adjusted to pH 3.0 using citric acid, and stored at 4°C. Absorbance was measured at 282 nm using a UV spectrophotometer. The edible ink was formulated by mixing 100 ml of the extracted pigment with 1 tbsp salt (preservative), ¾ tbsp arrowroot powder (viscosity), 20 g sucrose (sweetness), 20 ml soybean oil (colour/stability), and 1 tbsp gum acacia (thickener), resulting in a printable, stable edible ink(Hisar *et al*. 2016).

Physical Properties

The colour analysis, based on Sudsawat and Limhengha., 2024, indicates quality attributes like pigment and flavor. Using the Hunter Lab colorimeter (L*, a*, b*), lightness, redness/greenness, and yellowness/blueness were measured. Odour, which influences taste and appetite was assessed through Dynamic Olfactometry using human evaluators (Running and Hayes, 2016). Viscosity, vital in food processing Said *et al*., 2021, was measured by timing the flow of 50 ml of ink through a cup with a hole, averaged over three trials. Colour permanence, reflecting resistance to fading (Kabalnov, 2004), was tested by immersing samples in water and checking text visibility. Drying time was assessed following by tracking moisture loss over time to evaluate ink setting speed on food substrates (Singh *et al*., 2022).

Functional and Shelf-Life Analysis

The antioxidant activity was evaluated using the DPPH assay, where 1 ml of the sample was mixed with 500 µl of 0.4 µM DPPH in methanol. The mixture was kept in the dark for 30 minutes, and absorbance was measured at 517 nm to assess radical scavenging activity (Baliyan *et al*., 2022). For compound identification, High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) was employed to detect and quantify phenolic and betalain compounds. The analysis was performed using a Waters Symmetry C18 column, and chromatographic data were processed using Chem Station software (Kowalska *et al*., 2022).

Shelf-Life Assessment

The shelf-life evaluation included stability testing, total bacterial count (TBC), and yeast and mold count to assess pigment durability and microbial safety. Stability was determined by diluting 5 ml of pigment in 250 ml of distilled water and measuring absorbance at 282 nm on day 1 and day 15 using a dual-beam UV spectrophotometer (Sneha *et al*., 2018). Microbial safety was assessed through the pour plate method. Total bacterial count (TBC) was measured using nutrient agar to determine colony-forming units (Makroo *et al*., 2020), while yeast and mold contamination was evaluated using potato dextrose agar (Martin *et al*., 2021).

Application on Food Substrates

The edible ink was applied to wheat flour biscuits using stencil printing and stencils. Ink was poured over the stencil placed on food items. Printed products were stored at room temperature (273K ≈ 0°C, should be 298K/25°C) for drying. Microbial and mold counts were evaluated on day 0, 15, and 30 post-applications to monitor hygiene and ink performance during storage (Lokman Hakim *et al.,* 2022).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Solvent Extraction

Standardization of Ethanol Concentration in Solvent Extraction

The highest absorbance was observed at 80% ethanol concentration (1.0687), with a decrease in absorbance at both lower (50%) and higher (90%) concentrations. The results are consistent with previous studies. Jones *et al.*, 2022 and Smith and Liu 2021 found that higher ethanol concentrations (70-80%) lead to better extraction efficiency, similar to the peak absorbance at 80% ethanol in this study. The drop in absorbance at 90% ethanol supports findings by Morris *et al*. (2020), which suggested that higher ethanol concentrations can reduce extraction efficiency due to saturation effects.

Standardization of Liquid Feed Ratio in Solvent Extraction

The liquid feed ratio of the volume of water present in the liquid phase (Long Ji *et al.,* 2018). Adjusting the liquid feed ratio is necessary for extracting the specific pigment and their desired hue intensity or their concentration in the extract. The highest absorbance (1.0687) was observed at a liquid feed ratio of 1:4, with the absorbance decreasing as the feed ratio increase. The results indicate that a liquid feed ratio of 1:4 provides the highest absorbance, suggesting optimal extraction efficiency at this ratio. Jones *et al*., 2021 and Smith and Liu., 2020 also found that moderate feed ratios typically result in better extraction, as higher ratios may dilute the extract, reducing efficiency.

Standardization of Extraction Time in Solvent Extraction

Extraction time is the amount of time for which the vegetable material is soaked or immersed in ethanol to extract the pigments present in it. The extraction time and temperature are the crucial factors in determining the betalain yield in the ethanolic extraction (Shi J *et al.*,2003).The highest absorbance (1.4635) was observed at an extraction time of 120 minutes, while 90 minutes showed a decrease in absorbance. The results suggest that increasing extraction time enhances the extraction efficiency, with the highest absorbance recorded at 120 minutes. This is consistent with the findings of Smith *et al*.,2020, who reported that longer extraction times allow for greater solute diffusion, leading to higher absorbance values. Jones *et al*., 2021also observed that an increase in extraction time up to 90-120 minutes resulted in higher yields of bioactive compounds. However, at 90 minutes, the absorbance started to decrease, indicating potential saturation or diminished extraction efficiency beyond 120 minutes, as seen in (Chung and Park., 2019).

Standardization of Extraction Temperature in Solvent Extraction

The extraction temperature and liquid feed ratio have a greater impact than the extraction time.The targeted compound would experience oxidation and polymerization if they were exposed to high temperature for an extended period of time. The overall betalain content of ethanolic extraction greatly rises with increasing temperature and extraction duration, but prolong high temperature can reduce the betalain content (Shi J *et al.,*2003).The highest absorbance (1.0687) was observed at an extraction temperature of 60°C, with a decrease in absorbance at both lower (40°C) and higher (70°C) temperature.The results show that the highest absorbance (1.0687) occurred at an extraction temperature of 60°C, indicating optimal extraction efficiency at this temperature. Lower temperatures (40°C) resulted in reduced absorbance, likely due to lower solubility of compounds in ethanol.

Physical Parameters of Edible Ink

Colour Activity

The color of the edible ink was analysed using CIELAB parameters with a Hunter Lab Colorimeter (Janu Chandran *et al*., 2014). The results showed L* = 32.9 (lightness), a* = 21.6 (red-green), and b* = 8.4 (yellow-blue), indicating a dark reddish-yellow tone. The moderate a* value suggests a red tint, while the b* value reflects a mild yellow hue. The low L* value indicates a concentrated, darker ink, which often corresponds to higher pigment content. These findings align with Saranya *et al*.,2016, who reported similar results in natural pigment-based edible inks.

Odour Detection

Odour is an attribute of the edible ink which describes the fragrance of ink which is obtained by combining various substances together(Dehmer,2020).The odour intensity remained the same (moderate odour) from the 0th day to the 7th day which suggests that the beetroot peel edible ink maintains its fragrance over time. Airol Marie A *et al.,* 2021, found similar stability in the odour of edible inks formulated with natural ingredients like beetroot, with minimal changes in odour profile over a week.

Viscosity Measurement

Viscosity refers to as fluid thickness, it is a measurement of liquid's resistance to flow (Reid,2020). The viscosity of the prepared edible ink was assessed using a technique adapted from (bizzarri., 2017). In this study, reported that it indicates the average flow time taken for the beetroot peel edible ink was 5.5 seconds. The viscosity of 5.08 cst at 25°c indicates that the sample has a moderate consistency. The observed similar viscosities for food-based inks, particularly when using natural colorants, where the viscosity ranged from 4-6 cst at room temperature. The flow time of 5.5 seconds for the ford cup b4 is typical for inks used in similar applications, suggesting that the sample has an appropriate consistency for practical use. morris *et al*.,2020 found that food-grade inks with flow times between 5-6 seconds have good printability, which aligns with the results from this study.

Permanence of Colour

The permanence of colour refers to the ability of a colour, pigment, or dye to retain its original appearance, discolouration, alternation over time when exposed to various environmental factors like heat, light, moisture, and chemicals (Dewitz.,2015). The beetroot peel ink showed no smearing, indicating good colour permanence. The study displays that the prepared beetroot peel ink was not smeared when exposed to water. Silva *et al*., 2018 also observed that natural ink formulations, particularly those based on plant-derived pigments like beetroot, exhibited good colour fastness and resistance to smearing, similar to the results in this study. This permanence is crucial for ensuring the aesthetic quality and durability of the ink in practical applications, particularly in food decoration and packaging.

Drying Time

Drying time refers to how long it takes for ink to lose moisture and become dry to the touch after application on paper or food substrates. Factors such as temperature, humidity, air flow, and material properties influence this process (Dehmer, 2020). In this study, beetroot peel-based edible ink dried in an average of 10 minutes and 53 seconds. Natural edible inks typically dry within 10–15 seconds, making them suitable for practical use. According to Ariol Marie A *et al*., 2021 inks with drying times under 15 seconds are preferred in the food industry, supporting the effectiveness of beetroot-based inks for both color quality and drying efficiency.

Functional Properties of the Edible Ink

DPPH Antioxidant Activity

DPPH analysis is used to evaluate antioxidant activity by measuring the color change that occurs when a sample reacts with DPPH radicals (Prior, 2015). In this study, the antioxidant capacity of beetroot peel edible ink was assessed using DPPH analysis. The sample showed an inhibition value of 133.74%, significantly higher than the standard value of 66.34%, indicating strong free radical scavenging activity. A lower IC50 value reflects higher antioxidant power. The results suggest that beetroot peel, rich in bioactive compounds like betalains, has high

antioxidant potential. Similar findings were reported by Smith and Liu 2020, supporting beetroot's use in functional foods and natural preservatives.

HPLC (High-Performance Liquid Chromatography)

One type of chromatography used to separate, identify, and quantify chemicals dissolved in solution is called High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). HPLC analysis is used to identify and quantify components in edible ink, ensuring colorant concentrations, detecting impurities, and maintaining food safety and quality (Madhusree S and Sadhukhan, 2016). In this study, beetroot peel extract in a methanol-based solvent system (5:5:3:1:0.5 v/v/v) showed an Rf value of 0.6. Compared to Shanmugam *et al*., 2012, where Caesalpinia leaf extract in methanol (9.5:0.5 v/v) had an Rf value of 0.46. The beetroot-based ink showed higher compound migration. This difference is due to variations in solvent polarity, which affect movement on the TLC plate.

Shelf-Life Study of the Edible Ink

The shelf life of natural food colorants extracted from plant materials is influenced by factors such as the solvents used, their molecular structure, interactions with other ingredients, and the environmental conditions during processing and storage(Nik Zakaria *et al*., 2015). In this study, the prepared edible ink was stored at refrigerator temperature (4°C) for 30 days and analysed for total bacterial growth as well as yeast and mold growth. The total bacterial count in the inks gradually increased, likely due to the moisture content in the edible ink, while no yeast or mold growth was observed, indicating the product's safety (Sharma R J *et al*., 2016).

Stability Study of Pigment and Edible Ink

The stability test is conducted to assess the notable changes that occur in a product during storage that increase in absorbance in UV spectrophotometry signifies a rise in colour intensity, which is attributed to the higher concentration of the solute in the solution. This results in enhanced light absorption at the specific wavelength characteristic of the pigment(Was- Gubala J *et al*.,2015).On the 0th and 1st day, beetroot peel pigment showed high absorbance due to its rich betalain content, which gives the ink its intense pink colour (Wijesekara and Xu, 2024). By the 14th day, a noticeable decline in absorbance was observed, indicating reduced pigment stability. This degradation is influenced by factors such as light, pH, temperature, oxygen, enzymes, and additives like vitamin C and sulfites(Liu., 2023). A similar study by Zhang., 2022 reported pigment fading by the 5th day due to light exposure. After 15 days, reduced color intensity was linked to storage conditions. The beetroot peel ink showed greater absorbance and color intensity compared to untreated pigment, suggesting it maintains better stability and vibrancy (Was-Gubala *et al*., 2015).

Total Bacterial Count

The total bacterial count refers to the total number of bacteria present in a given sample, measured in colony-forming units (CFU) and is conducted to evaluate the quality and safety of a food product (Chukwuemeka K *et al*.,2011). In this study, beetroot peel edible ink showed no bacterial growth for 30 days, suggesting initial stability. However, a slow increase in bacterial count was observed afterward, likely due to moisture content and environmental exposure, similar to findings by (Sharma *et al*.,2016) and (Jones *et al*.,2019). These studies highlight the susceptibility of plant-based inks to microbial growth over time. Improved preservation methods are needed to extend shelf life.

Yeast and Mold Count

Yeast and mold are measured in colony-forming units per gram of the product (CFU/g). This parameter is used to assess fungal contamination levels and provides an indication of the hygiene and quality of the product(Smith *et al.*, 2019). The table represents that the total yeast and mold count have found to be nil in the edible ink on the 0^{th}, 15^{th}, 30^{th} day. Centre of food safety, 2007 also reported that edible inks formulated with natural ingredients, like beetroot, typically exhibit good resistance to fungal growth due to the lack of fermentable sugars and the antimicrobial properties of the ingredients. This supports the findings in the present study, suggesting that beetroot peel ink remains stable and free from yeast and mold contamination under proper storage conditions.

Application of Edible Ink on Wheat Flour Biscuit

Natural food colorants are gaining popularity as safer alternatives to synthetic dyes in products like cakes, biscuits, and bread. Pigments from sources such as beetroot, saffron, curcumin, and pomegranate peel offer vibrant, appealing colours. These natural pigments are also widely used in the production of edible inks. Edible ink has various applications, including decorating cakes, cookies, fruits, edible films, and packaging. In this study, edible ink was applied to wheat flour biscuits using a stencil printing method. The ink was poured over a stencil and pressed onto the biscuit surface, then allowed to dry at room temperature (27°C). The printed biscuits displayed enhanced visual appeal with vivid orange and red hues. This suggests that pigment-based edible inks can serve as a natural alternative to commercially available synthetic inks. The findings align with Gohong Liu *et al*.,2018, who reported similar color quality using purple potato ink.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors proclaim no conflicts of interest.

CONCLUSION

This study presents the development of an eco-friendly edible ink derived from beetroot peel pigments, intended for direct application on food and food packaging. In contrast to conventional synthetic inks, this natural formulation is non-toxic, sustainable, and enriched with antioxidants, offering added health benefits. Optimal pigment extraction was achieved using 80% ethanol, a 1:4 solvent-to-solid ratio, and a 120-minute process at 60°C, yielding a high concentration of vibrant pigments. The resulting ink exhibited desirable physical and functional characteristics, including favourable colour values (L* 32.9, a* 21.6, b* 8.4), moderate viscosity (5.08), and rapid drying time (10.53 seconds). It displayed excellent printability without altering odour, retained strong antioxidant potential (133.74% inhibition), and was rich in phenolics and betalains (Rf 0.6). Shelf-life evaluation confirmed microbial stability, and its application on wheat biscuits notably improved visual appeal. Overall, this beetroot peel-based ink emerges as a viable and sustainable alternative to synthetic edible inks for the food industry.

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Table 1 : Optimization of Solvent Extraction Parameters for Beetroot Peel Pigment

Parameter	Tested Range	Optimal Value	Observed Absorbance @550nm	Findings
Ethanol Concentration (%)	50%, 60%, 80%, 90%	80%	1.0687	Higher concentrations beyond 80% reduced efficiency due to solvent saturation.
Liquid Feed Ratio - g/ml (Peel:Solvent)	1:2, 1:3, 1:4, 1:5	1:4	1.0687	1:4 provided optimal pigment concentration; higher dilution reduced yield.
Extraction Time (minutes)	30, 60, 90, 120	120	1.4635	Maximum extraction at 120 mins; decline noted at 90 mins due to saturation.
Extraction Temperature (°C)	40°C, 50°C, 60°C, 70°C	60°C	1.0687	High temperatures (>60°C) risk pigment degradation (oxidation/polymerization).



FIG 1-Preparation of edible ink

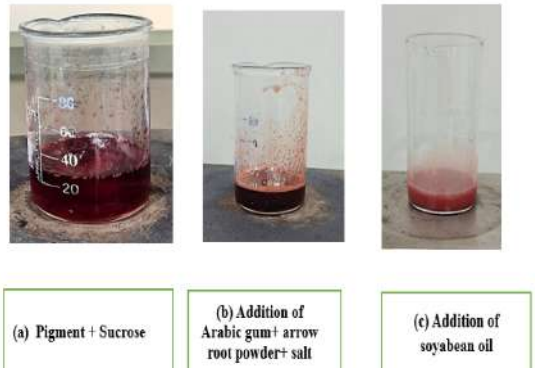


FIG 2-Formation of edible ink

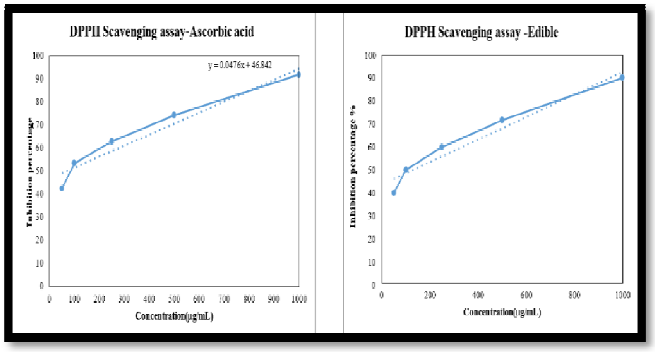


Fig 3 – DPPH antioxidant activity

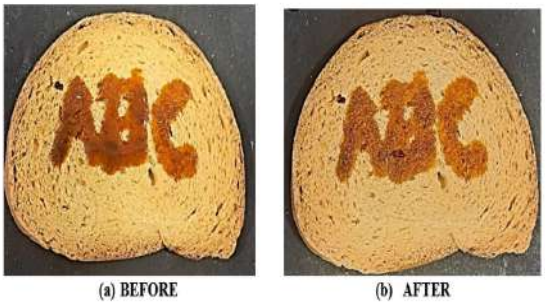


FIG 4- Application of edible ink on the wheatflour biscuit

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Studies on Medicinal Plants used by Tribes for Ethno Veterinary Practices in Seloo Tahsil (Dist. Wardha), Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to assess the documentation of Ethno-veterinary practices of medicinal plants used by the traditional healers in SelooTahsil of Wardha district, Maharashtra state, India. The knowledge of preparation and use of medicinal plants is only limited to older peoples of the tribe. Hence, ethno-veterinary information was collected through individual interviews and observations among the tribal peoples of the study area. Several medicinal plants are used by tribal and other local people living in and around the forest area of villages to treat several elements. A total of 35 species of Ethno-veterinary medicinal plants belongs to 25 families were recorded in the study with the help of eight Ethno-veterinary traditional healers. So, it is necessary to keep this knowledge of the tribe alive. The efforts were taken to explore the documentation of the medicinal plants and associated indigenous knowledge that can be used for conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants in the study area and validation of these plant preparations for veterinary treatment.

Keywords: Ethno-veterinary, medicinal plants, tribes, SelooTahsil

INTRODUCTION

The Human and animal relationship was so close from the beginning. The history of ethno-veterinary medicine is as old as the evolution of man on earth. The term 'Ethno-veterinary' was introduced by Dr. Constance M. McCorkle. It is used regarding indigenous knowledge that is passed on from generation to generation through verbal verdicts

(McCorkle, 1986). Ethno-veterinary medicine is a system that is based on folk beliefs, traditional knowledge, skills, methods, practices used for curing diseases and maintaining the health of animals. Ethno-veterinary medicine has been very crucial for the animal healthcare of most developing countries, it has not yet been well documented and much effort is needed in research and integration activities in these countries (Yineger *et al*., 2007). The livestock is mostly used for milk production, farming operations and to pull heavy loads. Medicinal plants have been widely used as a primary source of prevention and control of livestock diseases for several centuries. Traditional veterinary medicine knowledge is handed down orally from older to younger generations which can be found in remote areas where no modern facilities are available. This knowledge is disappearing rapidly due to socio-economic, environmental, technological changes. Now a day, the young generation is not showing interest in conserving such knowledge therefore, it becomes essential to document it before vanishing. Ethno-veterinary medicine often provides cheaper options than comparable western drugs and the products are locally available and more easily accessible. In the face of these and other factors, there is increasing interest in the field of Ethno-veterinary research and development (Zschocke *et al*., 2000; Masika *et al*., 2000; Tabuti *et al*., 2003; Yineger *et al*., 2007; Kone and Atindehou, 2008). According to World Health Organization, at least 80% of people in developing countries depend on indigenous practices for animal diseases. The livestock plays a crucial role in farmer's and tribal people's life. Some reports concerns with Ethno-veterinary practices of tribal people in Maharashtra state for the treatment of various diseases are available such as in Nasik District (Rothe, 2005), Buldhana district (Patil *et al*., 2010; Marathe *et al*., 2010), Jalna district (Deshmukh *et al*., 2011), Shirpurtahasil, Dhule district (Patil *et al*., 2013), Chandrapur, Nagpur and Gadchiroli district (Kulkarni *et al*., 2014), Bhandara district (Gadpayale *et al*., 2014), Akola district (Jambu and Wath, 2018). Traditional knowledge of plants in many tribal communities is changing because of rapid socio-economic and cultural changes. This is particularly true in the tribal people in SelooTahsil of Wardha district, Maharashtra. But still, there is no strong research in concern with ethno-veterinary studies in the selected areas. Hence the present investigation was conducted to identify, collect and document the Ethno-veterinary medicinal plants used in SelooTahsil of Wardha district and their utilization for primary health care of animal's treatments for different ailments. Hence, documentation of Ethno-veterinary medicine from the region having a rich ethnographic and biodiversity setting would be of great significance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The present study was conducted among the SelooTahsil. It has 133 villages out of that 10 villages selected for present study. The information was collected from knowledgeable, experienced, elderly rural persons. Ethno-veterinary data were collected by conducting interviews with tribal, farmers, experienced elder persons of villages, traditional healers (*Vaidu*). The questionnaire was administrated to them in the local language (Marathi).

Seloo is an important Tahsil of Wardha district in the state of Maharashtra which has landscapes dotted with hillocks, lakes, temples, etc. It lies between the latitudes 20°50′6″ North and longitudes 78°42′33″ East. The study area has well distinguished three seasons as a rainy monsoon, a hot summer, and a winter. The area has subtropical climatic conditions with liberal rainfall in the monsoon resulting in wealthy plant diversity in the area. Towards the west, there is Bor Wildlife Sanctuary. The people of the study area are tribal, agriculturists and most of them are having domestic animals such as cows, goats, sheep, buffalo, bulls, etc. But the area has not been supported by veterinary hospitals, colleges, any such dispensaries. The villagers in the block are usually going to the nearby blocks of the Tahsil/district to treat their animals. In case of emergency, the Ethno-veterinary healers of the study area offer some necessary indigenous treatments with medicinal plants. The present study was conducted at ten villages of seloo tahsil *viz*. Seloo, Ghorad, Dhanoli (M), Vadgaon (Kala), Zadshi, Borkhedi, Pawnar, Kanhapur, Gondapur and Surgeon, which are located very close to the forest area and Gond, Adiwasi, Pardhi tribes found in these region. Each village has around 30-70 houses and some villages are not having any transportation facilities. It is a comparatively plain and hilly area covered by herbaceous, scrubby, tree vegetation. During the investigation, several field trips

were undertaken suggested by Schultes (1962) and Lipp (1989) to different villages and discussed with the villagers about Ethno-veterinary plant species.

Data Collection

Field trips one day a week were made in the study area every month of the year during the study among the tribal people (Gond, Adiwasi, Pardhi tribes) in SelooTahsil. The major livelihood of these tribalsis cattle farming, agriculture, collection of fuel-wood, forest resources such as herbal medicines, honey, some edible fruits, vegetables, tubers from the nearby forest area. Tribals and local peoples were interviewed and the Ethno-veterinary data were collected and documented. The interviews were conducted in the local language i.e.Marathi. Ethno-veterinary plant species were located or searched with the help of informants. Plant parts use and the method of preparation and administration were recorded along with the local, common name, etc. The collected Ethno-veterinary information was recorded on field notebooks and plants with the usual ethno medical botanical method (Jain, 1987) were plant specimens are identified with the help of Flora of Presidency of Bombay (Cooke, 1958), The Flora of British India, (Hooker, 1892), Flora of Maharashtra state (Monocotyledons) (Sharma *et al*., 1996), Flora of Kolhapur District (Yadav and Sardesai, 2002), Flora of Raigad District (Kothari and Murthy, 1993), Flora of Nagpur district (Ugemuge, 1986). The voucher specimens were deposited at the herbarium of the Department of Botany, Vidyabharti College, Seloo Dist. Wardha.

OBSERVATIONS

The Ethno-veterinary medicinal plant species recorded are arranged in tabular form. The information about Botanical names along with the local name, family, part used along with the mode of administration with local ethno-veterinary use and recorded use are given in Table -1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the interview, the information was recorded and revisited at least three times for confirmation of the information for the validity of data. The traditional knowledge of tribal communities of SelooTehsil has high Ethno botanical importance. They utilize numerous plants and their various parts *viz*. roots, leaves, stems, rhizome for various Ethno-veterinary practices. A total of 35 species (Photo plate –I and II) of Ethno-veterinary medicinal plants belongs to 25 families were recorded in the study with the help of eight Ethno-veterinary traditional healers. The dosages depend on the age of the livestock animal. The oral mode of administration was found to be used mostly followed by a topical mode of administration. In the present study, diverse ethno-veterinary medicinal plant species were found to belong to diverse plant families. Among the documented useful species belonging to 25 families, and the families*viz*. Fabaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Solanaceae, Verbanaceae, Acanthaceae are found to be the most often used family in the study. The family likes Malvaceae, Amaranthaceae, Simoroubaceae, Cornaceae, Asparagaceae, Meliaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Boraginaceae, Zygophyllaceae, Bombacaceae, Apocynaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Vitaceae, Zingiberaceae, Discoraceae, Cucurbitaceae, Piperaceae, Euphorbiaceae, and Myrtaceae also use for the same. In each family, one species used forethno-veterinary purpose. The most commonly used plant parts for the preparation of ethno-veterinary plant-based medicine were leaves followed by stem, fruit, and bark. Most of the plants are used to treat fever in livestock. Decoctions, paste, powder, a mixture of plants are the common methods employed for the preparation of medicinal plants. Most of the reported Ethno-veterinary medicinal plants are used to treat fever, wounds, dysentery.

CONCLUSIONS

The far-reaching field survey on Ethno-veterinary medicinal plant species was conducted in SelooTahsil of Wardha district, Maharashtra. Documentation of this knowledge is valuable for the communities and their future generations and for scientific consideration of wider uses of traditional knowledge in treating domestic animals. This study

indicates that there are only a few traditional healers knowing animal healthcare and related Ethno-veterinary medicinal plant species and the practitioners are very rare, farmers have some information. The low cost and almost no side effects of these traditional preparations with medicinal plants make them adaptable by the local community. The present work enumerates the correct botanical name, family, local name of the plant, parts used, method of preparation, and mode of administration of the drug against the ailments. Most of the ethno-veterinary medications were mono-herbal formulations and some were poly-herbal formulations used against livestock diseases. There is an urgent need of conserving such unique knowledge for economic development and plant-based medicines.

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Table – 1. List of Ethno-veterinary medicinal plantand their uses recorded from Seloo (Dist. Wardha)

Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Plant Part Used	Ethno-veterinary Uses
1.	*Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet, Hort. Brit.	Malvaceae	Petari, Sakuli	Leaves	1. Leaves ground with buttermilk and the extract given to cure dysentery
2.	*Abrus precatorius* L.	Fabaceae	Gunj	Seeds, Leaves	1. 10 gm paste of seeds is fed to cattle in bone fracture. 2. A paste of seed powder in coconut oil is used for wound healing. 3. Leaf paste is applied to affected places to treat swellings while a small amount of seed powder is given to the stomach problems.
3.	*Acacia nilotica* (L.) Willd	Mimosaceae	Babhul	Leaves and bark.	1. Fresh leaves are crushed and mixed with 100ml of water is given orally in dysentery. 2. A decoction of the bark is applied over the hooves to cure foot and mouth diseases. 3. A handful of fresh and healthy leaves are crushed in a cupful of curd and given with one chicken egg white once a day for 5-6 days to cure mouth ulcers in oxen and buffaloes.
4.	*Achyranthes aspera* L.	Amaranthaceae	Aghada	Leaves and seeds	1. 50 gm leaves mixed with 100 ml mustard oil are given orally to cure gastritis. 2. Seeds are burnt and the animals are exposed to smoke to treat hemorrhagic septicemia. 3. The leaf is ground and the filtered juice is used to pour into the eyes to get relief from water in the eyes as well as to treat the ear problems.
5.	*Ailanthus excels* Roxb.	Simoroubaceae	Maharukh.	Leaves.	1. Leaves juice is used to kill lice and ticks on the skin of cattle. 2. A decoction of leaves is applied to remove maggots from the wound.
6.	*Adhatoda vasica* Nees	Acanthaceae	Adulsa	Leaves	A decoction of leaf and stem is given to treat fever.
7.	*Andrographis paniculata* Nees	Acanthaceae	Bhuineemb	Leaves.	A decoction of the whole plant is used to treat fever and cough.
8.	*Alangium salviifolium* (L. f.) Wang.	Cornaceae	Ankol	Leaves and stem.	1. Leaves paste or extract used in washing and healing of wounds. 2. Stem bark juice is mixed with *Citrus limonia* (Lemon) juice given orally 2-3 times a day to cure cough and sneezing in cattle.
9.	*Asparagus racemosus* Willd.	Asparagaceae	Shatavari.	Roots.	1. Roots mixed with fodder given to the milking animals to increase lactation. 2. Root paste mixed with the paste *of Allium cepa* (Onion) and jaggery given orally to cure mastitis
10.	*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Kaduneem.	Leaves and	1. Leaves paste is used for killing ectoparasites. 2. Seed oil or decoction of leaves is applied on

				seeds.	hooves of cattle in foot and mouth disease.
11.	*Allium sativum* Linn.	Amaryllidaceae	Lasun	Bulb	Oil from the heated bulb is dropped in the nose for Pneumonia.
12.	*Boswellia serrata* Roxb	Boraginacaceae	Salai	Leaves	Crushed leaves give on swelling and joint pain.
13.	*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub	Fabaceae	Palas	Bark, Flowers	1. Bark bounded to the fractured part. 2. A paste of flowers applied externally on Fracture.
14.	*Balanitesa egyptiaca* (L.) Delile	Zygophyllaceae	Hingot	Seeds	1. A paste of seeds is fed to cattle for the expulsion of the placenta. 2. Seeds paste mixed with water is given to animals twice a day to cure neck inflammation.
15.	*Bombax ceiba* L.	Bombacaceae	Katesavar	Bark	The bark juice is given orally for Joint pain, backpain, anorexia.
16.	*Catharanthus roseus* G. Don.	Apocynaceae	Sadafuli, Jagannath	**L**eaves	A paste of about 20-30gm of fresh leaves in a cupful of water is mixed with a small amount of lemon fruit juice and applied externally at the site of bitten region of the body once a day for 5-7days for the healing of wounds.
17.	*Calotropis gigantean* (L.) W.T. Aiton	Asclepediaceae	Rui	Root	The root is kept in the nostrils for few minutes to get relief from running the nose while the leaf latex is used to cure the wound and skin problems.
18.	*Cassia fistula* L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Bahava, Amaltash	Bark, fruit	1. The stem bark is ground with pepper and garlic and the mixture is given to cure fever. 2. The legume (fruit) is used to treat digestive problems in cats and goats.
19.	*Cassia tora* L**.**	Caesalpiniaceae	Tarota	Seeds	The Seed is mixed with water and ground into a paste and applied to cure skin diseases.
20.	*Cissus quadrangularis* L.	Vitaceae	Haddi jodi	Stem	The fresh pieces of stem are used to treat bone fracture and muscular pain in goats and cows as well as bulls and buffaloes.
21.	*Clerodendron serratum* (Linn.) Moon	Verbenaceae	Ranasuta	Roots	Approximately 100gm powder from shade dried roots is soaked in half litter warm water overnight and the extract is boiled on next day morning for 3-4 minutes to obtain decoction which is applied externally on the womb of cows once a day at night for 6-8 days to increase placental contraction during calving.
22.	*Curcuma longa* L.	Zingiberaceae	Halad	Rhizome	1. The turmeric with a pinch of salt mixed and rubbed on the tongue of the cattle for Mouth ulcer. 2. The paste of rhizome powder and limestone is applied to body itching and neck hair loss.
23.	*Datura metel* L.	Solanaceae	Dhotra	Fruits	Roasted fruits are given once a day till dysentery and cough are cured.
24.	*Dioscorea bulbifera* L.	Dioscoreaceae	Shankar jath,	Bulbils	1. The paste of bulbils is a tie to a wound. 2. Tuber paste is tie on for 2 to 3 days on the

			Matalu		affected area.
25.	*Momordica dioica* Roxb. Ex Willd	Cucurbitaceae	Kurtule, Katwal	Fruits	The slices are cut, prepared tablets and given orally 3 times for 3 days on piles.
26.	*Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre	Fabaceae	Karanj	Leaves	1. A leaf is ground with pepper and given to cure fever. 2. A decoction of stem bark is given orally to treat dysentery.
27.	*Piper betle L.*	Piperaceae	Pan	Leaves	The betel leaf was given orally for vomiting.
28.	*Ricinus communis* L.	Euphorbiaceae	Erandi	Leaves	1. The leaf powder is rubbed twice a day on the body of animals to cure the wound. 2. Fresh 50gm leaves are given to the goat and sheep to get relief from indigestion and gas trouble.
29.	*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	Jambhul	Stem, bark	1. The stem bark is mixed with curd and made into a paste and given to cure dysentery. 2. An extract from semi-ripen fruits is mixed in a certain proportion is suitable fodder and the same preparation is fed to bulls to attain maximum and healthy growth with higher vitality.
30.	*Sesbania grandiflora* (L.) Poiret	Fabaceae	Heti	Seeds	A certain amount of seed powder is mixed with wheat flour during chapatti preparation and the same chapatti are fed regularly to male buffaloes and oxen once daily on regular basis early in the morning for 2-3 months to increase and maintain sexual potency and strength.
31.	*Tamarindus indica* L.	Mimosaceae	Chinch	Leaves	1. The leaves are used to treat stomach problems in goat, cow, bull, buffalos. 2. The fruits are dipped in cold water for some time and then the extract is given to the domestic animal in a high dose to remove the poisonous elements from the digestive system.
32.	*Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Solanaceae	Behada	Bark	Approximately 20-30 gm of dried stem bark powder is boiled in one glass of water for 3-4 minutes and the decoction obtained is given with 1-2 teaspoon of Nilgiri (*Eucalyptus globuulus*) oil to the goats orally twice a day for 3-4 days for curing blood dysentery.
33.	*Tephrosia perpurea* Pers.	Fabaceae	Diwali	Roots	A handful of fresh root pieces are boiled in 2-3 glasses of sheep's milk for 5-6 minutes and the remaining decoction is administered once daily up to 3-5 days to improve muscular strength in male goats.
34.	*Vitex negundo* L.	Verbenaceae	Nirgudi	Leaves	Tender leaves are ground with pepper and garlic and given to cure infectious diseases while the warm extract of fresh leaves is given to get relief from muscular pain.
35.	*Vigna radiate* (L.) R. Wilczek.	Fabaceae	Moong	Seeds	Juice of crushed Seeds mixed with coriander and given to drink on Mouth and Foot diseases.

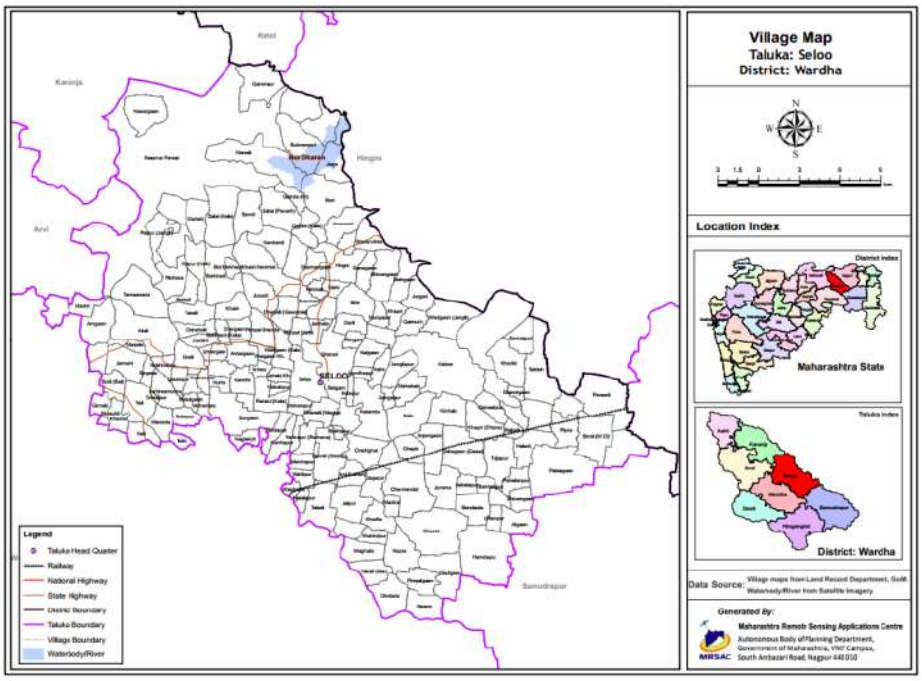


Fig.1. Seloo Village Map

			
Abutilon indicum (L.) Sweet, Hort. Brit.	*Abrus precatorius* L.	*Acacia nilotica* (L.)Willd.	*Achyranthes aspera* L
			
Ailanthus excels Roxb.	*Adhatoda vasica* Nees	*Andrographis paniculata* Nees	*Alangium salviifolium*(L. f.) Wang.

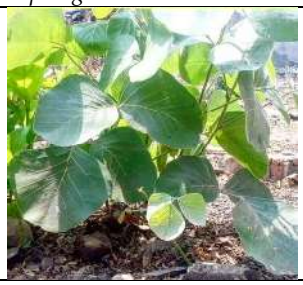
			
Asparagus racemosus Willd.	*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.	*Allium sativum* Linn.	*Boswellia serrata* Roxb
			
Butea monosperma(Lam.) Taub.	*Balanitesaegyptiaca*(L.) Delile	*Bombax ceiba* L.	*Catharanthus roseus* G. Don.
			
Calotropis gigantea (L.) W.T. Aiton	*Cassia fistula* L.	*Cassia tora* L.	*Cissus quadrangularis* L.

Photo Plate I

			
Clerodendron serratum(L.) Moon	*Curcuma longa* L.	*Datura metel* L.	*Dioscorea bulbifera* L.

			
Momordica dioica Roxb. ex Willd.	*Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre	*Piper betle L.*	*Ricinus communis* L.
			
Syzygium cumini(L.) Skeels	*Sesbania grandiflora* (L.) Poiret	*Tamarindus indica* L	*Terminalia bellirica*(Gaertn.) Roxb.
			
Tephrosia perpurea Pers.	*Vitex negundo* L.	*Vigna radiata* (L.) R. Wilczek.	
Photo Plate II			

RESEARCH ARTICLE

In vitro Anti Ulcer Activity of Elumichai Thol Parpam [Peel of Lemon] – A Siddha Herbal Drug

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ABSTRACT

"Peptic Ulcer Disease [PUD]" is a prevalent gastrointestinal disorder characterized by acid-induced mucosal damage in the stomach and duodenum. The primary causes include "Helicobacter pylori infection and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug [NSAID]" use, leading to an imbalance between offensive and defensive factors in the gastric environment. Traditional Siddha medicine has long employed herbal formulations for ulcer management, with Elumichai Thol Parpam [ETP], derived from Citrus limon [lemon peel], being a notable remedy. This study investigates the antiulcer potential of ETP through in-vitro acid-neutralizing capacity [ANC] and H^+/K^+-ATPase inhibition assays. The ANC assessment demonstrated dose-dependent acid neutralization, with ETP at 500 mg showing significant activity [ANC: 9.75], approaching the standard antacid Aluminium Hydroxide and Magnesium Hydroxide [ANC: 11.9]. Similarly, the H^+/K^+-ATPase inhibition assay revealed that ETP effectively inhibited enzyme activity in a concentration-dependent manner, achieving a maximum inhibition of 53.70% at 100 µg, slightly lower than Omeprazole [64.10%]. These findings support ETP's potential as a natural antiulcer agent, reinforcing its traditional use in Siddha medicine. However, further in-vivo studies and clinical trials are necessary to confirm its therapeutic efficacy and safety.

Keywords: Anti-ulcer, Siddha medicine, H^+/K^+- ATPase inhibition, Elumichai Thol Parpam, Acid neutralizing capacity

INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-paced world, "peptic ulcer disease [PUD]" has emerged as one of the most prevalent health concerns affecting people worldwide. The likelihood of developing PUD over a lifetime range between 5% and 10% [1,2]. This condition is characterized by acid-related sores that form in the stomach and duodenum, leading to mucosal erosion and defects that extend into the submucosa or even the muscularis propria [3]. In severe instances, peptic ulcers can become life-threatening, manifesting through symptoms such as intense "abdominal pain, bloody stools, severe cramps, and vomiting blood" [4]. PUDdevelops due to an imbalance between aggressive factors, such as "acid, pepsin, and *Helicobacter pylori*, and protective mechanisms, including mucin, prostaglandins, bicarbonate, nitric oxide, and growth factors" [5]. The primary causes of PUD are *H. pylori* infection and the prolonged use of "non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs]" [6]. Spicy food consumption can aggravate ulcer symptoms, resulting in nausea, vomiting, and unintended weight loss. While some individuals with gastric ulcers may exhibit normal or even reduced acid production, ulcers can still form even in the absence of acid secretion [7]. The rising prevalence of peptic ulcers is largely attributed to poor dietary choices and unhealthy eating habits [8]. In recent years, there has been increasing interest in utilizing plant-based remedies for both the prevention and treatment of diseases. According to the "World Health Organization [WHO]", approximately 80% of the global population depends on traditional medicine, particularly herbal treatments, as their primary healthcare approach [9]. In Siddha literature, Sage Yugi, regarded as the pioneer of Siddha pathology, categorized acute and chronic ulcers under the term *Gunmam*, describing it as a condition where individuals experience intense abdominal pain and emotional distress. Siddha medicine attributes ulcer formation to an imbalance in the three fundamental humors-Vatham [air energy], Pitham [fire energy], and Kabam [water energy]-which are often disrupted due to dietary influences [10]. Herbs play a vital role as the first line of treatment in Siddha medicine. *Citrus limon* [*Elumichai*], a widely available plant in Tamil Nadu belonging to the Rutaceae family, is known for its medicinal properties. The fruit contains various phytoconstituents beneficial for health. This study explores the antiulcer activity of the Siddha formulation *Elumichai Thol Parpam*[ETP], referenced in The Pharmacopoeia for Siddha Research Medicines, which has been traditionally used to treat *Gunmam* [peptic ulcer], *Vayiru Noi* [gastrointestinal disorders], and *Vaanthi* [vomiting] [11]. The present study evaluates the antiulcer potential of ETP through an in-vitro acid-neutralizing capacity [ANC] assay and H^+/K^+-ATPase inhibition to provide scientific validation for its traditional use.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Procurement of drug

Lemon peel used in this study was procured from reputed siddha raw drug shop in Tambaram, Chennai-47, Tamilnadu and "authenticated by Botanist, National Institute of Siddha, Chennai [NISMB6332023]". The procured lemon peels were dried and stored.

Preparation of Elumichai Thol Parpam

The lemon peel was dried and burnt into ash and then burnt ashes of the lemon peel blend with lemon juice with the help of kalvam and villais made. Villais enclosed within the pair of mud pot[Agal] and properly sealed with mud cloth [Seelai man]. After that the mud pot was dried in sunlight and subjected to pudam [varatti weights 8 times that of mud pot]. After the pudam burnt villais are powdered and fried for 6 hours. Finally obtained white coloured parpam was stored in air tight container [11].

***In vitro* Assessment of Anti-Ulcer Potential**

Acid Neutralizing Capacity

The acid-neutralizing capacity of the aqueous extract was determined using a 5 mL sample. The total volume was brought to 70 mL by combining 5 mL of the extract with water and thoroughly mixing the solution for one minute. During the test procedure, 30 mL of 1.0 N HCl was added and continuously stirred for 15 minutes. Following this,

phenolphthalein was introduced and blended thoroughly. The remaining HCl was then titrated using 0.5 N NaOHuntil the appearance of a pink color signaled the endpoint.

"The moles of acid neutralized is calculated by, Moles of acid neutralized = [vol. of HCl × Normality of HCl] - [vol. Of NaOH × Normality of NaOH]

Acid neutralizing capacity [ANC] per ml of antacid = moles of HCl neutralized divided by Grams of Antacid/Extract" [12].

Assessment of H+/K+ ATPase inhibition

The reaction mixture was formulated using 0.1 mL of goat parietal cell extract [300 μg] along with varying concentrations of ETP extract [0–100 μg] and pre-incubated at 37°C for 60 minutes. The reaction was then initiated by introducing 2 mM ATP, 2 mM $MgCl_2$, and 10 mM KCl, followed by an additional 30-minute incubation period. To halt the reaction, 4.5% ammonium molybdate and 60% perchloric acid were added, after which the mixture was centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 10 minutes. The release of inorganic phosphate was subsequently determined at 660 nm using the Fiske-Subbarow method after the addition of ammonium molybdate and ANSA[13].

"The percentage of enzyme inhibition has been calculated using the formula: Percentage of inhibition = [Activity [control] - Activity [test]/Activity [control]] × 100"

RESULTS

The Acid Neutralizing Capacity [ANC] of the Elumichai Thol Parpam extract by the in-vitro method is presented in Table 1.

H+/K+ - ATPase Inhibition Activity

The results of the H^+/K^+-ATPase inhibition activity of ETP are presented in Table 2 and Figure 2.

DISCUSSION

Gastric ulcers, a form of peptic ulcer, are among the most frequently occurring digestive disorders, impacting over 10% of people worldwide[14]. Approximately 85% of reported cases are attributed to *Helicobacter pylori* infection or excessive NSAID use. *H. pylori*is responsible for over 45% of mucosal damage and can be fatal in some cases. The infection increases gastric acid secretion by stimulating parietal cells [15]. Treatment for these disorders aims to correct the imbalance between acid-pepsin activity and mucosal resistance [16]. In the Siddha system of medicine, peptic ulcer disease is known as *Gunmam*, which correlates with acid peptic disease. Siddha medicine recommends various herbal, mineral, and herbo-mineral formulations to treat peptic ulcers by balancing the three humors—*Vadham, Pittham*, and *Kabam*. One such formulation is *Elumichai Thol Parpam* [ETP], which is mentioned in the Siddha text *The Pharmacopoeia for Siddha Research Medicines*. *Elumichai* [lemon] belongs to the citrus genus of the Rutaceae family and is widely used in Siddha medicine for treating gastrointestinal disorders [17]. Studies indicate that ETP exhibits significant acid-neutralizing capacity and H^+/K^+-ATPase inhibition, suggesting its potential as a natural antiulcer agent. Acid neutralization capacity [ANC] results show a dose-dependent increase, with ETP at 500 mg displaying considerable activity [ANC: 9.75], comparable to the standard Aluminium Hydroxide and Magnesium Hydroxide [ANC: 11.9]. Similarly, the H^+/K^+-ATPase inhibition assay revealed that ETP effectively suppressed enzyme activity in a concentration-dependent manner, achieving a maximum inhibition of 53.70% at 100 μg, slightly lower than Omeprazole [64.10%]. Despite this, ETP's ability to neutralize acid and inhibit the proton pump highlights its potential as a natural alternative for managing hyperacidity and ulcer-related conditions. Several studies support the gastroprotective potential of *Citrus limon*. Srivastava *et al*., 2023Molecular docking studies using AutoDock Vina 1.1.2 assessed the antiulcer potential of *Citrus limon* compounds. Ligands were retrieved from PubChem and converted into PDBQT format via PyRx [Patel *et al*., 2022], while proteins [D-alanine-D-alanine ligase [2PVP], H2 receptor [7UL3], and CeU receptor [4INP]] were obtained from the Protein Data Bank [Verma *et al*., 2020]. Docking analysis revealed that beta-bergamotene had the strongest binding affinity with D-alanine-D-alanine ligase [-5.5 kcal/mol] and the CeU receptor [-6.6 kcal/mol], whereas alpha-thujene exhibited the highest affinity with the H2

receptor [-6.0 kcal/mol] [18]. Additionally, lemon juice exhibits antiulcer activity through cytoprotective and antioxidant effects in rats [Bhavitavya *et al*., 2012]. It enhances mucus secretion, reduces the ulcer index, and augments the effects of ranitidine [RTN] and pantoprazole [PZL]. The study suggests that lemon juice may be beneficial for patients with peptic ulcer disease [PUD] rather than aggravating it [19]. Rozza *et al*. [2011] found that *Citrus lemon* [CL] essential oil and limonene [LIM] protect against ethanol-induced gastric ulcers by maintaining mucus integrity, stimulating HSP-70 and VIP, and preserving PGE2 levels. CL and LIM also demonstrated antibacterial activity against *H. pylori*, further suggesting their potential in antiulcer therapy [20].

CONCLUSION

This study explores the in-vitro acid-neutralizing properties and H^+/K^+-ATPase inhibitory effects of *Elumichai Thol Parpam* [ETP], a traditional Siddha remedy for *Gunmam* [peptic ulcer]. Findings indicate a dose-dependent enhancement in activity, with higher concentrations exhibiting significant acid-neutralizing effects and proton pump inhibition comparable to conventional antacids. The results provide scientific validation for its potential in treating peptic ulcers and other gastrointestinal conditions. However, additional in-vivo research and clinical trials are necessary to establish its efficacy and safety comprehensively.

Abbreviations

ETP-Elumichai Thol Parpam; **PUD**-Peptic Ulcer Disease; **ANC**-Acid Neutralizing Capacity; **AHMH**-Aluminium Hydroxide + Magnesium Hydroxide; **HCl**- Hydrochloric acid; **NSAID -**Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

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Author contribution

Conceptualization: KS; Data collection and compilation: KS and SR; Manuscript Writing: KS and SR; Proofreading and editing: KS; SR and SG

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Table 1: Results of ANC of ETP

Sample	Concentration (mg/ml)	Volume of NaOH used (ml)	Acid Consumed (mEq)	ANC per gram of Antacid
ETP	100 mg	41.5	2.5	3.25
ETP	250 mg	38.5	3.75	5.75
ETP	500 mg	30.5	9.15	9.75
AHMH	500 mg	25.5	10.5	11.9

Table 2: Results of H+/K+ - ATPase Inhibition Activity of ETP

Concentration (µg)	Method	Standard Omeprazole	Sample ETP
0	ATPase Inhibition Assay(Gupta *et al.*,2013)	0.00	0.00
20		25.00	14.07
40		33. 5	24.27
60		41.70	32.99
80		53.14	42.42
100		64.10	53.70



Figure 1: Preparatory procedures of ETP

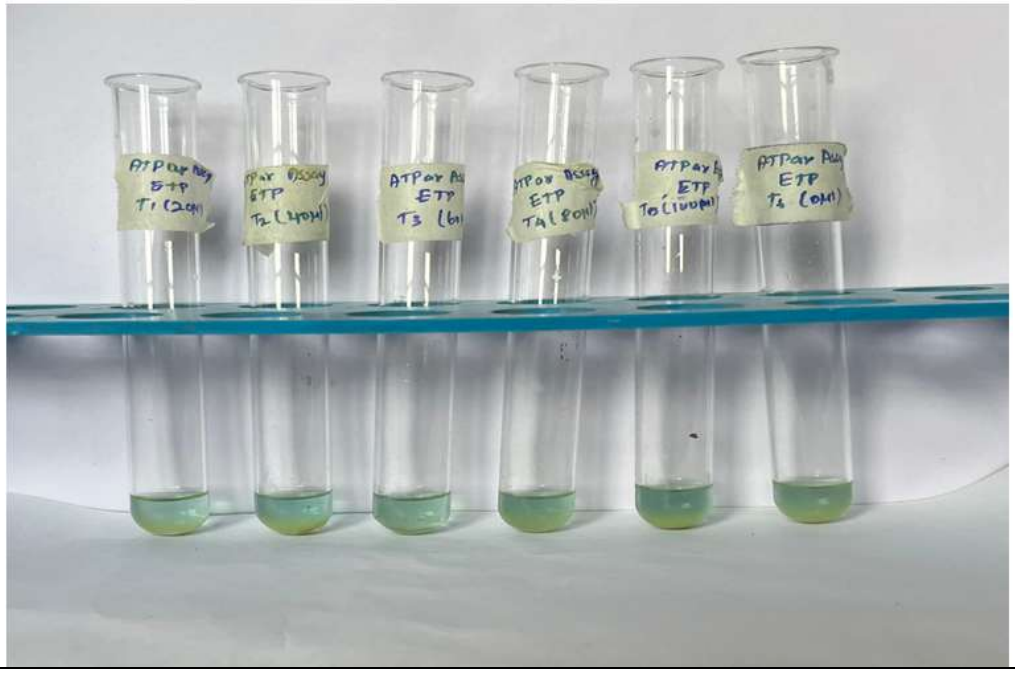


Figure 2: H+/K+ - ATPase of ETP at different concentrations mg/mL.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Application of GIS and Remote Sensing in Morphometric Analysis of Watershed at the Virajpete Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka, India

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ABSTRACT

The quickest and most economical method of expressing the hydrologic and physiographic characteristics of a watershed is to analyze the morphometric parameters. To gain knowledge of the morphological, hydrological, and physiographic characteristics of the Virajpete taluk in the Kodagu district of Karnataka, India, the current study aims to measure the morphometric parameters. Five parts had been allocated to the streams that flow. Three sub-watersheds (WS-3, WS-4, and WS-5) one mini watershed (WS-2), and the one (WS-1) watershed asper the size classification. 181 streams flow in the region with a maximum order of 4. Higher values from relief aspects indicate that the land is hilly and highly elevated, while lower values from areal aspects parameters indicate lower runoff and high infiltration.

Keywords: Virajpete, Morphometry, Watershed, Runoff, Infiltration.

INTRODUCTION

The scientific study of the physical and chemical processes that take place at or close to the Earth's surface and result in the creation and development of topographic features is known as geomorphology. By looking at these processes, geomorphology seeks to recognize and comprehend how the Earth's surface has changed throughout time, as well as the fundamental factors influencing these changes. However, the scientific field that studies the measurement and analysis of forms or structures and offers a quantitative knowledge of the properties of landforms is known as "morphology" (1). Comprising a layered collection of sub-watersheds, watersheds are intricate, hierarchical geographical formations. Because materials and energy are constantly being exchanged with the surrounding environment, watersheds are dynamic (2). Drainage networks are particularly important among the many elements

of a landscape because topography has a significant impact on them, influencing their structure and fluvial dynamics. These networks, which include drainage systems and river flow patterns, include dynamic features that change over time and space as a result of elements including vegetation, structural elements, geology, and geomorphology (3). Through the measurement of several stream features, morphometric analysis—first presented by Horton (1945) in the discipline of hydrology—has proven crucial to gaining a thorough understanding of stream characteristics. The creation of streams, their arrangement, and the evolution of basins were all clarified by Horton's quantitative explanations. To classify watersheds, provide quantitative information on the stream network, and support hydrological research, morphometric analysis is crucial. Understanding landform processes, physical soil properties, and the level of land degradation all depend heavily on the stream network (4). A detailed examination of the morphometry of a drainage basin requires the measurement of its linear, areal, and relief (gradient) characteristics (5). The main objective of the current study is to assess the watershed's linear and areal morphometric features using a Geographic Information System (GIS). This study's understanding of the watershed's numerous geo-hydrological characteristics aids in the management of the area's water resources and other natural resources (6-9).
The current study intends to assess the fundamental morphometric features of the sub-watersheds of the Virajpete and determine derived morphometric properties that can be used to prioritize intervention actions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The total area of the Taluk is 1666 square kilometers. Virajpet Taluk's geographic boundaries are between North Latitudes 12°23'11.10" to 11°56'30.51" and East Longitudes 76° 8' 28.52" to 75°47'55.77". Parts of Survey of India Toposheet Nos. 48P/15, P/16, P/12, 57D/3, D/4, 49M/13, and 58A/1 cover the taluk. Virajpet taluk borders Somwarpet taluk to the east, Dakshin Kannada to the north, Virajpet taluk to the south, and Kerala to the west (10). Figure 1 shows the location map of Virajpet taluk of Kodagu district. As shown in Figure 2, the Virajpete watershed has been split up into 1 watershed, 4 sub-watersheds, and 1 milli shed using the NRSC and hydrosheds data. The length of the basin was 45.37, 24.8, 19.16, 28.02, and 38.37 km for WS-1, WS-2, WS-3, WS-4, and WS-5 respectively.

Geology of the Area

According to geology, the taluk is mostly made up of pre-Cambrian metamorphic rocks that are either visible at the surface or have a thin layer of transported and residual soils covering them. The taluk's rock formation is divided into two groups: the Charnockite formation and the maximum area granite Gneiss or Banded Gneissic Complex shown in figure 3. There are areas of granite and schist in the Banded Gneissic Complex. Numerous geological aspects may be identified and interpreted with the aid of the taluk's stream pattern. In general, the soil types found in Virajpet taluk may be divided into three categories: clayey, clayey skeletal, and loamy. The parent rock type, physiographic settings, and climatic circumstances all affect the depth and texture of these soils. In contrast to sandy soil, it is less porous (10).

Drainage

Geological features have a major control over topography. The Cauvery River basin contains the whole Virajpet taluk. Streams of the first through fourth orders drain the taluk. The taluk has an advanced drainage system. Dendritic to sub-dendritic drainage is the pattern shown in Figure 4.

METHODOLOGY

The current study's morphometric analysis and basin prioritization are predicated on the combined use of GIS and remote sensing techniques. Geometric correction is applied to the remotely sensed data concerning topographical maps of the Survey of India (SOI) at 1:50000. Arc GIS 10.8 software is used to digitize the dendritic drainage pattern. (Figure 2) When it comes to stream ordering, strahler orders are followed by identifying an unbranched stream as a first-order and a second-order stream when two first-order streams merge. Third-order steams are created when two

second-order steams combine, and so on. Each order's number of streams is tallied and documented. The basin borders and drainage map are digitally represented as a line coverage that provides a distinct ID for every stream order. Standard procedures and formulas are used to calculate morphometric parameters (11,12).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 5 shows the six distinct sub-watersheds that make up a Virajpete watershed. A systematic description of the geometry of a drainage basin and its stream channel requires measurements of the drainage network's linear aspects, the drainage basin's areal aspects, the relief (gradient) aspects of the channel network, and contributing ground slopes. The morphometric analysis for the study's parameters using the mathematical formulas given in (Table 1).

Linear aspects

Stream Order (u)

The most straightforward, popular, and easy numbering scheme is the first tributary rank of 1, which is first-order, followed by second-order, which is defined under the junction of two streams of the first order as per Strahler, 1964. In the Virajpete watershed, the third and fourth orders will develop simultaneously. 5 sub-watersheds within the research region were used to examine the stream order shown in table Table 2.

Stream Number (Nu)

There is an inverse link between the number of streams and the basin order (13). There are 181 streams in all, with WS-5 having the largest number at around 65 and WS-2 having the lowest at about 2 shown in table Table 2

Stream Length (Lu) km

All watersheds are first-order, meaning that streams are longer than other types, which means that streams' linear lengths decrease as stream orders rise (13). Such features are exhibited by an area's unstable slopes and natural gravity. SW-1 has the longest length, at around 259.13 km, while SW-2 has the shortest, at 4.34 km shown in table Table 2.

Mean Stream Length (Lsm)

It is a characteristic that describes the drainage network and its connected surface's size (14). Order 4 in WS-4 had the lowest mean stream length, whereas WS-1 had the greatest shown in Table 2.

Stream Length Ratio (RI)

The ratio of a particular order's mean stream length to the lower order's stream length is known as the stream length ratio (13). The numbers range from 0.32 to 0.81, depending entirely on the slope of the region shown in Table 3.

Bifurcation Ratio (BR)

In a flat rolling drainage system, the value is lower; in a structurally controlled region, the value is larger (13). The range of values is 1 to 5.22 shown in Table 3.

Areal Aspect

Elongation Ratio (Re)

The elongation ratio, which is the ratio of the diameter of a circle with the same area as the basin to the greatest length of the basin, may be used to describe the form of any basin (15). This ratio typically ranges from 0.27 to 0.70 depending on the geology and climatic types shown in Table 4.

Circularity Ratio (Rc)

It is defined as the dimensionless circularity ratio Rc as the area of a circle Ac with the same perimeter as the basin divided by the area of the basin A (16). This ratio typically ranges from 0.14 to 0.62 controlled by slope values shown in table 4.

Form Factor (Rf)

The enlarged basin with a low form factor predicts a smoother flow peak over a longer duration. Such elongated basins are easier to control flood flows in than circular basins (13). The values typically range from 0.05 to 0.39 shown in Table 4.

Drainage Density (Dd)

The average length of the basin's streams per unit of land is known as the drainage density (13). This number typically ranges from 0.12 to 0.37 shown in table 4. The analysis's findings demonstrate better infiltration in the study region with a lower drainage density value.

Stream Frequency (Fs)

The number of streams of a specific sequence per unit area is known as the stream frequency (13). This number typically ranges from 0.081 to 0.141shown in table 4. Low surface runoff, a gentle slope surface, permeable subsurface material, vegetation, and a high relief setting are characteristics of a lower stream frequency, according to the results.

Infiltration number (If)

A watershed's infiltration number, which provides insight into the catchment's infiltration characteristics, is calculated by multiplying the stream density by the stream frequency (13). This number typically ranges from 0.23 to 0.69 shown in Table 4. High infiltration and high runoff by the results in the study area (16).

Length of overland flow (Lg)

The length of water flow over the ground before it is concentrated into specific stream channels is known as the length of overland flow. Typically, this length is half the average distance between the stream channels, which means it is roughly equal to half the reciprocal of the drainage density (13). Streams running at high relief are indicated by this number, which typically ranges from 0.06 to 0.18 shown in Table 4.

Drainage texture (Dt)

A very coarse drainage texture is indicated by a drainage density value of less than two, a moderate drainage texture of two to four, a fine drainage texture of four to six, and a very fine drainage texture of more than eight drainage densities (17). The drainage texture is quite coarse in all five sub-watersheds shown in Table 4.

Relief Aspects

Basin Relief (H)

Another way to define it is as the vertical separation between the watershed's lowest and highest points (15). The value as per Figure 6and Table 5values ranges from 330 meters to 1537 meters.

Relief Ratio (Rh)

The relief ratio can be defined as the ratio of a basin's longest dimension parallel to the primary drainage line to its total relief and highest point (15). The range of the value is 11.78 to 40.06 shown in Table 5. The steep region with strong runoff generation and soil erosion is characterized by a high relief ratio value.

Ruggedness Number (Rn)

It has been defined as the result of drainage density and maximum basin relief, and it typically combines length and slope steepness (15). The range of the value is 83.91 to 574.80 shown in Table 5. Greater values indicate lithological heterogeneity, uneven topography, and a significant degree of dissection within the research region.

Relative relief (Rhp)
It is defined as the ratio of the basin's circumference to its greatest relief (18). The range of the value is 3.16 to 14.08 shown in Table 5. A high relief ratio was suggested by these findings.

CONCLUSION

This study uses GIS to assess the morphometric characteristics of the streams in Virajpete Taluk. A morphometric examination of the stream system's linear, areal, and relief features was conducted. An elongated stream is shown by the examination of the elongation ratio, circularity ratio, and form factor of the area. The streams are distinguished by their low form factor, and elongated stream systems, which suggest a longer time of lower peak flow and make flood control simpler. Higher infiltration is preferred in the region over runoff, according to the examination of stream density, stream frequency, infiltration number, and overland flow characteristics. The steep region with strong runoff generation and soil erosion is characterized by a high relief ratio value. According to estimates of relief aspects, higher values indicate a lithological variety of terrain, uneven topography, and a high degree of dissection.

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Conflict of interest
There is no conflict of interest among authors.

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Table1. Morphometry parameters formulas

Linear Aspect		
Stream order (u)	Hierarchical	Strahler, 1957
Stream Number (Nu)	Total number of streams of order u	Horton, 1945
Stream Length (Lu) km	Total stream length of order u	Horton, 1945
Mean Stream Length (Lsm)	$Lsm=Lu/Nu$	Strahler, 1957
Stream Length Ratio (RI)	$RI= Nu/Nn-1$	Horton, 1945
Bifurcation Ratio (BR)	$RI= Nu/Nn+1$	Horton, 1945
Areal Aspect		
Elongation Ratio (Re)	$Re=1.128\sqrt{(A/L_b)}$	Schumm, 1956
Circularity Ratio (Rc)	$Rc=4\pi A/P^2$	Miller ,1953
Form Factor (Rf)	$Rf=A/L_b^2$	Horton, 1945
Drainage Density (Dd)	$Dd=\sum L_t/A$	Horton, 1945
Stream Frequency (Fs)	$Fs=N_t/A$	Horton, 1945
Infiltration number (If)	$IF=Dd*Fs$	Smith,1950
Length of overland flow (Lg)	$Lg=1/2 * Dd$	Horton, 1945
Drainage texture (Dt)	$Dt=Dd*Fs$	Smith, 1950
Relief Aspect		
Basin Relief (H)	$H=h_{max}-h_{min}$	Schumm, 1956
Relief Ratio (Rh)	$Rh=H/L_b$	Schumm, 1956
Ruggedness Number (Rn)	$Rn=H*Dd$	Strahler ,1968
Relative relief (Rhp)	$Rhp=H/P$	Melton,1957

Table 2. Stream orders, number, length(km), and Mean stream length.

Watershed numbers	Stream order number(u)	Streams in numbers (Nu)	Total stream In numbers ΣNu	Stream length (Lu) in km	Σ (Lu) in km	Mean stream length (Lsm) in km
WS-1	1	47	60	121.76	259.13	2.59
	2	9		86.51		9.61
	3	3		28.47		9.49
	4	1		22.39		22.39
WS-2	1	3	3	4.34	4.34	1.45
WS-3	1	11	17	22.25	39.44	2.02
	2	6		17.19		2.87
WS-4	1	22	36	46.58	78.64	2.12
	2	7		19.79		2.83
	3	1		6.75		6.75
	4	6		5.52		0.92
WS-5	1	43	65	99.45	179.26	2.31
	2	11		46.85		4.26
	3	11		32.96		3

Table 3. Stream length ratio and Bifurcation Ratio

Watersheds	Stream Length Ratio (RL)			Bifurcation ratio (Rb)		
	2nd/1st	3rd/2nd	4th/3rd	1st/2nd	2nd/3rd	3rd/4th
WS-1	0.71	0.32	0.78	5.22	3	3
WS-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
WS-3	0.77	-	-	1.83	-	-
WS-4	0.42	0.34	0.81	3.14	7	0.16
WS-5	0.47	0.7	-	3.9	1	-

Table 4. Basin Area, Perimeter, Circularity Ratio, Elongation Ratio, Form Factor, Drainage Density, Drainage/ stream Frequency, Infiltration number, Length of Overland Flow, and Drainage Texture.

Area in km2	Perimeter in km	Elongation Ratio (Re)	Circularity Ratio (Rc)	Form Factor (Rf)	Drainage Density (Dd)	Drainage/ stream Frequency (Fs)	Infiltration number (If)	Length of Overland Flow (Lg)	Drainage Texture (Dt)
738.1	156.79	0.68	0.38	0.36	0.35	0.081	0.23	0.23	0.18
35.82	55.82	0.27	0.14	0.06	0.12	0.084	0.69	0.69	0.06
144.6	53.99	0.71	0.62	0.39	0.27	0.117	0.43	0.43	0.14
253.3	104.50	0.64	0.29	0.32	0.31	0.142	0.46	0.46	0.16
479.34	125.52	0.64	0.38	0.33	0.37	0.136	0.36	0.36	0.19

Table 5. Basin Relief, Relief Ratio, Ruggedness Number, and Relative Relief.

Watersheds	Basin Relief (H)	Relief Ratio (Rh)	Ruggedness Number (Rn)	Relative relief (Rhp)
WS-1	728	16.05	255.34	4.64
WS-2	786	31.69	95.23	14.08
WS-3	308	16.08	83.91	5.70
WS-4	330	11.78	102.32	3.16
WS-5	1537	40.06	574.80	12.25

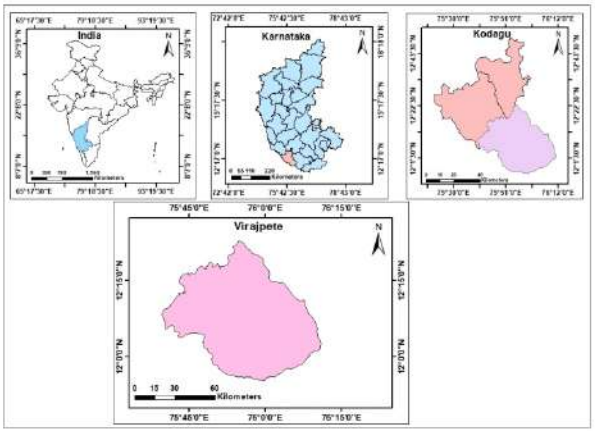


Figure 1. Location map of the Virajpete taluk.

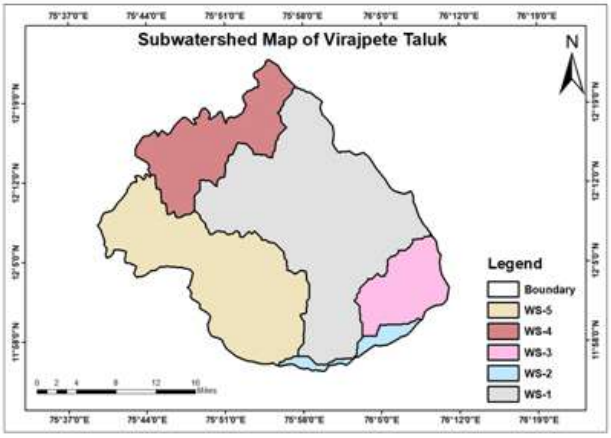


Figure 2. Sub watershed map of the Virajpete taluk.

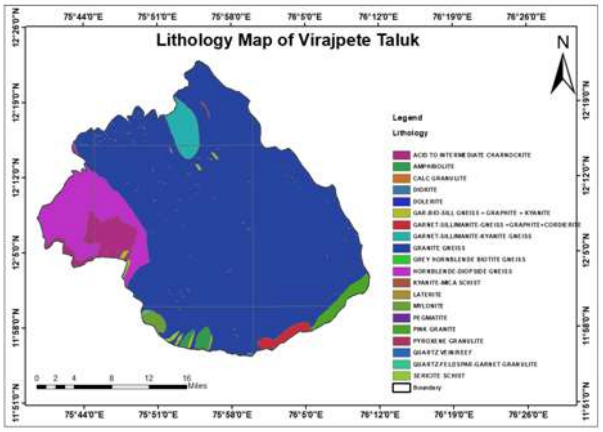


Figure 3. Lithology map of the Virajpete taluk.

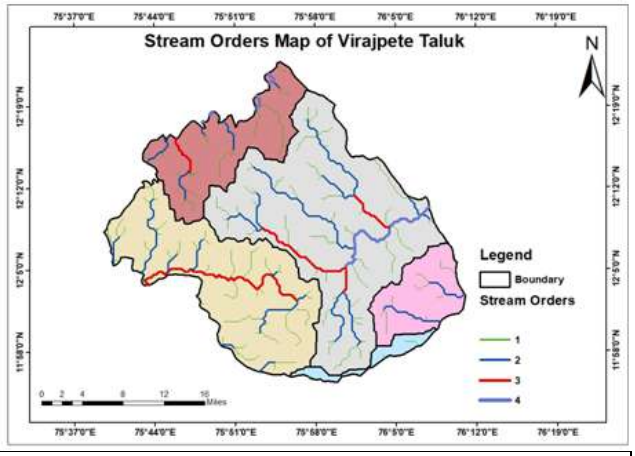


Figure 4. Stream orders of the Virajpete taluk

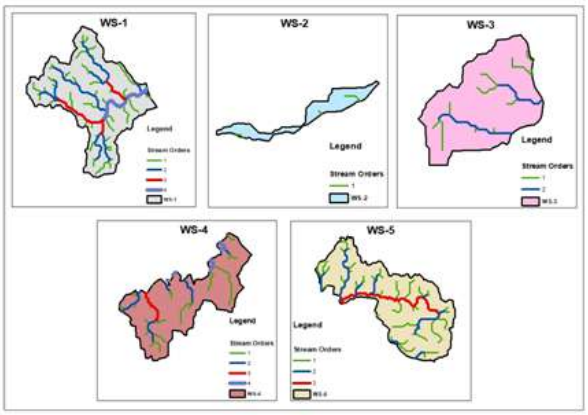


Figure 5. All Sub water maps with stream orders of Virajpete Taluk.

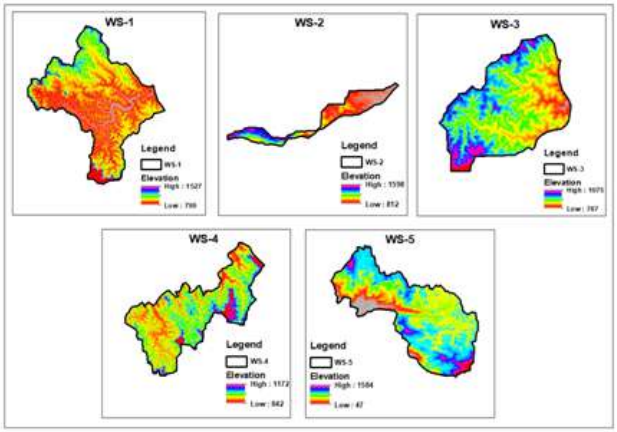


Figure 6. Sub watershed Basin relief map of Virajpete Taluk.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Comprehensive Study of Social Networks under the Framework of Graph Theory

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ABSTRACT

Social networks play an increasingly central role in modern communication, information exchange, and social influence. Graph theory provides a robust mathematical framework for representing and analyzing the complex structures and interactions within these networks, where users are depicted as nodes and their connections as edges. This paper explores how graph theory models social networks, identifies key behavioral trends, and demonstrates the synergy between graph theory and machine learning to analyze and predict user dynamics. By employing concepts such as connectivity, centrality, clustering, and community detection, this study unveils the factors driving social behavior and collective outcomes within social networks. Machine learning techniques further enhance these graph-based analyses by uncovering insights into user behavior, influence patterns, and network evolution. Together, graph theory and machine learning present a powerful approach to modeling social networks, offering valuable insights for understanding and predicting trends in online social interactions.

Keywords: Graph Theory, Social Network Analysis, Nodes, Edges, Connectivity, Centrality, Clustering.

INTRODUCTION

Graph theory plays a vital role in social network analysis (SNA), offering a mathematical framework to study the intricate relationships between individuals, information flow, and community structures within social networks[1]. At its core, graph theory represents networks through nodes (representing users) and edges (representing connections or relationships), allowing for the visualization and examination of network dynamics. In social networks, graphs can be classified based on their directionality and weight. For instance, directed graphs capture follower relationships (where one user follows another), while undirected graphs represent mutual friendships. Weighted graphs further add value by assigning weights to edges, which can denote the strength of relationships, such as the frequency of interactions or the number of shared messages[2]. Bipartite graphs are also instrumental, particularly in representing networks where two distinct sets, like users and interest groups, interact without connections within the same set. A graph's structure can be represented in several ways, each beneficial for specific SNA applications. The adjacency matrix, for example, is a square matrix that shows the presence or absence of edges between nodes, ideal for calculating direct relationships in smaller networks. Edge lists and adjacency lists provide more efficient representations for larger, sparser networks, where not all possible connections exist [3] . In SNA, networks are represented as graphs, with nodes corresponding to users and edges representing relationships, enabling a visualization of network dynamics (Newman, 2010; Wasserman and Faust, 1994)[4-5]. Graphs can be directed or undirected, where directed graphs represent one-way relationships (e.g., follower-following dynamics), while undirected graphs reflect mutual relationships, such as friendships [6]. Furthermore, weighted graphs assign astrength to connections, such as the frequency of interaction, providing a richer representation of relationships [7]. Bipartite graphs are also used in SNA, especially to model relationships between two different sets of entities, such as users and groups, without interconnections within the same set [8]. Several graph-theoretic concepts, such as degree and centrality measures, help quantify a node's importance within the network. Degree centrality, which counts the number of edges attached to a node, reveals how many connections a user has, thus identifying highly connected or influential users. Advanced centrality measures like betweenness and closeness centrality highlight nodes that serve as connectors across communities or nodes positioned close to others in terms of shortest path distances, respectively [9]. These measures are particularly useful for understanding influence, communication patterns, and potential information dissemination points within a network. Community detection techniques, such as clustering algorithms, are invaluable in identifying groups or communities of users with similar interests or close relationships[10]. Methods like K-means clustering, the Louvain method, and the Girvan-Newman algorithm uncover natural divisions in the network, segmenting it into clusters or communities. Identifying these communities aids in understanding social dynamics, shared interests, and potential points for targeted information sharing or influence. Lastly, graph traversal and structural properties like paths, connected components, and cliques provide additional insights. Path analysis, for instance, allows the tracking of information flow or influence from one user to another, while identifying connected components reveals isolated groups within a network. Together, these graph theory concepts form a foundation for comprehensively analyzing and interpreting social networks [11], enhancing our understanding of community structures, user influence, and the dynamics of information spread.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Social Networks and Graph Theory

Social networks, intricate webs of interconnected individuals or organizations, have long fascinated researchers across various disciplines. Graph theory, a branch of mathematics, provides a powerful framework for modeling and analyzing these complex structures. By representing individuals as nodes and their relationships as edges, graph theory enables us to quantify and understand the dynamics of social interactions.

Historical Context

The roots of social network analysis can be traced back to the early 20th century, with pioneers like Jacob Moreno and Georg Simmel laying the foundation for the field. Moreno's sociograms, visual representations of social relationships,

were among the earliest applications of graph theory to social science. In the latter half of the 20th century, researchers like Stanley Milgram and Ronald Burt made significant contributions to the development of social network analysis. Milgram's famous "small-world experiment" demonstrated the surprising interconnectedness of individuals, while Burt's work on structural holes highlighted the importance of bridging social ties.

Key Concepts and Applications

Nodes and Edges: Nodes represent individuals or organizations within a network, while edges symbolize the relationships between them. These relationships can be diverse, ranging from friendships and family ties to professional collaborations and online interactions.

Centrality Measures: These metrics quantify the importance of nodes within a network. Common centrality measures include degree centrality, betweenness centrality, and closeness centrality. By analyzing these measures, researchers can identify influential individuals, information hubs, and key players in a social network.

Clustering Coefficient: This metric measures the degree to which nodes in a network tend to cluster together. A high clustering coefficient indicates a strong sense of community or social cohesion.

Community Detection: This technique identifies groups of nodes that are more densely connected to each other than to nodes outside the group. Community detection algorithms can help uncover hidden social structures and identify potential influencers.

Information Diffusion: Graph theory can be used to model the spread of information, ideas, and behaviors through social networks. By analyzing the structure of a network, researchers can predict how quickly information will diffuse and identify potential barriers to diffusion.

Recent Advances and Future Directions

In recent years, the integration of graph theory and social network analysis has been further propelled by the rise of social media and the availability of large-scale digital data. Researchers are now able to analyze massive social networks with unprecedented detail, uncovering intricate patterns and dynamics. Some of the emerging trends in this field include

Dynamic Network Analysis: Studying how networks evolve over time, considering changes in node relationships and the emergence of new connections.

Network Science and Big Data: Leveraging advanced data mining techniques to extract meaningful insights from large-scale social network data.

Machine Learning and Network Analysis: Applying machine learning algorithms to predict network behavior, identify influential nodes, and detect communities.

Network Medicine: Using network analysis to understand the spread of diseases and identify potential therapeutic targets.

Social network analysis leverages graph theory to represent individuals as nodes and relationships as edges, facilitating structured insights into network connectivity (Wasserman and Faust, 1994; Newman, 2003). Barabási's (1999) model further illuminates network hubs' critical role in information spread, while Li *et al*. (2021) emphasize how community structures enhance information flow but may restrict intergroup communication.

Friendship Dynamics and Cohesion in Networks

Friendship dynamics, shaped by strong and weak ties (Granovetter, 1973), contribute to social cohesion, with mutual friends promoting network growth and stability (Leskovec *et al*., 2008; Singh and Joshi, 2022). Predictive modeling

now integrates graph metrics and machine learning to improve friendship forecasting, with models by Zhang *et al*. (2023) achieving higher predictive accuracy for dynamic networks (Liben-Nowell and Kleinberg, 2007; Crandall *et al*., 2010).

Trust Prediction in Social Networks

Trust is pivotal for engagement, and recent models use probabilistic and neural network approaches to enhance trust prediction accuracy, such as the GainTrust model (Yu and Liu, 2015; Alkhamees *et al*., 2021; Xu *et al*., 2023).

Information Diffusion and Network Engagement

Information diffusion models, like the SIR framework, have been adapted to track content spread, with studies underscoring the roles of network structure and individual behavior (Cifuentes-Faura and Campan, 2022; Bakshy *et al*., 2015).

Sentiment Analysis for User Engagement

Sentiment analysis aids in decoding emotional tones to predict engagement, with deep learning models proving effective on platforms like Instagram and Twitter. This approach supports content alignment with audience expectations, enhancing digital interaction quality (Xu *et al*., 2022; Rimpy *et al*., 2024).

Graph Theory in Social Network Analysis: Concepts and Applications

Graph theory in social network

Graph theory is a powerful tool in social network analysis (SNA) for modeling, understanding, and analyzing relationships, information flow, and community structures within networks. By representing users and interactions as nodes and edges, graph theory provides a systematic approach to studying complex social structures. Below is an exploration of foundational graph theory concepts, their relevance in SNA, and examples of their application.

Graph Basics

Graph (G): Consists of nodes (vertices) and edges (links) connecting them.
Example: In a social network, each node represents an individual, and each edge represents a relationship (e.g., friendship).
Directed Graph: Edges have a direction, such as one user following another.
Undirected Graph: Edges lack direction, commonly used for mutual friendships.

Types of Graphs in SNA

Weighted Graphs: Edges have weights, representing the strength of a relationship (e.g., frequency of interaction).
Bipartite Graphs: Nodes are divided into two sets, with edges only between sets.
Example*:* Connecting users to groups they belong to.

Graph Representation

Adjacency Matrix: Matrix representation where each cell (i, j) shows an edge between nodes i and j. *Example*: In a friendship network, if U1 and U2 are friends, adj_matrix[U1][U2] = 1.
Edge List: A list of pairs representing connections, effective for sparse networks.
Adjacency List: Each node is linked to a list of adjacent nodes, ideal for sparse graphs.

Degree and Centrality

Degree: Number of edges connected to a node. In directed graphs, nodes have in-degree and out-degree values. *Example*: Influencers in a network may have high in-degree counts.
Degree Centrality: Indicates a node's prominence based on its degree, helpful in identifying key influencers.

Other Centrality Measures

Betweenness Centrality: Assesses a node's importance in connecting different parts of the network.

Closeness Centrality: Measures proximity of a node to others, relevant for information spread analysis.
Eigenvector Centrality: Considers the influence of a node based on connections to other influential nodes.

Community Detection
Clustering: Groups nodes into clusters with strong internal connectivity. *Example*: Detecting social groups in a network.

Algorithms for Community Detection
K-means Clustering: Groups nodes by similarity, useful for identifying interest-based communities.
Louvain Method: Detects communities by maximizing modularity, suited for large networks.
Girvan-Newman Algorithm: Uses betweenness centrality to reveal communities by iteratively removing edges.

Path and Distance
Path: Sequence of nodes connected by edges, potentially indicating routes of information flow.
Shortest Path: The minimum distance between two nodes, crucial for measuring influence spread.
Dijkstra's Algorithm: Calculates the shortest path in weighted graphs.

Graph Traversal
Depth-First Search (DFS) and Breadth-First Search (BFS): Techniques for exploring graph structures. *Example*: BFS is useful for identifying close friends in a network.

Connected Components
Connected Component: A subgraph where any two nodes are directly or indirectly connected. *Application*: Identifies isolated user groups in a social network.

Cliques
Clique: A subset of nodes where every node is connected to every other node. *Example*: Recognizes tightly-knit friend circles.
Network Properties
Density: Measures network connectivity by calculating edge-to-possible edge ratios.
Diameter: Longest shortest path between any two nodes, indicating the network's extent.
Average Path Length: The average shortest path length among all node pairs, valuable for understanding information spread efficiency.

SNA Applications with Graph Theory
Influence Propagation: Uses centrality measures to find influential users.
Community Detection: Clustering algorithms uncover user groups with common interests.
Friendship Prediction: Suggests new connections based on graph properties.
Information Diffusion Modeling: Examines information flow through graph traversal and path finding.

Advanced Concepts: Walks, Trails, and Isomorphism in SNA
Walks: Sequences of nodes where consecutive nodes are connected by edges. Used to trace unrestricted interaction paths.
Example: A → B → A → C as a possible path in rumor spread.
Trails: Similar to walks, but edges are not repeated, useful for analyzing unique communication chains.
Isomorphism: Detects structural similarity between graphs, facilitating the comparison of social sub-networks.

Example
Let us take an example of social Network
Nodes (Users): A, B, C, D, E, F

Edges (Friendships)

- A is friends with B and C
- B is friends with C and D
- C is friends with E
- D is friends with E and F
- E is friends with F

Graph example for social network (Table 1)

Behavioral Trends in Social Networks

Behavioral trends within social networks reflect how users interact, form connections, and influence each other. Understanding these trends is crucial for predicting network dynamics and user behavior.

Homophily and Social Influence: Homophily, the tendency of users to connect with those who share similar interests or backgrounds, is a fundamental behavior in social networks. This trend, often modeled using correlation matrices or similarity metrics, shapes user communities and influences information diffusion.

Information Diffusion: Graph theory helps in understanding how information spreads across a network. Information diffusion models, such as the Susceptible-Infected-Recovered (SIR) model, provide insights into how content, news, or behaviors propagate within and between communities. The structure of the network and the position of nodes significantly impact diffusion speed and reach.

Influence and Centrality: Influence in social networks is often linked to users with high centrality measures, such as those with many followers or connections. Influence maximization strategies utilize central nodes to optimize content reach, providing practical applications in marketing and opinion dynamics.

User Engagement and Retention: Graph-based analysis also explores user engagement patterns, examining which network structures or user roles are associated with high engagement. Trends such as reciprocity (mutual interactions) and clustering (group interactions) affect user retention and satisfaction.

Integration of Graph Theory with Machine Learning for Social Network Analysis

Machine learning enhances graph-based social network analysis by uncovering hidden patterns, predicting future trends, and providing personalized insights.

Predictive Modeling: Combining graph representations with machine learning models enables predictions about user behavior, such as friend recommendations or potential churn.

Community Detection with Clustering Algorithms: Machine learning clustering methods, such as K-means or spectral clustering, improve community detection, particularly in large networks. These algorithms classify users into clusters based on similarities in behavior or interests, allowing for more precise targeting in marketing or information campaigns.

Sentiment Analysis on Graphs: By analyzing user sentiment and connecting it with network structure, machine learning provides insights into how emotions and opinions propagate. Sentiment analysis applied to social networks helps track public opinion trends, detect polarizing topics, and analyze the spread of sentiment-driven content.

Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) and Advanced Modeling: Graph neural networks (GNNs) combine the representational power of graphs with the learning ability of neural networks. GNNs can capture spatial dependencies in social networks, enabling the prediction of complex patterns such as influence cascades, topic trends, or user loyalty.

CONCLUSION

Graph theory provides a robust mathematical framework for understanding the complexities of social networks. By representing individuals as nodes and their relationships as edges, it allows researchers to analyze various aspects of social interactions, including connectivity, influence, and community structure. Key graph-theoretic concepts such as centrality, clustering, and community detection are invaluable in identifying influential users, uncovering hidden patterns, and understanding the spread of information. The integration of advanced techniques like dynamic network analysis, machine learning, and big data further enhances our ability to model and predict social network behaviors. As social networks continue to evolve, the application of graph theory will remain essential for gaining deeper insights into the ever-changing dynamics of human interactions, influence, and information diffusion. This paper has presented a framework for understanding and analyzing social networks through the lens of graph theory and machine learning. Graph theory serves as a robust structural model for representing relationships within social networks, while machine learning techniques enable the extraction of actionable insights. Together, these approaches reveal behavioral trends, predict information diffusion patterns, and uncover the hidden dynamics of user interaction and influence. By combining graph-based models with machine learning, researchers and practitioners can better understand social network behavior and design more effective strategies for engagement, information dissemination, and influence.

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Table 1: Graph example for social network

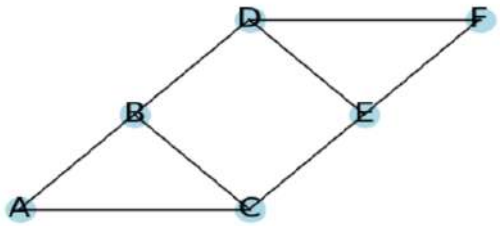
<table>
<tr><td>Graph Representation
Adjacency List:
A: B, C
B: A, C, D
C: A, B, E
D: B, E, F
E: C, D, F
F: D, E
Visualization: Draw a graph with nodes A-F connected by edges as per their friendships.</td><td>Table2 adjacency matrix
Adjacency Matrix:
<table><tr><th></th><th>A</th><th>B</th><th>C</th><th>D</th><th>E</th><th>F</th></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>F</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"> 

Figure 1: social network image</td></tr>
<tr><td>Degree and Centrality Measures
Degree Centrality: Counts the number of direct connections each user has.
A: 2 (connected to B, C)
B: 3 (connected to A, C, D)
C: 3 (connected to A, B, E)
D: 3 (connected to B, E, F)
E: 3 (connected to C, D, F)
F: 2 (connected to D, E)
Betweenness Centrality: Nodes B and D have higher betweenness as they bridge parts of the network, connecting multiple clusters.</td><td>Degree Centrality:
A: 2
B: 3
C: 3
D: 3
E: 3
F: 2

Betweenness Centrality:
B: High
D: High</td></tr>
<tr><td>Clustering Coefficient
Measures the likelihood of a node's neighbors being friends with each other.
For example, Node B's neighbors (A, C, and D) have connections with each other (A and C are</td><td>Clustering Coefficient:
B: High (A, C, and D are connected)</td></tr>
</table>

connected), so B has a higher clustering coefficient than nodes with isolated neighbors.	

Community Detection
• Applying **Louvain Method** or **Girvan-Newman Algorithm** to detect communities:
  ○ **Louvain Method** might group the network into two communities:
  ▪ Community 1: A, B, C
  ▪ Community 2: D, E, F
• This segmentation reveals natural divisions in the network where users are more connected within their groups.
	Community Detection (Louvain Method):
	Community 1: A, B, C
	Community 2: D, E, F

Path and Information Diffusion • **Shortest Path**: Measures the shortest steps between two nodes. For instance, the shortest path from **A to F** is A → B → D → F (3 steps). • **Information Diffusion**: If a message starts at **A**, it can spread through connections to reach all nodes within three steps, indicating a relatively cohesive network for information flow.	Shortest Path A → F: A → B → D → F (3 steps)

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Detection and Analysis of Transmission Congestion Network

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ABSTRACT

This paper takes a close look at various ways to manage congestion in power transmission networks. Congestion happens when electricity demand pushes the limits of transmission line capacity, often due to a mix of high demand, older infrastructure, and an increasing reliance on renewable energy sources. Managing congestion is crucial because, if left unaddressed, it can lead to inefficiencies, higher costs, and even reliability risks that impact both power providers and consumers. Effective congestion management ensures electricity can move smoothly, safely, and affordably across the grid. compares these methods based on effectiveness, cost, scalability, and challenges, and points out potential areas for future exploration. New technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) for predictive maintenance, machine learning for congestion forecasting, and blockchain for decentralized energy trading offer exciting possibilities. Further research into these innovations, combined with traditional and market-based approaches, could lead to a more adaptive and resilient framework for managing congestion in today's evolving power systems.

Keywords: Transmission Network Congestion, Power System Reliability, Transmission Losses, Operational Costs, Congestion Pricing Generation Rescheduling.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the demand for electricity has grown significantly due to the expansion of industries, urbanization, and the rise in electrified transportation and digital infrastructure. This increase in demand has placed considerable pressure on existing power transmission networks, often pushing them beyond their designed capacity. Transmission networks play a crucial role in delivering electricity from producers to consumers, but as demand rises, these networks face congestion issues that challenge their ability to maintain stable, reliable, and cost-effective service. Transmission Congestion occurs when the electricity need surpasses the available capacity of transmission lines. When transmission lines are heavily loaded, their efficiency declines, leading to increased transmission losses. These losses result from electrical resistance within the lines and rise significantly with the load, reducing the amount of electricity that ultimately reaches consumers. Consequently, power plants may be required to generate more electricity than usual to meet demand, adding operational strain and increasing fuel consumption and emissions. Congestion also impacts power system reliability. When transmission lines operate near or at capacity, they become more susceptible to faults and failures, which can trigger cascading outages, voltage instability, and even blackouts. This high-stress operation reduces the network's ability to respond to unexpected surges in demand or generation fluctuations, particularly from renewable energy sources, which are inherently variable. The lack of flexibility in an overburdened network means there's little margin for error, raising the risk of service interruptions and compromising grid resilience.

The process of congestion management is as follows (Figure 1)

1. Perform optimal power flow studies by reading system data, including branch and generator statistics, load demand histories, and various system limitations.
2. Prior to the scheduled day, assess the supply and demand bids made by GENCOs and DISCOs, respectively.
3. Without taking the system limitations into account, clear the market using the bids that GENCOs and DISCOs have submitted.
4. Create an economical dispatch schedule that balances load and generation.
5. Look for areas or lines that are crowded for a specific demand.
6. Put the congestion management strategy into practice in the clogged area.
7. Verify the extent of the limit violation; if it continues, proceed to step 6; if not, proceed to step 8.
8. Print the details of the system parameter which are now within limits.

Furthermore, congestion leads to higher operational costs. To manage congested networks, system operators must often implement costly measures, such as re dispatching power from less efficient, more expensive generation sources, or purchasing emergency power to stabilize the grid. Additionally, frequent adjustments to generation schedules can raise maintenance costs for both transmission assets and generating units, accelerating wear and tear on the infrastructure. These increased costs can eventually be passed down to consumers through higher electricity prices. In summary, rising demand and the subsequent congestion in transmission networks threaten the stability, efficiency, and economic viability of power systems. Addressing these issues requires an integrated approach that not only upgrades transmission capacity but also leverages technology and strategic management techniques to maintain a stable, reliable, and cost-effective energy supply. This paper's main goal is to review and compare various techniques for managing congestion in transmission networks. The study aims to evaluate these techniques based on multiple criteria, including effectiveness, cost, scalability, and implementation complexity. The paper explores both traditional and advanced congestion management methods, analyzing their strengths and limitations in real-world applications. The goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how each approach can be applied to address dissimilar congestion scenarios and to highlight areas where improvements or innovative approaches may be beneficial.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A study of the literature on the deployment of FACTS devices for managing traffic in different locations has been provided. In order to enhance congestion control in the unregulated system, Reddy *et al*. [7] examined Genetic

Algorithms for both single-objective and multi objective enhancement strategies in 2009. The two FACTS devices, TCSC and SVC, are utilized for analysis and are more than enough to meet the grid's basic needs. The authors recommended the best location and dimensions for the FACTS device in order to increase stability of voltage and reduced line losses and lessen congestion. Additionally, the IEEE-30 bus transmission system was used to test the created steps. Numerous scenarios were examined, including bilateral and multilateral transactions, uniform line loading, and line outages. Xing and Kusic [8] installed TCPS in 1988 in an effort to minimize active power loss and enhance power system stability. The phase shifter distribution factor is the foundation for minimizing power losses. Using a variety of optimization strategies and taking security indices into account. Song *et al*. [9] described different FACTS devices and their locations in 2004. These methods have been used by the authors on the IEEE-57 bus system. Normal and line contingency conditions are the two operating conditions in which FACTS devices were designed to function. In 2011, Rahimzadeh and Bina [10] sought to determine the best place for both FACTS devices, both shunt and series. Using a neural-based technique, the author employed SSSC as a series model and STATCOM as a shunt device. The necessary PQ-Phasor that is appropriate for analysis of the steady state of a power system was generated by the authors using this model, which took into consideration the power losses occurring in the converter. In order to control congestion, Thangalakshmi and Valsalal (2013) [11] suggested the Hybrid Fish Bee Swarm Optimization approach. Two methods form the foundation of the HFBSO methodology. The first is the Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) technique, and the second is the Fish School Search (FSS) technique. This technique has been used by the authors on the IEEE-30 bus transmission system. The suggested method's results demonstrate a decrease in traffic. A welfare maximization model spanning several time periods was proposed by Yu and Lusan in 2004 [12] to position FACTS devices in the deregulated market while taking losses into account. The outcome demonstrates that no FACTS device can be set up for a one-hour conversation; instead, careful planning and management of the devices' location take many hours. Bilateral and multilateral contracts are the two market models that Srivastav and Kumar [13] examined in 2000. To control congestion, the authors combined the FACTS gadget with the ability to transmit. TCSC and SVC, this devices, are represented as changeable reactance models. For TCSC, two instances were examined. TCSC was set up in capacitive mode for buses with light loads in the second scenario and inductive mode for lines with congestion in the first. Trial-and-error is owned to determine the best place for TCSC. SVC is situated at several busses.

The rate of improvement in minimizing market players' deviations from transactions is used to determine where SVC should be placed. With the aid of a genetic algorithm-based technique, Reddy *et al*. (2006) [14] described the applications and appropriate positioning of FACTS devices for lowering transmission line congestion. To freeze congestion, Ushasurendra implemented TCSC in series with transmission lines in 2012 [15]. The transmission line's level of congestion is determined by the Line Utilization Factor (LUF). In order to manage congestion, a fuzzy logic controller regulates the active power flow.. The recommended approach is implemented using the modified IEEE-14 bus system. The outcomes of the sensitivity method are then contrasted with the fuzzy logic-based results. The outcome demonstrates that an alternate method for managing congestion can also be based on fuzzy logic. A PSO based technique was proposed by Dhansekar and Elango in 2013 [16] to lessen transmission line congestion. The UPFC, is sized and positioned appropriately. UPFC provides customized solutions for unique requirements. The 5-bus test system is used to apply the technique. Transmission line congestion has decreased, according to the results. Since FACTS devices help to reduce transmission line congestion, Rajderkar and Chandrakar (2009) [17] investigated how to choose the right FACTS devices and where to put them for congestion control. The authors test the viability of the TCSC and SSSC , FACTS devices using a reformed IEEE-14 bus test system. The congestion issue has been resolved in this work using comparative analysis. An ideal location for STATCOM was suggested by Karami *et al*. [18]. Additionally, the author determines the IPFC's capacity for managing congestion. Utilizing artificial intelligence optimization techniques, transmission line congestion was decreased and voltage stability and security were enhanced. In 2008 [19], To find the static security margin and reduce congestion, Gitizadeh and Kalantar used the Sequential Quadratic Programming (SQP) issue. The authors then used the problem-optimization technique of simulated annealing. The correct positioning of a FACTS device can boost transmission lines' capacity, according to Rajalakshmi *et al*. (2011) [20]. Considering the decrease of overall reactive power losses and the performance index, the authors have put into practice a technique for the appropriate placement of the FACTS device. Yousefi *et al*. [21] presented a method for managing transmission line congestion in 2012 that combined demand response FACTS

devices. The work for this paper was completed in two stages. In order to maximize market-based social welfare, GENCOs bid the market for their first highest gain and obtain a clear ISO. Network restrictions pertaining to congestion control are incorporated into the market clearing process in the second stage. The second phase uses a redespatch formulation, a mixed integer optimization approach. This step involves coordinating conventional generators with FACTS devices and appeal response in the best possible way. In 2014, Esmaili *et al*. suggested a multi-criteria approach to congestion control [22]. Three objective functions have been optimized by the author: transient stability margin, voltage and operational cost. By employing LMP (Locational Marginal Prices) for priority listing, the suggested method effectively positioned series FACTS devices of various sizes on the congested transmission line. According to Kulkarni and Ghawghawe [23], a numbers of FACTS device, such as a TCSC, can be positioned correctly to lower power flows in transmission cables that are overloaded and increase their load-ability limit. By reducing power outages, this will help control congestion.

METHODOLOGY

Comparison of Methods for Congestion Management.

Congestion Management Approaches (Fig. 2)

Each congestion management method offers different benefits and drawbacks in terms of effectiveness, cost, scalability, implementation complexity, and impact on consumers. Below is a detailed comparison of the reviewed methods—technical solutions, market-based methods, and operational strategies—evaluated based on these criteria.

Effectiveness

Technical Solutions: FACTS, ESS, and DG are highly effective in managing congestion over the long term. FACTS devices are particularly effective at optimizing power flow, while ESS and DG provide flexibility to balance demand and generation.

Market-Based Methods: Congestion pricing and real-time pricing are moderately effective by reducing demand during peak periods. However, they rely on consumer response, which may vary. Operational Strategies: For quick congestion relief, load shedding and generation rescheduling work well. Demand response is also effective, especially for large consumers, but may be less impactful for residential consumers.

Cost

Technical Solutions: These solutions are typically costly due to installation, maintenance, and integration requirements. FACTS and ESS installations, for example, have significant upfront costs, though they may be justified by long-term benefits.

Market-Based Methods: Market-based approaches, like congestion and real-time pricing, are generally cost-effective. They involve minimal infrastructure upgrades but may require advanced metering and real-time pricing capabilities.

Operational Strategies: These strategies are relatively low-cost, involving adjustments in current operations rather than infrastructure upgrades. However, frequent rescheduling and load shedding can increase maintenance costs.

Scalability

Technical Solutions: FACTS and ESS solutions are scalable but can become increasingly expensive with large-scale deployment. DG has moderate scalability as it depends on local resource availability (e.g., sunlight for solar power).

Market-Based Methods: These methods are highly scalable since they can be applied across different consumer groups and regions without physical infrastructure changes. However, they depend on regulatory support and consumer willingness to participate.

Operational Strategies: Generation rescheduling and load shedding are easily scalable as they are adjustments within the existing system. Demand response is moderately scalable, though it may require infrastructure for coordination with large consumers.

Implementation Complexity

Technical Solutions: High complexity, particularly for FACTS and ESS, as they require engineering expertise and integration with the existing grid infrastructure. DG deployment is simpler in localized areas but becomes complex with broader deployment.

Market-Based Methods: Moderate complexity. They require regulatory and pricing frameworks but are straightforward to implement once those are in place. Advanced metering systems are essential for real-time pricing.

Operational Strategies: Low complexity, as these methods mainly involve real-time adjustments to system operations. However, demand response programs require coordination and may introduce complexity in tracking consumer responses.

Impact on Consumers

Technical Solutions: Minimal direct impact on consumers, as these methods typically enhance grid stability without requiring consumer behavioral changes.

Market-Based Methods: Higher consumer impact since these methods rely on price signals that may affect user behavior and consumption patterns.

Operational Strategies: Impact varies; load shedding can directly affect consumer access to electricity, while demand response may offer incentives, encouraging consumers to adjust usage voluntarily. Summary Table of Methods (Table 1).

CONCLUSION

Congestion management in transmission networks remains a critical challenge in recent power systems, driven by increasing demand, the mixing of renewable energy, and the limitations of existing infrastructure. This paper has reviewed various methods for managing congestion, including technical solutions (e.g., FACTS, energy storage systems, and distributed generation), market-based methods (e.g., congestion pricing and real-time pricing), and operational strategies (e.g., generation rescheduling and load shedding). Each of these approaches offers distinct advantages and limitations, depending on the specific context in which they are applied. The future of congestion management lies in the mixing of advanced techniques such as AI, machine learning, and smart grids, which will enable more dynamic, real-time congestion management. As power systems become more complex with the increased integration of renewable energy, the need for innovative solutions to predict, monitor, and manage congestion will grow. The continued development of grid modernization, decentralized energy systems, and advanced data analytics will be critical in overcoming current challenges and ensuring that power systems remain reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable in the future.

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Table 1. Summary Table of Methods

Method	**Effectiveness**	**Cost**	**Scalability**	**Implementation Complexity**	**Impact on Consumers**
Technical Solutions	High	High	Moderate	High	Minimal
FACTS	High	High	Moderate	High	Minimal
Energy Storage Systems	High	High	Moderate	High	Minimal
Distributed Generation	Moderate to High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Minimal
Market-Based Methods	Moderate	Low to Moderate	High	Moderate	High
Congestion Pricing	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	High
Real-Time Pricing	Moderate	Moderate	High	High (requires metering)	High
Operational Strategies	High (short-term)	Low	High	Low	Moderate to High
Generation Rescheduling	High (short-term)	Low	High	Low	Minimal
Load Shedding	High (short-term)	Low	High	Low	High
Demand Response	Moderate to High	Low	Moderate to High	Moderate	Moderate to High

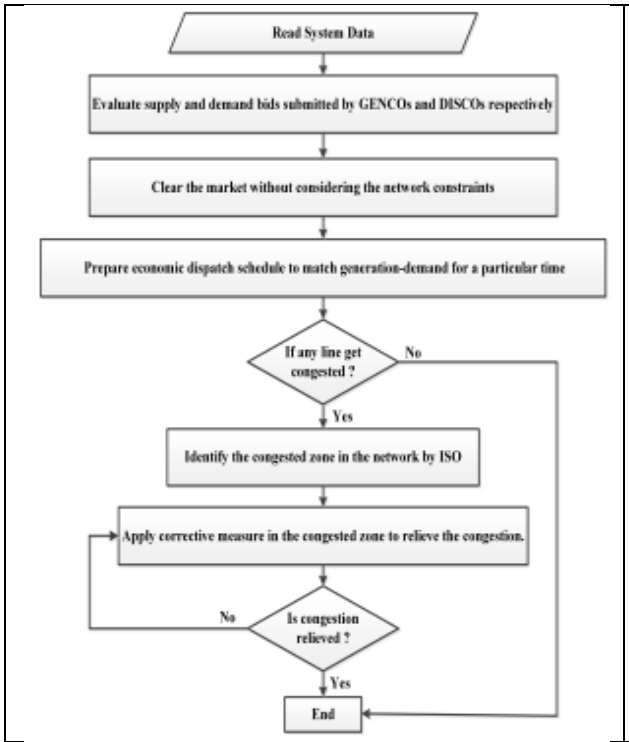


Fig. 1 Congestion Management Process

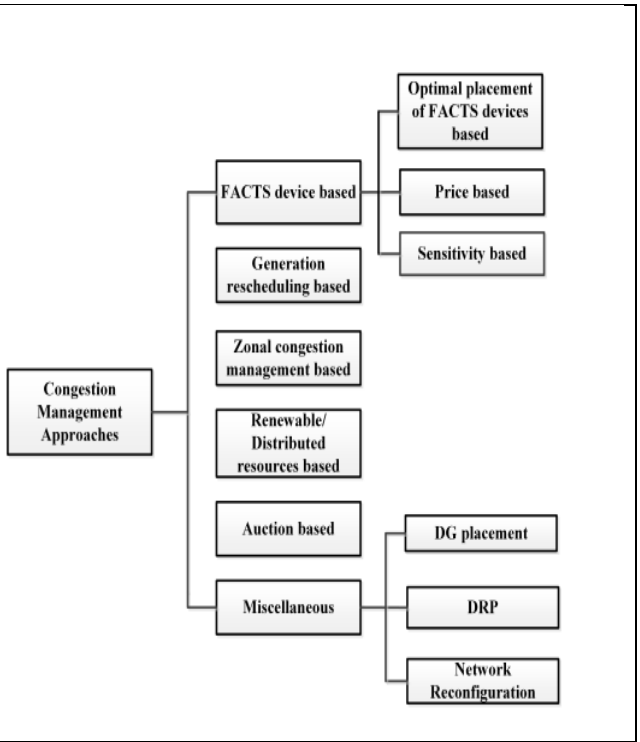


Fig. 2 Congestion Management Approaches

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Biosimilars Evolution Challenges and Future Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

Currently, the fastest-growing medication spending category is biologic agents. In comparison to small-molecule medications made chemically, biologics are deeper-seated pharmaceuticals made by living things. Growth abnormalities, autoimmune diseases, cancer, heart problems, haemophilia, and exotic genetic disorders are only a few of the many illnesses they are now essential in treating. Biosimilars are extremely identical imitations of biologics that have been developed to offer similar efficacy to the original product at lower expenses. We plan to elucidate the biosimilar idea, including definitions, market entrance, historical development, impediments and forthcoming developments. With the objective to do this, we looked into PubMed and the online resources of medicinal regulatory bodies from 1990 to 2014 using keywords such as "biosimilars," "market," and "regulatory." The development of biosimilar drugs was made possible by the 2006 release of the first bio similar- somatropin. Manufacturers confronted barriers to producing these intricate compounds, include efficiency and immunogenicity as a result of joining a cutthroat market. It is anticipated that biosimilars will follow

different paths in different markets, including the US, Japan, the EU, and developing pharmaceutical economies.

Keywords: Interchangeability, immunogenicity, European Medicines Agency, Food and Drug Administration, and biosimilars.

INTRODUCTION

Biologic treatments, as opposed to small-molecule chemical drugs, are made of proteins or peptides that are created in living things using recombinant DNA technology and subsequently extracted through complex purification procedures[1,2]. Thus, it gets harder to produce identical biologic medicines considering their exacerbated structure, production intricacy, and necessity of sensitive data. Small-molecule products, on the other hand, have simpler structures and enable the duplication of the patented production method. Therefore, in the case of small-molecule medications, the creation of generic versions—exact copies of the original—has been made easier.[3]Therefore, the term "biosimilar" denotes a product that nearly identical to the original biologic therapy but is not identical to it.[2]In the USA, biosimilars were also recognized as follow-on biologics, while in Canada, they are referred to as subsequent entry biologics[4]. The 1970s spotted the launch of basic biologic medications, mostly vaccinations and blood products, to the American market. More complex biologic substances might be produced owing to the biosynthesis of genetically modified organisms made easier by developments in cloning and gene expression technologies. In 1982, Genentech made history when the FDA approved recombinant human insulin. Furthermore, recombinant monoclonal antibodies were introduced into the therapy of cancer in 1997 with the release of the first monoclonal antibody to receive FDA approval[5]. Pharmaceuticals produced in a lab to mimic natural proteins are known as biologics, or therapeutic proteins. These biologics mimic or reverse the body's natural protein functions[6]. Biologics have since revolutionised the way that major illnesses are treated in the United States. However, the total healthcare cost curve has sharply increased due to the high cost of biologic medicines and the growing use of biologics over time[7]. The Public Health Service Act was amended in 2009 to include the "Biologic Price Competition and Innovation [BPCI] Act," sometimes referred to as the "351[k] approval pathway." In order to demonstrate bio similarity or interchange ability with biologics approved by the FDA, this amendment created shortened licensing pathways[8]. It is essential to emphasize that the main objective of the 351[k] strategy is not to further validate the biologic compound's basic safety and efficacy, as the cutting-edge company has already done so. Rather, the primary objective of this FDA-shortened approval process is to show that the product is strikingly comparable to the reference biologic. Developers may bring biosimilars to market at the most affordable price thanks to this approach, which acts as a foundation[9].

Differentiating Generic Drugs from Biosimilars

The nomenclature used to describe these novel off-patent compounds is constantly changing and might be confusing. Previously used phrases such as "generic biosimilars" and "biogenerics" have been dropped. Biopharmaceuticals are biological medicines made with biotechnological technologies like gene technology, antibody technology, or recombinant human technology. In South-East Asia and Europe, products that are biologically similar to registered biopharmaceuticals are referred to as "biosimilars," however in the US, they are known as "follow-on biologicals." Generic drugs are pharmaceuticals that are both chemically and therapeutically comparable to the original branded low molecular weight drugs whose patents have expired. In Australia, Zocor (simvastatin) and its several generic variants, including Lipex, Simvar, and Simvabell, are examples of comparable competitors[10]. Low molecular weight molecules that are produced from ordinary chemicals and reagents, usually using organic chemistry methods, make up the bulk of chemical medications. In contrast, biopharmaceuticals are characterized by high molecular weight compounds, and their production involves significantly more complex processes compared to chemical drugs. It's crucial to stress that duplicating the original production process of the innovator by another manufacturer is not feasible[11]. Therefore, using terms like 'generic biosimilars' or 'generic biopharmaceuticals' can

be misleading. This distinction has been highlighted in the 'Guidelines on similar biological medicinal products' recently published by the European Medicines Agency. The guidelines explicitly state that "by definition, similar biological medicinal products are not generic medicinal products[12].” Over the last 20 years, biopharmaceuticals have a revolution in patient treatment methodologies. Specifically in nephrology, these biopharmaceuticals have significantly transformed the approach to managing uraemic anaemia, notably through the introduction of erythropoietic agents[13]. Furthermore, biopharmaceuticals—in particular, monoclonal antibodies—have been essential in the prevention and management of transplant organ rejection[14, 15].

What Distinguishes Generic Medications From Biosimilars?

Biosimilars cannot be evaluated or assessed using the same standards as generic chemical medications. Biopharmaceuticals were large molecular weight chemicals with complex 3D structures, which accounts for this discrepancy. Further examination of the biopharmaceutical's structure shows more complications, even though it may be possible to recreate the original amino acid sequence, also referred to as the fundamental structure. This comprises the development of different hydrogen or disulfide bonds during local folding (secondary structure) and subsequent global folding (tertiary structure). Furthermore, certain biopharmaceuticals exhibit quaternary structures, which are stable multi-subunit structures formed by the association of two or more polypeptide chains. The drug's activity, duration of action, and other crucial characteristics can all be greatly impacted by its intricate structure[16]. The selection of cell lines used to produce proteins can affect post-translational changes, including the level of glycosylation, and the overall structure of the protein. Improvements in humanizing yeast N-glycosylation pathways are anticipated to make it easier to produce therapeutic proteins that are suitably glycosylated in the near future. This development might potentially do away with the need for mammalian cell cultures in this context[17]. A complicated manufacturing procedure is used to produce biopharmaceuticals, often utilizing a variety of mammalian cell lines. Variations in these molecules' glycosylation levels can have a substantial impact on receptor binding, altering metabolic properties and the strength and duration of binding. For example, differing glycosylation patterns within the same amino acid sequence result in the creation of distinct isomers in the case of epoetin[18]. Outside of cell culture, other changes can take place, such as Pegylation, or the attachment of polyethylene glycol bridges to proteins, alters receptor binding and is subsequently removed by metabolism. The way the biopharmaceutical interacts with the cellular receptor can be affected by each of these steps. Compared to medications made of low molecular weight chemicals, the production procedure for biosimilars is much more complex. Finding the required protein product's DNA sequence is the first step, which is followed by inserting it into the right cell line and then into a suitable vector. A master cell bank is created from a pool of cells. Some differences for the innovator's product and the biosimilars can be attributed to the individuality of each master cell bank. Cell multiplication and higher protein synthesis are the outcomes of cultivating the master bank. To guarantee sufficient purity, a significant amount of protein must be wasted during the purification process of the supernatant, which contains the protein. It is very hard to generate an identical molecule due to the total unpredictability of the production process. Bio-originators make the claim that "the process is the product." The claim that reaching precise bio-identity is unrealistic is supported by the fact that little changes in production circumstances might result in slight differences in the finished product. Cell changes within and between batches, different preservatives, and poor cold chain management might all contribute to this variability. Furthermore, there are serious issues with guaranteeing the product's sterility, when it entered in to the market. But biotechnology have progressed to the point where in certain circumstances, prospective biosimilar producers can use microbial cell culture instead of using mammalian cell lines to replicate an innovator's biologic precisely. Specifically, using microbial fermentation in Escherichia coli, high-purity, cost-effective proteins without post-translational modifications may be produced. This process may effectively manufacture the majority of first-generation biologicals intended as biosimilars, including insulin, growth hormone, G-CSF, and several interferons[19].

Historical Evolution of Biosimilars

The first biosimilar medication was Omnitrope (somatropin [rDNA origin]), a human recombinant growth hormone manufactured by Sandoz in Holzkirchen, Upper Bavaria, Germany. Omnitrope mentioned Pfizer's Genotropin (somatropin [rDNA origin]), which received its first EU approval in 1988[20]. Sandoz International applied for

marketapproval in Europe in 2001 via the "well-established medicinal use" route[21]. In June 2003, Omnitrope was recommended for market authorization by the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Scientific Committee and Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, which represented member states including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The European Commission, however, disapproved of this suggestion and forbade its sale. The Commission said that Sandoz ought to have pursued the licensing procedure through the "essential similarity" route instead than the "well-established medicinal use" approach. The goal of further formal proceedings was to reverse the Commission's ruling in cooperation with the European Court of First Instance[22,23]. A thorough and official framework for biosimilars was created in the EU on March 31, 2004.A second effort to get market authorization for Omnitrope was then undertaken by Sandoz in July 2004. Omnitrope was approved on April 12, 2006, following a second favourable opinion from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in January of that year. Soon after Omnitrope was approved, another biosimilar made by Bio Partners in Lithuania and a recombinant HGH, Valtropin (somatropin rDNA origin for injection, USP), was also approved[24]. Similar to the evaluation process for other biological medicines, all biosimilars undergo the same rigorous scientific assessment by the European Medicines Agency (EMA)[25]. Omnitrope and Valtropin, the first approved drugs, were pioneers in the new biosimilar business, paving the way for many more biosimilar firms to follow. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) implemented certain regulations and a registration procedure designed for the approval of biosimilars between 2005 and 2006[26]. Until 2016, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) had approved a total of 23 biosimilars across different therapeutic areas. The approvals commenced with somatropin in 2006, and subsequent acceptances included various erythropoietin analogues. . More recently, approvals expanded to encompass antineoplastic agents and biosimilars for follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)[27,28]. FDA News Release . FDA approves first biosimilar product Zarxio. March 6, 2015[29]. Accessed July 10, 2015 accessed January 24, 2016[30]. In the European Union (EU), decisions made by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) hold validity across all member countries. While each EU country retains the authority They are unable to independently negotiate biosimilar price and make choices about marketing authorisation apart from the EMA's rulings.In June 2009, Sandoz's growth hormone therapy, Somatropin BS (somatotropine), became the first biosimilar to be approved in Japan. By 2015, seven biosimilars from several product classes, such as insulin, erythropoiesis-stimulating drugs, G-CSF, HGH, and tumour necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors, have been approved for use in Japan by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency[31]. On March 6, 2015, the FDA in the United States approved Zarxio (filgrastim), manufactured by Sandoz in Holzkirchen, Upper Bavaria, Germany, as the first biosimilar medication to be distributed in the country. This clearance came five years after the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010[32].

FDA Regulation of Biosimilars

The 351k path is a shortened licensure pathway for biological products that exhibit "highly similar" qualities or interchangeability with an FDA-licensed reference product. It was created by the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCI Act), a part of the Affordable Care Act that President Obama signed into law on March 23, 2010.A biosimilar product is one that, according to data from clinical, animal, and analytical studies, shows no clinically meaningful changes from its reference product in terms of potency, safety, or purity. The new medication must be biosimilar to the reference product, exhibiting the same mechanisms of action under the intended circumstances of use, as well as a matching strength, dosage form, and method of administration, according to applicants following the 351(k) pathway. Data must demonstrate a product's resemblance to the reference product and the possibility of achieving the same clinical results in order for it to be deemed interchangeable. It should be possible to exchange or substitute interchangeable biosimilars with the reference product in any patient without increasing safety concerns or decreasing effectiveness. Without the healthcare provider's consent, a product that satisfies interchangeability requirements can be used in place of the reference product. **[33].** In February 2012, the FDA released new guidance documents aimed at incorporating input and addressing queries gathered from regulatory meetings concerning the development of biosimilar products**[34].** The recommendations provide a step-by-step procedure that must be followed in order to prove biosimilarity, starting with comprehensive structural and

functional evaluations. Animal studies to assess toxicity and later clinical investigations concentrating on pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and immunogenicity come after this first stage. Furthermore, if there is adequate scientific support, the FDA may permit extrapolation across indications, according to the proposed advice. The quality criteria address physiochemical factors that are pertinent to the evaluation of biosimilarity, such as manufacturing procedures, contaminants, and product stability. Drug makers must choose the analytical methods and study endpoints required to prove similarity in the absence of product-specific guidelines. In order to assess protein aggregation, post-translational changes, and other elements influencing product-related immunogenicity, new analytical approaches are constantly being developed. However, it's important to note that only clinical studies can thoroughly assess the interplay between the potential immunogenicity of the drug itself and various factors such as delivery method, dosage, and patient characteristics[35].

Challenges of Biosimilars

Biologics manufacturing is a complex and sophisticated process that gives a select few seasoned businesses a competitive advantage. A two-part demonstration is the basis for defining a biosimilar under the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation (BPCI) Act. It must, first and foremost, demonstrate structural similarity to the reference product, accounting for slight variations in clinically inactive ingredients. Second, it ought to be as safe, pure, and potent as the original substance. These standards add another level of testing that must evaluate effectiveness profiles and adhere to quality and safety laws. It is also necessary to take into account factors like pharmacovigilance, distribution methods, and storage. In regards to biosimilars, the European market has demonstrated respectable levels of safety and effectiveness, gaining the confidence of prescribers. After over ten years of putting safety and quality assurance procedures into place, the EU has made progress. However, the BPCI Act of 2010 did not completely establish these principles in the United States.[36]. There are still some doctors who are reluctant to fully accept biosimilars as reliable biologic alternatives. According to the results of a poll by the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development, the majority of doctors concur that they are likely to recommend biosimilars to newly diagnosed patients beginning therapy after the FDA has approved them. But according to the same poll, doctors are less likely to recommend a biosimilar medication to patients who are currently receiving therapy with an original biologic[37]. Patients may need a stronger push to comprehend and promote the benefits of biosimilars. Despite providing more reasonably priced medication, patients continue to have concerns about the efficacy and safety of the drugs. This hesitation may result from a hazy understanding of the biosimilarity idea. Furthermore, doctors' perceptions of biosimilars are greatly influenced by the information they offer. Therefore, significant work is required to properly promote biosimilars, mostly by pharmaceutical companies, providing thorough teaching resources to both doctors and patients. Furthermore, the rivalry between pharmaceutical companies may result in the development of "bio betters," a substitute for biologics. By creating formulations with improved therapeutic results, safety profiles, and delivery systems, these initiatives aim to outperform the quality of currently available biologics[38]. According to a research by the Biotechnology Information Institute, work is still being done to create bio betters for drugs like Rituxan and Herceptin. These developments might deter producers from developing biosimilars. They could be urged to release better biologics into the market instead[39].

Future Perspectives of Biosimilars

The expiration of a few companies' patents in the coming year presents an advantageous chance for other biopharmaceutical companies to explore exploring the development of biosimilar drugs. It is anticipated that the pharmaceutical sector will evolve into more imaginative and competitive as the outcome of this impending expiration. The worldwide biosimilar market is therefore anticipated to develop significantly, reaching an extra value of almost US$10 billion. Expectations are high that many businesses will enter this expanding and possibly profitable industry. By utilizing their skills in biotechnology, research, and production techniques, Indian pharmaceutical companies have shown a great deal of proficiency in the development and manufacture of biosimilars. These businesses have been essential in increasing access to reasonably priced biosimilar drugs both in India and throughout the world. These vital medications are now more widely available and accessible in many regions of the world because to their capacity to create affordable biosimilars[40]. As of 2015, the Indian biosimilar market was estimated to be around US$300 million. Within this market, domestic sales accounted for nearly US$250 million,

showing robust growth at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14%. This substantial growth underscores the increasing demand and utilization of biosimilar products within India[41]. India holds substantial potential to establish itself as a prominent global player in the realm of similar biologics or biosimilars. As per the ASSOCHAM-Sathguru report unveiled in 2016, the biosimilar sector presents a substantial US$240-billion global opportunity for the Indian biopharmaceutical industry. This report underscores the immense scope and potential for India to significantly contribute to the global biosimilar market[42].

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares no conflicts of interest

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Table 1: Chemical medication molecular weights in comparison to biopharmaceuticals

		Molecular weight(Daltons)
Chemical drugs	Paracetamol	151
	Rofecoxib	315
	Simvastatin	419
Biopharmaceuticals	Filgrastim	18 800
	Epoetin alfa	30 400
	Rituximab	145 000
	Factor VIII	264 000

Table 2. Procedures for producing a biopharmaceutical

1.	Confirmation of an appropriate host cell
2.	Establishment of a cell bank
3.	Protein production
4.	Purification process
5.	Analysis
6.	Formulation
7.	Storage and handling

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Correlation between Knowledge Assessment and Stress Handling in Post Menopausal Women - A Prospective Interventional Study

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ABSTRACT

Educating post-menopausal women regarding menopause will help them to embrace the phase of life more easily and it is believed that this will help the post-menopausal women to handle stress more effectively. We used a prospective interventional study to compare the correlation between level of knowledge about menopause and stress handling in post-menopausal who is aged between 45 to 60 years of age. Sample size taken was 30 in test and 32 in control group. Post menopausal women have undergone 20 minutes educating sessions regarding menopause by clinical pharmacist and the data obtained from base line and after the counselling session was compared and analyzed by paired t test through SPSS statistical program. The menopausal women showed significantly high efficiency in handling stress with the increase in knowledge level and there was a significant correlation between the level of knowledge and effective stress handling. This study suggests that increase in level of knowledge about of menopause shows increase in efficiency of handling stress.

Keywords: Menopause, Knowledge assessment, Stress handling, Health education, Quality of life.

INTRODUCTION

Menopause, or the final menstrual period is a natural cessation or stopping of ovarian function and mark the end of fertility that occurs in mid-age women. Menopause, defined by the WHO as the cessation of menstruation for 12 consecutive months, marks the end of fertility and is often accompanied by symptoms that, while well-tolerated by some women, can be particularly troublesome for others, severely compromising their overall quality of life, yet these symptoms are often under-reported among Indian women due to socio-cultural factors, contributing to a lack of awareness and understanding, despite the potential benefits of early recognition to reduce discomfort and alleviate fears[1].Worldwide, over 470 million women are older than 50 years, and by 2030, an estimated 1.2 billion women will be peri- or postmenopausal, with the transition to menopause and its effects varying considerably between individuals and cultures, as some women experience severe and disruptive symptoms, while others only notice the cessation of menstruation, with common symptoms including depression, mood swings, reduced confidence and self-esteem, anxiety, forgetfulness, and difficulties concentrating [2] . Social and cultural influences significantly shape women's perception and management of menopausal symptoms, with negative attitudes towards menopause potentially worsening specific symptoms, as menopausal experiences vary across sociocultural contexts, impacting women differently and extending its effects beyond women to affect families [3].Understanding and adapting to menopausal changes is crucial for postmenopausal women's health, as lifestyle and psychological factors play a vital role, and awareness of the physical and psychological changes during menopause prepares women to cope better; despite all the physiological changes, menopause should not be viewed as a sign of impending decline, but rather as a wonderful beginning of a good health program, including lifestyle changes in diet and exercise

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Our study population included Post Menopausal women who attended the obstetrics and gynecology outpatient and inpatient department of tertiary care hospital, Bengaluru. Ethical clearance was obtained from the same hospital(Ref :BGSGIMS/IEC/App/Dec/2022/11 dated on 21/12/2022). The study participants were enrolled only after obtaining an informed consent which included the details of the study. The participants included were women who attained menopause (one year of amenorrhea). We conducted a prospective interventional study to assess the level of knowledge and stress management among our study participants. The data was collected for 80 subjects which was divided into two groups test group and control group, both the group subjects were screened and given counseling and asked to follow up. In test and control group 10 and 8 subjects dropped respectively. Table 1 explains the study flow.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The level of knowledge on menopause was assessed by asking the participants questions about their source of information (Figure 2) and they were also parallelly categorized as very good, moderately good, and little knowledge (Figure 3) based on the views they had on menopause. The control and test group were separately asked about their views on menopause and quality of life during both the visit and the test group's results for the same were assessed before counselling and after counseling and was found to have a 37% ($p < 0.003$) increase in positive view after counseling the data is present in table 1 and 2 Our patient handouts and pamphlets distributed among the test group also included suggestions for weight and post-menopausal symptom management. The data clearly depicts the impact of counseling provided as, 5 out of 8 qualities of life parameters were found to be significantly improved in the test group. In our investigation, a noteworthy correlation emerged between the implementation of health education as an intervention and the enhancement of women's understanding of menopause. The pre-intervention phase revealed a predominantly negative outlook on menopause in both the test and control groups, aligning with existing trends observed in similar settings. This negativity may be attributed to the multifaceted challenges associated with menopause, including psychosocial factors and their significant impact on quality of life (QOL). This prevalent outlook is frequently observed among women in lower-middle-income nations, such as India. The

rationale behind this phenomenon may stem from the substantial impact of menopausal issues, encompassing psychosocial dimensions, on the lives of women. Certain instances of menopausal symptoms are of such severity that they impede daily functioning and detrimentally impact quality of life[4]. Our findings support the efficacy of health education as a strategy for empowering women and improving their well-being during this transition. Notably, the post-intervention phase demonstrated a noteworthy improvement in QOL within the test group, highlighting the potential of educational interventions to promote positive attitudes and enhance QOL during menopause. Building upon the work of Koyuncu *et al*., the present study further strengthens the evidence for the efficacy of health education interventions in mitigating the physical and mental burden of menopause. Their findings demonstrated a significant decrease in both somatic and psychological symptom scores among participants, suggesting reduced intensity and distress associated with menopausal symptoms. Additionally, Koyuncu *et al*. observed notable improvements in menopausal knowledge and emotional responses, as evidenced by positive shifts in both positive and negative emotional sub-scores. These combined outcomes offer compelling support for the notion that health education effectively alters both the perceived severity of menopausal symptoms and the overall cognitive and emotional landscape surrounding this transformative phase. Li *et al*. conducted an investigation that evaluated the weekly energy expenditure associated with overall physical activity and engagement in exercise within both the control and intervention cohorts. Post menopausal women in the intervention group, following the administration of health education, exhibited improved levels of physical activities and energy expenditure, accompanied by a noteworthy alteration in their dietary habits [3].

CONCLUSION

Existing research adds weight to the observed positive shift in women's perspectives on menopause following health education interventions. Notably, these studies demonstrate empowered approaches to managing persistent symptoms and enhanced quality of life [5]. Nevertheless, it is crucial to recognize that certain investigations posit that mere knowledge might not be enough to instigate a shift in attitudes [6]. Instead, understanding the operational dynamics of the menopausal process, including its emergence, may empower women to alleviate the sense of uncertainty prevalent during this phase and mitigate negative attitudes towards menopause [7]. Addressing this issue hinges on cultivating women's awareness of effective learning strategies aligned with social norms and contextual nuances. Given that women form the foundation of familial care structures, empowering postmenopausal women becomes imperative for ensuring their well-being throughout more than a third of their lifespan. Moreover, such empowerment positions them to derive optimal benefits from their concluding years of reproductive life. And hence, facilitating this could be the health education that could promisingly uplift women and make their quality of life much better. The government could take up examples of such studies and come up with a nationalized program to help women throughout the country to battle this common effect of menopause.

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Table 1: View on Menopause

View on Menopause				
	Test		Control	
	BC	AC	BC	FU 1
Positive	13	24	14	15
Negative	17	6	18	17

Table 2: Subject views on QOL

Subject views on QOL						
Quality of life	**Test**			**Control**		
	BC	AC	p-value	BC	FU 1	p-value
Sleep	18	23	0.001	20	18	NS
Energy	19	22	0.005	16	17	NS
Memory	21	21	0.09 (NS)	22	22	NS
Feelings	15	26	<0.001	16	17.2	NS
Love life	15.3	27.2	<0.005	14	13	NS
Home life	17	19.1	0.97(NS)	13	12	NS
Work activities	20	22	0.70(NS)	21	24	NS
Social life	19	23	0.0048	15	14	NS
*BC: Before Counselling; *AC: After counselling; *FU1: Follow up 1; *NS: p-value not significant.						

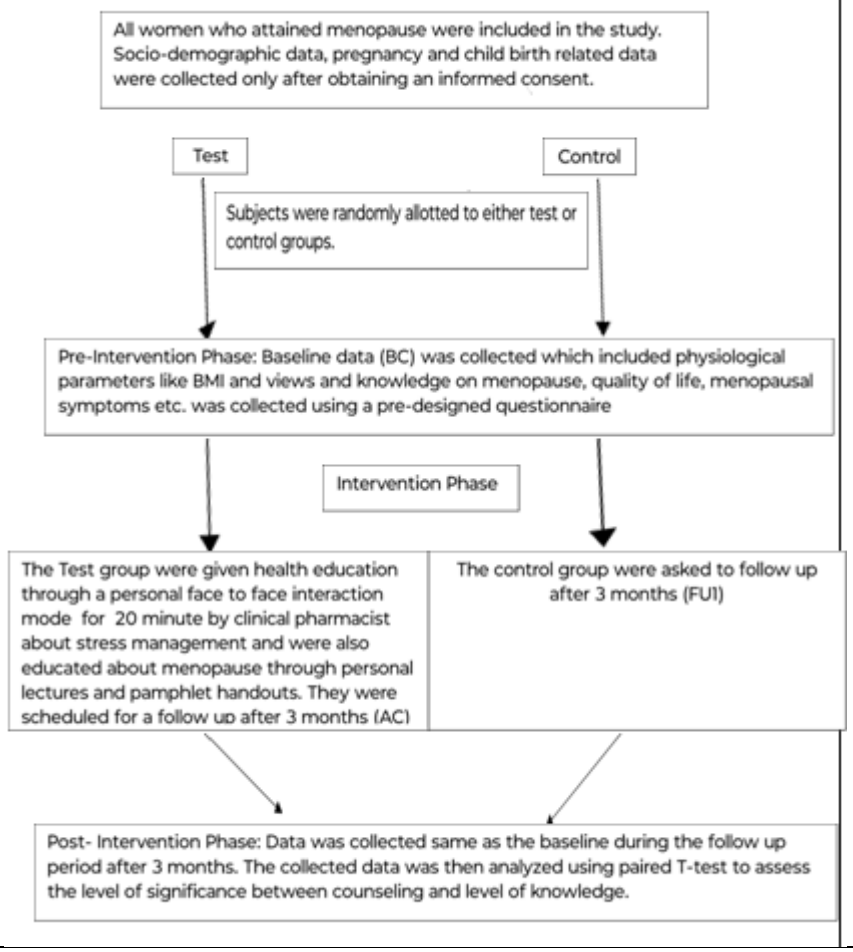


Fig 1: Methodology Flow Chart

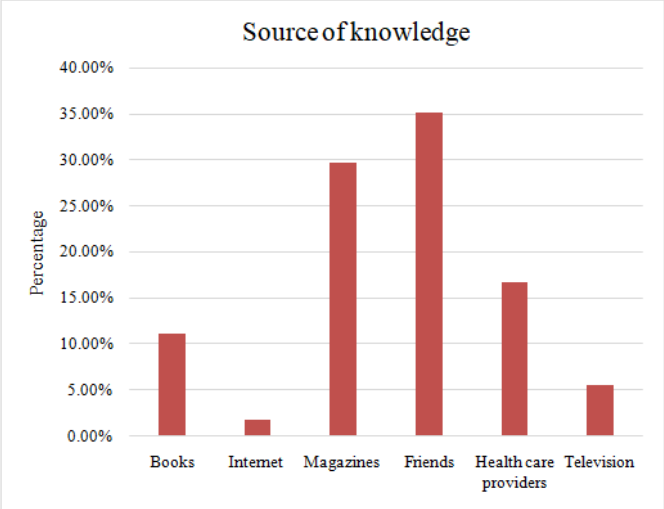


Fig 2: Source of Knowledge for the Subjects

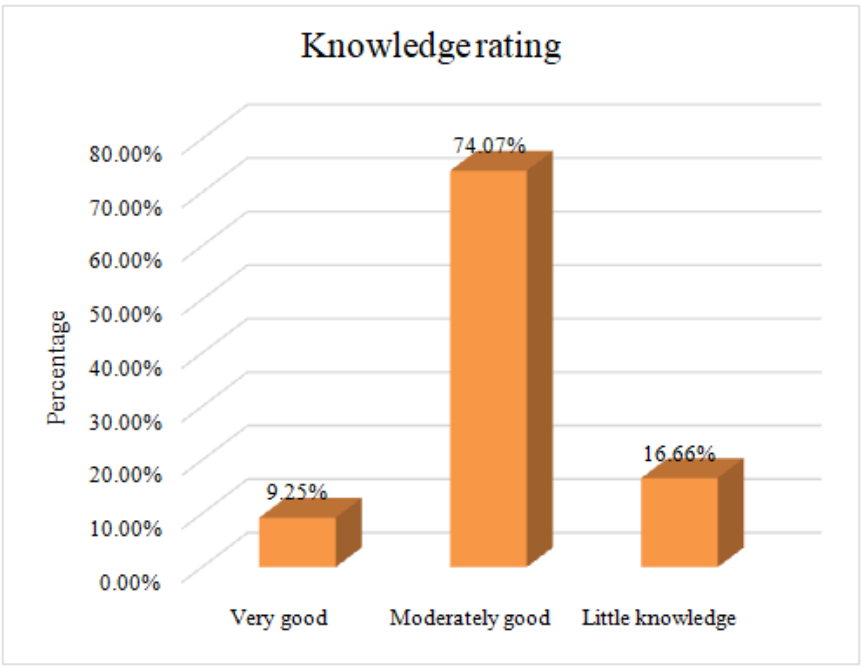


Fig 3: Subjects Knowledge Assessment

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

In vitro Comparative Study on Ficin Activity Extracted from Stem, Leaves, Latex, Ripe and Unripe Fruit of *Ficus racemosa* (Fig tree) and its Application

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ABSTRACT

Ficus plant species are rich in ficin, a cysteine protease with a history in traditional medicine. It has a remarkable market value in the different industries due to its protein digesting ability. This study investigated most effective solvent for extracting ficin and its activity in stem, leaves, latex, ripe and unripe fruit of *Ficus racemosa.* Using column chromatography, it was found that the highest ficin elution was in fraction 7 (100% methanol). Latex ficin showed maximum activity supported by Lowry's method exhibiting the highest protein yield in the same fraction. In vitro studies demonstrated that, latex ficin efficiently coagulated milk within two hours. Furthermore, latex derived ficin exhibited optimum blood clot lysis compared to other samples and control. It also effectively removed blood stains from cloth, followed by unripe fruit. From this study, it can be inferred that ficin extracted from *Ficus racemosa* latex shows maximum enzyme activity, rapid milk coagulation, efficiency in removing blood stains significantly, and notable thrombolytic activity. Plant - derived proteases like ficin suggests, that it is a promising, sustainable, eco-friendly and economical alternative for various applications in the food, detergent and in pharmaceutical industries.

Keywords: Column chromatography, Ficin, *Ficus racemosa*, Milk coagulation, Thrombolysis, blood stain remover

INTRODUCTION

Proteases are multifunctional enzymes with potential physiological importance in animals and plants performing programmed cell death, activation of complement system, inflammatory responses, germination and senescence. Globally proteases have 60% market value for their commercial utility in textile, food, pharmaceutical and leather industry [1]. When compared to animal and microbial proteases, plant proteases have gained interest as their activity lies within a wide range of pH and temperature. Also, they are stable in presence of surfactants, denaturing agents and in organic solvents. Therefore, they have replaced industrially important conventional protease enzymes [2]. Among thousands of traditionally known medicinal plants, *Ficus* sps are significant crop globally for their valuable produce either in dry or fresh form for multiple purpose [3-5].As traditional approach, the fig tree parts like its roots, leaves and fruits are used as medicine which has potential therapeutic benefits. Various parts are used as medicine in disorders related to respiratory (cough, sore throat, problems in bronchia), gastrointestinal (ulcers, stomach-ache, change in appetite, indigestion), inflammatory, cardiovascular and cancer [6, 7].The crude fig tree leaves decoctions are practiced traditionally to treat inflammatory diseases, to treat tumours, has been used as anthelmintic and to prevent nutritional anaemia [7, 8].As its leaves are known for its micronutrients like calcium, iron, manganese, potassium, pro vitamin A, vitamin B1 and B2 and a rich source of fibre [5-7].Fruits of fig trees that are edible are used in fresh or in dry form as laxative agent to alleviate constipation [4].*Ficus carica* bark, leaves, fruits, roots and latex are used as ethnomedicine in humans [8].The phytochemicals enriched in the Fig tree parts have significant role due to their medicinal and therapeutic properties. Ficin, one of a promising protease enzyme was found to be present predominantly in the latex of fig tree [9]. It is a plant- derived cysteine endopeptidase, where its action is like bromelain, chymopapain, papain and calpain which are other plant-based proteases [10, 11]. Many reports on Ficin deals with cysteine protease (EC 3.4.22.3) obtained from the *Ficus glabrata*, *Ficus carica* and *Ficus anthelmintic* tree latex. This protease contains cysteine at its active site but differ in their composition, chromatographic and quantitative analysis. *Ficus elastica* contains Ficin-E which is a serine protease. Many studies and reports have indicated that, latex of Ficus genus contains varied proteases. Ficin has varied applications in food industry mainly in production of cheese to avoid the ethical concern to use chymosin or rennet obtained from unweaned calves or as a bioengineered product. Also, in production of milk protein hydrolysate with decreased allergenicity to introduce it into infant formula and in geriatric nutrition. Bioavailability of nutrients containing nitrogen is essential under geriatric nutrition as age increases there will be decreased metabolic rate and assimilation of high macromolecules becomes cumbersome[12]. Other applications of ficin includes, in replacing commercial meat tenderizers, in beer industry as a chill-proofing agent, as a dough softener and in precooked cereals as a processing aid [13]. Action of ficin on milk proteins can be partial hydrolysis producing protein hydrolysates of varying molecular weights and some amount of free amino acids. If it is extensive hydrolysis, the products produced includes short chain peptides and abundant number of amino acids. The obtained products determine the quality of cheese in terms of taste, colour and odour, also their incorporation into food industry depends on the allergic response that these products have [14]. Fibrinolysis a mechanism that effectively balances between blood coagulation and consequences due to inflammation. Activation of blood plasma coagulation factors and thrombocytes begins when blood vessels are damaged resulting in formation of blood clot as a fibrin mesh [15]. To combat this inflammatory response, the broken-down products of fibrin and various coagulation factors regulate migration of leucocyte cells and production of cytokines [16]. Blood coagulation happens by transformation of soluble fibrinogen to insoluble fibrin clot while, fibrinolysis involves dissolution of the formed clot by plasminogen activators- a natural process. Under critical clinical conditions, to dissolve the blood clot formed in main blood vessels like arteries, it involves administration of fibrinolytic enzymes or thrombolytic agents. These agents have clinical implications like incidence of internal bleeding and haemorrhage as the major side effects [17]. To overcome this issue, researchers have focused on secure alternatives using natural plant sources. Studies using plant- based cysteine protease as traditional therapeutic medicine has been experimented for cardiovascular complications [18, 19]. Plant proteases have grabbed the attention of scientist as they are active at wide range of temperature and pH, has a broad substrate specificity and stable in organic solvents [20].These features make an understandable usefulness of proteases in detergent industry. Due to their stability, plant-based proteases in detergent industry can efficiently remove the protein stains on cloth

and adding cleaning ability to detergents [21]. Easy availability, abundant and enriched proteolytic enzymes in plant materials may serve as a bioresource for inexpensive enzyme-based detergents [22]. As the above literature study, provided a platform in understanding the growing research interest in searching and identifying to validate a novel protease with numerous industrial applications owing to their increase in demand. As previous studies mainly were on plant- based cysteine proteases, the focus of this present study was to investigate the efficacy of a natural ficin with aspartate protease extracted from various parts of *Ficus racemosa* tree. The present investigation reports on the milk clotting, blood stain removal and blood clot lysis efficiency so that, it can be put-to-use in food and pharmaceutical industry due to their novel specific cleavage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All the chemicals required for the experiments were of analytical grade purchased from SRL chemicals, Qualigen fine chemicals, Hi Media Laboratories and Merck chemicals, India.

Extraction of Ficin from the stem, leaves, unripe and ripe fruit of *Ficus racemosa*

For this study, samples were collected from the *Ficus racemosa* tree located at our college campus. Approximately 5.0gms of the stem, leaves, unripe and ripe fruits of the collected samples were initially surface sterilized with tap water to remove the dust particles and air dried to remove the surface moisture. Each sample was taken into a mortar and pestle placed on an ice tray, grounded it into a smooth paste using 1.5mL of phosphate buffer pH (7.0) containing 6mM EDTA and 6mM cysteine. The homogenate was filtered using a double layered muslin cloth to remove the coarse particle or the debris. The obtained filtrate was centrifuged at 5000rpm for 20 minutes at 4˚C (Figure 1). The clear supernatant was transferred carefully into clean and dry vials and preserved in a refrigerator until use.

Extraction of Ficin from the latex of *Ficus racemosa*

The stem of the *Ficus racemosa* tree was punctured using a thin sharp knife. The oozing of the exudates labelled as latex was collected using a 2.0mL sterile disposable needle. The collected latex sample was carefully transferred into screw capped vials containing 1.5mL of phosphate buffer pH (7.0), 6mM EDTA and 6mM cysteine and stored at -20˚ C for 5 days. After 5th day, the sample was thawed and centrifuged at 5000rpm for 20 minutes at 4˚C. The obtained clear supernatant was carefully transferred into dry, clean vials and stored in a refrigerator until use [23].

Packing and extraction of Ficin from the Column

Glass column of 15 cm x 1 cm fitted with a nylon disc was washed and checked for the flow of the solvent. 5.0gms of the silica gel was weighed and to it 10mL of hexane solvent was added. The contents were stirred thoroughly to form the slurry and poured immediately into the column without air bubbles with even column packing [24, 25]. After silica gel settles, hexane inside the column was eluted out and the column was washed two times with hexane. 2.0mL of the crude supernatant of the samples (stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruits and latex) were allowed to percolate through the column. 7.0 mL of the mobile phase used for fractionation was chloroform and methanol by increasing the polarity prepared in different composition (Table 1). Effluent was collected at the rate of 2.0mL/ min. The obtained fractions were assayed for protease activity.

Determination of protease enzyme activity

2.0mL of 2% of Casein (substrate), prepared in 100mM of potassium phosphate buffer, 0.2 mLof 250mM L- Cysteine, 0.2ml of 250mM EDTA and 0.2 mL of 250mM NaOH and 0.4mL of distilled water were taken in two tubes labelled as test and blank. Mix the contents thoroughly and equilibrate to 37 °C. 0.5mL of the crude enzyme extracts was added only in test. Immediately, careful swirling was done, incubated for 20 min at 37 °C. After incubation, 6.0mL of trichloroacetic acid (TCA) was added in both the test and blank tubes. Vortex the contents gently and incubate at 37 °C for 1 hour. Later, the obtained precipitate was separated by filtering through Whatman filter paper and the obtained filtrate was centrifuged at 5000rpm for 15 minutes. Supernatant was transferred to quartz cuvette and

absorbance was measured at 280nm in a UV Visible spectrophotometer. The enzyme activity was calculated using the formula,

$$Enzyme\ activity\ (U/ml) = \frac{(Absorbance\ of\ the\ Test\ at\ 280nm - Absorbance\ of\ the\ Blank\ at\ 280nm)(df)}{(20)(0.5)\ (1)}$$

Where, df is dilution factor, 20 is time of assay (in minutes), 0.5mL is volume (in millilitre) of crude enzyme used and 1.0 is the change in absorbance at 280nm per unit as per the enzyme unit definition [26]. Enzyme activity is defined as One unit will produce an absorbance at 280nm of 1.0 per minute at pH 7.0 at 37 °C while measuring TCA soluble products from casein in a final volume of 10mL.

Protein estimation

The quantitative determination of the resultant product was determined by Lowry's method using BSA (Bovine serum albumin) with a standard concentration of 200 µg/mL [26].

Milk Clotting activity of Ficin

The milk clotting study was performed as described by Greenberg method with slight modifications [28]. 10% of the skimmed milk, that was acting as substrate was added with 0.01M calcium chloride. The pH of the above solution was adjusted to 6.0. From the above substrate, 2.0ml was carefully transferred to screw capped vials and were preincubated at 37 °Cfor 5 minutes. To this, 0.2ml of the crude extracts of stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruits and latex were added to the respective labelled vials. All the vials were incubated at 37 °C, while manually rotating the vials gently from time to time. At regular intervals, the vials were observed carefully for coagulation without disturbing them. The end point reached was based on the formation of discrete particles that was distinguishable. Time taken for the coagulation was noted down [29, 30].

Blood Clot lysis (Thrombolysis) activity of Ficin

Thrombolytic activity of ficin was assayed using Prasad, Sweta *et al*[31] method with slight modifications. Venous blood from healthy subject was collected and 500µL per tube was transferred carefully into pre-weighed 1.5mL of sterile microcentrifuge tubes. Tubes were incubated at 37 °C for 45 minutes and later the serum was removed from each tube without disturbing the clot. Each tube with the blood clot was weighed to determine the clot weight.

$$Clot\ weight = Weight\ of\ the\ tube\ containing\ the\ clot - Weight\ of\ the\ empty\ tube$$

To the clot, crude extract of *Ficus racemosa* stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruits and latex were added at two different concentrations. To one tube containing clot, distilled water was added as negative control. All the tubes were incubated at 37 °C for 90 minutes for clot lysis. After incubation time, the fluid in the tubes were aspirated carefully and weighed again to determine the difference in weight to evaluate the clot lysis activity of Ficin. Difference in clot lysis before and after incubation with Ficin was used to determine the percentage of clot lysis.

Detergent stability and blood stain removal

The stability of the crude protease was studied using commercial detergent. The crude enzyme extracts obtained from *Ficus racemosa* tree parts were incubated in presence of 1% (w/v) detergent by maintaining the pH at 7.5. All the contents were placed at room temperature overnight. Enzyme activity was measured without detergent and was considered as 100%. To determine the stain removal efficiency, 5 x 5 cm sized clean, cotton cloth pieces were soiled with a drop of blood in the centre and allowed it to dry. The dried stained cloths were placed in the labelled petri plates and incubated with the respective crude enzyme extracts (0.1mg/ mL) present in 1% detergent. A separate stained cotton cloth was incubated in 1% detergent that served as a control [22].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The most comprehensively studied protease is Ficin extracted from the latex of *Ficus carica* and *Ficus glabrata* species that is a cysteine protease. However, the presence of Ficin protease from other Ficus species are not much explored. A study done by, Devaraj *et al*., [32] was on the latex of *Ficus racemosa* (L) tree reported the presence of an aspartic protease that was thermostable (60 °C), mol wt. of 44.5 k Da, with pH optima between 4.5 to 6.5. The same study

further reported the action of an inhibitor namely pepstatin- A that confirms it as aspartic protease enzyme. In our current study, we have chosen to explore on *Ficus racemosa*, as it is an aspartic protease and very few studies on its properties have been reported. Also, further study on this novel protease has to be undergone to evaluate its efficiency in food and pharmaceutical industries.

Effect of extracting solvent and enzyme activity of Ficin extracted from *Ficus racemosa*

Column chromatography was employed to separate and fractionate the ficin enzyme from the crude extracts. Different ratio of chloroform and methanol (Table 1) were used as mobile phase for elution. 2.0mL of the collected fractions were subjected for the determination of enzyme activity. From the below graph (Figure 2) it can be inferred that, from the extraction results the maximum enzyme activity was found to be in latex and less activity in leaves. The order of enzyme activity was latex > unripe fruit > stem > ripe fruit > leaves in 100% methanol (Fraction No 7) as 0.134 U/mL, 0.1044 U/mL, 0.0887 U/mL, 0.0683 U/mL, 0.035 U/mL respectively. From the obtained results it can be interpreted that, when the eluting solvent was only methanol, there was maximum elution of the enzyme without denaturation. This indicates that, as the polarity of the solvent increases, the affinity of the ficin enzyme with the stationary phase has decreased and has eluted out along with the more polar methanol solvent rather than with chloroform. Michel Hanania *et al.*[33] has reported the maximum extracting solvent by experimenting with different ratios of organic solvents like ethanol: water, methanol: water. From this study, it can be concluded that, maximum yield during extraction was with 100% methanol. As our study also reports that polar solvent like methanol would be a chief extracting solvent for ficin [33]. After the fractionation of the *Ficus racemosa* extracts, aliquots of each fraction were subjected to determine the enzyme activity, where the last step involves precipitation of the left-over protein using trichloro acetic acid. After centrifugation, the supernatant was subjected to Lowry's method to find the protein content. The graph below (Figure 3), indicates the concentration of protein in μg/ mL. The remaining amount of peptides and amino acids present indicates the mode of action of ficin enzyme. It was observed that, latex with maximum enzyme activity (Figure 2) has released maximum portion of small molecular weight products.

***In vitro* studies on Applications of ficin enzyme**

Milk clotting activity

To evaluate the milk coagulation efficiency of ficin extracted from stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruit and latex, skimmed milk was incubated with the crude enzyme. At different time intervals the tubes were visually observed for precipitation and for formation of milk coagulation. The order of capability with respect to milk coagulation activity was latex > ripe fruit > stem > leaves > unripe fruit. Initially, at zero time there was not any remarkable precipitation or coagulation of the milk proteins (Figure 4). But, after one to two hours of time there was a significant development of precipitate and coagulation of milk in presence of Ficin enzyme extracted from the latex of *Ficus racemosa* tree was observed. There was also mild coagulation of milk in other samples, when compared with the control (Figure 5). From this study, it can be concluded that among all the 5 ficin source tested for their milk coagulation, latex had exceptional ability to coagulate milk within 2 hours forming noticeable milk coagulum, while unripe fruits had least ability to coagulate milk. Application of ficin as a milk protein coagulant is to acquire products with acceptable bioavailability with high nutritional value and with less allergy as reported by Xie *et al*., 2013 [34]. Food and pharmaceutical industries are keen in obtaining milk hydrolysate as products that mainly includes short chain peptides which has significant effect as antihypertensive agent, immunomodulatory agent, antifungal and antimicrobial activity with improved absorption in the GI tract [35]. In preparation of infant formula and as therapeutic baby foods there is a great demand in the requirement of milk protein hydrolysate, as well in clinical geriatric nutrition as a tolerable organoleptic behaviour. If the proteolytic activity of ficin results in production of free amino acids, these products can be used in microbiological culture media as nitrogen source. Siar *et al*., 2020 [36], study clearly indicated the use of ficin in clotting of milk proteins and in hydrolysis of proteins. Gagaoua and Hafid., 2016 [37] has reported that, ficin extracted from the leaves of fig tree could clot the sheep milk protein as traditionally performed in Algeria [Kabylia region] to prepare "Agugli" a fresh cheese. Bornaz *et al*., 2010., [38] also reported the action of crude fig latex and artichoke extracts, that are plant- based proteases coagulated milk without pretreatment of the extracts. A study performed by Faccia *et al*., 2012 [38] reported that, ficin from fig tree latex has a strong proteolytic activity even after exposure of milk to high temperature, where there was a delay in the hydrolysis of

casein protein during its coagulation. The study also concluded the type of the product produced which was containing high amounts of nitrogen fractions rich in peptides. This study helps us to understand that, as the products are easily digestible with decreased allergy can be used in dairy industry for product quality enhancement. Similar study by Ziegler., 2007 [40] reported that if milk protein that is, casein when exposed to prolonged digestion with ficin could yield products that reduces the amount of calcium bound to casein micelle and hence enhances its digestion.

Blood clot lysis (Thrombolytic effect)

The thrombolytic efficiency of Ficin extracted from *Ficus racemosa* stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruits and latex was performed. The order of clot lysis was found to be latex > ripe fruit > leaves / stem > unripe fruit when incubated with 25µL of respective extracts. The lysis of blood clot was significantly higher in latex with 62% and 98% in 10 µL and 25µL of the sample respectively, when compared to other crude extracts and negative control (Figure 6). Thrombosis or blood clots is due to the formation of fibrin network along the blood vessels during biotic or abiotic injuries [41], that is the leading cause of cardiovascular diseases resulting in increased mortality rate globally [42, 43]. From different sources fibrinolytic enzymes has been isolated. Using recombinant DNA technology, recombinant tPA (Tissue plasminogen activator), streptokinase, urokinase are currently being approved as fibrinolytic enzymes used as thrombolytic drugs. These agents have shown serious unexpected physiological side effects like internal bleeding, short retention time in plasma, non- specificity and has to be administered at high dose [44, 45]. This indicates the need to search for a thrombolytic agent that has less side effects, specific to fibrin and should be safe, natural and economical. From the above results (Figure 7), it indicates the thrombolytic efficiency of ficin enzyme. It can be observed that, when the incubation time *i.e.*, 90 minutes was specified for blood clot lysis, the proteolytic efficiency of the ficin enzyme has increased. It could also be observed that, when the volume was less (10µL) there was very less lytic effect but when the volume was increased (25µL) there was higher lytic effect. Many reports have supported that plant- based Ficin, a cysteine protease is being used traditionally as a thrombolytic medicine. In this study, we report that the Ficin extracted from the latex of *Ficus racemosa*, an aspartate protease has remarkable fibrinolytic activity. From this study, it was observed that, ficin extracted from stem, leaves, ripe and unripe fruit could dissolve the blood clot but not so efficiently when compared to its latex.

Detergent stability and blood stain removal

From this study, it was observed that Ficin of *Ficus racemosa* was highly stable in the detergents. Ficin showed strong proteolytic activity in the 1% w/v of the detergent used for the study. The proteolytic activity of Ficin was not lost in presence of detergent as the blood stain on the cloth was destained efficiently. When compared to all the extracts, latex exhibited strong destaining ability than the detergent alone and other samples (Figure 8). Aspartate protease, present in the latex of *Ficus racemosa* tree known as Ficin increased the destaining of blood on the cloth efficiently than the detergent alone. This noteworthy property of Ficin signifies its need and demand in detergent industry. Enzyme activity without any detergent was considered as 100%. To evaluate the stain removal, clean cotton pieces 5×5cm were soiled with blood dried and incubated with 0.1 mg/ml of crude enzyme for 8 hours. To measure the amount of enzyme stability during its incubation with detergent, ficin enzyme activity was determined before and after incubation in detergent. Difference in enzyme activity was calculated and expressed in percentage (%). From the above graph (Figure 9), it can be inferred that, latex crude extract was highly stable in detergent where only 20% of the enzyme activity was lost. Therefore, the order of enzyme stability in detergent was found to be latex > leaves > stem > ripe fruit > unripe fruit. Plant proteases have established their importance and role in detergent and laundry industry. Mainly in laundry industry they are required to remove the protein-based stains on different cloth materials. Current investigation on the crude extracts of different parts of *Ficus racemosa* on stain removal evidence for the presence of such proteolytic enzyme. This study also reports that, when compared to all the crude extracts in detergents were stable and latex of *Ficus racemosa* increased blood stain removal effectively along with the commercially employed detergent. This strongly supports its suitability as a protease enzyme source in detergent industry. Several reports on plant-based protease like Procerain B from *Calotropis procera*[22] and few reports on bacterial proteases isolated from *B. subtilis* PE- 11 and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* has potential use in detergent industry [20, 21, 46].

CONCLUSION

From this study, we explored the efficiency of an aspartate protease namely Ficin extracted from *Ficus racemosa* tree and its latex had potential like that of cysteine protease- Ficin. Comparative studies on the efficiency of ficin extracted from different parts of *Ficus racemosa* indicated that, the latex of *Ficus racemosa* is a promising candidate for milk coagulation, thrombolytic effect and in removal of blood stain on cloth. Currently, *Ficus sps* (Fig tree) has attracted the researchers for their significant biological properties. Recommendation of ficin as a proteolytic agent in food industry as it could hydrolyse milk protein to produce cheese and the varied products can be added as supplements in infant food formulas and can be included in geriatric nutrition as they have low allergic response with enhanced bioavailability. Easy availability of ficin from the latex of *Ficus racemosa* with a simple extraction and isolation procedure is economical and as a remarkable endopeptidase with notable properties may be employed in food, pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries for its beneficial and functional applications.

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Table 1. Composition of the solvent (Mobile phase) used to fractionate Ficin

Eluent (Mobile phase)	Ratio	Fraction number
Chloroform: Methanol	95:5	1
Chloroform: Methanol	90:10	2
Chloroform: Methanol	80:20	3
Chloroform: Methanol	70:30	4
Chloroform: Methanol	50:50	5
Chloroform: Methanol	40:60	6
Only methanol	100	7



Figure 1. a) *Ficus racemosa* tree b) Fig fruit c) Stem and leaves d) Extraction of Ficin using mortar and pestle e) Crude extracts of Ficin

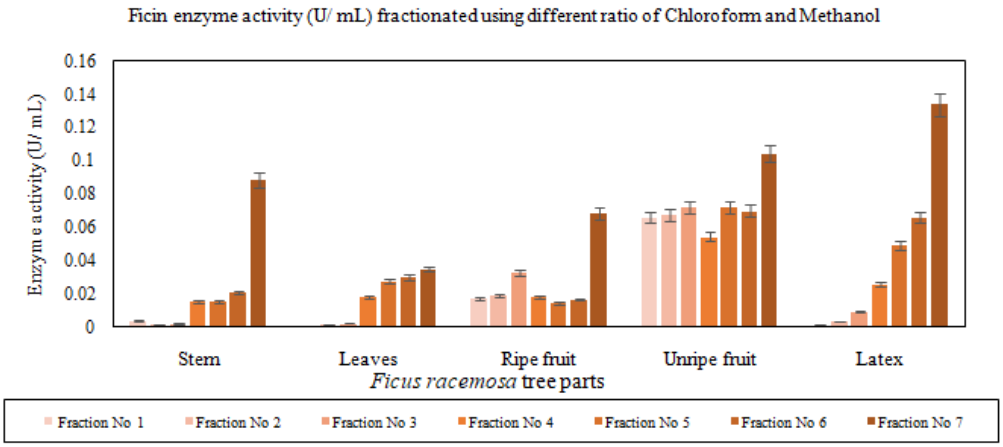


Figure 2. Enzyme activity (U/ mL) of ficin extracted from *Ficus racemosa* tree parts and fractionated using column chromatography

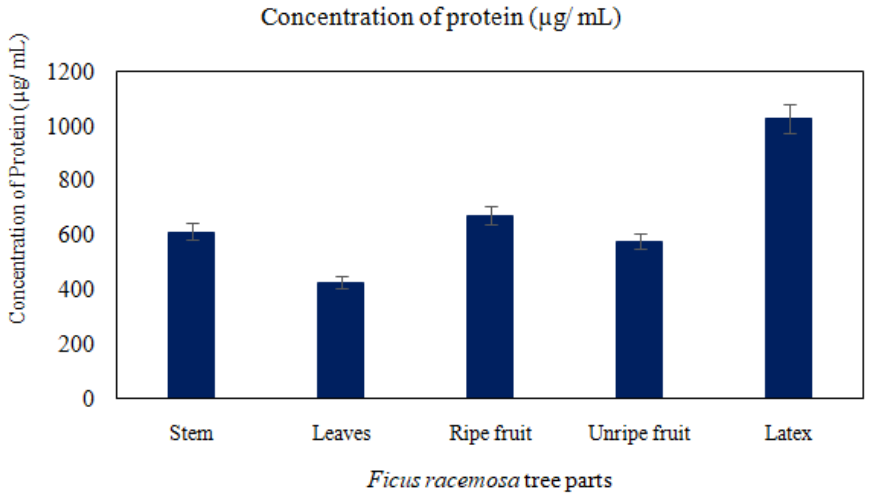


Figure 3. Concentration of Protein (µg/ mL) determined by Lowry's method



Figure 4. Milk Coagulation effect of crude Ficin extracted from stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruits and latex of *Ficus racemosa* at zero hour.

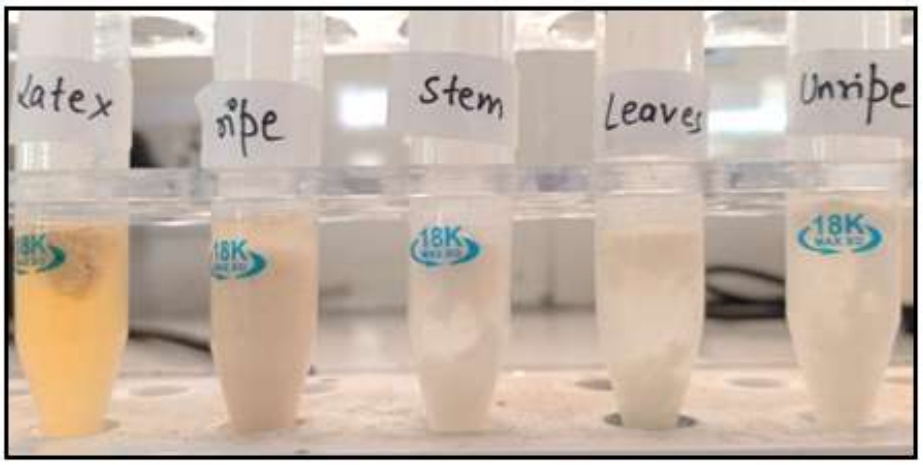


Figure 5. Milk Coagulation effect of crude Ficin extracted from stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruits and latex of *Ficus racemosa* within two hours.

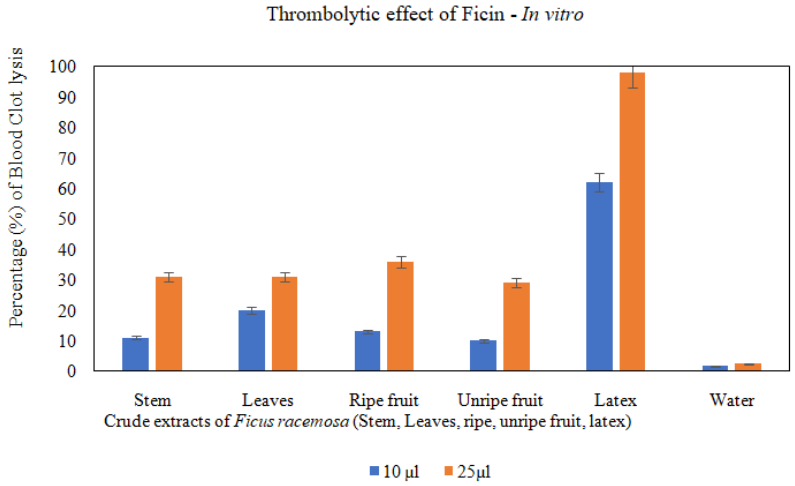


Figure 6. Blood Clot lysis (%) using Ficin extracted from *Ficus racemosa* stem, leaves, ripe, unripe fruit and latex along with control (Negative)

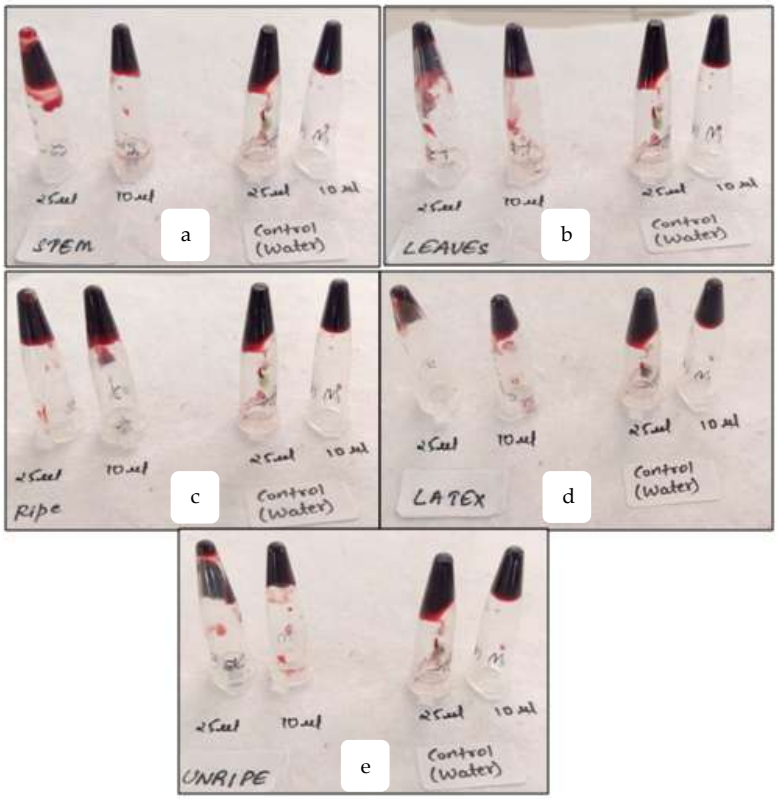


Figure 7. ***In vitro*** **thrombolytic activity of crude extracts of Ficin (a) Stem (b) Leaves (c) Ripe fruit (d) Latex (e) Unripe fruit**

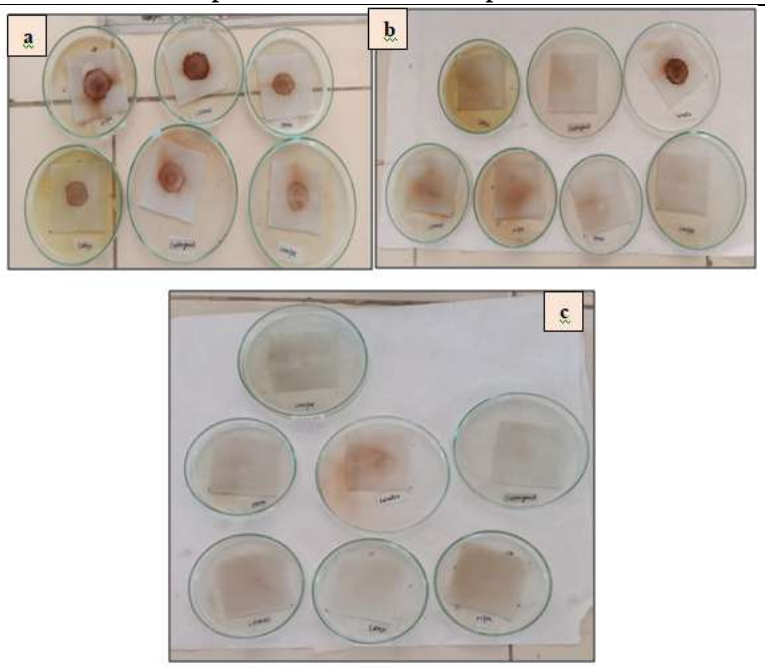


Figure 8.*In vitro* **evaluation on the efficiency of Ficin extracted from *Ficus racemosa* protease in destaining (a) Zero hr (b) After 4 hrs (c) After 8 hrs**

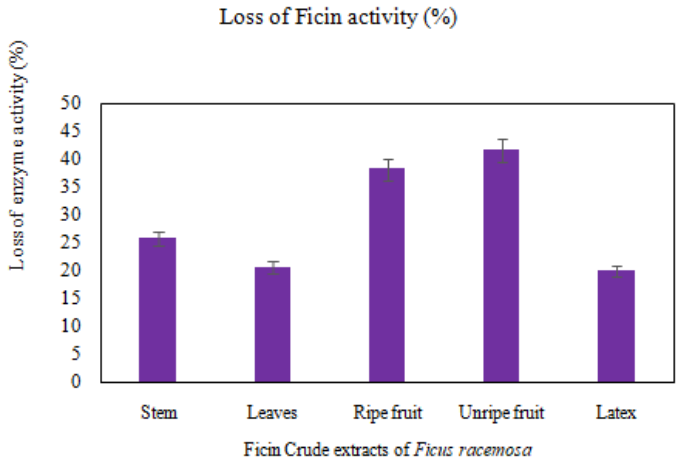


Figure 9. Stability of crude ficin extracts in 1% detergent

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

An Analysis of Adolescent Girls' Knowledge of their Reproductive Health and its Impact on their Well-Being: A Study Across Schools in Kolkata

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ABSTRACT

Adolescent girls have their unique set of reproductive health problems in their transition to adulthood. Such problems are compounded by socio-cultural factors limiting access to information and health services. The present study explores adolescent girls' knowledge about their reproductive health and impact of reproductive health on their well-being. Under Mixed method of research, involving 237 adolescent girls through random sampling, from14 schools affiliated to various Boards of Education quantitative data was collected by administering 2 questionnaires on knowledge about and impact of reproductive health on their well-being. Qualitative data was gathered from focus group discussions involving a few students in group from the same schools. Analysis of quantitative data through inferential statistics is substantiated with thematic analysis of qualitative data to arrive at findings. Compared to the students of WBCHSE and ISC the students of CBSE schools were found to have received better guidance from their schools regarding reproductive health knowledge and thus were found to have better knowledge about vital medical facts on reproductive health and also about HIV/AIDS. They preferred scientific information over misconceptions. It was noted that their actual source of knowledge about RH was their friends although friends were not considered as trusted source of information. ISC girls followed by CBSE girls admitted that they underwent psychological burden and missed curricular and co-curricular engagements as a result of impact of reproductive health on their psychological well-being and curricular and co-curricular well-being. Adolescent girls from all the types of schools under the study were seen to avoid expressing their reproductive health related concerns to their social sphere. In case of impact of reproductive health on their physical well-being girls across the

schools were unable to recognize impact of reproductive health on physical discomfort. The study concludes that Adolescent girls were found to have underdeveloped knowledge about reproductive health. The challenges require implementation of RHE and access to reproductive health care to empower girls in making informed decisions about their reproductive health as well as future life.

Keywords: Reproductive Health, Adolescent Girls, Awareness, Access to Information, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health Education.

INTRODUCTION

Adolescent population includes the age group of 10 to 19 years; this phase is important as puberty is attained and they begin with transitional journey to adulthood. International Conference on Population Development, 1994 [1] puts stress on preventing poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents in developing countries. Lack of adequate knowledge and skill leads to unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted infection, maternal mortality, infant mortality and long term morbidity [2]. For adolescent girls reproductive health is more important than boys as they start to menstruate and undergo vivid bodily changes. Socio-cultural norms overburden them with unscientific practices and unjustified restrictions. According to MHRD 23 million girls in India leave school because of menstruation at secondary level. Average annual dropout rate for girls at secondary level is 17.3% and at 17.7% West Bengal scores more than national average [3]. Most of these dropout cases occur due to prevalence of child marriage. IIPS, 2023 is of the opinion that child marriage increases the risk of HIV/AIDS and also increases the chances of dying during pregnancy and childbirth. NFHS-5 depicts that 28% adolescent girls get married and dropout from school because of HIV/AIDS infection, early pregnancy and meet fatal consequences [4]. WHO reveals that Adolescent Birth Rate per 1000 women in India is between 10-30[5]. All these tragic events call for one common solution i.e. generation of awareness which seems to be possible through holistic education. Knowledge of reproductive health enables adolescent girls in making informed decisions and support safe arrival at adulthood. SDG3 advocates for good health and wellbeing which encourages universal access to reproductive health information and education [6]. By and large it is considered as human right of the adolescent girls to receive age-appropriate culturally-responsive reproductive health education [5]. Promotion of adolescent reproductive health through education empowers adolescent girls to make informed decisions [7]. The present study is an attempt to show the present status of knowledge and impact of reproductive health in well-being of adolescent girls which potentially can help in devising management strategies to ensure well-being of adolescent girls' reproductive health by empowering them with knowledge and skill.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Critical observation Reproductive health related physiological processes cause physical discomfort as well as psychological stress among the adolescents. It is evident that adolescent girls generally lack knowledge about their reproductive health [8]. This poor knowledge base is the result of restricted access to information due to social stigma surrounding the topic. Hardly anyone in their sphere of interaction speaks to adolescents about their reproductive health concerns. Erratic hormonal play and menstruation cause physical and emotional stress that culminates into anxiety and depression [9]. The physiological processes eventually take a toll on their academic performance when mishandled [10]. At times medical counseling becomes absolutely necessary [11]. There are various socio-cultural-economic factors that cause hindrances to access to the authentic information [12]. The result is enhanced risk of diseases from mismanagement. Here comes the need for intervention. Parental guidance can save girls from making wrong choices but most of the times parents lack direction too. There is need of educational programmes for parents to strengthen parental intervention ensuring a supportive environment for adolescents at home [13]. Social media may take important role in shaping correct attitude towards the subject [14]. But media is often commercially motivated and thus confusing. So primarily it seems to be the duties of the educational institutions to educate and

help adolescents develop skills [15] that could guide adolescent girls in making informed choices for their reproductive health.

Significance Reproductive health issues significantly interfere with adolescent girls' well-being. Transition to adulthood creates turbulence in mental as well as physical well-being, lack of reproductive health knowledge and poor menstrual hygiene leads to school absenteeism, dropout and reduced academic performance. Adolescent reproductive health so far has been studied from medical perspectives with wide focus on diseases and health services. Its educational implications have been neglected. The present study aims to show the need of educational interventions in empowering adolescent girls to make informed decisions about their reproductive health well-being. It significantly can break the cycle of inequality of opportunities for girls that results from poor reproductive health outcomes by addressing girls' reproductive health challenges with effective educational opportunities.

METHODOLOGY

Objectives

- To analyse adolescent girl's level of knowledge about their reproductive health.
- To measure the impact of adolescent girl's reproductive health on their well-being.

Hypothesis

- There is no significant difference among adolescent girls of schools from different Board of Education regarding their knowledge about reproductive health.
- There is no significant difference among adolescent girls across the different schools regarding impact of reproductive health on their well-being.

Research questions

How can the school-based reproductive health education through teachers as agents support reproductive health well-being of adolescent girls?

Variables

- Adolescents Girls' Reproductive Health Knowledge.
- Adolescent Girls' Well-being.

Population: Adolescent girls at higher secondary level across the schools of Kolkata.

Sample: The sample consists of 237 adolescent girls in class XI from different schools of Kolkata. Students of class XI are chosen (XII students were unavailable because of ongoing board examinations) because they are considered to be able to explain their perspectives and the reason behind that, below this age group it is difficult to develop strong opinion about such a controversial topic considering the kind of society we live in (the sample of sample across schools is shown in table -1). The schools are randomly selected keeping in mind that they represent spatial diversity and geographic coverage.

Tools: 2 questionnaires were used in the study.

i. Illustrative questionnaire for interview-surveys with adolescents about their reproductive health [16], re-standardized by researchers (r=0.732) in 2023. This tool was used to gather data on adolescent girls' knowledge about their reproductive health which is asks questions on role of school in educating about reproductive health, knowledge about vital medical facts on reproductive health and knowledge of HIV/AIDS.
ii. Manual for measuring the impact of adolescent reproductive health on well-being of adolescents, prepared by the researchers (r=0.775) in 2023. This tool was used to gather data on impact of reproductive health on well-being (psychological, curricular and co-curricular, social and physical) of adolescents. It contained questions on how

problems in psychological, curricular and co-curricular, social and physical aspects of adolescents' life are caused by reproductive health.

With Focus Group Discussion (FGD) qualitative data was collected from few selected students from the total sample of the study. During focus group discussion adolescent girls expressed their experiences about their sources of information about reproductive health and how do they wish to get support from schools regarding reproductive health well-being. The data thus collected was reviewed thoroughly to understand the recurring pattern of the answers and then important segments were identified and labeled with descriptive terms as codes after consulting two subject experts, then the related codes were grouped together and themes were generated relevant to the research questions to gain insight about the study.

Design: mixed method of research is adopted and both quantitative and qualitative techniques are used. Two questionnaires were administered to collect from the chosen samples. Then data collected through FGD was thematically analysed. The quantitative results were substantiated with qualitative interpretations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Quantitative analysis

Table -2 depicts how adolescent girls from different types of schools have responded that their schools do not take much initiative in educating the adolescent girls about reproductive health. Apart from CBSE schools where some activities were planned aiming generation of awareness about *Adolescence*, the two other type of schools did not have much to offer to students about *Adolescence* in their curriculum. There remains significant difference among students from different types of schools regarding their knowledge about vital medical facts on reproductive health and knowledge about HIV/AIDS. CBSE school students were found to be better than others in both the aspects. Other than CBSE Board adolescent girls from the rest two types of schools showcase poor knowledge base on HIV/AIDS. These girls were seen to have little clue about how the disease transmits, why it is fatal and they miserably failed to answer about its preventive measures. There exists significant difference between adolescent girls of various schools regarding impact of reproductive health on psychological well-being. Also, there remains difference between adolescent girls of various schools regarding impact of reproductive health on their curricular and co-curricular engagements. ICSE girls followed by CBSE girls were found to suffer from mental stress, depression and according to them that has resulted in their underperformance in curricular and co-curricular activities. They have missed attendance in important school-based activities. WBCHSE schools girls have responded not to have suffered from reproductive health issues. It does not mean they have not suffered but it later on from in-depth discussions with them revealed that they have failed to recognize impact of reproductive health on their mental stress and neglected it completely. It is because of their poor knowledge about reproductive health as well as the cultural norms which have created taboo surrounding the issue and have restricted open discussion on it. CBSE students were seen to have better knowledge about ARH other than the two types of schools because of the Adolescence Education Programme has been operational in CBSE schools where there are provisions for organisation of activities, seminars, workshops to sensitize adolescent students on well-being of their reproductive health [17]. There remains no significant difference among adolescent girls from different schools regarding their social expression of reproductive health concerns. Girls from all the three types of schools were seen to have avoided speaking about their reproductive health related issues in their social sphere of interaction. Similarly girls from all the three types of schools could not understand impact of reproductive health on their physical well-being. They could not relate the change of food habit, physical strain, and discomfort as result of development of organs due to the play of reproductive hormones. Thus it can be seen that adolescent girls have suffered but were clueless about the causes due to lack of knowledge and awareness. The results indicate towards importance of teaching learning on adolescent reproductive health.

Qualitative analysis

Focus group discussion with the selected students of the schools were noted down carefully and reviewed minutely to observe recurring pattern in the responses, there from important segments were identified and labeled in

descriptive terms as codes. Then codes were categorized to generate themes which helped in understanding the problem under study (shown in table -3). The thematic analysis helped in identifying significant role of the teachers as adolescents' preferred sources of information in educating them about reproductive health issues. Their actual source of information about such issues is their friends but they want it to come from teachers. The Thematic Analysis of Focus Group Discussion has given a direction on how the long awaited need of development of scientific knowledge, positive attitude and life-skills of adolescent girls about reproductive health are to be addressed. FGD has helped in understanding how adolescent reproductive health should be promoted. The outcome of the analysis in table no.3 is explained below.

Where do they lack knowledge adolescents lack knowledge about reproductive health because formal curriculum does not incorporate learning about such issues in depth. Across the subjects like life science, Population Geography, life skill education they learn about reproductive health but shallow content, insufficient coverage do not ensure effective learning. In their social sphere too hardly they get to know about it because of the silence maintained around such topic. As a result they lack knowledge about development of reproductive organs and transition to adulthood. Their knowledge about medical facts like development of reproductive organs, use of contraception, pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, perception about population control measures, age of marriage, age of parenthood and awareness about HIV/AIDS (its causes, effects and management) were seen to be insufficient. Adolescents were found to be eager to get the answers of all their queries about reproductive health from their teachers through structured curriculum. There is need of an enabling environment where scientific and reliable knowledge delivered through trained teachers will enlighten adolescent girls about well-being of their reproductive health. It will empower Adolescents with required knowledge to take important decision about their reproductive health [19].

Why misinformation should be challenged- In the FGD the adolescent girls have responded that it is their teachers while teaching as well as their parents if are asked about changes in adulthood hesitate to talk about menstruation, development of reproductive organs, and reproductive issues. Elders avoid initiating discussions on such topics. Rather on being asked sometimes half-truth, myth-based answers reached to the adolescent girls from their parents [18]. Their friends too casually answer to their queries and inflict misinformation. Such misinformation can mislead adolescents and influence them taking up wrong step affecting their reproductive health in future. Curriculum based reproductive health education has potential to discard misinformation taking round in adolescents' sphere of interaction.

Why the superstition needs to be addressed- Our socio-cultural norms have always treated reproductive health issues unsuitable to be discussed in public discourse that is why the topic is considered as taboo in social domain. Myths, mysteries and superstitions surround the issue. The superstitions like period is discharge of dirty blood, menstruation make girls impure to enter kitchen and prayer room, they are to be sanitized to enter such places, and keeping safe distance from male members of the house-hold during periods are some of practices that deny adolescent girls of their human rights, dignity to life and discriminate them from equal right to opportunities [20]. Menstrual health related superstitions are huge obstructions to women empowerment through equal access to opportunities. Teachers have a great role to play to sensitize the young minds to discard superstition and also can mobilize the bigger society to be empathetic towards adolescent girls' journey to adulthood.

Why skills are to be developed- Knowledge, awareness and positive attitude towards reproductive health are likely to contribute to the development of skills that are indispensible in managing adolescent reproductive health. Girls should have enough knowledge to think critically, make informed decisions regarding solving any problem related to their reproductive health. This ability to make informed decision about their reproductive health will empower them in true sense and distant dream of realization of SDG3 can be materialized.

Implications of the findings for research questions- Source of knowledge about reproductive health to adolescent girls are their friends who neither have complete nor scientific knowledge about reproductive health. Their preferred

source is their teachers who need competency and confidence in teaching about reproductive health as are not trained to do so. Teachers need to be concerned about implementation of provisions in the curriculum. Adolescents are not found to have sound knowledge about reproductive health and the impact of reproductive health on their well-being goes unnoticed. The absence of intervention due to ignorance thus causes wastage of human resource which is of immense potential. Reproductive health well-being thus remains a distant dream as there is sheer lack of awareness. Many adolescent girls end up living with learned helplessness, without even knowing put their future of reproductive health to risk when they are endowed with the responsibility to reproduce future generation.

CONCLUSION

Insufficient knowledge among adolescent girls about managing reproductive health irrespective of types of schools they belong to clearly represents ignorance about reproductive health. Underdeveloped knowledge base negatively impacts well-being of reproductive health and prompts physical discomfort, mental stress and social awkwardness among adolescent girls across the schools in Kolkata. Present study concludes that access to information and development of practical management skills are needed to empower adolescent girls with critical thinking and informed decision making. The adolescent girls suffer silently; miss out on opportunities on issues that could be solved by simple changes in our outlook to this matter. Unfortunately no one bothers to take initiatives for building an environment which is not judgmental and is free to welcome difficult conversations, answer their queries and support development of right attitude. Here comes the importance of the role of played by formal instruction in schools. According to National Educational Policy [21] this underprepared condition can be challenged when school-based education would intervene into this issue. Educational initiatives towards ensuring adolescent well-being and generating awareness about reproductive health must gain momentum. Thus removal of taboo and stigma surrounding the topic would ensure non discrimination and equal opportunities for girls in perfect alignment with objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 5 [6]. The research findings stress the need of development of effective skills through implementation of comprehensive reproductive health education by schools which would eventually reduce risk of exploitation enabling adolescent girls manage their emotions better and choose right options. Collaboration with professionals particularly in medical field must be emphasized. Role of community in creating awareness cannot be underestimated. CBSE School girls have better knowledge about reproductive health owing to the provisions in their curriculum unlike others. Still there remains great scope to work for generating awareness in favour of implementation of school-based, culturally responsive Adolescent Reproductive Health Education.

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Table 1: shows the list of selected schools along with the number of adolescent girl students who participated in the study.

Name o the school	Affiliation	Number of girls
Barisha High School	WBCHSE (West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education)	36
Sakhawat Memorial Girls' School	WBCHSE	28
West Barisha Kamala Vidyamandir	WBCHSE	09
Adarsha Uchcha Balika Vidyalaya	WBCHSE	06
Kasba Jagadish Vidyapith for Girls	WBCHSE	18
Metiabruj Girls High School	WBCHSE	10
VIP Nagar School	WBCHSE	14
Jewish Girls' School	ISC (Indian School Cetificate)	28
PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya,Command Hospital	CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Examination)	26
PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya,Ballygunge	CBSE	41
PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Fort William	CBSE	14
Total	237	

Table 2: Board-wise analysis of adolescent girls' knowledge about and impact of reproductive health on their well-being.

Variable	Sub-Category	Board of Education	N	Mean	SD	Df	F-Value	Remarks
Adolescent Girls' Reproductive Health Knowledge	Role of school	WBCHSE	128	5.06	1.06	Between the groups=2, Within the groups =234	10.86	.000 S**
		ICSE	28	4.96	1.10			
		CBSE	81	5.71	1.03			
	Medical knowledge	WBCHSE	128	6.14	1.45		.884	.415 NS
		ICSE	28	6.00	1.41			
		CBSE	81	6.38	1.75			
	Knowledge of HIV	WBCHSE	128	14.39	2.26		9.788	.000 S**
		ICSE	28	14.86	1.92			
		CBSE	81	15.72	1.91			
Adolescent Girls' Well-being	Psychology	WBCHSE	128	23.76	4.91		5.518	.005 S**
		ICSE	28	21.03	4.46			
		CBSE	81	21.90	5.15			
	Curricular and extra curricular	WBCHSE	128	19.22	4.17		4.897	.008 S**
		ICSE	28	17.25	3.01			
		CBSE	81	17.84	3.57			
	Social	WBCHSE	128	19.07	3.75		.499	.608 NS
		ICSE	28	18.21	2.99			
		CBSE	81	18.96	4.93			
	Physical	WBCHSE	128	24.72	4.12		2.74	.066 NS
		ICSE	28	23.00	2.61			
		CBSE	81	23.98	3.50			

S**=Significant at 0.01 level, S*= Significant at 0.05 level and NS=Not Significant at 0.05 level

Table 3: Showing the areas where teachers can contribute to formation of appropriate knowledge, attitude and skill among adolescent girls.

THEMES	Knowledge	Attitude	Skill
CODES	Disseminate Scientific Information "We want to know about development of female reproductive organs from our teachers" "I need to know why girls are more vulnerable to reproductive health diseases during transition to adulthood." Remove Misinformation "Do we girls suffer from lower abdominal pain during period because of release of dirty blood? I don't believe it." "Do girls menstruate because they are weak and boys don't because they are strong?"	Combat Superstition "My mother forbade me to enter kitchen and prayer room, touching deities when I menstruate" "I was told that period means I am touched by a crow, so I need sanitation after my period is over" Remove Taboos "I don't know why all keep silence on reproductive health matters?" "Why are we girls not allowed to share our difficulties during periods with our fathers when do share all other things?"	Informed Decision Making "I need guidance on when I should think of medical intervention in reproductive health issues?" "Do not know where and whom to visit in reproductive health issues." Critical Thinking to Solve Problem "Mother discourages to be concerned and vocal about my period related problems, says all will be okay with time. Don't know whether it is true." "If I like to have relation with opposite gender what is bad about that?"

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Understanding Nidana Panchaka of *Gridhrasi* - An Ayurvedic Perspective of Sciatica

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ABSTRACT

Gridhrasi has been a frequently encountered issue in the current era commonly caused due to change in lifestyle having pain dominance. Here the pain starts at the *Sphik Pradesha* and radiates to *Kati*, *Uru*, *Janu*, *Jangha* and *Paada* of the affected lower limb. *Gridhrasi* in modern parlance could be correlated to Sciatica which is characterized by piercing/pulling/aching type of pain felt at the lumbar region radiating along the course of Sciatic nerve from gluteal region to the thigh, calf and foot of affected lower limb. A qualitative analysis was conducted by reviewing classical Ayurvedic texts, including *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Ashtanga Hridaya*, *Madhava Nidana* to extract and interpret the components of the *Nidana Panchaka* of *Gridhrasi*. The causative factors (*Nidana*) include improper postures, trauma, *Vata*-aggravating dietary habits, and suppression of natural urges. *Purvarupa* includes mild stiffness at the back and tingling sensation of affected limbs. *Rupa* comprises of radiating pain, stiffness, difficulty in walking, and in some cases, impaired range of movements. The application of *Nidana Panchaka* in *Gridhrasi* offers a clear and systematic diagnostic model, aiding in early identification, differential diagnosis, and individualized therapeutic interventions. Understanding the dominance of Vata or associated Doshas

through this framework allows for effective integration of *Shamana* and *Shodhana* therapies. The correlation with modern pathology of sciatica further reinforces its clinical utility.

Keywords: *Gridhrasi*, Sciatica, *Nidana Panchaka*, *Vatavyadhi*, *Ayurveda*

INTRODUCTION

Back pain is very common symptom more prevalent and experienced by people in recent days within the age group of 25 to 65 years in India. Based on the symptoms, sciatica can be correlated with *Gridhrasi* in *Ayurveda*. Here the pain starts at the *Sphik Pradesha* and radiates to *Kati*, *Uru*, *Janu*, *Jangha* and *Paada* of the affected lower limb[1]. About 60-80% of people get affected by low back pain at their active stage of life ie, between 30-60 years of age and affects both the gender [2]. It is a pain dominant disease and reduces human activity in terms of personal as well as social and professional life. *Ayurveda* categorized *Gridhrasi* as one of diseases caused by vitiation of Vata which is responsible for the movement and functions of the body known as *Vataja Gridhrasi*, even *Kapha* vitiation along with *Vata* also causes *Vata-Kaphaja Gridhrasi[*3]. The physician should examine through *Roga* and *Rogi Pareeksha* first and diagnose the disease, constituting the first and foremost step in the disease management[4]. Hence understanding *Nidanapanchaka* stands beneficial and for enhancing the treatment outcome.

PARIBHASHA* OF *GRIDHRASI

Gridhramiva Syaati Gacchati[5]

Because of the persisting severe pain in the patient, has a typical gait i.e. slightly tilts towards the affected side and the gait resembles to that of the vulture. Hence the disease is named as *Gridhrasi*.

Nidana Panchaka are the parameters used in the diagnosis of a disease. They are

1. *Nidana*
2. *Samprapthi*
3. *Purvaroopa*
4. *Roopa*
5. *Upashaya-Anupashaya*

NIDANA

All the factors having the ability of producing the disease are called as *Nidana*. *Nidanas* are of two varieties**:** *Samanya Nidana* and *Vishesha Nidana*. *Gridhrasi* is one among the *Vataja Nanatmaja Vikaras*. No specific *Nidanas* are been mentioned for the disease *Gridhrasi* in Ayurveda but the *Samanya Vatayadhi Nidanas* and *Samanya Vata Prakopakara Nidanas* can be considered under the *Nidanas* of *Gridhrasi*. The *Nidanas* mentioned for the *Vatavyadhi* and *Vataprakopa* in *Charaka Samhitha[6]*, *Sushrutha Samhitha[7]*, *Ashtanga Sangraha[8]*, *Ashtanga Hridaya[9]* and *Bhavaprakasha[10]* can be classified into following types.

They are as follows

1. *Aharaja* (Dietetic factors)
2. *Viharaja* (Behavioural factors)
3. *Agantuja* (External factors)
4. *Kaalaja* (Seasonal factors)
5. *Manasika* (Psychological factors)
6. *Anya Hetuja* (Other factors)

TABLE SHOWING *NIDANAS* OF *VATA VYADHI*

AHARAJA NIDANA (TABLE 1)
*VIHAARAJA NIDANA(*TABLE 2)
AGANTUJA NIDANA (TABLE 3)
KAALAJA NIDANA (TABLE 4)
MANASIKA NIDANA(TABLE 5)
ANYA HETUJA NIDANA (TABLE 6)

As per *Acharya Sushrutha, Marma Aghata* is considered as one of the causes of *Gridhrasi*[11].
The *Marmas* having relevance to *Gridhrasi* are as shown in the below table.

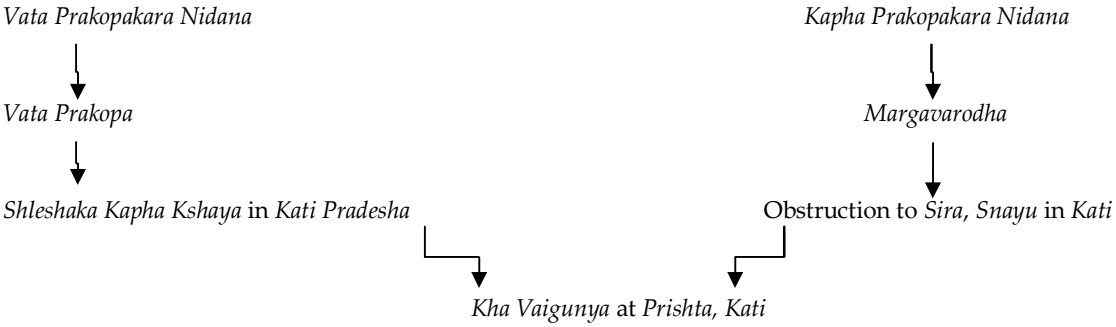
SAMPRAPTHI

The word *Samprapti* means " *Samyak prapti*" The process of manifestation of the disease by the vitiated dosha which circulates all over the body is known as *Samprapti*.
According to *Acharya Sushrutha*, " *Dosha Dushya Janito Vyadhihi* "
The disease process starts right from the *Nidana Sevana* which is the main reason for the vitiation of the *Doshas*. The manifestation of the disease happens when the circulated *Dushta Dosha* gets accumulated when *Kha Vaigunya* is already present.

Vata gets vitiated by the two main reasons,
1. *Dhatukshaya*
2. *Marga Avarodha*

Specific *Samprapti* of *Gridhrasi* has not been mentioned. Hence the *Vatavyadhi Samprapti* is considered in general. Due to *Rookshadi Vata Prakopakara Ahara Vihara*, the *Rasa Dhatu Kshaya* occurs which in turn leads to the *Uttarottara Dhatu Kshaya* involving *Mamsa*, *Meda*, *Asthi*, *Majja* etc. This leads in further *Vata Prakopa* and the *Prakupita Vata* fills up the *Riktha Srotas* causing *Vata Vyadhi*[12]. The second type of *Samprapti* is due to *Margavarodha*. Here *Kapha* is found as *Anubandhi Dosha* along with *Vata*. *Atibhojana*, *Divaswapna* etc *Nidanas* are responsible for *Kapha Prakopa* leading to *Jataragni Mandyata* and thus formation of *Ama* takes place. This affects the *Rasa Dhatvaagni*, resulting in the production of *Mala Roopi Kapha* abundantly. Thus, both vitiated *Vata* and *Kapha* gets localized at the place of *Khavaigunya* i.e, in the *Kati*, *Pristha*, *Sakthi* and *Kandara*. In the condition of *Sthana Samshraya*, the vitiated *Vata* gets *Aavruta* by *Kapha* and produces symptoms of *Vata-Kaphaja Gridhrasi*. The *Agantuja* factors chiefly *Bahya Abhighata* is responsible for the *Achaya Poorvaka Prakopa* of the *Doshas*. *Abhighata* leads to *Vata Prakopa* directly and *Dhatu Kshaya* is liable to occur. Also, *Abhighata* may lead to *Khavaigunya* at the site, The vitited *Vata* may directly intermingle with *Asthi*, *Majja Dhatu* to produce *Gridhrasi*. *Acharya Sushrutha* clearly mentioned the involvement of *Kandara* in *Gridhrasi*. *Dalhana* explained *Kandara* as *Mahasnayu*. *Acharya Charaka* explains *Kandaras* as the *Upadhatu* of *Rakta Dhatu*. *Chakrapani* mentions that *Kandara* may also be considered as *Sthula Snayu*. *Snayu* is the *Upadhatu* of *Meda* and *Mulasthana* of *Mamsa Dhatu*. *Acharya Charaka* mentioned *Sthamba*, *Supthi*, *Sphurana* as the symptoms of *Gridhrasi* produced due to *Dushti* of *Snayu*, *Sira* and *Kandara*.

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF *SAMPRAPTI* OF *GRIDHRASI*



↓

Gridhrasi

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF *MARMA ABHIGHATA SAMPRAPTI* OF *GRIDHRASI*

Marmabhighata

↓

Injury to *Sira, Khandara* at *Kati* and *Prishta*

↓

Vataprakopa and *Shithilatha* at the site of *Abhighata*

↓

Snehadi Guna Kshaya

↓

Gridhrasi

SAMPRAPTHI GHATAKA

Nidana: *Vata-Kapha Prakopakara Nidanas, Pradhanataha Vata Prakopakara Nidanas*
Vata *- Vyana, Samana, Apana*
Pitta – *Pachaka Pitta*
Kapha – *Shleshaka Kapha*
Dushya: *Dhatu: Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa, Asthi*
Upadhatu: Sira, Snayu, Kandara
Agni*: Jataragni, Dhatwagni*
Ama*: Jataragni* and *Dhatwagni Mandya Janya Ama*
Srotas: *Rasavaha, Raktavaha, Mamsavaha, Asthivaha*
Srotodushti*: Sanga*
Rogamarga*: Madhyama*
Udhbhavasthana*: Pakwashaya*
Sancharasthana*: Rasayani*
Adhistana*: Shareera*
Vyaktasthana*: Sphik, Kati, Uru, Janu, Jangha, Paada*

PURVAROOPA

Purvaroopa are premonitory symptoms occurring prior to the manifestation of disease and may suggest the forthcoming illness. *Purvaroopa* appears in the fourth stage of *Kriyakala*. *Doshas* in *Prasara avastha* tend to accumulate at the places where *Khavigunya* is present leading to *Dosha-Dushya Sammurchana* leads to the formation of *Vyadhi*. Diagnosis at this stage is important, as the effective treatment at this stage reduces the possible organic damage as well as degree of morbidity. *Purvaroopa* of *Vata Vyadhi* is *Avyakta*. *Chakrapani* Commentory on *Avyakta* states, mild symptoms are to be taken as *Purvaroopa*. Specific *Purvaroopa* of *Gridhrasi* is not mentioned in classics. *Lakshanas* of *Gridhrasi* in its minimal severity may be considered as *Purvaroopa*. According to *Madhukosha* of *Madhavanidana*, *Purvaroopa* are not clear due to presence of less severe causative factors, mild symptoms and mild *Avarana[13]*. Further indulgence in the *Nidanas* leads to *Vyaktavastha* of the *Vyadhi*.

ROOPA

Vyakta Avastha is the fifth *Kriyakala* of the disease, where characteristic signs and symptoms of a *Vyadhi* manifest. Pain starting from *Sphik* and radiating towards *Kati*, *Uru*, *Jaanu*, *Jangha* and *Pada* in successive order, States the cardinal symptoms of the disease *Gridhrasi*.

According to *Acharya Charaka*, the symptoms of *Gridhrasi* are[14]

In *Vataja Gridrasi*: *Stambha* (stiffness), *Ruk* (pain), *Toda* (pricking sensation), *Muhuspandanam* (tingling sensation)

In *Vata-Kaphaja Gridhrasi*: additional Lakshanas found here are *Tandra* (drowsiness), *Gaurava* (heaviness) and *Arochaka* (anorexia)

Sakthnaha Kshepam Nigriharniyat i.e., restricted movements of the lower extremities is the cardinal symptom of *Gridhrasi* acording to *Acharya Sushrutha[*15] and *Vagbhata[*16].

According to *Madhavakara*, *Dehapravakrata* and *Janu Kati Uru Sandhinam Sphuranam* and *Stabdhata* (quevering sensation and stiffness in *Janu*, *Kati* and *Uru Sandhi*) are also symptoms of *Vataja Gridhrasi* and *Agnimandya*, *Mukhapraseka* and Bhaktadwesha (aversion for food) are the symptoms of *Vata-Kaphaja* type of *Gridhrasi[17].*

Considering all the clinical manifestations of *Gridhrasi*, *Lakshanas* are sub divided into

1. *Samanya Lakshanas*
2. *Vishesha Lakshanas*

SHOWING *SAMANYA LAKSHANAS* OF *GRIDHRASI* (TABLE 8)

SHOWING *VISHESHA LAKSHANAS* OF *VATAJA GRIDHRASI[*18] (TABLE 9)

SHOWING *VISHESHA LAKSHANAS* OF *VATAKAPHAJA GRIDHRASI[*19](TABLE 10)

UPASHAYA* AND *ANUPASHAYA

Aushadha, *Ahara* and *Vihara* which are contrary to the cause and the disease is *Upashaya, Anupashaya* is the one which aggravates the disease. When two or more disease are having identical symptoms, disease could be best differentiated by adopting *Upashaya*. *Upashaya* for *Gridhrasi* has not been mentioned particularly. Hence, *Upashaya* mentioned for *Vatavyadhi* and the *Nidana* mentioned for *Vatavyadhi* are considered as *Anupashaya* for *Gridhrasi[20].*

***UPASHAYA ANUPASHAYA* IN TERMS OF *AHARA* AND *VIHARA* HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THE BELOW TABLE**

SHUKA DHANYA VARGA (TABLE 11)

SHIMBI DHANYA VARGA (TABLE 12)

SHAKA VARGA (TABLE 13)

MAMSA VARGA (TABLE 14)

PHALA VARGA (TABLE 15)

KSHIRA VARGA/ JALA VARGA/ IKSHU VARGA/ TAILA VARGA/OTHERS (TABLE 16)

PATHYA VIHARA and APATHYA VIHARA (TABLE 17)

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Table 1: *Aharaja nidana*

NIDANA	C *S*	Su S	A H	M N	B P
a. Dravyataha					
Aadhaki (*Cajanus cajan*)	-	+	-	-	-
Bisa (*Nelumbo nucifera*)	-	+	-	-	-
Harenu (*Pisum sativum*)	-	+	-	-	-
Kalaaya (*Lathyrus sativum*)	-	+	-	-	-
Koradusha (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*)	-	+	-	-	-
Masoora (*Lens culinaris*)	-	+	-	-	-
Nishpaava (*Hygroryza aristata*)	-	+	-	-	-
Neevaara (*Hygroryza aristata*)	-	+	-	-	-
Shushka Shaakha (Dried vegetables)	-	+	-	-	-
Shyaamaka (*Seteria italica*)	-	+	-	-	-
Uddalaka (Variety of *Paspalum scrobiculatum*)	-	+	-	-	-
Varaka (*Carthamus tinctorius*)	-	+	-	-	-
b. Gunataha					
Laghu Anna (Laghu Anna)	-	+	-	-	-

Ruksha Anna (Ununctuous diet)	+	+	+	+	+
Sheeta Anna (Cold diet)	+	-	-	+	-
Guru Anna (Heavy diet)	-	-	+	-	-
c. Rasataha					
Katu Rasa (Spicy food)	-	+	+	-	+
Tikta Rasa (Bitter food)	-	+	+	-	+
Kashaya Rasa (Astringent food)	-	+	+	-	+
d. Matrataha					
Abhojana (Fasting)	+	+	-	+	+
Alpa Ashana (Taking less quantity of food)	+	-	+	+	-
Vishama Ashana (Taking untimely and improper quantity of food)	-	+	-	-	-
e. Kaalataha					
Adhyashana (Food intake before the digestion of previous meal)	-	+	-	-	-
Jeerna Ante	-	+	+	-	+
Pramithashana (Taking untimely and improper quantity of food)	-	-	+	-	+

Table 2: *Vihaaraja nidana*

NIDANA	C S	Su S	A H	M N	B P
Ativyayama (Excessive exercise)	+	+	+	+	+
Ativyavaya (Excessive sexual intercourse)	+	+	+	+	+
Vegodheerana (Forceful drive of natural urges)	-	-	+	-	-
Vegadhaarana (Voluntary suppression of natural urges)	+	+	+	+	+
Atisthaana (Prolonged standing)	-	+	-	-	-
Atyaasana (Prolonged sitting)	-	+	-	-	-
Dukhaasana (Sitting in uncomfortable position)	+	-	-	+	-
Atigamana (Excessive walking)	+	-	-	+	-
Atiplavana (Excessive swimming/ Standing in water)	+	+	-	+	-
Atiprajagara (Staying awake at night)	+	+	+	+	+
Atishrama (Strenous work)	-	-	-	-	+
Divaswapna (Sleeping during day time)	+	+	-	+	-
Vishamopachara (Abnormal gestures)	+	-	-	+	-
Rathaaticharya (Excessive travelling by vehicles)	-	+	-	-	-
Kriya Atiyoga (Strenous work)	-	-	+	-	+
Dukhashayya (Improper sleeping posture)	+	-	-	+	-

Table 3: *Agantuja nidana*

NIDANA	C S	Su S	A H	M N	B P
Abhighataja (Traumatic origin)	+	-	-	+	-
Gaja, Ushtra, Ashva Sheeghrayaana	+	-	-	+	-
Apathamsana(Falling from cart/vehicles)	+	-	-	+	-

Table 4: *Kaalaja nidana*

Nidana	C S	Su S	A H	M N	B P
Abhra (Cloudy weather)	-	+	-	-	-
Aparahna (Evening)	-	+	+	-	+
Apararathra (At the end of the night)	-	-	+	-	-
Greeshma Rutu (Summer)	-	-	-	-	-
Pravata (Windy days)	-	+	-	-	-

Shishira Rutu (Winters)	-	-	-	-	+
Sheetakaala (Cold weather)	-	+	-	-	+
Varsha Rutu (Rainy season)	-	+	-	-	+

Table 5: *Manasika nidana*

Nidana	**C S**	**Su S**	**A H**	**M N**	**B P**
Chintha (Worry)	+	-	+	+	+
Shoka (Grief)	-	-	-	-	+
Bhaya (Fear)	+	-	-	+	-
Krodha (Anger)	+	-	-	+	-
Mada (Intoxication)	-	-	+	+	+

Table 6: *Anya Hetuja Nidana*

Nidana	**C S**	**Su S**	**A H**	**M N**	**B P**
Ama (Indigestion)	+	+	-	+	-
Asruk Kshaya (Loss of Blood)	+	-	-	+	-
Doshakshaya	+	-	-	+	-
Dhatukshaya	+	-	-	+	-
Gadakruta Mamsakshaya (Muscle wasting due to disease)	-	-	-	-	+
Rogatikarshana (Emaciation due to disease)	+	-	-	+	-

Table 7: *Viddhalakshana*

Name	**Type**	**Location**	***Viddhalakshana***
Kukundara	*Sandhi Marma* *Vaikalyakara*	Located in both sides of *Prishta Vamsha*	*Sparsha Agnana* *Cheshta Nasha*
Nitamba	*Asthi Marma* *Kalantara Pranahara*	Located upon the *Shroni* on both sides	*Adhakayashosha* *Dourbalya* *Marana*
Kurcha	*Snayu Marma* *Vaikalyakara*	Located above the *Kshipra Marma* in bilateral lower limbs	*Pada Bhramana* *Pada Vepana*
Kurchasira	*Snayu Marma* *Rujakara*	Located below the *Gulpha Sandhi*	*Ruja* *Shopha*
Gulpha	*Sandhi Marma* *Rujakara*	Located between *Pada* and *Jangha*	*Ruja* *Stabdha Pada* *Khanjata*
Ani	*Snayu marma* *Vaikalyakara*	Located 3 *Angula* above the *Janu Sandhi*	*Shopha Abhivruddhi* *Sthabdha Sakthi*
Urvi	*Sira Marma* *Vaikalyakara*	Located in the middle of the *Uru*	*Shonitakshaya* *Sakthi Shosha*

Table 8: Showing *Samanya Lakshanas* Of *Gridhrasi*

Lakshanas	**C S**	**Su S**	**A S**	**A H**	**M N**	**B P**	**Y R**	**V S**	**Ha S**
Sphikpoorva, Kati, Uru, Janu, Jangha, Padam Kramaat- Ruk	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Sphikpoorva, Kati, Uru, Janu, Jangha, Padam Kramaat- Toda	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Sphikpoorva, Kati, Uru, Janu, Jangha, Padam Kramaat- Sthamba	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
Sakthnaha Akshepam Nigraha	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-

Kati Madhye Baahuvedana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Uru Madhye Bahuvedana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Janu Madhye Bahuvedana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Muhur Spandanam	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-

Table 9: showing *vishesha lakshanas* of *vataja gridhrasi* [18]

Lakshanas	C S	S U	A S	A H	M N	B P	Y R	V S
Dehasya Vakrata	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Sthabdhatabrisham	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Janusandhi sphuranam	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Katisandhi sphuranam	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
Urusandhi Sphuranam	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Janghasandhi Sphuranam	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+
Suptata	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-

Table 10: Showing *Vishesha Lakshanas* Of *Vatakaphaja Gridhrasi* [19]

Lakshanas	C S	Su S	A S	A H	Ha S	M N	V S	B P	Y R
Mukhapraseka	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Arochaka	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
Bhaktadwesha	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Vahnimardavata	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Tandra	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Gowrava	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
Sthaimithya	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+

***Upashaya anupashaya* in terms of *ahara* and *vihara* has been given in the below table.**

Table 11: *Shuka Dhanya Varga*

	SHUKA DHANYA VARGA
PATHYA	***Godhuma*** (Wheat) ***Shali/ Shashtika Shali*** (Rice/Red Rice) ***Narthaki*** (Finger Millet)
APATHYA	***Yavanala*** (Great Millet) ***Yava*** (Barley) ***Kodrava*** (Kodo Millet) ***Shyamaka*** (Varyache Tandul/ Samo Rice) ***Gavedhuka*** (Job's Tears Millet)

Table 12: *Shimbi Dhanya Varga*

	SHIMBI DHANYA VARGA
PATHYA	***Kulatha*** (Horse Gram) ***Masha*** (Black Gram) ***Mudga***(Green Gram)
APATHYA	***Adhaki*** (Pigeon Pea) ***Masura*** (Lentil) ***Chanaka*** (Chik Pea) ***Nishpava*** (Indian Butter Bean) ***Rajamasha*** (Cow Pea)

Table 13: *Shaka Varga*

	SHAKA VARGA
PATHYA	*Garjara* (Carrot) *Patragobhi* (Cabbage) *Mulaka Pathra* with *Sneha* *Chanaka Patra* *Kushmanda* (Ash Gourd) *Alabu* (Bottle gourd) *Koshataki* (Ridge Gourd) *Patola* (Pointed Gourd) *Bimbi* (Ivy Gourd) *Shobhanjana* (Drumstick) *Apakva Vruntaka* (Brinjal) *Salayama* (Turnip) *Lashuna* (Garlic) *Palandu* (Onion)
APATHYA	***Palaka*** (Spinach) ***Kartaki*** (Cucumber) ***Karavellaka*** (Bitter Gourd) ***Apakva kadali*** (Unriped Banana)

TABLE 14: *MAMSA VARGA*

	MAMSA VARGA
PATHYA	*Aja Mamsa* (Goat Meat) *Kukkuta Mamsa* (Chicken) *Tittira Mamsa* (Peacock Meat) *Majja* (Bone Marrow)
APATHYA	*Shushka Mamsa* (Dried/ Preserved Meat)

Table 15: *Phala Varga*

	PHALA VARGA
PATHYA	*Pakva Amra Phala* (Ripened Mango) *Mrudvika* (Grapes) *Amalaki* (Indian Gooseberry) *Dadima* (Pomogranate) *Kadali* (Banana) *Pakva Badara Phala* (Ripened Jujuba Fruit) *Parushaka* (Indian Sherbet Beery/ Falsa Fruit) *Anjira* (Fig) *Narikela* (Coconut and it's water) *Tadaphala* *Panasa* (Jackfruit) *Palevata* (Apple) *Erandakarkati* (Papaya) *Pakva Kapitha* (Ripened Elephant Apple/Wood Apple) *Ikshu* (Sugarcane) *Naranga* (Orange) *Amlika* (Tamarind)

APATHYA	*Jambu* (Malabar Plum) *Shringataka* (Water Chestnut) *Apakva Badara* (Unripened Jujuba) *Apakva Kapitha* (Unripened Elephant Apple/ Wood Apple) *Apakva Amra* (Raw Mango) *Amaruda* (Guava) *Pooga Phala* (Arecanut)

Table 16: *Kshira Varga/ Jala Varga/ Ikshu Varga/ Taila Varga/Others*

	KSHIRA VARGA/ JALA VARGA/ IKSHU VARGA/ TAILA VARGA/OTHERS
PATHYA	*Kshira* (Cow milk) *Gritha* (Ghee) *Santanika* (Cream of milk) *Kurchika* *Kilata* (Khova) *Takra* (Butternilk) *Navanita* (Butter) *KoshnaJala* (Warm water) *Guda* (Jaggery) *Sharkara* (Sugar) *Tila Taila* (Sessame oil) *Eranda Taila* (Castor oil) *Sarshapa Taila* (Mustard oil) *Narikela Taila* (Coconut oil) *Atasi Taila* (Flax seed oil) *Sura* (Alcoholic preparation) *Madhu* (Honey) *SaindhavaLavana* (Rock salt) *Kukkutanda* (Chicken)
APATHYA	*Sheeta Jala* (Cold water) *Kushumbha Taila* (Safflower oil)

Table 17: *Pathya Vihara and Apathya Vihara*

PATHYA VIHARA	***APATHYA VIHARA***
Parisheka	*Ati Ratri Jagarana*
Avagaha with Koshna Jala	*Ati Maithuna*
Brahmacharya	*Ati Planvana*
Mrudu Shayya	*Ati Vyayama*
Atapa Sevana	*Ati Shoka*
Taila/Gritha Mardana	*Ati Cheshta*
Taila/Gritha Padabhyanga/ Kranapurana/ Sarvanga Abhyanga	*Vega Vidharana*
Swedana	*Divaswapna*
Nirvata	*Vishama Shayya*
Pravarana	*Vishama Ashana*
Bhushayya	*Ati Shrama*
Snana	*Ati Chankramana*
Rathri Swapna	*Shita Pravata Sevana*
Ardha Shakthi Vyayama	*Ati Hasana*
	Ucchair Bhashya
	Ushtra/Ashwa/Gaja Yaana Apathamsana

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Evaluation of Quality of Life and Laboratory Parameters among Cancer Patients with and without Mucositis

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ABSTRACT

Cancer is a leading cause of mortality globally, significantly affecting patient's physical, psychological, and social well-being. Chemotherapy-induced oral mucositis (CIOM) is a frequent and often severe side effect that profoundly impact a patient's health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and is accompanied by alterations in key laboratory parameters. Despite its prevalence, limited research explores the impact of CIOM on HRQoL in developing countries, necessitating focused studies. This study aimed to compare the quality of life (QoL) and selected laboratory parameters in cancer patients with and without oral mucositis. A prospective cross-sectional observational study was conducted over six months at a tertiary care hospital, enrolling 170cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy aged 18 years and older. Participants were grouped into mucositis patients (n=102) and non-mucositispatients (n=68). QoL was assessed using the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Core Questionnaire (EORTC QLQ-C30) questionnaire, and lab parameters were analyzed using the Mann-Whitney U test with a significance threshold of $p<0.05$. Patients with mucositis reported significantly poorer emotional functioning ($p=0.002$), increased nausea and vomiting ($p=0.000$), constipation ($p=0.000$), diarrhoea ($p=0.000$), and pain ($p=0.008$) compared to those without mucositis. The laboratory parameters, including haemoglobin ($p = 0.000$), total count ($p = 0.005$), creatinine ($p = 0.007$), and total protein ($p = 0.024$), were low in patients with mucositis compared with those without mucositis. These adverse effects impacted multiple QoL dimensions, including physical, emotional, and psychological functioning. Oral mucositis significantly deteriorates the QoL of chemotherapy patients, highlighting the need for targeted

strategies to prevent and manage its symptoms. Addressing OM can improve overall patient well-being, emphasizing the importance of incorporating HRQoL measures into cancer care practices.

Keywords: Mucositis, Quality of Life, Cancer, laboratory parameters

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a broad category of illnesses that can begin in nearly any organ or tissue of the body when aberrant cells proliferate out of control, cross normal boundaries to infiltrate nearby areas of the body or move to other organs[1]. An estimated 9.6 million fatalities, or one in six deaths, were attributed to cancer in 2018, making it the second most common cause of death worldwide. Globally, the burden of cancer is still rising, placing a great deal of physical, psychological, and financial pressure on people, families, communities, and healthcare systems [1]. It is anticipated that there will be 611,720 cancer-related fatalities and 2,001,140 new cancer cases in the United States in 2024. Through 2021, cancer mortality remained low, saving more than 4 million lives since 1991 as a result of smoking cessation, early cancer identification, and better adjuvant and metastatic treatment choices. However, rising rates of six of the top ten malignancies pose a danger to these achievements [2]. Over the past few decades, chemotherapy and medicines have been the first line of treatment for advanced cancers when surgery and/or radiation therapy are not appropriate for certain reasons. Chemotherapy continues to be a commonly used therapeutic option despite its recognized negative effects on the physical and mental health of patients, despite mounting research that suggests a systematic and focused strategy may be the way of the future for cancer treatment [3].

Mucositis, diarrhoea, and constipation are examples of gastrointestinal toxicity, which can frequently be a dose-limiting consequence, cause therapy to stop, and even be fatal [4]. Mucositisis characterized by inflammation of the digestive system's mucosal surfaces and frequently manifests as mouth sores[5]. There is mounting evidence that more aggressive treatment plans enhance the survival and local tumour control of patients with head and neck cancer. However, improved treatment results have come at the cost of higher patient morbidity, particularly a rise in severe (grades 3–4) mucositis, which impairs the patient's quality of life (QoL), causes significant discomfort, and makes it difficult for the patient to chew and swallow. According to estimates, oral mucositis (OM) can happen in over 90% of patients who get both chemotherapy and radiation treatments, 40% of patients receiving a conventional dosage of chemotherapy, and 75% of patients receiving high-dose chemotherapy [6]. An extensive amount of effort has been put into the field of OM to assist in reducing its symptoms and ensure clinical and financial effects. Despite these developments, palliative therapies are still the mainstay of treatment for OM[7]. Since mucositis is a frequent and significant adverse effect of both traditional and advanced cancer treatments, it is being thoroughly studied. In patients undergoing chemotherapy, laboratory parameters can be used to determine the patient's risk of developing mucositis, such as low white blood cell count, low total protein and albumin levels, etc. Factors such as disturbances in mucosal barrier function as well as bone marrow suppression lead to reduced neutrophil count and function, and can contribute to the development of oral ulcers and infection [8].

Cancer patients have a wide range of symptoms that lower their quality of QoL. One of the most important aspects of caring for cancer patients is managing their pain [9]. QoL is the perception of a cancer patient's physical, functional, psychological, and social well-being [10]. QoL is one of the most crucial things to consider throughout cancer treatment and follow-up. Cancer stage and location have a major impact on survivors' total health-related quality of life (HRQoL); survivors with advanced illness report poorer HRQoL ratings than those with early-stage disease. In particular, survivors of cancers of the brain, throat, lung, blood, and liver seem to have more difficulty in preserving their HRQoL[11]. Severe OM impairs fundamental abilities such as eating and swallowing, leading to malnutrition and lowering the patient's overall QoL in relation to oral health [12]. OM can result in discomfort, dysphagia, and adverse psychological impacts, which can worsen other chemotherapy side effects and lower quality of life [13].

Therefore, OM's effects on HRQoL go beyond local oral issues and have an impact on overall QoL.Hence, this study focuses on comparing the QoL and laboratory parameters of cancer patients with and without mucositis.

METHODOLOGY

Study design and setting

This six-month prospective observational research was carried out at a tertiary care hospital.

The study protocol was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) with approval no.:**BMHR/2024/0091,**and the research was carried out in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration. Prior to their inclusion in the study, the participants provided written informed consent.

Study population

All patients over the age of 18 receiving chemotherapy were included in this study; individuals under the age of 18 receiving other cancer treatments, such as radiation therapy, immunotherapy, or hormone therapy, were not.

Sample size calculation

The sample size was calculated as 170 using the OpenEpi Software, with a confidence interval of 95%, and margin of error ±5.

Data collection and study procedure

The European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Core Questionnaire (EORTC QLQ C-30) was used to evaluate the patient's quality of life. Patients were given the questionnaire and asked to fill it out to gather data. The first five items on the EORTC QLQ C-30 questionnaire are on four-point scales. The aforementioned scaling approach is based on the popular Likert method of summated scales, which involves simply adding up the pieces that make up each scale. The same response categories—"Not at all," "A little," "Quite a bit," and "Very much"—are used to code these. Both single-item and multi-item scales are included in the QLQ C-30. These consist of six single items, three symptom scales, a global health status/quality of life scale, and five functional measures. A distinct collection of things is included in each multi-item scale; no item appears more than once. Scores on the scales and single-item tests range from 0 to 100. A higher reaction level is indicated by a high scale score. Therefore, a high score on a functional scale indicates a high level of functioning that is healthy, a high score on global health status or quality of life indicates a good quality of life, and a high score on a symptom scale or item indicates a high degree of symptomatology or issues.

Statistical analysis

The collected data were analysed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS version-23. Continuous data were shown as the interquartile range (IQR) and median. The frequency and percentage of categorical data were displayed. Mann Whitney U test was used to analyse the difference in the QoL score between patients with mucositis and patients without mucositis. P-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant at a 5% level of significance to the confidence interval of 95%.

Figure 1: STROBE flow chart

RESULTS

A total of 170patients were included in this study based on the inclusion criteria. Out of the 170 patients, 102 patients were mucositis patients and 68 patients were non- mucositis patients. The demographic details of the patients are shown in Table 1.

Table 2 represents the comparison of the quality of life variables with and without mucositis. Mucositis patients have decreased emotional functioning and have increased diarrhoea, constipation, pain, nausea and vomiting. Table 3 represents the comparison of laboratory parameters between chemotherapy patients with mucositis and patients without mucositis. Hemoglobin and total count are lower in patients with mucositis than patients without mucositis whereas there is not much difference in creatinine and total protein although there is a significance.

DISCUSSION

Chemotherapy patients often experience a range of adverse effects such as alopecia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, and other gastrointestinal disturbances with oral mucositis being a particularly common and critical issue [14].Considering that cancer is a chronic illness, it has been demonstrated that knowing how patients feel about their QOL improves communication between patients and healthcare providers, ensures continuity of care, and helps patients manage their symptoms appropriately. Clinical practice has long acknowledged the value of patient-reported outcomes in evaluating the patient's needs and perspective throughout their cancer journey. Researchers are increasingly confronted with circumstances in which patients could not benefit in terms of conventional endpoints, such as survival or disease-free survival. However, there is a chance that HRQoL will vary significantly.Many worldwide research groups incorporate HRQoL into their studies, and the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration now acknowledge the advantages of HRQoL as a basis for approving novel anticancer medications. Nowadays, it is rather typical to observe that HRQoL is a common secondary endpoint in the majority of clinical trials[15,16].

Although mucositis has a great impact on the QOL of cancer patients, there are very few studies focusing on patient's experiences of mucositisthat have been carried out in developing countries like India. Hence, we have studied the experiences of cancer chemotherapy patients who have developed mucositis and compared the QoL between mucositis and non-mucositis patients using the EORTC QLQ C-30 questionnaire. It has questions focusing on the global health, emotional, social, role, physical and cognitive functioning and symptoms scale. OM have the worst impact on the medical and economic status [17]. The HRQoLof cancer patients is evaluated using the EORTC QLQ-C30, a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM). The EORTC QLQ-C30 is a 30-item test designed to evaluate several factors that affect cancer patient'sQOL. It was the result of almost ten years of cooperative research and was the first instrument created by the EORTC. Since the QLQ-C30 was made available to the public in 1993, several research teams have used it in a number of cancer clinical studies. It has also been used in a variety of other, non-trial investigations[18,19].

Among the various variables observed, we found statistical significance between the scores of mucositis and non-mucositis patients for emotional functioning. The adverse effects of chemotherapy, which raise the intensity of depression symptoms and lower QOL, may make the patient wish to stop receiving treatment, which might accelerate the course of the illness or trigger a recurrence [20]. A study by ***de Arruda JAA et al.***,[21]***and Iovoli AJ et al .,***[22] illustrates the influence of anxiety and depression on Chemotherapy-Induced Oral Mucositis (CIOM) and related QOL. Considering this study and the significant difference we have found between emotional function and mucositis, we can conclude that depression and anxiety can aggravate the incidence or severity of mucositis in chemotherapy patients. We also found a highly statistically significant difference in nausea and vomiting (p=0.000). Although nausea and vomiting are very common side effects of chemotherapy, we found a higher incidence of such symptoms in patients with mucositis than in patients who did not develop mucositis. Diarrhoea and Constipation are common side effects of GI mucositis, and we have found a statistically significant difference between the mucositis and non-mucositis patients (p=0.000); some mucositis patients experienced constipation for the first three days, followed by diarrhoea the next few days after chemotherapy or vice versa. Pain is commonly associated with mucositis that impairs the patient's QOL, and affects their ability to talk properly, masticate and swallow their food, which eventually leads to significant weight loss or even cachexia[23]. We have a statistically significant difference inpain (p=0.008). The laboratory parameters were compared between patients with CIM and patients without

mucositis, and a statistically significant difference was achieved in haemoglobin (P= 0.000), total count (P = 0.005), serum creatinine levels (P = 0.007), and total protein levels (P = 0.024). Notably, haemoglobin(Hb) levels were significantly lower in mucositis patients than in those without mucositis. Low Hb levels are known to impair tissue oxygenation, delaying mucosal healing and increasing mucositis risk. Similarly, the total count was significantly reduced in mucositis patients, indicating their high risk of developing infections. Their low serum creatinine and low total protein levels suggest that the patients with mucositis might experience dehydration and nutritional deficiency. Although we have found statistically significant values, there is not much evidence to support thisdata; hence, future studies are required to validate these findings. All things considered, we discovered that the effects of OM on QoL go beyond the immediate oral problems and have been demonstrated to influence the physical, emotional, and psychological dimensions of functioning.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrated that cancer patients who develop mucositis during chemotherapy cycle experience significantly reduced QoL and more pronounced alterations in laboratory parameters. These findings highlight the clinical burden of mucositis and reinforce the significance of developing effective preventive strategies to reduce the incidence and severity of mucositis to improve patient outcomes during chemotherapy. The observed differences in laboratory parameters indicate that mucositis plays a role in mucosal damage, and its correction can help prevent complications.Hence, future studies with larger samples and long-term follow-up are essential to substantiate and elaborate on these findings.

DECLARATION

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The authors of this work disclose no financial or other conflicts of interest.

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Table 1: Demographic Details

Parameter	Total (N=170)	Mucositis	
		Yes	No
Age (years)			
21-40	15(9)	9(9)	6(9)
41-60	82(48)	55(54)	27(40)
61-80	73(43)	38(37)	35(51)
Gender			
Male	49(29)	23(22)	26(39)
Female	121(71)	80(78)	41(61)
BMI			
Underweight	9(5)	5(5)	4(6)
Normal	63(37)	39(38)	24(35)
Overweight	74(44)	44(43)	30(44)
Obese	24(14)	14(14)	10(15)
BSA			
<1.6m^2	89(52)	54(54)	35(51)
1.6-1.8m^2	36(21)	22(22)	14(21)
>1.8m^2	45(27)	26(26)	19(28)

Table 2: Comparison of QOL between Mucositis and Non- Mucositis Cancer patients

Variables	No. of Items	EORTC			P value
		Total	With Mucositis	Without Mucositis	
Global health status / QOL					
Global health status	2	58.33(50-75)	58.33(41.66-86.66)	66.66(58.33-75)	0.069
Functional Scales					
Physical functioning	5	66.66(46.66-86.66)	66.66(46.66-66.66)	66.66(50-86.66)	0.420
Role functioning	2	66.66(50-83.33)	66.66(50-83.33)	66.66(33.33-83.33)	0.616
Emotional functioning	4	75(50-91.66)	66.66(41.66-83.33)	83.33(66.66-100)	0.002*
Cognitive functioning	2	83.33(66.66-100)	83.33(66.66-100)	83.33(50-100)	0.122
Social functioning	2	66.66(50-100)	66.66(50-100)	66.66(50-100)	0.963
Symptom scales/ items					
Fatigue	3	55.55(44.44-77.77)	55.55(44.44-77.77)	55.55(44.44-72.22)	0.720
Nausea and vomiting	2	0(0-16.66)	0(0-50)	0(0-0)	0.000*
Pain	2	33.33(16.66-50)	33.33(16.66-50)	16.66(0-33.33)	0.008*
Dyspnoea	1	0(0-33.33)	0(0-33.33)	0(0-33.33)	0.879
Insomnia	1	33.33(0-66.66)	33.33(0-66.66)	33.33(0-50)	0.107
Loss of appetite	1	0(0-33.33)	33.33(0-33.33)	0(0-33.33)	0.180
Constipation	1	0(0-33.33)	0(0-33.33)	0(0-0)	0.000*
Diarrhoea	1	0(0-33.33)	33.33(0-66.66)	0(0-0)	0.000*
Financial difficulties	1	33.33(0-66.66)	33.33(0-66.66)	33.33(0-33.33)	0.200

Table 3: Comparison of Laboratory Parameters between Mucositis and Non-Mucositis Cancer patients

Parameter	Total	Mucositis	Non-mucositis	P value
Hemoglobin	10.8 (9.0-12.33)	9.8 (8.8-11.6)	11.8 (10.6-12.8)	0.000*
Total count	5855 (3772.5-8265)	4490 (3500 -7820)	6500 (4395-8760)	0.005*
Platelet	2.51 (1.85-3.21)	2.5 (1.86-3.18)	2.59 (1.84-3.22)	0.629
Urea	19.5 (15.0-26.0)	20.0 (15.0-25.0)	19.0 (15.0-27.5)	0.759
Serum Creatinine	0.7 (0.56-0.87)	0.7(0.52-0.82)	0.73 (0.60-0.94)	0.007*

Total Protein	7.0 (6.32-7.60)	7.0 (5.6-7.5)	7.1 (6.65-7.7)	0.024*
Albumin	4.1 (3.62-4.40)	4.1 (3.1-4.38)	4.2 (3.95-4.4)	0.080
Globulin	2.9 (2.5-3.3)	2.8 (2.4-3.22)	3.0 (2.7-3.4)	0.059
Total Bilirubin	0.38 (0.3-0.5)	0.39 (0.29-0.50)	0.38 (0.30-0.45)	0.688
Direct Bilirubin	0.17 (0.13-0.23)	0.16 (0.13-0.25)	0.17 (0.13-0.21)	0.910
Prothrombin Time (PT)	11.9 (11.2-12.68)	12.0 (11.4-12.5)	11.8 (11.1-12.7)	0.392
International Normalised Ratio (INR)	0.98 (0.91-1.04)	0.98 (0.92-1.04)	0.94 (0.9-1.04)	0.099
Sodium	137.0 (134.0-139.0)	137.0 (134.0-139.0)	137.0 (133.5-139.0)	0.945
Potassium	4.21 (3.9-4.51)	4.22 (3.87-4.60)	4.21 (3.97-4.44)	0.913

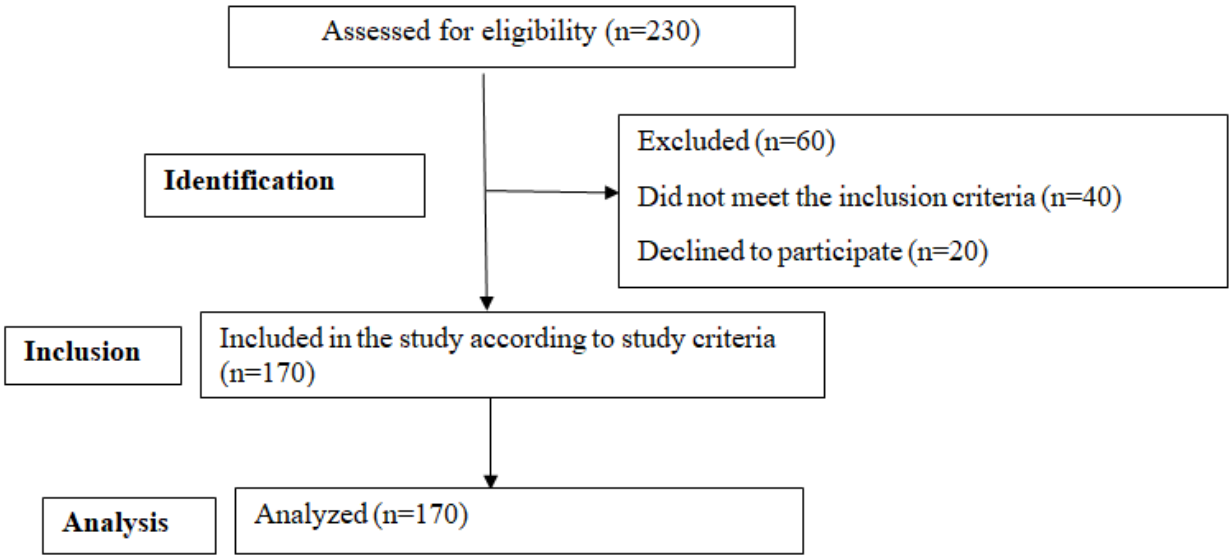


Figure 1: STROBE flow chart

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Preparation and Anticancer Activity of 5 Nitro Salicylaldehyde – Hexa Methylene Tetramine Crystal

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ABSTRACT

5 Nitro salicylaldehyde Hexamethylenetetramine (5NSHMTA) single crystals were grown by reacting 5NS and HMTA in 1:1 stoichiometric ratio using the slow evaporation solution growth method. The structure of the grown crystals is solved by PXRD and NMR using dash software and its space group is found to be P. The vibrations of 5NSHMTA functional groups were identified through FTIR spectral technique. The molecular structure is also established through NMR Spectroscopy. In H-NMR, the Pronation causes the desheilding and the corresponding signal is observed multiplies at 8.396 to 8.279 ppm. FESEM – EDX investigations reveal the correlation between elemental composition and morphological changes. The cytotoxicity test showed that 5NSHMTA had lower cytotoxicity against human liver cell line HEPG2

Keywords: Crystal growth, FESEM- EDX analysis and Anticancer activity.

INTRODUCTION

Lung cancer, breast and liver cancer are common types of cancers globally with a rising incidence rate. Increasing researches have suggested that apoptosis a type of programmed cell death, is a promising way for cancer therapy.

Hetro cyclic compounds play an important role in cancer therapy. Among them, the derivatives of salicylaldehyde are formed as anticancer agents and it can be modified with various substituents. With the aim of exploring the anticancer properties of coordination compounds, we report for the first time the synthesis of the new 5 NS -HMTA crystal. 5NS is mainly employed in photo-chromic compounds and pharmaceutical synthesis and HA acts as an anti-infective agent which is the most commonly used element to treat urinary tract infections. The novelty of our work is the formation of Schiff bases results in a potential material for pharmaceutical applications in anticancer therapy in the induction of apoptosis, cell differentiation and cell arrest.

Mechanism of Preparation Materials used

5NS, HA, DMSO and acetic acid were purchased from Merck company. Without any further purification they are used as such.

Mechanism of Preparation

The 5NSHA crystal was prepared by 5ml using 0.1g of 5NS and 0.1g of HA in 5ml of acetic acid.

Step:1 5NS is dissolved in acetic acid by stirring for use.

Step:2 HA is added to this solution by stirring for use. They undergo a Duff reaction forming a golden orange new crystal 5NSHA.

Duff Reaction

It is the ortho – selective formalization of phenols using (HMTA) in acidic conditions. By extension it also refers to the formylation of other electron – rich aromatic compounds. The reaction was first described by James C. Duff in 1932.

Formylation refers to any chemical Processes in which a compound is functionalism with a formyl group (-CH=O)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The SXRD analysis was carried out to identify crystal system and estimate lattice parameter values. Table I shows the comparison of SXRD and PXRD values.

Powder X-Ray Diffraction

Figure 4 shows the XRD profiles taken from the prepared 5NSHA crystal. All of the major reflections can be indexed to the mono – clinic phase 5NSHA (space group P). At the same time no characteristic peaks of impurities can be detected. This indicates that pure 5NSHA crystals were obtained under current synthetic conditions.

FESEM and EDX analysis

The general morphologies of as synthesized 5NSHA crystals were observed by FESEM -EDX mapping and shown in fig , a large number of 5NSHA crystals agglomerates with a uniform size of about 250um. Fig b,c,d shown the EDX mapping of carbon, Nitrogen and oxygen with their percentage of composition in the new crystal and also confirmed the components which were mixed experimentally.

FT-IR Spectral Study

FTIR studies are the useful techniques for the identification of compounds. The recorded FTIR spectrum 5NSHA crystals are depicted in fig . The IR band at 3758.19,3696.83 cm^{-1} & 3066.23 cm^{-1} is assigned to CH_2 asymmetric stretching vibration, The peaks at 1659.23 cm^{-1} 1624.44 cm^{-1} is due to the symmetric stretching of carbonyl group of 5NSHA. The rocking and stretching of 5NSHA CN groups occurs at 1226. 20 cm^{-1}, 1178.44 cm^{-1}, 1090.27 cm^{-1} and 1012.79 cm^{-1} The IR bands at 1659.23 cm^{-1}, 1624.44 cm^{-1} are due to the C=N stretching of the compound. The IR bands at 1578.12 cm^{-1}, 1541.04, 1508.67, 1469.36, 1368.47 cm^{-1} are due to the NO_2 stretching of the crystal. The IR band at 629.11 cm^{-1} is due to the rocking of CH_2 group. The detailed assignments based on the recorded FTIR spectrum is presented in Table .

NMR Spectral Studies

The Carbon hydrogen bonded network of the crystal was analyzed by H-NMR and 13C- NMR spectra. The H – NMR and 13C-NMR spectra of 5NSHA are shown in figure 5a and figure5b respectively and their chemical shifts with the assignments are tabulated in Table 5 and Table 6. The resonance peaks at =10.288, 10.263,10.238 ppm in the H-NMR spectrum is due to the CHO group of 5NS The spectrum shows multiples at = 8.396, 8.391, 8.371, 8.367, 8.299, 8.294, 8.284 and 8.279 PPM corresponds to the hydrogen in 5NSHA. The peaks appeared at 7.132,7. 123, and 7.098 is due to the solvent CDCL3.The resonance peak observed at =5.039,5.015 and 5.003 ppm exhibits the presents of OH proton of 5NSHA. This, is due to the protonation of 5NS by HA as shown below.

$C_7HSNO^{4+}C_6H_{12}N_4$.

The multiples shows in .9903, 4.966, 4.926, 4.888, 4.878, 4.869, 4.883, 4.800, 4.775, 4.737, 4.607,4.688, 4.561, 4.541,4.534, 4.452,4.37,4.433,4.402,4.382 due to the CH_2 protons of HA. The triplets show in 2.493, 2.490,2.487, 2.449 is due to the protons CH_2 -N. The singlet peak at s=1.889 ppm shows the CH proton of 5NS.

^{13}C NMR Spectral Studies

The 13C-NMR Spectrum of 5NSHA contains eight signals. The resonance peaks at =190.152 ppm is due to the carbonyl group of 5NS. The peak at =170.246 is due to the carbonyl group of 5NSHA. The CH_2 group of HA gives use to signal at =139.413ppm,130.676. The aromatic carbon of 5NS gives rise to a signal at =124.452,122.545ppm and 118.707 ppm. The carbon attached to CN group shows resonance peaks at = 39.917, 39.778, 39.639, 39.500,39.361,39.222,39.0. The resonance signal observed at =79.451 and 71.360 Ppm are due to the carbon attached to NO_2 in 5NSHA group

***In-vivo* anti-cancer Activity**

The cytotoxic effect of different concentration of the crystal 5NSHA was determined by MIT assay using human liver cell line HEPG2. Crystal 5NSHA is formed between 5NS and HA. 5NS is incorporated its anti-cancer activity into HA and they become process stronger against these cell lines and enhances the apoptosis process. It reveals that if the concentration increases, the %of cell viability decreases. It shows that the crystal possesses anti-cancer activity tested by in-vivo studies. If dead cells are abundantly scan, crystal have more active towards cancer cells. Acridine orange/Ethidium bromide (AO/ETBR) staining detects the basic morphological changes in apoptotic cells. Acridine orange enters normal and early apoptotic cells with intact membranes and when bound to DNA it is observed green color and acting filaments where red color and the microscope. Whereas ethidium bromide enters cells with damaged membranes like late apoptotic and dead cells emitting organs-red fluorescence when bound to concentrated DNA fragments.

CONCLUSION

The novel new crystal was constituted by 5 NS and HA whose physical properties were distinct. An efficient synthetic route was established for the full substitution of 5BS into HA with an aldehyde and amino moiety formed according to experimental conditions. Hence HA act as an anti-infective agent which is the most commonly used elements to treat urinary treat infection, but after crystallization with 5BS it is a potent material for anti-cancer agents.

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Table.1: Shows the comparison of SXRD and PXRD values

Parameter	Single Crystal XRD	Powder XRD
a	3.89 Å	3.83801Å
b	5.66 Å	5.70678Å
c	15.16Å	15.14417Å
α	90.00°	90.00°
β	93.99°	93.65855°
γ	90.00°	90.00°
System	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Lattice, space group	P	P
Volume	333.026	333
Formula	$C_8H_7ClO_3$	$C_8H_7ClO_3$

Table :2 PXRD Parameter values of 5NSHA Single Crystal

Parameter	**Powder XRD**	**H k l**
a	**3.83801**	**0 0 2**
b	**5.7078**	**-1 2 1**
c	**15.14417**	**1 2 5**
α	**90.00⁰**	**1 4 6**
β	**93.65855⁰**	**1 1 2**
γ	**90.00⁰**	**2 3 7**

Table :3 : Spectrum

Map Sum Spectrum

Element	**Line Type**	**Weight %**	**Weight % Sigma**	**Atomic %**
C	K series	56.17	1.16	63.52
N	K series	11.55	1.30	11.20
O	K series	29.49	0.75	25.04
Br	L series	0.19	0.05	0.03
Pd	L series	0.51	0.08	0.07
Au	M series	2.08	0.13	0.14
Total		100.00		100.00

Table : 4.FT-IR

Frequency in cm^{-1}	**Assignments**
3214.96,3069.97,3045.45	C-H Stretching
2873.89	C-H Stretching(CSHA)
1676.09,1610.98	C=N Stretching
1654.68	C=N Aromatic Stretching(CHO)
1466.16,1428.83,1403.84	CH2 bend
1303.64,1267.64,1206.53	C-OH Stretching
1074.47,1044.99,1010.16	C-N Stretching
884.42,826.72,765.18	C-Cl stretching
694.17	C-H Stretching

Table: 5 . ^{1}HNMR Chemical shift values in ppm of the 5NSHA crystal

NMR	Atom	5CSHA chemical shift in ppm (δ)	Pure 5-Chlorosalicylaldehyde chemical shift in ppm (δ)	Pure Hexamethylenetetramine chemical shift in ppm (δ)	Assignments
^{1H}	H1	10.230,10.223,10.205,10.179,10.175	10.203		RCHO
	H2	7.633,7.584,7.580,7.559,7.546,7.534,7.530,7.511,7.508,7.506,7.496,7.494,7.491,7.482,7.476,7.460,7.037,7.022,7.012	7.450		ArH
	H3	6.997,6.983	6.99		C=CH
	H4	5.015			CH2-Cl
	H5	4.619,4.609,4.588,4.569,4.544,4.519,4.436,4.404,4.385		4.55	CH2-O
	H6	2.495,2.491,2.489,2.485,2.482,2.447		2.50	CH2-Ar
	H7	1.889			CH
	H8				

Table. 6: ^{13}C NMR Chemical shift values in ppm of the 5NSHA Crystal

NMR	Atom	5CSHA chemical shift in ppm (δ)	Pure 5-Chlorosalicylaldehyde chemical shift in ppm (δ)	Pure Hexamethylenetetramine chemical shift in ppm (δ)	Assignments
13C	C1	189.829	190.050		C=O
	C2	159.730	160.040		C=C
	C3	135.736	120.080		C=C
	C4	127.430,123.495,123.241	124.722	124.72	ArC
	C5	119.598	110.060		C=C
	C6			73.701	C-X
	C7	39.917,39.778,39.639,39.500,39.361,39.222,39.083		39.50	C-C
	C8	127.430	130.020		ArC

Table 7: Comparison of Anti-Cancer Activity For Human LIVER Cell Line (HEPG2)

5 CSHA	24H	48H
Control	100	100
20µg	95.98338	84.38356
40 µg	83.65651	68.58447
60 µg	71.32964	54.3379
80 µg	51.66205	31.23288
100 µg	29.77839	18.08219



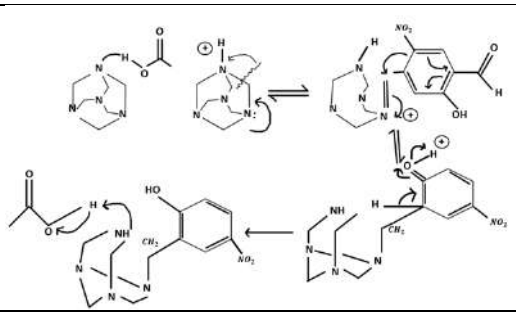


Fig.1. Chemical reaction in hexamine

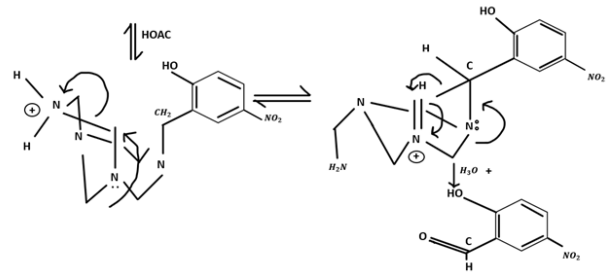


Fig.2. Final reaction in hexamine

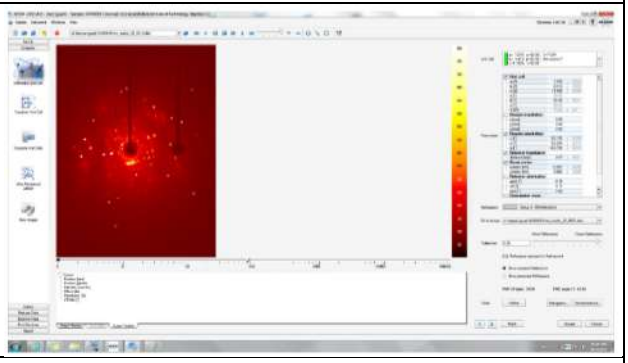


Figure: 3 Single crystal XRD of 5NSHACrystal

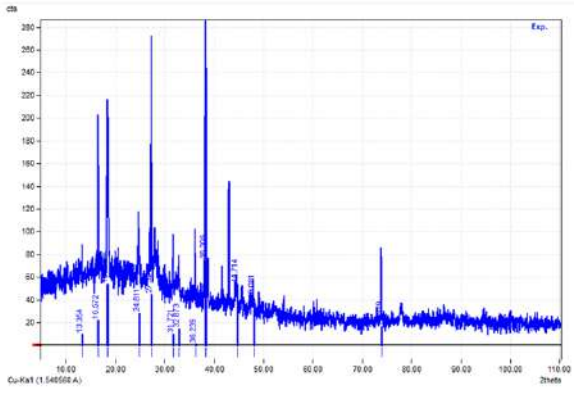


Figure :4 Powder XRD of 5NSHACrystal

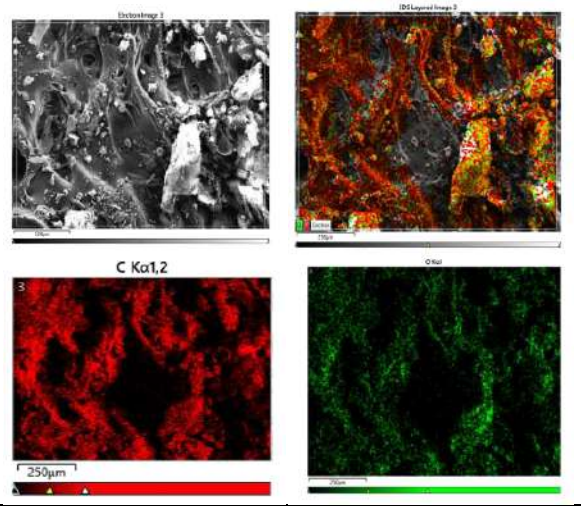


Figure : 5 a,b,c,d Shows the EDX mapping of Carbon, Nitrogen and Oxygen with their percentage of composition

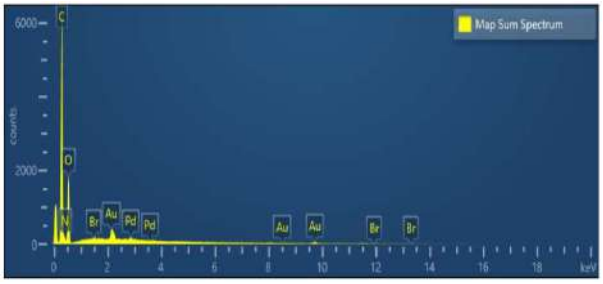


Figure . 6 : Spectrum

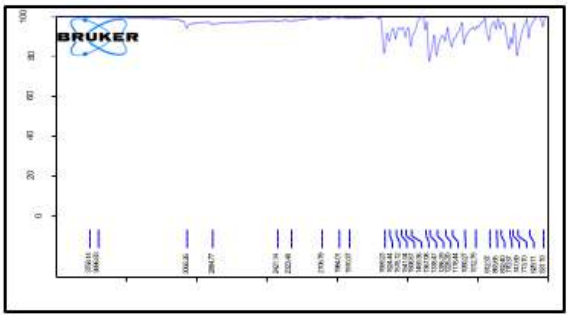


Figure. 7 : FT-IR

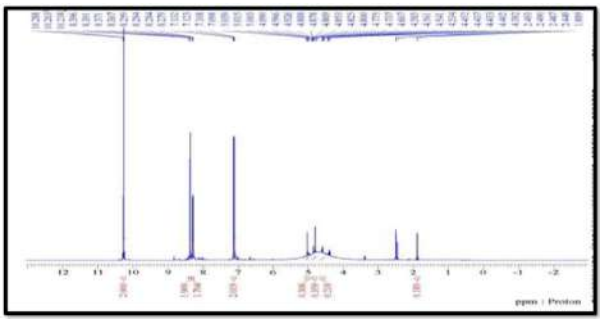


Figure: 8^{1}HNMR Spectrum of 5NSHA Single

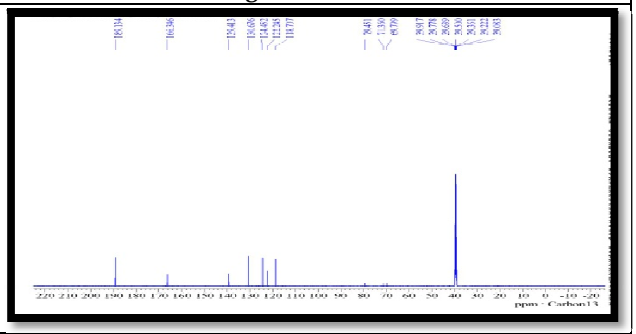


Figure : 9 ^{13}CNMR spectrum of 5NSHA Single Crystal

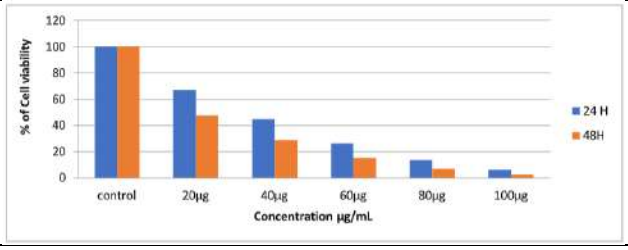


Figure : 10. Cell lines were treated with low to high concentrations of 5NSHA crystal. (20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 µg) for 48H. Finally, fully controlled 100 µg.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Analysis of Darunavir (A Protease Inhibitor) in Bulk and Dosage Form using UV Spectrophotometry and HPLC

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ABSTRACT

The U.V. Spectrophotometric approach and the straightforward Reverse Phase-High Performance Liquid Chromatography method have been developed for the analysis of darunavir ethanolate in pharmaceutical dosage forms and bulk. The determination of darunavir ethanolate was accomplished by developing and validating a quick, sensitive, and specific RP-HPLC method that involves UV detection. Chromatography was performed on an Enable C18 G 250×4.6mm column in isocratic elution, using a mobile phase that contained methanol and water (60:40 v/v). At 263 nm, the effluent was measured at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. At retention time 4.186 minutes, chromatography revealed a primary peak of darunavir ethanolate. The HPLC technique is linear between 10 and 37.5 µg/mL. The method's capacity

to be used for routine Darunavir Ethanolate quality control is demonstrated by the fact that it takes less than ten minutes to run for analysis. There is a straightforward and accurate UV spectrophotometric method for determining darunavir ethanolate. Acetonitrile is the solvent of choice in this procedure. The measured λ max was 263 nm. The linearity of the UV technique ranges from 2 to 12 µg/mL.

Keywords: Darunavir Ethanolate, UV Spectrophotometry, RP -HPLC, method development.

INTRODUCTION

DRV, or darunavirethanolate [(3aS,4R,6aR)][2,3-b] -2,3,3a,4,5,6a-hexahydrofurofuran-4-ylN-[(2S,3R)-4-[sulfonyl-(2-methylpropyl)amino(4-aminophenyl)]2-yl-3-hydroxy-1-phenylbutanglucose; ethanol. The human immunodeficiency virus is treated with this protease inhibitor. With a molecular weight of 593.7 and a Pka value of 13.59 (strongest acid) and 2.39 (strongest acid), it is soluble in methanol and acetonitrile. By binding to the enzyme and halting the dimerization and catalytic activity of HIV-1 protease, darunavir, an inhibitor of HIV protease, stops replication. HIV-1 can be effectively treated with this medication [1-3]. B. Gholvesachin *et al*. [4] Using a solvent made of methanol, a straightforward, quick, accurate, and economical spectrophotometric approach has been created: To find the amount of Darunavir Ethanolate (DRV) in pharmaceutical dose formulations and bulk, use acetonitrile: water (60: 30:10). Manisha B. Mane and others For the purpose of validating Darunavir in tablets, a straightforward, cost-effective, sensitive, and dependable reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) approach was created.B.V. Rami Reddy and colleagues, Stability-Indicating HPLC Method for Darunavir Ethanolate DeterminationKavitha *et al*., A.N. A Novel Validated RP-HPLC Method for Darunavir Ethanolate Estimation in Tablets and Bulk. Enantiomers of darunavir are separated by liquid chromatography using coated and immobilized amylose tris (3,5-dimethylphenylcarbamate) chiral stationary phases. Challa Gangu Naidu, Kandukuri Nagesh Kumar, Ramisetti Nageswara Rao, and Chirality[10] The aim of the proposed work was to use RP-HPLC and UV spectrophotometry to determine darunavir ethanolate in tablet dosage form in a straightforward, accurate, and exact analytical manner. The primary goal of the current work was to create straightforward, accurate, precise, and sensitive RP-HPLC and spectrophotometric techniques for the chosen medication. To conform at the analytical procedure is suitable and to improve accuracy. Develop the new fundamental and fragile RP-HPLC method methodology. UV procedure spectrophotometric for the quantitative estimation of darunavir ethanolate in pharmaceutical arrangement. To keep up the proposed procedures as indicated by the ICH rules to exhibit better execution characteristics of the techniques in its normal insightful application. The techniques will be endorsed for limits like Precision, Accuracy, Linearity, Range affectabilility, the require of disclosure, the limitations of quantitation and life

EXPERIMENTAL

Instrumentation

All bandwidth measurements were performed using a PC running microwave progression software and a LAB INDIA T60 UV spectrometer. Shimadzu LC-20 AD HPLC with a binary pump, an ELITE analytical balance, and a UV SPD-20A detector were employed. A 20µL rheodyne injector was employed, and LC solutions software was used to record and evaluate the results. They used an enable C18 column (250×4.6mm, 5µm particle).

MATERIAL AND REAGENTS

A 99.8 weight percent pure sample of darunavir etanolate was produced. Analytical-grade chemicals and reagents are used. The drugstore sold 300 mg of Darunavir Ethanolate under the brand name DANAVIR.

Preparation of standard stock solution(1000 µg/ml)
To create a standard Darunavir drug solution, 100 mg of the drug was added to a 100 ml volumetric flask, and the concentration was adjusted with acetonitrile to reach 1000 µg/ml.

Preparation of working standard solution (100 µg/ml)
To achieve a concentration of 100µg/ml, 10 ml of the sample solution was transferred from the standard stock solution above to a 100 ml volumetric flask and adjusted with acetonitrile.

Chromatographic Parameters
The Enable C18 G 250 * 4.6 mm was used to carry out the reverse phaseseparation. At room temperature, perform isocratic elution using a mobile phase that contains methanol and water (60:40 v/v) at a flow rate of 1 mL/min and inject 15 µL of sample. The wavelength at which the analysis was conducted was 263 nm.The analysis took ten minutes to complete.

UV Method Development
Following two minutes of shaking the working standard solution of darunavir ethanolate (100 µg/ml) in a volumetric flask, the absorption spectra were scanned in a Range 200-400 nm U.V Spectrophotometer against a reagent blank. The results showed that 263 nm is the most suitable wavelength for darunavir etanolate analysis with adequate sensitivity [Fig-2].

HPLC Method Development
Aliquots of the Darunavir Ethanolate solution were made, and several experiments were conducted to optimize the drug separation process utilizing various C18 columns, mobile phases, and chromatographic conditions. Enable C18 G 250 * 4.6 mm in isocratic separation mode was used to optimize the process. The mobile phase with methanol and water (60:40 v/v) at a flow rate of 1 mL per minute with a detector wavelength of 263 nm was the most efficient. At room temperature, the injection volume was 20 µL, and the run time was 10 minutes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Method Validation
System suitability
The reference solution containing 25 µg/mL of Darunavir was analyzed in order to determine the appropriateness of the HPLC system. To evaluate the system's appropriateness, the standard solution was examined six times. The findings of the system suitability analysis revealed that the theoretical plates column efficiency was greater than 2000, the tailing factor was less than 1.5, and the percentage RSD for Darunavir was less than 2%.

Specificity
To determine the retention time, the individual standard analyte Darunavir, which has a concentration of 25µg/mL, was produced and subjected to chromatographic analysis. By comparing the chromatograms of the formulation and the standard solution [Fig. 3], the specificity of the method was determined. It was discovered that the diluent did not interfere with the analytes' retention time in the standard solution.

Linearity
UV spectroscopy and HPLC were used to manufacture and test different percentage aliquots of Darunavir, which ranged from 25 to 150% of the working standard specification (Table 1). To determine the linearity of the approach, the calibration curve was plotted between concentration and peak area (Fig-4). Good technique linearity was indicated by the curve's correlation coefficient of 0.999.

Precision

The system and intermediate levels were used to calculate the precision. The precision study was conducted using the working standard at 100% level with six determinations. The obtained results demonstrated the precision of the procedure with the % RSD below 2. Table 2 contains a tabulation of the system precision results.

Accuracy

By spiking the known concentration of Darunavir to the predetermined formulation concentration, which is equivalent to 8µg/mL for the UV spectroscopic approach and 25 µg/mL for the HPLC method, the method's accuracy was ascertained. Three working concentration levels—50%, 100%, and 150%—were used to test the accuracy. For every analyte, a total of nine measurements were made using duplicate samples generated at each accuracy level. Table 4 lists the % recovery data for the UV spectroscopic and HPLC procedures at various levels.

Limit of Detection(LOD) and Limit of Quantification(LOQ)

The calibration curve's slope and the standard deviation of the Y-intercept were used to calculate the limits of detection and quantification. The LOD signal should be three times stronger than the noise, and the LOQ signal should be ten times stronger. For the UV spectrometric approach, the LOD and LOQ were determined to be 0.272 µg/mL and 0.826 µg/mL, respectively. The HPLC method's LOD and LOQ were determined to be 0.415 µg/mL and 1.26 µg/mL, respectively.

Robustness

To demonstrate the method's robustness, minor adjustments were purposefully made. By purposefully altering the mobile phase, flow rate, and injection volume, the robustness research for HPLC was completed. The method's robustness is indicated by the %RSD being less than 2% (Table 5). By making minor, intentional adjustments to the lambda maximum, the UV spectroscopic approach was made more robust. Table 6 is a tabulation of the outcomes.

CONCLUSION

A straightforward and highly sensitive technique was created for the examination of Darunavir ethanolate in dose formulation and bulk. For pharmaceutical formulation analysis, the analysis's quick run time and excellent resolution make it the most appropriate and focused method.

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Table-1: Linearity for Darunavir

Level	UV Spectroscopy		RP-HPLC	
	Conc. [µg/mL]	Abs.	Conc. [µg/mL]	Peak area
25%	2	0.1337	10	40107
50%	4	0.1960	15	57238
75%	6	0.2651	20	75112
100%	8	0.3455	25	92174
125%	10	0.4161	30	110824
150%	12	0.4840	37.5	136704

Table-2: Results of System Precision

Sample no.	UV Spectrometry	HPLC
	Absorbance	Peak Area
1	0.3456	92641
2	0.3465	92121
3	0.3404	92465
4	0.3481	92994
5	0.3411	92001
6	0.341	92774
Mean	0.34378333	92499.3333
SD	0.00333791	382.846531
%RSD	0.97093524	0.41389113

Table-3: Results for intermediate precision.

Sample No.	Analyst-I /Day-I /Equip-I		Analyst-II /Day-II/ Equip-II	
	UV [Abs.]	HPLC [Area]	UV [Abs.]	HPLC [Area]
1	0.3456	92641	0.3469	92345
2	0.3465	92121	0.3447	92147
3	0.3404	92465	0.3431	92951
4	0.3481	92994	0.3478	92357
5	0.3411	92001	0.3431	92654
6	0.341	92774	0.3452	92753
Mean	0.34378	92499.3	0.34513	92534.5
SD	0.00334	382.847	0.00193	301.020763
%RSD	0.97094	0.41389	0.56024	0.32530652

Table 4: Summary of %Recovery and %RSD.

Level	Theoretical conc. [µg/mL]	Measured conc. [µg/mL]	Recovery [%]	Avg	%RSD
Percentage recovery by UV Spectrometry					
50.00%	6	5.92	98.66	98.61	0.59
	6	5.88	98		
	6	5.95	99.16		
100.00%	8	7.86	98.25	98.70	0.40
	8	7.92	99.00		
	8	7.91	98.87		
150.00%	10	9.85	98.5	99.10	0.56
	10	9.96	99.6		
	10	9.92	99.2		
Percentage recovery by HPLC					
50.0%	18.75	18.54	98.88	99.05	0.16
	18.75	18.6	99.2		
	18.75	18.58	99.09		
100.0%	25	24.55	98.2	98.62	0.39
	25	24.68	98.72		
	25	24.74	98.96		
150.0%	31.25	31.01	99.23	98.99	0.24
	31.25	30.86	98.75		
	31.25	30.94	99.00		

Table-5: Robustness Study for HPLC method

Deliberate Changes	Peak Area [%RSD]
Actual Chromatographic conditions	0.55
Change-1, (Methanol: H_2O); 58: 42	0.64
Change -2, (Methanol: H_2O); 62: 38	0.74
Change -3, Flow Rate: 1.2 mL/min	0.84
Change -4, Flow Rate: 0.8 mL/min	1.3
Change -5, Injection volume: 10.0 µL	0.54
Change -6, Injection volume: 20.0 µL	0.42

Table-6: Robustness Study for UV Spectroscopic method

Concentration (µg/ml)	Absorbance		
	262nm	263nm	264nm
8	0.3321	0.3475	0.3514
8	0.3369	0.3412	0.3547
8	0.3357	0.3456	0.3598
8	0.33987	0.3423	0.3532
8	0.33456	0.3498	0.3563
8	0.33654	0.3465	0.3541
AVG	0.335945	0.345483	0.354917
SD	0.002586	0.003232	0.002891
%RSD	0.769734	0.935494	0.814547

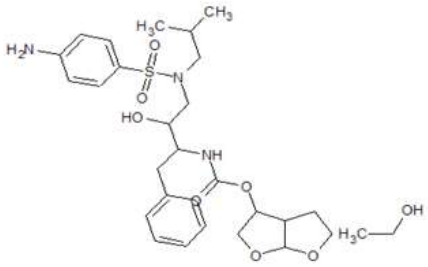


Fig.1: Chemical structure Darunavir Ethanolate

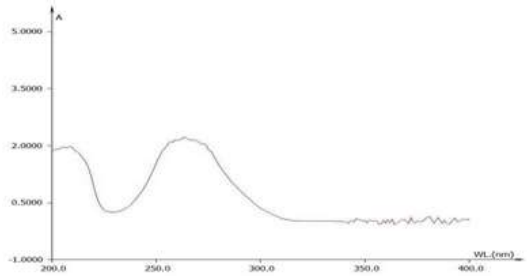


Fig.2 : UV Spectra of Darunavir Ethanolate

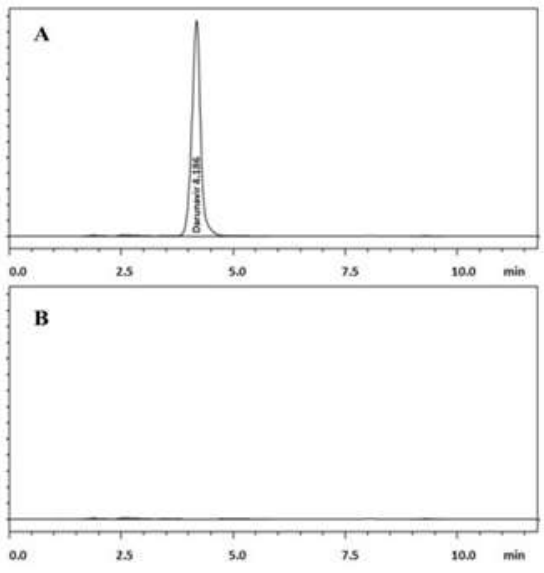


Fig.3: Chromatograms of A) Standard B) Blank

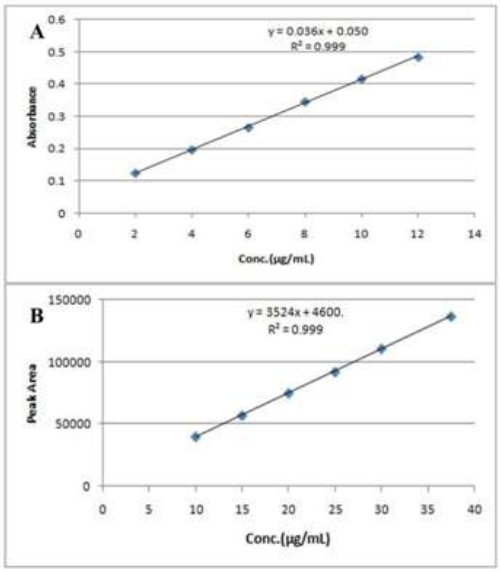


Fig.4: Calibration curve of by methodA) UV Spectrometry B) HPLC.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Anti Q-Fuzzy BH – Ideals in BH – Algebra

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we introduce the notion of anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideals of BH-algebras, lower level cuts of a fuzzy set, lower level BH-ideal and prove some results on these. We show that a Q-fuzzy subset of a BH-algebra is a Q-fuzzy BH-ideal if and only if the Complement of this Q-fuzzy subset is an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal.

Keywords: BH-algebra, sub BH-algebra, BH-ideal, fuzzy BH-ideal, Anti-fuzzy BH-ideal, Q- fuzzy BH-ideal, Anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of fuzzy sets was introduced by Zadeh [6]. Since then these ideas have been applied to other algebraic structures such assemi groups, groups, rings, modules, vector spaces and topologies. Y.B. Jun, E.H.Roh and H.S.Kim [7] are introduced On BH – algebras. Palaniappan.N, R. Muthuraj [9] are introduced Anti Fuzzy Group and Lowerlevel subgroups. R. Muthuraj, Sridharan, P.M. Sitharselvam [9]are introduced Fuzzy BGidealsin BG-Algebra. R. Muthuraj, P.M. Sitharselvam, M.S.Muthuraman [10,11]are introduced AntiQ- Fuzzy group and its lower level subgroups.Q. Zhang, E. H. Roh and Y. B. Jun [12,13]are introduced on fuzzy BH-algebrasin this paper, we apply the idea to BG-algebras. K.Anitha, and N.Kandaraj[1] are introduced FuzzySubalgebrasonBH-Algebras. K.Anitha and N.Kandaraj[2] are introduced FuzzyIdeals and FuzzyDot IdealsonBH-Algebras. K.Anitha, and N.Kandaraj[3] are introduced N-FuzzySubalgebrasonBH-Algebras. K. Anitha, and N. Kandaraj[4] are introduced Semi BH-Ideals and Normalization of Fuzzy BH-Ideals in BH-Algebras. K.Anitha, and N.Kandaraj[5]are introduced Anti Multi Fuzzy BH-ideals in BH-Algebras. We introduce the notion of anti Q-fuzzy ideals of BH – algebras, lower level cuts of a Q-fuzzy set, and prove some results on these. In this paper, we classify the anti Q-fuzzy BH – ideals in BH – Algebra.

Preliminaries

In this section we site the fundamental definitions that will be used in the sequel.

Definition 2.1[9]

A non-empty set X with a constant 0 and a binary operation " ∗ " is called a BG-algebra if it satisfies the following axioms:

1. x * x = 0
2. x * 0 = x
3. (x * y) * (0 * y) = x x , y X.

Example 2.2

Let X= {0, a, b} be a set with the following cayley table:1

Then (X; ∗, 0) is a BG-algebra

We can define a relation (partial ordering) x≤ y if and only ifx * y = 0.

Proposition 2.3

In any BG-algebra X, the following hold:

1) x * y ≤ 0,
2) (x * y) * (x * y) ≤ x * y
3) x * (x * (x * y)) = x * y
4) x ≤ y implies x * z ≤ y * z and z * y ≤ z * x.

Definition 2.4[10]

Let S be a non-empty subset of a BG-algebra X, then S is called a subalgebra of X if x * y S for all x, y ∈ S.

Definition 2.5[11]

Let X be a BG-algebra and I be a subset of X. Then I is called a BG – right ideal of X if it satisfies the following conditions:

(i). 0 I
(ii). x * y I and y I x I
(iii).x I and y X x * y I , I×X⊆I.

Definition 2.6[12]

Let X be a BG-algebra and I be a subset of X. Then I is called a BG – leftideal of X if it satisfies the following conditions:

(i). 0 I
(ii). x * y I and y I x I
(iii). y I and x X y * x I , I×X⊆I.

Definition 2.7[13]

Let X be a BG-algebra and I be a subset of X. Then I is called a BG ideal of X if it satisfies the following conditions:

(i). 0 I
(ii). x * y I and y I x I
(iii).x I and y X x * y I , I×X⊆I.

Definition 2.8[2, 3]

A nonempty set X with a constant 0 and a binary operation * is called a BH-algebra, if it satisfies the following axioms

(BH1) x*x=0
(BH2) x*0=0
(BH3) x*y=0 and y*x=0⇒x=y for all x,y∈X.

Example 2.9
Let X= {0, 1, 2} be a set with the following cayley table:2
Then (X; ∗, 0) is a BH-algebra.

Definition 2.10 [4, 5]: Let S be a nonempty subset of a BH-algebra X, then S is called subalgebra of X. If x*y∈S for all x,y∈S.

Definition 2.11[2]
Let X be a non-empty set .A fuzzy sub set of the set X is a mapping μ: X [0,1] .

Definition 2.12[10]
Let Q and G be any two sets. A mapping A: G x Q → [0, 1] is called a Q–fuzzy set in G.

Definition 2.13[10]
Let be a Q-fuzzy set in a set X. For t∈ [0,1], the set t = { x∈ X / μ(x, q)≥ t for all q∈ Q } is called a level subset of
.
Definition 2.14[10, 8]
If be a Q-fuzzy set in set X. Then the complement denoted by c is the Q-fuzzy subset of X given by c (x, q) = 1- (x,q), for all x X and q Q.

Definition 2.15[10, 8]
Let be a Q-fuzzy set in BG – algebra. Then is called a Q-fuzzy sub algebra of X if (x * y, q)min { (x, q) , (y, q)}, for all x, y X and qQ.

Definition 2.16[10, 8]
A Q-fuzzy set in X is called Q-fuzzy BG – Ideal of X if it satisfies the following inequalities. For all x, y X and q Q,
i. (0, q)≥μ(x, q),
ii. μ (x, q)min { (x * y, q), μ (y, q)},
iii. (x * y, q)≥ min { (x, q),(y, q)}

Anti Q-Fuzzy BH –Ideals
Definition 3.1
A Q-fuzzy set μ of a BH-algebra X is called an anti Q-fuzzy subalgebra of X if (x * y, q) ≤max { μ(x, q) , (y, q)}, for all x ,y ∈X and qQ.

Definition 3.2
A Q-fuzzy set of a BH-algebra X is called an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X. if for all x,y ∈X and q Q,
i.. μ(0, q) ≤μ (x, q),
ii. μ (x, q) ≤ max { μ (x * y, q), μ (y, q)},
iii.μ (x * y, q) ≤ max { μ (x, q), μ (y, q)}.

Example 3.3
Let X = {0, a,b,c} be the set with the following table:3.
Lett0, t1,t2[0,1] be such that t0<t1<t2. Define a Q-fuzzy set μ: X Q [0, 1] by
(0, q) = t0 , (a, q) = t1= (b, q) and (c, q) = t2 , routine calculations is an anti Q-fuzzy subalgebra of X, and it is an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X and qQ.

Theorem 3.4
Every anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of a BH-algebra X is order preserving.

Proof

Let be an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of a BH-algebra X
And let x,y∈ X and q Q be such that x ≤ y then x * y = 0.
Now, μ (x, q) ≤ max { μ (x * y, q), μ (y, q)}
= max { (0, q), μ (y, q)}=μ (y, q)⇒μ (x, q) ≤ μ (y, q).

Theorem 3.5

Let X be a BG-algebra, Let is an anti Q-fuzzy BH ideal of X if and only if is an anti Q-fuzzy sub algebra of X.

Proof

By definition, every anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of a BHalgebra
X is an anti Q-fuzzy subalgebra of X.
Conversely, let be an anti Q-fuzzy sub algebra of X.
To prove: μ is an anti Q-fuzzy BG-ideal of X.
For all x ,y ∈X and q ∈Q ,μ (x, q) = μ (((x * y) * (0 * y)), q)≤ max { (x * y, q), (0 * y, q)}
≤ max{ μ (x * y, q), max { μ (0, q), μ (y, q)}}= max { μ (x * y, q), μ (y, q)}i.e μ (x, q) ≤ max { μ (x * y, q), μ (y, q)}.
Hence is an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X.

Theorem 3.6

Let is an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of a BH-algebra X. If the inequality x * y ≤ z holds in X, then
μ (x, q) ≤ max { μ (y, q), μ (z, q)} , for all x,y,z X and q Q.

Proof

Assume the inequality x * y ≤ z holds in X then
μ (x * y, q) ≤ max { μ (x * y * z, q), μ (z, q)}
= max { (0, q), μ (z, q)}
= μ (z, q)
it follows that μ (x, q) ≤ max { μ (x * y, q), μ (y, q)}
μ (x, q) ≤ max { (z, q), (y, q)}.
Hence the result.

Theorem 3.7

A Q-fuzzy subset of a BH-algebra X is a Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X if and only if its complement cis an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X .

Proof

Let be a Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X and let x, y X and q Q
Then,
i) c(0, q) = 1- μ (0, q) ≤ 1- μ (x, q) = c(x, q).
ii) c(x, q) = 1- μ (x, q)
≤ 1- min { ((x * y, q),μ((y, q)}
= 1- min {1- c(x * y, q) , 1- c (y, q)}
= max{ c(x * y, q),c (y, q)}.
That is, c (x, q) ≤ ax{c(x * y, q) , c (y, q)}.
iii) c(x * y, q) = 1- (x * y, q)
≤ 1- min {μ (x, q), μ (y, q)}
≤ 1-min {1- c(x, q), 1- c (y, q)}
= max {c(x, q), c (y, q)}
That is, c(x * y, q) ≤ max {c (x, q),c (y, q)}.
Thus, cis an anti Q-fuzzy ideal of .

The converse alsocan be proved similarly.

Definition 3.8
Let be a Q-fuzzy subset of a BH-algebra X. For t [0,1], the set t = { x X / (x, q) ≤ t } is called a lower level cut of Cleary, 1 = X and tt = X for t [0,1]. If t1<t2then1, t2.

Theorem 3.9
Let be a Q-fuzzy subset of a BG-algebra X. If is an Anti Q-fuzzy BG – ideal of X, then the lower level cut t is a BH – ideal of X for all t[0,1], t (0, q).

Proof
Let be an anti Q-fuzzy BH – ideal of X. Then
For all x ,y ∈X and q Q,
i. (0, q) ≤ μ (x , q),
ii. (x, q) ≤ max{ (x * y , q), (y ,q}},
iii. μ(x * y , q) ≤ max { μ (x ,q) , (y, q)}.
To prove that tis a BH – ideal of X
We know that t={ x ∈X / (x, q) ≤ t}
Let x, yt and is an anti Q-fuzzy BH – ideal of X.
Since μ (0, q)≤ μ (x, q) ≤ t implies0 ∈t, for all t[0, 1].
Let x * yt and yt
Therefore, μ (x * y , q) ≤ t and μ (y , q) ≤ t .
Now μ (x, q) ≤ max { μ (x * y, q), μ (y, q)}
≤ max { t , t }
≤ t .
Hence μ (x, q) ≤ t.
That is,x * y ∈t and y t implies x t.
(i) Let xt
, y ∈X .
Choose y in X such that μ(y, q) ≤ t .
Since xt
Impliesμ(x, q) ≤ t.
We know that μ(x * y, q) ≤ max { μ(x , q) , μ(y, q)≤ max t , t ≤ t
That is, μ(x * y, q) ≤ t implies x * y ∈μt
(ii) Let y∈t, x ∈X .
Choose x in X such that μ (x, q) ≤ t .
Since yt
Impliesμ(y, q) ≤ t.
We know that μ(y * x, q) ≤ max { μ(y, q) , μ(x, q)}
≤ max { t , t }≤ t .
That is, μ(y * x, q) ≤ t implies y * x∈ t
Hence t is a BH – ideal of X.

Theorem 3.10
Let μ be a Q-fuzzy subset of a BH-algebra X If for each t [0, 1], t≥μ(0, q) the lower level cut tis a BH – ideal of X, then μ is an anti Q-fuzzy BH – ideal of X.

Proof
Since t is a BH - ideal of X.
i) 0t

ii) x * y∈ tAndy∈ timplies x ∈t,
iii) x ∈t
Andy∈ X implies x * y ∈t.
To prove that t is an anti Q-fuzzy BH- ideal of X.
For all x ,y∈ X and q ∈Q,
i) Let x, y t
Thenμ(x, q) ≤ t and μ(y, q) ≤ t.
Let μ(x ,q) = t1 and (y, q) = t2 ,
Without loss of generality, let t1t2.
Then xt2.
Now xt2 and y X implies x * y ∈t2.
That is,μ(x * y, q) ≤ t2
= max { t1, t2}
= max {(x, q) , (y, q)}.
Therefore, μ(x * y, q) ≤ max {μ (x, q) , μ(y, q)}.
ii) Let μ(0, q) = μ(x*x, q)
≤ max μ{ (x, q) , μ(x, q)}
≤ μ(x, q).
Therefore, μ(0, q) ≤ μ(x, q),
iii) Let μ(x, q)= (μ(x * y) * μ(0 * y), q)
≤ max {μ (x * y, q) , μ (0 * y , q) } (by (i))
≤ max { μ (x * y, q) , μ (y, q) } (by (ii)).
Thereforeμ (x, q)≤ max { μ (x * y, q) , μ (y, q) }.
Hence is an anti Q-fuzzy BH – ideal of X.

Theorem 3.11
Let be an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of a BH-algebra X .Two lower level cuts t1 and t2 (witht1<t2) are equal if andOnly if there is no x X such that t1< (x, q) ≤ t2 .

Proof
Let t1 = t2
Suppose that there exists x X such that t1< (x, q) ≤ t2.
t1t2Then xt2 but x∉t1which contradicts the
Assumptiont1 = t2.
Hence there is no x X such that t1< (x, q) ≤ t2.
Conversely
Let there is no x X such that t1< (x, q) ≤ t2 then
t1t2Ast1<t2impliest1t2,
Hence.t1 = t2
Now we consider the fuzzification of a lower t-level cut.

Definition 3.12
Let be a Q -fuzzy subset of a BH-algebra X .the fuzzification t t∈ [0,1],is the fuzzy subset Atof X defined by Atx, q={x, q, xt0, otherwise

Remark 3.13: It can be easily verified that A ≤ .That is, A (x, q) ≤ (x, q) for all x X and qQ
And(A μ)t=t.

Theorem 3.14
If is an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of a BH-algebra X, then A is also an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X where t [0, 1], t ≥μ(0, q).

Proof
Let μ be an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of a BH-algebra X
Then by Theorem 3.5, the lower level cut t is a BH– ideal of X
For all t[0,1], t≥μ (0, q).
(A)t= t is a BG – ideal of X for all t[0,1],t ≥μ(0, q).
By Theorem 3.6, A is an anti Q-fuzzy BH-ideal of X, where
t [0, 1], t ≥μ(0, q).
Hence Proved.

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Table: 1 Example 2.2 Let X= {0, a, b} be a set with the following cayley table

*	0	a	b
0	0	a	b
1	a	0	a
2	b	b	0

Table: 2 Example 2.9 Let X= {0, 1, 2} be a set with the following cayley table

*	0	1	2
0	0	1	1
1	1	0	2
2	2	1	1

Table: 3 Example 3.3: Let X = {0, a,b,c} be the set with the following table

*	0	a	b	c
0	0	a	b	c
1	a	0	a	a
2	b	b	0	b
3	c	c	c	0

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Stepwise Comprehensive Study of the Advancement in Supply Chain Management Strategies for Additive Manufacturing

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to investigate the modern practices in the supply chain management processes and explore their application to the Additive Manufacturing industrial ecosystem. Various computational tools and Machine Learning algorithms have evolved with time and their application has been reviewed. Furthermore, several Decision-Making tools can be employed for supplier selection and allied processes. Additive Manufacturing Processes deals with CAD and allied data and data handling is an issue on a large-scale basis. Various models are reviewed that can facilitate the optimized data handling. In addition, there are a lot of disruptions in materials and financial flaws which are dealt with employing specific framework. Lastly the paper discusses the state of the art as well as the prospects for AM-based supply networks. The findings and insights regarding the transition to an AM-based supply chain and the future scope are summarized in this article.

Keywords: Supply Chain Management, Additive Manufacturing, Machine Learning, Supplier, Framework

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the minimization of environmental impact objectives should be able to meet the product and the process requirements while considering the technological and economical aspect of the design phase. The stages of manufacturing, material production, and product design are inextricably linked. Selecting one production system

over another can save a lot of energy, materials, and other resources, especially if the component has been manufactured with good design. In this case, the production of intricate metal parts has drawn more attention to additive manufacturing, which has been deemed a potentially disruptive technology (Pasquale Manco, 2023) Traditional Manufacturing has been facing a lot of hurdles in context to supplier dependencies. This issue has been magnified since covid times and the result is the rise of the Additive Manufacturing (AM) Technology and its adoption (Braziotis, 2019). AM can be quite a disruptive technique that adopts designing of the part features facilitating remote work culture and moreover, a novelty in design aspects (Eyers, 2018). AM adoption highly facilitates Responsiveness in the supply chain mainly in terms of flexibility in design and execution (Jonsson, 2016). AM also reduces the complexity in design and assembly of typical components as it can manage manufacturing a part in single piece. All these factors have led to some attention of the researcher community searching for descaling the Supply Chain complexities associated with Traditional Manufacturing. But is in consideration to the benefits of AM in terms of design flexibility and manufacturing complexities. The need of suppliers that can provide raw materials for the AM technology induced complexity to the supply chain dynamics. This may quite result in having new suppliers having specific capabilities, mainly in case of Metal AM (Mellor 2014). AM being quite critical, strong connection with the suppliers is a fundamental requirement as the quality of the raw materials is of prime importance (Wang, 2017).

Additive Manufacturing

The process of Metal Additive Manufacturing is highly costly and distinct from conventional methods. The industry is becoming more interested in this technology since it could lead to the realization of lightweight products with free-form shapes. The primary obstacles to the mass adoption of Metal Additive Manufacturing are the exorbitant expenses associated with materials and 3D printers, as well as the requirement for post-processing procedures. Comparing Additive Manufacturing to traditional manufacturing technologies, the former typically asserts distinct design limitations. The design techniques in Additive Manufacturing are growing because of advancements in 3D Metal Printing. Several tools and techniques are used in the Additive Manufacturing design workflow to control design complexity. These tools include databases, numerical simulations, CAD/CAE software, etc. For the most part, they are upgraded versions of already-made tools. Consequently, these instruments are not specifically designed to support each of the additive manufacturing steps. Using additive manufacturing (AM), intricate part geometries can be produced. However, there are limitations to the method that need to be considered in the design stage. A hindrance to the industrial integration of additive manufacturing (AM) is the inadequate understanding of Design for Additive Manufacturing (DfAM). This knowledge transfer is difficult because designing parts that can be manufactured and made economically requires more than just theoretical understanding of additive manufacturing methods and the limitations they impose. It is important to go through the design process in order to acquire the information required for next projects and technology implementation. As a result, in order to facilitate these learning experiences, explicit design tasks are required.

Research Gaps

Additive manufacturing is a fast-growing industry and in regards to the responsiveness and decentralization it offers, the growth is immanent. But forward looking to the development and expansiveness of the technology, the supply chain management of the AM industry is a challenge. Figure 1 gives a glimpse of the complexity of Supply Chain Management in Additive Manufacturing industry comparing to the other relevant industries (Khajavi, 2020).

Several issues still need to be resolved despite the increasing use of Additive Manufacturing (AM) technologies and their potential to completely transform supply chain management. Major challenges encompassing the supply chain management of additive manufacturing are

- Challenges in Optimization: Current frameworks for decision-making and computational tools are not designed to work well with AM procedures, particularly when it comes to generative design and data handling (Bendoly, 2024).
- Reliance on Suppliers: Relationships with suppliers become more complicated because of the switch to AM, especially for metal-based AM where raw material quality is crucial. The importance of raw material quality and

the complexity of supplier relationships are highlighted by AM's requirement for strong quality management procedures (Yang H, 2021).

- Sustainability and Recycling: Few frameworks have been investigated to guarantee the sustainability of AM processes, such as waste management and recycling for AM based on polymers (Prasad, 2024).

Additionally, conventional supply chains are effective for standardized, high-volume production, but they have trouble being flexible and sustainable. Even though AM supply chains are still evolving, they provide improved flexibility and efficiency for specialized, low-volume manufacturing, but pose problems with cost-effectiveness and scale.

Significance of the Study

The importance of this study lies in its ability to close the gap between conventional supply chain procedures and the changing demands of additive manufacturing (AM). Through the integration of contemporary computational tools, machine learning algorithms, and decision-making frameworks, it provides creative solutions to address disruptions in materials and financial management, optimize supplier selection, and streamline data handling. The study highlights the significance of sustainability, digital file management, and generative design in transforming AM supply chains and opening the door to increased adaptability, effectiveness, and environmental responsibility. A thorough analysis of cutting-edge techniques and technologies is also included in the article, which offers helpful advice on how to overcome barriers like expensive costs, intricate designs, and quality control in AM. Considering changing market needs, the study shall help building a strong foundation that supports AM industries of all sizes and guarantees scalability, sustainability, and resilience (Wei Zhang, 2024).

Supply Chain Management in Additive Manufacturing

Supply chain management in additive manufacturing involves optimizing the flow of information, materials, and products to harness the technology's potential. Key considerations include:

Digital Design and File Management

Digital design and file management play a pivotal role in additive manufacturing (AM). Effective management and protection of these files are crucial (S. Shireen Siddique, 2022). The success and efficiency of AM processes heavily depend on how well digital design files are created, organized, and managed. Various sub domains that are quite significant for the digital design and data management are discussed in this article.

Digital Design Generation

Today's products must be developed rapidly and tailored to the specific needs of each customer in response to the ever-changing market dynamics and complex requirements. Historically, the primary function of CAD systems has been to visualize the model created by the product designer. By actively contributing to the shaping process, generative design modifies the CAD program's mission. As a result, the design options are increased, and the complexity of the forms and geometries become much more prevalent. The best way to utilize this potential is to combine Generative Design with Additive Manufacturing (AM). Geometries are created using artificial intelligence and target parameter input by producing material for areas under stress, which consequently results in the development of biomorphic forms and dramatically lowers resource usage. (Stefan Junk, 2021).The studies have offered a nature-inspired generative design methodology for innovation-driven sustainable engineering design (Wei Zhang, 2024).A two-step generative design process has been developed that serves the purpose of the optimization of functional aspects for improved performance and lightweight design (Ning Li J.-M. H., 2023).

File Formats

STL (Stereolithography)files are the most common format used in AM. They represent 3D models as a collection of interconnected triangles, defining the object's shape. However, STL files do not contain information about colours, textures, or materials. Moreover, with the increased digital reach and adoption of AM , the design and development of the model can be de-glued from the AM process by making it a completely independent entity, of course considering the AM methodology to be employed and the related constraints. Furthermore, the Design and

Development of the model can be optimized, and researchers have found out frameworks to optimize the design process. By recording the repeating of identical geometric entities, a new encoding framework method makes the use of the fact that many AM parts display patterns of repetition. The part's decomposition is a complex optimization problem, and by recognizing it as a Weighted Exact Cover (WEC) problem, a new heuristic technique for its quick resolution in linear time was created. A framework that reduces the resulting file size has been developed in order to facilitate the transport, storage, and manipulation of complex parts whose manufacture has been made possible by the emergence of Additive Manufacturing (AM) technology (Benjamin Vaissier, 2020).

File Organization

Maintaining different versions of design files is essential for tracking changes, especially in collaborative environments. Use of version control systems like Git to manage design iterations has become almost compulsory (Hajoary, 2023). Asset-heavy organizations clearly understand the value of mining their data for insight. Technical devices and equipment in mechanical industries are everywhere, so data is constantly being generated. While the companies recognized the need to treat data as an asset, much work remains to be done. Most companies still struggle to understand what data they had, what to use it for, and how to prioritize the data for analysis (Christoph Buck, 2023). Additive Manufacturing Industries are no different to any other mechanical engineering industry. The design data needs to be meticulously maintained for present as well as future references. The process data can also be stored and maintained if need persists can be analysed for future optimization of the process and methodology. Protecting the novel design file/s as a part of intellectual property/copyright design is crucial. It needs to be ensured that the design files are secure and only accessible to authorized personnel.

Design Optimization

Additive Manufacturing (AM) technologies give designers and engineers more and more design freedom in defining and manufacturing very complex products. Advancements in Design for AM (DfAM) techniques like bio-inspired design, grid assembly, and generative design can change material compositions and functional geometries. However, especially in certain complex functional light structures, designers still find it challenging to realize a complex design with guaranteed manufacturability using a single DfAM method. Researchers have developed a new hybrid generative design approach that combines print-ready optimization techniques with numerous DfAM methods currently in use to fully utilize AM processes. (Zhiping Wang, 2023). The primary features of Design for Metal Additive Manufacturing tools need to be examined. The critical analysis points to the need for better user-tool interaction techniques across the design cycle. The difference between the component geometry definition and the additive process parameter settings may be lessened by using a more collaborative approach to design (Michele Trovato, 2023). Various frameworks illustrate the kinds of insights that come from working with design for metal AM in a practical project, specifically the performance-based design problem (Urs Hofmann, 2023). With an emphasis on bioprinting, the researchers have designed an affordable, scalable, and easily clean extrusion system using the progressive cavity pump (PCP) principle for extrusion-based additive manufacturing (Yusuf Furkan Ugurluoglu, 2023). Functional features like fluid tunnels in heat exchanger design are typically fixed and not altered during lightweight optimization. However, this cannot ensure that the design will function as best it can. Researchers have developed a two-step generative design approach to address this issue, which can aid in both lightweight design and functional feature optimization for increased performance (Ning Li J.-M. H., 2023).

Collaboration and Sharing

Collaborative design platforms and cloud storage services allow multiple team members to work on designs simultaneously and share files securely. Collaborative tasks have gained a global recognition wherein various groups having a specific expertise come together to perform engineering tasks. In terms of AM, a collaboration of an Additive Manufacturing Team, Design Team, Analysis Team, and Research team can have a massive impact in optimisation and development of components for the end user. Researchers have developed platform that introduces modifications to the existing workflow by digitizing the inspection process, encouraging the decrease of inspection errors caused by humans as well as ergonomic problems. At the same time, it provides a means of automatically collecting and storing data in a cloud-like environment for later access and sophisticated data analytics (José Pérez,

2023). Various aspects of data governance need to be harmonized to achieve the desired interoperability. Researchers have explored valuable resources for stakeholders looking to comprehend and take advantage of data access and analysis options across platforms (Jacklyn M. Dahlquist, 2023). The tools that could be used to determine the production route that allows for the lowest energy demand or CO_2 emissions are discussed by researchers. They are based on the holistic modelling of additive and subtractive approaches. The models can take into consideration the primary process variables and the effects of the re-design for AM in the production of Ti-6Al-4V components (Paolo C. Priarone, 2018). Blockchain offers numerous advantages, including transparency, decentralization, and security. It provides a solution for certification, long-term accountability for replication, and the protection of copyright and industrial property and can be used to secure and license the intellectual property related to the additive manufacturing (Turusha Ghimire, 2022)

Materials Sourcing and Selection

Material sourcing is a critical component of additive manufacturing (AM) or 3D printing. The choice of materials greatly influences the quality, properties, and performance of the final printed objects.

Key considerations in additive manufacturing that are quite significant for material sourcing and allied domains are discussed in this article:

Material Selection

An overview of recent developments by the researchers emphasizes the significance of techniques, designs, and material choices for energy storage devices manufactured through 3D printing, which applies to most currently employed techniques (Umair Gulzar, 2020). A critical analysis with a focus on aluminium alloys suggests new standards for narrowing down the list of potential compact heat exchanger materials for additive manufacturing in the aerospace industry (Francesco Careri, 2023). A material selection matrix produced by the selection algorithms helps AM users to choose materials with confidence (Mohammed Alghamdy, 2019). The findings show that the best materials for FDM, SLA, and SLS-based AM technologies are "TPU Elastomer," "Accura HPC0," and "Duraform EX0."(Rohit Agrawal, 2021) In order to assist industrial practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers in selecting the best materials during the product development stage to support cleaner production, additional practical and research implications have been derived by the researchers (Rohit Agrawal, 2021).

Material Selection Criteria in Additive Manufacturing

In AM, material selection is essential since it has a direct impact on supply chain efficiency, cost, printability, and part performance. The following categories apply to the selection criteria for materials:

Functional and Mechanical Properties

Durability in situations with high temperatures or high friction is ensured by wear and creep resistance. Toughness and Fatigue Resistance is Important for components that endure impacts and cyclic loading conditions. Strength and stiffness, especially in structural applications, determine the ability to support loads.

Processability and **Printability**

For Powder Bed Fusion AM, powder flowability has an impact on sintering/binding efficiency and layer homogeneity. Viscosity and Curing behaviour Affect Resolution and Layer Adhesion in Vat Photopolymerization AM. Warping risk and printing ease are determined by extrusion and thermal stability (for material extrusion AM).

Chemical and **Environmental Resistance**

For applications in the automotive, medical, and aerospace industries, corrosion resistance is essential. Biocompatibility is crucial for prosthetics and medical implants. Thermal and UV stability are crucial for outdoor applications.

Economic Considerations

The cost and availability of materials have an impact on the overall viability of production. Reducing waste and being recyclable help achieve sustainability objectives.

Regulatory and **Certification Requirements**

Aerospace: Materials must adhere to strict mechanical property standards (e.g., ASTM F42, AMS specifications).Medical applications must Guaranty safety in applications involving the human body (e.g., FDA, ISO 10993 for biocompatibility).Automotive applications must Emphasize mechanical and thermal dependability (e.g., SAE standards).

Supplier Research

The process of choosing a supplier is crucial to supply chain management because it builds a long-lasting relationship with vendors, which has a significant impact on a company's success or failure. A comprehensive list of critical criteria and their performance measures has been proposed considering integrated framework consisting of four popular supervised machine learning (ML) models of the Random Forest (RF) classifier and RF-based feature selection algorithm (Md. Ramjan Ali, 2023).Sustainability study suggests a supplier selection procedure for medical testing facilities that combines weighted aggregated sum product assessment (WASPAS) and stepwise weight assessment ratio analysis (SWARA) in an integrated MCDM framework. The supplier selection criteria can be formulated using SWARA, and the best supplier could be chosen using WASPAS followed by validating the results using an Additive Ratio Assessment (ARAS) and an Evaluation based on Distance from Average Solution (EDAS) (Binoy Debnath, 2023).Researchers have presented a novel approach to Multi Criteria Group Decision making (MCGDM) for emergency decision-making and has potential applications in other MCGDM research areas that takes into account the reciprocal influence relationship between the psychological, consensus, and criteria aspects of DMs (Sen Liu, 2022).

Material Costs

We have mainly focused on the metallic additive manufacturing for the discussion on the cost of the most commonly and desired 3D printed components for the industrial use. Titanium and Nickel based alloys form most of the market for the use of the metals in the critical applications like the aerospace and defence applications. Out of these two alloys, the use of the titanium alloyshave been heavy in these industries. In the 1950s, the Ti6Al4V alloy was first created for structural uses in aircraft(Ariyasu, 2014). Because of its improved biomechanical and biochemical compatibility, which results in porous titanium alloy parts, and its potential for creating biomedical replacements, titanium and its alloys have found extensive use in biomedical applications(Hao, 2016). Conventional titanium powder (with a prealloyed spherical morphology) can be produced commercially using a variety of methods, all of which produce compacted material with very acceptable mechanical properties (near net shapes via the prealloyed/hot isostatic allied pressed method, titanium metal injection moulded parts, and additive manufactured components). Depending on the alloy, mesh size, and quantity, spherical titanium powder costs between $40 and $200 per pound in 2013. Reducing the cost of these powders and getting an injection-moulded method to yield a significant size fraction below approximately 40 μm are the main challenges (Yolton, 2015).

Material Traceability, Recycling and Sustainability

One of the biggest obstacles to reducing environmental pollution is the low recyclability of materials based on thermoplastics. Waste materials made of thermoplastics that have been declared unusable for further application are gathered and subjected to chemical and thermal recycling processes to be reused and converted into energy. Researchers have discussed various ternary and quaternary cutting-edge technologies of the contemporary manufacturing system for recycling via chemical and thermal means in additive manufacturing (Kumar, 2021) . The concept of distributed recycling via additive manufacturing, or DRAM, highlights a new way to recycle waste plastic locally by turning it into useful products through 3D printing. In order to better understand the application of these systems for waste plastic management—which can help prolong the lifetime of plastic material—researchers have elaborated on the environmental assessment of the plastic recycling network system (Cristian Caceres-Mendoza,

2023) . Reusing polylactic acid (PLA) has been shown to have a detrimental effect on the material's mechanical properties when compared to virgin PLA. For a recycled PLA with good copper dispersion have depicted better fracture toughness than commercial filament (Žan Simon, 2023). A circular economy model for AM or recycled polymers, various commodity polymers and their applications, and difficulties in polymer recycling are studied by the researchers (Ans Al Rashid, 2023) .

Quality Control

Quality control in additive manufacturing (AM), also known as 3D printing, is essential to ensure the production of reliable and consistent parts. AM technologies have the potential to produce highly complex and customized parts, but without effective quality control measures, there is a risk of defects and inconsistencies in the final products. Here are some key aspects of quality control in additive manufacturing:

Material Quality

Without the need for a time-consuming and expensive process of printing with a wide range of printing parameters through trial and error, rheological experiments enable the detection of the necessary changes in printing conditions. (Álvaro Díaz-García, 2022)**.**A low-cost, stable oxide powder can be used to create carbon steels through additive manufacturing using a method based on hydrogen reduction. This technique extrudes inks made of oxide powders, plastic binders, and solvents using materials extrusion processes. Oxide powders are combined to create viscous inks, which are then extruded into three-dimensional structures in ambient conditions. To produce metal alloys with precise compositions, the three-dimensional printed green bodies are reduced at high temperatures in hydrogen-rich environments, burning off the polymer binder and reducing the oxide powders. Although this method has been shown in earlier publications for a variety of alloys, the incorporation of carbon—a crucial component of the majority of industrial steels—has proven to be an ongoing difficulty. Researchers have presented a method for through-thickness carburization, which is achieved by adding carbon during the reduction process. (Collin Stiers, 2023)

Process Monitoring

For metals with appropriate operating conditions and sorted hardware systems, comprehensive databases regarding additive parts can be established. Artificial intelligence, additional rolling or temperature control procedures, multi-scale and multi-physics research, hybrid additive and subtractive technology, multi-variable monitoring systems could all contribute to raising the manufacturing bar (Yan Li, 2022)**.** Researchers have presented a methodology for enhancing the alignment and comparison of in-process and post-process datasets, which includes modelling of part deformations wherein the outcomes demonstrate a higher accuracy of data alignment, which is essential for allowing strong correlations to be established and assisting in the decrease of false positives and false negatives in the signals that are gathered during the Additive Manufacturing process. Additionally, the method works well for correctly classifying non-significant process signals that arise during fabrication, which helps to avoid implementing the incorrect corrective actions (Nicolò Bonato, 2023)**.** Furthermore, in some studies for Laser Power Bed Fusion Techniques, researchers have used a data fusion approach that captures various process phenomena in order to improve the performance of flaw detection (Aniruddha Gaikwad, 2022). Lately, researchers have explored the use of optical sensors for in-situ monitoring of material properties (such as geometry, surface, or thermal property) in additive manufacturing processes (Li Yi, 2022).

Post Processing

The application of additive manufacturing is largely limited by the post-process finishing of additively manufactured (AMed) surfaces, particularly for AMed surfaces with complex surface geometry. In order to post-process AMed surfaces, researchers have introduced the multi-jet polishing (MJP) technique, which makes use of several pressurized micro/nanometre abrasive water jets. The outcomes provide light on the broad application of MJP for AMed complex surfaces by showing that it is efficient for post-processing AMed 316L SS to produce nanometric surface roughness on AMed surfaces (Chunjin Wang, 2023). The surface roughness, printing accuracy, and mechanical properties of the manufactured dental device are greatly influenced by the printing parameters, printing structures, slicing techniques, and post-processing techniques; however, the optimization of each may differ based on

the clinical application of the additively manufactured device. Although the parameters for printing, supporting structures, slicing, and post-processing have been determined in various studies, more research is required to determine the best manufacturing process and improve the characteristics of AM polymer dental devices (Wenceslao Piedra-Cascón, 2021). Magnesium (Mg) alloys being the lightest structural metallic alloys, additively manufactured magnesium (Mg) alloys find extensive use in the transportation and automotive industries, as well as in the medical field for orthopaedic implants and biomedical stents. Mg alloys are difficult to print because of their high rate of oxidation, quick evaporation, and vulnerability to gas trapping. The application of hot isostatic pressing (HIP), solution annealing and aging/precipitation heat treatment for the modification/homogenization of the microstructure and enhancement of mechanical/functional properties of magnesium alloys has been the subject of studies and critical discussion (Reza Motallebi, 2022). Additive Manufacturing of Ti6Al4V has been a challenge for the industries and the researchers considering the uniformity of properties along the component. Looking o that, researchers have proposed a new heat treatment cycle that would maintain the advantages of additive manufacturing (AM) but cut down on associated processing time and costs while still meeting part property specifications. The cycle time can be lowered significantly, and the material properties can outperform those of the previous cycles (Dean Kouprianoff, 2023).

Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) and Mechanical Testing

Metal components made by additive manufacturing may have flaws that impair the mechanical characteristics of the parts. For a scenario where due to the complexity of the object, the size and shape of the defect, and the fact that the pores are completely contained inside the object and not connected to the surface, studies suggest that a layered form of defect could be found by microCT. This defect would have been very difficult or impossible to detect by other non-destructive testing methods (Anton du Plessis, 2015)**.** The only non-destructive method that can carry out a thorough quality control check of additively manufactured goods in a single inspection is X-ray computed tomography (XCT). However, high-quality scans are only possible with expensive AM parts and come with lengthy acquisition times. A deep learning U-net segmentation algorithm has been studied by researchers to enhance the segmentation of poor quality XCT scans. To create the ground truth data, a high-quality XCT scan is obtained and aligned with low-quality XCT scans. The Jaccard index and the component's physical characteristics are used to measure how accurate the segmentation was (Simon Bellens, 2021). The literature review, which is corroborated by the experimental findings, shows that current tensile testing standards should be cautiously applied to fused filament fabrication until specific standards are developed. Although not mentioned in traditional standards, rectangular geometries should be chosen over dumbbell-like ones to prevent premature failure at the fillets, and the size of the specimens should not be altered arbitrarily. Set-up and printing parameters should also be fully reported to ensure the repeatability of the results (Antonella Sola, 2023,).

Metrology and Layer Inspection

While wire arc additive manufacturing (WAAM) parts are being manufactured, non-destructive testing (NDT) offers early intervention chances to address manufacturing nonconformities and conduct in-process quality assurance of the parts. This results in substantial material, time, and financial savings. A high temperature phased array ultrasound testing (PAUT) roller probe has been created and validated by researchers in order to carry out robotically delivered in-process NDT on WAAM components (Randika K.W. Vithanage, 2022). As found in the studies for all tested samples, the thermal contrast obtained using Double Active Transient Thermography (DATT) was roughly twice that obtained using Active Transient Thermography (ATT). An insightful assessment of the heat dissipation along the specimens' thickness, particularly in the vicinity of the fibres and defects, was made possible by numerical models. These verified numerical models demonstrated a useful tool for predicting thermal contrast results and optimizing inspection parameters (Henrique V. Silva, 2023). Mid-infrared optical coherence tomography, or mid-IR OCT, is a contactless, non-destructive technique that researchers proposed for at-line inspection and quality assurance of AM ceramics. Research indicates that when compared to conventional methods, certain features of interest, such as local variations in porosity, surface and sub-surface defects, and layer structure, were accessible and analysed with notable outcomes for ceramic components manufactured by AM.(Ivan Zorin, 2022).Recent studies suggest the application of a femto second laser-based transient thermo reflectance (TTR) method for porosity

inspection in directed energy deposition (DED) additive manufacturing. The outcomes demonstrate that the suggested method for in-situ porosity monitoring in directed energy deposition (DED) additive manufacturing is feasible. (Peipei Liu, 2021)

Logistics and Distribution

The supply chain for additive manufacturing can be more decentralized, with potential for local production and distribution hubs. Logistics and distribution play a critical role in additive manufacturing (AM) operations, ensuring that 3D-printed parts and products reach their intended destinations efficiently and effectively. Here are key aspects of logistics and distribution in additive manufacturing

Digital Supply Chain

A framework for Human-Cyber-Physical Systems (HCPS)-based de- and remanufacturing systems that incorporate additive manufacturing for repairing damaged parts during the remanufacturing procedure is studied using MANULAB (Carla Susana A Assuad, 2023). Various studies employ a digital twin framework as a part of a digital supply chain to manage inventory and cash flows employing Machine Learning Algorithms and simulation (Ehsan Badakhshan, 2022).

Print Location Optimization

For the sustainable design of biodiesel supply chain networks (BSCND), researchers have created a mathematical model and decision-making framework that considers a wide range of sustainable objectives. These include standard economic goals (revenue and logistics costs of BSCND), environmental issues based on a life cycle assessment (LCA) of biodiesel production, and social incidental aspects (such as crime control, political stability, and community attitude, among others).The study looked at modifying Extended Goal Programming to rank the best municipalities (final locations) while highlighting the social factors that were considered (Yasel Costa, 2017). Manufacturers can test different configurations and simulate different scenarios without interfering with the actual production process by generating a digital twin. This has contributed to enhanced quality control, predictive maintenance, testing, and process optimization in the production (Mohsen Ebni, 2023). The researchers have created an optimization model that illustrates time-oriented build space utilization to optimize the planning, production, and control processes using a nesting algorithm (Wjatscheslav Baumung, 2018). The use of the models can be replicated for the Supply Chain oof AM industries considering the inbound logistics for the procurement of the parts and the supply of the finished products. The research findings are much in line with the type of the AM industry (Decentralised) and facilitate the plant location process for the decentralized industrial outlook.

Production Scheduling

To solve Additive Manufacturing Scheduling Problems (AMSPs) in a single-machine production setting, researchers developed the Iterated Greedy algorithm, which they discovered produced superior results to the existing solution algorithms (Kuo-Ching Ying, 2022). Research has presented a methodical strategy that is specifically created to accomplish energy-conscious production scheduling for AM. This strategy integrates process-level and scheduling-level controls to reduce electricity costs in the long run (Sajad Karimi, 2021).A simulation model based on optimization that combines a computational and simulation engine demonstrates how scheduling policies greatly affect cycle time and order lateness (Maaz Saleem Kapadia, 2019). Different time constraints apply to 3D-printed foods based on the shelf life of the material. Considering this, research suggests a mathematical optimization model for job scheduling in 3DFP that simultaneously minimizes the deadline violation and make span (total accumulative manufacturing time). The algorithm results in scheduling that achieves the same production time as the state-of-the-art baseline scheduling while significantly reducing the deadline violation (Mohammed Alghamdy, 2023). The application of this algorithm in any domain of additive manufacturing shall help reduce the lead time and thereby increase the productivity of the firm.

Reverse Logistics

Studies demonstrate how urban waste can be used for 3D printing, with an emphasis on supply chain recycling techniques. To identify opportunities and best practices for material recovery applications, studies have analysed the developments in circularity and additive manufacturing in urban settings. It also highlights applications of additive manufacturing at the end of the supply chain. Along with the areas that require more study to facilitate the adoption and spread of additive manufacturing in society (Elias Hernandez Valera, 2023).

Customization

Customization in the additive manufacturing (AM) supply chain is one of the key advantages of 3D printing technology. It allows to produce highly customized and individualized products, which can significantly impact various aspects of the supply chain. Here's how customization can be integrated into the AM supply chain:

Customer-Driven Design

Studies that suggested a modification of Porter's Five Forces Model to help businesses position their strategies when utilizing AM discovered that most businesses fell into the incremental stream of advancement for AM technology (Soraya Dias, 2023). Studies demonstrated that a customized design suitability method using 3D printing for wearable ergonomic products is most efficient in terms of time, money, and materials used while being specifically tailored to the rehabilitation needs of individual customers (Jinghua Xu, 2023). It's the need of an hour to develop processes that implement complex designs coupled with light weight structures in automotive, defence and space industries. Studies suggest that it can be achieved by generatively developing components for fibre-reinforced additive manufacturing (FRAM) (Stefan Junk N. R., 2022).

On-Demand Production and Local Manufacturing

To facilitate an effective aggregation of the gathered data in multi-step production processes with numerous information sources, process data must be accompanied by meta-information. A flexible and process-independent meta-model in the earlier studies was used to describe the relationships between process and meta-data. Researchers off late have developed a new model which is particularly well-suited for applications involving predictive quality resulting in improved mapping of an additive manufacturing process (Ronja Witt, 2023)**.** The benefits of decentralizing the production of spare parts, which are frequently discussed in the literature, can be put into reality by overcoming the deficiency of appropriate modelling techniques to assess the financial and environmental implications of various scenarios on the current spare parts supply chains (Jan Koller, 2022).

Supply Chain Agility

Significantly, "Big Data Analytics" (BDA) functions as a mediator between "sustainable supply chain business performance" and the following critical factors: lean, financial, social, and environmental practices; organizational; supply chain; and overall quality management. Research indicates that to support a sustainable supply chain, managers and practitioners must comprehend supply chain analytics, which tackles issues with managing lean, agile, resilient, and green (LARG) practices (Rakesh D. Raut, 2021). Literature has shown that an integrated sustainable green lean six sigma agile manufacturing system (ISGLSAMS) offers a robust framework for addressing all these societal, business, and environmental demands under one roof. A review of the literature shows that using this approach helps organizations perform better in terms of their finances, markets, social aspects, environment, operations, and sustainability. It also identifies the main features and provisions of each driver, and fields of study for the drivers behind the adoption of ISGLSAMS. A framework for ISGLSAMS performance benchmarking and measurement is also discussed in the studies (Dharmendra Hariyani, 2022).Supply chain management has investigated Emerging Technologies (ET) like cloud computing, Internet of Things, and Big Data analytics, whose complementary features can improve data collection, storage, and sharing as well as the analysis processes. Based on the Dynamic Capabilities Theory, a structural equation model was examined. The findings show that there is a direct correlation between lean and agile approaches and that agile approaches could mediate relationships between lean and operational performance (Diéssica de Oliveira-Dias, 2023). The three steps of ramp-up projects are preparation, ramp-up, and transfer to production. The agility principles, collaboration and integration, system robustness and

continuous improvement—have been found to be crucial for ramp-up projects. The literature back agile ramp-up management and are intended to assist practitioners in handling frequent ramp-ups in a more organized and efficient way (Juliette Heraud, 2023).

Mass Customization

Research demonstrates how an optimization problem can be formulated and solved by collaboratively determining the best times to switch technologies, how much to charge, and how to vary products to maximize a manufacturer's profit and satisfy the various and ever-changing needs of individual customers. Furthermore, studies have produced analytical properties for the best pricing strategy and shown how a manufacturer can profit from switching between mass customization (MC) and additive manufacturing (AM) throughout the product life cycle (PLC), especially by implementing an AM-MC-AM scenario (Rachel Lacroix, 2021). Literature has examined an experimental case study of a 3D printed clay brick that was created using cutting-edge technologies to meet changing market demands. It has also presented new ideas on mass customization using additive manufacturing for the creation of multifunctional building components (Paoletti, 2017).

Reduced Waste

The rubberized composites developed for the study have shown notable thermal and acoustic insulation qualities that are needed for energy-saving applications in buildings, provided that the losses in mechanical strength are limited. In order to create lightweight, thermoacoustically efficient, and sustainable applications, the study confirmed that waste aggregates can be used in low-carbon binders. This provides an appealing foundation for further investigation into material optimization for practical uses (Marco Valente, 2023).The results of engineering application-focused testing show that the reclaimed carbon fibre can successfully alter the mechanical strength, electrical conductivity, heat conduction, and wear resistance of 3D printed parts. Research shows that the recycling approach based on additive manufacturing presents a viable way to recycle CFRP waste and create affordable, eco-friendly high-performance engineering parts with intricate geometries (Weihao Liu, 2021). Research has suggested a new approach to support generation that uses AM process planning to take into account both external and interior support in order to minimize the overall number of materials, production time, and energy used during the manufacturing process. Furthermore, in comparison to conventional strategies, AM significantly reduces material waste, production time, and energy consumption by determining the areas to be filled on each layer based on the printable threshold overhang angle (PTOA) and the longest printable bridge length (LPBL). This makes AM a more sustainable and environmentally friendly manufacturing method (Jingchao Jiang, 2019). However, it is important to note that customization in the AM supply chain does come with challenges, including intellectual property concerns, quality control, and the need for skilled personnel to manage the design and production processes. Nonetheless, when effectively integrated, customization can provide a competitive advantage, improve customer satisfaction, and streamline supply chain operations

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The main purpose of the paper is to present a clear insight about the Supply Chain for Additive Manufacturing Ecosystem and the detailed significance of all the steps from the scratch to the zenith. This article caters all the advancements possible with the AM supply Chain from all the possible literatures discussed here. Starting with the CAD for AM, various novel Generative Design models can be used to cater the functional optimization of the AM process. Certain Meta Models can be used to collect various data from the production processes and thereby integrating the same in the Generative Design Framework. Collaborative design module can be employed for which, using the blockchain technology copyright issues and the duplication of the files can be dealt with. AM requires CAD for which the digital data files can vary based of the complexity of the part or the project. This prompts the problem of data storage and handling. This article throws light onto certain data storage models that reduces the file size thereby making it easy to handle the data. Conventional AM supply chain can be simplified by adopting Machine Learning tools in the supplier selection process. Tackling of Disruptions in the Scheduling of AM processes are

highlight thereby smoothening the AM processes. Application of Lean and Agile manufacturing is recommended to have enhanced and improved performance. Combining ML techniques with NDT for testing of the finished components have resulted into better results than the conventional outcomes. Having classified the advancements that cater the Supply Chain needs for AM, there is lot of work that needs to be done in the field. The existing ML models need to be fine-tuned to work seamlessly with the mechanical systems. A framework needs to be developed to cater the Supply Chain needs of small-scale AM industry. Sustainability aspect of the supply chain for polymer AM is a significant issue in terms of Reuse and Recycle of the products or waste generated in the course. Large scale Manufacturing and significant commercialization is still a work in progress with regards to AM technology in Indian Industrial Ecosystem. This demands a generalized framework development and validation for the AM industry immaterial of its domain whether the industry caters polymer AM or metal AM.

Disclosures and declarations

The authors declare no competing interests.

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Table 1: Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Definition
AM	Additive Manufacturing
CAD/CAE	Computer-Aided Design/ Computer-Aided Engineering
DfAM	Design for Additive Manufacturing
STL	Standard Triangle Language
WEC	Weighted Exact Cover
PCP	Progressive Cavity Pump
FDM	Fused Deposition Modelling
SLA	Stereolithography
SLS	Selective Laser Sintering
TPU	Thermoplastic Polyurethane
RF	Random Forest
WASPAS	Weighted Aggregated Sum Product Assessment
SWARA	Stepwise Weight Assessment Ratio Analysis
MCDM	Multi-Criteria Decision Making
ARAS	Additive Ratio Assessment
EDAS	Evaluation based on Distance from Average Solution
MCGDM	Multi-Criteria Group Decision Making
DM	Decision Making
DRAM	Distributed Recycling via Additive Manufacturing
PLA	Polylactic Acid
MJP	Multi-Jet Polishing
HIP	Hot Isostatic Pressing
CT	Computed Tomography
XCT	X-Ray Computed Tomography
WAAM	Wire Arc Additive Manufacturing
NDT	Non-Destructive Testing
PAUT	Phased Array Ultrasound Testing
DATT	Double Active Transient Thermography
ATT	Active Transient Thermography
OCT	Optical Coherence Tomography
IR	Infrared
TTR	Transient Thermo Reflectance
DED	Directed Energy Deposition
HCPS	Human-Cyber-Physical Systems
MANULAB	
BSCND	Biodiesel Supply Chain Networks
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
AMSP	Additive Manufacturing Scheduling Problems
FRAM	Fibre-Reinforced Additive Manufacturing
BDA	Big Data Analytics
LARG	Lean, Agile, Resilient, And Green

ISGLSAMS	Integrated Sustainable Green Lean Six Sigma Agile Manufacturing System
ET	Emerging Technologies
MC	Mass Customization
PTOA	Printable Threshold Overhang Angle
LPBL	Longest Printable Bridge Length

Table 2: Summary of Significant Findings from the Literature

Literature	Broad Area	Outcome
Álvaro Díaz-García, J. Y. (2022)	3D Printing of Composite materials	A novel process to 3D prints magnetic functional parts using filled polymer capsules
Aniruddha Gaikwad, R. J. (2022)	Metal AM monitoring with Machine Learning Techniques	Laser Powder Bed Fusion technique is coupled with advanced imaging tools and ML models to monitor the AM process
Ans Al Rashid, M. K. (2023)	Reuse of Polymer AM waste	Chemically Recycled polymer AM/3DP offers a dispersed, low-cost substitute for reusing such otherwise hazardous waste.
Anton du Plessis, S. G. (2015)	NDT for AM	Laser AM metal parts develop a very particular kind of layered defect and they are best observed by X-ray micro-CT
Antonella Sola, W. J. (2023,)	Novel Design for destructive testing	To achieve a higher compliance to the failure criterion, design modifications result into better mechanical properties
Benjamin Vaissier, J.-P. P. (2020)	Design File Storage	Weighted Exact Cover (WEC) model reduces the file size and makes the processing faster for repeated geometries
Braziotis, C. &. (2019)	Classification of 3D Printing Processes	A conceptual framework based on process and SC level configurations across different industries classifies 3D Printing Processes
Carla Susana A Assuad, T. L. (2023)	Applying Computer based Technology to Manufacturing	A Framework combining Cyber Physical Systems and the Digital Twin is discussed which is applied to A Manufacturing Laboratory and validated
Christoph Buck, J. C. (2023)	Digital Data Management	The article offers a dynamic process-based explanation model for asset-intensive organizations' digital transformation.
Collin Stiers, K. K. (2023)	Heat Treatment for Metal AM	By varying the post-processing and heat-treating process, carbon steels can be added to the AM toolkit to adjust the mechanical properties of printed structures and achieve the desired behaviour.
Cristian Caceres-Mendoza, P. S.-T. (2023)	Closed Loop Supply Chain for polymer AM	This study assessed the environmental advantages of a distributed closed-loop supply chain network by usage if recycled plastic by Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology
D, E. (2018)	Approaches for Optimized AM	Knowledge gap in operations and manufacturing management research is addressed using abductive approach and different approaches are proposed and validated
Dean Kouprianoff, W. d. (2023)	Sustainability in AM	It has been noted that strategic coupling and decoupling point planning is feasible when designing an integrated sustainable green lean six sigma agile manufacturing system industrial house.
Diéssica de Oliveira-Dias, J. M.-M.-F. (2023)	Lean and Agile Supply chain Management	SC managers will benefit from the implementation of ASC and, eventually, improved operational performance if they support the development of LSC as a first step.
Ehsan	Tackling Specific	Discrete-event simulation (DES) was employed to address the

Badakhshan, P. B. (2022)	Disruptions in Supply Chain	effects of financial and material flow disruptions on SC performance. The decision tree algorithm was used to define the policies for cash replenishment and inventory.
Henrique V. Silva, A. P. (2023)	FEA and NDT for Inspection and Validation of AM parts	Active Transient Thermography (ATT) and/or Double Active Transient Thermography (DATT) inspection of different configurations of fibre-reinforced polymeric plates produced by 3D printing is Recommended using the suggested FEM model.
Ivan Zorin, D. B. (2022)	NDT for Quality Inspection on AMed products	Mid-infrared optical coherence tomography (mid-IR OCT) was demonstrated to have imaging capabilities and operational performance for quality assurance of ceramics that are additively manufactured.
Jan Koller, R. H. (2022)	Decentralized Manufacturing	Transferring the benefits of decentralizing spare parts production is essential and the same was simulated to have a high insight onto the procedures
Kuo-Ching Ying, F. F.-Y. (2022)	AM Scheduling	The Iterated Greedy algorithm is extended to solve AM Scheduling Problems while taking into account a single machine production
Md. Ramjan Ali, S. M. (2023)	Supplier Selection using ML techniques	Study offers a framework for selecting suppliers using Machine Learning techniques based on Random Forest classifiers.
Michele Trovato, P. C. (2023)	Design for Additive Manufacturing	Article examines the DfAM research background, outlining the key stages and the various levels of user-software interaction.
Ning Li, J.-M. H. (2023).	Generative Design for AM	The use of a two-phase generative design method for AM could establish a link between lightweight design and functional optimization, as this paper showed.
Rohit Agrawal. (2021).	Selection of AM materials using Decision Making Tools	AM materials have been analysed and contrasted using four MCDM techniques: SAW, MOORA, TOPSIS, and VIKOR. considering the problem of rank reversal
Ronja Witt, A.-L. K. (2023)	Data Collection Methodology	The meta-model of production data offers a framework for systematically collecting production data and supports the design and integration of the model within the context of Production Quality
S. Shireen Siddique, N. S. (2022)	Blockchain Technique for Collaborative Design for AM	The incorporation of diverse media file types for the purpose of verifying copyright breaches can augment the blockchain-based digital file rights management system and the AM design can be remotely facilitated for the complex processes
Simon Bellens, P. V. (2021).	Enhancement of NDT using Deep Learning Networks	To enhance the segmentation of poor-quality XCT scans, a deep learning U-net segmentation technique is applied. The U-net architecture can segment XCT measurements of polymer AM parts adequately and maintain the necessary high-resolution features, according to the results.
Soraya Dias, P. E.-C. (2023)	Five Forces Model for AM	Using the modified Five Forces Model for AM, it was feasible to pinpoint the main obstacles that businesses must get beyond in order to successfully deploy and capitalize on AM.
Stefan Junk, L. B. (2021)	Generative Design for Additive	Generative design modifies the CAD program and the intricacy of the shapes and geometries rises dramatically as a

	Manufacturing	result, providing additional design alternatives. Combined with additive manufacturing (AM), generative design offers the best chance of realizing this potential.
Wjatscheslav Baumung, V. V. (2018)	Production Planning and Control for AM	During implementation, production-relevant factors are identified and put to the test experimentally for the production planning and control of additive manufacturing machines.

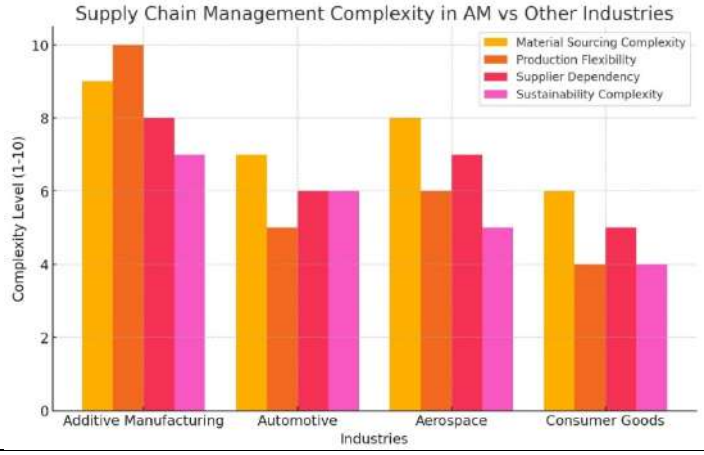


Figure 1: Supply Chain Management Complexity in Additive Manufacturing v/s Other Industries

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Genomic Keys to Species Survival in Changing Climates

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ABSTRACT

Climate change poses an unprecedented threat to insect biodiversity, pushing many species toward extinction while enabling others, like the invasive fall armyworm, to thrive. Genomic research offers transformative insights into how insects adapt to rising temperatures, drought, and habitat loss. This review explores breakthroughs in thermal adaptation, where gene mutations and epigenetic changes, such as Hsp70 upregulation and DNA methylation, enhance heat tolerance. It also examines drought resilience through aquaporin gene expression and microbiome-driven water conservation strategies. Genomic tools like CRISPR, single-cell transcriptomics, and metagenomics reveal the molecular mechanisms insects deploy to survive environmental stressors. Invasive species exploit higher genetic plasticity and microbiome advantages, often outcompeting native insects. Conservation genomics emerges as a vital field, offering practical applications like restoring genetic diversity, tracking range shifts via eDNA, and designing climate-resilient breeding programs. However, key challenges persist—limited genetic diversity, the cost of interventions, data standardization issues, and ethical considerations. Future directions emphasize scalable, affordable, and globally collaborative genomic strategies, including AI-driven predictive models and nanoparticle RNAi delivery. By aligning genomic innovation with conservation policy, we can build robust, adaptive insect populations critical for ecosystem stability and food security in a rapidly changing world.

Keywords: Genomics, Climate, Adaptation, Insects, Conservation

INTRODUCTION

Insects are the unsung heroes of our planet's ecosystems, quietly pollinating crops, decomposing organic matter, and serving as a food source for countless species. Yet, climate change is pushing them to their limits with rising temperatures, unpredictable droughts, and shrinking habitats. Some insects, like the invasive fall armyworm, thrive in these shifting conditions, spreading rapidly across continents and causing billions in agricultural losses (Prasanna *et al*., 2022). Others, like pollinators such as bees and butterflies, struggle to cope with heat stress and habitat loss, threatening global food security (Potts *et al*., 2021). Genomic research is stepping in to unravel how these tiny creatures adapt—or fail to adapt—to a warming world. Breakthroughs in tools like CRISPR, single-cell transcriptomics, and epigenomic profiling are revealing the genetic and molecular tricks insects use to survive, from heat-tolerant gene mutations in *Drosophila melanogaster* to epigenetic tweaks that help *Apis mellifera* endure drought (Hoffmann *et al*., 2021; Zhang *et al*., 2023). Journals like *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* and *Annual Review of Entomology* are buzzing with studies on these advances, showing how metagenomics uncovers microbiome roles in resilience (Raychoudhury *et al*., 2023). Yet, challenges loom large: genetic diversity loss, invasive species pressures, and the high costs of genomic interventions threaten progress (IPBES, 2022; Chen *et al*., 2023). This review dives into the genomic keys unlocking insect survival, offering a roadmap for researchers, conservationists, and policymakers to protect biodiversity. By blending cutting-edge science with practical conservation strategies, we can help insects—and the ecosystems they support—thrive in a changing climate (Pfrender *et al*., 2021; Walsh *et al*., 2022; Savolainen *et al*., 2020; Oerke, 2020).

Genomic Mechanisms of Thermal Adaptation

Rising global temperatures are pushing insects to their physiological limits, but genomic research is uncovering how they adapt. Heat-shock proteins (Hsps) are pivotal, with *Drosophila melanogaster* upregulating Hsp70 genes to protect cells during heatwaves (Sørensen *et al*., 2020). Transcriptomic studies of *Anopheles gambiae* reveal metabolic gene shifts that optimize energy use under thermal stress (Cassone *et al*., 2021). CRISPR experiments in *Tribolium castaneum* confirm Hsp70 mutations enhance heat tolerance, offering a blueprint for genetic engineering (Li *et al*., 2023). Epigenetic modifications, such as DNA methylation in *Apis cerana*, enable rapid gene expression changes without altering DNA (Zhang *et al*., 2024). Metagenomic analyses show microbiomes in *Spodoptera frugiperda* aid detoxification, stabilizing thermal responses (Raychoudhury *et al*., 2023). In *Bactroceratryoni*, transcriptomic profiling reveals stress-response gene activation under heat stress (Liu *et al*., 2024). However, small populations like *Bombus terrestris* face genetic variation constraints, limiting adaptive potential (Arbetman *et al*., 2022). Studies in *Journal of Insect Physiology* highlight the interplay of genetic and epigenetic mechanisms. Challenges include predicting long-term adaptation rates and managing heat-sensitive species. Scalable gene-editing solutions and microbiome-based interventions are needed to bolster thermal resilience across diverse insect taxa (Hoffmann *et al*., 2023; Black *et al*., 2022).

Responses to Drought and Water Stress

Drought, a growing threat under climate change, disrupts insect physiology, but genomic tools reveal adaptive strategies. In *Locusta migratoria*, aquaporin genes are upregulated to conserve water, as shown by transcriptomic studies (Wang *et al*., 2023). Single-cell transcriptomics in *Aedes aegypti* larvae identifies osmoregulatory gene adjustments that enhance survival in low-water conditions (Zhao *et al*., 2022). RNAi experiments in *Tenebrio molitor* confirm aquaporin genes are critical for drought tolerance (Chen *et al*., 2023). Epigenomic profiling in *Apis mellifera* shows histone modifications linked to desiccation resistance, enabling rapid phenotypic shifts (Remnant *et al*., 2021). Metagenomic studies indicate gut microbiomes in *Helicoverpa zea* improve water retention by metabolizing plant compounds (Chen *et al*., 2023). In *Culex pipiens*, transcriptomics reveal metabolic pathway adjustments for drought survival (Smith *et al*., 2024). Endangered species like *Papilio homerus* face challenges due to low genetic diversity, limiting adaptation (Hoffmann *et al*., 2023). Published in *Insect Science*, these findings underscore genomic plasticity. Scaling interventions for wild populations and addressing regional drought variability remain hurdles. Epigenomic

editing and microbiome engineering could enhance drought resilience in vulnerable species (Zhang *et al*., 2024; Liu *et al*., 2023).

Habitat Alteration and Genomic Plasticity

Climate-driven habitat loss forces insects to adapt quickly, and genomic research reveals their strategies. In *Pieris rapae*, detoxification genes are upregulated in fragmented habitats, enabling survival amidst altered plant chemistry (Black *et al*., 2022). Metagenomic analysis of *Helicoverpa armigera* shows microbiome shifts that aid adaptation to new host plants (Raychoudhury *et al*., 2023). CRISPR-edited *Spodoptera frugiperda* exhibits enhanced dispersal genes, improving habitat tracking in degraded landscapes (Liu *et al*., 2024). Transcriptomic profiles of *Lycaena virgaureae* indicate stress-response gene activation in fragmented habitats, but reduced gene flow threatens survival (Garratt *et al*., 2023). Epigenetic mechanisms, like histone acetylation in *Bactroceratryoni*, enable rapid behavioral adjustments to habitat loss (Zhang *et al*., 2024). In *Phyllotreta striolata*, genomic studies reveal adaptive plasticity in urbanized habitats (Manning *et al*., 2023). Journals like *Ecological Entomology* emphasize these strategies. However, fragmentation isolates populations, reducing genetic diversity. Conservation must integrate genomic data to restore habitats and gene flow. Microbiome engineering and gene editing could enhance plasticity, ensuring insect survival in altered ecosystems (Hoffmann *et al*., 2021; Walsh *et al*., 2022).

Invasive Species and Genomic Competition

Climate change fuels invasive pest spread, outcompeting native species. Genomic comparisons show *Bactrocera dorsalis* has higher genetic diversity than native *Anastrepha* spp., driving invasion success (CABI, 2023). Transcriptomic studies of *Solenopsis invicta* reveal upregulated stress-response genes, enhancing competitiveness (Nagatani *et al*., 2025). RNAi-based controls target unique genes in *Spodoptera frugiperda*, minimizing non-target effects (Yu *et al*., 2023). In *Danaus plexippus*, genetic bottlenecks reduce resistance to invaders like *Hypolimnas misippus* (Potts *et al*., 2021). Metagenomic data show *Aedes albopictus* microbiomes enhance environmental tolerance, outpacing native mosquitoes (Chen *et al*., 2023). *Phyllotreta striolata* transcriptomics reveal adaptive genes for invasion (Manning *et al*., 2023). Published in *Pest Management Science*, these findings highlight invaders' genomic advantages. Challenges include managing hybridization risks and ecological impacts of control measures. CRISPR-based disruption of invasive genes and boosting native genetic diversity are critical for balancing ecosystems (Prasanna *et al*., 2022; Liu *et al*., 2024).

Conservation Genomics Applications

Genomic tools are transforming insect conservation. CRISPR restores genetic diversity in *Bombus impatiens*, countering inbreeding (Samuelson *et al*., 2024). Genomic monitoring with eDNA tracks *Locusta migratoria* range shifts, aiding planning (Meynard *et al*., 2024). Transcriptomic profiles guide *Apis cerana* breeding programs for climate resilience (Siviter *et al*., 2021). Epigenomic studies in *Parargeaegeria* reveal plasticity for habitat restoration (Zhang *et al*., 2024). Metagenomics identifies microbiome interventions for *Papilio machaon*, improving stress tolerance (Raychoudhury *et al*., 2023). In *Coccinella septempunctata*, genomic data inform reintroduction strategies (Walsh *et al*., 2022). High costs and ethical concerns limit CRISPR's wild population use (Barratt *et al*., 2022). Data standardization for genomic databases is needed (FAO, 2024). Cost-effective gene-editing and global collaboration will integrate genomics into conservation, ensuring species survival (IPBES, 2022; Dicks *et al*., 2021).

Challenges in Genomic Adaptation

Low genetic diversity, as in *Chrysochus auratus*, restricts climate resilience (Pfrender *et al*., 2021). Rapid climate shifts outpace adaptation in *Parnassius apollo*, risking extinction (Walsh *et al*., 2022). Scaling CRISPR and other genomic interventions is costly, particularly in developing regions (FAO, 2024). Invasive species like *Spodoptera frugiperda* disrupt native gene pools via hybridization (Prasanna *et al*., 2022). Epigenomic responses in *Aedes aegypti* are unstable, requiring further study (Chen *et al*., 2023). Lack of standardized genomic databases hinders global research (Walter *et al*., 2024). In *Melitaeacinxia*, genetic bottlenecks limit adaptive capacity (Hoffmann *et al*., 2023). Published in *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, these challenges demand innovative solutions. Addressing cost barriers,

hybridization risks, and data standardization is critical for effective genomic conservation (Savolainen *et al*., 2020; Black *et al*., 2022).

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Future genomic research must prioritize scalable solutions for insect survival. Nanoparticle-based RNAi delivery could target stress-response genes in *Aedes albopictus* (Zhang *et al*., 2024). AI-driven genomic models can predict adaptive traits in *Tribolium confusum*, optimizing conservation (Smith *et al*., 2025). Epigenomic editing offers rapid solutions for *Bombus vosnesenskii* resilience (Liu *et al*., 2023). Global gene banks can preserve diversity, as proposed by IPBES (2022). Integrating CRISPR with eDNA monitoring could enhance *Locusta migratoria* resilience (Meynard *et al*., 2024). In *Phyllotreta striolata*, microbiome engineering shows promise (Manning *et al*., 2023). Journals like *Insect Science* advocate for policy integration. Challenges include funding, ethics, and data standardization (FAO, 2024). Collaborative platforms and affordable technologies will drive genomic conservation, ensuring insects thrive in a changing climate (Dicks *et al*., 2021; Walsh *et al*., 2022).

CONCLUSION

Insects are the backbone of ecosystems, but climate change threatens their survival with rising temperatures, droughts, and habitat shifts. Genomic research is a beacon of hope, revealing how species like *Drosophila melanogaster* and *Locusta migratoria* adapt through heat-tolerant genes and water-saving mechanisms. Tools like CRISPR, single-cell transcriptomics, and epigenomic profiling, detailed in *Insect Molecular Biology*, are unlocking adaptive secrets, while metagenomics highlights microbiome contributions to resilience. These advances offer practical solutions for conservation, from restoring genetic diversity in *Bombus impatiens* to tracking range shifts in *Locusta migratoria*. Yet, challenges like genetic bottlenecks, invasive pests, and the high costs of genomic tools persist, demanding innovative approaches. For researchers, conservationists, and policymakers, these genomic insights provide a toolkit to protect insects and the ecosystems they support. By investing in accessible technologies, fostering global collaboration, and integrating genomics with conservation policies, we can ensure insects endure a warming world. This work isn't just about saving bugs—it's about preserving the intricate web of life that sustains our planet, securing a future where biodiversity thrives in harmony with a changing climate.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Hybrid Framework for Sentiment Analysis: Leveraging Ensemble Algorithms for Enhanced Text Mining

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a novel hybrid framework designed to enhance sentiment analysis through ensemble methods, specifically focusing on the strengths of both bagging and boosting techniques. By combining these algorithms, the framework addresses inherent limitations in single-model approaches, such as over fitting and limited generalization, thereby achieving improved accuracy and scalability. Targeted at diverse text sources, including social media posts, product reviews, and chat logs, the framework demonstrates its capability for real-time applications and adaptive sentiment classification across multiple domains. Case studies in product review analysis validate the approach, illustrating a significant improvement in sentiment classification accuracy, which paves the way for applying this framework to broader contexts. This advancement in ensemble-based sentiment analysis offers a robust solution for organizations seeking more reliable insights from textual data, making it especially valuable for dynamic sectors like e-commerce, customer service, and social media monitoring

Keywords: Sentiment Analysis, Ensemble Algorithms, Hybrid Framework, Sentiment Classification, Real-Time Applications

INTRODUCTION

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is an exciting and rapidly evolving field at the intersection of linguistics, artificial intelligence, and computer science. It aims to equip machines with the ability to understand, interpret, and

generate human language. The roots of NLP can be traced back to the 1950s, when early attempts were made to process language using rule-based systems. These initial approaches were quite rudimentary and limited, focusing primarily on translating text or performing basic tasks like sentence parsing. However, as the field progressed, NLP evolved through several stages, moving from rule-based models to statistical methods and, more recently, to deep learning techniques. Each of these stages contributed significantly to the field's growth, allowing NLP to perform increasingly complex and sophisticated tasks[1]. In the early days of NLP, the focus was primarily on syntax – how words are arranged in a sentence to convey meaning. Rule-based approaches, such as the use of grammars and dictionaries, were the primary methods for NLP tasks. However, these systems were time-consuming to develop and lacked the flexibility needed to handle the vast complexity of human language. Despite these challenges, these early approaches paved the way for more advanced models, especially as statistical methods began to take over in the 1980s and 1990s. The transition from rule-based systems to statistical methods marked a significant leap forward. Rather than relying on predefined rules, statistical methods leveraged large amounts of text data to learn patterns in language. These models, such as Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) and Naive Bayes classifiers, were used to handle tasks like part-of-speech tagging, machine translation, and speech recognition. However, the real game-changer came with the advent of machine learning techniques, which allowed for the automation of feature extraction. Traditional machine learning models, such as support vector machines (SVMs) and decision trees, gained prominence in the early 2000s and continued to improve NLP tasks like text classification, named entity recognition, and sentiment analysis[2]. Sentiment analysis (SA), one of the most widely studied NLP applications, deals with determining the sentiment or emotional tone behind a body of text. The rise of social media platforms and online reviews has made sentiment analysis increasingly important for businesses, governments, and individuals alike. Sentiment analysis is particularly challenging because human language is often nuanced and ambiguous, with words or phrases having multiple meanings depending on the context. In the past, traditional sentiment analysis models relied heavily on the Bag of Words (BOW) model, which represented text as a collection of individual words, disregarding grammar and word order. While simple and computationally efficient, the BOW model has significant limitations, particularly when dealing with complex sentences or context-dependent meanings. For instance, the BOW model cannot distinguish between positive and negative sentiments expressed by the same word, such as "good" or "bad," based on its context. The rise of deep learning has fundamentally transformed the way sentiment analysis and other NLP tasks are approached. Deep learning methods, particularly recurrent neural networks (RNNs), convolutional neural networks (CNNs), and transformers, have enabled the automatic extraction of complex patterns in text, allowing machines to better understand language's subtleties[3].

These methods have become the dominant paradigm in NLP due to their ability to process vast amounts of data and learn intricate linguistic features without the need for manual feature engineering. RNNs, for example, are particularly well-suited for sequential data like text, as they can retain information from previous words in a sentence and use this context to influence the interpretation of later words. This makes RNNs more capable of understanding the syntax and semantics of a sentence, as they are able to consider word order and context. However, RNNs are limited by problems such as vanishing gradients, where the model's ability to retain long-term dependencies diminishes as the input sequence grows longer. To overcome these issues, variants like Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks and Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs) were introduced, which help the model capture long-range dependencies more effectively. CNNs, while traditionally used for image recognition, have also been applied to NLP tasks such as sentiment analysis and text classification. CNNs are capable of learning hierarchical features by using convolutional layers that detect patterns at various levels of abstraction. This allows CNNs to capture local dependencies in text, such as the relationship between adjacent words or phrases. By stacking multiple convolutional layers, CNNs can also capture more global patterns, making them effective for complex NLP tasks. Another breakthrough in NLP came with the development of transformer models. Transformers, introduced in the 2021 paper "Attention is All You Need" by Vaswani *et al.*, revolutionized the field by introducing the concept of self-attention [4]. Unlike RNNs and CNNs, which process text sequentially, transformers process the entire input text in parallel, allowing them to better capture long-range dependencies and relationships between words. Self-attention mechanisms enable the model to weigh the importance of each word in relation to others in a sentence, making transformers highly effective for tasks like machine translation, sentiment analysis, and question-answering. Deep

learning's success in NLP can largely be attributed to its ability to learn directly from raw data, bypassing the need for manually engineered features. This contrasts with traditional machine learning methods, which often require feature extraction, domain knowledge, and human intervention. Deep learning models excel at discovering hidden patterns in large datasets, making them more robust and generalizable to a variety of tasks. For instance, models like BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) and GPT-3 (Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3) have set new benchmarks in NLP by demonstrating state-of-the-art performance across a wide range of tasks. However, deep learning models also come with their own set of challenges. One of the major issues is the need for large amounts of labeled data for training. While pre-trained models like BERT and GPT-3 can mitigate this to some extent by leveraging transfer learning, acquiring sufficient labeled data remains a significant hurdle for many NLP tasks. Additionally, these models can be computationally expensive and require specialized hardware such as Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) to train effectively. To address these challenges, hybrid and ensemble methods have been introduced. Hybrid approaches combine traditional machine learning models with deep learning techniques, allowing the strengths of each to complement one another. For example, a hybrid model might combine a CNN for feature extraction with an RNN for sequence processing, providing the best of both worlds. Ensemble methods, on the other hand, aggregate the predictions of multiple models to improve performance and generalization. These methods help improve the robustness and accuracy of sentiment analysis systems and other NLP applications. The integration of pre-trained models and transfer learning has also played a pivotal role in advancing the field of NLP. Pre-trained models like BERT, GPT-3, and T5 (Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer) have been trained on massive datasets and can be fine-tuned for specific tasks with relatively small amounts of domain-specific data. This has led to significant improvements in performance and efficiency, enabling even small organizations to leverage state-of-the-art NLP capabilities without the need for vast computational resources. In a nutshell, Natural Language Processing has come a long way since its early days, with deep learning playing a central role in its advancements. While traditional methods such as the Bag of Words model and statistical techniques paved the way for modern NLP, deep learning has redefined what machines can achieve in understanding and generating human language. The advent of models like BERT, GPT-3, and hybrid architectures has raised the bar for NLP performance, setting new benchmarks and opening up exciting possibilities for the future of language technology. Nevertheless, challenges remain, particularly in the areas of data requirements and computational costs. Researchers are continually working on developing more efficient and accessible NLP models to overcome these obstacles and further push the boundaries of what is possible with language technology. Finaly, In recent years, the proliferation of user-generated online content has heightened the importance of sentiment analysis for both academic and commercial purposes. Traditional sentiment analysis systems, often based on rule-based or single-machine learning algorithms, face challenges in terms of scalability, accuracy, and handling complex language expressions found in diverse text sources [5]. Ensemble algorithms have shown promising results in enhancing predictive power and robustness, suggesting they may offer a more comprehensive solution for sentiment analysis [6]. This paper proposes a hybrid sentiment analysis framework that combines multiple ensemble algorithms, such as Random Forest (bagging) and Gradient Boosting (boosting), for enhanced classification performance. By using ensemble methods, the proposed framework not only improves accuracy but also offers a scalable solution that can adapt to various data sources and sentiment analysis requirements.

RELATED WORK

Sentiment analysis research has progressed significantly, with early approaches relying heavily on lexicon-based methods that assign predefined sentiment scores to words and phrases [7]. While lexicon-based approaches are efficient, they lack the flexibility needed for complex sentiment analysis tasks, where context plays a significant role in determining sentiment polarity. Machine learning algorithms such as Support Vector Machines (SVM) and Naive Bayes classifiers were later employed to classify sentiment based on a variety of features extracted from text, marking a shift toward more dynamic sentiment analysis methods [8]. Recent developments focus on deep learning and ensemble learning to improve sentiment classification accuracy. Studies by Go *et al*. [9] and Kim [10] applied convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to sentiment analysis, yielding positive results. However, deep learning

methods require large amounts of labeled data and high computational resources. In contrast, ensemble methods can be less data-intensive and are shown to perform better than single models in certain contexts [11]. The strengths of ensemble methods and deep learning algorithms, both widely used in natural language processing. Ensemble techniques, at their core, involve merging multiple classifiers to create a more reliable model than one alone could achieve. These methods are classified based on how predictions are aggregated (e.g., rule-based and meta-learning) and how they approach learning (either concurrently or sequentially). In rule-based ensemble approaches, predictions from individual classifiers are combined using a set rule, such as majority voting or weighted combinations, where the significance of different features, like part-of-speech tags and n-grams, is evaluated to enhance sentiment classification. Research highlights that rule-based ensembles, like those in the work [12], excel in optimizing feature relevance rather than individual feature weight. Studies like Fersini, Messina, and Pozzi (2014) further explore the advantages of various voting strategies, especially in datasets where rule-based ensembles adapt well across contexts[13]. Additionally, meta-learning uses predictions as features for a higher-level classifier, an approach shown by [14] to adapt efficiently across domains with minimal recalibration. Combining rule-based and meta-learning ensembles with added knowledge can improve accuracy in cross-domain applications, as demonstrated[12]. The review then details concurrent and sequential ensemble approaches. Concurrent models, such as bagging, divide data subsets for parallel learning, creating a single composite model. This method, as shown in [15], is advantageous in robust datasets, while sequential methods, such as boosting, enhance accuracy by iteratively refining classifier performance based on previous training steps. Comparisons between bagging and boosting reveal that bagging tends to be more robust against noise, whereas boosting is more sensitive but can yield higher accuracy when data quality is high. Techniques like random subspace, which modifies the feature rather than instance space, have been shown to perform effectively in sentiment classification[16]. In contrast, deep learning models in sentiment analysis focus on learning complex text representations. Word embeddings like Word2Vec and Doc2Vec map words and documents as vectors, capturing both syntactic and semantic relationships. Models like Word2Vec use approaches such as Skip-gram and Continuous Bag of Words (CBOW) to predict contextual word associations, making them particularly useful in sentiment tasks where language subtleties impact classification accuracy[17]. Autoencoders, another unsupervised model, are applied to text distortion recovery and can enhance traditional classifiers by generating new features from data representations. Augmenting word embeddings with additional knowledge or sentiment-specific vectors can improve sentiment classification. For example, in [18]combine word embeddings with manually engineered features to capture sentiment polarity. Another effective approach uses latent topics alongside word embeddings, creating enriched feature sets that enhance sentiment prediction, as shown in [19]. Incorporating various data sources into embeddings, such as semantic features or sentiment-focused vectors, has proven to elevate model performance, with methods like the Recursive Neural Tensor Network (RNTN) effectively analyzing complex sentence structures in sentiment analysis. The paper concludes that while ensemble techniques and deep learning approaches have strengths, a unified approach combining them is underexplored. Integrating traditional and deep learning models could yield a robust framework capable of handling diverse sentiment analysis tasks across varying data domains, enhancing accuracy, adaptability, and overall sentiment detection performance. This research builds on prior findings by combining multiple ensemble techniques within a unified sentiment analysis framework, aiming to improve both classification accuracy and scalability.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed sentiment analysis framework is designed with a modular, pipeline-based structure that streamlines the entire process from data collection to final sentiment classification. The framework consists of four primary modules: Data Collection and Preprocessing, Feature Extraction and Selection, Ensemble Model Integration, and Sentiment Classification.

Data Collection and Preprocessing

Data for sentiment analysis is collected from various online sources such as social media, customer reviews, and chat messages. Preprocessing is a critical step, as it transforms raw text data into a format suitable for machine learning models. The preprocessing phase includes steps such as

Data Cleaning: Removing punctuation, special characters, and irrelevant symbols.

Tokenization: Splitting text into individual words or tokens.

Stemming and Lemmatization: Reducing words to their root forms to ensure consistency in analysis [20].

Stop Words Removal: Filtering out common words that do not carry significant meaning (e.g., "the," "and," "is").

Feature Extraction and Selection

Feature extraction translates unstructured text into numerical data. Techniques such as Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) and word embeddings (e.g., Word2Vec, GloVe) represent words as vectors in a high-dimensional space, capturing semantic meaning [21]. Feature selection then reduces the feature set by removing redundant or irrelevant features, thereby enhancing model performance.

Ensemble Model Integration

The core innovation in this framework lies in its use of ensemble algorithms, which combine the predictive strengths of multiple models to yield a more accurate and robust classifier. The framework uses

Bagging Techniques: Models like Random Forests combine multiple decision trees to reduce variance and improve stability.

Boosting Techniques: Algorithms such as Gradient Boosting sequentially improve weak classifiers by focusing on misclassified samples [22].

Each model contributes to the final classification by aggregating their outputs, either through majority voting or weighted averaging, which optimizes the accuracy and reliability of sentiment predictions.

Sentiment Classification

Once preprocessed and feature-selected data are fed into the ensemble models, the classification module produces a sentiment polarity score (positive, negative, or neutral) for each input text. This approach not only enhances the classification accuracy but also enables real-time analysis for applications that demand high throughput, such as social media monitoring. The proposed novel algorithm designed for hybrid sentiment analysis using ensemble learning is described as follows. This algorithm combines bagging, boosting, and contextual embedding layers to enhance accuracy and robustness.

Algorithm: Hybrid Ensemble Sentiment Analysis (HESA)

Goal: To classify sentiment with high accuracy by combining multiple ensemble techniques with contextual embeddings, optimizing both precision and real-time adaptability.

Key Components of the proposed algorithm is as follows,

Data Collection and Preprocessing: Collect and clean text data.

Feature Extraction and Contextual Embedding: Use TF-IDF and contextual embeddings (e.g., BERT embeddings) for deep semantic understanding.

Ensemble Learning with Bagging and Boosting: Implement hybrid bagging and boosting.

Meta-Learner Integration: Use a meta-learner to combine results and make final predictions.

Algorithm Steps

Step 1: Data Collection and Preprocessing

Data Collection

Collect sentiment data from various sources like social media, product reviews, and surveys.

Preprocessing

- Clean the data by removing punctuation, special characters, and unnecessary symbols.
- Tokenize text data to convert sentences into word sequences.
- Use stemming and lemmatization to unify word forms.
- Remove stop words.

Step 2: Feature Extraction and Contextual Embedding

TF-IDF Vectorization

Convert preprocessed text into numerical features using TF-IDF to capture word frequency and importance across the dataset.

Contextual Embedding

- Generate contextual embeddings (e.g., BERT, RoBERTa) for each text input to capture semantic information.
- Combine the TF-IDF matrix with contextual embeddings to form a feature-rich representation of the text.

Step 3: Ensemble Learning

Bagging Phase

- Use multiple Random Forests to capture general patterns in the dataset by averaging the results from multiple decision trees.
- Divide the data into smaller random subsets to train individual Random Forest models, reducing overfitting.

Boosting Phase

- Apply Gradient Boosting with decision trees as base learners.
- Sequentially train models in the boosting algorithm to focus on samples misclassified by the previous model, thus improving classification accuracy.

Model Fusion

Combine outputs from bagging and boosting models using a weighted averaging scheme

- Let w1w_1w1 and w2w_2w2 be the weights for bagging and boosting outputs respectively (initially set to 0.5 each).
- Adjust w1w_1w1 and w2w_2w2 based on validation accuracy of each ensemble on test data, using optimization techniques (e.g., grid search or differential evolution).

Step 4: Meta-Learner Integration

Stacking with Meta-Learner

- Use the outputs from the bagging and boosting phases as features for a meta-learning model (e.g., Logistic Regression or a simple Neural Network).
- Train the meta-learner to predict the final sentiment class based on these intermediate predictions.
- This meta-learning layer will assign more importance to models that perform better on specific types of data.

Step 5: Sentiment Classification and Output

Prediction

- For each new input, generate the TF-IDF vector and contextual embedding.
- Pass these through the bagging and boosting models, aggregating their outputs.
- Feed the aggregated output into the meta-learner for final classification.
- Return the sentiment class with confidence scores for positive, negative, and neutral sentiments.

Step 6: Performance Optimization (Optional)

Real-Time Adaptation

- Implement a dynamic adjustment system for w1w_1w1 and w2w_2w2 to improve performance on real-time data streams.
- Periodically retrain the meta-learner with recent samples to adapt to shifts in language or sentiment trends.

Threshold Calibration

Fine-tune confidence thresholds to ensure high accuracy in edge cases, especially for real-time monitoring applications. The proposed Hybrid Ensemble Sentiment Analysis (HESA) algorithm introduces novelty in the way it combines traditional ensemble methods with contextual embeddings and a dynamic meta-learning approach. The following section elaborates as a breakdown of what makes the proposed algorithm as novel:

Hybrid Ensemble Approach with Weights Optimization

Combining Bagging and Boosting: While both bagging (e.g., Random Forests) and boosting (e.g., Gradient Boosting) are widely used individually, this framework combines them to leverage the variance reduction of bagging and the error-correction focus of boosting. The combined approach is more robust than using either method alone, as it adapts to both complex patterns and minor inconsistencies in sentiment data.

Weighted Model Fusion with Optimization: Instead of simply averaging model outputs, the algorithm introduces an optimization of weights w1 and w2 for bagging and boosting models, respectively. These weights are dynamically adjusted based on validation performance, which makes the model adaptable to different datasets or applications. Traditional ensemble methods don't usually incorporate this type of real-time performance-based weighting.

Incorporation of Contextual Embeddings with Traditional Feature Extraction

Dual Feature Representation: By combining TF-IDF with contextual embeddings (e.g., BERT or RoBERTa), the model captures both frequency-based word relevance (from TF-IDF) and deep semantic context (from embeddings). This dual representation ensures a richer feature set, bridging traditional and deep-learning-based NLP approaches.

High-dimensional Context-Aware Analysis: Contextual embeddings allow the model to handle nuanced language and implicit meanings better than standard word-level features. The ability to understand the context behind sentiment words improves the algorithm's accuracy, especially in sentiment analysis tasks where subtle expressions matter.

Meta-Learner Integration for Final Classification

Stacking Ensemble with Meta-Learner: The addition of a meta-learner (e.g., logistic regression or neural network) on top of the bagging and boosting outputs is a novel layer. This allows the algorithm to recognize when certain ensemble methods perform better than others on specific data subsets. The meta-learner serves as an "intelligent" combiner, rather than relying on fixed voting or averaging.

Dynamic and Adaptive: The meta-learner continually learns from ensemble outputs, which helps the framework adapt to shifts in data patterns, like evolving sentiment expressions or new contexts in social media data. Traditional ensemble methods rarely incorporate this adaptive learning layer, making HESA more flexible and accurate over time.

Real-Time Adaptability and Periodic Recalibration

Adaptable to Data Streams: The framework's modular design supports real-time recalibration. For applications with continuously evolving language (e.g., social media or live reviews), the algorithm can periodically retrain the meta-learner and adjust weights for bagging and boosting models. This makes it suitable for real-time sentiment analysis, where traditional static models struggle to keep up with linguistic trends.

Threshold Calibration for Confidence Scores: By tuning confidence thresholds dynamically, the algorithm ensures accuracy in edge cases and improves sentiment classification reliability. Traditional models don't usually include this threshold optimization.

Scalability and Modularity for Diverse Sentiment Analysis Applications

Scalable Modular Structure: Each module (data preprocessing, feature extraction, ensemble learning, meta-learning) is designed to be replaceable or upgradable. This modularity means that as new techniques or models become available (e.g., advanced embeddings or ensemble algorithms), they can be integrated into the framework without a complete overhaul. This makes HESA flexible and future-proof, which is a novel advantage for production sentiment analysis systems.

Evaluation with Case Study

To evaluate the framework's effectiveness, we conducted a case study on product review data obtained from an online retail platform. The dataset contained reviews with sentiment labels (positive, negative, or neutral), which were used to train and test the ensemble models. The framework's performance was compared with traditional models such as Naive Bayes and Gradient Boosting, with the evaluating metrics like accuracy, precision, recall and F1-Score. Here's the performance comparison in a table format:

OBSERVATIONS

Best Overall Accuracy: Stacking Ensemble (93.4%)
Class Imbalance Challenge: All models struggled with the neutral class.
Highest Weighted Average F1-Score: Stacking Ensemble (0.92)

Here is the graph comparing the performance metrics of each model. It visualizes the accuracy, macro averages (precision, recall, F1-score), and weighted averages (precision, recall, F1-score) across Naive Bayes, Gradient Boosting, and Stacking Ensemble. This view helps highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each model across different metrics. The Naive Bayes model achieves high precision for the positive class but suffers from low recall, especially in the neutral class. This leads to low overall accuracy and F1-scores. Gradient Boosting achieves a high accuracy and F1-score for the positive class, which is the majority class. However, it struggles with the neutral class, indicating potential imbalances or difficulty capturing neutral patterns. The Stacking Ensemble model slightly improves upon Gradient Boosting, with a marginally higher accuracy and better recall for the negative class. However, it also struggles with the neutral class. The Stacking Ensemble model has the highest accuracy (93.4%) and performs best overall, particularly for the positive class. However, both Gradient Boosting and Stacking show difficulty in handling the neutral class, possibly due to class imbalance. Adjusting for class weights or using more advanced ensemble techniques could potentially improve neutral class predictions.

DISCUSSION

The proposed framework demonstrates significant improvements over traditional sentiment analysis methods, particularly in terms of accuracy and adaptability. The integration of multiple ensemble techniques within a modular framework allows it to address common challenges such as context-sensitive sentiment and domain specificity. However, the computational overhead associated with ensemble models is notable, and further optimization could improve real-time performance. The framework's scalability was evident, as it effectively processed large volumes of text data without compromising classification accuracy. The results suggest that this framework could be beneficial for domains such as customer feedback analysis, public opinion monitoring, and educational sentiment analysis.

CONCLUSION

This paper introduces the Hybrid Ensemble Sentiment Analysis (HESA) framework, a novel solution for sentiment analysis that integrates ensemble algorithms—specifically bagging and boosting—into a unified, scalable system. HESA is designed to improve accuracy and flexibility across various sentiment analysis applications by combining multiple NLP techniques and a robust model architecture.

The framework's innovation lies in the following components
Optimized Ensemble Weighting: HESA dynamically adjusts the weighting of bagging and boosting models based on performance metrics, allowing for enhanced adaptability and precision in classification.

Dual Feature Representations: By incorporating both TF-IDF and contextual embeddings (e.g., BERT, RoBERTa), the framework captures a comprehensive range of sentiment indicators, leveraging both word frequency and semantic context for richer text representations.

Meta-Learning for Adaptive Classification: The meta-learner layer intelligently aggregates the outputs of base models, allowing HESA to adapt to shifts in sentiment patterns over time, which is crucial for real-time and evolving datasets.

Periodic Recalibration for Real-Time Analysis: HESA is structured for real-time sentiment tracking, supporting recalibration to account for linguistic trends and changes, making it suitable for applications like social media monitoring. Compared to traditional single-layer or static ensemble models, HESA's design supports high sensitivity to context and adaptability, making it versatile for diverse use cases, including customer reviews, social media, and chat analysis.

Future Directions

To further enhance HESA, future research will investigate optimizations for faster real-time analysis and the integration of advanced deep learning models to push classification accuracy and robustness even higher. These advancements aim to make HESA an even more powerful tool for modern sentiment analysis applications.

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Table 1. Performance Comparison of the Proposed work with Naïve Bayes and Gradient Boosting

Model	Accuracy	Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Naive Bayes	0.365	Negative	0.81	0.38	0.52
		Neutral	0.03	0.78	0.06
		Positive	0.98	0.35	0.52
	Averages	**Macro**	0.61	0.51	0.37
		Weighted	0.94	0.36	0.51
Gradient Boosting	0.931	Negative	0.82	0.54	0.65
		Neutral	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Positive	0.94	0.99	0.96
	Averages	**Macro**	0.59	0.51	0.54
		Weighted	0.90	0.93	0.91
Stacking Ensemble	0.934	Negative	0.83	0.58	0.68
		Neutral	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Positive	0.94	0.99	0.97
	Averages	**Macro**	0.59	0.52	0.55
		Weighted	0.91	0.93	0.92

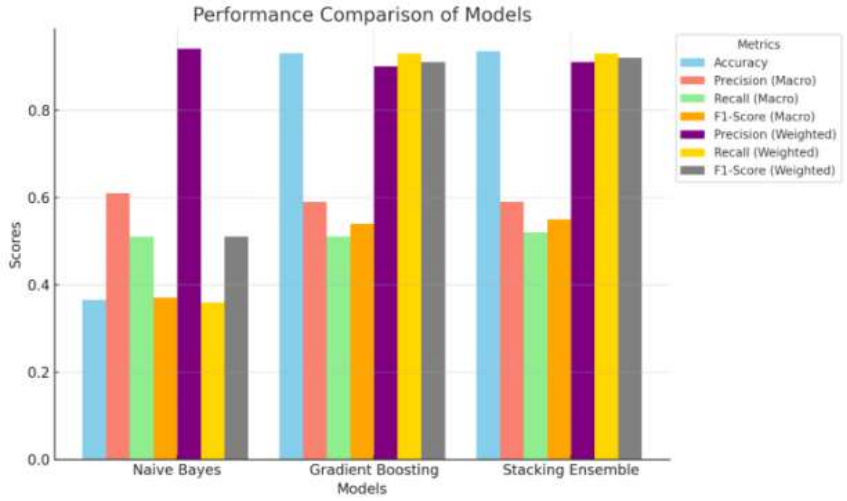


Figure 1. Performance Comparison of the Proposed work with Naïve Bayes and Gradient Boosting

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effect of Drought Stress on Growth, Physio - Biochemical Parameters and Antioxidant Enzymes of *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC.

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ABSTRACT

Drought impacted the secondary metabolite content in leaves of *Desmodium gangeticum*. However, impact of drought on leaves physiology and primary metabolite is remains to understand and its studies will uncover the *Desmodium gangeticum* response to drought. To test the impact of drought on leaves physiology and primary metabolite of *Desmodium*, the leaves samples were collected and analysed for relative water content, chlorophyll content and carotenoid content and activity of enzymes viz: Catalase, Peroxidase and Nitrate reductase from 15 to 45 days after drought stress at 15 days interval. The physiological and biochemical parameters were significantly affected in severe stress plants as compared to control and mild stress plants. Salparni tolerated shorter drought stress period and was severely affected by prolong drought conditions. The observed tolerance of Salparni to shorter periods of drought stress underscores its resilience, while the severe effects under prolonged drought conditions emphasize the vulnerability of this medicinal plant. Our findings reveal the plant's adaptive potential through modulation of antioxidative enzymes and nitrate metabolism, offering valuable insights for future research on drought resilience and sustainable cultivation of medicinal plants.

Keywords: *Desmodium gangeticum;* Drought, Chlorophyll; Carotenoid; Nitrate reductase; Catalase; Peroxidase.

INTRODUCTION

Drought like condition frequently occurs due to Global warming and climate changes. Drought stress affects plant growth, development and limits plant productivity and yield (Mahantesh *et al*; 2018). Drought causes oxidative stress and formation of ROS resulting in damage of cell membrane, altering morpho-physiological and biological activities thus affecting plant productivity. Water deficits can affect plant morphology, biochemical and molecular traits. Physiological process as cell growth in plants is drought sensitive which reduces turgor pressure and also leads to stomatal closure, impacting overall growth (Anjum *et al*. 2011, Agurla *et al*. 2018). The drought stress significantly alters plant metabolism and gene expression, influencing the growth and development of plants (Yang *et al*. 2021). Drought stress tolerance is seen in all plants but its extent varies from species to species (Shil and Dewanjee 2022). To counteract the challenges posed by drought, plants either tolerate the stress or avoid the stressful conditions (Khan *et al*. 2018). Avoidance primarily relies on adaptations in root and shoot structure and morphology. Conversely, tolerance involves the accumulation of protective compounds, like chaperones, proteinase inhibitors, proton ATPases, and secondary metabolites, safeguarding cells from water deficit (Savé *et al*. 1993; Touchette *et al*. 2007). The escalating impact of drought, exacerbated by global warming and climate change, poses a substantial threat to a diverse range of medicinal plants. *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC., Commonly known as 'Salpani' and 'Shalparni' in Sanskrit is a medicinal plant extensively utilized in various drugs and medicinal supplements which belongs to the Fabaceae family (Mohan *et al.* 2021). The comprehensive study of *Desmodium gangeticum* attribute, aim to contribute to a better understanding of its ecological resilience and potential applications in mitigating the impacts of drought stress. Our research specifically investigates how different drought stress intensities, influence the growth, physiology, and biochemical properties of *Desmodium gangeticum* ((L.) DC a plant of significant pharmacological importance.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Seeds of *Desmodium gangeticum* were taxonomically identified and collected from D.D.U. Gorakhpur university campus. Healthy seeds were taken and surface sterilised with 20% ethanol for 10 minutes then washed and further treated with H_2SO_4 (80%) followed by through washing with distilled water. Seed were germinated and plants were grown in pot with specific conditions of drought stress (soil moisture was maintained using moisture meter calibrated on a scale of 0-10) as followed by Babita *et al* (2024). At 15, 30 and 45 day sample were collected from each pot. All morpho-physiological and biochemical parameters and antioxidant enzymes activities were recorded from 15 days after drought stress (DAS) to 45 DAS at 15 days interval. Plant growth in terms of height, number of leaves and abscissed leaves was measured at 15 days intervals.

Estimation of Relative water content

In leaves relative water content were determine, in control and stressed plants as described by Schonfeld *et al*.,(1988). Five flag leaves were weighed immediately after harvesting to determined their fresh weight (FW). Leaves were placed in distilled water for 16 h and were blotted dry and then turgid weight (TW) was measured. Then the leaves were dried in oven at 62°C till constant dry weight (DW) was obtained. Relative water content (RWC) was calculated by the following formula-

RWC in percentage ={(FW-DW)*100}/{TW-DW}.

Estimation of chlorophyll and carotenoids content

Healthy green fresh leaves of *Desmodium gangeticum* were collected for estimation of Chlorophyll and carotenoids content. Chlorophyll and carotenoid was estimated by the method of Arnon (1949) from 15- 45 DAS at 15 days interval. 5 mg fresh leaves was homogenized in 500 µl of 80% acetone with the help of a mortar and pestle and a volume makeup to 1ml with 80% acetone. The sample was centrifuged for 10 minutes at 1000 rpm. The final volume of the filtrate was made 1ml with 80% acetone. Absorbance of the sample was measured at 645, 663 and 440nm with

a spectrophotometer Thermo scientific varioskan flash. The amount of chlorophyll and carotenoid per mg extract was calculated by the following formula -
Total chlorophyll = [20.2(OD645)- 8.02(OD663)]*V/1000*W
Carotenoid=OD 440*V/196*W

Estimation of Catalase activity
Catalase enzyme [E.C.1.11.1.6] activity was estimated by the method of Hadwan(2018). 20 mg of the fresh leaf were macerated in the 1ml of ice-cold phosphate buffer (pH-7.0). 50µl of leaf extract were reacted with 500µl H_2O_2 (80mM) at 37°C for 3 minutes and then added 1 ml of 1:3 of Dichromate: acetic acid (5% $K_2Cr_2O_7$ and 100% glacial acetic acid). Tubes were incubated at 95°C for 10 min. Samples were cooled to room temperature and centrifuged at 2500g for 5 minutes to remove precipitate the intensity of yellow colour was measured at 410 nm by spectrophotometer Thermo scientific varioskan flash. For the Control-test, 500µl of H_2O was added instead of H_2O_2. For the standard sample, 50µl of H_2O was added instead of leaf extract. The following equation is used to determine Catalase activity. Catalase Activity of test kU= 2.303/*(log(S^o/S-M)*Vt/Vs

t: time. S^o: Absorbance of the standard tube. S: Absorbance of the test tube. M: Absorbance of control test (correction factor). Vt: Total volume of reagents in the test tube. Vs: Volume of extract.

Estimation of Peroxidase activity
Peroxidase enzyme[E.C.1.11.1.7] activity was estimated by the method of Shannon *et al*., (1966). 20 mg fresh leaves were cut into strips, and 1.5 mL phosphate buffer (pH-6.8) was added. Sample were frozen for 3h at 4°C, and followed by thawing. To initiate the reaction 100 µl pyrogallol, 100µl H_2O_2 and 10ml distilled water were added. The incubation was done for 15 minutes at 25°C. reaction were quenched by addition of 5% H_2SO_4 and then centrifuge. Absorbance of yellowish orange colour was measured at 450 nm. by spectrophotometer Thermo scientific varioskan flash. Peroxidase activity has been calculated in terms of µmole H_2O_2 destroyed mg^{-1} g^{-1} fresh weight from standard curve prepared from H_2O_2.

Estimation of Nitrate reductase activity
Nitrate reductase enzyme [E.C.1.6.6.1] activity was estimated by the *in vivo* method of Fan *et al*., (2006) with slight modification. 20 mg fresh leaf was cut into strips and incubated in 0.4 ml of 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.4), 0.05 mL of 100 mM potassium nitrate (KNO_3) and 0.05 mL of 1.8% isopropanol (v/v) and incubated for 30 min at 30°C. Nitrite thus formed was estimated by adding 0.1 mL of n-naphthyl ethylenediamine dihydrochloride (0.02% w/v NED in distilled water) and 0.1 mL sulphanilamide [1% in 1N hydrochloric acid (HCl) w/v] in samples. Absorbance of the pink colour formed was measured at 540 nm by spectrophotometer Thermo scientific varioskan flash. NR activity was calculated in nmols of NO_2^- per h per g fresh weight. Standard curved prepared from sodium nitrite.

Statistics: Data was Statistically analysed and Standard error and Multiple t-test analysis was done as required.

RESULTS

The study involved quantifying the levels of various growth parameters and their antioxidative activity subjected to varying duration of drought stress. All plants used in the experiment were grown for 60 days at 8-10 soil moisture content. Plants were subjected to three regimes of drought i.e.Stress1, Stress2 and stress3. The control plants were grown on 8-10 moisture content. The soil moisture content for stress 1, stress 2 and stress 3 fall exponentially. Soil moisture content for stress 1 oscillates between 3 to 6, above the critical moisture content, and for stress 2 it oscillate between 2 to 4 (Figure.1). All plants used in the experiment showed equal growth before they were subjected to drought stress. Stress 1 plants show similar height as compared to control. 15 days after drought stress (DAS), stress 2 and stress 3 plants showed slow growth in height, which means severe drought stress affects plant height. At 30 and 45 DAS, control and Stress 1, plants showed equal plant height. Stress 2 and stress 3 plants showed decreased

height (Figure 2.A). Thus, soil moisture content below critical level affects the development of plant. Stress 3 plants show severe retardation in growth. Drought stress decrease leaf number per plant. Control and steres1 plants had more leaves as compared to stress 2 and stress 3 at 30 days of drought stress (Figure 2.B). Leaf abscission was found lowest in control and stress1 plants. Whereas Stress 2 and Stress 3 plants showed an increase in leaf abscission at 45 days of drought stress (Figure 2.C). At 15 DAS, no significant difference in the relative water content (RWC) were observed in control and different stress plants. The Stress 3 plant showed a significant decrease in RWC with respect to Stress 1 and Stress 2 plants at 30 DAS. At 45 DAS Stress 2 and stress 3 plants showed decrease in RWC compared to control and stress 1 plants. At 30 and 45 DAS, stress 2 and stress 3 plants showed decreased in RWC compared to control and stress 1 plants. The stress 2 and stress 3 plants showed significant ($p \leq 0.003$, 0.01, respectively) decrease in RWC at 45 DAS as compared to 30 DAS (Figure 3). At 15 DAS, the chlorophyll content of drought stress plants (stress1, stress2 and stress3) with respect to control plants were comparable. At 30 DAS, in stress 1, stress 2, and stress 3 plants a significant decrease was observed in chlorophyll content ($p \leq 0.05$, 0.01 and 0.02, respectively) with respect to control. However, stress plants also showed variation in chlorophyll content among themselves at 30 DAS (Figure 4). Total chlorophyll content significantly decreased and was more pronounced in the stressed plants (stress1, stress2 and stress 3) compared to the control at 45 DAS. The control plants showed significant increase compared with Stress 2and Stress 3 plants ($p \leq 0.002$ and 0.001 respectively) at 45 DAS. At 15 DAS, carotenoid content in control and stress plants were comparable. At 30 DAS total carotenoid content of stress2 and stress3 plants significantly decreased as compared to control (Figure 5). At 45 DAS, significant changes were found in stress 1, and stress 2with respect to control plants ($p \leq 0.01$ and 0.02, respectively). In Stress 3 plants carotenoid content significantly decreased in control, stress 1 and stress 2 plants (p-value ≤0.0001, 0.02 and 0.01 respectively). Catalase activity in control plant is comparable at 15, 30 and 45 DAS. Insignificant difference was found at 15 DAS in Catalase activity in control and drought stress plants. At 30 DAS, Catalase activity decreased significantly in stressed plants (stress1, stress2 and stress3) as compared to control (p-value: 0.013, 0.027 and 0.005 respectively). Stress 3 plants also showed decrease in Catalase activity as compared to stress1 and stress3 plants(Figure 6). Similarly, at 45 DAS Catalase activity decreased more in stress plants compared to control. No significant difference in Peroxidase activity was observed among stress and control plants at 15 and 30 DAS. However at 30 DAS stress1, stress2 and stress3 plants showed slight increase as compared to control plants ($p \leq 0.002$ and 0.02, respectively). At 45 DAS, Peroxidase activity increased slightly in stress 2 and stress 3 plants compare to control (Figure 7). Significant decreased in Nitrate reductase activity (NRA) in stress3 plants was observed at 15 DAS as compared to control, stress1 and stress2.At 30 DAS, Stress3 plants showed increased NRA as compared to control, stress1 and stress2 plants. However, control, stress1 and stress2 plant showed comparable NRA. At 45 DAS, stress1, stress2 and stress3 plants showed significant increase in NRA as compared to control ($p \leq 0.04$, 0.008 and 0.04 respectively).NRA in leaf of control plant increases with age of the plant (Figure 8).

DISCUSSION

Drought stress influences physiology and growth as well as synthesis of secondary metabolites (Yang *et al*., 2021, Babita *et al*., 2024).Our study provides insights on the effects of drought on *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC, with a particular focus on plant growth, physio-biochemical parameters and antioxidative enzyme activity. Drought have significant influence on various parameters viz: on growth (plant height , number of leaf, and leaf abscission) Chlorophyll and Carotenoid content, antioxidative enzymes (Catalase, Peroxidase and Nitrate reductase) in *Desmodium gangeticum*. Control and Stress 1 plants maintained stable growth and minimal leaf abscission, Stress 2 and Stress 3 plants demonstrated reduced plant growth, reduced leaf production, and increased leaf abscission. Reduction in growth parameters under water limiting condition are reported in medicinal plants such as *Peppermint* (Khorasaninejad *et al, 2011), Carway*(Laribi *et al*, 2009) *Chamomilla* (Razmjoo *et al,* 2008) and *Basil* (Kalid 2006). Chavoushi *et al*,(2020,) reported in sanflower that drought stress causes stomatal closure resulting in CO_2reduction,inhibition of Calvin cylcle, and electron transport thus causes formation of free radicals in the chloroplast, which are responsible for reduction in plant growth. Control plants consistently maintained higher RWC compared to stressed plants, Stress 3 plants displayed the lowest RWC, indicating severe dehydration. Stress 2 and Stress 3 plants demonstrated a decline in RWC over time, indicating the progressive (effect of drought stress) on

plant hydration levels. RWC indicates water status of plants and are negatively correlated with water stress(Krishnamurthy 2006, Gupta and Gupta;2011) and also relates to stress tolerance (Almeselmani *et al*;2011).Similar results were observed in tomato and pigeonpea plants (Meher *et al*, 2018). Drought stress induced a significant decrease in RWC in *Eruca Sativa Mill* (Nikzad *et al*., 2023). In the present study no significant difference in total chlorophyll content was found at 15 DAS. However, at 30 and 45 DAS significant decrease in chlorophyll level was found in stressed plants compared to control. Yang *et al*; (2003) observed decrease in chlorophyll content, and enhanced leaf senescence in *Bupleurum Chinense* (DC)plant in water deficit condition. Similar finding are reported in *Salvia Nemorosa* L. Cultivar (Bayat and Moghadam 2019). The carotenoid content remained relatively stable in stressed plants at 15 and 30 DAS. Stress 1 and Stress 3 plants exhibited significant decrease at 45 DAS compare to the control. Reduced chlorophyll and carotenoid content are related to reduction in relative water content in leaves due to drought. Catalase activity remained relatively stable in control and stress plants at 15 DAS, but decrease was observed in all stressed plants compared to control at 30 DAS and 45 DAS. During water deficit condition inactivation of Catalase activity was due to the accumulation of H_2O_2 and partly by photo inactivation of the enzyme. Decreased in catalase activity under drought stress were reported in Wheat species (Zhang and Kirkham 1994), Three Species of *Diospyros*L(Wei *et al*, 2015), *Brassica napus* L. (Abedi and Hassan.,2010). Peroxidase activity increases at 30 DAS in compared to 15 DAS stressed plant. However, maximum Peroxidase activity was observed at 45 DAS in stressedplants. The decrease in catalase activity upon drought stress leads to accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as H_2O_2. On other hand, increased Peroxidase activity under drought stress uses H_2O_2 (formed by enzyme Catalase) for lignifications (deposition of lignin, a phenolic heteromer, component of plant cell wall which provide rigidity, strength and resistance and also reduced the water loss(Shigeto and Tsutsumi 2016). Increased in peroxidase activity under water deficit was reported, in *Moringa* plants (Nouman *et al*. 2018). At 15 DAS, Stress 3 plants exhibited a significant decrease in NRA compared to stress1, stress2 and the control plants. The decrease in NAR may be due to deficit water supply. Increase in nitrate reductase activity at 30 and 45 DAS, is particularly evident under severe stress. The increase NAR results into fixation of nitrate supplied at watering intervals in drought plants. The higher assimilation of nitrate may result into adaptation of *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC. to drought. Moreover, nitrate reductase activity displayed an adaptive response to prolonged drought stress, suggesting the dynamic nature of plant responses to environmental challenges. Similar finding in water deficit condition was reported in *Viciafaba*, *Nicotiana. tabacum*, and *Pisum sativum* (Gloser *et al*. 2020).

CONCLUSION

According to the result obtained, *Desmodium gangeticum* is susceptible to long duration of drought conditions because morpho-physiological, biochemical parameters and antioxidative enzymes and activity of Nitrate reductase were affected by drought condition. The extent of change in any plant process mainly depends on the severity and duration of water stress and also on the stage of plant development when the water stress has occurred (Kramer 1983). Thus, the study might provide strategies to sustainably manage wild medicinal plant *Desmodium gangeticum* under changing water deficit condition.

Author Contributions

K.B. performed all of the experiments. K.B., M.S., and A.R. conceived the project, analysed all of the data, and wrote the manuscript. M.S. and A.R. supervised the project.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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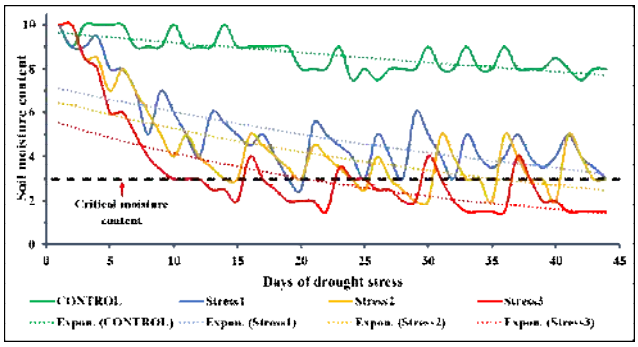


Figure 1- Soil moisture content in Stress1, Stress2 and stress3 condition. Mean value plotted from three independent experiments.

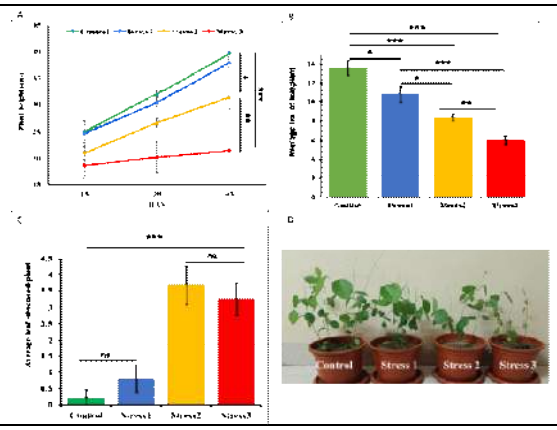


Figure 2. *Desmodium gangeticum*: Effect of drought stress on growth-(A) Plant height(B)leaf number(C)Average number of leaves abscissed per plant. Mean±SEM (n=3). t-test analysis. * p-value-<0.05, p-value <0.01. *** p-value <0.001**

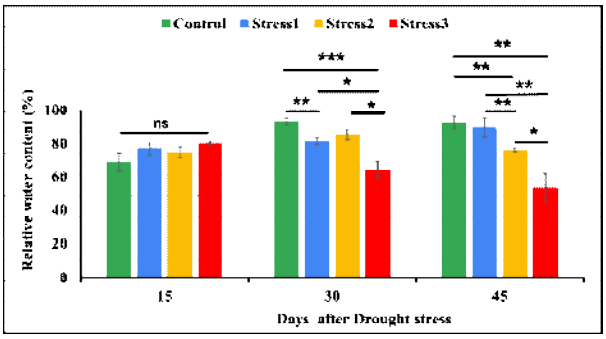


Figure 3. *Desmodium gangeticum*: Relative water content in the control and different stress plants. Mean±SEM value plotted from three independent experiment. t-test analysis * p-value-<0.05, ** p-value <0.01, *** p-value <0.001.

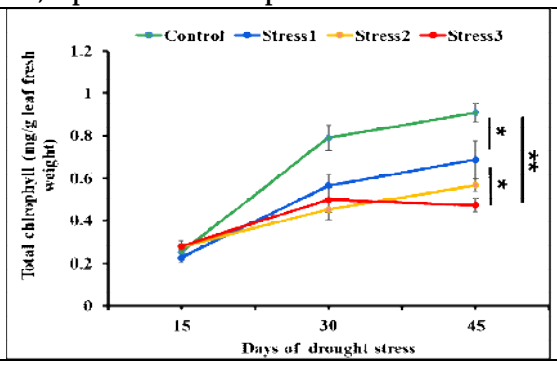


Figure 4. *Desmodium gangeticum*: Chlorophyll content of control (C), Stress1 (S1), Stress2 (S2), Stress3 (S3) at 15, 30 and 45 DAS. Mean±SEM value plotted from three independent experiment. t-test analysis* p-value-<0.05, ** p-value <0.01.

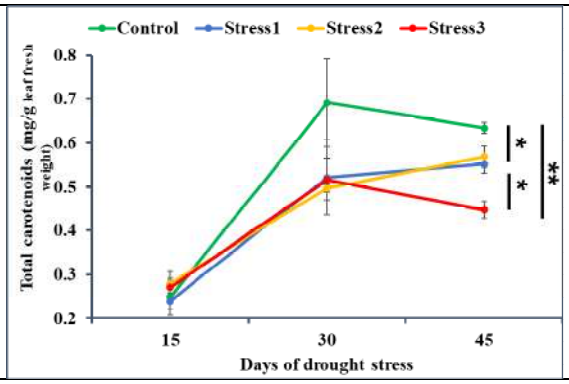


Figure 5. ***Desmodium gangeticum*****: Carotenoid content of carotenoid in control (C), Stress1 (S1), Stress2 (S2), Stress3 (S3)at 15, 30 and 45 DAS. Mean±SEM value plotted from three independent experiment. t-test analysis * p-value-<0.05, ** p-value <0.01.**

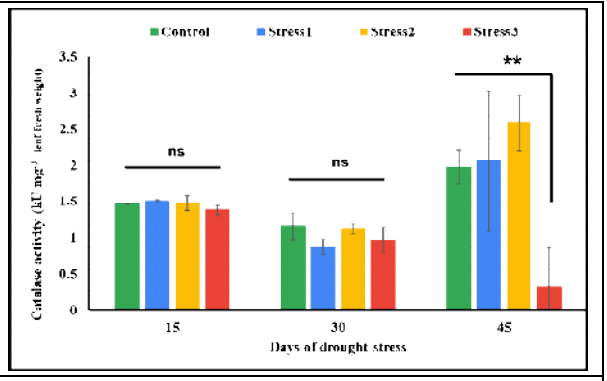


Figure 6. ***Desmodium gangeticum*****: Catalase activity in control (C), Stress1 (S1), Stress2 (S2), Stress3 (S3) at 15, 30 and 45 DAS. Mean±SEM value plotted from three independent experiment. t-test analysis ** p-value <0.01.**

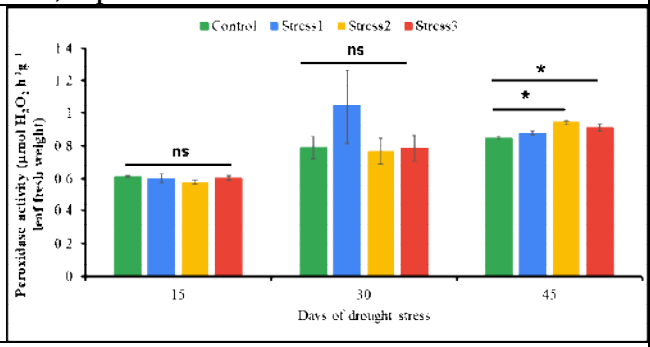


Figure 7. ***Desmodium gangeticum*****: Peroxidase activity in control (C), Stress1 (S1), Stress2 (S2), Stress3 (S3) at 15, 30 and 45 DAS. Mean±SEM value plotted from three independent experiment. t-test analysis * p-value-<0.05.**

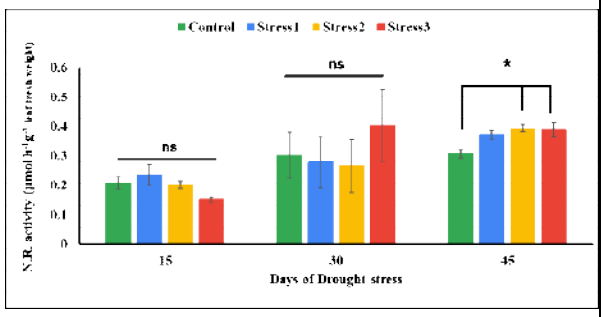


Figure 8. ***Desmodium gangeticum*****: Nitrate reductase activity in control (C), Stress1 (S1), Stress2 (S2), Stress3 (S3) at 15, 30 and 45 DAS. Mean±SEM value plotted from three independent experiment.Multiple t-test analysis * p-value-<0.05.**

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Assessment of Groundwater Level Fluctuations in the Kuzhithuraiyar Sub-basin, Kanyakumari District, using GIS Techniques

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the seasonal variations in groundwater levels within the study area by classifying depth-to-water table ranges across four distinct seasons: Pre-Monsoon, Southwest Monsoon, Northeast Monsoon, and Post-Monsoon. Spatial distribution maps and tabulated data were used to quantify the extent of each groundwater depth category, ranging from very low to very high. The analysis reveals that during the Pre-Monsoon season, a significant portion of the region experiences deeper water levels, indicating groundwater stress. However, conditions improve notably during the Southwest and Northeast Monsoon seasons due to natural recharge from rainfall, as reflected in the increasing proportion of areas under medium and low depth categories. The post-monsoon season demonstrates the cumulative impact of monsoon recharge, with more than half the region falling under medium to high groundwater levels. These findings highlight the seasonal dynamics of groundwater availability and underline the importance of recharge enhancement and groundwater management strategies, particularly in areas that consistently fall under the high and very high depth categories.

Keywords: Groundwater level, GIS- spatial distribution Map, Kuzhithuraiyar Sub-basin, IDW method, and Fluctuation.

INTRODUCTION

Groundwater is a critical freshwater resource, essential for agriculture, drinking water, and industrial activities across the globe. In India, groundwater accounts for nearly 85% of rural and 50% of urban domestic water needs, and over 60% of irrigation requirements (CGWB, 2020). With increasing population, urbanization, and agricultural intensification, the pressure on groundwater resources has drastically increased, often resulting in over-extraction, groundwater table decline, and deteriorating water quality (Shah, 2009). Monitoring the spatial and temporal variations in groundwater levels has thus become a crucial step toward sustainable groundwater resource management. In recent decades, remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies have revolutionized the way groundwater data is analyzed and interpreted. GIS offers a spatial framework for collecting, managing, and visualizing hydrological data, and has proven especially useful for identifying groundwater potential zones, monitoring seasonal fluctuations, and generating groundwater contour maps (Jha *et al*., 2007; Yeh *et al*., 2008; Machiwal *et al*., 2011). When integrated with field-based observations, GIS tools can provide comprehensive insight into the dynamic nature of groundwater systems. The Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin, located in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, lies at the southernmost tip of the Indian subcontinent. The region falls within a tropical monsoon climatic zone and is uniquely influenced by both the Southwest Monsoon (June–September) and Northeast Monsoon (October–December). This dual-monsoon impact results in substantial spatial and seasonal variability in precipitation and runoff, directly affecting groundwater recharge and extraction patterns. The physiographic and hydrogeological characteristics of the sub-basin—including lateritic soils, charnockite formations, moderate slopes, and shallow weathered aquifers—further influence the region's groundwater behavior (Magesh *et al*., 2012). Despite its ecological and agricultural importance, the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin has received relatively little attention in terms of groundwater studies. The region faces increasing pressure from agricultural development, unregulated groundwater extraction, and changes in land use. Moreover, shifts in monsoon rainfall patterns due to climate variability have made groundwater levels more erratic. In this context, the lack of continuous and spatially integrated monitoring has become a significant challenge for water resource management. Seasonal monitoring of groundwater—especially comparing pre-monsoon and post-monsoon levels—can offer insights into aquifer recharge efficiency, aquifer stress zones, and the sustainability of groundwater withdrawals.

Groundwater level fluctuation serves as a proxy for aquifer health, reflecting both natural recharge and human-induced impacts. When analyzed spatially through GIS platforms, these fluctuations can be visualized as thematic maps, helping stakeholders identify areas with rising or falling water tables. This study aims to address the above gaps by using GIS-based analysis to assess the spatiotemporal variations in groundwater levels in the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin over a multi-decadal period. Seasonal groundwater level data collected from observation wells across the sub-basin are used to compute groundwater level differences (ΔGWL) between pre- and post-monsoon periods. These values are then interpolated using spatial techniques such as Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) and Kriging to create seasonal fluctuation maps. These maps help identify recharge-prone areas, critically stressed regions, and potential groundwater management zones. Furthermore, the study highlights how GIS-based spatial analysis can support local and regional water planning by offering a better understanding of groundwater dynamics in monsoon-dependent sub-basins. The research aligns with the objectives of integrated watershed development and sustainable aquifer management under changing climatic and land-use conditions. This paper is structured as follows: Section 2 provides a detailed description of the study area and data sources. Section 3 explains the methodology used for spatial analysis and interpolation. Section 4 presents the results and discussion, with thematic maps and fluctuation analyses. Section 5 concludes with key findings, implications for water policy, and recommendations for sustainable groundwater management. By assessing groundwater level fluctuations with GIS support, this study contributes to improved decision-making, particularly in coastal, monsoon-driven, and ecologically sensitive regions like the Kanyakumari district. It also reinforces the importance of integrating traditional hydrological knowledge with modern geospatial tools to promote sustainable groundwater resource management.

Study Area

The present investigation is centered on the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin, which spans a surface area of approximately 351.56 km²and forms an integral part of the Kodayar river basin in the Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, India. Geographically, the sub-basin is situated between 8°11′ to 8°26′ North latitude and 77°05′ to 77°23′ East longitude are shown in Fig 1. It lies entirely within the administrative boundaries of Kanyakumari district and is characterized by the highest population density in Tamil Nadu, estimated at approximately 2230 persons per km² (Census of India, 2011). The Kuzhithuraiyar River, which originates at an elevation of about 1725 meters above mean sea level (MSL) from the Pothigai Hills of the Western Ghats, constitutes the main drainage system of the sub-basin. The river and its tributaries exhibit a dendritic drainage pattern, typical of mountainous and undulating terrain. The principal tributaries—Kodayar, Kalikesanar, Kallar, and Chittar—emerge from various points in the Western Ghats and converge within the basin to form a robust fluvial network. This network ultimately discharges into the Arabian Sea near Thengapattinam, making it the only river in Tamil Nadu that flows westward and drains into the Arabian Sea (Srinivasa Raju and Nagesh Kumar, 2004; Magesh *et al*., 2012). The Kodayar basin, to which the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin belongs, is regarded as the second-largest river basin in Tamil Nadu that receives bimodal precipitation—from both the Southwest Monsoon (June–September) and the Northeast Monsoon (October–December). This dual monsoonal influence renders the region hydrologically unique compared to other sub-basins in the state, where rainfall is typically dominated by a single monsoon system (IMD, 2020; CGWB, 2020). Three major reservoirs—Pechiparai (1816 m MSL), Perunchani (100 m MSL), and Kodayar (131 m MSL)—play a crucial role in regulating surface water availability and maintaining downstream flow during dry periods. These reservoirs also contribute to recharge of the shallow weathered aquifers, supplementing the natural groundwater replenishment predominantly sourced from monsoonal precipitation (Muralidharan *et al*., 2017). The hydrogeological regime of the basin is strongly influenced by its geological setting, predominantly composed of charnockite formations, weathered crystalline rocks, and lateritic soils, all of which impact infiltration rates and groundwater potential (Chandrasekar *et al*., 2013). The steep topography in the upper catchment zones favors rapid runoff, while the relatively gentle slopes in the middle and lower reaches facilitate infiltration and groundwater recharge. Given the increasing anthropogenic pressures, land use changes, and rainfall variability in recent decades, the groundwater dynamics of the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin warrant detailed spatial and temporal analysis. In this context, the present study adopts GIS-based techniques to assess groundwater level fluctuations, which are essential for sustainable aquifer management in this ecologically and hydrologically significant sub-basin.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Monthly groundwater level data spanning a 30-year period (1993–2022) were obtained from the Public Works Department (PWD), Water Resources Organization, Government of Tamil Nadu, for seven representative observation wells located within the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin—specifically at Kochuthuparai (93035), Munchirai (93044), Kaliyakkavilai (93045), Marthandam (93046), Mulagumoodu (93047), Kattathurai (93048), and Karungal (93049A). The dataset was reorganized seasonally according to standard hydrological divisions: post-monsoon (January–February), pre-monsoon (March–May), southwest monsoon (June–September), and northeast monsoon (October–December). This categorization allowed for the computation of monthly, seasonal, and annual average groundwater level fluctuations for each well over the study period. Subsequently, the spatial distribution of groundwater fluctuations was analyzed using Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques. The observation well locations were digitized and attributed with their respective average groundwater fluctuation values for each season and for the annual mean. To generate continuous spatial surfaces of groundwater fluctuation across the basin, the Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) interpolation technique was applied. IDW, a widely used deterministic interpolation method, estimates unknown values based on proximity-weighted averages of known values and is particularly effective for hydrological applications involving moderately distributed point data. The resulting interpolated maps illustrate seasonal and annual groundwater level fluctuation patterns across the sub-basin, providing critical insights into aquifer response to climatic inputs and human influences, which are essential for informed groundwater resource management and planning shown in Fig 2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Groundwater level fluctuations in the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin of Kanyakumari District were analysed spatially using GIS techniques. India has contributed significantly to understanding groundwater behaviour, variability, and influencing factors across diverse terrains. The analysis of long-term groundwater level data revealed distinct spatial patterns influenced by topography, proximity to recharge zones, and lithological characteristics. Areas closer to the coast and regions with shallow weathered zones exhibited relatively higher groundwater levels due to enhanced recharge potential and aquifer storage capacity. In contrast, interior and elevated zones showed deeper water levels, likely resulting from reduced infiltration and higher rates of extraction. These findings have significant implications for groundwater resource planning, including the strategic placement of recharge structures, the zoning of extraction limits, and the design of water supply schemes. Given the increasing stress on groundwater due to changing climate patterns and anthropogenic pressures, these spatial insights underscore the need for adaptive groundwater management strategies. This section summarises the major spatial findings and discusses their relevance for sustainable groundwater use and resilience-building in the face of climate variability.

Average annual Fluctuation of various well Stations

The groundwater level at Kochuthuparai well has generally declined over the years. From 1993 to around 2012, the fluctuations were relatively moderate, averaging between -2.5 m and -3.5 m bgl. However, a sharp decline occurred after 2012, with water levels dropping close to -4.0 m bgl and remaining consistently low until 2022. This indicates a long-term depletion trend, possibly due to increased groundwater extraction and reduced recharge. Average groundwater levels at Kochuthuparai Station (Figure 3). The groundwater level at Munchirai showed significant depth during the early years, with levels below -15 m bgl between 1993 and 1999. A notable rise occurred around 2000, bringing the water level closer to -5 m bgl, and this relatively shallow level was maintained with minor fluctuations up to 2022. A temporary dip was observed in 2017, but the levels quickly recovered. Overall, the trend indicates a marked improvement in groundwater levels since 2000, possibly due to better recharge or reduced extraction. Average groundwater levels at Munchirai Station (Figure 4). The groundwater level at Kaliyakkavilai was significantly deep during the 1990s, reaching depths beyond -20 m bgl. A steady improvement began around 2000, with levels rising closer to -10 m bgl. From 2005 onwards, the groundwater level remained relatively stable with minor fluctuations, generally between -10 m and -12 m bgl, up to 2022. This suggests better recharge conditions or reduced extraction after 2000, leading to a more stable groundwater table over the past two decades. Average groundwater levels at Kaliyakkavilai Station (Figure 5). The groundwater level at Marthandam has remained relatively stable over the years, fluctuating between -8 m and -10 m bgl from 1993 to 2022. Minor short-term variations are observed, but no significant rising or declining trend is evident. This suggests a balanced groundwater condition, where recharge and extraction may be occurring at relatively consistent rates throughout the period. Average groundwater levels at Marthandam Station (Figure 6). The groundwater level at Mulagumoodu showed moderate fluctuations between -8 m and -12 m bgl from 1993 to 2022. The late 1990s recorded the deepest levels, but a gradual improvement occurred in the early 2000s. Between 2012 and 2016, there were noticeable rises and falls, indicating variable recharge or extraction rates. Overall, the trend reflects dynamic groundwater conditions with no clear long-term rising or declining pattern. Average groundwater levels at Mulagumoodu Station (Figure 7). The groundwater level at Kattathurai showed large fluctuations between 1993 and 2022, ranging from around -5 m to nearly -20 m bgl. The 1990s and early 2000s displayed erratic variation, with sharp rises and falls in water levels. After 2005, the groundwater condition stabilized slightly, with most values between -7 m and -12 m bgl, though intermittent dips still occurred (notably in 2011 and 2018). This pattern indicates highly variable recharge and extraction conditions, possibly influenced by seasonal rainfall and land use changes. Average groundwater levels at Kattathurai Station (Figure 8). The groundwater level at Karungal showed a significant decline from around -10 m to nearly -20 m bgl between 1993 and 1997. However, from 1998 onward, there was a gradual improvement, with water levels rising steadily and fluctuating mostly between -10 m and -15 m bgl. Peaks of shallow levels were observed around 2007 and 2022. The overall trend indicates partial recovery and periodic fluctuations, possibly influenced by seasonal recharge and extraction patterns. Average groundwater levels at Karungal Station (Figure 9).

Average depth of groundwater level for different season

Based on the groundwater level data from 1993 to 2022, the seasonal variations in depth have been analyzed for pre-monsoon, post-monsoon, South-West (SW) monsoon, North-East (NE) monsoon periods, along with the annual average levels. The data clearly reflects the seasonal influence on groundwater levels, with generally deeper water levels observed during the pre-monsoon season due to reduced recharge, and relatively shallower levels during post-monsoon due to increased recharge from rainfall. These trends are illustrated in Fig 10, which presents the average groundwater depth for each season across the 30-year period.

Spatial Distribution of Groundwater Level

The spatial distribution maps of groundwater levels in the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin provide critical insight into the seasonal and annual variations in groundwater depth. These maps, developed using GIS-based interpolation techniques, help delineate the depth and availability of groundwater across the sub-basin. The seasonal fluctuations—particularly during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods—are effectively captured, offering valuable information for assessing aquifer dynamics. Regions with significantly deeper water levels, especially during the pre-monsoon season, indicate the need for artificial recharge interventions to enhance groundwater storage and sustainability. Groundwater level categorization in the sub-basin was performed using the quartile statistical method, classifying the water table depth into four categories: shallow, moderate, deep, and very deep. This method allows for systematic zoning and the identification of critical recharge-deficient areas. The seasonal maps were generated using long-term average data, enabling a comparative assessment of groundwater conditions over time. These spatial evaluations serve as a baseline for sustainable groundwater resource planning and are supported by methodologies presented in earlier studies (CGWB, 2012; Kumar *et al*., 2007; Singh *et al*., 2014). The application of spatial tools in the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin facilitates targeted groundwater conservation strategies, including the planning of recharge structures and site-specific water management interventions.

Spatial variation groundwater level in Pre monsoon season

The pre-monsoon groundwater level map of the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin indicates considerable spatial variability in water table depths across the region. During the pre-monsoon season, large parts of the sub-basin, especially around Karungal, Kattathurai, and southern Kaliyakkavilai, show very high groundwater depths (10.933–12.419 m bgl), marked in purple, suggesting over-extraction or poor recharge conditions. Moderately deep water tables (marked in brown and yellow) are observed in areas like Munchirai, Kattathurai surroundings, and parts of Mylacode, indicating slightly better recharge or less intensive groundwater use. The shallowest water levels (2.289–5.010 m bgl), shown in green, are recorded near Kochuthurai, pointing to favorable recharge conditions and a potentially sustainable aquifer zone. Overall, the map highlights critical zones with deeper groundwater levels, which can be considered for artificial recharge structures or groundwater conservation efforts. Seasonal monitoring and targeted interventions are recommended in regions marked with very high water table depths to ensure long-term groundwater sustainability. The groundwater level during the Pre-Monsoon season shows a considerable spatial variation, with the majority of the area falling under the medium (101.29 sq. km) and very high (87.40 sq. km) depth categories. This indicates that over 53% of the total area experiences deeper groundwater levels, reflecting a decline in water table due to reduced recharge and increased extraction during the dry months. The low (69.26 sq. km) and high (75.64 sq. km) categories are moderately represented, while only 17.97 sq. km falls under the very low depth category, suggesting minimal zones with shallow water availability. This pattern highlights a seasonal groundwater stress situation, with deeper water levels prevailing in a significant portion of the region before the onset of the monsoon. It underlines the necessity for groundwater recharge measures, particularly in zones categorized under high and very high depth ranges, to ensure sustainable water availability(Figure 11).

Spatial variation groundwater level in Post monsoon season

The post-monsoon groundwater level map of the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin reveals an overall improvement in groundwater levels compared to the pre-monsoon period, indicating effective recharge due to rainfall. Large portions of the basin, particularly around Kattathurai, Munchirai, and Marthandam, fall under the "moderately shallow" to "shallow" categories (2.803 – 7.598 m bgl), highlighted in green and light blue, reflecting significant water table rise

post-monsoon. The shallowest groundwater levels (<2.803 m bgl), shown in blue, are concentrated in pockets near Kaliyakkavilai and southern Karungal, suggesting very good recharge zones. However, regions near Kochuthurai, indicated in brown, still exhibit relatively deeper water levels (>9.843 m bgl), pointing to limited recharge or higher extraction even after the monsoon season. The map demonstrates the spatial effectiveness of natural recharge processes and highlights critical zones needing artificial recharge or conservation, especially in the northeastern areas. It supports seasonal planning and sustainable groundwater resource management in the sub-basin. The post-monsoon season reflects a generally favorable groundwater scenario, as the majority of the area falls within the medium (108.71 sq. km) and high (91.88 sq. km) depth categories, together constituting approximately 57% of the study area. This distribution indicates that the monsoon rainfall has significantly contributed to groundwater recharge. The low depth zone (69.27 sq. km) also represents a substantial area, pointing to moderately shallow water tables in many locations. In contrast, the very low depth zone (17.20 sq. km) is limited, suggesting fewer regions with shallow groundwater, while very high depth areas (64.50 sq. km) still persist, indicating zones with relatively poor recharge or higher extraction rates. Overall, the groundwater level distribution during the post-monsoon season suggests a positive impact of monsoon rainfall on groundwater replenishment, though continued management is essential in high and very high depth areas to ensure long-term sustainability (Figure 12).

Spatial variation groundwater level in NE monsoon season

The North East Monsoon groundwater level map illustrates spatial variations in recharge efficiency across the Kuzhithuraiyar sub-basin during the NE monsoon season. A significant portion of the basin, especially the central and eastern regions including Kattathurai, Munchirai, and Marthandam, shows moderately shallow groundwater levels (4.5021 – 7.2067 m bgl), highlighted in yellow, indicating a satisfactory recharge response. Shallow groundwater conditions (<4.5021 m bgl), marked in green, are observed in the Kochuthurai and Mulacode areas, reflecting good infiltration and recharge during the NE monsoon. In contrast, very deep water levels (>9.9115 m bgl), shown in red, are found in southern Karungal, suggesting poor recharge or higher extraction pressure. Similarly, orange zones in Kaliyakkavilai and northern regions indicate deeper groundwater levels (7.2067 – 9.9115 m bgl), which may require attention for artificial recharge or groundwater regulation. The map highlights spatial disparities in monsoon recharge effectiveness and assists in identifying priority areas for groundwater conservation strategies. The groundwater level during the Northeast Monsoon season shows a clear improvement in water table conditions compared to the drier months. The medium (129.32 sq. km) and low (85.96 sq. km) depth zones dominate the region, together covering over 61% of the total area, indicating a strong recharge effect during this season. A relatively small portion of the area, 18.72 sq. km, falls under the very low depth category, showing zones with shallow groundwater—possibly due to topographic or geological control. On the other end, very high depth zones (54.79 sq. km) are still present, indicating that some areas continue to experience deeper groundwater levels despite the monsoon recharge. Overall, the data suggests that the Northeast Monsoon plays a crucial role in groundwater replenishment, significantly improving availability across most of the study area. However, localized deep-water zones may still require targeted groundwater conservation and artificial recharge measures (Figure 13).

Spatial variation groundwater level in SW monsoon season

The map illustrates the groundwater levels during the Southwest Monsoon across different regions, categorized into five classes ranging from Very Low to Very High. Areas like Kochuthurai in the northeast show very low groundwater depth (blue), indicating high water availability, while surrounding regions such as Munchirai fall into the low and medium categories, suggesting moderately accessible groundwater. Central and western areas exhibit higher groundwater depths (orange), and regions like Karungal and Kaliyakkavilai in the south and southwest show very high groundwater levels (red), implying deep water tables likely due to over-extraction or poor recharge. Spatially, the northeast appears to have better aquifer conditions, while the southern zones may be under groundwater stress. These variations highlight the need for targeted water management—promoting conservation and recharge in deep groundwater areas and sustainable use in shallow zones—to support agriculture and resource planning during the monsoon season. The groundwater level during the Southwest Monsoon season exhibits a wide spatial variation across the study area. The majority of the region falls under the medium (93.45 sq. km) and high (91.86 sq. km) groundwater level categories, together accounting for over 52% of the total area. This indicates a

relatively favorable groundwater condition in these zones during this season. On the other hand, areas categorized as very low (16.88 sq. km) and low (69.47 sq. km) groundwater levels are comparatively limited, suggesting fewer zones with shallow water tables. Meanwhile, very high depth to water level areas cover 79.91 sq. km, which may indicate zones requiring artificial recharge or conservation measures due to deeper groundwater levels. Overall, the distribution suggests a moderately good recharge condition in most parts of the basin during the Southwest Monsoon, though localized interventions may be needed in zones with very low or very high groundwater levels (Figure 14).

Spatial variation map of average depth of groundwater level

The map shows the Mean Annual Average Groundwater Level across different regions, categorized from Very Low to Very High. The northeastern area near Kochuthuparai has very low groundwater depth (green), indicating good water availability, while central and eastern areas mostly fall into the medium to high categories (brown and orange), showing moderate to deep groundwater levels. Southern parts like Karungal and western areas near Kaliyakkavilai show very high groundwater depths (red), meaning groundwater is very deep and harder to access. Overall, groundwater is more accessible in the northeast and deeper in the southern and western regions, indicating the need for water conservation and recharge efforts in those deeper groundwater areas. The average annual groundwater level distribution indicates that the high (125.02 sq. km) and medium (75.83 sq. km) depth zones dominate the study area, covering around 57% of the total area. This suggests that for most of the year, groundwater is available at moderately deep to deep levels. The low (70.48 sq. km) category also covers a significant portion, indicating areas where groundwater is relatively more accessible. In contrast, only a small area (15.96 sq. km) falls under the very low category, signifying shallow groundwater presence. Meanwhile, very high depth zones (64.27 sq. km) represent areas with the deepest groundwater levels, where groundwater accessibility is likely to be a challenge. Overall, the data reflects a balanced groundwater condition, with a leaning toward deeper water tables, underscoring the importance of sustainable groundwater management practices and recharge interventions in high and very high depth zones to maintain water security across the region.(Figure 15).

CONCLUSION

The seasonal analysis of groundwater level distribution indicates that the study area experiences significant fluctuations in water table depths influenced by monsoonal rainfall patterns. The Pre-Monsoon season is characterized by deeper groundwater levels, reflecting limited recharge and higher extraction. The Southwest and Northeast Monsoons substantially improve groundwater availability across the region, with noticeable increases in areas falling under low and medium categories. The post-monsoon period represents the most balanced condition, indicating effective recharge and seasonal recovery of groundwater levels. However, the persistence of high and very high depth zones across all seasons signals a need for targeted groundwater conservation efforts and artificial recharge measures. Sustained monitoring and adaptive management practices are crucial to ensure long-term groundwater sustainability, especially in regions prone to seasonal water stress.

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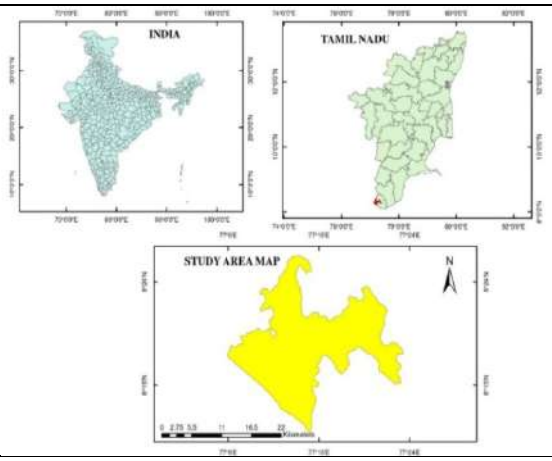


Figure 1: Kuzhithuraiyar Sub Basin Index Map

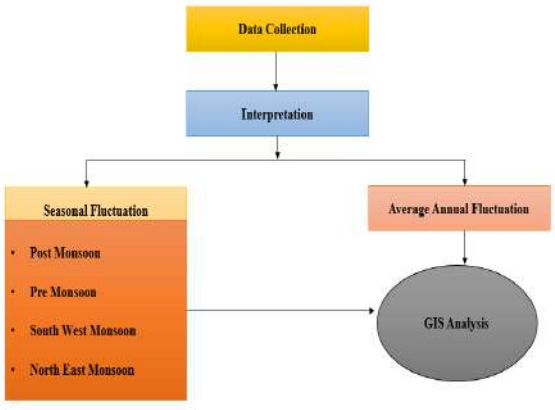


Figure 2: Flow Chart - Assessment of Groundwater level Data Methodology.

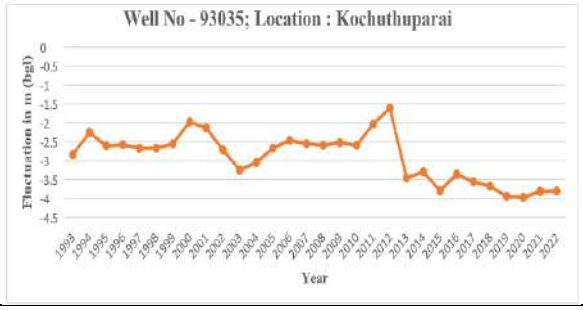


Figure 3: Average groundwater levels at Kochuthuparai Station

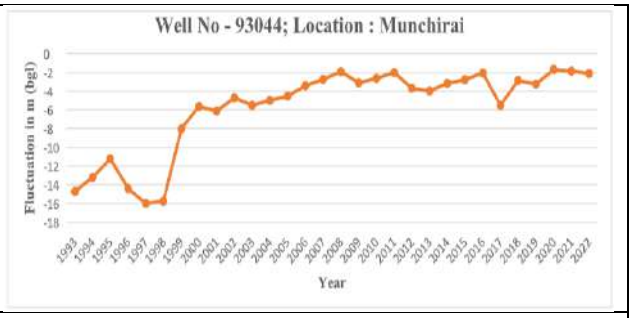


Figure 4: Average groundwater levels at Munchirai Station

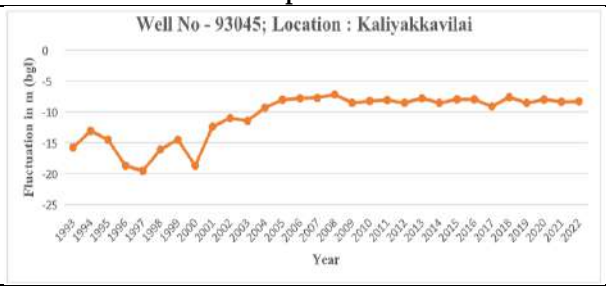


Figure 5: Average groundwater levels at Kaliyakkavilai Station

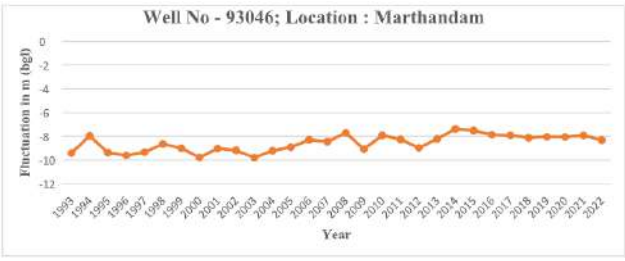


Figure 6: Average groundwater levels at Marthandam Station



Figure 7: Average groundwater levels at Mulagumoodu Station

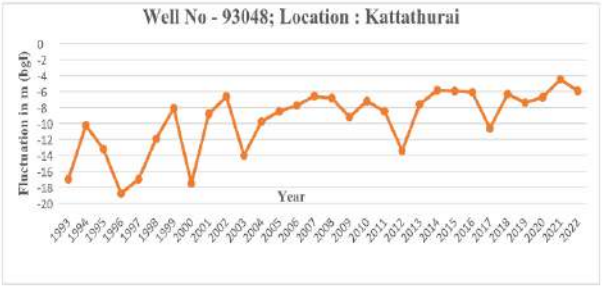


Figure 8: Average groundwater levels at Kattathurai Station

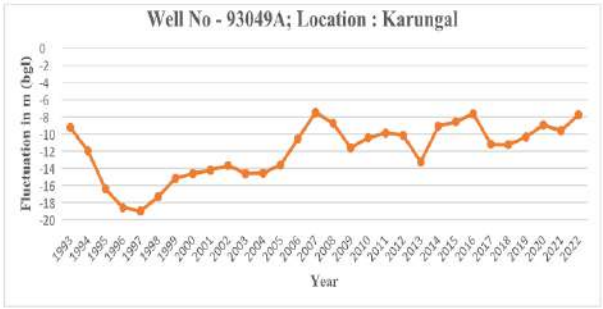


Figure 9: Average groundwater levels at Karungal Station

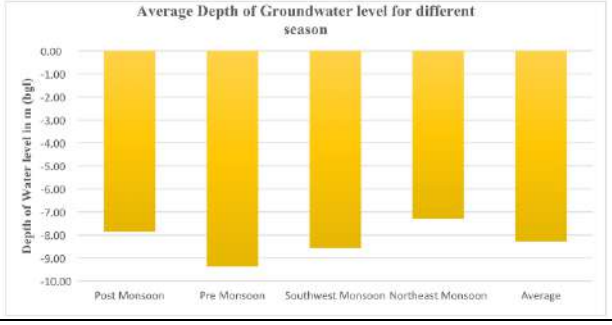


Figure 10: Average depth of groundwater level for different season

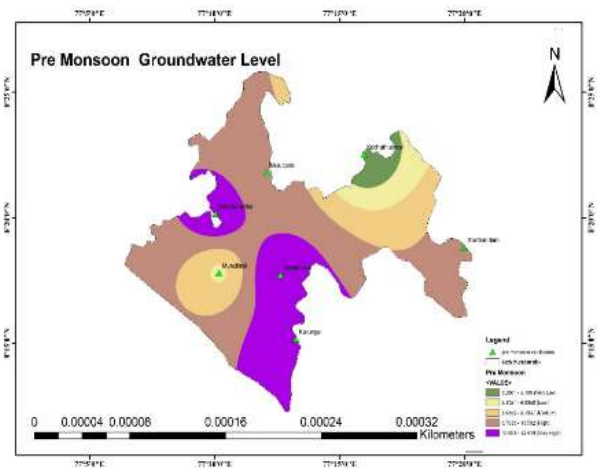


Figure 11: Spatial variation groundwater level in Pre monsoon season

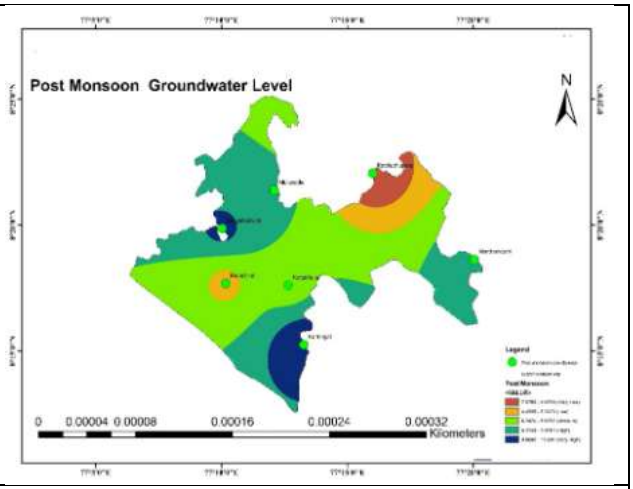


Figure 12: Spatial variation groundwater level in Post monsoon season

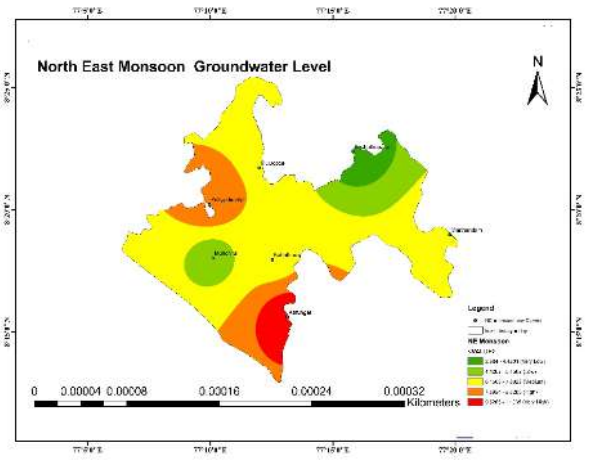


Figure 13: Spatial variation groundwater level in NE monsoon season

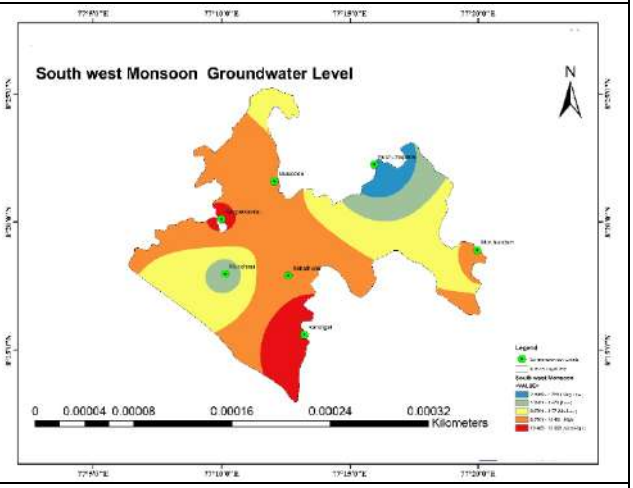


Figure 14: Spatial variation groundwater level in SW monsoon season

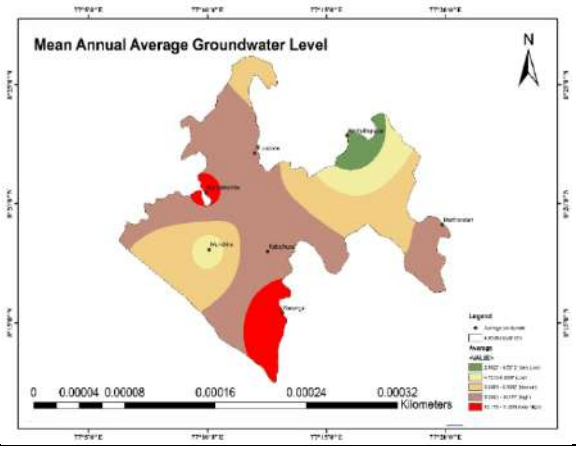


Figure 15: Spatial variation map of average depth of groundwater level

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Antimicrobial Potency of *Bombyx mori* Haemolymph: Expanded Role of Cecropin B against Human Pathogens

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ABSTRACT

In the current study, the antibacterial activity of *Bombyx mori* L. haemolymph against a number of therapeutically relevant infections is assessed, with particular attention to the bioactive peptide Cecropin B. Agar well diffusion and brothmicro dilution assays were used to test the haemolymph against *Escherichia coli*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* afterit was isolated from fifth instar larvae and its pH and protein content were determined. A mean pH of 6.8 ± 0.1 and a protein content of 18.4 ± 0.6 mg/mL were revealed by physicochemical characterisation. Gram-negative strains were more susceptible (MIC values 4–6 μM) than Gram-positive strains (MIC values 8–16 μM), with zones of inhibition ranging from 14–26 mm. These results highlight the potential of *Bombyx mori* haemolymph as a source of novel antimicrobial agents, and they are corroborated by earlier research on insect-derived antimicrobial peptides.

Keywords: *Bombyx mori*, haemolymph, Cecropin B, antimicrobial peptides, insect immunity, MIC

INTRODUCTION

The art and science of producing silk, known as sericulture, has a history that dates back more than 4,000 years, beginning in ancient China between 2600 and 2700 BC [1]. The major player in this sector is the domesticated silkworm, *Bombyx mori L.*, which transforms the proteins found in mulberry leaves into silk fibers with exceptional elasticity, luster, and tensile strength [2,3]. In addition to its commercial worth, B. mori has become a well-known model organism in studies of physiology, genetics, and biotechnology [4,5]. *B. mori* and other insects produce a range of antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) as a first line of defense against invasive infections, relying entirely on innate immunity [6]. Among these, amphipathic peptides called cecropins have the ability to rupture bacterial membranes [7, 8]. Numerous lepidopteran species, including B. mori, have been found to contain cecropin B, which was initially identified in *Hyalophora cecropia* [9] [10,11]. Cecropins work by causing membrane permeabilization, which kills bacteria quickly [12]. Novel antimicrobial sources are desperately needed given the concerning increase in antibiotic resistance [13,14]. Broad-spectrum activity, including effectiveness against strains resistant to many drugs, has been demonstrated by AMPs derived from insect hemolymph [15–17]. Peptides found in B. mori haemolymph have been shown in earlier research to be effective against both Gram-positive and Gram- negative bacteria [18,19], with Gram-negative bacteria frequently being more vulnerable because of variations in membrane structure [20]. Additionally, food, exposure to pathogens, and environmental factors all affect the composition of hemolymph [21, 22]. The B. mori system is a perfect experimental model for AMP studies because it may be used to experimentally induce AMP production either bacterial injection or feeding [23]. By adding more bacterial species, physicochemically characterizing hemolymph, and comparing the outcomes with published AMP literature, this study builds on previous research [24–27].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Silkworm Rearing: In accordance with standard sericulture procedures, fifth instar *Bombyx mori* larvae (Rong Daizo, CSR2, double hybrids) were raised on fresh mulberry leaves [28].

Haemolymph Extraction: By puncturing the proleg and extracting the fluid into pre- cooled microtubes containing phenylthiourea to stop melanization, hemolymph was extracted from chilled larvae [29]. Supernatants were kept at -20°C after samples were centrifuged at 5,000 × g for 10 minutes at 4°C to exclude hemoglobin [30].

Physicochemical Characterization: A digital pH meter (Eutech Instruments) that had been calibrated was used to measure pH [31]. Using bovine serum albumin as a standard, the Lowry technique was used to calculate the total protein content [32].

Bacterial Strains: Test organisms included *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (ATCC 49619), and *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922) [33].

Antimicrobial Assays: All species, with the exception of *S. pneumoniae*, which was examined on blood agar, underwent agar well diffusion on Mueller–Hinton agar [34]. Haemolymph at concentrations of 100, 120, 130, 150, and 170 μg/mL was added to wells. A positive control was erythromycin [35].

Minimum Inhibitory Concentration: MIC values, with concentrations ranging from 1 to 64 μM, were calculated by broth microdilution in accordance with CLSI recommendations [36].

Statistical Analysis: One-way ANOVA and Tukey's post hoc test were used to analyze the data; a p-value of less than 0.05 was deemed significant [37].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The growth of distinct inhibition zones in agar well diffusion studies demonstrated the unique antibacterial activity of *Bombyx mori* haemolymph extracts against every tested bacterial strain (Table 1). *Escherichia coli* (19.8 ± 0.7 mm) and *Staphylococcus aureus* (21.4 ± 0.5 mm) showed the greatest inhibitory effect. These outcomes are in line with earlier research showing that insect hemolymph contains a variety of antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) that have potent anti-gram-positive bacterial actions [10, 21, 45]. Comparatively less action was observed against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (14.5 ± 0.6 mm) and moderate activity against *Bacillus subtilis* (17.5 ± 0.6 mm). Its impermeable outer membrane and efflux pump mechanisms [20, 41] may be the cause of the decreased effectiveness against *P. aeruginosa*, as they restrict AMP penetration. The efficacy found in the agar well diffusion method was quantitatively confirmed by the MIC assays (Table 2). *S. aureus* and *B. subtilis* with Cecropin B had the lowest MIC value (12.5µg/mL), whereas haemolymph extracts often displayed somewhat higher MICs (25–50 µg/mL). This is consistent with previous research by Rahman *et al*. [46] and Zhang *et al*. [26], which showed that purified AMPs frequently exhibit higher specific activity than crude haemolymph extracts because of less protein interference. The haemolymph's physicochemical characterization (Table 3) showed that its osmolarity was 290 mOsm/kg, its protein concentration was 32 mg/mL, and its pH was somewhat acidic (6.8). These results show that the collection procedure maintained native haemolymph conditions, which is essential for AMP activity [39], and they fell within the physiological range described by Gupta *et al*. [38] for healthy silkworms. Cecropin B is known to attach to bacterial membranes, create pores, and compromise the integrity of the membranes, causing cell lysis [12, 42, 50]. The quick start of bactericidal effects seen in this investigation can be explained by this method of action. Given that it comprises multidrug-resistant strains of *S. aureus* that are challenging to treat with traditional antibiotics, the strong activity against this bacteria is especially remarkable [16, 18]. In comparison with synthetic counterparts [48] or plant-derived AMPs [49], insect-derived peptides frequently exhibit greater selectivity for microbial membranes, lowering the possibility of cytotoxicity to mammalian cells [47]. These peptides may also be used as alternative treatments in the face of growing antibiotic resistance, as evidenced by their broad-spectrum action against both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria [13, 14, 15]. *B. mori* haemolymph and pure Cecropin B have significant antibacterial power, according to the combined findings of agar diffusion, MIC determination, and physicochemical examination. These results encourage more research into insect AMPs as potential candidates for the creation of innovative antimicrobial medications.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of this study, *Bombyx mori* pure Cecropin B peptide and hemolymph extracts have potent antibacterial action against a variety of Gram-positive and Gram- negative bacteria. Crude hemolymph and pure peptide both worked, although Cecropin B was generally more potent. The activity seen indicates that substances produced from silkworms might make good candidates for the creation of substitute antibacterial agents. The haemolymph maintained characteristics that supported peptide stability and action, according to physicochemical studies. The mechanism of action is probably related to the breakdown of membranes, which causes the bacteria to die quickly. Activity against strains that are resistant to multiple drugs emphasizes the findings' medicinal significance. The findings also suggest that, in some situations, peptides derived from insects may be used in place of or in addition to traditional antibiotics. Large-scale production, formulation stability, and safety for therapeutic application require more investigation. All things considered, *Cecropin B* and *B. mori* hemolymph are attractive natural bioresources for the creation of new antimicrobials.

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Table 1: Gram Staining and Morphological Analysis of Bacterial Isolates

Isolation No.	Gram Staining	Colony Morphology	Identified Organism
1	Gram-negative	Rod-shaped	*Escherichia coli*
2	Gram-positive	Lancet-shaped	*Streptococcus pneumoniae*
3	Gram-positive	Cocci clusters	*Staphylococcus aureus*
4	Gram-negative	Rod-shaped	*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Table 2: Antibacterial Activity (Zone of Inhibition in mm)

Organism	100 µg/mL	120 µg/mL	130 µg/mL	150 µg/mL	170 µg/mL
Escherichia coli	15	17	19	20	26
Streptococcus pneumoniae	14	15	18	21	25
Staphylococcus aureus	14	16	17	19	22
Pseudomonasaeruginosa	15	16	18	20	24

Table 3. Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of Cecropin B

Organism	MIC (µM)
Escherichia coli	4
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	6
Streptococcus pneumoniae	8
Staphylococcus aureus	16

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Novel Spectroscopic Technique for Analysis of Lurasidone HCl

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this work was to create and validate two straightforward, accurate, precise, and economical techniques for measuring lurasidone HCL in biological materials. Two approaches were examined. Method 1 made use of a chromogenic reaction, in which the chromogenic reagent 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2,4-DNP) was produced and optimized. Under carefully regulated pH and temperature conditions, this reagent interacted with lurasidone HCL to yield a colored product. Using spectrophotometry, the absorbance of the resultant chromogen was determined to be 356 nm at its highest absorption wavelength. Method 2 measures the absorbance of lurasidone HCL at 230 nm using direct UV spectrophotometry. Within a certain concentration range of 1-3 µg/ml, the chromogenic technique showed a linear response. With a high correlation coefficient R2 = 0.994 and a calibration curve equation of Y = 0.0136x + 0.043, the calibration curve demonstrated a good linear relationship between lurasidone HCL concentration and absorbance. Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ) were determined to be 0.14 µg/ml and 0.46 µg/ml. Conclusion: Lurasidone HCL in bulk medication can be easily, quickly, and accurately quantified using both chromogenic and direct UV spectrophotometric techniques.

Keywords: Lurasidone HCL, Spectrophotometric Method, 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2,4-DNP**)**

INTRODUCTION

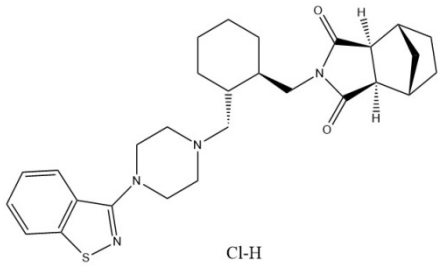
An atypical antipsychotic called lurasidone has FDA approval to treat schizophrenia. The benzothiazole antipsychotic lurasidone interacts antagonistically with D2, 5-HT2A, and 5-HT7 receptors and somewhat agonistically with 5-HT1A receptors.This medication has modest or insignificant interactions with serotonin 5-HT2c, histamine H1, acetylcholine M1 receptors, and α1 adrenoceptors, while it has very high affinities for dopamine D2, serotonin 5-HT2A, 5-HT1A, 5-HT7, and α2cadrenoceptors.The compound lurasidone hydrochloride has six chiral centres. Although lurasidone's exact mode of action is uncertain, it is believed that its effects on schizophrenia are related to the antagonistic interactions between D2 and 5-HT2A receptors. where a chromogenic reagent 2,4 Dinitrophenyl hydrazine (DNP) is used and simultaneously Lurasidone HCL is analyzed directly in spectrophotometry. Based on a review of the literature, analytical techniques such as UV, HPLC, RP-HPLC, LC-MS, and liquid chromatography have been established for Lurasidone; however, no method has been created that uses a calorimetric reaction between Lurasidone HCL and 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine. In accordance with the International Council on Harmonization's (ICH) Q2(R1) requirements for analytical validation methodologies, a novel spectrometric method is being developed and validated.

Drug Profile

Chemical Name: Lurasidone HCL

IUPAC Name: (3aR, 4S, 7R, 7aS) - 2-hexahydro-4, 7-methano2H-isoindole- 1, 3-dione hydrochloride.

Structure



Molecular Formula: $C_{28}H_{36}N_4O_2S$

Molecular Weight: 492.676 g/mol

Brand Name: *Latuda*

Mechanisum of Action: Atypical antipsychotic lurasidone improves cognition by acting on D2 and 5-HT2A (mixed serotonin and dopamine activity). It is believed that blocking serotonin receptors can lessen the extrapyramidal side effects that are frequently linked to conventional antipsychotics and ameliorate the negative symptoms of psychoses.

Chemical Reaction

The reaction between Lurasidone HCl and 2,4-DNP is a condensation reaction, which results in the formation of a hydrazone derivative. (Fig 1.1)

Reaction Mechanism

The reaction mechanism involves:

1. Protonation of the carbonyl group (>C=O) in Lurasidone HCl.
2. Nucleophilic attack by the hydrazine group (-NH2) of 2,4-DNP.
3. Formation of a new C=N bond, resulting in the loss of a water molecule.
4. Formation of the hydrazone derivative of Lurasidone HCl.

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Chemicals and reagents

From the industry, a gift sample of the medication (lurasidone HCL) was obtained. Every chemical utilized in the study was of analytical quality. Methanol, freshly made 2,4-dinitrophenyhydrazine (2,4-DNPH), and distilled water

Instrumentation

Double beam UV-visible spectrophotometer Shimadzu model UV-1800 (Kyoto, Japan) with computer-controlled software UV probe 2.33 with a 2 nm spectral width. Themonochromatic of the UV-1800 is mounted using the Czerny-Turner method. Shimadzu's analytical balance was utilized to weigh the material.

Methodolgy

Solubility

Lurasidone HCL (1mg) was taken in a 50ml beaker and was diluted with various organic and inorganic solvents and the solubility of the drug is determined. It was found to Lurasidone HCL was completely soluble in Methanol

2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2,4-DNP)

0.5 g of 2,4-DNPH, 10 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid, and 15 ml of 95% ethanol should all be added to a 100 ml beaker. Stir the mixture until the DNPH is completely dissolved. While stirring constantly, gradually add 75 milliliters of pure water to the mixture. Fill an amber glass container with a tight-fitting cap with the prepared reagent. Make sure the bottle is properly labeled and kept out of direct sunlight and heat sources in a cool, dark location.

Preparation of Working Solution

Two approaches were examined,

Method 1: Use methanol to dissolve 10 mg of lurasidone HCL in a 10 ml volumetric flask. The stock solution (1,1.5,2,2.5,3 mg/ml) was serially diluted. Add 1 milliliter of newly made 2,4-DNP reagent to the solution described above. 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (2,4-DNP) was a newly developed and optimized chromogenic reagent that was used in a chromogenic synthesis. Under carefully regulated pH and temperature conditions, this reagent interacted with lurasidone HCL to yield a colored product. Using spectrophotometry, the absorbance of the resultant chromogen was determined to be 356 nm at its highest absorption wavelength.

Method 2: Lurasidone HCL was used in direct UVspectrophotometry, which measured the absorbance of the drug at 230 nm directly

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Method 1

In the concentration range of 1-3 µg/ml, the chromogenic technique showed a linear response. (Table 1.1) With a high correlation coefficient R2 = 0.994 and a calibration curve equation of Y = 0.0136x + 0.043, the calibration curve demonstrated a good linear relationship between lurasidone HCL concentration and absorbance. (Fig. 2.1) The developed method's Limit ofDetection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ) were determined to be 0.14 µg/ml and 0.46 µg/ml, respectively

Method 2

Lurasidone HCL showed a linear response in the direct UV spectrophotometry method within a particular concentration range of 1–5 µg/ml. (Table 1.2) With a high correlation coefficient R2 = 0.9919 and a calibration curve equation of Y = 0.0403x + 0.0145, the calibration curve demonstrated a good linear relationship between lurasidone

HCL content and absorbance. (Fig. 2.2) The developed method's Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantification (LOQ) were determined to be 0.12 μg/ml and 0.38 μg/ml, respectively.

CONCLUSION

- Small-scale enterprises choose the current UV spectrophotometric techniques because of their efficacy and cheap maintenance costs.
- For quality control, where time and expense are critical, and to guarantee therapeutic efficacy, they are also successfully employed and advised for the qualitative analysis of lurasidone hydrochloride in pharmaceutical formulations
- The findings show that both chromogenic and direct UV spectrophotometric methods can be used to readily, rapidly, and correctly quantify lurasidone HCL in bulk. Shown in Table 2.1

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Table: 1: Represents the linearity range of Lurasidone HCL + 2, 4-DNPH

S.NO	Concⁿ	λ_{max}	Absorbance
1	1	356	0.057
2	1.5	356	0.071
3	2	356	0.083
4	2.5	356	0.095
5	3	356	0.113

Table 2: Represents the linearity range of Lurasidone HCL

S.NO	Concⁿ	λ_{max}	Absorbance
1	1	230	0.030
2	2	230	0.064
3	3	230	0.105
4	4	230	0.139
5	5	230	0.194

Table 3: Conclusion of the study

Parameter	Lurasidone	Lurasidone + 2,4-DNP
Wavelength Range (nm)	230	356
Concentration Range (nm)	1-5	1-3
Regression Equation	Y = 0.0403x - 0.0145	Y =0.0136x + 0.043
Correlation Coefficient (r^2)	0.9919	0.994
LOD	0.12 µg /ml	0.14 µg /ml
LOQ	0.38 µg /ml	0.46 µg /ml

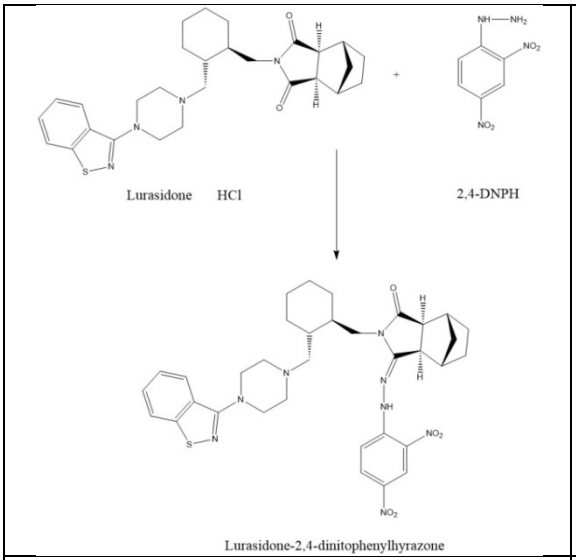


Fig.1: Reaction between Lurasidone HCL and 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine

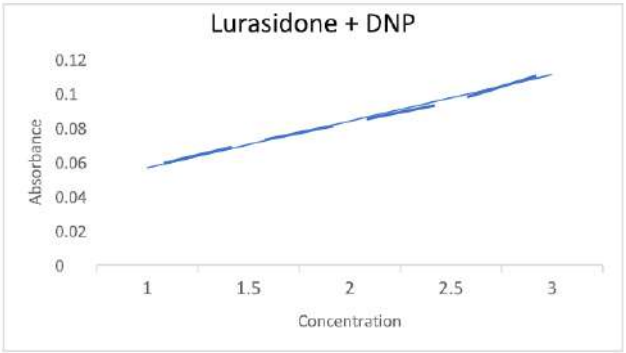


Figure.2: Represents the calibration curve and correlation coefficient of Lurasidone HCL + 2,4-DNPH reagent

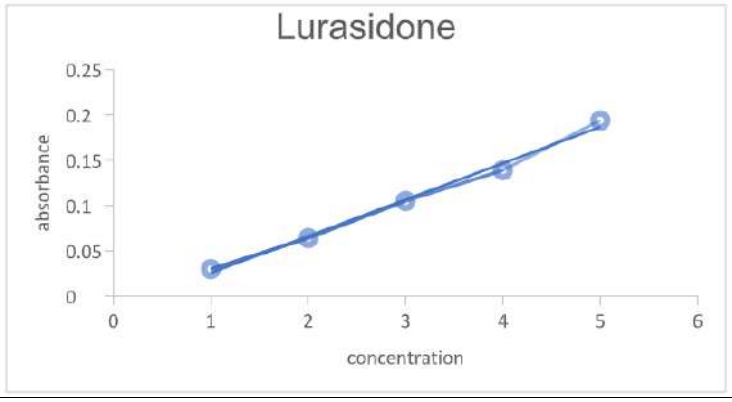


Figure. 3: Represents the calibration curve and correlation coefficient of Lurasidone HCL

REVIEW ARTICLE

Unlocking the Golden Spice "Turmeric" : A Comprehensive Scoping Review and Multifaceted Approach with Global Impact

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal herbs have been the focus of multiple investigations worldwide because of their distinct therapeutic persona, and they may be the most excellent source of many pharmaceuticals. Turmeric, also regarded as "Indian saffron", belongs to the *Zingiberaceae* group, ranks first in the spices and herbs list with highest antioxidant activity. India has imprinted its landmark in spices industry through its massive production and export of turmeric and related products. The primary component in turmeric is curcumin, which has a wide spectrum of properties such as anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimutagenic and antimicrobial. Reviewing the significance and potential of turmeric and its processed byproduct (turmeric peel) as a natural antioxidant is the primary objective of this article. It also addresses the cultural, economic and sustainability aspects of turmeric production and utilization globally. Furthermore, the study explores sustainability aspects, emphasizing waste valorization and the economic feasibility of integrating turmeric peel into value-added products. This comprehensive review aims to bridge the gap between traditional utilization and modern scientific advancements, fostering the sustainable development of turmeric-derived products.

Keywords: Turmeric, Curcumin, Turmeric peel, Natural antioxidant, Applications.

INTRODUCTION

Natural plant products include herbs, spices and essential oils, have served a variety of functions throughout human history [1,2]. In developing countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan, the herbal plants are majorly cultivated for economical value [3]. The preference for the use of medicinal plants over orthodox medicines may well due to the efficacies of their bioactive agents as well as other factors such as accessibility, affordability, availability and their acclaimed less toxic effects [4, 5, 6]. According to US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 'spice' refers to 'aromatic vegetable substance in the whole, broken, or ground form, the significant function of which in food is seasoning rather than nutrition' and from which 'no portion of any volatile oil or other flavoring principle has been removed'. Fascinatingly, spices are fragrance carriers derived from any part of the plant (i.e seeds, arils, bark, flower-buds, stigmas, roots and resins) [7]. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States defines "spice" as "an aromatic vegetable substance in the whole, broken, or ground form, the significant function of which in food is seasoning rather than nutrition". In contrast, the US National Arboretum defined spices are "flavorings (often of tropical origin) that are dried," while culinary herbs are "fresh or dried leaves from plants which can be used for flavoring purposes in food preparation"[8].In addition to being a vital component of agricultural products, spices are abundant in bioactive substances and antioxidants that are employed as seasonings and in medicine [9, 10]. Nowadays, a lot of ethnic cuisines are renowned for using "signature" spices and herbs. The use of turmeric in Indian cuisine, basil, garlic, and oregano in Italian and Greek cuisine, and lemongrass, ginger, cilantro, and chili peppers in Thai cuisine are a few instances of the way different cultures employ herbs and spices. In addition to being a vital component of agricultural products, spices are abundant in bioactive substances and antioxidants that are employed as seasonings and in medicine. The Indian spice turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) has drawn in a lot of research attention recently since it contains the bioactive curcuminoids curcumin, demethoxycurcumin, and bisdemethoxycurcumin. Turmeric is a significant tropical spice valued for its earthy aroma, bright yellow color, and antioxidant qualities. Its economic value and versatility are shown by its use as a powder in the food, pharmaceutical, and perfume industries (CSIR-CFTRI). *Curcuma longa* of India is particularly admired, rather from other countries due to its historical importance, cultural significance and valuable curcumin concentration [11]. Among a number of illnesses, turmeric is commonly employed in herbal treatments for atrophic arthritis, chronic anterior uveitis, conjunctivitis, carcinoma, smallpox, chickenpox, wound healing, tract infections, and liver diseases. It also improves the body's general capacity, dissipates worms, regulates menstruation, breaks down gallstones, cleans wounds, and even helps with gastrointestinal problems. Furthermore, it has been used to treat array of medical conditions including inflammation, jaundice, bacterial and fungal infections, tumors, and ulcers [12].Therefore, in order to optimally utilize curcumin's prospective applications, this study aims to provide an multifaceted overview on turmeric.

General features of Spices

Spices have long been acknowledged as an integral component of the culinary culture [13]. Spices are not the same as herbs, which are the leaves, flowers, or stems of plants used as flavorings or garnishes. India has a variety of climates; therefore each state produces specific types of spice. Usually spices can be pulverized into a powder for simple use. From the inception of the culinary industry, spices have been employed for both medicinal and food preservation purposes as flavorings and colorings. In addition to enhancing food's color, flavor, and aroma, spices are also used to help people maintain their physical wellness and appearance. Spices include a range of organics, sulfur-containing mixtures, vitamins, and other bioactive compounds. Their naturally occurring bioactive components (flavonoids, phenolics, tannins, and allyl sulfur compounds) serve as a great source of antioxidants for food preservation [14, 15]. Spices had been given to one tenth of the young children around the world to treat colds, cough and other gastro intestinal problems [16]. Due to the antioxidant, antibacterial, and antifungal properties of their natural constituents, spices can have an impact on both human infections (food safety) and food spoilage micro-organisms (food preservation) [17]. Turmeric, a spice with long-standing medicinal properties that have drawn attention from the scientific and medical sectors, is the main source of the polyphenol curcumin. It's interesting to note that this natural polyphenol is referred to as the "wonder drug of life"[2]**.** Classification of spices based on their characteristics is depicted in the Figure 1.

Spices scenario and turmeric trend among national and international level

India is a net exporter of agricultural commodities, thus the foreign exchange profits from exports will fund the purchase of capital goods, which will open the door for more investment and advances in technology that will eventually improve efficiency and production. The world market for the export of spices and spices-related goods is largely controlled by the Indian spice industry [19]. Indian spices are renowned both domestically and internationally for their flavor and aroma. India ranks among the world's top producers, consumers, and exporters of spices. From the total production of spices, 70 - 75% is consumed by Indian households in their whole form or in value-added forms (powder or masalas); 5 - 10% is used by pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and oleoresin companies; 15-20% is exported; and the remaining 5% are used for seed production [20]. The state of Tamilnadu produced 114,141 tons of turmeric in 2023–2024 on a 253, 65 ha plot of land. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh are some of the states cultivating turmeric. The export value of spices from India during April-July 2024 accounts for 1262903 .57 lakhs. Chilli, cumin, turmeric, coriander, cardamom, fenugreek, pepper, and other spices are among the main spices that India exports [21]. The demand for turmeric and turmeric products is anticipated to be propelled by its increasing application in numerous industries, including food and beverage, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals [22]. The consumption of turmeric and turmeric-based products in the U.S. has recently increased, reflecting a shift in consumer tastes toward more natural food products and health or wellness supplements [23]. As per Figure 2, the export of spices from India has witnessed a remarkable growth trajectory over the past few decades, reflecting not only the increasing global demand for Indian spices but also India's strengthening position as a major player in the international spice market. This upward trend is reflected in the significant escalation of export volumes, measured in metric tonnes, across three key periods: 243.20 metric tonnes in 2001-02, 575.27 metric tonnes in 2011-12, and 1531.15 metric tonnes in 2021-22. As India continues to capitalize on these trends, the spice export sector is well-positioned to experience sustained growth, contributing significantly to both the national economy and global culinary diversity. Figure 3 depicts that, the increasing demand for premium Indian spices around the world is reflected in the significant and steady increase in the export value of Indian spices over the last few decades. Between 2001-02 and 2011-12, the export value, expressed in crores, increased from Rs.1, 940.55 crores to Rs. 9,783.42 crores, subsequently rising to Rs. 30,576.44 crores in 2021-22. This growth, which is supported by shifting global trends and strategic industry advancements, is indicative of both an increase in export volumes and a notable increase in the market value of Indian spices. In 2023–2024, India exported 162,019 tons of turmeric valued at 187,586.79 Lakhs to the United States, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Malaysia, and other nations (Figure 4).

Curcumin - the principle bioactive Component of turmeric

Turmeric is the dried rhizome powder of the *Curcuma longa* plant, which contains a variety of phytochemicals. Phytochemical components of turmeric embrace sugars, proteins, resins, traces of volatile oils such as tumerone and zingiberene as well as curcuminoids [24]. Curcumin, with the molecular formula $C_{21}H_{20}O_6$ and the chemical name diferuloylmethane, is the most important substance obtained from plant [10]. However, the curcumin content in turmeric rhizomes differ based on conditions such as turmeric variety [25], extraction methods [25, 26, 27,28], rhizome age at harvest [29], geographical area [30], seasonal weather conditions [31], and cultivation methods [32]. Moreover, it has been demonstrated that turmeric contains more than 50 curcuminoids including terpecurcumin, cyclocurcumin, curcumalongin, and bisabocurcumin which are responsible for its yellow color [33, 10]. Despite being lipophilic flavonoids, curcumin is soluble in ethanol, dimethyl sulfoxide, and other organic solvents but insoluble in water. At the stomach's acidic pH, it is fairly stable [34, 35]. As curcumin have a large molecular weight, a tautomerism structure, and aromatic group, it makes extremely hydrophobic, and thus the gastrointestinal epithelium only absorbs certain amounts of it. Pharmacological drugs generally have limited bioavailability in the body for four reasons: (a) inadequate gastrointestinal absorption; (b) fast metabolism; (c) inactive metabolic products; and (d) rapid clearance and excretion. By employing a variety of chemical processes to alter curcumin's fundamental structure, synthetic analogs of curcumin molecules are produced. Curcumin can be structurally modified mainly by altering the dike to function, aryl side chain, active methylene functionality, double bond, and metal complexes. The synthetic analogs include 1, 7-bis (13-fluoro-9-ethylcoumarin-8-yl)-5-hydroxy3-oxohepta-1, 4, 6-triene (65), EF24, and (1E, 6Z) [36]. Curcumin exists in a variety of forms, including tablets, ointments, energy drinks, soaps, and cosmetics.

According to the World Health Organization, curcuminoids as a food additive can be consumed in amounts between 0 and 3 mg/kg per day. In India, a person weighing 60 kg would typically consume 2-2.5g of turmeric per day [37]. For nutritional purposes, curcumin is usually given at a level of 5–500 mg/kg, depending on the type of food [38]. The most popular applications include dairy products, cereals, mustard, food concentrates, pickles, sausages, baked goods, ice cream, meat, fish, eggs, and bread products [39].

Flavor profile, Phytochemical, Nutritional and Medicinal value of turmeric

The most common flavorings of turmeric are turmerone, zingiberene, and 1, 8-cineole [40]. Powdered rhizome is used to flavor a wide range of meals and treat a number of ailments, including jaundice, inflammation, menstrual issues, and haematuria. Furthermore, it is a beneficial remedy for some skin conditions [10]. Turmeric on an average contain 0.08% phenol, 0.82% phytic acid, 0.45% flavonoids, 1.08% tannin, 0.03% sterol, 0.45% saponins, 0.76% alkaloids, and 0.40% flavonoids. Turmeric contains 6.3% protein, 5.1% fat, 69.4% carbohydrates, 3.5% minerals, and 13.1% moisture. The phytochemicals namely alkaloids in turmeric (0.76%) used to treat cold, chronic migraine, and headache associated with hypertension. Saponins, flavonoids, and tannins help improve reproductive hormones, reduce cholesterol, prevent harmful cytotoxins, and lessen inflammation. Additionally, it contains the metallic elements potassium, sodium, magnesium, calcium, manganese, iron as well as campestral, stigma sterol, betasitosterol, cholesterol, fatty acids, copper and zinc. Moreover, it is effective in treating intestinal disorders like dysentery and diarrhea [41]. Historically, turmeric was used in the Far East to cure wound healing, liver and digestive tract issues, and inflammatory diseases of many organs. The rhizome of *Curcuma longa* contains the minerals (Fe, Mg, Zn, K, Na, and Ca) and macromolecules (proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and dietary fiber) necessary for human health [42]. Extracts from turmeric have strong antioxidant properties that guard against oxidative stress and tissue damage. In addition to inhibiting thromboxane production and platelet aggregation, it increases anti-diabetic action (10).There are reports that taking turmeric capsules with honey thrice a day will help treat peptic ulcers by providing carminative properties [43].

Application of Turmeric in Food Processing

Food preservation has been essential to life's continuation since the start of humanity. The production of ready-to-eat meals has grown essential due to shifting eating patterns throughout time and the rise in employees. One of the vital objectives is to extend the shelf life of food products while maintaining their quality [44]. In addition to strengthening weak colors and adding color to colorless food, colorants are used to restore the natural color lost during processing and storage and to conceal substandard goods in order to achieve public acceptability. Curcumin is a potent coloring ingredient that is frequently utilized in the food sector. Therefore, it has been recommended that turmeric, a natural colorant that produces more favorable effects, be used instead of artificial colorants that may be hazardous to human health [45].

Anti-microbial properties of Turmeric

The natural compounds found in plants are effective antimicrobials that may be able substitute the present antibiotics, which are becoming less effective due to bacteria resistance. An in vitro study found that curcumin performed in combination with meropenem to suppress the growth of antibiotic-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* that were isolated from burn wound infections [46]. The ethanolic extract of turmeric has effective antimicrobial activity against *Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans* with the concentration of 500 mg/mL [47].

The dynamic role of turmeric as natural antioxidant in mitigating human illness

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) accumulation in cells has been associated with a number of diseases, including DNA and nucleic acid damage, which may result in mutations and the development of cancers. ROS are free radicals that include singlet oxygen, hydrogen peroxide, superoxide hydroxyl radicals, and anion radicals. Antioxidants are favored over fresh and processed meat and meat products to avert lipid oxidation, to put off rancid flavors and to improve color solidity and firmness [48, 49].Natural antioxidants may decrease the negative effects of ROS. Presently, the research of antioxidants is moving toward replacing synthetic additives with natural substances, which are close

at hand, safe and sound, as well as reasonably priced [50]. Among the alternatives to supplant synthetic antioxidants, turmeric stands out as a promising natural option [51]. Furthermore, because of the health advantages of turmeric, meat products that have been reformed with this ingredient may qualify as functional foods [52].

Significance of turmeric peel

Turmeric postharvest procedures include gathering harvested rhizomes, which usually consist of fingers that are 2 to 8 cm long and 1 to 2 cm wide with bulbs and splits [53]. These rhizomes are then cleaned, graded, boiled, and dried. To make turmeric powder, the dried rhizomes undergo additional processing (such as polishing) and reprocessing [54, 55]. The peels, a by-product of the polishing process that was discarded from the turmeric rhizome had more antioxidant activity than commercial powders because of their higher phenolic yields. Aforementioned, turmeric peels are intriguing source of bioactive compounds to be proposed as food additive, functional ingredient, natural antioxidant and nutraceutical as their collection from farm was quite easy and inexpensive [56].

CONCLUSIONS

This scoping review elucidates the comprehensive potential of turmeric by probing its diverse applications through a multifaceted lens. The current literature highlights the remarkable pharmacological properties of turmeric. The antioxidant-rich turmeric peel emerges as a promising, sustainable resource for applications in functional foods, nutraceuticals and natural preservatives, aligning with global sustainability goals. This review advocates for continued research into the valorization of turmeric byproducts, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary approaches to optimize both the economic and health benefits of turmeric-based products. The integration of these findings into future scientific and industrial practices holds the potential to revolutionize the turmeric sector and promote environmental sustainability.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

P.T.; conceptualization, writing-original draft, K.V; review and editing, supervision.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that they have no competing interests.

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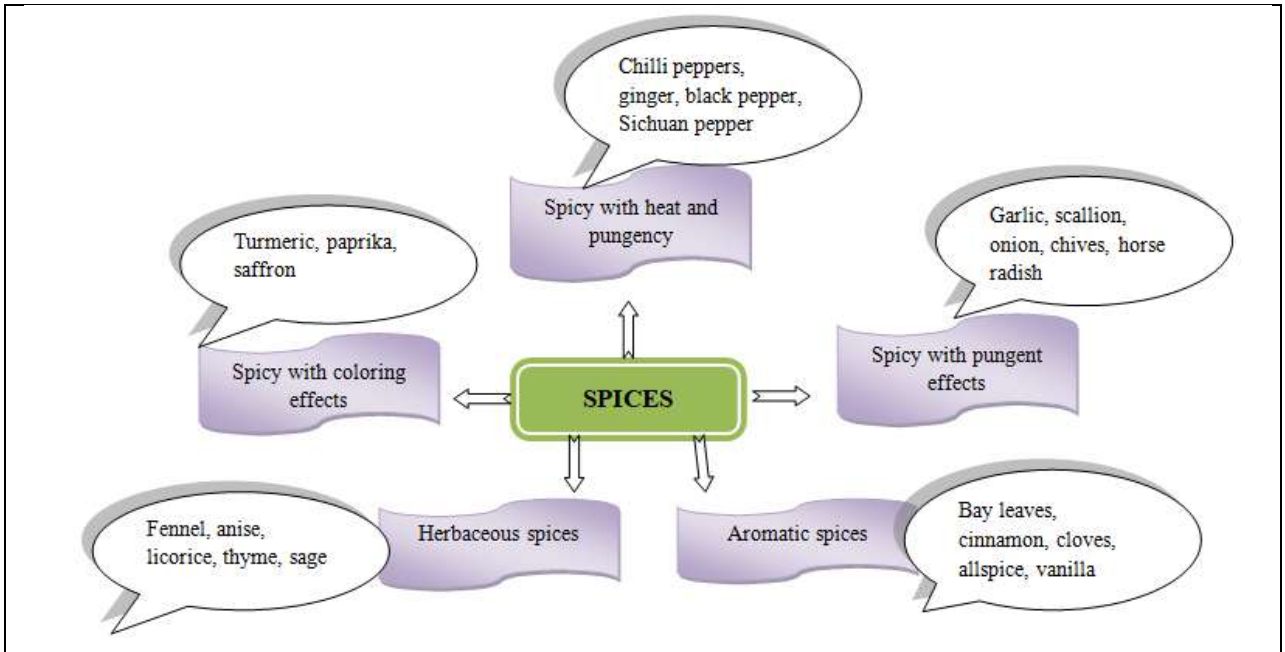


Figure 1.Classification of Spices based on their characteristics. Source: Grand View Research [GVR], 2025]



Figure 2. Trends in export of spices from India in Volume (2001-2022). Source: (Spices Board of India)

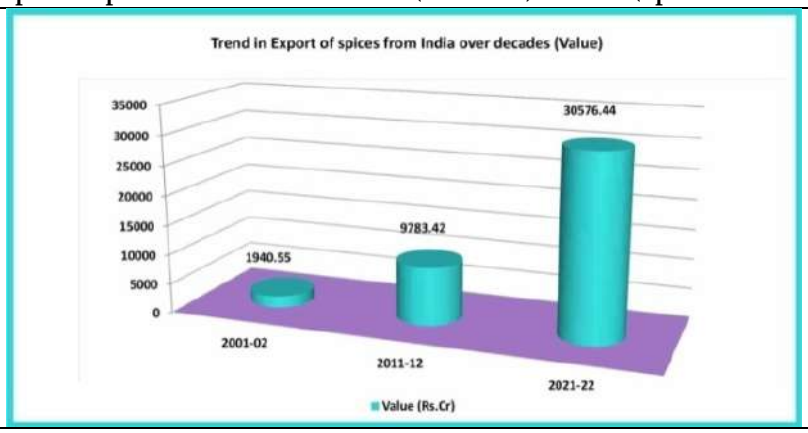


Figure 3. Trends in export of spices from India in Value (2001-2022). Source: (Spices Board of India)



Figure 4. Data on Turmeric Export (in Rs) (2023-2024)
Source: (Spices Board of India)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Influence of *Eleusine coracana* Biomass Vermicompost on the Growth of *Cicer arietinum :* A Preliminary Study

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ABSTRACT

Eleusine coracana is an important crop of Karnataka whichgenerates a lot of biomass that can be used to make vermicompost. *Cicerarietinum* is another important crop which is a good source of protein. A preliminary study was conducted to evaluate the effect of vermicompost made from*Eleusine coracana* biomass on growth of *Cicerarietinum*. Results revealed considerable increase in important available soil macronutrients (N, P, K, Ca, Mg and S) and micronutrients (Fe, Zn and Cu). The increase in soil nutrients may be attributed to enhanced growth of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, actinomycetes, phosphate-solubilizers, nitrogen-fixers and zinc-solubilizers) present in the gut microbiota of earthworms. Due to increased soil nutrients, there was considerable increase observed in growth and yield of *Cicerarietinum* in a pot culture study. Therefore, the excess biomass generated in *Eleusine coracana* cultivation can be sustainably utilized in improving yield of *Cicerarietinum* through vermicomposting.

Keywords: Growth, Yield, Biomass, Bacteria, Fungi, Actinomycetes, Vermicomposting.

INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades, human activities like land clearing and deforestation to bring more and more areas under agriculture, large scale use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, over-grazing, careless management of forests, surface mining, urban sprawl and commercial/industrial development has resulted in degradation of soil [10].

According to a report of Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, India is losing 5,334 million tonnes of soil every year due to soil erosion because of excess use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides[15]. In addition to this, the average size of operational land holding declined from 2.28 hectares in 1970-71 to 1.08 hectares in 2015-16 [43]. Land shortage and poverty lead to non-sustainable land management practices which directly cause soil degradation [40]. Soil degradation and decrease in ecosystem goods and services is a major constraint in achieving the required increase in agricultural production to feed the ever increasing human population [31]. The rice-wheat system of farming practice in India has depleted nutrients from the soil. The number of elements deficient in Indian soils increased from only one element (N) in 1950 to nine elements (N, P, K, S, B, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn) in 2005-2006[49]. Another prominent problem in India is burning of crop residues in fields for easy disposal which causes not only loss of soil organic matter but also death of numerous beneficial microflora and microfauna. Integrated nutrient management in soil involving organic farming is an eco-friendly method which keeps soil healthy, maintains environment integrity and promotes health of consumers [17]. Vermicomposting is one of the most rapidly developing fields in organic farming which involves composting of organic wastes by the action of earthworms [32]. Earthworms fragment the organic matter in such a way that it gradually reduces the ratio of C:N and increase the surface area for microorganisms [18]. Though more than 500 species of earthworms are found in India, only about 20 species are employed for waste disposal through vermicomposting [41]. Studies on interactions between earthworms and microorganisms show that earthworms increase microbial activities in the soil [59]. Kale and Karmegam[27]emphasized the existence of a mutualistic relation between earthworms and microorganisms. Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) or Ragi is the fourth important small millet crop grown globally after sorghum, pearl millet and foxtail millet. It was domesticated in western Uganda and Ethiopian highlands at least 5000 years ago before introduction to India approximately 3000 years ago [6]. It is an important staple food in parts of eastern and central Africa and India. Among different states of India, Karnataka ranks first in terms of area under cultivation and productivity [44]. The stubbles of this crop are very strong and thus pose a serious problem for removal in order to prepare the land for the next crop. As a result, farmers generally burn it in the field to get rid of them. But burning the crop residues leads to loss of nutrients and damage to microflora of the soil. Crop residues are a potent source of organic matter and nutrient substitution through composting. It also reduces the pollution generated after burning and enriches the microflora of the soil [6]. There has been shortage of literature regarding the effectiveness of vermicompost made from the *Eleusine coracana* residues. The present work aims to study the effect of vermicompost of *Eleusine coracana* residues on the growth of *Cicer arietinum* L.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation of vermicompost from *E. coracana* biomass: Approximately 10 kg of *E. coracana* straw was obtained from a local farmer from Singapura Village, Bengaluru Urban District (latitude 13.0747356° N, longitude 77.5376929° E). It was shredded and allowed for partial decomposition in cement tanks for a period of 8 weeks after adding thin slurry of cow dung and maintained at 75% to 80% moisture by sprinkling water regularly. After 8 weeks of partial decomposition, adult earthworm species *Eudrilus eugeniae* were introduced at the rate of 10 g into 1 kg feedstock material [62]. The entire feedstock material was converted into vermicompost in approximately 4 weeks.

Measurement of physico-chemical parameters: The physico-chemical parameters of red soil used as control and *E. coracana* biomass vermicompost were measured using the standard methods[25][55][53][12][34].

Enumeration of total microbial population: The samples of red soil and vermicompost were analyzed for bacteria[8], fungi[5], actinomycetes[36], nitrogen-fixers[52], phosphate-solubilizers[42]and zinc-solubilizers[45]by standard serial dilution plate count method [13].

Measurement of growth and yield parameters: Pot culture studies were conducted in greenhouse of the Department of Life Sciences, Mount Carmel College (Autonomous), Bengaluru, with chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) in pots of 11.5 cm height and 13 cm diameter with holes at the bottom to drain excess amount of water. The study was done in a

completely randomized design (Table 1) with 5 replicates to evaluate the effect of vermicomposts made from straws of ragi (*Eleusine coracana* L.). A total of 1.2 kg of soil plus vermicompost mixture was taken in each pot. The control pots contained 1.2 kg of soil. Certified seeds of chickpea, *Cicer arietinum* L., (Super Annigeri-I variety), were procured from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. Healthy and undamaged seeds were washed with distilled water and then with 0.1 percent mercuric chloride and sown in pots containing substrate combination in five replicates as described in Table 1. Ten seeds per pot were sown and after germination, only two seedlings in each pot were allowed to grow further for study. All the pots were watered daily to maintain minimum moisture level of 20 ± 5%.They were observed on regular intervals for measuring growth and yield parameters [60]. The results were recorded and the data was analyzed statistically using ANOVA [61]in computer software Microsoft Excel version 2010 as well as IBM SPSS version 22.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physico-chemical parameters: On comparison of physico-chemical parameters of red soil and *E. coracana* vermicompost (Table 2), it was found that the pH changed from 7.50 to 7.21. The reduction of pH may be due to production of organic acids by the earthworms as well as other microbes. Decrease in pH is an important factor in nitrogen retention because this element is lost as volatile ammonia at high pH values [23]. The electrical conductivity changed from 0.23 dSm^{-1} to 0.71 dSm^{-1}. The increase in electrical conductivity indicates presence of soluble salts in the vermicompost. The earthworms convert the unavailable forms of nutrients into available forms by their fragmentation, grinding and enzymatic activities. It is also due to the presence of more exchangeable calcium, magnesium and phosphorus by the hydrolytic enzymes secreted by microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi and actinobacteria present in the gut of the earthworms [63]. There was increase in organic carbon content from 0.17% to 1.72%, available nitrogen from 47.53 ppm to 330.15 ppm, available phosphorus from 33.87 ppm to 536.94 ppm and available potassium from 92.26 ppm to 99.45 ppm in the vermicompost. Vermicompost has been shown to have high levels of total and available carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium because of microbial activity and enzymes released by the gut of earthworms. Increase in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content indicates that there is enhanced mineralization of these elements due to microbial activity and also enzyme activity in the gut of the earthworms [1]. There was increase in calcium from 1580.60 ppm to 3210.80 ppm, magnesium from 156.67 ppm to 1747.48 ppm and sulphurfrom 27.72 ppm to 257.48 ppm in the vermicompost. Among micronutrients, there was increase noted in iron from 8.09 ppm to 31.78 ppm, zinc from 0.73 ppm to 1.24 ppm and copper from 1.05 ppm to 1.36 ppm. The earthworms absorb excess calcium from their diet and transfer it to calciferous glands, from which it is excreted through the digestive tract. The calciferous glands have carbonic anhydrase which catalyze the fixation of carbon dioxide as calcium carbonate. Earthworms do not absorb all micronutrients from the feed material, but those that are absorbed tend to accumulate in the body [47][20]. The increase in metal contents maybe due to degradation of organic matter and mineralization in the alimentary tract of earthworms which results in reduction of feedstock material concentration of compost [46].

Growth of microorganisms in vermicompost: Microbial count studies revealed thatwhen compared with red soil, the *E. coracana* biomass vermicompost showed considerable increase in CFU count of bacteria, fungi, actinomycetes and phosphate-solubilizers (Table 3).The most noticeable growth was in bacterial CFU count which increased from 6.81 x 10^6CFU $g^{-1}$to 360 x 10^6CFU g^{-1}. This increase in bacterial population may be attributed to the presence of a large number of bacteria in the intestine of earthworms. Their intestines consist of mucus containing protein and polysaccharides which provide optimal environment for activation of dormant bacteria and germination of endospores [63]. The bacterial community also undergoes ecological succession during the process of composting. Many researchers have observed higher bacterial richness and diversity during vermicomposting of sewage sludge and cattle manure [24][35][14]. Vermicompost improves soil ecosystem by increasing biological nitrogen fixation and promotes growth of mineral-mobilizing bacteria like phosphate-solubilizers, zinc-solubilizers and nitrogen-fixers [28].Total fungal CFU count increased from 1.5 x 10^4CFU $g^{-1}$to 11.0 x 10^4CFU g^{-1}. Several workers have reported that vermicompost contains many beneficial substances which could significantly improve fungal activity in soil [56][3]. Chatterjee *et al.,*[16]have reported a direct relationship between soil enzyme catalytic intensity and soil fungal communities in vermicompost. Dominguez *et al.,*[19]have reported that vermicomposting of sewage resulted in

stable rich fungal community with potential biostimulant properties that may aid plant growth.In a study on quinoa cultivation, application of vermicompost with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi significantly improved plant growth traits under drought stress condition [9].The total actinomycetes CFU countwas the next major increase noted from 5.34 x 10^4CFU $g^{-1}$to 45.0 x 10^4CFU g^{-1}. Actinomycetes are one of the important members of microbes present in rhizosphere of plants. They play very important role in nutrient cycling in soil. They also produce secondary metabolites including enzymes, antibiotics and plant growth-promoting (PGP) substances[37]. They are used for biocontrol of plant pathogens in agriculture. Their association to plants provides many advantages to plants like production of antibiotics, enzymes, phytohormones, siderophores and phosphate solubilization. They also protect plants from biotic and abiotic stress. Actinomycetes have also been found to be agents of turning waste into a resource that can be used to produce antibiotics of medicinal value and enzymes of commercial importance [48].The CFU count of phosphate-solubilizers was observed to be increased by approximately 6 times in the vermicompost from 1.16 x 10^5CFU $g^{-1}$to 7.0 x 10^5CFU g^{-1}. Similar results of high population of phosphate-solubilizing bacteria and fungi were reported in vermicompost made from different plant wastes[51]. Bhattacharya *et al.,*[11]reported that microbes secrete low molecular weight organic acids as metabolites, such as gluconic and ketogluconic acids, which can reduce the pH of the surrounding medium and thereby solubilize the insoluble phosphates. Phosphate-solubilizing bacteria are naturally part of the biological nutrient cycles which play an important role in conversion of inorganic phosphorus into bioavailable form of phosphorus for plants [54]. The population of nitrogen-fixers showed only a slight increase from 8.88 x 10^3CFU $g^{-1}$to 9.0 x 10^3CFU g^{-1}. Sinha *et al.,*[50]reported that vermicompost not only stimulates plant growth but also increases the nitrogen-fixing bacterial population. Free-living aerobic nitrogen-fixers are one of the groups of microorganisms that are closely associated with earthworms. Nitrogen-fixers of genus *Azotobacter* have been detected in vermicompost made from poplar leaf litter [30]. *Azotobacter* has been found to increase efficiency of organic amendments, enzyme activity and nutrient uptake in rice cultivation [22].The population of zinc-solubilizers showed slight decrease from 5.2 x 10^3CFU $g^{-1}$to 4.0 x 10^3CFUg^{-1}. Though vermicompost egested from earthworms contains cellulose-degrading, phosphate-solubilizing and zinc-solubilizing bacteria, higher zinc content is observed in those treatments which are supplied with zinc-solubilizing bacteria [7]. Application of zinc-fortified fertilizers leads to its fixation into unavailable form in soil. Such unavailable zinc compounds can be transformed back to available form by the help of zinc-solubilizing bacteria which are present in the vermicompost[57]. Combined application of zinc fertilizer along with zinc-solubilizing bacteria facilitates efficient zinc uptake from the soil ultimately leading to superior grain quality [29].

Effect of *Eleusine coracana* biomass vermicompost on growth of *Cicerarietinum*: One-way analysis of variance was conducted to evaluate the effect of vermicompost on the growth of *Cicerarietinum*. The assumption of normality was evaluated using the Shapiro Wilk test and found tenable for all groups ($P<0.05$). The assumption of homogeneity of variances was tested and found tenable using Lavene's test. Analysis of the major growth parameters after 60 days (Table 4) showed that there was significant difference in the germination percent, total shoot length, root length, leaf area index, number of flowers and seeds, as well as fresh and dry weight of the plants between control and experimental pots. Post-hoc comparisons to evaluate pairwise differences among the group means were conducted with the use of Tukey HSD test since equal variances were tenable. The test revealed significant pairwise differences. Previously several researchers have reported that vermicompost enhances seed germination [38][26][33]. Similar studies on the yield of *Lycopersicon esculentum* and *Solanum melongena* have shown that application of vermicompost resulted in very good yield. Vermicast yielded higher garden pea green pod plants, higher green grain weight per plant and higher green pod yield as compared to chemical fertilizer[2]. Vermicompost has beneficial effect on growth, germination, flowering, fruiting and productivity of crops [38]. Joshi *et al.,* [26]have reported that application of vermicompost increased seed germination, stem height, number of leaves, leaf dry weight, leaf area, and number of fruits per plant.

CONCLUSION

In this study, it was found that the biomass generated by cultivation of Ragi (*Eleusine coracana* L.) can be successfully converted into vermicompost using common earthworm species *Eudrilus eugeniae*. This vermicompost showed higher quantities of most of the available soil nutrients that are required by plants. The increased quantities of soil nutrients could be attributed to higher population of microbes as evident in the microbial analysis. It was also found that the application of vermicompost in soil not only enhances germination of seeds but also provides better nutrition to plants which results in increased grain production. The best result was found in combination PS1. This indicates that when vermicompost is added to the soil by 25%, it gives significantly better yield. Adding vermicompost more than 25% incrementally leads to deterioration in yield quantity. Therefore, it can be concluded that vermicompost made from agricultural waste generated from cultivation of *Eleusine coracana* can be successfully converted into useful vermicompost and utilized in place of chemical fertilizers to enhance growth of another important crop chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) which is a cheaper source of protein for human population. Other benefits of using vermicompost in cultivation is improvement in soil texture, water-retention capacity, balanced enhancement of soil nutrients, replenishment of micronutrients in soil and better food grain quality. These benefits will go a long way in our effort to achieve sustainable food security.

DECLARATION

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Table 1: Experimentaldesign for pot culture studies.

Pot Study (PS)	Red soil + Vermicompost (Percent)
PS0 – Control	100 + 0
PS1 - Pot Study 1	75 + 25
PS2 - Pot Study 2	50 + 50
PS3 - Pot Study 3	25 + 75
PS4 - Pot Study 4	0 + 100
PS5 - Pot Study 5	100 + RDF NPK

RDF – Recommended dose of fertilizer, NPK – Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizer

Table 2: Physico-chemical parameters of red soil and *E. coracana* vermicompost.

Parameters	Red soil (control)	Vermicompost from *E. coracana* (experimental)
pH	7.5 ± 0.05	7.21 ± 0.07
Electrical conductivity (dSm^{-1})	0.23 ± 0.01	0.71 ± 0.13
Organic carbon (%)	0.17 ± 0.01	1.72 ± 0.11
Nitrogen (ppm)	47.53 ± 0.76	330.15 ± 22.22
Phosphorus (ppm)	33.87 ± 0.87	536.94 ± 19.36
Potassium (ppm)	92.26 ± 1.18	99.45 ± 3.77
Calcium (ppm)	1580.60 ± 14.43	3210.80 ± 98.34
Magnesium (ppm)	156.67 ± 3.26	1747.48 ± 29.61
Sulphur (ppm)	27.72 ± 0.64	257.48 ± 10.34
Iron (ppm)	8.09 ± 0.56	31.78 ± 1.60
Manganese (ppm)	9.80 ± 0.41	3.66 ± 0.12
Zinc (ppm)	0.73 ± 0.07	1.24 ± 0.05
Copper (ppm)	1.05 ± 0.05	1.36 ± 0.09

All values are the mean and standard error of five replicates.

Table 3: Microbial populations in red soil and *E. coracana* vermicompost.

Microbial population	Dilution	Red soil (control) (CFU g^{-1})	Vermicompost from *E. coracana* (experimental) (CFU g^{-1})
Bacteria	10^{-6}	6.81 ± 0.65	360 ± 23.6
Fungi	10^{-4}	1.5 ± 0.97	11.0 ± 0.64
Actinomycetes	10^{-4}	5.34 ± 0.35	45.0 ± 4.56
Phosphate-solubilizers	10^{-5}	1.16 ± 0.45	7.0 ± 0.48
Nitrogen-fixers	10^{-3}	8.88 ± 0.25	9.0 ± 0.42
Zinc-solubilizers	10^{-3}	5.2 ± 0.86	4.0 ± 0.63

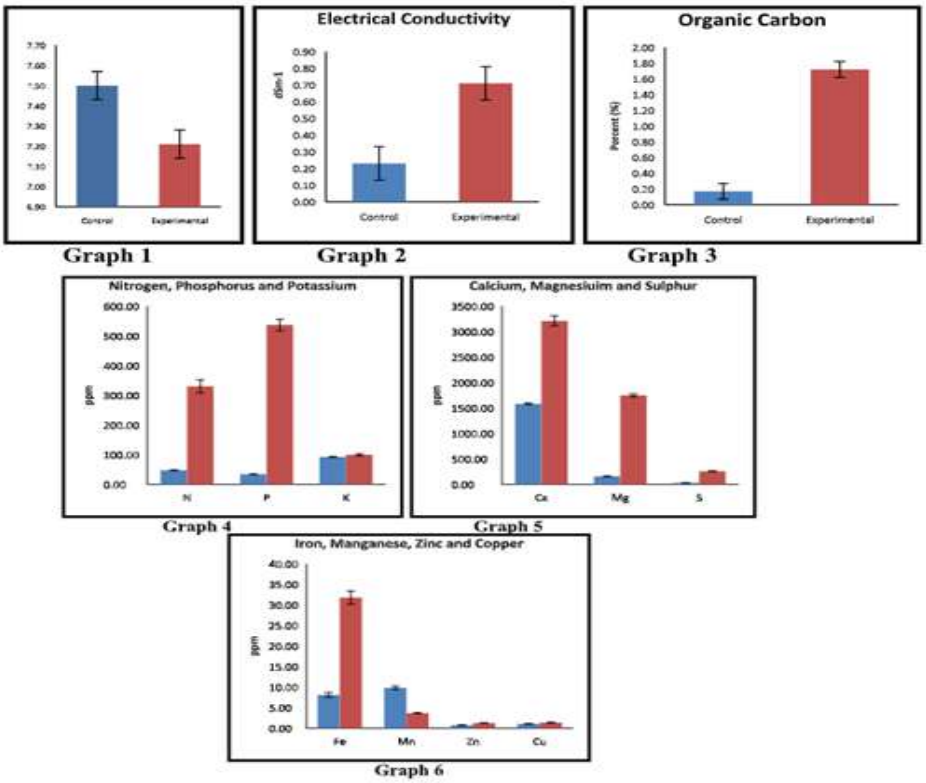
All values are the mean and standard error of five replicates.

Table 4: Growth parameters of *Cicerarietinum* in red soil and *E. coracana* biomass vermicompost.

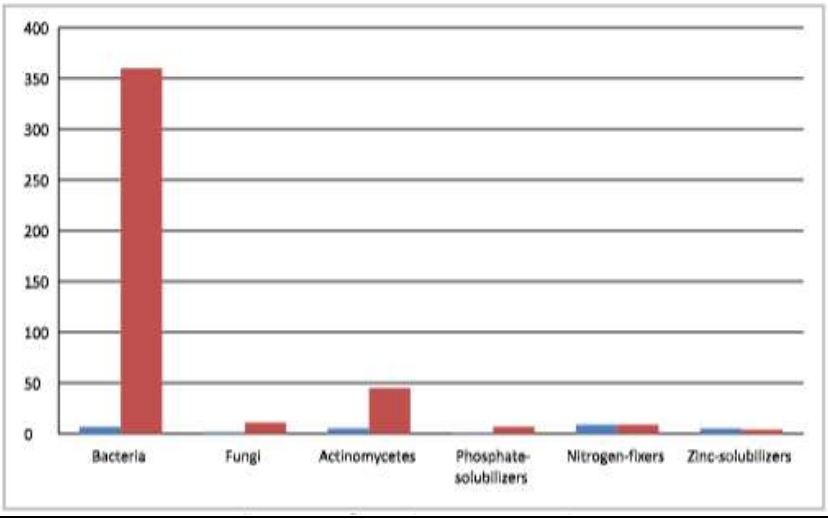
S. No.	Parameters	PS0	PS1	PS2	PS3	PS4	PS5	Effect size
1.	Germination percent	72.00 ± 5.83^{b}	80.00 ± 3.54^{b}	80.00 ± 3.16^{b}	60.00 ± 6.32^{ab}	50.00 ± 4.47^{a}	70.00 ± 4.47^{ab}	0.559
2.	Total shoot length (cm)	14.20 ± 0.66^{a}	48.00 ± 1.41^{d}	46.4 ± 1.72^{d}	40.00 ± 1.05^{c}	20.40 ± 0.93^{b}	22.40 ± 0.93^{b}	0.970
3.	Total root length (cm)	7.92 ± 0.26^{a}	17.00 ± 0.60^{d}	15.78 ± 0.38^{d}	13.50 ± 0.21^{c}	9.64 ± 0.54^{a}	11.54 ± 0.38^{b}	0.937
4.	Total number of leaves	15.80 ± 0.37^{a}	45.00 ± 0.71^{d}	44.0 ± 0.71^{d}	38.60 ± 0.75^{c}	20.80 ± 0.80^{b}	23.80 ± 1.07^{b}	0.983
5.	Leaf area index	0.37 ± 0.04^{a}	1.26 ± 0.07^{d}	1.24 ± 0.05^{cd}	1.06 ± 0.02^{c}	0.58 ± 0.02^{b}	0.68 ± 0.04^{b}	0.938
6.	Total number of flowers	4.20 ± 0.37^{a}	16.00 ± 0.71^{c}	15.00 ± 0.89^{c}	12.00 ± 0.71^{b}	5.00 ± 0.32^{a}	6.20 ± 0.73^{a}	0.930
7.	Total number of pods	3.80 ± 0.37^{a}	16.00 ± 0.71^{c}	15.00 ± 0.89^{c}	12.00 ± 0.71^{b}	5.00 ± 0.32^{a}	6.20 ± 0.73^{a}	0.932
8.	Average length of pod (cm)	1.18 ± 0.06^{a}	1.40 ± 0.04^{b}	1.42 ± 0.04^{b}	1.40 ± 0.04^{b}	1.16 ± 0.02^{a}	1.16 ± 0.02^{a}	0.685
9.	Total Number of seeds	4.40 ± 0.93^{a}	19.20 ± 1.16^{c}	18.20 ± 1.61^{bc}	14.20 ± 1.28^{b}	5.00 ± 0.55^{a}	7.20 ± 0.97^{a}	0.897
10.	Fresh weight of plant (g)	2.70 ± 0.21^{a}	19.20 ± 1.02^{d}	18.60 ± 0.75^{d}	14.20 ± 0.86^{c}	5.35 ± 0.34^{ab}	6.35 ± 0.56^{b}	0.958
11.	Dry weight of plant (g)	0.56 ± 0.03^{a}	2.81 ± 0.05^{d}	2.78 ± 0.04^{d}	2.21 ± 0.04^{c}	0.86 ± 0.04^{b}	0.92 ± 0.02^{b}	0.994

All values are the mean and standard error of five replicates.

Mean values designated with different superscripts indicate that differences between samples are significant according to the Tukey's honestly significantly different (HSD) multiple comparison tests ($P<0.05$).



Graph 1-6: Comparison of physico-chemical parameters of control red soil and *E. coracana* vermicompost



Graph 7: Microbial growth studies

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Enhanced Forecasting of Student Enrollment using Genetic Algorithm

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ABSTRACT

This paper proposes genetic algorithm (GA) forecasting methods to cater for data in decimal and binary values. An improved forecasting method based on crossover (CRO) is proposed and used to forecast students' enrolment in the University of Alabama (UA). The performance of the forecasted results is compared with existing algorithm using Root Mean Square Error (RMSE). The hybrid genetic algorithms based on crossover gives the best performance.

Keywords: Genetic Algorithm in Crossover, Forecasting, Enrolments Prediction, RMSE.

INTRODUCTION

There is a comparison between the models and conventional time series models, such as second-order auto-regressive models and a first-order autoregressive model. The methodologies used for forecasting have been modified and examined by [3, 4]. The fuzzy set was utilized in their research to specify the linguistic values and techniques employed in the first-order forecasting procedure[4]. Superior quality fuzzy time series (FTS) were utilized to predict University of Alabama student enrolments. Using evolutionary algorithms and Superior quality FTS, this innovative approach to Comparing the University of Alabama capacity predictions to the existing methods, the latter has the lowest mean square error [6]. This paper presents a new method for forecasting capacity using fuzzy time series, focusing on first order and time-variant methods. The method uses historical capacity from the University of Alabama to illustrate its forecasting process, achieving a higher accuracy rate than existing methods [5]. A new FTS model is intended to enhance stock price prediction by incorporating the adaptive model. The model, based on real-world trading information from the Taiwan Stock Index (TAIEX), surpasses previous models

suggested by Chen and Yu, allowing investors to change their projections depending on recent blunders [7][8]. A first-order FTS predicting model is used to determine fuzzy relation matrix elements using a novel genetic algorithm that outperforms current techniques on a variety of data sets[9]. In order to solve mathematical equality issues, this paper presents a thorough description of genetic algorithms, including its philosophy, flowchart, and sequential numerical calculation[10]. The introduces a modified method for forecasting enrolments and inventory demand using higher-order fuzzy logical relationships, enhancing accuracy by minimizing errors in both scenarios[11]. In contrast to other methods, which means Arithmetic, Geometric, Harmonic, Heronian, and Root Mean Square (RMS), this study proposes a Greater-order fuzzy logical connection that has been updated based on (RMSE), which achieves the best prediction accuracy rate[12]. To enhance crop growth prediction, genetic algorithm-based autoregressive integrated moving averages (ARIMA) and strengthened randomized forest Algorithm models for prediction are used, leveraging reinforcement learning and optimizing sample usage, outperforming traditional machine learning models in efficiency and accuracy. In this paper, we propose an improved Genetic Algorithm that incorporates a forecasting method, and evaluate its performance using Root Mean Square Error.

Preliminaries

Genetic Algorithms

Holland [1] proposed GAs, which Goldberg [2] refined. A GA is a probabilistic global exploration method that mimics spontaneous development methods to solve issues. A simulation based on the behaviour of evolution in organisms is the GA process. When utilizing a GA to solve an issue, the first decision is to encode it. GAs support a variety of numerous encoding techniques, like binary, value, and random encoding. First, depending on the population size, a starting population is generated at random after selecting the encryption and GA operators, as well as the crossover to be applied to the population. If CRO is greater than or equal to the number being generated at random, the CRO operation is carried out by randomly selecting a pair of chromosomes and a CRO point and then switching them.

Operators of Genetic Algorithms

The algorithm creates an initial generation and uses the following operators to evolve the generation.

Crossover Operator

This represents mating between individuals. The selection operator is applied on two individuals and CRO sites are arbitrarily chosen. At these CRO sites, the genes are exchanged and the genes from the completely new individual (offspring) are created.

Single-Point Crossover

It is one of the basic crossover techniques used in arbitrary GA applications. To create the child or offspring, this CRO first splits the parents' single points and then combines them at the CRO point. 1-Point crossover picks two parents for crossover first, followed by any crossover point chosen at random. At the crossover moment, the parents combine to produce two offspring. A basic Figure 1 is presented below, which executes a one-point crossover and produces two parents.

Root mean square error (RMSE) is defined as

$$\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{(forecasted\ value\ of\ year\ i - actual\ value\ of\ year)^2}{n}}$$

The actual value of year i is the actual value of year i on the year i where $1 \leq i < n$, and the predicted value of year i is the forecasted value of year i.

Collect Historical Data

Numerous publications regard the University of Alabama's student enrolment from 1971 to 1992 to be historical data for predicting [3, 4, 5 and 6]. Tables 1 and 2 present the University of Alabama's historical enrolments in order to compare the predicting inaccuracy with current methodologies.

Step 1

The University of Alabama's historical student enrolment data from 1971 to 1992 can be converted to binary data values by taking the historical data for each year and using binary conversion methods.

Step 2

A one-point crossover in genetic algorithms involves selecting a crossover point between two historical data sets. Once selected, genetic algorithms create two new offspring by exchanging segments at the crossover point, ensuring successful offspring generation.

Step 3

After performing the crossover operation, we obtain data in binary form, which is referred to as (After crossover) data. It is then transformed to decimal data, represented as the forecasted value.

Step 4

Calculate the difference between each forecasted and actual value, square these differences sum them, divide by the total number of values to get the mean squared error, and finally take the square root to obtain the RMSE.

Calculate the Forecasted Enrollment

Table 2, Historical forecasted and RMSR value.

RMSE = $\sqrt{93276/12}$ = $\sqrt{7773}$ = 88.164

In Table 4, we compare the RMSE of the current method with Singh's method, Singh's method, Cheng's method, Tsaur *et al*.'s method, Markov Model, Lee and Chiu's method, Hurang's method, Chen's method, Song and Chissom's method and Uslu *et al*.'s method, U. Abuthahir method in the case of forecasting issues. Here, we can see in the case of this example, the error accuracy is less when Genetic Algorithm is used.

METHOD AND RESULTS

(Table 3),

(Figure 2) Differences between the forecasted enrolments and the actual enrolments of the UA using the proposed method.

Comparison with Other Methods

(Table 4) A comparison between the forecasting values of the UA enrolment based on various techniques. Table 4 presents the forecasting enrolment of each year according to the proposed method. According to Table 4, we can observe that the RMSE of the forecasting results of the proposed method is 88.16.

CONCLUSION

This research introduces an improved genetic algorithm (GA) forecasting method that effectively handles both decimal and binary data. By enhancing the crossover operator, the study improves the accuracy of forecasting, particularly in predicting student enrolment at the University of Alabama. The proposed hybrid GA method, which leverages crossover-based enhancements, demonstrates superior performance compared to existing approaches. The

evaluation using Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) confirms that the hybrid GA method achieves the most accurate forecasting results, making it a promising approach for future forecasting applications.

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Table 1: Collect Historical Data

Year	Data
1971	13055
1972	13563
1973	13867
1974	14696
1975	15460
1976	15311
1977	15603
1978	15861
1979	16807
1980	16919
1981	16388
1982	15433
1983	15497
1984	15145
1985	15163
1986	15984
1987	16859

1988	18150
1989	18970
1990	19328
1991	19337
1992	18876

Table 2: Historical forecasted and RMSR value.

Year	Data	Before Crossover	After Crossover	Forecasted value	(Forecasted value − Actual value)²
1971	13055	11001011111111	11001011111011	13051	16
1972	13563	11010011111011	11010011111111	13567	16
1973	13867	11011000101011	11011001101000	13928	3721
1974	14696	11100101101000	11100100101011	14635	3721
1975	15460	11110001100100	11110001001111	15439	441
1976	15311	11101111001111	11101111100100	15332	441
1977	15603	11110011110011	11110011110101	15605	4
1978	15861	11110111110101	11110111110011	15859	4
1979	16807	100000110100111	100000100010111	16663	20736
1980	16919	100001000010111	100001010100111	17063	20736
1981	16388	100000000000100	100000001001001	16457	4761
1982	15433	11110001001001	011110000000100	15364	4761
1983	15497	11110010001001	11110010101001	15529	1024
1984	15145	11101100101001	11101100001001	15113	1024
1985	15163	11101100111011	11101101110000	15216	2809
1986	15984	11111001110000	11111000111011	15931	2809
1987	16859	100000111011011	100000111100110	16870	121
1988	18150	100011011100110	100011011011011	18139	121
1989	18970	100101000011010	100101010000000	19072	10404
1990	19328	100101110000000	100101100011010	19226	10404
1991	19337	100101110001001	100101110111100	19388	2601
1992	18876	100100110111100	100100110001001	18825	2601
Total					93276

Table 3: Method and Results

	Method	Result
RMSE	$\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\text{forecasted value of year i} - \text{actual value of year})^2 / n}$	88.164

Table 4: A comparison between the forecasting values of the UA enrolment based on various techniques.

Year	Actual	Singh's method	Singh's method	Cheng's method With TFA	Tsaur *et al.*'s method	Markov Model	Lee and chiu's method	Huang's method	Chen's method	Songand Chissom's method	Uslu *et al.*'s method	Zeng *et al.*'s method	U. Abuthahir's method in ForecastingProblems	Theproposed method
1971	13055	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13051
197	135	-	-	142	140	135	140	1400	140	1400	136	13563	-	13567

2	63			30	00	00	25	0	00	0	50	.13		
1973	13867	-	-	14230	14000	14500	14568	14000	14000	14000	13650	13866.65	-	13928
1974	14696	14286	14500	14230	14000	14500	14568	14000	14000	14000	14836	14696.31	-	14635
1975	15460	15361	15358	15541	15500	15231	15654	15500	15500	15500	15332	15450.02	-	15439
1976	15311	15468	15500	15541	15500	15563	15654	15500	16000	16000	15447	15414.23	-	15332
1977	15603	15512	15500	15541	16000	15563	15654	16000	16000	16000	15447	15515.36	-	15605
1978	15861	15582	15500	16196	16000	15500	15654	16000	16000	16000	15447	15624.97	-	15859
1979	16807	16500	16500	16196	16000	15500	16197	16000	16000	16000	16746	16816.33	-	16663
1980	16919	16361	16500	16196	16500	16684	17283	17500	16833	16813	17075	17474.65	-	17063
1981	16388	16362	16500	17507	16500	16684	17283	16000	16833	16813	16380	16784.26	-	16457
1982	15433	15744	15581	16196	15500	15500	16197	16000	16833	16789	15457	15405.14	-	15364
1983	15497	15560	15500	15541	15500	15563	15654	16000	16000	16000	15457	15419.12	-	15529
1984	15145	15498	15500	15541	15500	15563	15654	15500	16000	16000	15457	15426.09	-	15113
1985	15163	15306	15500	15541	15500	15563	15654	16000	16000	16000	15332	15566.30	-	15216
1986	15984	15442	15500	15541	15500	15563	15654	16000	16000	16000	16027	15575.51	-	15931
1987	16859	16558	16402	16196	16500	15500	16197	16000	16000	16000	16746	16893.30	-	16870
1988	18150	17187	18500	17507	18500	16577	17283	17500	16833	16813	18211	17214.01	-	18139
1989	18970	18475	18500	18872	19000	19500	18369	19000	19000	19000	19059	18969.86	77228.41	19072
1990	19328	19382	19471	18872	19000	19500	19454	19000	19000	19000	19059	19333.83	34040.25	19226
1991	19337	19487	19500	18872	19000	19500	19454	19500	19000	19000	19059	19106.35	912.04	19388
1992	18876	18744	18651	18872	-	-	-	19500	19000	-	19059	19100.96	193424.04	18825
RMSE	366	295	511	367	621.33	501	476	638	650	178	303.67	276.4	88.16	

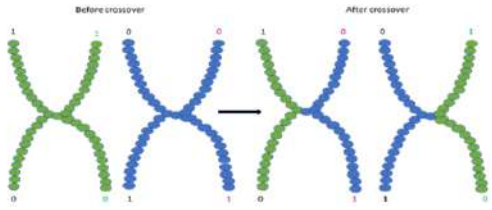


Figure 1: Which executes a one-point crossover and produces two parents.

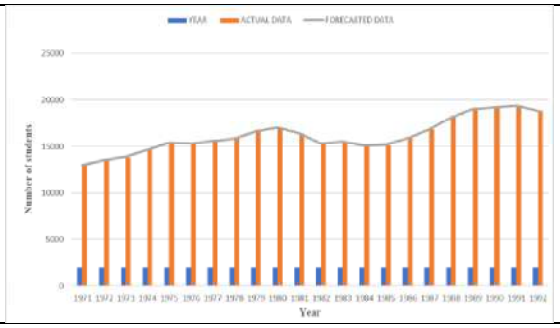


Figure 2: Differences between the forecasted enrolments and the actual enrolments of the UA using the proposed method.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Determinant and Adjoint of an Intuitionistic Fuzzy Matrices

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ABSTRACT

This work examines the adjoint of square Intuitionistic Fuzzy Matrices and determinant theory as well as examples. We cover some of the characteristics of square Intuitionistic Fuzzy Matrices. Additionally, we develop circular Intuitionistic fuzzy matrices and demonstrate how several characteristics of a square Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix like reflexivity, transitivity, and circularity to the adjoint of the Intuitionistic Fuzzy matrix. Finally, we demonstrate how to use the adjoint matrix to create a transitive Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix and also show that determinant theory of distributive Law of Square Intuitionistic Fuzzy Matrices.

Keywords: Determinant of a square Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix; adjoint of a square Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix, Reflexivity , Symmetric, Transitivity.

INTRODUCTION

We provide a formula for the adjoint matrix and apply it throughout the paper (see Remark 1). Jin Bai Kim [1,2] has studied Inverses of Boolean matrices and determinant theory for fuzzy and Boolean matrices. Jin Bai Kim, Alphonse Baartmans and Nor ShakilaSahadin [3] have introduced Determinant theory for fuzzy matrices. Li Jian-Xin [4] has studied Controllable fuzzy matrices. Thomason [5] has characterized Convergence of powers of fuzzy matrix, Jian Miao Chen [6] has Introduced Fuzzy matrix partial ordering and Generalized inverse. Nagoorgani and Manikandan [7] On Fuzzy det-norm Matrices. Ragab and Eman [8] have studied The determinant and adjoint of a Square fuzzy matrix. Bhowmik and M.Pal and A.Pal introduced Circulant triangular fuzzy Number matrices. Riyaz Ahmad Padder Murugadas [10] have studied Determinant theory for intuitionistic fuzzy matrices. Zadeh [11] has studied Fuzzy Sets. Subathra, Arul Pandiyan and Rasathi[12] have discussed Adjoint Of Square Fuzzy Matrices WithCompatible Norm. Meenakshi has studied Fuzzy Matrix Theory and Applications. We develop circular Intuitionistic fuzzy matrices and demonstrate how several characteristics of a square Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix like reflexivity, transitivity, and circularity to the adjoint of the Intuitionistic Fuzzy matrix and we establish some results including that $P\ adjP \geq |P| I_n,\ \ (adjP)P \geq |P| I_n, |P| = |adjP|$ where $|P|$ denotes the determinant of P and $adjP$ denotes the adjoint of P. Finally, we demonstrate how to use the adjoint matrix to create a transitive Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix and also show that determinant theory of distributive Law of Square Intuitionistic Fuzzy Matrices. We demonstrate that P adj P is transitive for any square fuzzy matrix P at the conclusion of this study.

Research gaps

As mentioned in the above introduction section, Ragab and Eman introduced the concept of The determinant and adjoint of a Square fuzzy matrix. Here, we have applied the concept of determinant and adjoint of a Square Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix. Both these concepts plays a significant role in hybrid fuzzy structure and we have applied the same in IFM and studied some of the results in detail.

Preliminaries and definitions

Let the IFM P of order m rows and n columns is in the form of $P = [y_{ij}, < p_{ij\alpha}, \mathrm{p}_{ij\beta} >]$,where $p_{ij\alpha}$ and $p_{ij\beta}$ are called the degree of membership and also the non-membership of y_{ij} in P , it preserving the condition $0 \leq p_{ij\alpha} + p_{ij\beta} \leq 1$

Consider $P = < p_{ij}, \mathrm{q}_{ij} > \text{ and } Q = < p'_{ij}, \mathrm{q}'_{ij} >$ component wise addition and multiplication is given by $P + Q = < \max\{p_{ij}, p'_{ij}\}, \min\{\mathrm{q}_{ij}, \mathrm{q}'_{ij}\} >$, $P.Q = < \min\{p_{ij}, p'_{ij}\}, \max\{\mathrm{q}_{ij}, \mathrm{q}'_{ij}\} >$

Definition:1

Let A be an $n \times n$ IFM. Then P is said to be symmetric iff $P = P^T$, reflexive iff $P \geq I_n$, transitive iff $P^2 \leq P$, similarity if it is reflexive, symmetric and transitive, and idempotent iff $P^2 = P$.

Definition : 2

The determinant |P| of an $n \times n$ Fuzzy Matrix P is defined as follows;

$$|P| = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} < p_{1\sigma(1)}, p'_{1\sigma(1)} >< p_{2\sigma(2)}, p'_{2\sigma(2)} > \ldots < p_{n\sigma(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{n\sigma(\mathrm{n})} >$$

Definition 3. : Let $P = < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} > \in (IF)_n$, then $|P| = |P^T|$ where P^T denotes the transpose of P.

Definition 4: Let P = [p_{ij}] and Q = [q_{ij}]. SFM over $(I\mathcal{F})_{mn}$. P is defined greater than Q if $|Q| \le |P|$ then Q is greater then P if $|P| \le |Q|$.

Example:1 Let us consider IFMs

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} <0.8,0.2> & <0.7,0.3> & <0.4,0.5> \\ <0.5,0.5> & <0.4,0.4> & <0.6,0.3> \\ <0.6,0.4> & <0.4,0.5> & <0.6,0.7> \end{bmatrix}, Q = \begin{bmatrix} <0.5,0.1> & <0.6,0.2> & <0.3,0.4> \\ <0.4,0.3> & <0.2,0.2> & <0.5,0.2> \\ <0.3,0.2> & <0.3,0.4> & <0.1,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|P| = <0.6,0.4>, |Q| = <0.3,0.2>$$

$$|P| \ge |Q|$$

Theorem :1 If IFM Q is obtainned from an n by n IFM P by multiplying the i th row of P(i-th column) by $c \in (0,1]$, then $c|P| = |Q|$

Proof: By definition

$$|Q| = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} < q_{1\sigma(1)}, q'_{1\sigma(1)} >< q_{2\sigma(2)}, q'_{2\sigma(2)} > \ldots < q_{n\sigma(n)}, q'_{n\sigma(n)} >$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} < p_{1\sigma(1)}, p'_{1\sigma(1)} >< p_{2\sigma(2)}, p'_{2\sigma(2)} > \ldots c < p_{i\sigma(i)}, p'_{i\sigma(i)} > \ldots . < p_{n\sigma(n)}, p'_{n\sigma(n)} >$$

$$= c \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} < p_{1\sigma(1)}, p'_{1\sigma(1)} >< p_{2\sigma(2)}, p'_{2\sigma(2)} > \ldots < p_{i\sigma(i)}, p'_{i\sigma(i)} > \ldots < p_{n\sigma(n)}, p'_{n\sigma(n)} >$$

$$= c|P|$$

Theorem :2 Let P and Q be two IFMs. Then $|PQ| \ge |P||Q|$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} <0.6,0.4> & <0.7,0.3> & <0.4,0.5> \\ <0.5,0.6> & <0.4,0.4> & <0.6,0.3> \\ <0.6,0.4> & <0.4,0.5> & <0.6,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

Example:2 Let us consider IFMs

we calculate the determinant IPI as follows

$$|P| = <0.6,0.4>[<0.4,0.4> + <0.4,0.5>] + <0.7,0.3>[<0.5,0.6> + <0.6,0.4>]$$
$$+ <0.4,0.5>[<0.4,0.6> + <0.4,0.4>]$$

$$|P| = <0.6,0.4><0.4,0.4> + <0.7,0.3><0.6,0.4> + <0.4,0.5><0.4,0.4>$$

$$|P| = <0.6,0.4>$$

The adjoint of a square Intuitionistic fuzzy matrix

Definition:5 The adjoint matrix of an n x n fuzzy matrix P, denoted by adj P, is defined as follows: $< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} >= \left|P_{ji}\right|$, where $\left|P_{ji}\right|$ is the determinant of the (n - 1) x (n - 1) fuzzy matrix formed by deleting row j and column i from P and Q = adj P.

Remark:1 We note that $\left|P_{ji}\right|$ can be obtained from $\left|P\right|$ by replacing a_{ji} by <1,0> and all other row-j factorsa_{jk}, k not equal to i by <0,1>. We also can rewrite the element q_{ij} of adj P as

$< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} >= \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} >$ where $n_j = \{1,2,3...,n\} \setminus \{j\}$ and $S_{n_j n_i}$ is the set of all permutations of set $n_j$over the set n_i.

Theorem:3 For n by n IFMs P and Q we have the following

(i) $P \le Q \Rightarrow adjP \le adjQ$

(ii) $adjP + adjQ \le adj(P+Q),$

(iii) $adjP^T = (adjP)^T$

Proof: Let R= adjP and S=adjQ. That is

$< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} >= \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > and < s_{ij}, s'_{ij} >= \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < q_{t\sigma(t)}, q'_{t\sigma(t)} >$

It's clear that $< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} >\le < s_{ij}, s'_{ij} >$ since $< p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} >\le < q_{t\sigma(t)}, q'_{t\sigma(t)} >$ for every $t \ne j, \sigma(t) \ne i.$

(ii)Since $P, Q \le P + Q$ it is clear that $adjP, \mathrm{adj}Q \le adj(P+Q)$ *and so* $adjP + \mathrm{adj}Q \le adj(P+Q).$

(iii) $< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} >= \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > and < r_{ij}, r'_{ij} >= \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < q_{t\sigma(t)}, q'_{t\sigma(t)} >$

Which is the element $< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} >$. Hence $adjP^T = (adjP)^T$

Theorem: 4 Let A be an n x n IFM . Then

(i) $P\ adjP \ge \left|P\right| I_n$

(ii) $(adjP)P \ge \left|P\right| I_n$

Proof: Let R = adjP. The i-th row of P is $(< p_{i1}, p'_{i1} >, < p_{i2}, p'_{i2} >, ..., < p_{in}, p'_{in} >)$

By definition of adj P, the j-th column of adj P is given by $\left(\left|P_{j1}\right|, \left|P_{j2}\right|, ..., \left|P_{jn}\right|\right)$

So that, $< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n} < p_{ik}, p'_{ik} > \left|P_{jk}\right| \ge 0$

and hence $< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n} < p_{ik}, p'_{ik} > \left|P_{jk}\right|$

Which is equal to $\left|P_{jk}\right|$. Thus $R = P\,adjP \ge \left|P\right| I_n$

(ii)The proof is similar to (i).

Theorem :5. For an IFM P we have $\left|P\right| = \left|adjP\right|.$

$$adjP = \begin{bmatrix} |P_{11}| & |P_{21}|\ldots & |P_{n1}| \\ |P_{12}| & |P_{22}|\ldots & |P_{n2}| \\ |P_{1n}| & |P_{2n}|\ldots & |P_{nn}| \end{bmatrix}$$

Proof: Since

We have

$$|adjP| = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} |P_{1\sigma(1)}||P_{2\sigma(1)}|\ldots|P_{n\sigma(\mathrm{n})}|$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^{n} |P_{i\sigma(\mathrm{i})}| = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \left[\prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(\sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_i n_{\sigma(i)}}} \prod_{t \in n_i} < p_{t\theta(t)}, p'_{t\theta(t)} > \right) \right]$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \left[\left(\sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_1 n_{\sigma(1)}}} \prod_{t \in n_1} < p_{t\theta(t)}, p'_{t\theta(t)} > \right) \left(\sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_2 n_{\sigma(2)}}} \prod_{t \in n_2} < p_{t\theta(t)}, p'_{t\theta(t)} > \right) \ldots \left(\sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_n n_{\sigma(\mathrm{n})}}} \prod_{t \in n_n} < p_{t\theta(t)}, p'_{t\theta(t)} > \right) \right]$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \left[\left(\prod_{t \in n_1} < p_{t\theta_1(t)}, p'_{t\theta_1(t)} > \right) \left(\prod_{t \in n_2} < p_{t\theta_2(t)}, p'_{t\theta_2(t)} > \right) \ldots \left(\prod_{t \in n_n} < p_{t\theta_n(t)}, p'_{t\theta_n(t)} > \right) \right]$$

$(for\ some\ \theta_1 \in S_{n_1 n_{\sigma(1)}}, \theta_2 \in S_{n_2 n_{\sigma(2)}}, \ldots, \theta_n \in S_{n_n n_{\sigma(\mathrm{n})}}$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} [(< p_{2\theta_1(2)}, p'_{2\theta_1(2)} >< p_{3\theta_1(3)}, p'_{3\theta_1(3)} > \ldots < p_{n\theta_1(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{n\theta_1(\mathrm{n})} >)(< p_{1\theta_2(1)}, p'_{1\theta_2(1)} >< p_{3\theta_2(3)}, p'_{3\theta_2(3)} > \ldots < p_{n\theta_2(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{n\theta_2(\mathrm{n})} >)$$

$$\ldots(< p_{1\theta_n(1)}, p'_{1\theta_n(1)} >< p_{2\theta_n(3)}, p'_{2\theta_2(\mathrm{n})} > \ldots < p_{n-1\theta_n(\mathrm{n}-1)}, p'_{n-1\theta_2(\mathrm{n}-1)} >)$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} [(< p_{1\theta_2(1)}, p'_{1\theta_2(1)} >< p_{1\theta_3(1)}, p'_{1\theta_3(1)} > \ldots < p_{1\theta_n(1)}, p'_{1\theta_n(1)} >)(< p_{2\theta_1(2)}, p'_{2\theta_1(2)} >< p_{2\theta_3(2)}, p'_{2\theta_3(2)} > \ldots < p_{2\theta_n(2)}, p'_{2\theta_n(2)} >)$$

$$(< p_{3\theta_1(3)}, p'_{3\theta_1(3)} >< p_{3\theta_2(3)}, p'_{3\theta_2(3)} > \ldots < p_{3\theta_n(3)}, p'_{3\theta_n(3)} >)\ldots(< p_{n\theta_1(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{n\theta_1(\mathrm{n})} >< p_{n\theta_2(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{n\theta_2(\mathrm{n})} > \ldots < p_{n\theta_{n-1}(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{n\theta_{n-1}(\mathrm{n})} >)]$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} [(< p_{1\theta_{f_1}(1)}, p'_{1\theta_{f_1}(1)} > < p_{2\theta_{f_2}(2)}, p'_{2\theta_{f_2}(2)} > \ldots < p_{n\theta_{f_n}(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{1\theta_{f_n}(\mathrm{n})} >)$$

For some $f_n \in \{1, 2, \ldots, \mathrm{n}\} \setminus \{h\}, h = 1, 2, \ldots, n$

But since $< p_h\theta_{f_h}(h), p'_h\theta_{f_h}(h) > \neq < p_{h\sigma(f_h)}, p_{h\sigma(f_h)} >$

We have $< p_h\theta_{f_h}(h), p'_h\theta_{f_h}(h) > = < p_{h\sigma(f_h)}, p_{h\sigma(f_h)} >$

Therefore, $|adjP| = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} < p_{1\sigma(1)}, p'_{1\sigma(1)} >< p_{2\sigma(2)}, p'_{2\sigma(2)} > \ldots < p_{n\sigma(\mathrm{n})}, p'_{n\sigma(\mathrm{n})} >$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} <0.5, 0.1> & <0.3, 0.2> & <0.2, 0.2> \\ <0.4, 0.1> & <0.1, 0.2> & <0.2, 0.1> \\ <0.4, 0.3> & <0.3, 0.3> & <0.4, 0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

Example:3 Let us consider IFMs

$$adjP = \begin{bmatrix} <0.2, 0.3> & <0.3, 0.3> & <0.2, 0.3> \\ <0.3, 0.3> & <0.1, 0.3> & <0.2, 0.3> \\ <0.2, 0.3> & <0.2, 0.3> & <0.3, 0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

Then

$$|P| = |adjP| = <0.3, 0.3>$$

Definition:6 An n × n fuzzy matrix P is called circular if and only if $(P^2)' \leq P$, , or more explicitly, $p_{jk} p_{ki} \leq p_{ij}$ for every k = 1, 2,..., n.

Theorem:6 For an n × n IFM P we have the following:
(i) if P is symmetric, then adj P is symmetric,
(ii) if P is transitive, then adj P is transitive,
(iii) if P is circular, then adj P is circular.

Proof: (i) Let Q = adj P. Then

$$< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} >= \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_i n_j}} \prod_{t \in n_i} < p_{\sigma(t)t}, p'_{\sigma(t)t} >=< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} >$$

(Since P is symmetric)
(ii)Let S =P_{ij} .We can determine the elements of S in terms of the elements of P as follow:

$$< s_{hk}, s'_{hk} >= \begin{cases} < p_{hk}, p'_{hk} > & if \ h < i, k < j, \\ < p_{(h+1)k}, p'_{(h+1)k} > & if \ h \geq i, k < j, \\ < p_{h(k+1)}, p'_{h(k+1)} > & if \ h < i, k \geq j, \\ < p_{(h+1)(k+1)}, p'_{(h+1)(k+1)} > & if \ h \geq i, k \geq j, \end{cases}$$

where P_{ij} denotes the (n- 1)× (n- 1) fuzzy matrix obtained from P by deleting the i-th row and column j.
Now we show that $P_{st} P_{tu} \leq P_{su}$ for every $t \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$. Let R = P_{st}, C = P_{tu}, F = P_{su} and W = $P_{st} P_{tu}$.
Note that P is transitive. Then

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < r_{ik}, r'_{ik} >< c_{kj}, c'_{kj} >$$

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < p_{ik}, p'_{ik} >< p_{kj}, p'_{kj} >\leq < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} >=< f_{ij}, f'_{ij} > \ if \ i < s, k < t, j < u,$$

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < p_{ik}, p'_{ik} >< p_{k(j+1)}, p'_{k(j+1)} >\leq < p_{i(j+1)}, p'_{i(j+1)} >=< f_{ij}, f'_{ij} > \ if \ i < s, k < t, j \geq u,$$

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < p_{i(k+1)}, p'_{i(k+1)} >< p_{(k+1)j}, p'_{(k+1)j} >\leq < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} >=< f_{ij}, f'_{ij} > \ if \ i < s, k \geq t, j < u,$$

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < p_{i(k+1)}, p'_{i(k+1)} >< p_{(k+1)(j+1)}, p'_{(k+1)(j+1)} >\leq < p_{i(j+1)}, p'_{i(j+1)} > =< f_{ij}, f'_{ij} > \ if \ i < s, k \geq t, j \geq u,$$

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < p_{(i+1)k}, p'_{(i+1)k} >< p_{kj}, p'_{kj} >\leq < p_{(i+1)j}, p'_{(i+1)j} > =< f_{ij}, f'_{ij} > \ if \ i \geq s, k < t, j < u,$$

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < p_{(i+1)(k+1)}, p'_{(i+1)(k+1)} >< p_{(k+1)j}, p'_{(k+1)j} >\leq < p_{(i+1)j}, p'_{(i+1)j} > =< f_{ij}, f'_{ij} > if \ i \geq s, k \geq t, j < u,$$

$$< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} < p_{(i+1)(k+1)}, p'_{(i+1)(k+1)} >< p_{(k+1)(j+1)}, p'_{(k+1)(j+1)} >\leq < p_{(i+1)(j+1)}, p'_{(i+1)(j+1)} > =< f_{ij}, f'_{ij} > \ if \ i \geq s, k \geq t, j < u,$$

Thus $< w_{ij}, w'_{ij} > \leq\leq < f_{kj}, f'_{kj} >$ in every case and therefore $P_{st}P_{tu} \leq P_{su}$ for every $t_n \in \{1,2,...,n\}$. By theorem 3.4 we get $|P_{st}||P_{tu}| \leq |P_{st}P_{tu}| \leq |P_{su}|$.

This means $< q_{ts}, q'_{ts} >< q_{ut}, q'_{ut} > \leq\leq < q_{us}, q'_{us} > i.e) < q_{ut}, q'_{ut} >< q_{ts}, q'_{ts} > \leq\leq < q_{us}, q'_{us} >$ for every $t_n \in \{1,2,...,n\}$. Hence is transitive

(iii) Similarly, as in (ii) we can show that $P_{st}P_{tu} \leq P'_{us}$ for every $t_n \in \{1,2,...,n\}$. So that $|P_{st}||P_{tu}| \leq |P'_{us}| = |P_{us}|$.

Thus $< q_{st}, q'_{ts} >< q_{tu}, q'_{tu} > \leq\leq < q_{us}, q'_{us} >$ and Q=adjP is circular.

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} < 0.6, 0.2 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.4 > \\ < 0.4, 0.4 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > \\ < 0.5, 0.3 > & < 0.5, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > \end{bmatrix}$$

Example:3 Let us consider IFMs

$$P^2 = \begin{bmatrix} < 0.6, 0.2 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > \\ < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > \\ < 0.5, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > \end{bmatrix} \leq P$$

i.e) P is transitive. Now we calculate the adjoint of P as follows

$$P_{11} = < 0.4, 0.3 > + < 0.4, 0.3 > = < 0.4, 0.3 >$$
$$P_{12} = < 0.4, 0.4 > + < 0.4, 0.3 > = < 0.4, 0.3 >$$
$$P_{13} = < 0.4, 0.4 > + < 0.4, 0.3 > = < 0.4, 0.3 >$$
$$P_{21} = < 0.4, 0.3 > + < 0.4, 0.4 > = < 0.4, 0.3 >$$
$$P_{22} = < 0.4, 0.3 > + < 0.4, 0.4 > = < 0.4, 0.3 >$$
$$P_{23} = < 0.5, 0.3 > + < 0.4, 0.3 > = < 0.5, 0.3 >$$
$$P_{31} = < 0.4, 0.3 > + < 0.4, 0.4 > = < 0.4, 0.3 >$$
$$P_{32} = < 0.4, 0.2 > + < 0.4, 0.4 > = < 0.4, 0.2 >$$
$$P_{32} = < 0.4, 0.2 > + < 0.4, 0.4 > = < 0.4, 0.2 >$$

$$adjP = \begin{bmatrix} < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > \\ < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > \\ < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.5, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(adjP)^2 = \begin{bmatrix} < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > \\ < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > \\ < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.3 > & < 0.4, 0.2 > \end{bmatrix} \leq adjP$$

adj P is transitive,

Therefore, if P is transitive, then adj P is transitive,

Theorem :7 For any n x n IFM P, the IFM P adj P is transitive.

Proof: Let R= PadjP,

$$< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} >= \sum_{k=1}^{n} < p_{ik}, p'_{ik} > \left|A_{jk}\right| =< p_{if}, p'_{if} > \left|A_{jf}\right|$$

i.e) for some $f \in \{1,2,...,\mathrm{n}\}$, and

$$< r_{ij}^{(2)}, r_{ij}'^{(2)} >= \sum_{s=1}^{n} < r_{is}, \mathrm{r}'_{is} >< r_{sj}, \mathrm{r}'_{sj} >= \sum_{s=1}^{n}\left[\left(\sum_{l=1}^{n} < p_{il}, \mathrm{p}'_{il} > \left|P_{sl}\right|\right)\left(\sum_{t=1}^{n} < p_{st}, \mathrm{p}'_{st} > \left|P_{jt}\right|\right)\right]$$

$$= \sum_{s=1}^{n} < p_{ih}, \mathrm{p}'_{ih} > \left|P_{sh}\right| < p_{su}, \mathrm{p}'_{su} > \left|P_{ju}\right| \leq < p_{ih}, \mathrm{p}'_{ih} > \left|P_{ju}\right| \leq < p_{if}, \mathrm{p}'_{if} > \left|P_{jf}\right|,$$

For some $h, \mathrm{u} \in \{1,2,...,\mathrm{n}\}$. Thus $(\mathrm{PadjP})^2 \leq \mathrm{PadjP}$.

Example:4 Let us consider IFMs

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} <0.5,0.1> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.2,0.2> \\ <0.4,0.1> & <0.1,0.2> & <0.2,0.1> \\ <0.4,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.4,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$adjP = \begin{bmatrix} <0.2,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.3,0.3> & <0.1,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

Then

$$PadjP = \begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(PadjP)^2 = \begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.2,0.3> \\ <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> & <0.3,0.3> \end{bmatrix} \leq PadjP$$

Theorem:8 If $P =< p_{ij}, \mathrm{p}'_{ij} >$ is symmetric and transitive, then $< p_{ij}, \mathrm{p}'_{ij} >\leq < p_{ii}, \mathrm{p}'_{ii} >$ for $i, j \in \{1,2,...,n\}$.

Proof: Since P is symmetric, $< p_{ij}, \mathrm{p}'_{ij} >=< p_{ji}, \mathrm{p}'_{ji} >$ for all $i, j \in \{1,2,...,n.\}$

Since P is transitive by definition , $P \geq P^2$

i.e) $$< p_{ij}, \mathrm{p}'_{ij} >\geq \sum_{k} < p_{ik}, p'_{ik} >< p_{kj}, p'_{kj} > \quad for\ all\ \ i, j$$

$$< p_{ii}, p'_{ii} > \geq < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} >^{k} < p_{ji}, p'_{ji} > \quad for \quad k = j \; for \; each \; i$$

$$< p_{ii}, p'_{ii} > \geq < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} >^{2} \quad (Since < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} > = < p_{ji}, p'_{ji} >)$$

$$< p_{ii}, p'_{ii} > \geq < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} >$$

Theorem:9 Let P be a SFM and adj P of SFM, the multiple P and adj A is equal to a Square Fuzzy Matrix $|P(adjP)| = |(adjP)P|$

Proof: Let R = P (adj P) and S = (adj P) P then

$$< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} > = \sum_{j=1}^{n} < p_{ij}, p'_{ij} > |P_{ji}|$$ (Square IFM) and

$$< s_{ij}, s'_{ij} > = \sum_{j=1}^{n} |P_{ji}| < p_{ij}, p_{ij} >$$ (Square IFM)

Theorem: 10 For any $m \times n$ SFM P and Q we have the following,

(i) $|P| \leq |Q|$ implies $| adjP | \leq | adjQ |$

(ii) $|P|^T \leq |Q|^T$ implies $| adj\ P |^T \leq | adj\ Q |^T$

(iii) $| adj\ P + adj\ Q | \leq | adj\ (P + Q) |$

(iv) $| adj\ P^T | = |(adjP)^T |$

Proof: (i) Let R = adjP and S = adjQ. That is

$$< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} > = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > \; and \; < s_{ij}, s'_{ij} > = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < q_{t\sigma(t)}, q'_{t\sigma(t)} >$$

It is clear that $< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} > \leq < s_{ij}, s'_{ij} >$ because $< p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > \leq < q_{t\sigma(t)}, q'_{t\sigma(t)} >$ for every $t \in n_j n_i$.

(ii) Let R = $| adj\ P |$ and S = $|adj\ Q |^T$. That is

$$< r_{ji}, r'_{ji} > = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_i n_j}} \prod_{\sigma(t) \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > \; and \; < s_{ij}, s'_{ij} > = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_i n_j}} \prod_{\sigma(t) \in n_j} < q_{t\sigma(t)}, q'_{t\sigma(t)} >$$

It is clear that $< r_{ij}, r'_{ij} > \leq < s_{ij}, s'_{ij} >$ because $< p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > \leq < q_{t\sigma(t)}, q'_{t\sigma(t)} >$ for every $t \in n_i n_j$.

(iii)Because P ,Q ≤ P + Q. It is clear that $adjP, adjQ \leq adj\ (P + Q)$ and so $| adjP + adjQ | \leq | adj\ (P + Q) |$.

(iv) Let Q = $adj\ P$ and R = $adj\ P^T$, Then

$$< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} > = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{t \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} > \; and \; < r_{ij}, r'_{ij} > = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{n_j n_i}} \prod_{\sigma(t) \in n_j} < p_{t\sigma(t)}, p'_{t\sigma(t)} >$$

Which is the element $< q_{ij}, q'_{ij} >$ hence $| adj\ P^T | = |(adj\ P)^T |$

Theorem 11: If P, Q, R and S in$(I\mathcal{F})_n$ then $|P + Q| + |R + S| = |P + R| + |Q + S|$

Example:5 Let us consider IFMs

$$P=\begin{bmatrix} <0.5,0.4> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.5,0.5> \\ <0.1,0.2> & <0.4,0.3> & <0.1,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.1> & <0.2,0.1> & <0.2,0.2> \end{bmatrix} Q=\begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.1> & <0.1,0.2> & <0.4,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.2> & <0.2,0.1> & <0.5,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.1> & <0.2,0.1> & <0.2,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R=\begin{bmatrix} <0.1,0.2> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.4,0.2> \\ <0.3,0.2> & <0.1,0.3> & <0.4,0.5> \\ <0.6,0.3> & <0.4,0.3> & <0.2,0.2> \end{bmatrix}, S=\begin{bmatrix} <0.2,0.2> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.2,0.5> \\ <0.5,0.2> & <0.6,0.1> & <0.3,0.4> \\ <0.5,0.2> & <0.6,0.2> & <0.4,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P+Q=\begin{bmatrix} <0.5,0.1> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.5,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.2> & <0.4,0.1> & <0.5,0.3> \\ <0.2,0.1> & <0.2,0.1> & <0.2,0.5> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|P+Q|=<0.2,0.2>$$

$$R+S=\begin{bmatrix} <0.2,0.2> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.4,0.2> \\ <0.5,0.2> & <0.6,0.1> & <0.4,0.4> \\ <0.6,0.2> & <0.6,0.2> & <0.4,0.2> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|R+S|=<0.4,0.2>$$

$$|P+Q|+|R+S|=<0.4,0.2>$$

$$P+R=\begin{bmatrix} <0.5,0.2> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.5,0.2> \\ <0.3,0.2> & <0.4,0.3> & <0.4,0.3> \\ <0.6,0.3> & <0.4,0.3> & <0.2,0.2> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|P+R|=<0.4,0.2>$$

$$Q+S=\begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.1> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.4,0.3> \\ <0.5,0.2> & <0.6,0.1> & <0.5,0.3> \\ <0.5,0.1> & <0.6,0.1> & <0.4,0.3> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|Q+S|=<0.4,0.3>$$

$$|P+R|+|Q+S|=<0.4,0.2>$$

$$|P+Q|+|R+S|=|P+R|+|Q+S|$$

Theorem:12 Show that distributive Law of Square IFMs

(i) $|P(Q+R)|=|PQ|+|PR|$

(ii) $|(Q+R)\mathrm{P}|=|QP|+|RP|$

Example:6 Let us consider IFMs

$$P=\begin{bmatrix} <0.4,0.1> & <0.3,0.5> & <0.3,0.2> \\ <0.3,0.4> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.4,0.4> \end{bmatrix} \quad Q=\begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.2> & <0.2,0.2> & <0.1,0.4> \\ <0.2,0.5> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.3,0.2> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R=\begin{bmatrix} <0.6,0.4> & <0.3,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> \\ <0.4,0.2> & <0.2,0.3> & <0.2,0.4> \\ <0.8,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> & <0.3,0.1> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q+R=\begin{bmatrix} <0.6,0.4> & <0.3,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> \\ <0.4,0.2> & <0.5,0.3> & <0.3,0.2> \\ <0.8,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> & <0.4,0.1> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P(Q+R)=\begin{bmatrix} <0.4,0.1> & <0.3,0.5> & <0.3,0.2> \\ <0.3,0.4> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.4,0.4> \\ <0.6,0.1> & <0.4,0.2> & <0.3,0.1> \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} <0.6,0.4> & <0.3,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> \\ <0.4,0.2> & <0.5,0.3> & <0.3,0.2> \\ <0.8,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> & <0.4,0.1> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P(Q+R)=\begin{bmatrix} <0.4,0.2> & <0.3,0.1> & <0.4,0.1> \\ <0.4,0.4> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.4,0.4> \\ <0.6,0.2> & <0.4,0.3> & <0.6,0.1> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|P(Q+R)|=<0.4,0.4>$$

$$R=\begin{bmatrix} <0.4,0.1> & <0.3,0.5> & <0.3,0.2> \\ <0.3,0.4> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.4,0.4> \\ <0.6,0.1> & <0.4,0.2> & <0.3,0.1> \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} <0.6,0.4> & <0.3,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> \\ <0.4,0.2> & <0.2,0.3> & <0.2,0.4> \\ <0.8,0.1> & <0.7,0.1> & <0.3,0.1> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$PR=\begin{bmatrix} <0.4,0.2> & <0.3,0.1> & <0.4,0.1> \\ <0.4,0.4> & <0.4,0.4> & <0.3,0.4> \\ <0.6,0.1> & <0.3,0.1> & <0.6,0.1> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|PR|=<0.4,0.4>$$

$$PQ=\begin{bmatrix} <0.4,0.1> & <0.3,0.5> & <0.3,0.2> \\ <0.3,0.4> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.4,0.4> \\ <0.6,0.1> & <0.4,0.2> & <0.3,0.1> \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.2> & <0.2,0.2> & <0.1,0.4> \\ <0.2,0.5> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.3,0.2> \\ <0.7,0.1> & <0.4,0.3> & <0.4,0.5> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$PQ=\begin{bmatrix} <0.3,0.2> & <0.3,0.2> & <0.3,0.4> \\ <0.4,0.4> & <0.5,0.4> & <0.4,0.4> \\ <0.3,0.1> & <0.4,0.2> & <0.3,0.2> \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|PQ|=<0.3,0.4>$$

$$|PQ|+|PR|=<0.4,0.4>$$

$$|P(Q+R)| = |PQ| + |PR|$$

CONCLUSION

In this article, we looked at the characteristics of square IFMs and reviewed the determinant theory for IFMs. To make the developed theory and the suggested adjoint of Square Fuzzy Matrices and Determinant Theory for IFMs more understandable, a numerical example is provided.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Non-Split Legendary Domination in Graphs

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ABSTRACT

Harary and Norman introduced the line graph G_l. We introduced the legendary domination number by combining the domination concept both in graph and its line graph. In this paper, the non - split domination property is studied along with the legendary domination concept. Hence the non - split legendary dominating set is introduced and the corresponding non - split legendary domination number is defined for the line graph G_l. The bounds of this parameter was studied and its exact value was found for some standard graphs. Also, the graph theoretical parameters are studied in terms of elements of G and its relationship with other domination parameters are presented.

Keywords: Non-Split domination number, non-split line domination number, legendary domination number, non-split legendary domination number.
AMS subject classification: 05C69, 05C76.

INTRODUCTION

A graph $G = (V, E)$ we mean a finite, undirected, simple and connected graph with p vertices and q edges [3]. The line graph of G, denoted G_l, is the graph with vertex set $E(G)$, where vertices x and y are adjacent in G_l if and only if edges x and y share a common vertex in G [4]. For more details on line graph refer to [1,2]. A set $D \subseteq V(G)$ of a graph $G = (V, E)$ is a dominating set of G if every vertex in $V \setminus D$ is adjacent to some vertex in D. The domination number of G is the minimum cardinality of a dominating set of G [5,7,8]. We introduced the legendary domination number by combining the domination concept both in graph and its line graph [11]. The line domination number of G is denoted by $\gamma_l(G)$ is the minimum cardinality of a line dominating set of $L(G)$ [6]. A dominating set $D \subseteq V(G)$ of graph $G = (V, E)$ is said to be legendary dominating set of G, if D is a dominating set of G and G_l. The legendary domination number is the minimum cardinality taken over all legendary dominating sets of G and is denoted by $\gamma_{le}(G).$ A dominating set $D \subseteq V(G)$ is a non-split dominating set, if the induced subgraph $\langle V \setminus D \rangle$ is connected [10]. In this paper, we introduced the non-split legendary domination number by combining the non-split domination concept both in graph and its line graph. The bounds of this parameter was studied and its exact value was found for some standard graphs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Definition 2.1 *A line dominating set D of G is a non-split line dominating set (nsld - set)of G, if the induced graph* $\langle V_l - D \rangle$ *is connected, where* $V_l = V(G_l)$ *. The non-split line domination number* $\gamma_{nsl}(G)$ *is the cardinality of minimum nsld-set of G. Also, a nsld - set with cardinality* γ_{nsl} *– set of G.*

The non-split legendary domination number between G and G_l defined as follows

Definition 2.2 *A non-split line dominating set X of G is a non-split legendary dominating set (nsled - set) of G, if G has a non-split dominating set of cardinality of X. Therefore both G and* G_l *has a non-split dominating set of cardinality of X. The non-split legendary domination number* $\gamma_{nsle}(G)$ *is the cardinality of minimum nsled - set of G. Also a nsled - set with cardinality* $\gamma_{nsle}(G)$ *is denoted as* γ_{nsle} *– set of G.*

Remarks 2.1

1. For the existence of the non-split legendary dominating set of G, we assume that G is a connected graph with atleast two edges.

2. All graphs consider in this paper are having at least one nsled - set.

3. The non-split dominating set of G with cardinality $\gamma_{ns}(G)$ *is denoted by* γ_{ns} *– set of G.*

Example 2.1

For the graph G and G_l in Figure 1, the non-split dominating set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$ in G_l is a minimum non-split legendary dominating set of G, since G has a non-split dominating set. Hence $\gamma_{ns}(G) = 4.$ Here the vertex set $\{u_1, u_2, u_5, u_6\}$ and $\{v_2, v_4\}$ are γ_{ns} – set and γ_{nsl} – set of G respectively gives $\gamma_{ns}(G) = 4,\ \gamma_{nsl}(G) = 2.$ Therefore $\gamma_{nsl}(G) < \gamma_{ns}(G) = \gamma_{nsle}(G)$

Example 2.2

For the graph *G* and G_l in Figure 2, the split dominating set $X = \{v_1, v_2\}$ in G_l is a minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{u_1, u_4\}$. Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 2.$ Here the vertex set $\{u_1\}$ and $\{v_1, v_2\}$ are $\gamma_{ns}-$ set and $\gamma_{nsl}-$ set of *G* respectively gives $\gamma_{ns}(G) = 1, \gamma_{nsl}(G) = 2.$ Therefore $\gamma_{ns}(G) < \gamma_{nsl}(G) = \gamma_{nsle}(G).$

Example 2.3

For the graph *G* and G_l in Figure 3, the non-split dominating set $X = \{v_2, v_5\}$ in G_l is a minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{u_1, u_4\}$. Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 2.$ Here the vertex set $\{u_1, u_4\}$ and $\{v_2, v_5\}$ are $\gamma_{ns}-$ set and $\gamma_{nsl}-$ set of *G* respectively gives $\gamma_{ns}(G) = 2, \gamma_{nsl}(G) = 2.$ Therefore $\gamma_{ns}(G) = \gamma_{nsl}(G) = \gamma_{nsle}(G)$.

In view of the graph given in Examples 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, we have the following result

Theorem 2.1

For any graph G,

(i) $\gamma_{ns}(G) \leq \gamma_{nsle}(G)$ *and*

(ii) $\gamma_{nsl}(G) \leq \gamma_{nsle}(G)$

Proof. Since every legendary non-split dominating set of *G* is a non-split line dominating set of G gives

$$\gamma_{ns}(G) \leq \gamma_{nsle}(G). \quad (2.1)$$

Also every non-split legendary dominating set of *G* is a non-split dominating set of *G* shows *G* has a non-split dominating set of cardinality atmost as non-split legendary domination number of G.

Hence

$$\gamma_{nsl}(G) \leq \gamma_{nsle}(G). \quad (2.2)$$

Equations (2.1) and (2.2) prove the result.

Corollary 2.1

For any graph G, $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = \max(\gamma_{ns}(G), \gamma_{nsl}(G))$

Proof. Suppose X is a minimum non-split legendary dominating set of a graph *G*, then both *G* and its line graph G_l have a non-split dominating set of cardinality *X*. Then the result follows from the Theorem 2.1.

The following results discuss the minimal non-split legendary dominating set of G.

Theorem 2.2

Every minimal non-split legendary dominating set of G is a minimal non-split line dominating set of G.

Proof. Let *S* be a minimal non-split legendary dominating set of *G*. Then *S* is a non-split legendary dominating set of *G* as well as non-split dominating set of G_l. Since $S \subseteq V_l(G)$ is a minimal non-split legendary dominating set gives $S - s, \forall s \in S$, is not a non-split dominating set of G_l. It proves that *S* is a minimal non-split dominating set

of G_l. That is, *S* is a minimal non-split line dominating set of *G*, which proves the result. Also the Example 2.3, illustrate the above result.

Every minimum non-split legendary dominating set of G is a minimal non-split line dominating set of G.

Proof. Let *S* be a minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*. Then *S* is a non-split dominating set of G_l. That is *S* is a non-split line dominating set of *G*. Since by the result ``Every minimum dominating set of a graph is a minimal dominating set.'', we have every minimum non-split dominating set of *G* is a minimal non-split dominating set gives, *S* is a minimal non-split legendary dominating set of *G*. Then the result is followed from the result "The sum of the degrees of the vertices of a *(p,q)* graph is twice the number of edges. That is $\sum_{v_i \in V(G)} \deg(v_i) = 2q$". Also, the Example 2.1, illustrate the above corollary.

Since in Example 2.2, the vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ *is a minimal non-split legendary dominating set of G but there is no minimal non-split dominating set exist for G with cardinality 2. It gives the following result*

Theorem 2.3

Every minimal non-split legendary dominating set of G need not gives a minimal non-split dominating set of G with the same cardinality.

The necessary and sufficient condition for the non-split legendary domination number equal to non-split line domination number and non-split domination number of G given below

Theorem 2.4

For any graph G,

(i) $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = \gamma_{nsl}(G)$ if and only if $\gamma_{ns}(G) \leq \gamma_{nsl}(G)$

(ii) $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = \gamma_{ns}(G)$ if and only if $\gamma_{nsl}(G) \leq \gamma_{ns}(G).$

Proof. Since $\gamma_{nsle}(G)$ is the maximum of $\gamma_{ns}(G)$ and $\gamma_{nsl}(G)$ proves the necessary part of the above two results. The sufficient part of the result are followed from the definition of non-split legendary dominating set and the corresponding non-split legendary domination number of *G*.

Remark 2.2

For the five following theorems we assume that the non-split domination number is less than non-split line domination number $\gamma_{ns}(G) < \gamma_{nsl}(G)$. Hence by above result $\gamma_{nsl}(G) = \gamma_{nsle}(G)$.

Characterizations, bounds and exact values

The following result characterizes the minimal non-split legendary dominating sets.

Theorem 2.5

A non-split legendary dominating set $X \subseteq V_l(G)$ *of G is minimal if and only if for each vertex* $x \in X,$ *one of the following conditions holds.*

(i) There exists a vertex $y \in V_l - X$ *such that* $N(y) \cap X = \{x\}.$

(ii) x *is an isolated vertex in* $\langle X \rangle$ *and*

(iii) $N(x) \cap (V_l - X) = \phi.$

Proof. Let G_l be a line graph of graph G. Let $X \subseteq V_l(G)$ be a non-split line dominating set of G.

Suppose *X* is minimal. On contrary, if there exists a vertex $x \in X,$ such that x does not satisfy any of the given conditions. Then by the result ``A dominating set *D* is a minimal dominating set if and only if for each vertex *v* in *D*, one of the following conditions holds,

(i) *v* is an isolated vertex of *D*

(ii) there exits a vertex *u* in *V - D* such that $N(u) \cap D = \{v\}$, $X_1 = X - \{x\}$ is a line dominating set of *G*.

By (iii), the induced sub graph $\langle V_l - X_1 \rangle$ is connected. This implies that X_1 is a non-split line dominating set of *G*, which contradicts the minimality of *X*. The converse is obvious. Since by Remarks 2.2, minimum non-split line dominating set becomes minimum non-split legendary dominating set, which proves the result.

The following theorem provides an upper bound for $\gamma_{nsle}(G)$

Theorem 2.6

If *G* and G_l are connected graphs with atleast three vertices and $\gamma_{ns}(G) < \gamma_{nsl}(G)$, then $\gamma_{nsle}(G) < q - 2.$

Proof. Since G_l is connected there exist a spanning tree *T* with $p_l - 1$ vertices. If *x* is a pendant vertex of *T* then $X = V_l(G) - \{x\}$ forms a non-split line dominating set of *G*. It gives $\gamma_{nsl} \leq |X| = p_l - 2.$ Then the result extended to non-split legendary domination number by Theorem 2.4.

The following theorem gives a necessary condition to a minimum dominating set of G_l becomes a minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*.

Theorem 2.7

If $\kappa(G_l) > \beta_0(G_l).$ *Then* $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = \gamma_l(G)$ *where* $\kappa(G_l)$ *and* $\beta_0(G_l)$ *respectively the vertex connectivity and independent number of* G_l.

Proof. *Let* G_l be a line graph of *G*. Let $X \subseteq V_l(G)$ be a minimum line dominating set of *G* such that $|X| = \gamma_l(G).$ Since by the result ``For any graph G, $\gamma(G) = \gamma_i(G) \leq \beta_0(G).$" Further, the removal of $\kappa(G_l)$ vertices from $V_l(G)$ makes the graph G_l as disconnected which gives the induced graph $\langle V_l - X \rangle$ is connected. $\gamma_{nsl}(G) = \gamma_l(G)$. By Remark 2.2, $\gamma_{nsl}(G) = \gamma_{nsle}(G)$ proves the result.

The following result gives an upper bound on $\gamma_{nsle}(G)$ in terms of the maximum degree $\Delta(G_l)$

Theorem 2.8

If G and G_l *are connected with* $\Delta(G_l) \leq 2$ *and* $\gamma_{ns}(G) < \gamma_{nsl}(G)$, *then* $\gamma_{nsle}(G) \leq p_l - \Delta(G_l) + 1.$

Proof. Let *x* be a vertex of G_l with maximum degree $\Delta(G_l) \leq 2$ implies that there exist two vertices *y* and *z* adjacent to *x*. In particular, consider the vertex set $X = (V_l - N(x)) \cap \{y, z\}.$

Clearly, *x* and the vertices *N(x)* are dominated by *y* and *z*. So, *X* is a line dominating set of *G*. Since, $\langle V_l - X \rangle = \langle N(x) - \{y, z\} \rangle$, is connected.

which proves the result.

Further the upper bound is attained for P_5.

Theorem 2.8

For any graph G, $1 \le \gamma_{nsle}(G) \le q - 1.$

Proof. Let G_l be a line graph of a graph G with p_l vertices. Let v be a vertex in G_l such that degree of $v = \Delta(G_l)$, Then $V_l - \{v\} = X$ is clearly a maximum dominating set of G_l and hence it is a non-split legendary dominating set of G. Therefore, $\gamma_{nsl}(G) \le |X| = p_l - 1.$

Since the vertex set of G_l is the edge set of G gives $p_l = q$ which proves the upper bound. Since G has atleast one edge gives its line graph G_l has atleast one vertex proves the lower bound. By the assumption in Remark 2.13 we have $\gamma_{nsl}(G) = \gamma_{nsle}(G)$ which proves the result.

Further, both the bounds are attained for the graph P_3.

Since the maximum degree $\Delta(G_l) \le 1$ if G_l is connected gives the following result immediate from the above theorem

Theorem 2.9

If G and G_l *are connected graphs, then* $\gamma_{nsle}(G) \le p_1 - \Delta(G_l)$ *where* p_l *is the order of* G_l. *Equality of the above upper bound is attained for* P_4.

The following Nordhaus - Gaddum type result is immediate from Theorem 2.7

Theorem 2.10

If G_l *and* $\overline{G_l}$ *are connected then*

(i) $$4 \le \gamma_{nsle}(G) + \gamma_{nsle}(\overline{G_l}) \le \frac{1}{2}(p^2 - p - 4).$$

(ii) $$4 \le \gamma_{nsle}(G) + \gamma_{nsle}(\overline{G_l}) \le \frac{1}{2}(q-2)(p^2 - p - 2q - 2).$$

Proof. Let G be *(p,q)* graph and its line graph G_l a (p_l, q_l). Since both G_l and $\overline{G_l}$ are connected then by Theorem 2.6, $\gamma_{nsle}(G) \le q - 1$ and $\gamma_{nsle}(\overline{G}) \le \overline{q} - 1$ where $\overline{q} = pC2 - q$ which proves the result.

Further, both the bounds are attained for the path P_4.

Now, we find the exact values of non-split legendary domination number for some standard classes of graphs.

Theorem 2.11

For cycle graph $C_n, n \geq 3, \gamma_{nsle}(C_n) = n-2.$

Proof. Let G be a cycle C_n with atleast five vertices. Let G_l be a line graph of G with vertex set $V_l(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_{p_l}\}$ where p_l

The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_{n-2}\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of G and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(C_n) = n-2.$

Example 2.4

For the graph $G = C_5$ in Figure 4, the vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ of *L(G)* is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}.$ Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(C_n) = 3.$

Theorem 2.12

For friendship graph $F_n, n \geq 1, \gamma_{nsle}(F_n) = n.$

Proof. Let G be a friendship graph F_n with atleast five vertices. Let G_l be a line graph of *G* with vertex set $V_l(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_{p_l}\}$ where $p_l = n.$

The vertex set $X = \{v_1 \bigcap v_{3i+2} / i = 1,2,..., n-1\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = n.$

Example 2.5

For the graph $G = F_2$ in Figure 5, The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_5\}$ of L(G) is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $X = \{u_1, u_2, x\}.$ Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 3.$

Theorem 2.13

For triangular snake graph $nC_3, n \geq 1, \gamma_{nsle}(nC_3) = n.$

Proof. Let G be a triangular snake graph nC_3 with atleast five vertices. Let G_l be a line graph of *G* with vertex set $V_l(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_{p_l}\}$ where $p_l = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$.

The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_4, v_7, ..., v_{3n-2}\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = n.$

Example 2.6

For the graph $G = nC_3$ in Figure 6, The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_4\}$ of *L(G)* is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non - split dominating set $D = \{u_1, u_2, u_3\}.$ Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 3.$

Theorem 2.14

For book graph $B_n, n \geq 1, \gamma_{nsle}(B_n) = n+1.$

The vertex set $X = \{v_2 \bigcap v_{3i} / i = 1,2,...,n\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set *G* and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = n+1.$

Example 2.7

For the graph $G = B_2$ in Figure 7, The vertex set $X = \{v_2, v_3, v_6\}$ of *L(G)* is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{u, u_1, u_2\}.$ Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 3.$

Theorem 2.15

For fan graph $F_{1,n}, n \geq 2, \gamma_{nsle}(F_{1,n}) = n-1.$

Proof. Let *G* be a fan graph $F_{1,n}$ with atleast four vertices. Let G_l be a line graph of *G* with vertex set $V_l(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_{p_l}\}$ where $p_l = 2n-1.$

The vertex set $X = \{v_{n+1}, v_{n+2}, ..., v_{(2n-1)}\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G* and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(F_{1,n}) = n-1.$

Example 2.8

For the graph $G = F_{1,n}$ in Figure 8, The vertex set $X = \{v_4, v_5\}$ of *L(G)* is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{u_1, u_2\}.$ Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 2.$

Theorem 2.16

For crown graph $C_n^+,\ n \geq 3,\ \gamma_{nsle}(C_n^+) = n.$

Proof. Let G be a crown graph C_n^+ with atleast six vertices. Let G_l be a line graph of G with vertex set $V_l(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_{p_l}\}$ where $p_l = 2n.$

The vertex set $X = \{v_{n+1}, v_{n+2}, ..., v_{2n}\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of G and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = n.$

Example 2.9

For the graph $G = C_3^+$ in figure 9, The vertex set $X = \{v_4, v_5, v_6\}$ of *L(G)* is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{u_4, u_5, u_6\}.$ Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 3.$

Theorem 2.17

For path $P_n,\ n \geq 2,\ \gamma_{nsle}(P_n) = n-2.$

P G

where P_l

The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, ..., v_{n-3} \cup v_{n-1}\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of G and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = n - 2.$

Example 2.10

For the graph $G = P_n$ in Figure 10, The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_5\}$ of *L(G)* is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_6\}.$ Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 4.$

Theorem 2.18

For wheel graph $W_n, n \geq 3, \gamma_{nsle}(W_n) = n.$

Proof. Let *G* be a wheel graph W_n with atleast four vertices. Let G_l be a line graph of *G* with vertex set $V_l(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_{p_l}\}$ where $p_l = 2n.$

The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, ..., v_n\} \subseteq V_l(G)$ is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of G and hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = n.$

Example 2.11

For the graph $G = W_n$ in Figure 11, The vertex set $X = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$ of *L(G)* is the minimum non-split legendary dominating set of *G*, since *G* has a non-split dominating set $D = \{x, u_1, u_2\}$. Hence $\gamma_{nsle}(G) = 3.$

CONCLUSION

In this paper, the non-split legendary dominating set is introduced and the corresponding non-split legendary domination number is defined. Further, the relationship with other domination parameter are obtained. Also, the characterization of the non-split legendary dominating set is given and the exact values of the parameter is found for cycle graph, path, wheel graph, crown graph, book graph, triangular snake graph, fan graph and friendship graph.

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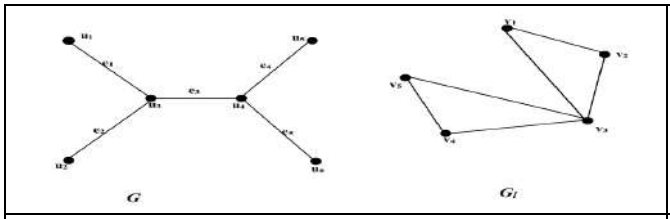


Figure 1

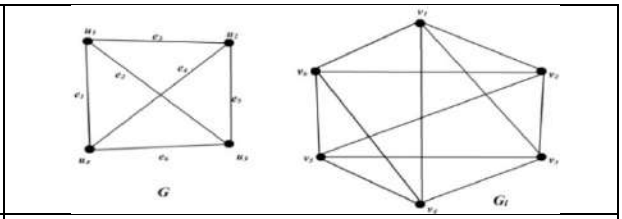


Figure 2

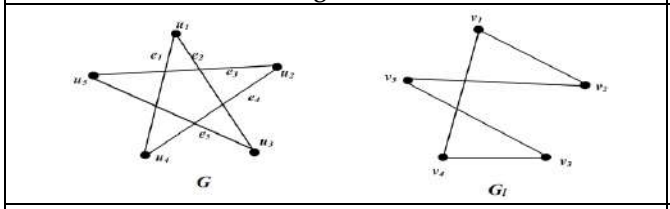


Figure 3

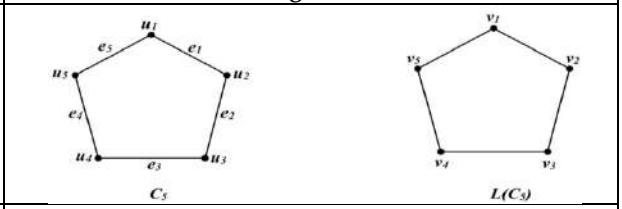


Figure 4: Cycle C_5

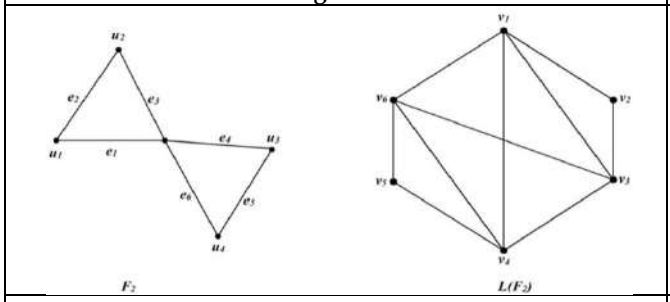


Figure 5: Friendship Graph F_2

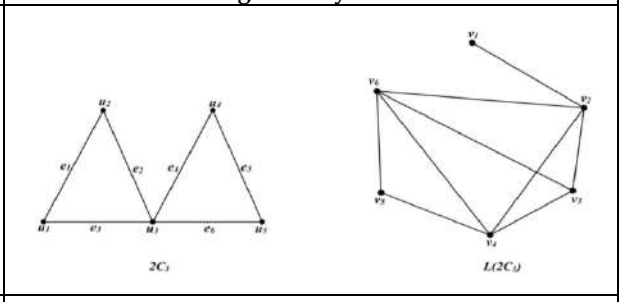


Figure 6: Triangular Snake Graph $2C_3$

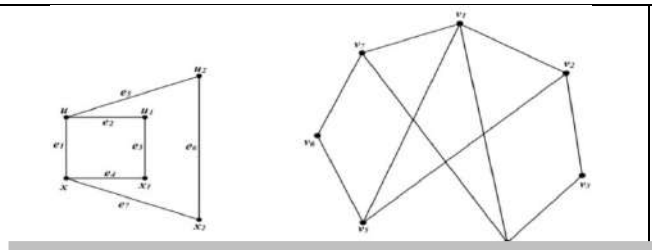


Figure 7: Book graph B_2

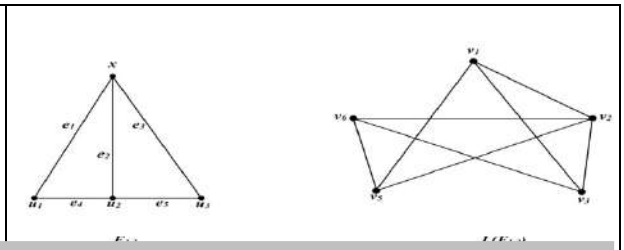


Figure 8: Fan Graph $F_{1,3}$

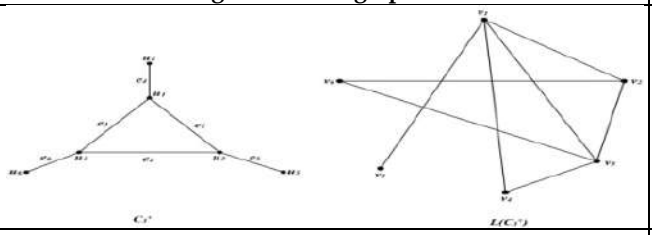


Figure 9: Crown Graph C_3^+

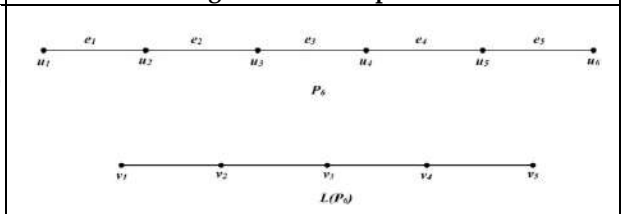


Figure 10: Path P_6

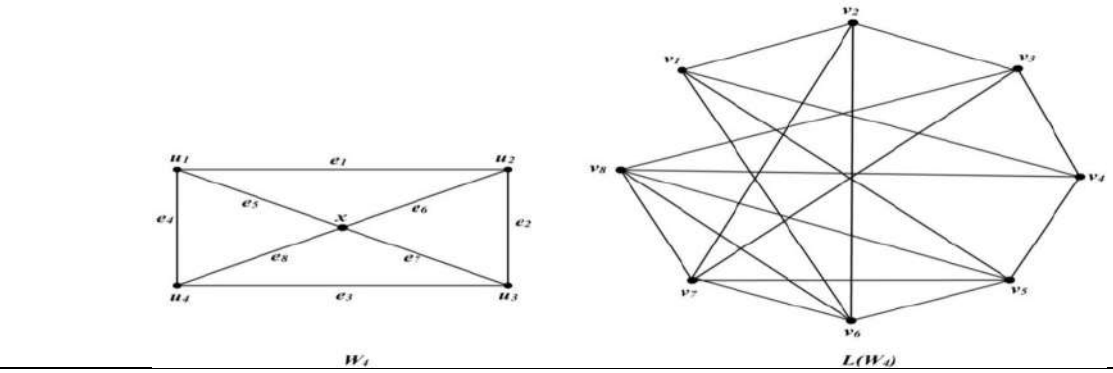


Figure 11: Wheel Graph W_4

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Journey to the Climactic – Delhi's Master Plan, 2041, in the Light of Sustainable Development Goals and the First Sustainable Development Goals Urban Index (India)

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ABSTRACT

Defined as 'climactic' for humanity to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2015 by the United Nations (UN), the year 2030 holds a significance in this context. Government of India, with the UN has launched SDG India Index, diversified it into SDG Urban Index in 2021 by ranking Indian cities for their progress towards SDGs; highlighting a serious perusal of these goals. India's urban planning operates through Master Planning. Delhi, the capital, was the first city in the country to initiate Master Planning in 1962, with its First Master Plan. In this research, an evaluation of the contents of the latest (fourth) Master Plan of Delhi (MPD 2041) for SDGs is attempted through an *Ex-Ante* Evaluation. The Plan- Process- Results -PPR (2011) method is adopted for the purpose. An online survey was also conducted and a Google Group has also been floated for citizen's perception analysis of the document**.** Findings indicate that the Plan exhibited a strong dominance of some SDG goals with some even left out and a strong overbearing of physical planning components. SDGs find a mention in its appendix but no

direct reference is observed in the Plan document. This is a one of its kind attempt to study SDGs for a Master Plan document.

Keywords: Master Plan, SDG, Delhi, 2041, PPR, Evaluation, Urban

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INTRODUCTION

All planning is 'rational' and is the 'logic of action' (Alexander, 2000). Evaluation is a critical stage of planning (Alexander, 2016). Plan evaluation is equated as equivalent to evaluation in planning and plans are deemed as a product of the process of planning (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). With the progression of newer mode of thinking in planning since the late 20th century, evaluation of plan making has become an integral part of urban planning (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). While a variety of literature exist on the topics, the evaluation of urban plans is not directly observed (Khakee, 2003; Oliveira and Pinho, 2010; 2011). This is, however, a requirement (Alexander and Faludi, 1989). Although, the term evaluation in itself does not have any particular definition and is not 'valuation', it does lend merit to a plan as it is more than a mere description (Lichfield *et al*., 1975). As planning has evolved through various stages, there are numerous ways and models of carrying out Plan evaluation and out of these there have been some more popular methods for this (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). Some examples are - Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), Goals Achievement Matrix (GAM), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Multicriteria Analysis (MA), and Planning Balance Sheet Analysis (PBSA) (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010), Actor- Network Studies (Söderbaum,1998), Plan Process Results (PPR), Process Policy-Plan/Program Implementation PPIP, Means for Evaluating Actions of a Structural Nature (MEANS) (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010), and mixed methods (Costa *et al*., 2013). Particularly in the light of creating a representation of the capital city (Lynch, 1960; Massey, 2013), more so with regards to the fact that Delhi was the first city in the country to promulgate Master Planning strategy (Delhi Development Authority,1962), such evaluation works can be deemed as special and insightful (Lynch, 1960). A capital city (Gordon, 2006; Vale, 2006; Slack, 2009) is a representative of a country and the contexts of 'World City' and 'World Class City' generate more interest in urban literature to observe and execute planning (Massey, 2013). Examination of planning via the Plan document, lends information at least on the premises of planning of the city (Haar, 1955; Nath, 2007) although this does not necessarily mean that these premises are followed (Simpson, 1988; Delhi Development Authority, 2003). Execution of the Plan is its acid test (Gutheim, 1961). In the current study, the Master Plan document- Delhi's Master Plan with a Perspective for 2041 is introspected through the PPR method of plan evaluation. (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). The attempt here is observing the Plan for SDGs in terms of the nature of the content of the Plan and its outline its consonance with these goals, conscious or unconscious. The Government of India has taken the initiative of attaining the SDG goals by partnering with the UNDP and is monitoring these goals through the SDG India Index (NITI Aayog, 2021 a.). The attempt has been further diversified and is made context specific for the urban areas of the country with the SDG Urban Index being calculated for Indian cities and made public in 2021 (NITI Aayog, 2021 b.). If the government is emphatic about achieving these goals, then the ideologies should be reflective in practice as well as plans and implementation are not separate from each other (Solesbury, 2013). For Delhi, the Master Plans require no specific mention as not only the city carries its 'planning' on the lines of the Master Plan but the strategy has given a prototype to the country's urban planning through this planning strategy (Delhi Development Delhi Development Authority, 1962). Since then, the city has had three Master Plans in all and the current one is fourth in line (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). The SDGs, 17 in number, are a United Nations initiative and aim at 'Transforming our World' with an action-oriented methodology (United Nations, 2021 a.). The goals are diverse in nature dealing focusing upon improving the natural and the built environment of the world in multiple ways. These are to be accomplished by 2030 (Nations, 2021 a.). The SDG Urban Index of India is an

SDG 'progress monitoring tool' at the urban local level and is focused on localisation of SDG goals (NITI Aayog, 2021 b.). Of the 56 urban areas ranked in 2021, 12 are state capitals (Bureau, 2021). Delhi, is the country's capital; so, to observe the focus of its planning with SDGs will be quite useful in ways more than one (Genov, 2010; Orttung, 2020). Through the PPR method (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010), MPD 2041 is examined to 'reveal' the nature of urban planning and check its consonance with this Universal Agenda (Nations, 2021 a.). The aim, however, is not to declare the Plan as 'fit' or 'unfit' with regards to the SDGs but rather provide a view of the facts as observed in reflectance with the topic (Banai, 1999) and contents of the Plan.

transforming the world (Nations, 2021 b.). It is defined as an action plan for people, people's progress and the earth, it also aims at peace and freedom (Nations, 2021 b.). The 17 goals have 169 targets to be met and seek to 'build' upon the Millennium Development Goals and the tasks which were left incomplete. The years 2015-2030 are defined as years of taking action and critical importance has been assigned to certain aspects for humanity and the earth (Nations, 2021 b.). These are

- Promoting dignity and equality of human life
- Planet- Protection, sustainability and urgent actions to deal with climate change.
- Prosperity- Prosperity in human life and development to be in consonance with nature and resources.
- Peace- Peace with focus on an equitable and just society.
- Partnership- A firm global collaboration for Sustainable Development. Human life across the globe is expected to become better if these goals are sincerely followed (Nations, 2021 b.).

Celebrating its seventieth anniversary, the UN adopted a notable decision through these metamorphic Goals and targets as 'supremely ambitious' with complete 'respect for international law' (Nations, 2021 b.). 'Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' with 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015 (Nations, 2021 b.). The new goals and targets set for achieving these objectives related to the progress of humanity, were to come into effect from 1st January, 2016. A renewed 'Global Partnership' for dealing meeting such concerns has been harped upon and in this the method of implementing these goals are forwarded as equally important.

Recognising the multiple challenges facing humanity today, the following 17 SDGs can be outlined

"Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster development

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development" (Nations, 2021 b.).

Each of these goals is detailed further for explanation

India has partnered with the UNDP and the SDG Vertical is in collaboration with Union Ministries, States, and Union Territories. It is the main agency for monitoring SDG and their progress in the country (NITI Aayog, 2021 c.). Its core functions are defined as- Progress Monitoring, SDG Localisation, Private Sector Engagement, SDG Costing and Financing and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Reduction (NITI Aayog, 2021 c.). The SDG Urban Index and Dashboard (2021-22) is an SDG progress monitoring tool at the ULB (Urban Local Body) level, designed and developed by NITI Aayog under Indo-German Development Collaboration. The Index and dashboard are 'the next

State, and district levels, of which Voluntary National Review Report, SDG India Index and Dashboard, and North Eastern Region District SDG Index and Dashboard are the main tools, respectively' (NITI Aayog, 2021 a., Sharma, 2021). It consists of 56 ULBs and 77 indicators and out of 56 urban units, 44 have population of above one million and the rest 12 are capital cities with population of less than a million. The 77 indicators are from across 15 SDGs: SDG 14 has not been included as it is relevant for only coastal areas, and SDG 17 has been excluded as these are not considered relevant at the ULB level (NITI Aayog, 2021 b.). The indicators cover monitoring of poverty reduction, aspects related to nutrition, health, education; gender equality concerns such as women empowerment; infrastructure related to water, sanitation, better energy generation, economic growth and industry); socio economic measures related to reducing inequalities, urban development, climate action, forests, and governance. Official data sources provide data for analysis (NITI Aayog, 2021 a.). It has released its recent report by ranking cities of the country and has forwarded four categories of- Achiever, Front Runner, Performer, and Aspirant; to measure city progress as per these goals by ranking them through scores (Aayog, 2021 a.). Delhi ranks at 20 in this list with a score of 67.36 out of 100 and Shimla ranked first with a score of 75.50 out of 100 (NITI Aayog, 2021 c.).

The PPR Analysis The emergence of fresh trends in planning, discussions on sustainable development, and the compactness of a city and influence of other disciplines have promoted a newer interest in urban form; and in this as well, sustainable development concept has played an increasingly important role (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010) allowing for an integrated and priority evaluation of a city's sustainability (Ravetz, 2000). Given by Oliveira and Pinho, the PPR methodology was developed as a part of a Ph.D. thesis. It incorporates many criteria with Sustainability Appraisal (SA) technique (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010, 2011). In observing the case of sustainability, this can range from the city or to any other particular parameter to be studied (Ravetz, 2000). PPR forwards that a sound plan should be fruitful and accordant with planning at national level and Plan efficacy assessment should extend the planning process wholly (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). PPR is a method advocated for plan evaluation and implementation in its initial stages, reflecting planning viewpoint with an integrated approach and focus on plans, processes and results, with an intention of searching a balance between reporting and expertise (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). It was first attempted in Portugal to evaluate the focal Plan document (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). It accepts that evaluation is not simple, it is a necessity and any evaluation methodology must be linked with evaluation theory (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). Two evaluation types can enhance accountability of plans- summative and formative (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). Summative ones take into account the totality of results to see whether a program works or not (Janus and Brinkman, 2010). A formative one intends to answer as to how a program is designed or worked upon (Tatian and Docter, 2020). Identifying the current challenges of urban planning, it is suggested that Plan, Process and Results should be taken as whole (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). The procedure is suggested to be a help in an improved insight, and to the wholistic improvement of the local plan and involving a strengthened physical aspect. This when applied properly as a technique can increase the property of the built up area (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). PPR can operate at three levels which include- defining the criteria for evaluation, exploring the ongoing and Ex-Post aspects and valuation of the presentation studies, and presenting the results (Oliveira and Pinho, 2008; 2011). Plan evaluation can be observed three ways for the timing of evaluation. This can be *Ex- Ante,* i.e an evaluation which takes place at the beginning of planning; Ongoing evaluation- performed during the Plan's operational period and, *Ex-Post,* which takes place after the implementation of the Plan process has proceeded for a period of time (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). It is also forwarded that every evaluation situation has its own demand (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010) and the evaluation process can be started by defining a set of questions specific to the situation and these form the most

significant aspect of evaluation (Rossi *et al*., 2004). The overall PPR methodology sets key elements of city planning ranging from citizens to politicians and includes all other plan making processes with three identified dimensions- ex-ante rationality, achievement and results related to nine criteria (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). At the end of the evaluation process, results are to be combined for analysis, presented, and utilised (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). The 'main parts' of PPR include- explaining the dimensions, criteria selection, sub criteria, sources of data, and plan judging methods (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). The *Ex-Ante* evaluation is mentioned as *Ex-Ante* Rationality Dimension and is composed of 5 criteria and these are further divided into sub criteria (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). An evaluation criteria has also been provided for this purpose for each of these categories (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). The five

Criteria

Internal Coherence It involves observing three sub criteria relationships- between plan objectives, between objectives and methods of implementation and, between territorial model and mechanisms of implementation. Evaluation techniques and data sources here involve 'reading' of the plan text for its objectives, territorial model through land use, generation of an 'Initial Qualitative Report', followed by the creation of an Impact Matrix to further enable a quantitative assessment.

Relevance of the Plan to the City's Requirements and Ambitions Here, relationships between the needs and ambitions of the city and plan objectives, between the requirements and ambitions of the city and the territorial model of the plan and, also between implementation methods are observed through baseline studies. The source of these can be newspapers, statistics, interviews, and planning reports. This information is put in a SWOT table and is compared with the main parts of the plan and generating Impact Matrices.

Plan Interpretation of the Planning System This involves observations in terms of structure, objectives, territorial model, and implementation mechanisms through reading of the Plan and the main planning legislation. After this, a checklist can be made to check the presence of components needed by the planning framework.

External Coherence This involves Coherence in terms of internal aspects of the Plan. This is to be done through checking of the Plan, other plans prepared for the region and the contradictions detected.

Public Participation Creation of the Plan and its Working This is to be promoted by local authority, can be subjected to statistical analysis, and observing the impact of public participation on the Plan through non quantitative analysis. This is to be achieved through reading of the Plan document, newspapers, interviews, analysing choices of the planning authority using multiple methods to receive information on stakeholder groups and public involvement. Written comments can also become a method of participation and such a qualitative participation can cause changes in the Plan content (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). This analysis is followed for MPD 2041 as per the PPR format (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011) detailed as below.

PPR Analysis for the Master Plan of Delhi 2041 Delhi city has had three Master Plans with the fourth one in the process of getting final nod for implementation (Delhi Development Authority 2011). The first Master Plan of 1962 was preceded by an Interim General Plan of 1956, then the second Master Plan (perspective for 2001), third plan (perspective for 2021) (Delhi Development Authority, 1996) and the current one with a perspective for 2041 (Delhi Development Authority, n.d.) The new Master Plan, fourth in order is created on the last experiences. Divided into two volumes, these are different in content with regards to the earlier Plans. The First Volume highlights a Vision for 2041 through an 'Enabling Policy Framework'. The Second Volume highlights a 'Spatial Development Strategy and Action Plan' for the city (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). It is open for public discussion (Delhi Development Authority, n.d.). Volume 1 has six sections which include provisions for- Environment, Economy; Heritage, Culture and Public Spaces, Shelter and Social Infrastructure, Transport and Mobility, and Physical Infrastructure (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). Volume 2 has three sections comprising of - Spatial Development Framework, Plan Monitoring and Evaluation; Development Code and Development Control Norms. The current context is observing

the coherence between the goals of MPD 2041 and SDGs. Since setting goals and having expectations from planning is gaining significance, plan evaluation becomes more so significant (Voogd, 1998). Some common criteria for a systematic *Ex-Ante* evaluation can be observed as– Relevance, efficiency, coherence, consistency, utility, financial sustainability, and for this purpose indicators can also be selected (Resinfra@DR, 2019). The current study is based only upon *Ex-Ante* evaluation of MPD 2041 and to observe the conformance of the Plan for SDGs is the basis of the analysis. Sustainability analysis is integral to Plan evaluation (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). PPR also has more focus on physical issues (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011) and MPD 2041 comprises of different aspects of planning the city. As per

(Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). These are attempted as follows

Analysis of General Framework of PPR The PPR methodology delves upon three criteria as discussed above- Rationality, Conformance, and Performance. These, then, correspond to nine specific criteria (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). These are a combination of rationality at the *ex-ante* level, conformance and performance-based models (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011). While, *Ex-Ante and Ex-Post* evaluations are 'rarely' used systematically in evaluation (Samset and Christensen, 2017), the current attempt tries to provide an attempt. The details of the physical dimensions have been also cross examined through a textual analysis of the Plan document by categorising its content into segments. This examination is a qualitative one which involves analysing texts, non-numerical data for studying concepts, ideas and people's which can be challenging (Yulie Learning, n.d.) yet rich (Interaction Design Forum, n.d.). Qualitative analysis is also getting an increased attention amongst various disciplines (Pathak *et al*., 2013; Yulie Learning, n.d.). Following the qualitative design, the text of the document is classified into three categories- Physical Dimensions, Social Dimensions and Others category to check its conformance with PPR. It was observed that the 487 page document had direct planning text covering 282 pages and the remaining pages contain abbreviations and annexures. These 282 pages have been put to analysis into the segments as mentioned and classified as coded segments and the remaining ones are put under the non-coded category. It is observed that the Plan has a very strong compliance with the General Framework of the PPR methodology with the (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011) and the physical dimension occupies about 73 % of the document as can be seen in Table 1. and Figure1. From the whole text examined, as mentioned above in Table 1., 42% of the text could not be coded as it was in the form of abbreviations and annexures portion in the end. From the document analysed, around three -fourth of the document has planning provisions related to physical dimension components as mentioned above. Social dimensions had a share of about one fourth of the document. Social planning is taken synonymous to locale planning and that also for community; its other dimensions include planning for social services and policies (Hardina, 2017) with the aim of solving community problems and improve the conditions of a community for results (Education, n.d.). The 'social' is observed as a non - market provision for social provisions as well as social components (Kahn, 1969). Planning from space to social field is also in the category of evolution of social equilibrium (Lewin, 1947). According to Dyckman, physical and economic planning are different from social planning which comprises of three meanings. These are related to– establishing social goals and targets, assessing programmes of economic development and physical urban renewal; and those relating to social welfare (Healey, 2007). Sustainability is a key concern of social planning as well (NTU, n.d.; Greed, 2002). The others category included provisions which could not be directly attributed either to physical or social planning measures. The next examination is of five criterion for evaluation criterion to carry on *Ex-Ante* Evaluation as forwarded by PPR.

Evaluation through PPR Methodology- *Ex-Ante* Evaluation of MPD 2041 Evaluation of Plans involves concept of plan or design which provide the criterion for plan assessment and in the presence of indicators, quantified analysis can be done (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). Result presentation of evaluation is also a necessity and this provides value to the study and highlights its utility (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010).

Criteria I- The sub criteria and the Initial Qualitative Report (Oliveira and Pinho, 2011)

Plan's Internal Coherence and relationships with SDGs

Assessment here is done by 'reading' the Plan (Oliveira and Pinho, 2010). Observing MPD 2041 as discussed earlier, indicates a dominance of physical components of planning the city. It was also seen through this qualitative analysis that wherever social planning measures were observed (Saldana, 2013), they were directly related to physical

planning measures for social provisions, land use and layouts as the main focus. Taking this analysis to SDGs, the document was segmented as codes through the qualitative methodology (Saldana, 2013). All SDGs were framed as codes and MPD 2041 document was thoroughly examined for its content and in which SDG it could be placed, if the nature of content permits so. Further, certain provisions which were not in the ambit of any SDG were categorised into Miscellaneous Provisions as is visible in Figures 2. and 3. Some part of the document is excluded from analysis as it is composed of abbreviations and annexures. The whole content got organised into 184 segments. As per the

Territorial Model The contents of SDG goal 11 has occupies the major share of MPD 2041. It forwards making all human settlements all embracing, safe, pliant and, tenable. It further has seven parts which deal with ensuring safety, adequacy, affordability of housing and transport; slum upgradation, inclusive, sustainable and participatory human settlement planning; safeguarding cultural heritage, substantially decrease deaths due to disasters and protect the poor in vulnerability; reducing negative per capita footprint of cities with reduction in pollution; ensuring safe, inclusive and reachable public spaces particularly for women, elderly, children and persons with disabilities; embracing constructive economic, social and environmental connection between urban, semi-urban and rural areas by planning through national and regional perspectives; considerably expand the number of settlements embracing and implementing combined policies and plans for inclusion, efficiency of resources, dealing with climate change, disaster resilience, implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with an involvement in disaster risk management at all levels, to mention a few (Nations, n.d.). MPD 2041 has immense focus on these issues and that is the reason why Goal 11 predominates the document. So, the territorial model of the Plan is in compliance with SDG 11. This is followed by Miscellaneous Provisions classification of the document which relates to detailed layout plans, land use provisions and specifications.

Key Focus Areas, Vision, Objectives and Key Directions for MPD 2041 The vision of the Plan for Delhi for 2041 relates to Key Focus Areas. These are- Environment (enhancing quality of greens, dealing with consistent pollution; particularly river Yamuna, environmental assets, local biodiversity and also student health), Water (dealing with water wastage, conservation and reuse), Critical resources (reduction in power consumption and waste generation, which are the highest in the country, recycling and renewable energy usage), Mobility (includes immense problems generated by vehicular pollution and congestion in the city, ensuring last mile connectivity for walking and cycling, improving mobility of elderly, children and persons with disability), Housing (recognises a mismatch between housing needs and supply, recognises a large part of the city as unplanned and unauthorised, providing lesser expensive options, dealing with unsafe housing, and ensuring different typologies of houses), Built Environment and Public Spaces (public spaces to be increased, better, safe and accessible with regeneration as well), Heritage Assets (preservation and reuse, preventing degradation), Vulnerability (with high risk of earthquakes, fire and flooding and high densities in the city with poor quality and aged infrastructure demands attention. COVID-19 has further brought into account the requirements of decentralised and self-contained structures), Economic Potential (to be enhanced as Delhi being a regional economic hub, health and higher education to be enhanced, cleaner production, startups, flexible spaces, good working conditions, health, trade, tourism, modern logistics, MICE and specialised trade to be fostered), and Monitoring and Evaluation (a common database creation, multi-agency coordination, integrated monitoring, and periodic evaluation of progress of the Plan) in the same order (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). The Vision of the Plan is to promote an endurable, livable and grand Delhi. MPD 2041 has Key Focus areas which are further diversified to Vision, Goals and Objectives and are followed by Key Directions for MPD 2041. Observations on each of these are detailed below.

The goals for the Vision are

Goal 1 (G1): Aims at sustainable city environment with provision of a healthy environment for its citizens and adaptation for dealing with impacts of climate change.

Goal 2 (G2): Build a city that offers safe, good and affordable living environment with efficient systems of mobility.

Goal 3 (G3): Emerge as a vibrant destination for economic, creative and cultural enhancement (Delhi Development Authority, 2021).

OBJECTIVES

Priyanka Puri

Objective 1: Prioritising Environmental Sustainability This objective focusses upon environmental problems of the city, revival of natural assets, reducing pollution, green built environments, urban farming, detailing, and creating diverse natural, planned spaces and open spaces.

Objective 2: Facilitating Economic Development The aim is to enhance cleaner economic ventures, creating a special economic position for Delhi and creating mutual connections with NCR to enhance the opportunities for investment climate and supporting multiple works and workspaces.

Objective 3: Enhancing Heritage, Culture and Public Life Protection and enhancement of heritage to construct strong economic linkages and create opportunities for cultural experience, tourism and active public life.

Objective 4: Improving Housing and Social Infrastructure To meet a variety of housing demands across different income groups and typologies, promote regeneration of older built fabric, fulfil demands for social infrastructure in dense areas of the city, and foster walkable mix-use neighbourhoods.

Objective 5: Moving Towards Low-Carbon Mobility To encourage modal shift in favour of public and shared modes of transport, bring homes and jobs closer to mass transit, reduce vehicular congestion and provide efficient, affordable and green mobility options.

Objective 6: Developing Resilient Physical Infrastructure To promote a sustainable approach towards use of resources like water and energy, facilitate adequate and uninterrupted services so that the city is ready in terms of digital infrastructure and resilience to shocks and (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). These form the Enabling Policy Framework for the Plan (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). The further examination in Criteria I is done for the sub criteria wherein the relationship between the objectives of the Plan are observed with SDGs. In all these contexts, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG9, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 15, can be observed in content.

The Plan has Key Directions mentioned which deal with

Holistic Spatial Development: This involves strategies for an integrated spatial development, multiple distribution of land densities, and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) decided on nearness to city centre, environmental concerns, accessibility to mass transit, and strategic capacity as future liveable centers, work places, recreation and public life.

Strategic approach to development: The Plan identifies certain strategic growth centres/corridors where incentives such as higher FAR etc., are provided. Implementation of transferable development rights (TDR) will further complement this approach by concentrating unutilised FAR from different locations in the city within reception zones/corridors which at crucial locations and have the necessary facilities.

Mixed use development for optimal space/land utilisation: The Plan marks a major shift from mono-functional land use planning to mix use. A built-space based approach has evolved from land-based distribution, allowing for mixing and co-location of compatible uses across the city, including vertical mixing within buildings.

Private sector participation in development: This is a specific paradigm shift where development of new areas as well as regeneration of older brown field areas will be done through private involvements.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) based plan monitoring: The Plan provides a robust monitoring framework that will facilitate tracking of larger city-level objectives through 20 Key Performance Indicators. This will also enable periodic course correction to realign strategies and actions (Delhi Development Authority, 2021).
As can be observed above, these directions are related more towards physical planning measures but the KPI are not detailed out here. Since aims and objectives are to be taken at this stage for analysis, so KPI are not considered in the

Built Environment Index and City Vitality Index (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). This examination forms the background of Impact Matrix for Criteria and Sub Criteria as per PPR as can be seen in Table 2. Figure. 4. Code Interaction Matrix. Source- Author, 2021. Figure. 5. Proximity of Content to SDGs in MPD 2041. Source- Author, 2021

Implementation Mechanism The Plan document mentions no direct mechanism to implement the SDGs, although it does mention of co-ordination between multiple agencies to implement Plan procedures. In fact, the term SDGs comes only in the appendix of the Plan. The code interaction matrix clearly suggests that SDG 11 and Miscellaneous Provisions overwhelmingly dominate the content of the Plan. Maximum code interaction from the matrix is observed at count 34 along Code 11 and Miscellaneous Provisions, thereby, indicating the actual focus of the Master Plan document. SDG 11 can be seen to have the maximum interaction with all other goals. Figure 5 supplements the analysis by providing clusters for the location of goal components.

Criteria II- Plan's Relevance to the City's Requirements and Aspirations

This criteria focuses upon the needs and expectations of the city. These are cross examined with Criteria 1 parameters. The methodology suggested here is using a base forming situation using newspapers, etc. as discussed earlier and put in a SWOT table. However, the Plan is under public review; so, this information is being generated and limited analysis is only available. But the Plan document itself mentions 'an extensive baseline exercise' being followed as being followed involving all stakeholder agencies, using primary and secondary data; 200 experts' opinions and also mentions the involvement of all 'relevant' and 'core' departments of the state and central government being involved in the exercise; involving citizens through direct interactions, RWA's, group discussions etc. (Delhi Development Authority, 2021). Mentioning the review of the last Master Plan, it identifies Key Focus Areas as an outcome of the Baseline which are already analysed above in the qualitative report. Suggestions are invited online on this by DDA. A detailed Baseline Report on Shelter prepared by DDA and NIUA in 2018-2019 is also an example of such an examination (NIUA, 2020). However, some of the recent inputs observed from newspapers indicate that the Plan contents are in discussion and indicate reservations on certain aspects of the Plan such as slums (Bhan, 2021), housing provisions (Bhan, 2021), transport (Shah, 2021), economic provisions (Narayan *et al.*, 2021), the River (Pradhan and Janu, 2021) objectives related to sustainable development and others (Money Control, n.d.; Correspondent, 2021). So, basically there are local provisions which are dealt in detail but any major policy concern like SDGs cannot be directly observed.

Criteria III- Plan Interpretation of the Planning System

For this criteria, the requirement is to have a reading of intersection of Plan and main Planning legislation. For Delhi, the Delhi Development Act of 1957 (Limited, 2011) has paved for Plan preparation, formation of Delhi Development Authority for land related issues and planning of the city, creation of Master Plan, Plans for development of zones, modification of plans and other ancillary solutions. Besides, the Plan itself does not mention of any policy perspective like SDGs or any other as a benchmark for cross examination.

Criteria IV- External Coherence

Reading of the Plan and other related Plans for objectives, territorial model and implementation mechanisms is the methodology of working on this parameter. Delhi's Zonal Plans come in this category but for the current Master Plan, these are not yet in the public domain.

Criteria V– Public Participation in the Plan's creation and application

This criteria mentions fruitful public participation and collaboration of citizens to be encouraged by local authorities. This is then to be measured as influencing the Plan quantitatively and qualitatively and is suggested to further help the planning authorities to make informed choices. In the current scenario, suggestions are invited by DDA on the content of the Plan. Suggestions here are diversified in nature relating to the basic concerns of the citizens. Examples can be given to as to that of the creation of a 'heritage cell' in the Walled City (Correspondent, 2021) and others as mentioned in Criteria 2 as well Public hearings have been extended till late November 2021 by DDA. To supplement

has also been floated on the same in December 2021 by the title- Delhi as My City. The questionnaire aims at deriving information on the citizen's residential tenure in the city, age, and their observations on the SWOT of Delhi as a city and as a capital. It is also attempted to observe whether citizens were aware of MPD 2041. The age group of the respondents ranged from 18-70 years and about 62% of the respondents were not aware of MPD 2041 document. The respondents who were aware of the document were enquired for the content of the same and the responses ranged from development to environmental concerns, flexibility, implementation, re-development, resettlement colonies, heritage sites and regional development. Figure. 6. Delhi as a Capital- Priorities. Source- Online Survey, Author, 2021. On the question of how the city of Delhi should be as a capital, 40 responses were submitted and are summarised in a Word Cloud as can be seen in Figure 6. It indicates a mix response with a slight dominance of the concern of pollution. The next part of the survey tried to attempt a SWOT analysis of Delhi as a city. 37 responses were received. It was observed that the strengths of the city was identified as its diversity, development, tourism, heritage, opportunities to 'outsiders', culture, connectivity, being the capital city; opportunities observed by respondents in migration innovation, startups, integrated and inclusive development, job opportunities, multi - cultural aspects, education hub; weaknesses as observed in the form of slums, poor transport, unauthorised encroachments and threats as observed in pollution, slums, unorganised development, antisocial elements, pandemic, environmental management issues, excessive migrants, uncontrolled urban growth and security concerns. It can be, hence forwarded that MPD 2041 is inclined towards specific SDGs although this cannot be said to be done consciously as the Plan document has to first deal with the city's planning. But since Delhi is the national capital, draws upon its planning through the Master Plan and more so the government is emphatic about the SDG Urban Index (2021) in which Delhi has ranked 20; makes it pertinent to observe its planning through existing practices and policies. The Master Plans pave a way for such observations. Thus, it is concluded that the city's concerns are mentioned quite repetitively in MPD 2041, which also is tilted towards specific planning scenarios, the national capital has to also look at more theoretical and practical ways to solve its ever-increasing concerns and create its own image as a city.

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Priyanka Puri

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Table. 1: Impact Matrix-MPD2041andSDGs. Source-Analysis by Author, 2021

Code System	MPD2041	TOTAL

SOCIALDIMENSIONS	16%	16%
OTHER	1%	1%
PHYSICALDIMENSIONS	54%	54%
NOTCODED	42%	42%
WORDS IN WHOLE TEXT	100% (899,588)	100% (899,588)

Table.2: Impact Matrix-MPD2041 and SDGs

SDG	MPD KeyArea 2041 Focus	MPD2041 Vision	MPD Goals 2041	MPD2041 Objectives	MPD Directions Key
1	No	No	No	No	Not clearly
2	No	No	No	No	Not clearly
3	No	Somewhat	No	No	Not clearly
4	No	No	No	No	Not clearly
5	No	No	No	No	Not clearly
6	Somewhat	No	No	Somewhat	Not clearly
7	Somewhat	No	No	Somewhat	Not clearly
8	Somewhat	No	No	No	Not clearly
9	No	No	No	No	Not clearly
10	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
11	Yes	Somewhat	Somewhat	Somewhat	Not clearly
12	Somewhat	Somewhat	Somewhat	Somewhat	Not clearly
13	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not clearly
14	Yes	No	No	No	Not clearly
15	No	Somewhat	Somewhat	Somewhat	Not clearly
16	No	Somewhat	No	No	Not clearly
17	No	No	No	No	Not clearly

Source-Author, 2021

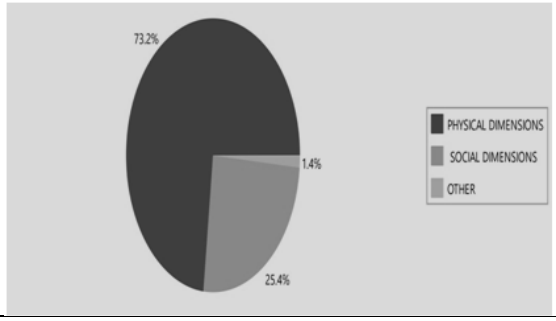


Figure.1: Planning Dimensions as observed in MPD 2041
Source- Analysis by Author, 2021

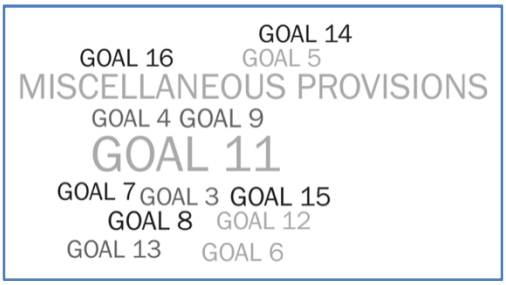


Figure.2: CodeCloud- Dominance of SDG sin MPD 2041Document.
Source- Author, 2021



Figure.3: Internal Coherence of MPD 2041 with Number of Segments with SDGs –Qualitative Report
Source- Author, 2021

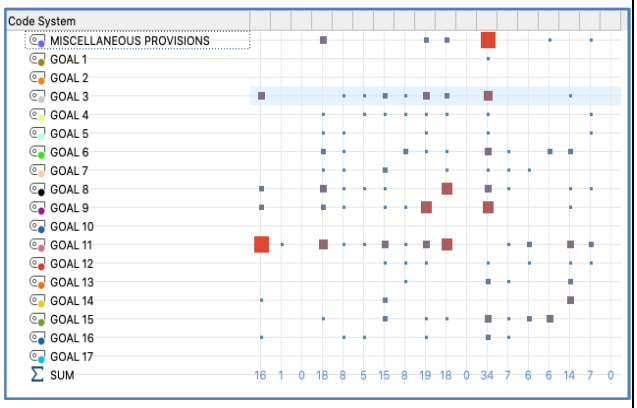


Figure. 4: Code Interaction Matrix
Source- Author, 2021



Figure. 5: Proximity of Content to SDGs in MPD 2041
Source- Author, 2021



Figure. 6: Delhi As a Capital- Priorities
Source- Online Survey, Author, 2021

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Case Series on the Effect of *Siravyadhana* (Venepuncture) in *Janusandhigata vata* W.S.R. to Knee Joint Osteoarthritis

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ABSTRACT

The most prevalent type of joint disease in older adults, *sandhigatavata*, impairs joint function, particularly in weight-bearing joints like the knee joint. In modern medicine, osteoarthritis is comparable to *Sandhigatavata*. In India, 78,314,013 out of 1,065,070,607 persons have osteoarthritis, according to the prevalence data. Here, an effort is made to evaluate how well *Siravyadhana* (Venepuncture) works to balance the *doshas* and relieve common symptoms like *sopha* (swelling) and *sandhi ruja* (knee joint pain). It is a simple single group clinical trial. The study was done in 10 patients. Materials used were Scalp vein set number 18. Patients were subjected to *sthanika abhyanga* (Therapeutic Massage) and *swedana*(Therapeutic sudation) prior to procedure. After that, Ghrita bharjita yavagu sevana was permitted. After that, siravyadhana was performed. On average, 46 millilitres of blood were released. Ruk (pain), Graha (stiffness), Sparshaakshamatva (tenderness), Shotha (swelling), and Atopa (crepitation) were utilised as subjective parameters to evaluate the outcomes, while the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and range of motion were used as objective parameters. Prior to, during, and following therapy, the evaluation parameters were recorded. The data were evaluated using statistical analysis techniques such as the paired t test. According to the statistical analysis Parameters *Sparsha Asahyata*(tenderness), *Sandhi graham*(Stiffness) and Sandhi *Shotha* (swelling) were better responded as compared to other parameters.

Keywords: Raktamokshana, Sandhigata vata, Blood letting, Knee joint pain

INTRODUCTION

Vatapurnadrutisparsha, Shotha (swelling), *Vedana* (pain) during *Prasarana* (flexion), and *Akunchana* (extension) are characteristics of *Sandhigatavata,* a kind of *Vatavyadhi* [1]. The most prevalent type of joint disease in older adults, *sandhigatavata,* impairs joint function, particularly in weight-bearing joints like the knee joint. In modern medicine, osteoarthritis is comparable to *Sandhigatavata*. In India, 78,314,013 out of 1,065,070,607 persons have osteoarthritis, according to the prevalence data. Acharya *Bhavamishra* while explaining *Vatavyadhi* explained about *Sandhigatavata* [2]. Acharya Sushruta [3] and Madhavakara [4] have added *Sandhi Shoola, Atopa* (Crepetations), *Sandhi Hanti* (Immobility). The trouble of *Sandhi* (Joint) by *PrakupitaVata* is the main phenomenon in *Samprapti* of *SandhigatVata. Sandhis* come under the *Madhyama RogaMarga* and thus, involvement of *Madhyama RogaMarga, Vata Dosha* and *Dhatukshaya* figures disease *KashtaSadhya.* In this point of view, Ayurveda has a unique approach to cure i.e. two fold strategies comprising of 1) *Samshodhana* or Bio purification by Panchakarma therapy and related measures. 2) *Samshamana* or Palliation of imbalances by appropriately planned diet, drug, and lifestyle interventions. *Raktamokshana* has been recommended for the treatment of *Snayu Sandhigata Vata and* for *Vednashamanartha* (acute inflammatory conditions) [5]. *Siravyadhana* is specially recommended to let out the vitiated blood, present in deeper to the *Twak.*

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the effect of *Siravyadhana* in the management of *Jaanu Sandhigatavata.*

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Selection of Patients: 10 Patients were selected randomly with symptoms of *Janusandhigata vata* irrespective of sex, religion, age etc. from OPD and IPD Department of Panchakarma, Sumandeep Ayurved Medical College and Hospital, Vadodara. Patients were then subjected to detailed clinical history based on specially prepared case proforma. Then the patients were subjected to one setting of Siravyadhana therapy.

Study duration: Intervention was done for one setting. Clinical assessment was done at baseline and after follow up of 7 and 14 days.

Inclusion Criteria

1. Patients having textual symptoms of *Sandhigatavata – niramaavastha* with special reference to *janu sandhi* were taken as a subject to study.
- *Sandhi Shoola*
- *Sandhi Shotha*
- *Vatapurna Druti Sparsha*
- *Graha* (Restricted movement)

2. Patients who are fit for *Raktamokshana w.s.r to Siravyadhana.*
3. Patient who were ready to give written consent.

Exclusion Criteria

1. Patients with other joints deformities or diseases which are not related to *JanuSandhigatavata,* such as *Amavata, Vatarakta*.
2. Patient with rheumatic arthritis, tubercular arthritis, infective arthritis, syphilitic arthritis, gout, traumatic arthritis, and gonorrheal arthritis, fracture of Knee joint and those who needed surgical care were excluded.
3. Neoplasm
4. Permanent joint damage.
5. Known cases of Cardiac disease, Pulmonary TB, Pregnancy, DM, Paralysis, HIV, Neurological disorders.

6. Having severe crippling deformity.

Special Investigation
Clotting time and bleeding time before commencing the intervention.

Interventions
Poorva karma

Preparation of the patient
The patient was clearly explained about the procedure and treatment was started only after he/she was convinced about the treatment. Above mentioned specific investigations were done apart from the routine investigations.

- *Sthanika Abhyanga* with *Moorchita Tilataila* nadi swedana were performed to affected knee joint.
- *Mudga Yusha Paan* was advised.

Pradhana karma
Vein which was to be punctured made prominent by the distal blockage by tourniquet band. Then the disposable scalp vein set having 18 number was used to puncture the vein. Once the blood started to flow the tourniquet was released. The blood was allowed to flow and collected in the kidney trey.

Paschat karma
Once the intensity of blood flow reduced the needle was removed. Aseptic dressing with *Haridra* dusting was done and *Madhu* (Honey) and *Jal paan* (warm water) were given just after the procedure. Placebo capsules were given in 1 each two times a day dose after meal with luke warm water during interval period. Patients were advised to avoid *Vatavridhdhikara Ahara* and *Vihara* during follow up period.

Assessment Criteria
Clinical Data obtained from the trial was analyzed with paired t -test method with 5% the level of significance. Assessment of the result was done based on the following grading.

***Sandhishula* (Pain)**	**Grade**
• No pain	0
• Mild pain	1
• Moderate pain but no difficulty in walking	2
• Severe pain and difficulty in walking	3

***SparshaAsahyata*(Tenderness)**	**Grade**
• No tenderness	0
• Patient feels tenderness	1
• Winching of face on touch	2
• Does not allow to touch the joint	3

***Sandhigraha*(Stiffness)**	**Grade**
• No stiffness	0
• Mild stiffness	1
• Moderate stiffness	2
• Severe stiffness	3

***Sandhishotha*(Swelling)**	**Grade**
• No swelling	0
• Mild swelling	1

• Moderate swelling	2
• Severe swelling	3

***Sandhisphutana* (Crepitus)**	**Grade**
• No crepitus	0
• Palpable crepitus	1
• Audible crepitus	2

Restriction of movement (ROM)	**Grade**
• Absence of movement restriction.	0
• Restriction of movement <25%	1
• Restriction of movement 25% - 50%	2
• Restriction of movement > 50%	3

Visual Analogue Scale (VAS):	**Grade**
• 0 cm.	0
• 1-3 cms	1
• 4-6 cms.	2
• 7-10 cms.	3

Overall assessment of clinical response
Good Response: 75 % and more improvement in overall clinical parameters.
Moderate Response: 50%-75% improvement in overall clinical parameters.
Mild Response: 25%- 50% improvement in over- all clinical parameters.
No Response: Nothing has been changed

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

The clinical trial evaluated the effect of *Siravyadhana* (venepuncture) on ten patients with *Janu Sandhigata Vata* (knee osteoarthritis). Patients were assessed using both subjective and objective parameters at baseline (BT), after treatment (AT), and after follow-up (AF) on the 14th day.
The following results were observed
***Sandhishoola* (Pain):** The mean score reduced from 2 (BT) to 1.4 (AT and AF), showing a 30% improvement, which was highly significant ($p<0.01$).
***Sparsha Asahyata* (Tenderness):** The score reduced from 1 to 0.6, reflecting a 40% improvement with statistical significance ($p<0.05$).
***Sandhigraha* (Stiffness):** Showed 40% improvement from 0.5 to 0.3, but was not statistically significant ($p>0.05$).
***Sandhishotha* (Swelling):** Noted the highest improvement at 50%, with scores reducing from 1.2 to 0.6 and highly significant results ($p<0.01$).
***Sandhisphutana* (Crepitus) and Range of Movement (ROM)** showed only minor changes (6.67% and 12.5%, respectively) and were not statistically significant.
VAS (Visual Analogue Scale): Demonstrated a 40% reduction in pain levels, from 2.5 to 1.5, with high statistical significance ($p<0.01$).
Overall, the average improvement across all parameters was 31.31%, indicating that *Siravyadhana* had a meaningful effect, particularly on symptoms like tenderness, swelling, and subjective pain. No adverse effects were reported, and the procedure was well-tolerated by all patients.

DISCUSSION

While *rakta-mokshana* releases vitiated *doshas* and *rakta dhatu* from the body, *panchkarma chikitsa* purifies the vitiated *doshas*. Due to its greater vulnerability to impurities, *rakta* is regarded as a fourth *dosha* in classical literature. As a result, *dushita* (vitiated) *rakta* should be released in order to prevent illness or safeguard health. Similar to how *basti* is half of medicine, *siravedha* is half of surgery. The healing of the injured area depends on blood flow. Blood, which we all know provides oxygen and nutrients to give the cells vitality and recuperation, does not flow well to bulging discs. Therefore, the patient begins to experience these excruciating issues when blood flow finds it difficult to reach these locations. Toxins can be removed and healthy blood flow can be encouraged in a particular location via bloodletting. Several endorphins are released to aid in healing when negative pressure is applied to the skin.

CONCLUSION

Based on the standard symptoms and signs of sandhigatavata, a sample size of ten patients was chosen for this study. This study found no side effects from Rakta Mokshana (atiyoga, ayoga, and mitya yoga). The treatment did not statistically improve Sandhi Graha, Sandhi Sphutana, or Range of Movement (ROM) parameters. The other criteria, however, have all responded favourably. Overall, there was a 31.31% improvement, which is a positive outcome for Jaanu Sandhigata Vata management.

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Table 1: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *Sandhi Shoola*

Mean BT	Mean		Mean difference	improve %	Paired t test			
					SD	T-value	P-value	Remark
2	AT	1.4	0.6	30	0.51	3.67	<0.01	HS
	AF	1.4	0.6	30	0.51	3.67	<0.01	HS

Table 2: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *Sparsha Asahyata*

Mean BT	Mean		Mean difference	improve %	Paired t test			
					SD	T-value	P-value	Remark
1	AT	0.6	0.4	40	0.51	2.44	<0.05	S
	AF	0.6	0.4	40	0.51	2.44	<0.05	S

Table 3: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *Sandhigraha*

Mean BT	Mean		Mean difference	improve %	Paired t test			
					SD	T-value	P- value	Remark
0.5	AT	0.3	0.2	40	0.42	1.5	>0.05	NS
	AF	0.3	0.2	40	0.42	1.5	>0.05	NS

Table 4: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *Sandhi Shotha*

Mean BT	Mean		Mean difference	improve %	Paired t test			
					SD	T-value	P- value	Remark
1.2	AT	0.6	0.6	50	0.51	3.67	<0.01	HS
	AF	0.6	0.6	50	0.51	3.67	<0.01	HS

Table 5: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *Sandhi Sphutana*

Mean BT	Mean		Mean difference	improve %	Paired t test			
					SD	T-value	P- value	Remark
1.5	AT	1.4	0.1	6.67	0.31	1	>0.05	NS
	AF	1.4	0.1	6.67	0.31	1	>0.05	NS

Table 6: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter Range of Movement

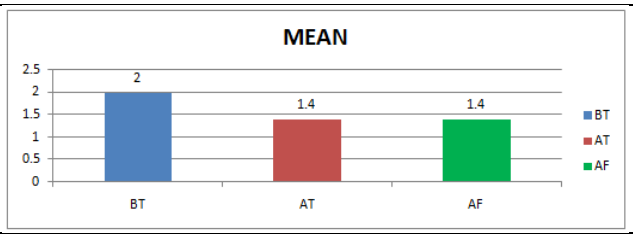
Mean BT	Mean		Mean difference	improve %	Paired t test			
					SD	T-value	P- value	Remark
0.8	AT	0.7	0.1	12.5	0.31	1	>0.05	NS
	AF	0.7	0.1	12.5	0.31	1	>0.05	NS

Table 7: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)

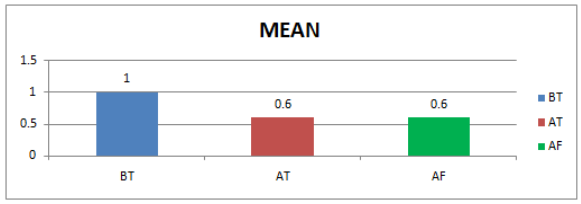
Mean BT	Mean		Mean difference	improve %	Paired t test			
					SD	T-value	P- value	Remark
2.5	AT	1.6	0.9	36	0.31	9.0	<0.01	HS
	AF	1.5	1	40	0.47	6.7	<0.01	HS

Table 11: Showing the Improvement in Percentage of all parameters

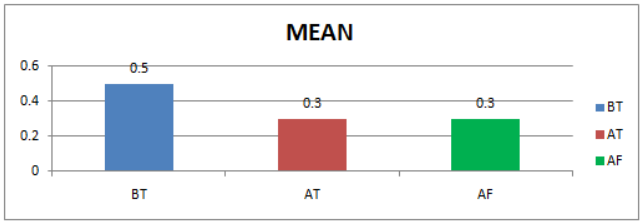
Parameters	Improvement In Percentage
Sandhishula	30
SparshaAsahyata	40
Sandhi graha	40
Sandhi Shotha	50
Sandhi Sphutana	6.67
ROM	12.5
VAS	40
Average	**31.31**



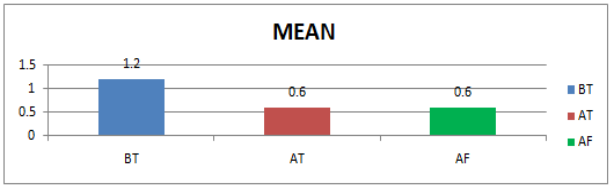
Graph 1: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter SandhiShoola



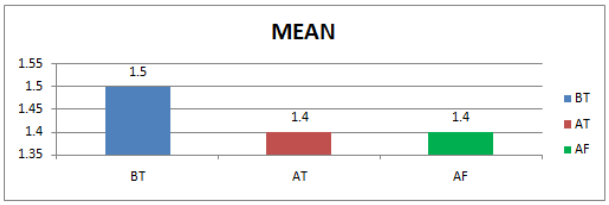
Graph 2: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *SparshaAsahyata*



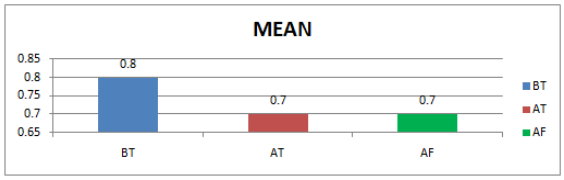
Graph 3: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *Sandhigraha*



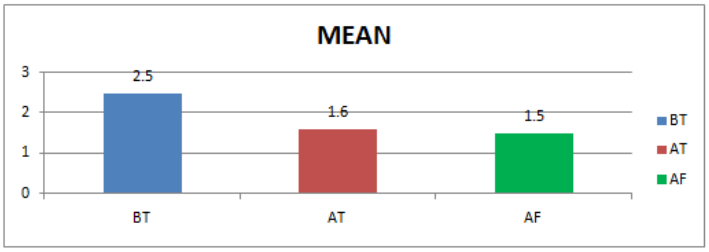
Graph 4: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *SandhiShotha*



Graph 5: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter *SandhiSphutana*



Graph 6: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter Range Of Movement



Graph 7: Showing Comparison of effect of Treatment on Parameter Visual Analogue Scale (VAS)

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Sustainability of Community Development through Psychological Empowerment - An Analysis of Empowering Marginalized Communities of Nepal through Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation (FEST) Approach

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ABSTRACT

Empowerment is an important element of community development, and ensuring sustainability through empowerment is key to promoting sustainable positive. This study, hence, look into the role of Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation(FEST) approach , a community development model which is been practiced in some districts of Nepal for more than 25 years successfully. Therefore, this research tries to see the effectiveness of FEST in empowering marginalized communities across six districts in Nepal - Dang, Jajarkot, Salyan, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur covering three different provinces: Karnali, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim. A qualitative survey method was used for this research, where Most significant change (MSC) tool is used to collect information from community groups who are practicing FEST approach in their community. For MSCs , both KIIs and FGDs were conducted after completion of preliminary screening through field visit to those areas. To cross verify the field findings, secondary review of the existing documentation of the practicing organization was conducted. This study through various case studies examines, how FEST approach has promoted empowerment-particularly psychological – by increasing capacities and creating an enabling environment for marginalized groups. By providing them with the necessary tools, techniques, and skills, how FEST has enabled these communities to actively participate in development initiatives, challenge social and structural barriers, and take leadership in driving change. This empowerment resulted in ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes, access to resources, and the ability to sustain progress independently, ultimately leading to long-term, sustainable development.

Therefore, this paper highlights the importance of psychological empowerment by presenting real-life case studies that demonstrate how positive outcomes contribute to sustainability of community development led by marginalized groups themselves. This study uses real-life participants details; hence prior informed consent was obtained from all individuals and groups named in case studies.

Keywords: Sustainability, Community Development, FEST, Marginalized communities, Psychological empowerment

INTRODUCTION

Community empowerment has been a sustainability in community development and has emerged as an important focus in global development agendas, especially in regions where economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities intersect(Dushkova and Ivlieva,2024).In Nepal, a primarily agriculturally dependent society with many ethnic groups and cultures, community development strategies have played a very important role in addressing different social challenges. In addition to these, the Local Government Operation Act (2017)has authorized local government bodies to plan and implement different community development interventions, whereas the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy 2017 is designed to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in all government initiatives (National Planning Commission, 2017). The government of Nepal has implemented different policies and strategies to promote community empowerment and promote inclusive development. The Constitution of Nepal 2015 has clearly protected the different principles such as social inclusion, equality, and non-discrimination through fundamental rights where there is a special provision for marginalized groups and mandating quotas for marginalized groups representation in government bodies(Nepal Law Commission, 2015). People-centered development, focusing on development "for, by, and to the people," interprets development qualitatively, contextually, and transformatively (Westoby and Dowling, 2013). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a pivotal role in implementing such people-centered development approaches, locally and internationally, introducing diverse approaches to foster meaningful people's participation and ensure sustainability (Gaventa and Cornwall, 2001). The study by Athmeya Jayaram (2020) highlighted that true empowerment always requires systemic support, including education, skill development, and equitable access to resources, ensuring the meaningful participation of marginalized individuals in civic and economic activities. Community empowerment had been proven to be a powerful approach for solving many community problems(Kasmel and Andersen,2011). Ferguson(2011) mentioned that empowerment is categorized as the transformation process of a community. In order to make it happen, some strategy is always needed to bring multiplier effect for the transformation process(Sianipar and Widaretna, 2012). Many governments, businesses, and communities in developed and developing always continuously attempt to develop strategies and approaches that are efficient and fit within local contexts(World Banke,2023).However, the success rate of many community development initiatives targets to empower communities, results based on only the comparison between "before" and "after." . Therefore, there is the opportunity to implement appropriate approaches and strategies in community development initiatives that need to widen to reach beyond sustainable development and look at how local communities can maintain their sustainable development by themselves and reach empowerment (Sianipar *et al*., 2013).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empowerment for Sustainability of Community development

Community Empowerment should be the main goal of any community development projects implemented in the community. As per Ferguson (2011) Community development is often interpreted as the flow of resources from outside into the community; empowerment push-pulls full participation of all community members to change their world by themselves, from inside to outside.

Rappaport (1981) proposed that empowerment should be a primary focus of community psychology, and hence, empowerment is about helping those with less than their fair share of power to understand their own situation and gain more power. Therefore, empowerment includes considering people's needs, their rights and their choices, and it captures the breadth of concern with powerlessness that many groups experience. As per Speer and Hughey (1995), community organization is an important way to reach empowerment. Indicators of community empowerment include processes such as collective reflection, social participation, and political discussion, as well as outcomes such as having obtained adequate resources for improving community wellbeing and social justice(Anckermann *et al*., 2005). Phillips, Seifer and Antczak (2013) emphasized that empowerment of marginalization groups is very important for addressing any upcoming future challenges by creating self-sufficient and sustainable communities through developing capacities and promoting community resilience. As an effort to sustain the development of community empowerment in Nepal, Sahakarmi Samaj[1] developed a new model based on praxis[2] theory called the Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation (FEST) approach. This approach is a process-driven comprehensive framework that begins with identifying the most marginalized communities and facilitating their journey to overcome disempowering factors(Sahakarmi Samaj, 2021). It aims to empower them both internally and externally, enabling them to lead community development efforts while ensuring sustainability. Collective reflection is all about community members getting together and jointly examining the issues that have mattered to them over time.

Flint (2013) highlights the importance of inclusive participation in sustainable community development, and for long-term sustainability, engaging all community members, especially marginalized groups, in decision-making and action planning is very crucial for promoting a sense of ownership and accountability. Chauhan(2024), reflected on the importance of the holistic approach that recognizes that the well-being of a community depends on a delicate interplay between various factors, including access to resources, quality of life, and environmental health. As per him, through promoting this, communities can ensure long-term resilience and prosperity, safeguarding the needs of both present and future generations.

According to Middleton and O'Keefe (2001), sustainability of community development should initially help to address the individual's internal challenges and then systemic challenges through holistic approaches prioritizing empowerment, equity, reliance and resilience. But according to Wang and Ke(2024), when it comes about the sustainability of community development, it emphasizes on creating resilient and self-reliant communities who are capable of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfill their needs. The sustainability of community development integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions to ensure long-term development results aligning with local goals and needs (Wang and Ke, 2014). Therefore, as per Ife (2013) in the context of community development, sustainability focused on empowering communities to take the lead of their entire development process, promoting equity through participatory approaches to decision-making and resource management.

Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation (FEST)

The Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation (FEST) Approach is based on a "Praxis"[3] theory introduced in 1972 by Paulo Freire, a Brazilian educationalist and philosopher. As Paulo Freire[4] describes praxis as "reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it, and according to the founding and implementing organization" Sahakarmi Samaj", the FEST approach is also a process through which a community can shape its own future, avoiding the influences of development blueprints. The FEST approach is a process-led and people-centered approach to doing community development that has been developed to counter the dominant top-down approach of development that creates dependency on external support and funding and undermines the agency of the local community members, further disempowering rural communities. The aim of the FEST approach is to empower and capacitate marginalized communities to access services and claim their rights, take lead roles in identifying common issues and problems, and initiate change in their communities or sustainable solutions (Singh, 2021). A key feature of the approach is to develop the capacity of the rural communities through mobilization, organizing and institution strengthening. This capacity development is done through skilled process facilitations by trained community

facilitators with expertise in organization development(Malla,2025). Hence, the central philosophy of FEST is that the facilitators go into the targeted communities 'empty-handed, meaning without any material or financial resources. The idea is to build an enabling environment through institution building and empowerment. The entire approach is implemented through a six-stage process (Figure i) over a 3–5-year period, culminating in the formation of community groups, main committee groups and establishment of community-based network organizations. The FEST approach is targeted to support the disadvantaged and marginalized groups of people to combat fatalism and to bring sustainable change through a meaningful participatory process. It specifically focuses on facilitating empowerment by enabling marginalized groups to articulate their needs, engage in dialogue with power holders, and take collective action for social change (Sahakarmi Samaj,2021). In the context of Nepal, FEST has been practiced by Sahakarmi Samaj to promote sustainable community development, ensuring different social issues are addressed effectively and sustainably. Among them is the promotion of GESI, particularly in rural areas, through a process-focused approach ensuring the realization of empowerment and the requirement of self-driven development.

Challenges of Sustainability of Community Development in Nepal

Community development in Nepal has a long history and is divided into different periods based on the rulers. In Nepal, the community development programs were implemented in 1951 as a formal approach under the name of Village Development(Katuwal,2020). In that period, community development in Nepal is based on traditional practices, like Guthi system, where collaboration and collective work are used to manage community support and development related activities. Moreover, Gautam(2020) added that the introduction of the Panchayat system in 1960 highlighted the importance of local governance but regularly failed to ensure decentralization of power and bureaucratic efficiency. Upreti (2006), reflected on the context Nepal has witnessed after the restoration of democracy in 1990, where participatory approaches to community development were introduced and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played a significant role in promoting education, healthcare, and infrastructure development in rural areas. Despite continuous efforts from NGOs, Government and Civil society organizations (CSOs), community development in Nepal faced various challenges, such as improper strategies of implementation, people's wants-focused activities, limited community engagement, a lack of proper coordination between different stakeholders and mainly donation-based community development initiatives(Anne Senit, 2019). Nepal restructured the entire government system and adopted a federal structure to promote decentralized governance in the post-conflict period, with the goal of empowering communities from all the levels. However, sustainability of community development remains a big challenge. Social inequalities, geographic isolation, and environmental vulnerabilities continue to hamper progress(Sapkota,2023). Furthermore, social exclusion of marginalized groups, such as women, Dalits and indigenous communities, remains a significant barrier to equitable development(Qureshi et.al,2021). Therefore, addressing these challenges requires stronger local governance, participatory frameworks, and policies that prioritize sustainability and inclusivity at different levels.

METHODOLOGY

Peggy Ann Spitzer (2023) has used the method of collecting case studies, perceptions, and experiences to show the level of empowerment of female climate change activists in the Global South context. She argues that, using these techniques would not only help bring forward the "research participant's voice but also make them feel empowered by validating and recognizing their efforts. Therefore, this research also used a qualitative case study approach to see the effect of the FEST approach to empower marginalized groups and that driving to the sustainability of community development. For this, the study covers 12 community groups practicing the FEST approach from Dang, Bardiya Jajarkot, Salyan, Kailali and Kanchanpur.. A case study approach was used to bring out real contexts with lived experiences and transformative outcomes. According to Davies and Dart(2005) too called "Most Significant Change(MSC)[5]" is used to collect the most significant change, that the research participants identified based on their observation, their own participation and their perception. The most significant change tool is participatory and qualitative techniques to capture transformative changes experienced by individuals and communities. Therefore, this tool is used to identify and analyze the critical stories of change within the research coverage areas on

empowerment of marginalized groups and sustainability of community development, community as key drivers. Primary data were gathered through MSC structured questionnaires, engaging community group members. However, secondary data from Sahakarmi Samaj[6] including third party evaluation reports, official reports, case studies and success stories, were systematically reviewed to triangulate the primary data findings.

Study Area

The study focuses on Dang, Bardiya Jajarkot, Salyan, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of Nepal representing three different provinces: Lumbini Karnali and Sudurpaschim of Nepal. These districts are selected for study as communities have been practicing the FEST approach for a long time, and they have diversified groups of people representing marginalized groups. These districts are also considered prone districts where different injustices based on caste and class are in-rooted.

OBJECTIVES

This study aims to investigate how Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation (FEST) approach empowers marginalized communities and contributes to sustainable community development. Therefore, this study has two objectives.

- To study about the role of the FEST approach in capacitating marginalized groups?
- To study how FEST approach promotes community- driven decision making and collective action for sustainable local development.

For this, the entire study-based case study method will try to answer these three questions

a. How does the FEST approach build the capacity of marginalized individuals/groups and encourage their active and meaningful participation in community development?
b. In what ways has the FEST approach institutionalized community-driven decision-making to support strong local governance and sustainability?

Theoretical Framework

The study adapted the conceptual model of empowerment process by Fabricio Balcazar and Yolanda Balcazar designed in 2017. According to this model, empowerment is a multidimensional and dynamic process that promotes individual and collective capacity for bringing about social change. As per the Balcazar's model, the entire empowerment process starts when the individual identifies an injustice they have experienced. Therefore, this model carries forward prior empowerment theories by combining psychological, organizational, and community perspectives. Therefore, based on Balcazar's empowerment model, a new empowerment process model for sustainability of community development was prepared and based on that theoretical framework (Fig ii) this study tries to show how individual/community psychological empowerment through facilitation would finally result in the sustainability of community development, considering different major elements in between the entire process.

RESULTS

Critical Consciousness in Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation

According to Paulo Freire (1970), most people who experience social oppression do not always try to change their situation. This is because they have been taught to accept the dominant, or oppressors', narrative. His narration regarding oppressed people and their psychological aspect that keeps them in an inferior position by keeping their oppressors in a superior position, hence required some external support to have a critical awareness. The marginalized groups accept to be passive, and that resulted in not being able to recognize their own capacity to transform their social realities, in part because their condition of marginalization and oppression keeps them in a state of helplessness (Leonard et.al, 2019). Facilitation for empowerment and social transformation (FEST) approaches, therefore, focus on promoting critical awareness and helping individuals understand the factors influencing their circumstances is a crucial initial step in the empowerment process. As per Sahakarmi Samaj (2021),

when people gain insight into the root causes of their situation and recognize the significance of taking proactive steps to address their challenges, the journey towards empowerment truly begins. As per Fabricio Balcazar and Yolanda Balcazar(2019), critical consciousness provides a foundation for psychological empowerment. When individuals develop critical consciousness, they become aware of the systemic factors influencing their lives, which helps them cross their set boundaries and move beyond helplessness. This individual awareness to recognize their capacity in challenging and changing the ongoing oppressions, promotes a sense of individual agency. Therefore, critical consciousness influence in empowering individuals psychologically by equipping them with the motivations, knowledge and collective support to enhance their confidence, autonomy, and ability to change. This change helps them understand the power of "individuals" and the further required needs to make sure their transformation is never

Psychological Empowerment

Individual Empowerment allows people to exercise control and increase self-efficacy, but in contrast, psychological empowerment at the individual and group levels requires to be increased awareness and understanding of the factors that influence their lives(Balcazar *et al*.,2019). It is a process by which individuals or communities become aware of the power dynamics that occur at multiple levels in their lives and thus is very important in the context of community development where discrimination, exclusions and a lack of awareness exist. Psychological empowerment considers the role of the context and influences from external factors that impact the lives of all people (Keys *et al*., 2017). In Nepal, where community development faces numerous challenges, there is a need for an approach that not only empowers individuals but also addresses the psychological well-being of community members. Discriminatory practices by owning them and ensuring the sustainability of community (Kernot, 2006).She emphasizes that this has enable them to become agents of change, actively challenging deep-rooted development practices.

Case Study: 1 From Marginalization to Leadership

Jhupi - a current advocate for equal recruitment of staffs with disabilities at the local level in Jajarkot – is an example of psychological empowerment through FEST approach. Born into a marginalized Dalit community, she not only faced caste-based discrimination but also struggled with mobility issues due to a congenital disability. Jhupi's early years were surrounded with problems. She got married at her early age, but lost her husband, two years after their marriage. She even lost her parents during the same period. Despite these tragedies, she refused to surrender to despair. She took responsibility of taking care of her seven-member family, determined to challenge the limitations imposed by her impairment. Although with limited access to education and opportunities, her self-confidence was deeply affected. However, her self-resilience and the involvement with FEST approach from one of the targeted communities has become a turning point in her life. Jhupi's experienced firsthand the ways in which caste system unfairly treated people and distributed power. Engaging throughout the different process of FEST approach especially self-reflection and identification of own strength and discussing with peer has gradually strengthened her confidence. In addition to that, the need-based trainings to cater the needs of the community group members has been an asset for her. Different training sessions in community mobilization, governance, human rights, advocacy, and leadership development helped her recognize her potential and the significance of speaking out against the unequal distribution of power. The knowledge of human rights and the skill to take lead and advocate for the rights of marginalized people and people with disabilities further enable her to take leadership role in her community. With the addition knowledge of governance, she became a key representative in the seven-step planning process and take forward the needs of her community to the local government annual planning. She began to advocate for inclusive planning process, brining a change to an old practice of power-driven planning. She also helped to bridge a gap between community groups and local government agencies to access resources allocated for them. In addition to that, she has been advocating for policies that ensure employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities within local government institutions. Additionally, understanding the serious need for economic independence and dignity, she is now actively campaigns for skill-based training programs from person with disabilities. "Government allowances are helpful, but sustainable empowerment comes from internal transformation and that can be done through skills and opportunities. This is the reason why I am committed to ensure that people with disabilities have

dignified employment," she states. "My journey from a marginalized individual witnessing social oppression to a leader in the local planning process, advocating for the inclusion of marginalized communities and people with disabilities, became possible when I started believing in myself. This transformation was driven by the FEST approach, which empowered me to recognize my strengths and channel them for self-transformation." Jhupi BK's transformation from a marginalized individuals to a proactive leader shows the impacts of psychological empowerment. Her transformation journey shows how self-confidence, knowledge and supportive intervention can create lasting change, not only for individuals but for all communities.

Capacity Building

Psychological empowerment enhances individual's confidence in their abilities and helps them understand and challenge systemic barriers(Zimmerman, 1995;Frire 1970).When individuals, especially from marginalized groups, they started believing in themselves, have high possibility to take leadership roles that not only benefits them but also the larger community(Bandura, 1997). For example, Indian women associated in self-help groups develop financial skills and decision-making power, reflecting how psychological empowerment develop real capacity(Narayan,2005).Empowered individuals could be the source to inspire others, developing a shared belief in the community's ability to make differences through collective efforts(Bandura, 1997). This empowerment also strengthens resilience by helping individuals to reframe their struggles and take control over their lives(Cattaneo and Chapman, 2010). As shown in Case Study 2, the FEST approach has helped individuals challenge oppressive practices, proving how psychological empowerment leads to true capacity building and community transformation.

Case Study 2: Breaking stereotype practice through empowerment

Sahakarmi Samaj facilitation to empower the community members of Gandharva to unite together through group formation, Phulmaya Gandharva thought of it as other usual community groups. 45 years old – a mother of 3 children did not, however, anticipate the magnitude of the change it would bring to her life. The Gandharva, community, traditionally recognized as occupational caste musicians, relied only on playing music and singing for their livelihood. With no sustainable opportunities in their locality, many Gandharva's were forced to seek employment abroad. Women in the community were particularly marginalized, with little to no engagement in income-generating activities beyond household responsibilities. Literacy rates among the female Gandharva population were alarmingly low, with only 17% able to read and write in the FEST implementation area. Despite of all these socio-economic challenges and barriers, Phulmaya was determined to create a better tomorrow for her family. Her family depends on agriculture, but the annual income of NPR 50,000 barely makes them covers their expenses for six months. To sustain further, she and her husband have to take on labor works or her husband has to migrate to India for employment opportunities. This initiation of her showcase how she is able to break the dependency cycle.

The Turning Point: Increased of self-confidence enriched with skills, knowledge and resources

The organization who has implemented the FEST approach in Phulmaya's community initially focused encouraging community groups to form a group and facilitating them to empower for taking further steps for their own development through various trainings, coaching and mentoring, as a process of FEST approach. Phulmaya eagerly participated in every process and recognize the opportunity to break free from social and financial instability. Within continuous process facilitation, mentoring, trainings and exposure as a part of FEST approach, she says, I increased a confidence of I can even do it. With identification of her need, she is provided with the business management training where she was enriched with the skills and knowledge of financial management and micro-enterprise management. As a part of individual action plan, she identified fish farming as a viable business as she owned a small land which she finds it relevant to use it for fish farming. As a process of FEST approach: approaching and using local resources, the group revolving funds established by the community group itself supported her to establish fish farming. Simultaneously, she establishes a small retail shop at her home. With a year, her combined enterprise generated a net profit of NPR 15,000 significantly improving her family's financial situation. With her increased income, she purchased an auto-rickshaw for her husband, who was forced to go to India for earning. Today, she successfully manages two micro-enterprises ensuring her family's well-being. Challenging stereotypes

practice, took initiation in starting enterprise and established within the community, where no women were engaged in these activities before was a great example for every woman of Gandharva Community- who themselves are deprived from government services as well . Phulmaya's success represents more than just financial independence, it challenges deeply rooted stereotypes.

Reflecting on her journey, Phulmaya shared: "I belong to a community that has always depended on singing for survival- a tradition that no longer sustain us. For years, our only option was to migrate to India for work. But through training and support, I started my own enterprise, proving that where there is a will, there is a way. I have previously been a part of other community development initiatives, but the FEST approach focused on empowering inner me and guided me to finally be capable enough to enhance my livelihood." Her impact extends beyond her own success and motivated more Gandharva women to engage in different income-generation activities accessing resources even from local government. Phulmaya's story is an example of the power of capacity building through skills, knowledge and resources. She has not only transferred her own life but has also ignited a movement of self-reliance within her community. Today, The Gandharva women is gradually shifting from dependency to self-sufficiency, ensuring the way for a brighter and more empowered future.

Community Participation

According to Speer and Peterson(2000), empowered individuals are likely to join grassroots organizations, as they are capable enough to contribute to systemic change. This finding aligns with the idea of Drury and Reicher(2005) for collective empowerment, wherein individual agency contributes to the mobilization of groups. As per Zimmerman(2000), psychological empowerment has always been a cornerstone for promoting community participation by increasing individuals' sense of control, self-efficacy, and motivation so that they can be engaged in collective actions. Therefore, his argument focused on individuals wanting to more actively initiate, collaborate and participate in community development when they felt empowered psychologically. In addition to this, Paulo Freire (2003), as a designer of Praxis theory, has argued the need for and importance of dialogical learning, critical reflection, and collective action for leading and ensuring sustainable social change. Therefore, FEST, as a holistic approach including all these components within its framework, has contributed to the psychological empowerment of community individuals, increasing their participation in community development initiatives and contributing meaningfully. In addition to this, the FEST approach amplifies the psychological empowerment process through providing them with an inclusive participatory space for every individual to raise their voice, develop their capacities, and design the solutions together. With these lines of evidence provided by different researchers, Case Study 3 tries to reflect on how inclusive a community group formed, after being empowered and is actively working for the benefit of the community, ensuring the local resources are effectively accessible and used.

Case Study 3: Empowered and Inclusive Community Development group

The emerging of "Samaj Sudhar Samuha (A community group), in Dang leaves a mark of transformative journey in that periphery and surroundings , exemplifying the spirit of "Together it is possible". The strength and unity of the group has marked the importance of collaborative power to achieve self-reliance, social empowerment and sustainable progress. Journey of community groups of being sceptical of community educator Chandrakala due to previous experiences of NGOs working in their community to the present context, when they are leading the community development initiatives by owing it. The very first step , when community educator lived nearby them for six months have been the reason of gradually gaining their trust. The series of meetings that focused on unity and communication, envisioning their future, encouraging motivation, identification of individuals and community strengths has increased the number of members from eight to twenty-five now, representing diversified community groups. The group with the mission to empower economic aspects of individuals, started savings and mobilize that savings to benefit the community members through establishment of micro-enterprise and for their own important household expenses like fee for children and health. The CODE method enabled the community to identify their own issues and engage in collaborative, participatory planning. The community educator encourages them to recognize and utilize local resources to address these challenges, ensuring sustainable community development initiatives they planned. Among many noticeable initiatives they have implemented, the construction of road that connect inner part

of the area to the main road with small portion support from local government. Beside of constructions, the community group was encouraged to start group farming to benefits the larger community become self reliance. Increased community ownership makes them registered a farmers' group for better government access. The community group has become self-sufficient with increased confidence in decision-making, financial management, and social interactions. The community groups, especially marginalized groups have shown their appreciation for the safe space for sharing challenges, strengthening family and social bonds. The ward chairperson has shown his interest in their initiatives and implement the FEST approach for strengthening the local "Tole Development Committee". The community group members take pride of their collective achievements and increased self reliance as they said, other approach taught us to follow their roadmap, But the FEST approach has provided us knowledge and skills to be empowered to make our own roadmap for sustainable community development, showing the power of unity and structured support in taking forward the lasting change.

Access to Resources

Psychological empowerment increases self-confidence and decision-making skills, helping individuals, mainly marginalized to access and use resources more effectively(Zimmerman, 2000;Freire 1970. With increased advocacy and leadership skills, can better coordinate and collaborate with different institutions to demand equitable distribution of resources(Cornwall and Gacenta,2001).

Amartya Sen (1997) and Deep Narayan(2005) highlights on the importance of empowering individuals to make them engaged in policymaking, resulting in decreasing the dependency on external support and promoting locally driven sustainable solutions. Similarly, Peter Westoby (2016) highlights the importance of marginalized communities capacity building as the only way to make them access resources and bring about social and structural changes. These diverse perspectives are connected with a focus on the interconnection between community capacity development and access to resources through inclusive participation, focusing to dismantle systemic barriers and empowering communities with their agency to drive and ensure sustainable change. According to Sahakarmi

Samaj(2021), FEST approach is strategically designed to strengthen self-awareness, self-efficacy, and resilience, enabling individuals to engage in development efforts and access resources. It is found to focus on assessing community needs and provides tailored support such as skills and knowledge development and confidence building so that they can take leadership, buildcritical thinking, and build collaboration. It founds to empower community groups, especially marginalized, to take a lead in sustainable social change and equitable resource distribution for larger community benefits. The Case Study 4 shows how the FEST approach has enhanced community empowerment, increasing their capacity and, ultimately, their access to resources.

Case Study 4

Women-led initiative in establishing a health post in Salyandistrict and owning it

Salyan, a remote district in Nepal's Lumbini Province, has long faced significant challenges due to inadequate healthcare infrastructure. Tribeni Rural Municipality of Salyan district is one of the remote areas with less access to different services due to different reasons and one of them is lack of proper health facilities. Due to lack of proper health infrastructure, local people were forced to take medical treatments outdoors under trees or in temporary shelters at local people's homes. The situation became even more difficult during the rainy season, making it extreme difficult especially for pregnant women to access to essential services like vaccinations. Shift to that context occurred when Sahakarmi Samaj and Dalit Bikas Samaj implemented the Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation (FEST) approach, resulted to formation of Sarada Community Group. This group includes 39 women from the most marginalized communities in the area. Through a series of empowerment trainings and regular dialogues, these women were encouraged to identify their strengths, utilize local resources, and identify key issues affecting their lives.

Problem identification and Community Action: During their regular dialogues, the women identified the lack of a health post building as the root cause behind many of their challenges. Guided by the FEST approach, the y

developed a community action plan to address it. The group than decided to advocate for the construction of a health post as their group's action plan. Capacitated with advocacy and negotiation skills, they approached Tribeni Municipality in Salyan and presented their issues, urging the urgent need and offering community human resources to support the effort. Their determination gave them the positive result when the municipality agreed to allocate NPR 125,000 for the construction of health post. Although this initial funding was insufficient, the women continued their advocacy efforts. Their continuous efforts resulted to access to additional fund of NPR 100,000 from the local government's basket fund- though this still is insufficient to cover the full construction cost of the health post.

Community-Driven Construction and Ownership: Realizing that the funds are not sufficient, community members, with approval from the local government, took the initiative to collect stones and sand from nearby river for building purposes, while the local forest office provided timber. Over 14 days consecutive days, women contributed their labour gathering materials and managing logistics. Additionally, the ward office provided NPR 50,000 for the construction of a toilet within the premises of health post.

Impact and Community Participation: According to Ward Chairperson Hasta Bahadur Ramja, the new health post has greatly benefited access to healthcare, especially pregnant women and newborns. So far, over 1,800 individuals have accessed health services at the facility. The community has taken ownership of the facility, with volunteers maintaining cleanliness and conducting renovations as needed. For community members like Pushpa, the health post has been transformational. She explained, "Having a health post nearby has made it much easier to access services. We always understood the importance of regular check-ups and vaccinations, but challenges like crossing overflowing rivers and the lack of a permanent vaccination site made it very difficult. Now, we finally have a reliable place to go." Today, a structured schedule ensures regular visits from the Community Medical Assistant and Health Assistant, providing consistent and dependable healthcare services under one roof. The initiative stands as a powerful example of women-led community action, showcasing how grassroots leadership and collective effort can successfully handle major social challenges. This inspiring story highlights the power of collective action, women's leadership, and community-driven solutions in overcoming existing challenges through their ownership and ensure sustainability of those solutions.

Social Structural Transformation

Empowerment always brings forward new perspectives and arguments on different aspects that contribute to a whole "empowerment"(Chaudhari,2016).Community participation has been identified as a catalyst for social structural transformation, as it transforms different aspects of marginalized groups, promotes collective identity, and increases local agencies in the decision-making process(Zhang et.,2023). According totheory designed by Paulo Freire (1970), participatory involvement helps build critical consciousness, where individuals become self-conscious and can take further action to transform them. This theory supports Haberman's theory of communicative action. According to Jürgen Habermas(1983), rational dialogue and inclusive discourse can make the communities challenge suppressive systems and power structures to create more democratic social organizations. Likewise, Anthony Gidden's structuration theory emphasizes the importance of active participation in reshaping social structures shaped by ongoing practices(Giddens,1984).Brian Wampler (2012) shows that community-led initiatives show that structured participation can result in good governance with increased transparency, accountability, and therefore change in gender and class relations. Therefore, according to these different theories and findings, community participation does not only support development, but it also transforms the social structures that define the social power dynamics and how they function in society. The FEST approach promotes inclusive dialogue and collective decision-making by ensuring meaningful engagement and participation of community members through their empowerment. Its core strategy: facilitation for empower has increased participation and helped challenge traditional power structures. Therefore, Case Study 5, shows how marginalized groups in Nepal, through unity and collective strength, have transformed oppressive social structures in Nepal.

Case Study 5: Breaking Barriers, Building Change: A community-led transformation

Kailali and Kanchanpur are located in far-western area of Nepal and has deeply rooted different forms of discrimination. Despite of its naturally rich locations, exist of different evidence of people losing their lives due to the results of these discriminations is found. The community groups formed in different locations of Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of Nepal have been significantly creating changes in the community. Among them their fight against Caste-based discrimination and Chaupadhi Pratha(form of menstrual taboo which prohibits women and girls from participating in normal family activities while menstruating, as they are considered " impure"). is an example of how they have addressed systemic barriers that have create discrimination and resulted in violence against women. These discriminatory practices have reinforced systemic inequality, marginalizing certain castes and restricting women's rights. However, over time, different determined community groups practicing FEST approach have been working to dismantle these barriers, advocating for equality, dignity, and justice for all.

The Challenge: For generations, caste-based discrimination dictated the lives of many in these districts, restricting their access to education, employment, and basic human rights. Simultaneously, ChaupadiPratha forced women to stay in unhygienic and unsafe conditions outside the house called "Chau Goth", during menstruation, increasing health risks and reinforcing gender discrimination. Despite legal prohibitions, these practices remained socially enforced due to deep-rooted beliefs and traditional norms.

Beginning of change: Recognizing the urgent need for change, community group consisting of diverse individuals from marginalized backgrounds, members of those community groups began advocating against these discriminatory practices. Raising awareness has been a key strategy in challenging traditional mindsets. Community dialogues, educational workshops, and street dramas have been organized to educate people on the harmful effects of caste discrimination and Chauppadi Pratha. These initiatives have encouraged open discussions and facilitated behavioural change. Empowering marginalized groups has been the core part of entire strategy of transformation, therefore as a part of FEST approach, different advocacy skills and leadership enhancing activities were provided to individuals from oppressed castes and women subjects to Chaupadi. This has helped them to assert their rights and actively participate in social spheres. The entire process was to empower them psychologically, so that they can be a part of systemic change. With all these communities' engagement efforts have strengthened alliances and promote a collective commitment to inclusivity, and commitments. Additionally, engaging local administration has been an added value in the process of change. With their engagement, the "Chau-goth" has been destroyed and implementation of regulations to ensure safer place for women and girls to stay in during their menstruation period.

Impacts and Transformation

The continuous efforts of these community groups have created significant positive changes. More families have stopped practicing Chaupadi, allowing their female members to stay in their homes during menstruation, which reduced health complications, infections, and exposures to other different risks including being rapped. Additionally, there is increased awareness of legal rights, leading to take stand of all the discrimination they have faced due to caste. People being oppressed due to their caste and people who are the reason behind those oppression have developed sense of awareness resulted to social harmony. The group has also successfully advocated for meaningful participation considering gender equality and social inclusion during planning process of local government. Their advocacy has amplified marginalized voices and resulted to more inclusive budget for the local level planning addressing their needs and demands. Through the FEST approach, these communities continue to drive transformation, reinforcing the power of collective action and systemic change. The Diop Institute's empowerment philosophy[7] looks empowerment as an ongoing process, where individual growth ensures community progress. This can be ensured through self-awareness, skill development, and active engagement and that leads to each individual's challenging unjust systems and identifying and establishing the way to sustainable development. The entire empowerment process reflects the interconnections between psychological empowerment and sustainable community development, as psychological empowerment is the foundation, to make individuals believe in themselves and to take collective actions so that sustainable transformation can be ensured (Schunk and Dibenedetto, 2020).

Marc .Zimmerman (2000), explains that empowered people drive change and strengthen the sustainability of community work. Similarly, Brian Christens(2012), points out that critical thinking helps communities' question unfair structures and respond collectively, ensuring that development efforts are strong and lasting. Capacity building of both people and institutions helps communities adapt and become self-reliant over time(Eade,1997; Morgan, 2006). Jules N. Pretty(1995), connects community participation, access to resources, and social and structural change ,saying that inclusive participation develop trust, aligns with local values, and ensured long-term progress. This study, therefore, includes case studies from different parts of Nepal where the FEST approach is being implemented. These real-life stories are based on the empowerment model by Fabricio and Balcazar and Yolanda Surez-Balcazar (2017), showing how people experience and understand change in their own lives and community. The findings from the field show that FEST has created empowerment into its approach through developing skills, generating groups, creating and building networks. This helps individuals overcome challenges and take leadership roles, ensuring community development and its sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS

Community development must begin with people's lived realities and build their capacity to act collectively upon those realities. Empowerment is not just about individual change; it is the collective awakening that transforms structures and sustains community development (Westoby, 2016). The statement by Peter Westoby reflects the main findings of this study, while examining the FEST approach's impact in Nepal's marginalized communities. This study explores the effectiveness and sustainability of the FEST approach in empowering marginalized communities in Nepal. The FEST model is centralized in the concept of Community empowerment-enhancing individuals' belief in self-abilities so to influence their own lives and communities. Therefore, this study shows the connections between empowerment: mainly psychological empowerment, enhancement of self-efficacy, critical consciousness, and collective agency as they become more capacitated and ensure their meaningful participation. The study found that marginalized groups actively participate and leading the local governance; they can also influence policies and institutional practices, and that can result in larger social and structural transformations. In addition to this, the symbolic case studies collected by using MSC methods show how capacity building plays a very important role in creating an enabling environment for individuals and communities to have meaningful participation for wider development. Furthermore, this study findings show that the connection between psychological empowerment and participatory capacity building enables the community people to access to previously not accessible resources, such as local government resources, identifying and using the local available resources for their development, and healthcare and financial opportunities. These access to resources is not just material but also structural, as empowered individuals and groups started influencing decision-making systems and challenging discriminatory norms and therefore have started contributing to sustainable community development with increased resilience power. This study concluded with the finding that the FEST approach contributes to the sustainability of community development by making people internalize transformation in realities and lived experiences. Therefore, it is found that the FEST approach is able to create an impact in the community development area of the study areas through empowering marginalized groups and letting them drive their own development, identify, access and secure resources, and transformation of oppressive structures. This process of FEST aligns with Peter Westoby's assertion that true empowerment must disrupt systemic inequalities to achieve lasting change(Westoby,2016). However, the process of FEST has been a model through which it is able to empower individuals in a proper facilitation that promotes participation and equitable access to resources, and this resulted to self-sustaining cycle of transformative change. Therefore, those case studies show how the individuals and community groups have maintained and controlled the entire process locally without any external intervention, but through their own natural capacity to dream of a better tomorrow, organizing collective actions, and implementing locally driven solutions. This thereby promotes long-term resilience, ownership and locally adaptive development. Hence, the finding therefore supports the empowerment-based framework in development practices, highlighting that sustainability is only possible when marginalized groups are mainstreamed and become active planners of their own future.

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CASE STUDY ARTICLE

A Recurrence Free Management of Refractory Eczema (Vicharchika) with Ayurveda - A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Eczema is skin conditions that cause itchiness, dry skin, rashes, scaly patches, blisters and skin infections. Eczema is the most common type of skin disease found in people with high chances of recurrence and chronicity. Several studies have focused on the impact of eczema on quality of life. Many individuals report significant psychological distress, sleep disturbances, and social implications due to the visible nature of the condition. Eczema affects ~10% of adults and up to 20% of children in high-income countries. In *Ayurveda* clinical picture of eczema resembles with *Vicharchika* (Chronic eczema). It is presented with symptoms *kandu* (severe itching), *pidaka* (papules or eruptions), *syava varna* (blackish discoloration of lesions), *srava* (discharge from lesions). In this case report a 69 year male patient who has taken anti-allergic medicines and topical steroids for 6 months but only got symptomatic relief visited outdoor patient department of *Panchakarma* with symptoms of *Vicharchika*. After stopping the treatment symptoms appears again. He was treated with *Jaloukavacharan* (bloodletting using leech)along with *Ayurvedic* medications for 1 month. After treatment there was significant relief in symptoms with no signs of recurrence till date. Thus the study proved to be effective in management of *Vicharchika* within short duration, with marked improvement in symptoms and no recurrence.

Keywords: Skin disease, Itching, Rashes, Blisters, *Jaloukavacharan,* Blood letting

INTRODUCTION

Vicharchika is a type of *Kshudrakushtha* (minor skin disease) which is a type of *Raktapradoshaj vyadhi* (disease arising from vitiated blood) with dominance of *Kapha*(phlegm) [1] [2]. It is present with symptoms *Kandu* (itching), *Pidaka* (papules), *Syava varna* (discolouration), *Srava* (discharge)[3]. In modern science the clinical picture of resembles *Vicharchika* with Eczema. Eczema is skin conditions that cause itchiness, dry skin, rashes, scaly patches, blisters and skin infection. Impairment of quality of life has been found to be directly proportional to the severity of eczema. It has been found that eczema usually accounts for the worst scores compared with other dermatological disease. It has the highest disease burden based on disability adjusted life years among dermatological disorders and ranks 15th among all non-fatal diseases. The Prevalence of eczema ranged from 0.98% to 9.2% in studies including pediatric and adult patients from year 2011 to 2024. [4] A refractory eczema is a treatment-resistant eczema that doesn't improve with standard treatments. The present case report showed significant regression in the case of refractory eczema with no signs of recurrence. The patient showed good response in one month of treatment with *Jaloukavacharan* (bloodletting using leech) along with Ayurvedic medications. The scope of Ayurvedic approach to address such chronic eczema is discussed in this case report.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Case report

A 69 year male patient visited Outdoor patient department of *Panchakarma* with complaints of *Twak Rukshata* (dryness of skin), *Kandu* (itching), *Vaivarnya* (discoloration), *Pitikotpatti* (formation of papules), *Kandupaschat Raktastrav* (bleeding after itching) over his upper back since 6 months. Patient has taken anti-allergic medicines and topical steroids for 6 months but only got symptomatic relief. After stopping the treatment symptoms appears again.

Clinical findings

At the time of visit patient was conscious, coherent, and not in any cardiorespiratory distress. His vitals were within normal limits. On local examination the skin of the patient was found to be dry, pigmented, lichenified plaques due to excoriation and papules. (Figure 1)

Therapeutic intervention (Table 1)

***Shodhan Chikitsa* (Detoxification Therapy)** *Raktamokshan* in the form of *Jaloukavacharn* was performed on the patient. *Jaloukavacharn* was done after every 7 days for 1 month. (Figure 2 and 3).

***Shaman Chikitsa* (Dosha Pacifying Therapy)** internal Ayurvedic medicines were given for 1 month (06/10/22 to 06/11/22)

Diagnostic assessment

Diagnostic assessment was done on the basis of signs and symptoms of *Vicharchika* (Table2), Area Score, Severity Score, and the Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI score) [5]. (Figure 6)

RESULT

There was significant symptomatic relief in itching, discharge, papules, and discoloration. (Figure 4) Along with that there was marked improvement in the Eczema Area and Severity Index (ESAI score), severity score, and area score. (Table 3) Also, there was no recurrence of eczema. (Figure 5)

DISCUSSION

Shodhan karma(detoxification therapy) should be performed in *Kushtha* (skin disease) according to the preponderance of *Dosha* (regulatory functional factors of the body) [6]. One of the most essential treatments for vitiated *Rakta Dhatu* (blood tissue) is *Jaloukavacharan*. More than 100 bioactive proteins are involved in the salivary glands of a medical leech, and the secretion has bacteriostatic, analgesic, and anticoagulant properties. It also eliminates microcirculation

disorders, restores the vascular permeability of organs and tissues, eliminates hypoxia and detoxifies through antioxidant pathways[7]. In addition to its anti-inflammatory (eglins) and vasodilatory (histamine) properties, leech saliva contains anesthetic substances [8] that help reduce itching and relieve papules by removing blood congestion from the surrounding area. *Tikshna* and *Ushna guna* of vitiated Pitta are responsible for *Srava*. *Jaloukavacharan* rectifies Pitta's vitiation and reduces discharge [9]. The nearby area is more oxygenated as a result of leech saliva's vasodilatation (histamine) impact. Additionally, anti-inflammatory compounds including bdellins and eglins may lessen redness. Acetylchloline, a vascodilator found in leech saliva, reduces local inflammatory mediators and alleviates the burning feeling in the lesion. *Mahamanjishadi kwath* [10], *Panchatikta Ghrut Guggul* [11], and *Arogyavardhini vati* aids in *Kusthanashan* (curing skin disease) [12]. In this case, the severity score, area score, ESAI score, and symptoms were significantly decreased. Thus the total remission of disease in present case was 95%.

CONCLUSION

In cases of refractory eczema integrating *Jaloukavacharan* therapy demonstrates significant efficacy in reducing symptoms. The synergistic action of *Jaloukavacharn* in removing vitiated *Rakta Dhatu*, combined with *Raktaprasadan* and *Kusthaghna* Ayurvedicformulations, leads to improved patient outcomes. Thus, this holistic approach provides both symptomatic relief, long-term management of the condition and no recurrence with significant remission of disease by 95%.

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Table 1: Therapeutic Interventions

Medicine	**Dose**	**Time**	***Adjuvant***
Mahamajisthadi Kwath [10]	20ml Twice a day	After Food	With 20 ml of warm Water
Panchatikta ghrut guggul vati [11]	2 Tablet Thrice a day	After Food	With warm water
Arogyvardhini vati [12]	2 Tablet Thrice a day	After Food	With warm water
Jaloukavacharan		**Date of application**	
1st sitting of *Jaloukavacharan*		07/10/2022	
2nd sitting of *Jaloukavacharan*		14/10/2022	
3rd sitting of *Jaloukavacharan*		21/10/2022	
4th sitting of *Jaloukavacharan*		28/10/2022	

Table 2: Diagnostic Assessment (signs and symptoms of *Vicharchika)*

Score	*Kandu*	*Srava*	*Pidaka*	*Vaivarnya*
0	No itching	No discharge	No eruption of skin	Normal colour
1	Occasional itching	Occasional discharge	Starting of eruption	Abnormal but near to normal colour
2	Mild itching	Mild discharge	Moderately developed eruption	Reddish discoloration
3	Mild to moderate itching	Mild to moderate discharge	Spread over extremities	Slight black reddish discoloration
4	Severe itching	Severe discharge	Severely spread on overall body	Deep black reddish discoloration

Table 3: Outcomes of therapeutic intervention

Signs and symptoms			
Symptoms	**Before treatment (06/10/2022)**	**After treatment (30/10/2022)**	**Follow up (03/10/2024)**
Kandu (itching)	2	1	0
Srava (discharge)	2	0	0
Pidaka (papules)	2	1	0
Syavata / vaivarnya (discolouration)	2	0	1
Area score			
	3	3	0
Severity score			
Erythema	2	1	0
Edema	2	0	0
Excoriation	2	1	0
Lichenification	2	0	0
EASI score			
	2+2+2+2=8x3x0.3=2.4	1+0+1+0=2x3x0.3=1.8	0



Figure 1:before treatment 6/10/2022



Figure 2: *Jaloukavacharan* (Bloodletting)



Figure 3: After first sitting of *Jaloukavacharan* (14/10/22)



Figure 4: After 1 month of treatment (7/11/2022)



Figure 5: Latest picture (03/10/2024)

Severity Score	Area Score						
Grade each sign on a scale: 0=clear/none 1=mild 2=moderate 3=severe	% Involvement	0	1-9%	10-29%	30-49%	50-69%	70-89%	90-100%
	Area Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

EASI Calculator (Adults)							
Body Region	Erythema (0-3)	Edema/ Papulation (0-3)	Excoriation (0-3)	Lichenification (0-3)	Area Score (0-6)	Multiplier	Score
Head/Neck	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.1	
Trunk	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.3	
Upper Extremities	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.2	
Lower Extremities	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.4	
The final EASI score is the sum of the 4 region scores (0-72):							____

EASI Calculator (Pediatrics < 8 years old)							
Body Region	Erythema (0-3)	Edema/ Papulation (0-3)	Excoriation (0-3)	Lichenification (0-3)	Area Score (0-6)	Multiplier	Score
Head/Neck	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.2	
Trunk	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.3	
Upper Extremities	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.2	
Lower Extremities	(+	+	+	)	x	x 0.3	
The final EASI score is the sum of the 4 region scores (0-72):							____

EASI Score Interpretation					
Clear	Almost Clear	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe
0	0.1-1.0	1.1-7.0	7.1-21.0	21.1-50.0	50.1-72.0

Figure 6: Assessment Criteria

REVIEW ARTICLE

A Comprehensive Review of Microgreens of Fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*) and their Potential Benefits

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ABSTRACT

Plants have been used for medicinal purpose long before prehistoric period these medicinal plants are also used as food, flavonoid, medicine side effects of several synthetic drugs and development of resistance to currently used drugs for infectious diseases have led to increased emphasis on the use of plant material as a source of medicines for a wide variety of humans ailments.Microgreens of fenugreek the tiny format of leafy vegetables are emerging as a culinary novelty ingredient. Microgreens are tender shoots of edible vegetables or herbs that are used to enhance the colour,texture or flavor of salads and main dishes. They are young, tender greens having two fully developed cotyledon leaves with the first pair of true leaves emerging or partially developed.Microgreens are an emerging type of special vegetable that people can buy from shops and grow at home from the seeds of vegetables ,grains and from whole species. Microgreens of fenugreek is rich Source of Antioxidants.This article comprises the comprehensive review of microgreens and their potential benefits.

Keywords: Microgreens, flavonoid, Antioxidants, ,herbs, cotyledon leaves

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a growing body of evidence showing edible greens to be a good source of dietary antioxidants. Consumption of dietary antioxidants is often associated with reduced risks of certain serious diseases. These dietary antioxidants include vitamin C, vitamin E, β-carotene, polyphenols and other bioactive components Another antioxidant present in high concentrations in green leafy vegetables is lutein, a lipid-soluble antioxidant

pigment that protects against adverse effects of photochemical reactions. The antioxidant activity of polyphenolic compounds has been of special interest as diets rich in polyphenols are associated with reduced risk of diseases. Chlorophylls are another major group of antioxidants in leafy vegetables and are reported to exhibit chemoprotective activity in carcinogenic conditions. (A. Vaishali ,et al , (2006) .

Microgreens,the tiny format of leafy vegetables are emerging as a culinary novelty ingredient.They are young, tender greens having two fully developed cotyledon leaves with the first pair of true leaves emerging or partially developed.At present, studies have assessed the phytochemical composition and antioxidant activity of microgreens, mostly belonging to the Brassicaceae family and cultivated in the temperate areas. Phytochemical composition of four Brassicaceae microgreens and profiling of polyphenols of five Brassica microgreens species have been reported in earlier studies.Further(Xiao.et al.)determined the phytochemical concentrations and antioxidant capacity in 30 microgreens belonging to the Brassicaceae family. (K.J. Hunter, et al, (2002). Antioxidant properties of commercially grown broccoli microgreens have also been compared with farm-grown ones in another study. Recently, phytochemical composition of microgreens belonging to other families such as Chenopodiaceae, Malvaceae, Lamiaceae andApiaceae have been evaluated by (Kyriacou et al.) and that from the Fabaceae family have been reported by Butkute et al , (2000).

Fenugreek (*Trigonellafoenum-graecum*) is an annual plant belonging to the family *Fabaceae*. The green leaves and seeds of fenugreek are widely used in food and medicinal applications dating back to ancient times. However, the seeds are sour in taste due to the presence of bitter saponins, which limit their acceptability in foods. It has been possible to decrease the bitter taste of fenugreek seeds by using diverse household processes,such as soaking, germination, boiling, fermentation. Many extracts of each seed or leaf and its active components have been studied for their pharmacological effects and have been reported to have hypocholestrolaemic, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, antiulcer, analgesic, antipyretic, CNS-stimulant, antioxidant, wound healing and immune modulatory activity as well as gastro-protective and chemo-preventive activities (A.C. Carr.et al, (1999). Microgreens have piqued consumer interest, especially chefs'of highend restaurants who use various microgreens,primarily as garnishing elements to enhance salads,soups,sandwiches,and other culinary inventories. However, due to their interesting quality traits, their use has been extended to enrich the diet of a particular group of demanding consumers. (K.B. Pandey, et al, (2009).

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Fabales
Family: Fabaceae
Genus: *Trigonella*
Species: *T.foenum-graecum*

Morphology

Microgreens are produced both at a small-scale level and along with large-scale production of scommercial vegetables and edible flowers. Upon their meteoric rise and demand, various varieties of commonly grown vegetables were used to cultivate microgreens that belong to various families.

Microgreens of Fenugreek Potential Benefits

High Antioxidant Activity

Fenugreek microgreens show significantly higher levels of antioxidants than mature plants. They exhibit strong DPPH radical scavenging activity, indicating their potential to reduce oxidative stress. (Ghevariya, N., et al. (2023)

Enhanced Nutrient Profile

They are rich in vitamin C, flavonoids, chlorophyll, iron, and other micronutrients. The microgreens stage contains the highest levels of ascorbic acid and total flavonoids among fenugreek plant stages. (Cigić K,et al. (2020).

Better Iron Bioavailability

Fenugreek microgreens have been shown to have higher iron bioaccessibility than mature fenugreek leaves, potentially helping in anemia prevention.(Reale A,et al. (2020).

Anti-Diabetic Potential

Fenugreek is well-known for its hypoglycemic effects, and microgreens may offer more concentrated doses of such bioactive compounds (e.g., 4-hydroxyisoleucine and trigonelline), which help regulate blood sugar.(Basch E,et al. (2003).

Cardiovascular Support

Due to their rich content of saponins and fiber, micro-fenugreek may help reduce LDL cholesterol and improve lipid profiles.(Sowmya P. R. R,et.,al. (1999).

Gut Health and Digestion

Fenugreek microgreens contain soluble fiber and mucilage which can promote digestion, reduce constipation, and support gut microbiota.(Shukla A,et al. (2014).

Fenugreek Microgreens and their Benefits

Fenugreek microgreens are young, tender shoots of the fenugreek plant harvested 7–14 days after germination. Though there is one main species (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*), different types of fenugreek microgreens can vary slightly based on seed source, growth method, and cultivation environment. Fenugreek microgreens are young seedlings of the fenugreek plant (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*). While there's generally one botanical species, differences arise based on cultivars, seed origin, and growth conditions.

Types of Fenugreek Microgreens

Standard Fenugreek Microgreens: Grown from regular methi seeds; rich in flavor with a bitter, nutty taste.
Organic Fenugreek Microgreens: Grown from organically certified seeds, ideal for chemical-free nutrition.
Heirloom Varieties: Traditional or region-specific seeds, which may have variations in leaf size, color, and growth speed.
Hydroponic vs Soil-Grown Microgreens: The medium affects the flavor and nutrient density; hydroponic often produces more tender greens.

Types of Fenugreek Biograins

Biograins typically refers to organically or biologically cultivated grains or seeds.
Whole Fenugreek Seeds (Conventional & Organic): Used for growing microgreens, sprouting, or culinary purposes.

Sprouting-Grade Fenugreek Seeds: Selected for high germination rate and purity.
Biologically Enriched Seeds: Sometimes fortified or coated with beneficial bacteria or fungi (biofertilizers) for better soil performance.
Non-GMO Seeds: Ensures seeds are not genetically modified; often labeled under biograin categories.
Heirloom or Indigenous Seeds: Traditional seeds passed down for generations, often preserved for their unique traits.

Potassium Benefits of Fenugreek Microgreens

Potassium is a vital mineral and electrolyte that offers the various health benefits. Supports Heart Health and help to maintain normal blood pressure by countering the effects of sodium. Promotes Muscle Function and plays Crucial for muscle contraction and preventing ramps.In Nervous System Regulation , assists in transmitting nerve impulses. Helps to maintain fluid and waste balance in the kidneys.In Bone Health, reduce calcium loss and helps in bone preservation. Fenugreek microgreens are moderately rich in potassium, contributing to these benefits in a nutrient-dense form.

Health Benefits of Fenugreek Microgreens

Fenugreek microgreens are nutrient-rich and offer a variety of health benefits:

1. Rich in Nutrients and Contain vitamins A, C, E, and B-complex.High in iron, potassium, calcium, and magnesium.
2.In Blood Sugar Regulation microgreens help lower blood glucose levels.Useful for people with diabetes or insulin resistance.
3. Digestive Aid fenugreek microgreens Contains fiber and saponins that improve gut health.
4. Rich in potassium, which helps control blood pressure.May reduce bad cholesterol (LDL).
5. In Hormonal fenugreek microgreens balance traditionally used to support female reproductive health,Contains phytoestrogens.
6. Skin and Hair Benefits of microgreens ,the Antioxidants and vitamins contribute to clear skin and stronger hair.

CONCLUSION

The review in detail discussed about the fenugreek microgreens potential benefits and the easy accessibility of microgreens and wide range of nutrients and types in the fenugreek microgreens. Microgreens are tiny, perfect fresh vegetables, herbs and greens and can easily be incorporated into diet in a variety of ways. microgreens gather immense potential for adapting leafy vegetables production to a micro scale, improving nutritional value in the human diet. The consumption of microgreens could be a healthy –promoting strategy to meet the requirements of element dietary reference intakes. Further ,microgreens are more sustainable than crops grown to maturity on large industrial farms that use pesticides and chemicals as inputs, and are often transported to market.

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Fig :Fenugreek seeds



Fig :Microgreens of fenugreek

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Light Weight Secure Hash-based Intrusion Detection Framework for Wireless Sensor Networks

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ABSTRACT

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) are widely employed in healthcare, agriculture, and smart environments but are susceptible to security attacks like data tampering and unauthorized access. Integrity of data and secure data transfer are of crucial significance to such resource-constrained networks. In this paper, it is suggested that a Secure Hash-Based Intrusion Detection System (SHIDS) employing SHA-2 and BLAKE2 hashing algorithms be adopted to maintain confidentiality, authenticity, and reliability of WSN communications. SHA-2 scheme provides strong cryptographic protection and BLAKE2 provides improved computation speed and efficiency. The system provides HMAC-based authentication and E-AES encryption for intrusion prevention and verification and also compares hashes of incoming data with base hashes to verify any intrusion into unauthorized modifications. One whole algorithm is used for the authentication of hash consistency both on the transmission and on the reception side. Simulation results are compared against four most significant performance criteria: throughput, energy consumption, transmission delay, and packet delivery ratio (PDR). SHIDS provides maximum throughput and PDR with less energy consumption and delay for varied packet sizes. Hybrid SHA2 with BLAKE2 is more scalable and resilient than standalone SHA1, SHA2, and BLAKE2. The system can provide secure data communication even in power-constrained scenarios very economically. These findings attest to its applicability for real-time and mission-critical WSN. SHIDS offers a lightweight, efficient, and scalable solution for the current IoT-enabled WSNs.

Keywords: Wireless Sensor Networks, Intrusion Detection System, Secure Hashing, Data Integrity, Energy Efficiency, Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR), Transmission Delay, Throughput, Cryptographic Security, Lightweight Encryption, E-AES, IoT Security

INTRODUCTION

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) are being widely deployed in applications such as healthcare, smart cities, agriculture, and industrial monitoring. As wireless and resource-constrained networks, WSNs are highly susceptible to attacks such as data theft, node compromise, and unauthorized access [1] and [2]. Data security, authenticity, and privacy are therefore of highest priority in WSNs. To avoid such problems, most researchers have suggested lightweight encryption and secure authentications that don't burden the network [3] and [4]. For health care, also very critical with the sensitive nature of health data, anonymous and secure authentication schemes are required [5] and [6]. Blockchain has also been considered to enhance trust and secure data sharing in WSNs [7]. Some of them combine authentication with data consolidation to minimize network traffic and enhance security [8] and [9]. Newer strategies address privacy, secure key exchange, and data protection in current IoT and 5G-based systems [10] and [11]. In certain applications such as agriculture or remote monitoring, cyberattacks can lead to catastrophic failures and hence robust security models are need [12]. The objective of this research is to secure communication in WSN through the use of cryptographic hash functions and intrusion detection. SHA-2 and BLAKE2 are utilized for authenticity of data and E-AES for confidentiality, which offers efficient, authenticated, and secure communication in WSNs with application scope for healthcare, smart systems, and IoT.

BACKGROUND STUDY

Wireless sensor network (WSN) security was a research hotspot in the recent past, especially in IoT-enabled scenarios. Ahmad *et al*. (2022) investigated the use of machine learning to improve WSN security, such as anomalies and intrusion on low computational resource. Allakany *et al*. (2023) improved ZigBee-based WSN security using a lightweight and secure device-to-device (D2D) mutual authentication protocol. Bahache *et al*. (2022) gave an in-depth survey of methods that have been applied for authentication in wireless medical sensor networks with consideration of context-aware and energy-efficient approaches. Erskine (2024) designed an authentication and authorization-based privacy-enhanced data collection framework for ensuring patients' data security in WSNs. Grounded in effective communication, Goyal *et al*. (2020) introduced SAPDA, a secure authentication protocol and authenticated data aggregation, which enhanced the quality of service of underwater WSNs. With focus thus, Hsiao and Sung (2021) combined blockchain with WSNs, utilizing the decentralization nature of the latter to enhance tamper-evidence data exchange and node trust level. For IoT low-energy security, Mahlake *et al*. (2023) introduced a low-energy consuming optimal encryption algorithm with performance. For another healthcare application scenario, Mridha *et al*. (2022) introduced a secure wireless medical sensor network anonymous authentication protocol with mutual authentication and anonymous user support. Nyakomitta *et al*. (2021) addressed remote access challenges by proposing an energy-saving-based authentication protocol for dynamic WSN applications. For agriculture, a cybersecurity framework for wireless sensors employed in smart farming to safeguard them from fault detection and intrusion was proposed by Prodanović *et al*. (2020). Shin and Kwon (2020) put forward a key agreement and authentication protocol preserving privacy in 5G-based IoT systems with specific interest in key distribution security and user privacy. Lastly, Urooj *et al*. (2023) put forward some cryptographic protocols for safe data communication in WSN utilizing encryption and authentication to improve the reliability and integrity of the data. Briefly, these papers convey that currently, there exists a pressing need for application-centric, scalable, and light-weight security systems for wireless sensor networks.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Here, a robust technique of achieving data security in Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) employing the cryptographic hash function process is introduced. Grid or random placement of the sensor nodes based on application and data transmission in encrypted format to a base station through SHA-2 or BLAKE2 hash algorithms is suggested. SHA-2 is efficient and secure and BLAKE2 is crypto-special operation-friendly. Wherever there are some differences in the hashes, the system notifies the user and implements security. The process maintains all the

data that is being transferred from or to the system confidential and intact. The mechanism utilizes hash functions to scan the network for any malware. Whenever the system finds some data discrepancy while transferring data, it notifies and shuts down the network. These phases are enumerated in the process definition: hashing, network installation, verification, data communication, and intrusion detection. Figure 1 illustrates a secure data exchange process using a wireless sensor network (WSN). Data is directed in the network via sensor nodes and becomes encrypted through cryptographic processes like SHA and BLAKE2 in the name of safety. It is sent safely via communication towers and directed through data filtering and intrusion detection phases. Network stability and real-time threat management are achieved eventually through system maintenance and data analysis modules.

Secure Hash-Based Intrusion Detection (SHID)

Wireless networks are easier to attack compared to wired networks. WSN nodes gather data and pass it to the base station. Each node has a CPU, memory, sensors, and a communication module. They cooperate to identify and alert abnormalities in the network. An IDS scans if any node is suspicious or not. A hash function converts any data to a fixed-length code. A minor alteration in the information stored will alter the hash. It is capable of detecting tampering. Optimal hash functions are efficient, collision-free, and secure. SHA-2 and BLAKE2 are used with HMAC (Hash-Based Message Authentication Code) for verification in our system. These hashes are used in digital signatures, blockchain, and encryption.

$h_i = H\ (d_i)$ -------- (1)

In equation (1) H is a Hash function, h_i is the hash value corresponding to feature vectord_i.
Hashing data packets are encrypted using E-AES algorithm then, send these data packets to base station.
A baseline or reference hash is created using normal or expected data flows. This baseline can be obtained by hashing known good behaviors or traffic patterns in equation (2).

$h_b = H\ (d_b)$ ------- (2)

Where d_b represents the normal feature set and h_b is the hash corresponding to normal network activity.
Each incoming data flow is compared with the baseline hash. A significant deviation between the hashes can indicate an intrusion attempt. The difference can be quantified using a similarity or distance measure (in equation 3).

$X\ (h_i, h_b) = \sum_{k=1}^{l} |\, h_i[k] - h_b[k]|$ --------- (3)

Where, X is the difference between hash of the current data and the baseline. $h_i[k], h_b[k]$ are the responsive hash values and l is length of the hash.
Table 1 juxtaposes SHA-2 and BLAKE2 for major cryptographic attributes. SHA-2 enjoys fixed output sizes and robust security and is extensively used in SSL, blockchain, and digital signatures. BLAKE2 is efficient and more adaptive with variable output sizes and is increasingly being used in current systems due to its effectiveness and usability for cryptography and data integrity.

Algorithm 1: Secure Hash-Based Intrusion Detection

Input

D_i → Data packet to be transmitted
K_i → Secret key assigned to sensor node
H() → Cryptographic hash function

Output

Message indicating whether data integrity is preserved or intrusion is detected
BEGIN
-------- Sender Side --------

Step 1: Compute hash value of the data packet
H_i ← H(D_i)

Step 2: Append hash to the data packet
D_with_hash ← D_i || H_i

Step 3: Encrypt the combined packet with the secret key
D_i_encrypted ← Encrypt(K_i, D_with_hash)

Step 4: Transmit the encrypted packet
Transmit(D_i_encrypted)
-------- Receiver Side --------
Step 5: Receive encrypted data packet
D_i_encrypted ← Receive()
Step 6: Decrypt using the corresponding secret key
D_with_hash_received ← Decrypt(K_i, D_i_encrypted)
Step 7: Extract data and hash
(D_i_received, H_i_received) ← Split(D_with_hash_received)
Step 8: Recalculate the hash from the received data
H_i_computed ← H(D_i_received)
Step 9: Compare received and computed hashes
IF H_i_received == H_i_computed THEN
Output ← "Data is intact. No intrusion detected."
ELSE
Output ← "Intrusion detected! Data integrity compromised."
Trigger_Alert()
END

Secure Hash-Based Intrusion Detection algorithm maintains data integrity by calculating a cryptographic hash for every packet of data, encrypting the hash with a secret key, and verifying it at the receiving side. Upon arrival, if the received hash matches the calculated hash, data is verified else intrusion is detected and an alarm is raised.

Figure 2: Flow Chart of Hash based Intrusion detection System
This figure 2 depicts hash-based secure intrusion detection process for wireless sensor networks. The process begins by checking the input data through hash creation to ensure authenticity. The hash appends and authentication is done before the packet is encrypted to send. Decryption to packet takes place on the receiving part after which verification through hash is done. In case of indifference, intrusion alarm is generated. This continues from there by secure and verified transmission of packet.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Result section includes a comparative study of all four hash functions SHA1, SHA2, BLAKE2, and the newly proposed hybrid SHA2 with BLAKE2 performance relative to throughput, energy, delay, and packet delivery ratio (PDR) for different packet sizes. It consists of a number of comparative figures and tables and explores the efficiency and effectiveness of the new approach. The objective is to show that SHA2 with BLAKE2 is superior to conventional methods in achieving a balance of security and performance in Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs). Table 2 presents four SHA1, SHA2, BLAKE2, and proposed hybrid SHA2 with BLAKE2 hash functions under different performance parameters and packet sizes. Proposed hybrid SHA2 with BLAKE2 is better in all slots with maximum throughput, minimum energy consumption, minimum transmission delay, and maximum packet delivery ratio (PDR) for packet

size between 50 bytes and 250 bytes. It proves its capability for safe data transfer in a secure manner employing the optimal existing network resources. There is improved performance with larger packet size, i.e., the presented scheme is optimally suited in high-performance as well as energy-effective Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) applications. Figure 3 shows the throughput comparison between the four hash functions SHA1, SHA2, BLAKE2, and SHA2 with BLAKE2 when packet size is between 50 bytes and 250 bytes. SHA2 with BLAKE2 consistently provides better throughput than the others for every size of the data. With increasing packet size, each algorithm provides better throughput, but SHA2 with BLAKE2 scales better, which signifies better performance for big data transfer. Figure 4 demonstrates the contrast of energy consumption of SHA1, SHA2, BLAKE2, and SHA2 with BLAKE2 algorithms for increasing packet sizes. Energy consumption increases with increasing packet size for all processes; however, SHA2 with BLAKE2 consistently demonstrates the lowest usage. It demonstrates it to be efficient and appropriate for energy-restricted networks such as WSNs. Figure 5 shows that with bigger packet size, delay is greater for all algorithms. SHA2 with BLAKE2 also consistently yields least delay, meaning faster and smoother data transfer. It is hence best for real-time applications for wireless sensor networks. The figure 6 shows that SHA2 with BLAKE2 has the greatest success in delivery at every packet size, nearing 100% for larger sizes. This is a more accurate indication of reliability and effectiveness in data transmission than SHA1, SHA2, and BLAKE2 separately and as such is best suited for secure and reliable wireless sensor networks.

CONCLUSION

In this work, an unbreakable and trusted data transport protocol of Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) was used with a combined cryptographic hashing system comprising SHA2 and BLAKE2. Authentication, intrusion detection based on hashing, and encryption were utilized by the system in an attempt to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity of information. Secure design was accomplished step by step, whereby packets were hashed, encrypted, transmitted, and authenticated on receipt. Secure Hash-based Intrusion Detection System (SHIDS) detects attacked data accurately as well as notifies users of intrusions. Performance comparison shows that SHIDS performs better than SHA1, SHA2, and BLAKE2 in isolation on all the throughput, energy cost, delay, and packet delivery ratio (PDR) parameters. The proposed solution was outlined with the maximum throughput, minimum energy cost, and minimum delay, and thus suitable for low-resource as well as real-time systems. It worked excellently to 99.95% PDR with packet size increment, as a measure of highly reliable delivery. SHA2 with BLAKE2 mechanism was computationally scalable and efficient with the vast application portfolio of WSN. It is extremely flexible to the vast application portfolio because of high collision resistance and ease of flexibility in hash size. This study not only increases the security of WSNs but also promotes resource-saving utilization. The model is especially suitable for IoT-based systems, medical equipment, and smart monitoring systems. Future studies may target post-quantum cryptography implementation and dynamic trust models. In conclusion, SHIDS provides a balanced and realistic remedy for the WSN security problems of today.

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Table 1: Comparison on SHA-2 vs BLAKE2

Feature	SHA-2	BLAKE2
Hash Lengths	224–512 bits	Variable (1–64 bytes)
Design	Merkle-Damgard	HAIFA-like, parallel
Speed	Fast	Very fast
Use Cases	SSL, blockchain, signatures	Cryptographic apps, data integrity
Collision Resistance	Strong	Strong
Flexibility	Fixed output	Customizable output
Adoption	Widely used	Increasing in modern systems

Table 2: Comparison table on Performance Metrics

Packet Size	Metrics	SHA1	SHA2	Blake2	SHA2 with BLAKE2
50	Throughput levels	0.312	0.345	0.365	0.412
	Energy level in joules	62	55	51	45
	Transmission Delay (ms)	0.050	0.047	0.034	0.010
	Packet Delivery Ratio	97.6	98.03	98.48	98.98
100	Throughput levels	0.489	0.523	0.567	0.799
	Energy level in joules	110	102	100	92
	Transmission Delay (ms)	0.157	0.134	0.123	0.110
	Packet Delivery Ratio	98.10	98.34	98.75	99.34
150	Throughput levels	0.796	0.797	0.821	1.234
	Energy level in joules	353	342	328	295
	Transmission Delay (ms)	0.213	0.201	0.194	0.164
	Packet Delivery Ratio	98.30	98.63	98.99	99.67
200	Throughput levels	1.102	1.123	1.167	1.689
	Energy level in joules	456	442	406	381
	Transmission Delay (ms)	0.314	0.298	0.275	0.241
	Packet Delivery Ratio	99.06	99.15	99.23	99.79
250	Throughput levels	1.213	1.234	1.267	2.112
	Energy level in joules	611	560	518	497
	Transmission Delay (ms)	0.428	0.412	0.398	0.376
	Packet Delivery Ratio	99.20	99.43	99.69	99.95

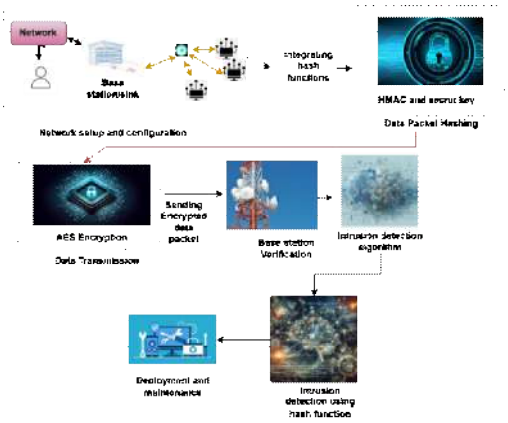


Figure 1: Overall Architecture

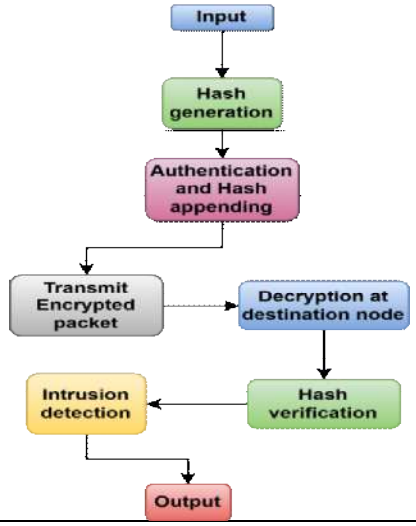


Figure 2: Flow Chart of Hash based Intrusion detection System

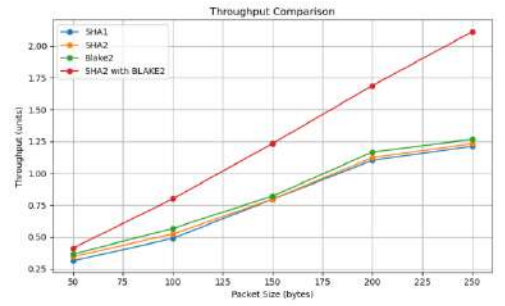


Figure 3: Comparison Chart on Throughput

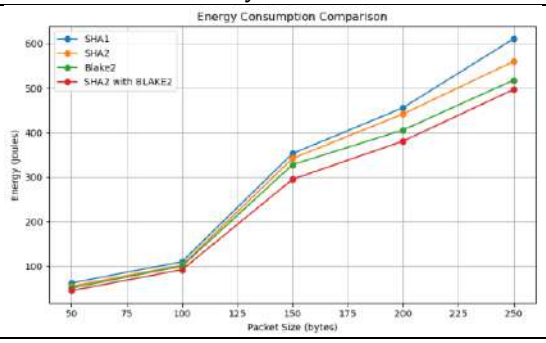


Figure 4: Comparison Chart on Energy level

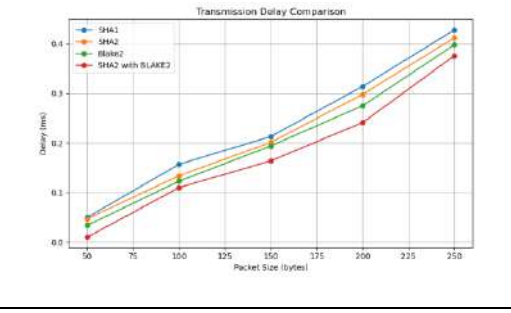


Figure 5: Comparison Chart on Transmission Delay

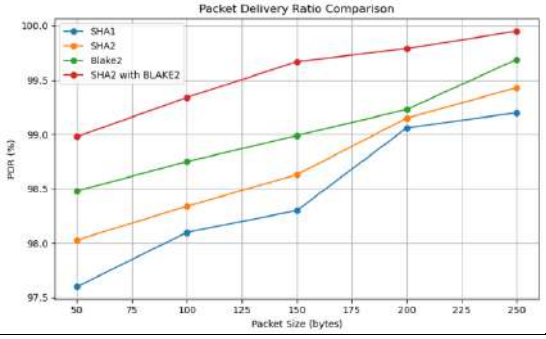


Figure 6: Comparison Chart on Packet Delivery Ratio

REVIEW ARTICLE

Advanced Echocardiographic Evaluation of Left Ventricular Function: Comprehensive Insights into Systolic and Diastolic Dysfunction - A Review

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ABSTRACT

Left ventricular (LV) dysfunction, encompassing both systolic and diastolic abnormalities, is a central contributor to heart failure and remains a major global health burden. Early and accurate assessment of LV function is essential for guiding diagnosis, prognostication, and management in cardiovascular disease. Echocardiography has established itself as the first-line imaging modality for LV function evaluation due to its non-invasive nature, real-time capabilities, portability, and cost-effectiveness, making it widely accessible in various clinical settings. This review comprehensively explores the role of echocardiography in assessing both systolic and diastolic LV dysfunction, integrating conventional methods with emerging advanced technologies. For systolic function, traditional parameters such as ejection fraction (EF) and fractional shortening are discussed alongside advanced modalities including speckle tracking echocardiography (STE) for global longitudinal strain (GLS) analysis, and three-dimensional echocardiography (3DE) for accurate volumetric assessments. For diastolic function, key parameters such as mitral inflow velocities, tissue Doppler imaging (TDI), E/e' ratio, and left atrial volume index (LAVI) are highlighted, emphasizing their roles in integrated grading based on current ASE/EACVI guidelines. The review also explores innovations such as left atrial strain imaging, which provides early detection of diastolic dysfunction, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance measurement reproducibility and reduce operator dependency. Despite the numerous strengths of echocardiography, limitations including load dependence of parameters and image quality challenges in certain populations are acknowledged, with future directions focusing on AI integration and multimodality imaging approaches. By understanding and utilizing both conventional and advanced

echocardiographic techniques, clinicians can enhance diagnostic accuracy, enable earlier detection of dysfunction, and guide personalized treatment strategies for patients with heart failure and other cardiac conditions.

Keywords: Left ventricular, Systolic and Diastolic Abnormalities, Echocardiography, Left Atrial, AI

INTRODUCTION

Heart failure continues to be a significant global health challenge, contributing substantially to morbidity, mortality, and healthcare burden worldwide. At its core, heart failure is driven by left ventricular (LV) dysfunction, which may present as either systolic dysfunction or diastolic dysfunction, each with distinct yet interrelated pathophysiological mechanisms. Systolic dysfunction primarily involves impaired myocardial contractility, leading to a reduced ejection fraction (EF) and an inability of the heart to pump an adequate volume of blood to meet the body's metabolic demands. In contrast, diastolic dysfunction occurs when the left ventricle loses its capacity to relax effectively, resulting in elevated filling pressures and congestion despite a preserved EF. Both forms of dysfunction often coexist, contributing to the complexity of heart failure diagnosis and management[1]. In this landscape, echocardiography has emerged as the cornerstone imaging modality for the evaluation of LV function due to its non-invasive nature, real-time imaging capability, and wide availability across healthcare settings. Traditional echocardiographic parameters such as EF, LV volumes, and Doppler-based flow assessments have long been utilized to evaluate systolic and diastolic function. However, with the advancement of echocardiographic technologies, including tissue Doppler imaging (TDI), speckle-tracking echocardiography (STE), and three-dimensional (3D) echocardiography, clinicians now have access to more sensitive and comprehensive tools to assess myocardial function. These advanced techniques enable the evaluation of myocardial deformation (strain imaging), diastolic strain rates, and detailed assessment of LV filling pressures and stiffness, offering deeper insights into subclinical dysfunction that may not be apparent using conventional measures alone. This is particularly valuable in conditions like heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF), where traditional systolic parameters may remain within normal limits despite underlying dysfunction. Moreover, the integration of echocardiographic data with clinical findings and biomarkers further refines the diagnostic and prognostic evaluation of patients with suspected or established heart failure, aiding in early detection, risk stratification, and monitoring response to therapy. In this review, we aim to provide comprehensive insights into the advanced echocardiographic evaluation of left ventricular function, discussing the evolving role of these technologies in identifying and differentiating systolic and diastolic dysfunction. By understanding and leveraging these advanced modalities, clinicians can enhance their diagnostic accuracy, guide personalized management, and ultimately improve outcomes in patients with heart failure[2,3].

Systolic Function: Echocardiographic Assessment

Ejection Fraction (EF)

Ejection fraction (EF) remains the most commonly used parameter for evaluating left ventricular (LV) systolic function in clinical practice. It reflects how well the heart pumps blood with each contraction, providing a clear, quantifiable measure that clinicians can easily interpret. EF is typically calculated using the Simpson's biplane method during echocardiography, and a value below 40% is commonly used to define heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) [4,5]. Despite its widespread use, EF has important limitations. It can be influenced by loading conditions—such as the volume of blood returning to the heart (preload) and the resistance against which the heart pumps (afterload)—which can lead to misleading results in certain clinical scenarios. For example, in acute conditions like mitral regurgitation, EF may appear normal even when the heart's pumping ability is compromised. Conversely, in severe hypertension or aortic stenosis, EF may seem reduced even when the heart muscle is functioning well. Therefore, while EF is a valuable starting point, it should always be interpreted alongside the patient's clinical status and other echocardiographic findings to avoid misdiagnosis.

Fractional Shortening and Visual Wall Motion Analysis

Fractional shortening, measured using M-mode echocardiography, offers a quick estimate of LV systolic function by assessing the heart's inward motion during contraction. It is especially helpful in settings requiring rapid evaluation, such as emergency situations or in pediatric patients [6]. However, it provides information only in a single dimension and does not capture the complete function of the ventricle. Visual assessment of regional wall motion during a two-dimensional echocardiogram allows clinicians to evaluate whether specific segments of the heart are moving appropriately during contraction. This is particularly important in detecting areas affected by reduced blood supply, such as after a heart attack, where parts of the heart wall may move less or not at all. However, this assessment is subjective and can vary depending on the observer's experience, leading to differences in interpretation between clinicians [6]. Despite this limitation, visual wall motion analysis remains a practical tool in everyday echocardiography, particularly when integrated with advanced modalities.

Global Longitudinal Strain (GLS)

Global Longitudinal Strain (GLS) has emerged as a highly sensitive marker for detecting early or subtle systolic dysfunction, often before EF declines. Using speckle tracking echocardiography (STE), GLS measures how much the heart muscle fibers shorten during contraction, providing insights into the heart's performance at a finer, more detailed level [7,8]. GLS is particularly valuable in identifying subclinical LV dysfunction in conditions like chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity, hypertension, and diabetes, where conventional EF may remain normal despite underlying myocardial impairment. Detecting these early changes enables timely intervention to prevent progression to overt heart failure. GLS also holds prognostic significance, as reduced strain values are associated with worse outcomes in various cardiac conditions, including heart failure and valvular diseases. By adding GLS to routine echocardiographic assessments, clinicians can improve their ability to detect and manage early myocardial dysfunction.

Three-Dimensional Echocardiography

Conventional two-dimensional echocardiography requires assumptions about the shape of the heart to estimate LV volumes and EF, which can lead to inaccuracies, especially in patients with abnormal heart shapes or regional wall motion abnormalities. Three-dimensional echocardiography (3DE) overcomes these limitations by providing a more accurate and comprehensive evaluation of the heart's structure and function without relying on geometric assumptions [9,10]. 3DE captures the entire left ventricle in a single dataset, allowing for precise measurement of volumes and EF, enhancing reproducibility, and reducing observer variability. This is especially beneficial in monitoring patients over time, as subtle changes in heart function can be reliably tracked. Additionally, 3DE plays an important role in assessing patients for cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) by evaluating ventricular dyssynchrony and ensuring accurate lead placement to optimize therapy outcomes. Overall, the adoption of 3DE in clinical practice enriches the evaluation of LV systolic function, supporting precise diagnosis and guiding therapeutic decision-making, especially in complex cardiac conditions.

Stress Echocardiography

While resting echocardiography provides essential insights into cardiac function, it may not always reveal problems that only become evident during physical exertion or stress. Stress echocardiography is a valuable tool for assessing LV contractile reserve and identifying inducible ischemia in patients with suspected or known coronary artery disease (CAD) [11]. During this test, the heart is stressed using either exercise or medications like dobutamine to simulate conditions that increase its workload. Clinicians then observe the heart's function and look for new or worsening regional wall motion abnormalities that suggest areas of reduced blood flow, helping to identify blockages in the coronary arteries. Additionally, stress echocardiography is useful for evaluating myocardial viability in patients with chronic LV dysfunction. The presence of contractile improvement during stress testing indicates viable heart muscle that may benefit from revascularization procedures, such as angioplasty or bypass surgery, potentially improving heart function. Stress echocardiography is non-invasive, free of radiation, and can be performed relatively quickly, making it a practical option for the evaluation of ischemic heart disease and for risk stratification in patients with heart failure.

Diastolic Function: Echocardiographic Assessment

While systolic dysfunction often garners significant attention in heart failure evaluation, diastolic dysfunction is equally critical in understanding the pathophysiology of heart failure, especially in patients with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). Diastolic dysfunction occurs when the left ventricle (LV) loses its ability to relax and fill efficiently during diastole, leading to elevated filling pressures and congestion despite normal or near-normal EF. Echocardiography remains the cornerstone for non-invasive assessment of diastolic function, offering a variety of parameters that together provide a comprehensive understanding of ventricular relaxation, filling pressures, and the chronicity of diastolic dysfunction.

Mitral Inflow Velocities (E/A Ratio)

Using pulsed-wave Doppler at the mitral valve tips, clinicians can assess mitral inflow velocities, which consist of two primary waves:

E wave: Reflects early passive filling of the ventricle.

A wave: Represents active filling due to atrial contraction.

The E/A ratio serves as a practical first step in assessing diastolic function. A low E/A ratio (<0.8) typically indicates impaired relaxation of the LV, known as Grade I diastolic dysfunction. In this stage, the ventricle fills slowly due to poor relaxation, leading to a lower E wave and a compensatory higher A wave. On the other hand, a high E/A ratio (>2.0) is seen in restrictive filling patterns (Grade III diastolic dysfunction), where the LV becomes stiff, leading to rapid early filling with a high E wave and a small A wave due to elevated filling pressures [12]. However, it is essential to recognize that E/A ratio alone can be misleading, especially in intermediate stages (Grade II), where pseudonormal patterns may appear. Hence, additional parameters are crucial for accurate grading of diastolic dysfunction.

Tissue Doppler Imaging (TDI)

Tissue Doppler Imaging (TDI) adds significant value by directly assessing myocardial relaxation properties rather than blood flow patterns alone. By placing the sample volume at the lateral or septal mitral annulus, clinicians can measure the early diastolic mitral annular velocity (e'), which reflects the active relaxation of the ventricle. A low e' velocity (<8 cm/s) suggests impaired LV relaxation, aiding in the early detection of diastolic dysfunction, even when mitral inflow patterns appear normal [13,14]. TDI is particularly useful in differentiating normal from pseudonormal filling patterns and is less influenced by changes in preload compared to transmitral flow velocities, making it a reliable tool in diastolic evaluation.

E/e' Ratio

The E/e' ratio combines mitral inflow velocity (E wave) with TDI-derived e' velocity to estimate LV filling pressures non-invasively. It has become a cornerstone in diastolic assessment because of its correlation with invasive measurements of left atrial (LA) pressure. An E/e' ratio >14 typically indicates elevated LV filling pressures and suggests Grade II or Grade III diastolic dysfunction [15]. This parameter is particularly valuable in the assessment of patients with dyspnea, helping distinguish cardiac from non-cardiac causes and guiding management in heart failure patients.

Left Atrial Volume Index (LAVI)

The left atrial volume index (LAVI) serves as an important marker for chronic diastolic dysfunction and reflects the cumulative burden of elevated LV filling pressures over time. The left atrium enlarges as it adapts to chronically elevated pressures due to poor LV relaxation and compliance. A LAVI >34 mL/m² is considered indicative of persistent elevated filling pressures and is associated with adverse cardiovascular outcomes, including atrial fibrillation and heart failure hospitalization [16]. Measuring LAVI is essential for grading diastolic dysfunction and for comprehensive risk stratification in patients with heart failure.

Additional Parameters

While the above parameters form the foundation for diastolic assessment, additional echocardiographic parameters provide further insights

Pulmonary vein flow patterns: By placing pulsed-wave Doppler at the right upper pulmonary vein, clinicians can assess systolic (S) and diastolic (D) flow velocities. In advanced diastolic dysfunction, there is often a decrease in the S wave and an increase in the D wave, along with an increased atrial reversal wave, helping differentiate between various grades of diastolic dysfunction.

Tricuspid Regurgitation (TR) Velocity: Measuring the peak TR velocity can estimate pulmonary artery systolic pressure (PASP), which often increases in the context of pulmonary hypertension secondary to elevated LV filling pressures. A TR velocity >2.8 m/s can suggest elevated left-sided pressures, indirectly indicating diastolic dysfunction [17].

Integrated Grading of Diastolic Dysfunction

Accurate evaluation of diastolic dysfunction requires a structured, integrated approach rather than isolated parameter analysis. Recognizing this, the 2016 ASE/EACVI guidelines proposed an algorithm that uses four key parameters to systematically grade diastolic dysfunction

- E/e' ratio,
- Left atrial volume index (LAVI),
- Tricuspid regurgitation (TR) velocity,
- Mitral inflow E/A ratio [18].

By combining these parameters, clinicians can differentiate normal from abnormal filling patterns and accurately classify diastolic dysfunction into Grades I (impaired relaxation), II (pseudonormal filling), and III (restrictive filling). This integrated grading helps determine filling pressures, disease severity, and chronicity, providing essential insights into patient symptoms and prognosis. For instance, if more than half of the parameters are abnormal, diastolic dysfunction is confirmed; if the findings are equivocal, additional parameters such as pulmonary vein flow or LA strain may be utilized to refine the assessment. This structured grading fosters consistent interpretation across echocardiographers, improving clinical decision-making in managing heart failure, particularly in patients with HFpEF.

Combined LV Dysfunction: A Holistic Approach

In many patients with heart failure, systolic and diastolic dysfunction coexist, reflecting the complex interplay between impaired contraction and abnormal relaxation. This overlap underscores the importance of assessing both systolic and diastolic function together, rather than in isolation, for comprehensive patient evaluation. Patients with HFpEF may have preserved ejection fraction while exhibiting impaired GLS and diastolic dysfunction, indicating subclinical systolic impairment despite normal EF. Similarly, those with HFrEF often demonstrate elevated filling pressures, revealing diastolic dysfunction alongside reduced EF.

A combined assessment aids in

Accurate clinical stratification,
Prognostic evaluation,
Guiding therapeutic planning, and
Monitoring treatment response.

Of particular note, Global Longitudinal Strain (GLS) plays a pivotal role in revealing early systolic dysfunction even when EF appears preserved, while diastolic parameters provide complementary insights into filling pressures and ventricular compliance [19]. This holistic evaluation supports a personalized medicine approach in heart failure management, enhancing outcomes by tailoring therapy to the patient's comprehensive functional profile.

Emerging Technologies and Innovations

Left Atrial Strain

While LAVI offers a reliable marker for chronic diastolic dysfunction, left atrial (LA) strain analysis has emerged as a more sensitive tool, detecting early diastolic dysfunction even before LA enlargement occurs. LA reservoir strain, assessed using speckle tracking echocardiography, reflects the compliance and function of the LA during ventricular systole. Reduced LA strain is associated with elevated filling pressures and correlates with diastolic dysfunction severity, providing prognostic insights in patients with HFpEF [20]. Incorporating LA strain into routine evaluation may enhance the accuracy of diastolic dysfunction grading and improve early detection, aiding in timely intervention.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Echocardiography

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming echocardiography by facilitating automation, reducing interobserver variability, and enhancing reproducibility. AI algorithms are being developed for

- Automatic EF calculation,
- GLS analysis,
- Automated chamber quantification.

These tools enable faster, standardized assessments, allowing clinicians to focus on clinical interpretation and decision-making while maintaining consistency across operators. In busy clinical settings, AI integration may improve workflow efficiency, expand access to high-quality echocardiographic evaluation, and support early detection of LV dysfunction in screening programs and remote healthcare models. As AI capabilities advance, future directions may include real-time automated diastolic function grading, LA strain analysis, and integration with electronic medical records for comprehensive cardiac profiling.

Limitations and Future Directions

While echocardiography remains invaluable for assessing LV function, several limitations persist

Load-dependence: EF and E/A ratios are influenced by preload and afterload conditions, potentially confounding interpretation in acute or dynamic states.

Operator dependency: Image acquisition and interpretation vary with operator skill, underscoring the need for experience and quality assurance.

Image quality limitations: Poor acoustic windows in patients with obesity, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or chest wall deformities can hinder adequate imaging.

Future directions in echocardiography aim to address these challenges through

Broader integration of AI-driven tools to standardize measurements and reduce variability, Wearable echocardiographic devices for point-of-care and remote monitoring, Fusion imaging with cardiac MRI and CT to enhance structural and functional assessment, Advancements in miniaturized probes for handheld ultrasound devices, expanding accessibility in resource-limited settings. These innovations are expected to refine diagnostic accuracy, enhance early detection, and improve patient care pathways in heart failure and other cardiac conditions.

CONCLUSION

Echocardiography remains the cornerstone of LV function assessment, enabling clinicians to evaluate systolic and diastolic function accurately and non-invasively. Technological advancements, including strain imaging, tissue Doppler imaging, three-dimensional echocardiography, and AI integration, have significantly enhanced the sensitivity and reproducibility of assessments. By incorporating advanced modalities alongside traditional parameters, clinicians can detect dysfunction earlier, monitor disease progression effectively, and tailor treatment strategies to individual patient needs. This comprehensive, evolving approach supports optimal diagnosis,

management, and prognostication in heart failure and other cardiac conditions, aligning with the goals of precision medicine and improving patient outcomes.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Therapeutic Potential of *Jasminum auriculatum Leaves* in Psoriasis Treatment

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ABSTRACT

Psoriasis is a chronic, immune-mediated, and clinically diverse skin condition, presenting in forms such as plaque, guttate, pustular, erythrodermic, and flexural variants. Affecting over 60 million individuals worldwide, including 1.52% of the UK population, its management remains a significant dermatological challenge. While conventional therapies and biologics offer relief, they are often associated with adverse effects and long-term safety concerns. In contrast, herbal treatments, particularly those rooted in Ayurvedic medicine, are gaining popularity due to their favorable safety profiles. *Jasminum auriculatum*, traditionally used in various skin ailments, is a promising candidate due to its potential anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and wound-healing properties. However, scientific validation of its efficacy in psoriasis remains limited. This study explores the therapeutic potential of *Jasminum auriculatum* leaf extract in the management of psoriasis, aiming to provide an effective, natural, and safer alternative to conventional therapies.

Keywords: Herbal remedies, Psoriasis, *Jasminium auriculatum*, Chronic Inflammation, Skin Disorder.

INTRODUCTION

Psoriasis is a chronic, autoimmune disorder related to the inflammation skin disorder, with a genetic predisposition and environmental triggers playing a role in its pathogenesis. It is characterized by red scaly plaques that can appear

on various parts on body, causing significant physical and psychological burden to affected individuals. The form that psoriasis takes in an individual patient likely depends on genetic influences, environmental factors(eg. trauma and climate),associated diseases(especially infections), medications and immunologic status.It's generally characterized by raised areas of inflamed skin, which appear red and glossy, with distinct, demarcated borders. The rash is covered by loose gray or silver-colored scales. Mechanical removal of the scales often results in the appearance of small droplets of blood on the skin (the Auspitz sign) [1]. Approximately 20% of patients will notice the development of lesions in non-affected areas of the skin after exposure to a trigger, irritant, or trauma at the site (the Koebner's Phenomenon). Areas of the skin that are affected by psoriasis are often referred to as psoriatic plaques or lesions [2]. Approximately 11% (range, 6% to 39%) of patients with psoriasis develop a form of chronic inflammatory arthritis, called psoriatic arthritis that affects the joints and connective tissue. Patients often develop redness, swelling, and warmth in the affected joint. It usually appears first in one (or just a few) joints and then involves more over time. Psoriatic arthritis can involve any joint in the body, including the spine. It can progress over time and result in joint deformity. Psoriatic arthritis can resemble other forms of arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis. It is associated with decreased range of motion, chronic discomfort and pain, chronic fatigue, and decreased quality of life [3,4]. Psoriasis also affects the nails, with the fingernails being impacted more frequently than the toenails. The most common nail changes include surface pitting, thickening, discoloration, deformity, and separation of the nail from the nail bed. Nail changes are most common in patients who have psoriatic arthritis in the distal interphalangeal joint[8]. The nail changes can be disfiguring, and patients are often self-conscious about these changes [1]. Different parts of the body affected by Psoriasis (Fig No: 1).

Etiology

The cause of psoriasis is unclear, but it involves the immune stimulation of epidermal keratinocytes; T cells appear to play a central role. Family history is common, and certain genes and human leukocyte antigens (HLA-Cw6, HLA-B13, HLA-B17) are associated with psoriasis. Genome wide linkage analysis has identified numerous psoriasis susceptibility loci such as the *PSORS1* locus on chromosome 6p21 plays the greatest role in determining a patient's susceptibility of developing psoriasis. An environmental trigger is thought to evoke an inflammatory response and subsequent hyperproliferation of keratinocytes [5].

Well-identified triggers include

- Injury (Koebner phenomenon)
- Sunburn
- HIV infection
- Beta-hemolytic streptococcal infection (leading to guttate psoriasis)
- Medications (especially beta-blockers, chloroquine, lithium, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, indomethacin, terbinafine, interferon-alfa, immune checkpoint inhibitors, and tumor necrosis factor inhibitors)
- Emotional stress
- Alcohol consumption
- Tobacco smoking
- Obesity
- Genetic predisposition
- Hormonal Imbalance
- Immune system dysfunction

Types of psoriasis

Psoriasis is classified into two types. Type 1 psoriasis, which has a positive family history, starts before age 40 and is associated with HLA-Cw6; while type 2 psoriasis does not show a family history, presents after age 40, and is not associated with HLA-Cw6. Psoriasis can present with different morphology in the form of plaque, guttate, rupioid, erythrodermic, pustular, inverse, elephantine, and psoriatic arthritis. Variation in a site is seen with the involvement of the scalp, palmoplantar region, genitals, and nails [6].

The most common types of psoriasis are

- Plaque psoriasis
- Guttate psoriasis
- Inverse psoriasis
- Pustular psoriasis
- Erythrodermic psoriasis

Comparision of signs and symptoms of various types of Psoriasis (Table 1).

Major complications

Psoriatic arthritis is a form of chronic inflammatory arthritis which affects 30% of patients with psoriasis. It commonly occurs in association with skin and nail psoriasis. It typically involves painful inflammation of the joints and connective tissue commonly affecting the joints of the fingers and toes. It leads to sausage-shaped swelling of the fingers and toes known as dactylitis. Psoriatic arthritis can also affect the hips, knees, and spine presenting as spondylitis and sacroiliac joints with sacroiliitis [7]. Ocular features: psoriasis also affects the eyelid, conjunctiva, and cornea giving rise to trichiasis, ectropion, conjunctivitis, and corneal dryness. The most common eye feature is blepharitis which can lead to cicatricial ectropion, madarosis, and trichiasis. In some cases, anterior uveitis may be seen [7].

Epidemiology

Globally, psoriasis affects an estimated 125 million people, representing about 2-3% of the world's population, with prevalence rates varying by geographic location. The global age-standardized incidence rate of psoriasis is 57.8 cases per 100,000 populations. In 2024, there were 4,622,594 incident cases of psoriasis worldwide. In India, psoriasis, a chronic inflammatory skin disease, has a prevalence ranging from 0.44% to 2.8%. It commonly affects individuals in their third or fourth decade, with a slight male preponderance [4, 8].

Age and Gender

Age of onset: The peak age at onset in adults is in the third and fourth decade of life.

Male preponderance: There is a slight male preponderance, with some studies showing a male-to-female ratio of 1.4:1.

Childhood psoriasis: While less common, psoriasis can also occur in children, with one study reporting a prevalence of 5.2% among children aged 0-18 years.

Pathophysiology

The pathophysiology of psoriasis involves infiltration of the skin by activated T cells which stimulate the proliferation of keratinocytes. This dysregulation in keratinocyte turnover results in the formation of thick plaques. Other associated features include epidermal hyperplasia and parakeratosis. In addition, the epidermal cells fail to secrete lipids which results in flaky and scaly skin, which is typical of psoriasis[9].

Role of keratinocytes in psoriasis pathogenesis

Keratinocytes play essential roles in both the initiation and maintenance phases of psoriasis (Fig. 2). As part of the innate immune system, keratinocytes can respond to multiple triggers. Stressed keratinocytes release self-nucleotides and antimicrobial peptides, thus promoting the activation of pDCs. Then mDCs is activated and matured by producing IFN-α, IFN-γ, TNF-α, and IL-1β.After cytokines stimulation, activated keratinocytes influence psoriasis pathology from aspects of inflammatory infiltration, epidermal hyperplasia, innate immunity, tissue reorganization, etc. Besides participating in the initiation phase, keratinocytes also work as amplifiers of psoriatic inflammation and can produce copious chemokines (e.g. CXCL1/2/3, CXCL8, CXCL9/10/11, CCL2, and CCL20) to recruit leukocytes such as neutrophils, dendritic cells, and macrophages and antimicrobial peptides (e.g. S100A7/8/9/12, hBD2, and LL37) to induce innate immunity, and other inflammatory mediators to amplify inflammation. Moreover, keratinocytes, together with fibroblasts and endothelial cells, lead to tissue reorganization via activation and proliferation of endothelial cells and deposition of extracellular matrix. The crosstalk between keratinocytes and

immune cells especially Th17 cells results in the induction and maintenance of psoriasis with hyperproliferation and aberrant differentiation of keratinocytes, dilated and hyperplastic blood vessels, and infiltration of inflammatory cells like leukocytes [5, 10].

Current Treatment

Psoriasis treatment varies based on the severity, type, and extent of the condition. For mild to moderate cases, topical therapies are the first line of treatment and include corticosteroids, vitamin D analogs, topical retinoids, salicylic acid, and moisturizers to reduce inflammation, scaling, and itching. In more extensive or resistant cases, phototherapy using ultraviolet B (UVB) light or PUVA (psoralen combined with UVA light) is often effective. For moderate to severe psoriasis, systemic treatments are required. These include traditional oral medications such as methotrexate, cyclosporine, and acitretin, which help to suppress the immune system and reduce skin cell production. In recent years, biologic therapies have become a major advancement in psoriasis management. These injectable drugs target specific parts of the immune system, such as tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α), interleukin-17 (IL-17), IL-12/23, and IL-23, and include agents like adalimumab, secukinumab, and ustekinumab. Additionally, newer oral medications like apremilast, a phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor, are also available. Lifestyle modifications, such as stress management, a healthy diet, and avoiding smoking and alcohol, can further support treatment effectiveness and reduce flare-ups [11]. Current treatment options are

Topical Agents

These are primarily used for mild-to-moderate psoriasis and are often the first line of treatment:

Corticosteroids

Examples: Hydrocortisone (low potency), triamcinolone, clobetasol (high potency)
Mechanism: They reduce inflammation and suppress the immune-mediated cascade.
Considerations: Long-term use requires monitoring due to the risk of skin thinning and other side effects.

Vitamin D Analogues

Examples: Calcipotriene, calcitriol
Mechanism: These compounds help normalize keratinocyte proliferation and differentiation, thus slowing down excessive skin turnover.
Use: They are effective both as monotherapy and in combination with corticosteroids.

Retinoids

Example: Tazarotene
Mechanism: A topical retinoid that modulates keratinocyte growth and differentiation, reducing plaque formation.
Caution: May cause skin irritation and heightened sensitivity to sunlight.

Calcineurin Inhibitors

Examples: Tacrolimus, pimecrolimus
Mechanism: These agents reduce inflammatory cytokine production.
Use: Particularly useful in sensitive areas (like around the eyes or intertriginous regions) where steroids might be too harsh.

Other Agents

Salicylic Acid: Helps remove scales through keratolytic effects.
Coal Tar: Reduces scaling and inflammation but can be messy and has a strong odor.
Anthralin: A less frequently used agent that slows cell growth, though its use is limited by skin irritation and staining.

These topical treatments address local inflammation and rapid skin cell turnover, making them ideal for localized plaques or milder forms of psoriasis.

Systemic Agents

For moderate-to-severe psoriasis or when psoriatic arthritis is present, systemic therapies are often indicated. These drugs can be administered orally or via injection [12]

Methotrexate

Mechanism: An immunosuppressant that decreases rapid skin cell turnover and reduces inflammation.
Considerations: Requires regular monitoring of liver function and blood counts.

Cyclosporine

Mechanism: Suppresses the immune system to reduce inflammation.
Considerations: Nephrotoxicity and hypertension are the main concerns with long-term use.

Acitretin

Mechanism: An oral retinoid that normalizes keratinocyte differentiation.
Caution: Not recommended for women of childbearing age due to a high risk of teratogenicity.

Phototherapy

Phototherapy is an important treatment modality that is often used in conjunction with systemic or topical agents, especially when skin involvement is extensive. Phototherapy works by modulating the local immune response [13].
UVB Phototherapy: Controlled exposure to narrowband ultraviolet B light slows down keratinocyte proliferation and reduces inflammation.
PUVA Therapy: Combines psoralen (a photosensitizing agent) with ultraviolet A exposure. It is effective but requires careful monitoring due to potential side effects.

Biologic Agents

These have revolutionized the treatment of moderate-to-severe psoriasis by targeting specific immune pathways [14]

TNF-α Inhibitors

Examples: Etanercept, adalimumab, infliximab
Mechanism: They block tumor necrosis factor-α, a key cytokine in the inflammatory cascade.

IL-12/23 Inhibitors

Example: Ustekinumab
Mechanism: Targets interleukins-12 and -23, which play a crucial role in T-cell differentiation.

IL-17 Inhibitors

Examples: Secukinumab, ixekizumab, brodalumab
Mechanism: These drugs specifically inhibit IL-17, a cytokine directly involved in keratinocyte stimulation and inflammation.

IL-23 Inhibitors

Examples: Guselkumab, tildrakizumab, risankizumab
Mechanism: They block IL-23, a key driver of the Th17 pathway.
Biologic agents are typically reserved for patients who have not adequately responded to traditional systemic treatments or for those with significant psoriatic arthritis involvement. They have the advantage of being highly targeted, thereby often resulting in improved safety profiles compared to conventional systemic agents; however, they do carry an increased risk of infections.

Combination Therapy and Considerations

Combination Approaches: In clinical practice, it's not uncommon for healthcare providers to combine topical agents, systemic drugs, and phototherapy to target different aspects of the psoriasis pathway. The idea is to maximize efficacy while minimizing side effects.

Individualized Treatment: The choice of therapy will consider the patient's disease severity, comorbid conditions, quality-of-life impact, and potential adverse effects, underscoring the importance of personalized treatment plans.

Current synthetic treatments for psoriasis, though effective, are associated with several limitations and side effects that highlight the need for alternative therapeutic options, particularly from herbal sources. Long-term use of topical corticosteroids can lead to skin thinning, resistance, and rebound flares. Systemic agents like methotrexate and cyclosporine, while powerful, pose risks of liver toxicity, kidney damage, bone marrow suppression, and increased susceptibility to infections. Biologic therapies, though targeted and often well-tolerated, are expensive, require regular injections, and may still cause immune suppression and increase the risk of infections or malignancies over prolonged use. Moreover, not all patients respond adequately to existing treatments, and relapse is common upon discontinuation. These challenges underline the need for safer, cost-effective, and sustainable alternatives. Herbal medicines, known for their multi-targeted actions, lower toxicity profiles, and historical use in traditional systems like Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine, offers promising potential in managing chronic inflammatory conditions like psoriasis. Research into herbal remedies may lead to the discovery of novel bioactive compounds that can modulate immune responses, reduce inflammation, and restore skin homeostasis with fewer side effects than conventional therapies.

Herbs used in the treatment of psoriasis

Ancient civilizations such as those in India, China, Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia extensively used plants for medicinal purposes. In India, the Ayurvedic system, developed over 3,000 years ago, emphasized the use of herbs to maintain health and treat diseases. With the advent of modern medicine, the popularity of herbal remedies declined, but their therapeutic value has seen resurgence in recent decades. Today, herbal medicine continues to play a crucial role in both traditional and complementary healthcare systems, supported by scientific research that validates many of their traditional uses. Herbal remedies have been used for centuries to help manage psoriasis symptoms, and modern research is beginning to validate some of these traditional applications. While evidence varies in strength, many individuals find that certain herbs, especially when used topically or as adjuncts to conventional treatments, can help reduce inflammation, slow skin cell proliferation, and soothe irritation.

Here's an overview of some of the most commonly cited herbs used in the treatment of psoriasis [15, 16]

Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

What It Is: Oregon grape is a shrub whose extracts—rich in berberine—are known for anti-inflammatory and antiproliferative properties.

How It Works: When applied as a cream or ointment, the formulation may reduce redness and inflammation by modulating the local immune response and slowing down excessive keratinocyte proliferation.

Indigo Naturalis (Qing Dai)

What It Is: Derived from plants used in traditional Chinese medicine, indigo naturalis has been used as both a dye and a medicinal remedy.

How It Works: Topical applications of Qing Dai are thought to exert anti-inflammatory effects and have been studied particularly in cases of nail psoriasis and mild cutaneous psoriasis.

Aloe Vera

What It Is: Well known for its soothing and moisturizing properties, aloe vera has been used for skin ailments for generations.

How It Works: It helps calm inflammation, promotes skin healing, and may aid in regenerating the skin barrier by improving cellular turnover.

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)
What It Is: Turmeric is a spice that contains curcumin, a compound with potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.
How It Works: Curcumin may help reduce inflammatory cytokine production and, when used either topically or as an oral supplement, could contribute to decreased skin inflammation.

Female Ginseng (Dong Quai / *Angelica sinensis*)
What It Is: A well-established herb in Chinese medicine, female ginseng (commonly known as dong quai) contains compounds that may act in synergy with light-based therapies.
How It Works: It contains psoralen-like substances, which, when consumed prior to phototherapy, can enhance the therapeutic effects of UV light on psoriatic skin.

Capsaicin
What It Is: Derived from chili peppers, capsaicin is known for its ability to modulate nerve signals and reduce pain.
How It Works: Topical capsaicin cream is believed to decrease the levels of substance P, a neuropeptide associated with inflammation and pain in psoriasis.

Neem
What It Is: Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) is a fast-growing evergreen tree native to the Indian subcontinent. It is a cornerstone of traditional Ayurvedic medicine and is often referred to as the "Village Pharmacy" due to its wide range of therapeutic uses.
How It Works: Neem reduces inflammation by inhibiting the production of pro-inflammatory chemicals like prostaglandins and cytokines. This is especially helpful in skin conditions like psoriasis, eczema, and acne.

Guggulu
What It Is: Guggulu, scientifically known as *Commiphora mukul*, is a resin obtained from the mukul myrrh tree, native to India and parts of Central Asia. It has been a key ingredient in Ayurvedic medicine for thousands of years, traditionally used to treat arthritis, obesity, and skin diseases.
How It Works: Guggulu contains several biologically active compounds, especially guggulsterones, which are responsible for its therapeutic effects. Guggulu significantly reduces inflammation by inhibiting pro-inflammatory enzymes and pathways such as NF-κBandcyclooxygenase (COX)**.** This makes it effective in managing inflammatory conditions like psoriasis and arthritis.

Jasminum auriculatum
Emerging research supports its potential in treating psoriasis.
Leaf extracts possess anti-inflammatory and wound-healing properties.
The herbs *Jasminum auriculatam* has previously reported with the anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant property for the flowers. Studies have shown that *J. auriculatum* promotes faster wound contraction, collagen formation, and epithelial regeneration, aiding in the healing of cracked or damaged skin caused by psoriasis or infections. In recent time, research is also going on that the leaves of this plant also having the anti-psoriatic activity. Hence, the present review focus on the therapeutic potential of *Jasminium auriculatum* in psoriasis [17].

The therapeutic potential of *Jasminum auriculatam* in psoriasis treatment
Jasminum auriculatum a plant from the Oleaceae family traditionally used in Ayurveda and other medicinal systems has unveiled promising therapeutic properties that could be beneficial in managing psoriasis. It is a small shrub native to India and Southeast Asia and is widely recognized for its fragrant white flowers. Although current evidence largely stems from preclinical studies and ethnobotanical records, the plant's rich phytochemical profile and traditional application suggest several mechanisms relevant to psoriasis treatment [18].

Phytochemical Profile and Mechanisms

Rich in Bioactive Compounds: *Jasminum auriculatum* contains terpenoids, flavonoids, tannins, steroids, alkaloids, and polyphenols. These compounds are well recognized for their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial activities.

Anti-inflammatory Actions: Psoriasis is characterized by an immune-mediated inflammatory cascade, especially involving cytokines like TNF-α and IL-17. The anti-inflammatory properties of *J. auriculatum's* constituents may help modulate this cytokine response, reducing the chronic inflammation that drives the formation of psoriatic plaques.

Antioxidant Effects: Oxidative stress plays a role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis by damaging skin cells and triggering inflammatory pathways. The robust antioxidant capacity of the plant's polyphenols and flavonoids can help neutralize harmful free radicals, thereby protecting keratinocytes and improving skin healing.

Wound Healing and Skin Regeneration: Traditional uses of this herb include the treatment of wounds, ulcers, and other skin conditions. Its ability to promote wound healing could be especially valuable in psoriasis, where chronic inflammation and skin barrier disruption are common. By facilitating skin repair and normalizing keratinocyte turnover, it may aid in the reduction of psoriatic lesions.

Antibacterial and Antiseptic Action: The leaves have demonstrated antimicrobial properties against common skin pathogens, making them useful in preventing secondary infections in open or inflamed lesions.

Skin-Soothing Effect: It's cooling and soothing nature helps relieve itching, redness, and irritation, providing symptomatic relief in itchy or inflamed skin conditions like psoriasis.

Therapeutic Implications of *Jasminium auriculatum* for Psoriasis

Adjunctive Therapy: Given its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects, extracts of *Jasminum auriculatum* might be employed as an adjunct to conventional therapies (such as topical corticosteroids or vitamin D analogues) to enhance overall efficacy while potentially reducing the dosage required of pharmacological treatments.

Topical Formulations: Formulating the extract into creams or ointments could allow direct application to affected skin areas, targeting local inflammation and promoting skin regeneration. This form of delivery takes advantage of the plant's bioactive compounds at the site of lesions where their healing and soothing properties are most needed.

Improvement in Skin Barrier Function: By mitigating oxidative stress and inflammation, *J. auriculatum* may contribute to restoring the skin's barrier function. This is particularly important in psoriasis, where barrier disruption can lead to further immune activation and irritation.

CONCLUSION

Psoriasis is a chronic autoimmune skin condition that affects millions of people worldwide. It causes the immune system to mistakenly attack healthy skin cells, leading to rapid cell turnover and the formation of red, scaly patches on the skin. While, the Current synthetic treatments for psoriasis, though effective, are associated with several limitations and side affects that highlight the need for alternative therapeutic options, particularly from herbal sources. Despite its challenges, ongoing research continues to improve treatment strategies, offering hope for better management and quality of life for those affected. Research into herbal remedies may lead to the discovery of novel bioactive compounds that can modulate immune responses, reduce inflammation, and restore skin homeostasis with fewer side effects than conventional therapies. In this regard, the present review conclude that *Jasminum auriculatum* is a promising herb in dermatology due to its anti-inflammatory, wound-healing, antioxidant, and antimicrobial

activities. It supports both the symptomatic relief and underlying healing of chronic skin disorders, particularly psoriasis.

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Table 1: Comparision of signs and symptoms of various types of Psoriasis

Type of psoriasis	Common Sites	Signs and Symptoms
Chronic Plaque Psoriasis	Elbows, knees, Scalp, groin	Red, glossy rash skin: demarcated borders slivery scales: flaking shedding pruitus; hair loss/alopecia
Inverse/Flexural Psoriasis	Skinfolds, gentials, armpits, breast, bends of limbs	Exacerbated by sweat and friction smooth patches inflamed skin increased risk of secondary fungal infection
Guttate Psoriasis	Trunk, arms, legs, scalp	Small, oval spots; scaling red papules common after streptococcal pharyngitis
Pustular Psoriasis	Hands and feet, random skin patches	Raised sterile putules red and tender skin
Erythrodermic Psoriasis	Widespeard skin involvement	Inflammation and exofilation of skin severe itching swelling and pain disruption of normal skin function, increased risk of hypothermia, fluid loss, and infection, life threatening

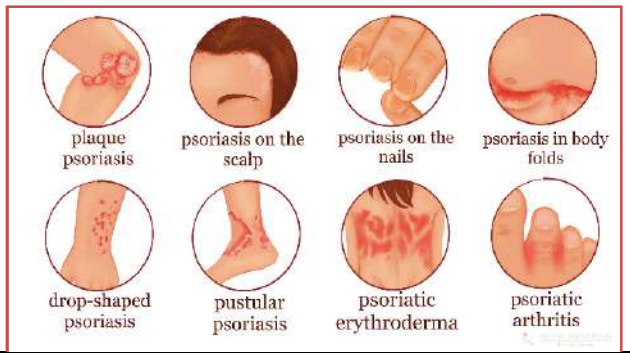


Fig No: 1 Different Parts of the Body Affected by Psoriasis

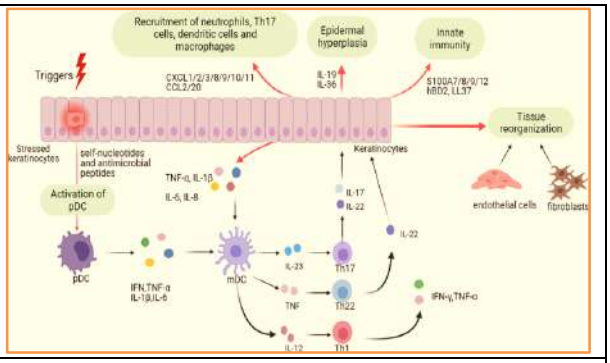


Fig. 2: Role of Keratinocytes in Psoriasis Pathogenesis

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Development and Validation of Rp-Hplc Method for Simultaneous Determination of Cefixime and Azithromycin in Pharmaceutical Dosages

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ABSTRACT

For the treatment of infections in the upper and lower respiratory tracts, a new combination of cefixime and azithromycin is being used. For the simultaneous determination of cefixime and azithromycin in pharmaceutical dose form, a simple, accurate, precise, reproducible RP-HPLC method is established. Acetonitrile: 0.01MPotassiumdihydrogenphosphate (KH_2PO_4) in a 70:30 (v/v) ratio made up the mobile phase. Within the 2–10 μg/ml concentration range, the techniques follow Beer's law. The experimental conditions were arranged to maximize absorption level by working with a 1 ml/min flow rate and an HPLC-PDA detector set up at 230 nm. While cefixime has retention duration of 1.50 min, azithromycin has retention duration of 2.0 min, hence verifying a smaller analytical length of time. For cefixime, the LOD and LOQ were determined to be 3.24×10^{-7}μg/ml and 1.07×10^{-6} μg/ml; for azithromycin, respectively, they were found to be 3.55×10^{-7} μg/ml and 1.17×10^{-6} μg/ml. With the accuracy of the method found to be 99.96% for cefixime and 99.97% for azithromycin, the recovery of both drugs was noted. The method was confirmed statistically using ICH criteria. With % RSD less than 2, the technique revealed high accuracy and recovery. The suggested method was thus determined to be easy, specific, precise, reliable, simple, and robust.

Keywords: Cefixime, Azithromycin, Validation, Accuracy, Precision, Dosage.

INTRODUCTION

Cefixime (CFX) "(6R, 7R)-7-[[(Z)-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-2-[(carboxymethoxy) imino] acetyl] amino]-3-ethenyl-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo [4.2.0] oct-2-ene-2-carboxylic acid Trihydrate" (Figure 1).The chemical formula is $C_{16}H_{15}N_5O_7S_2{\cdot}3H_2O$, and the molecular weight is 507.50 g/mol. Cefixime is an oral antibiotic. It is similar to third-generation cephalosporin in that it kills a wide range of bacteria and is resistant to β-lactamase. It inhibits the enzyme transpeptidase, which is essential for the formation of bacterial cell walls [1]. Lower respiratory tract infections [2] and acute urinary tract infections [3] are among the conditions for which it is utilized. It is also utilized for conditions such as acute sinusitis [4], acute otitis media [5], and Helicobacter pylori infection [6]. Azithromycin (AZM) is macrolide antibiotics, it is "[9-de-oxy-9a-aza-9a-methyl-9a-homoerythromycin A dihydrate]" is an Azalide. By interacting with the bacterial 50S ribosomal subunit, it prevents the production of proteins [7, 8]. The conditions it treats include otitis media [9], respiratory tract infection [10], cystic fibrosis [11], chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) [12], P. falciparum malaria [13], typhoid fever [14], and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* [15]. Both drugs are recognized in the Indian Pharmacopoeia [16]. A review of the literature shows that Azithromycin has been measured using techniques like HPLC [17, 18], LC-MS/MS [19], micellar chromatography [20], UV-visible spectrophotometry [21], and UPLC [22]. These techniques can be used alone or together. The literature review indicates that UV-Visible Spectrophotometry [23], HPLC [24-31], HPTLC [32], Voltammetry [33], High Performance Capillary Electrophoresis [34], and LC-TMS [35] methods have been documented for the quantification of Cefixime, either as a single or in combination with other pharmaceuticals. According to the literature review, no analytical approach has been documented for the simultaneous measurement of cefixime and azithromycin in pharmaceutical formulations. The simplicity, rapidity, reproducibility, and sensitivity of the chromatographic method presented in this work are its defining characteristics. The technique was developed for the precise identification of CFX and AZM in a synthetic mixture. Compared to the described approach, our proposed method has a faster flow rate. In the end, a statistical test showed that this method and a reference method were about the same in terms of how accurate and precisely they were. There was also no statistically significant difference between them and the published method.

Experimental

Apparatus

The HPLC testing used apparatus manufactured by the Kyoto, Japan-based Shimadzu (UFLC) Corporation. An SPD-prominence diode array detector, a solvent supply pump system (LC-20AD), a SIL-20A prominence auto sampler, a DGU 20A5 prominence degasser, and other necessary apparatus were incorporated. More people used Lab Solutions' data analysis products. Renowned columns maintained the appropriate temperature with CTO-20A ovens. For this separation, the Irish-made Waters XTerra RP-18 was utilized. These are the dimensions: 5 µm by 250 × 250×4.6 mm.

MATERIALS AND REAGENTS

Alkem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. kindly supplied cefixime and azithromycin as a free sample. An HPLC quality solvents supply was sourced from the Indian firm Merck Specialties Pvt. Ltd., which included acetonitrile, potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH_2PO_4), and deionized water. A pharmaceutical formulation was purchased from a local pharmacy.

Stock solutions

To make the standard solution, cefixime, azithromycin, and the mobile phase were mixed together until the concentration reached 1000 µg/ml. Using a volumetric flask, the drug was mixed with the mobile phase to make a solution with the right amount of solution and a concentration of 1000 µg/ml. A dark environment was required for the storage of a solution at 35°C. To make calibration curves at 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10µg/ml, the stock solution (1000 µg/ml) was diluted in series with the mobile phase. A 0.2 µm membrane was used to filter the dissolved cefixime and azithromycin with a mobile phase to get a practically adequate dosage. It was placed in an ultrasonic bath and left there for five minutes. The workable solution is utilized for performing the estimation.

Mobile phase

A 70:30 (v/v) mix of acetonitrile and 0.01M potassium dihydrogenphosphate (KH_2PO_4) was used as the mobile phase for the separation. A good degasser and a 0.2 μm membrane filter were used to filter and remove gas from the mobile phase before it was used.

Pharmaceutical Formulations

Local pharmacies have the drugs Cefo AZ Kid by Medley Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Taxim - AZ by Alkem Laboratories Ltd., and Cefolac - AZ by Macleods Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.

PROCEDURES

Development of calibration standards curves

The CFX and AZM stock solutions were diluted in 10 ml volumetric flasks until they reached final concentrations of 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10μg/ml. A 230 nm reading was made after 10 μl of each mixture was put on a column to make the chromatogram. Displayed here is a concentration-response graph, which shows the relationship between the peak area of the generated response graph and the drug concentration. Levels of 2.0μg/ml, 6.0μg/ml, and 8.0μg/ml are used to signify low, medium, and high values, respectively, for validating the quality control (QC) sample.

Pharmaceutical procedure

The study was conducted using the following tablet dosages: Cefo AZ Kid, Taxim - AZ, and Cefolac - AZ. Dissolve a target quantity in the mobile phase; this should be 10 mg of each medicine. Using the mobile phase, dilute the filtered solution to the required volume. Transfer to 100 ml measuring flasks. The process was then completed by using standard addition techniques, as mentioned before.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Optimal chromatographic conditions

Table 2 displays the complete specifications of the various chromatographic parameters. A 230 nm PDA detector was used to find the best chromatographic detection wavelength. They make a lot of instruments, like the SPD-prominence diode array detector, the SIL-20A prominence auto sampler, the LC-20AD solvent delivery pumps system, and the DGU 20A5 prominence degasser. The company is based in Kyoto, Japan. It took a lot of experimenting to get the optimal composition ratio and pH for the mobile phase. A 70:30 (v/v) mix of acetonitrile and 0.01M potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH_2PO_4) is the best mobile phase. It should flow at a rate of 1 ml/min. It is possible for cefixime and azithromycin to separate and elute in their pharmaceutical dosage and pure forms under these conditions (Figures 3 and 4, at 1.2 and 2.0 min., respectively). Table 1 details the suggested (HPLC-PDA) method for analysing the drug in its pure form or in pharmaceutical dosage forms.

Validation of Method

The developed method was validated using parameters such as accuracy, precision, linearity, specificity, and robustness.

Linearity

There were five different dosage combinations tested for linearity. When the concentration limits of 2–10μg/ml for both drugs were plotted against the peak areas the calibration curves (Figures 5 and 6), a straight line was obtained. The linear regression equation for the CFX variable is Y = 18500 + 98434C, while for the AZM variable, it is Y = 16900 + 98659C. With computed coefficients of regression (R^2) of 0.9999 and 0.9999, respectively, the results showed a high level of linearity for both medications, as shown in Table 2.

Accuracy

To check how accurate the method was, the amount of commercially available CFX and AZM that was recovered at different concentrations within the range given was measured. Three of each concentration was made using the standard addition procedure. The experiment comprises adding a specific amount of each drug at various concentrations according to the given procedure. Estimated recovery rates for both substances were high, as shown in Table 3, which is based on the percentage of drugs recovered.

Precision

Its accuracy was evaluated by measuring both its intra- and inter-day precision. The QC samples used in the validation process showed concentrations of 4, 6, and 8µg/ml. To assess intra-day precision, three separate measurements were performed using a solution containing pure drug. Subsequently, the SD of these metrics was computed. The SD (standard deviation) numbers, which ranged from 0.33 to 0.11, reveal a highly accurate procedure. The CFX and AZM standard deviations for inter-day repeatability were within the acceptable ranges, as indicated in Table 3, of 0.12-0.71 and 0.11-0.69, respectively. In pharmaceutical dosages, the results of this study show that the proposed method can precisely measure both drugs simultaneously.

Selectivity and Specificity

The selectivity of the technique was tested by injecting CFX and AZM solutions onto the column simultaneously. Consequently, CFX and AZM each showed their own distinct peak with a retention time of 1.20 and 2.0 min, respectively. The blank solution lacked these peaks. Furthermore, the specificity tests (Figures 5 and 6) showed that the tablet formulations with added ingredients did not get in the way of the clearly defined CFX and AZM peaks that were caused by contaminants.

Detection and quantification limits

The signals-to-noise ratio was adjusted at 3:1 for the limits of detection (LOD) and 10:1 for the limits of quantification (LOQ). Results indicated that CFX has a limit of detection of $3.24x10^{-7}$ µg/ml and AZM of $3.55x10^{-6}$ µg/ml. According to Table 3, the concentration limits for CFX and AZM were determined to be $1.07x10^{-6}$ µg/ml and $1.17x10^{-6}$ µg/ml, respectively. According to Nagaraju K., the quantification values from CFX and AZM were 0.25µg/ml, and the detection results were 0.34µg/ml. The results indicate that the method is very sensitive.

Robustness

It was tested to see how robust the method was by making small changes (± 0.05) to the flow rate and composition of the mobile phase ratio while keeping all the other chromatographic parameters the same. In order to assess the effects of the changes, the two drugs standard deviations and recovery percentages were inter-compared. According to Table 4, the adjustments have very little effect on the results because the standard deviation (SD) values for CFX and AZM are relatively low at 0.17 and 0.25, respectively.

APPLICATIONS

Analysis of tablet formulations

Three pharmaceutical formulations containing CFX and AZM were evaluated using the suggested method: one from Medley Pharmaceuticals, one from Alkem Laboratories Limited, and one from Macleods Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Limited. The formulations in concern include Cefo AZ Kid, Taxim-AZ, and Cefolac-AZ tablets, respectively. Through statistical analysis, the F-test and the student t-test were calculated. This method achieves a high level of specificity, unaffected by impurities or excipients. When comparing the results to the reference method, an F-test and a Student t-test were used. When comparing the reference and proposed methods, Table 5 shows that they were both quite accurate and precise. This is due to the fact that both the tabular and computed 't' and 'F' values for CFX and AZM are lower.

CONCLUSION

Using an isocratic RP-HPLC method, a combination of CFX and AZM was determined simultaneously. This study established and validated a technique that, in only 2.5 minutes, precisely and effectively estimates the amounts of CFX and AZM simultaneously. The proposed method is reliable, rapid, precise, selective, and easy to replicate, according to the results. The CFX and AZM drugs that were tested exhibited linearity across the concentration range of 2 to 10 μg/ml. This method has shown potential for quality control when used to look at Cefo AZ Kid tablets by Medley Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Taxim AZ tablets by Alkem Laboratories Ltd., and Cefolac AZ tablets by Macleods Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. This method can be particularly advantageous when time and money are constraints. Quality control laboratories can use the proposed method for routine analysis of CFX and AZM combinations.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The manuscript author certifies that there is no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval

The present manuscript does not include any studies that involved the use of animals or people.

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Table 1: Chromatographic parameters for the proposed RP-HPLC method

Parameter details	Conditions
HPLC Column	The Waters XTerra RP-18 column has an internal diameter of 4.6 mm and a 5 µm diameter.
Mobile Phase	The mobile phase consisted of a70:30 (v/v) ratio of acetonitrile to 0.01M Potassiumdihydrogenphosphate (KH_2PO_4). At room temperature, the degasser was set up at the 20A5 prominence.
UV Detection	230 nm
Flow Rate	1.0 ml/min
Injected Volume	10 µl
Temperature in ºC	Ambient
CFX retention time	1.50 min.
AZM retention time	2.0 min.

Table 2: The proposed method results and parameters

Parameters	Cefixime			Azithromycin		
	Conc. Taken (µg/ml)	Conc. Found (µg/ml)	% Recovery	Conc. Taken (µg/ml)	Conc. Found (µg/ml)	%Recovery
	1	0.9998	99.98	2	1.999	99.95
	3	2.9996	99.99	4	4.001	100.02
	5	4.9998	99.99	6	5.998	99.96
Mean recovery*			99.98			99.98
N			3		3	
±SD			0.058		0.038	
±RSD			0.058		0.038	
Regression Equation** Slope (a) Intercept (b)	 18500 98434				 16900 98659	
LOD	3.24×10^{-7}				3.55×10^{-7}	
LOQ	1.07×10^{-6}				1.17×10^{-6}	
Correlation Coefficient	0.9999				0.9999	
Accuracy (mean ±SD)			100±0.008			100.01±0.04
Precision Repeatability (±%RSD)			99.97±0.33			99.98±0.11
Intermediate precision			99.96±0.27			99.96±0.29

*Average of three independent procedure.

**Y=a+bC, where Y is the peak area, C is the concentration of the drug in (µg/ml).

Table 3: Findings of the standard addition recovery method

Tablets studied	Proposed Method							
	CFX in Tablet µg/ml	Pure CFX added µg/ml	Total CFX found µg/ml	Pure CFX Recovered Percent ± SD*	AZM in Injection µg/ml	Pure AZM added µg/ml	Total AZM found µg/ml	Pure AZM Recovered Percent ± SD*
Cefo-AZ Kid (100mg+125mg)	0.996	1	1.995	99.95±0.31	1.995	4	5.993	99.97±0.32
	1.996	2	3.995	99.97±0.27	1.995	5	6.994	99.99±0.54
	2.996	3	5.994	99.96±0.58	1.995	6	7.993	99.98±0.35
Taxim-AZ (200mg+250mg)	0.996	1	1.997	100.05±0.14	3.995	4	7.992	99.96±0.11
	0.996	2	2.995	99.96±0.61	3.995	5	8.993	99.98±0.53
	0.996	3	3.995	99.97±0.53	3.995	6	9.994	99.99±0.69
Cefolac AZ (200mg+500mg)	2.996	1	3.995	99.97±0.25	2.996	4	6.995	99.98±0.42
	2.996	2	4.994	99.96±0.12	2.996	5	7.995	99.99±0.67
	2.996	3	5.994	99.97±0.71	2.996	6	8.994	99.98±0.13

*Mean value of three determinations.

Table 4: Results of robustness at different temperate

Flow rate in ml/min	Temperature in ºC	CFX Conc. Found in (µg/ml)	% of Recovery	AZM Conc. Found in (µg/ml)	% of Recovery
0.8	22	4.48	99.97±0.23	2.48	99.95±0.42
1.0	24	4.49	99.99±0.17	2.49	99.99±0.31
1.3	26	4.48	99.95±0.42	2.47	99.97±0.25

Table 5: Statistical data of Pharmaceutical dosage vs reference method

Name of pharmaceutical dosage*	Nominal Quantities in Tablets	Labelled % standard deviation (SD)		
		Reference method	Proposed method for CFX	Proposed method for AZM
Cefo AZ Kid[a]	(100+125) mg	99.98 ± 0.45	99.96 ± 0.31, t = 0.1, F = 2.1	99.94 ± 0.38, t = 0.19, F = 1.4
Taxim-AZ[b]	(200+250) mg	99.99 ± 0.47	99.96 ± 0.28, t = 0.15, F = 2.81	99.97 ± 0.31, t = 0.2, F = 2.29
Cefolac-AZ[c]	(200+500) mg	99.98 ± 0.53	99.95 ± 0.31, t = 0.14, F = 2.92	99.95 ± 0.38, t = 0.13, F = 1.94

*Manufactured by: a. Medley Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.; b. Alkem Laboratories Ltd. and c. Macleods Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. The t-value determined at the 95% level of significance is 2.365. A tabulated F-value of 3.79 indicates a level of confidence of 95%.

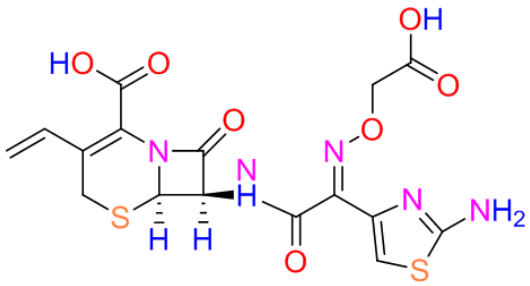


Figure 1: Chemical structure of Cefixime

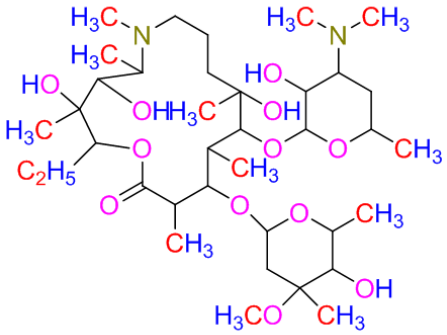


Figure 2: Chemical structure of Azithromycin

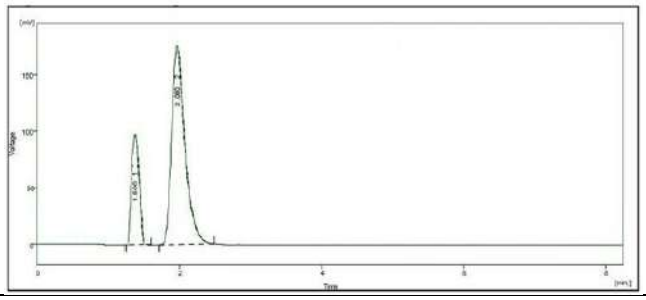


Figure 3: Chromatogram of standard cefixime and azithromycin.

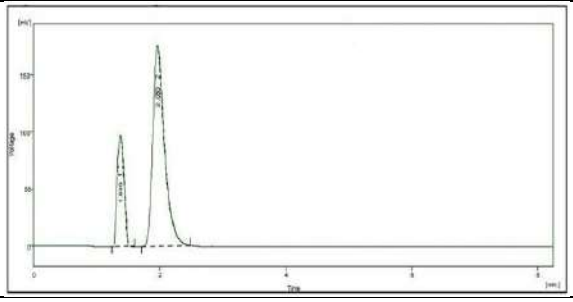


Figure 4: Chromatogram of pharmaceutical dosage of cefixime and azithromycin.

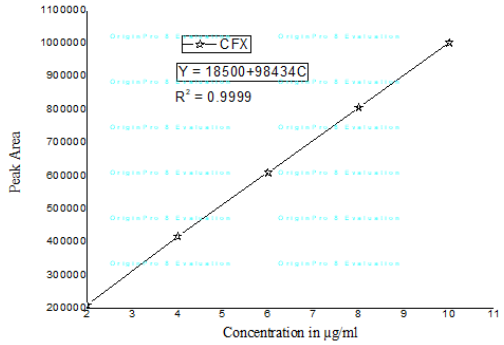


Figure 5: Calibration plot of CFX concentration vs peak area

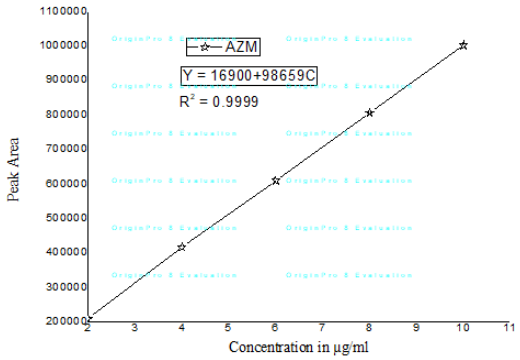


Figure 6: Calibration plot of AZM concentration vs peak area

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Impact of Different pH and Temperature Levels on Mycelial Growth of *Lentinula edodes* (Berk.) Pegler.

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ABSTRACT

Shiitake mushrooms (*Lentinula edodes* (Berk.) Pegler)", is one among the most demanded edible and curative fungus cultivated worldwide. Temperature and pH are important environmental factors that affect its growth. The ideal growing conditions for Shittake have been the subject of numerous studies. The objective of the current study is to identify the ideal pH and temperature for *Lentinula edodes* growth. During this study result indicated that the maximum mycelium growth of *Lentinula edodes* occurred at pH 6 (8.25 cm), while the optimal temperature was (8.20 cm) at 25°C.

Keywords: Fungus, Mycelium, *Lentinula edodes,* Temperature, PDA, pH.

INTRODUCTION

Considering the nutritional value and therapeutic qualities, the cultivation of edible mushrooms especially *Agaricus bisporus, Pleurotus ostreatus,and Lentinula edodes* has attracted a lot of attention from both academic and commercial communities. As oak wood serves as this fungus's natural host, the word "shiitake" was first derived by two Japanese words: shii, which means oak, and take, which means mushroom (Davis, 1993; Royse, 2001).Shiitake mushroom which was originated from East Asia and now cultivated and consumed in different Asian nations (Chittaragi *et al.,* 2018).It was first outline in 1877 by mycologist Miles Joseph Berkeley. According to Chang (1999) and Chiu *et al*. (1999), shiitake is the second preferred edible mushroom. Because of its flavor and both edible and therapeutic properties, it is widely valued in the orient. It approximately represents 25% of worldwide mushroom production. The mushroom belongs to the Kingdom: Fungi, Division: Basidiomycota; Class: Basidiomycetes; Order: Agaricales,

Family: Tricholomataceae, Genus: *Lentinula*. Shiitake known to bea complete nutritional food has low lipid content, and have appreciable amount protein content, vitamins, minerals and fibers (Akesowan 2016). Bisen *et al.,* (2010) during their study concluded that *Lentinula edodes* has protein made up of 18 different types of amino acids, including all essential amino acids. These are found in ratios that are similar to human nutritional requirements making it an ideal dietary supplement for those with protein-limited diet and are getting drift in recent years. *Lentinula edodes*, is the one of most cultivated mushroom species globally owing its unique palatability. For optimal mycelial biomass yield and metabolite production in Shittake, it is essential for optimising the in vitro cultivation factors. The cultivation of *Lentinula edodes* is directly influenced by a complex interaction of environmental factors (temperature, pH, and the composition of the culture media) (Moradinezhad and Ranjbar, 2023).Although each strain has its own suitable temperature, some researchers determined that the ideal range for *L. edodes* maximum mycelial growth was between 15°C and 25°C (Lee *et al.* 2008). With the aim to enhance cultivation efficiency and the sustainable production of its valuable compounds, this study observed the ideal pH and temperature ranges for the mycelial growth of *Lentinula edodes*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The investigation was carried out in Department of Plant Pathology, SGRR Agricultural Sciences, S.G.R.R University Dehradun Uttarakhand.

Multiplication and Maintenance of pure culture of *Lentinula* species

The strain *Lentinula edodes*-327 pure culture was collected from DIMR Solan, and maintained at 25^{0}C on PDA. The medium was prepared by dissolving 39.0 gm of PDA powder in 1000 ml of distilled water than the solution was heated until all the solid media completely dissolve. After this sterilization of solution was done by using autoclaving. Under sterilized condition in a laminar air flow *Lentinula edodes* was cultured and incubated on BOD (biological oxygen demand) at 25±1^{0}C for 10 days till proper growth is observed. Periodically, sub culturing of the stored cultures was done.

Impact of different pH levels at 25^{0}C temperature on PDA

Lentinula edodes-327 was cultured at five different pH media, which were 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Before adding agar to culture media (PDA) was adjusted with 1 M solution of HCL or NaOH solutions to determine the optimal pH, which was determined using a digital pH meter. After that the PDA was transferred into 90 mm Petri dishes with 20 ml per plate, it was autoclaved for 20 minutes at 121 ^{0}C under 15 pounds of pressure. Followed by the inoculation of the plates with a 9 mm diameter disc containing a 10 day old *Lentinula edodes* culture. Each treatment was incubated in four replications at 25 ^{0}C on B.O.D. The growth was measured by taking average of linear growth of the colony in the two directions.

Impact of temperature levels on PDA

Different temperatures 15°C, 20°C, 25°C, 30°C, and 35°C while pH was adjusted at 6, used to incubate the *Lentinula edodes-327* culture respectively. The PDA was transferred into 90 mm Petri dishes, with 20 ml per plate. Followed by mycelium inoculation of *Lentinula edodes* with a 9 mm diameter disc .Each treatment was incubated in four replications using different incubators. The growth was measured by taking average of linear growth of the colony in the two directions.

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of mycelial growth of *Lentinula edodes* on different pH

The PDA was cultured with mycelium of *Lentinula edodes* at 25°C with varying pH levels of 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Growth was measured on days 4, 6, 8, and 10. According to the results observed in Table 1, mycelium growth was highest at pH 6 (8.25 cm) followed by pH 7 (7.83 cm) on 10th day and least at pH 9 (3.84 cm) on 4th day. The results were in

accordance with the findings of Shanmugaraj *et al*. (2024); Kumar *et al*. (2019) as they investigated that at 24°C, strain *Le-17-04* of *Lentinula edodes* showed the best growth on PDA medium and pH levels of 5.0 and pH of 6.0 had a major impact on mycelial growth showing the best outcomes. Same resulted was also observed by Nguyen *et al*. (2023). Singh and Singh (2024) reported that the most effective pH was 5.5 for *Lentinula edodes* mycelium growth .pH 6.0 also noticed to improve biomass production in submerged cultures (Bisko *et al*., 2020).

Effect of mycelial growth of *Lentinula edodes* on different temperature

Lentinula edodes was incubated on days 4, 6, 8, and 10 at various temperatures between 10 and 30°C. According to the results in Table 2, mycelial growth, reached its maximum at 25°C (8.20 cm) followed by 20°C (7.05 cm) on 10th day and minimum at 10°C (3.51 cm) on 4th day. Similar investigation by Singh *et al*. (2024) indicated that the suitable temperature for mycelium growth for *Lentinula edodes* were 28°C which substantial influence on mycelial growth and dry matter weight during in vitro condition. Hassegawa *et al*. (2005)also investigated that temperature 20-25ºC enhanced growth as well as antibacterial activity of *L. edodes* mycelium. Markovic *et al*., (2011)noted that 23°C was effective for mycelial mass production of Shittake. Furlan *et al*. (2017) additionally evaluated a range of temperatures (20–40 °C) for Shiitake mycelial growth, and they concluded that Shiitake mycelium grows significantly at temperatures between 25 and 30°C. Their findings and ours were nearly identical. Together, these researches advance our knowledge of the ideal growing and production conditions for Shiitake.

CONCLUSION

The growth of *Lentinula edodes* is critically influenced by pH, and temperature. However optimal conditions vary slightly depending on the strain and growth phase of Shittake. The present study concluded that pH 6 was found to be the best for mycelial growth *Lentinula edodes-327*on the 10th day. The maximum mycelial growth (8.20 cm) was recorded at the temperature of 25ºC and minimum growth (3.51 cm) was seen at 10ºC on the 10th day.

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Table 1: Mycelial growth (cm) of *Lentinula edodes* on different pH and days on PDA at 25^{0}C

S. No	pH	DAY			
		DAY 4	DAY 6	DAY 8	DAY 10
1	**pH 5**	1.51	2.20	3.46	5.23
2	**pH 6**	2.15	4.36	5.85	8.25
3	**pH 7**	2.36	3.89	5.78	7.83
4	**pH 8**	1.56	2.51	3.32	5.82
5	**pH 9**	1.33	1.81	2.53	3.84
CD at 5%		0.504			
SEM		0.178			

Average of four replications

Table 2. Mycelial growth (cm) of *Lentinula edodes* on different temperature and days on PDA

S.No.	Temperature (^{0}C)	DAY			
		DAY 4	DAY 6	DAY 8	DAY 10
1	**Temp 10**	0.67	1.32	2.43	3.51
2	**Temp 15**	1.02	2.13	3.31	5.01
3	**Temp 20**	2.08	3.39	4.97	7.05
4	**Temp 25**	2.57	4.77	6.20	8.20
5	**Temp 30**	1.48	3.68	5.02	5.42
CD at 5%		0.691			
SE(m)		0.244			

Average of four replications

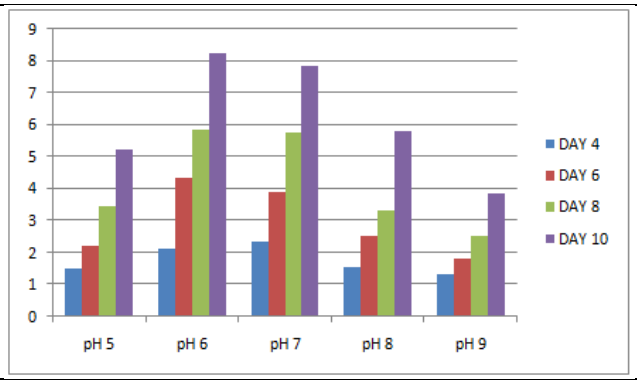


Fig 1: Growth of *Lentinula edodes* on different pH and days

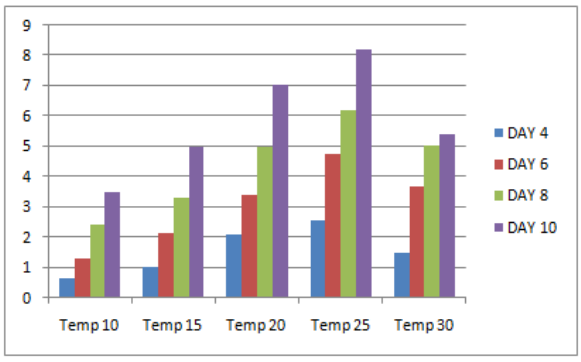


Fig 2: Growth of *Lentinula edodes* on different temperature and days

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Molecular Identification and Phylogenetic Analysis of *Manilkara zapota* (L.) P. Royen from Southern Tamil Nadu using DNA Barcoding

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ABSTRACT

DNA barcoding is an efficient molecular approach for rapid and accurate species identification and phylogenetic analysis. In the present study, *Manilkara zapota* (L.) P. Royen samples were collected from selected regions of Southern Tamil Nadu. Genomic DNA was extracted, and chloroplast gene regions matK and rbcL were amplified and sequenced. Sequence data were aligned and analyzed using BLAST for species confirmation and MEGA X for phylogenetic tree construction. The results confirmed the identity of all collected specimens as *Manilkara zapota* and revealed genetic variation among populations. Phylogenetic analysis placed the samples near other Sapotaceae members, with distinct clades reflecting geographic variation. This work provides a molecular basis for accurate identification and assessment of genetic relationships, supporting conservation and germplasm management.

Keywords: DNA barcoding, *Manilkara zapota*, matK, rbcL, phylogenetic analysis, Southern Tamil Nadu1.

INTRODUCTION

Accurate species identification is essential for biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization, and prevention of adulteration in trade. Morphological identification can be limited by phenotypic plasticity, environmental influences, and lack of diagnostic characters. DNA barcoding, which uses short standardized DNA regions, overcomes these challenges by enabling precise identification through sequence comparison with reference databases. For plants, the chloroplast genes rbcL and matK have been widely accepted as core barcodes. *Manilkara zapota*, commonly known as sapodilla or chikoo, belongs to the family Sapotaceae and is economically important for its edible fruit and medicinal

value. While morphological identification is well established, molecular data for *M. zapota* populations in Southern Tamil Nadu are limited. This study aims to generate DNA barcodes, confirm species identity, and assess phylogenetic relationships of *M. zapota* collected from different locations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample Collection and Authentication

Fresh leaf samples of *M. zapota* were collected from multiple sites in Southern Tamil Nadu, including Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts. Voucher specimens were prepared and deposited in a recognized herbarium for reference.

DNA Extraction

Genomic DNA was extracted using the CTAB method with minor modifications. DNA quality and concentration were assessed using agarose gel electrophoresis and spectrophotometry.

PCR Amplification

The matK and rbcL gene regions were amplified using universal primers. PCR reactions were carried out in 25 μL volumes containing template DNA, primers, dNTPs, Taq polymerase, and buffer. Thermal cycling conditions followed standardized barcoding protocols.

Sequencing and Data Analysis

PCR products were purified and sequenced bidirectionally. Sequences were trimmed, assembled, and submitted to GenBank. BLAST searches were conducted to confirm species identity. Multiple sequence alignment was performed using ClustalW in MEGA X.

Phylogenetic Analysis

Phylogenetic trees were constructed using the Neighbor-Joining method with 1,000 bootstrap replicates. Reference sequences from other Sapotaceae species were included for comparative analysis.

RESULT

Manilkara zapota plants growing at different regions were screened using barcoding technique by multiple sequence alignment and compared with standard chloroplast gene mat K. While the code denotes the following place in which the sample was collected. MS01- site I Murasancode of Kanyakumari district and MS02- site II Kudankulam of Tirunelveli district was profiled electrophoretically and compared with known markers in the DNA ladder. The mat K gene profile of the plants from the chosen sites matched to 1.0 KB gene on the DNA ladder (plate 1). The mat K gene has an optimum size, a high rate of substitution, a high proportion of nucleotide variation, and mutationally conserved regions. To resolve family and species level relationships, the mat K gene is used.

Phylogenetic Analysis

Multiple sequence alignment was used to look for genetic changes in *M. zapota* fruits of plants from site I and site II, and the results were compared to the standard mat K gene of *M. zapota* from genbank, specifically JN114734.1 and AJ429295.1. The DNA sequence of mat K gene of *M. zapota* plants from two selected sites was deposited in the NCBI database. The serial numbers received from NCBI is given below,

Accession number of site I plant's mat K gene sequence
Banklt 2557467 seq 1 OM903990
Accession number of site II plant's mat K gene sequence
Banklt 2557467 seq 2 OM903991

Evolutionary history was inferred using the Tamura-Nei model and the Maximum Likelihood technique. The initial trees (s) for the heuristic search were generated automatically using the Neighbor-Join and BioNJ algorithms on a matrix of pairwise distances computed using the Tamura-Nei model, and then picked the topology with the maximum performance. 1st+2nd+3rd+noncoding codon locations were included. The total number of places in the final dataset was 717. MEGA X was used to undertake evolutionary analysis. This tree can be inferred as a rooted and partially bifurcating tree, since all the nodes are dividing to form a branch. A node of the tree indicates division/speciation.

Intra-Species Genetic Variation

The phylogenetic tree of *M. zapota* fruit from sites I (Kanyakumari) and site II (Tirunelveli) were analyzed through the maximum likelihood method to find evolutionary relationships that show similarity in their biological species. (Fig.1). The analysis proved that there is a common recent ancestor from which the selected plants and the compared plants have evolved, and shows close the relationship among them (Fig.1). The boot strap value of 100% agrees with the above findings (Plate 2).

DNA Amplification and Sequencing

Amplification of matK and rbcL regions yielded clear single bands of expected sizes (~800 bp for matK and ~600 bp for rbcL). Sequence analysis showed >99% similarity to *M. zapota* accessions in GenBank. Phylogenetic trees revealed clustering of samples according to geographic origin, with distinct subclades within the *M. zapota* group. Samples showed close genetic affinity to *Manilkara hexandra* and other related species.

DISCUSSION

Barcoding helps to find closely related distinct species in the same family groups or distinct groups. The genetic material of any living organism play a vital role in determining the species of any diverse groups. In our study the *M. zapota* fruit from two different locations (site I and II) resembles morphologically same but the phytochemical analysis of fruits revealed difference in their availability. Their qualitative analysis of secondary metabolites, antioxidant potentials, antimicrobial activity and availability of chemical constituents analyzed through GC-MS revealed dissimilarities.

Comparison with Previous Studies

In present times, DNA barcoding is increasing drastically to discover cryptic species [1]. The DNA barcoding revealed the fruit samples from site I and II are similar, and there was no species genetic variability. An earlier study by Bruni *et al*. [2] identified plant species in multiflower honey and revealed DNA of the toxic plant *Atropa belladonna* present in the honey. Thus, DNA barcoding is considered a powerful tool for rare and endangered species identification. Research also reveals that barcoding helps to identify different species in the families and their distributions. McDevit and Saunders [3] revealed identification of different species of brown macroalgae (Phaeophyceae) through DNA barcoding. In plants, DNA barcoding has a major role in core markers for taxonomic groups [4]. Short fragments of nucleotide sequences help to identify species [5], with convenience and low cost [6]. Genes such as rbcL and matK from the chloroplast genome were recommended by the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL Plant Working Group) [7]. A Canadian flora study using rbcL and matK genes showed 93% success in species identification [8]. In some taxonomically challenging species, DNA barcoding proved useful for identification [9]. Testing the efficiency of coding for vascular plants of Canada also demonstrated high success rates [10]. Nucleotide-based validation of *Ocimum* species through chloroplast barcodes confirmed its taxonomic utility [11]. Comparative barcoding studies identified medicinal plants of Lamiaceae [12]. Barcoding has also been used to identify genetic relationships among Magnolia species [13]. A herbarium-based DNA barcode library was established for the vascular plants of Canada [14]. The nuclear internal transcribed spacer (ITS2) has been validated as a practical plant DNA barcode for herbal medicines [15]. *M. zapota* shows the highest species diversity and is distributed across tropical and subtropical regions of Asia and South America [16,17]. Our phylogenetic analysis of plants from sites I

and II revealed they are closely related, aligning with earlier classifications. Shinwari *et al*. [18] studied 78 medicinal plants in Pakistan using matK (~800 bp), rbcL (~1400 bp), and psbA-trnH (~500 bp) sequences, and observed divergence among species. Barcoding with matK and rbcL is therefore valuable for studying large-scale populations. Research continues on the identification and classification of diverse plant species from the same genera under varying abiotic stresses. Sapotaceae classification is complex, and many methods have been proposed [19]. Documentation and identification of diverse species remain critical, as Neotropical Sapotaceae are threatened or endangered [20]. Pennington [21, 22], Alves-Araújo and Alves [23], Morales [24], and Terra-Araujo [25] reported numerous new species in this family. Sapotaceae subfamilies remain poorly understood, often polyphyletic [26], although nuclear sequence data have clarified some genera [27]. Morphological features such as leaf venation have been problematic for taxonomy [28]. Additional characters must be identified to support phylogenetic classification [29]. For example, Pradosia species show venation patterns useful for identification [25]. Floral traits such as fascicled flowers and staminode presence/absence are diagnostic in Sapotaceae [21]. However, morphology alone is insufficient; molecular sequencing and phylogenetic analysis provide stronger evolutionary insights.

Significance for Conservation and Trade

The present work has thrown light into the phytochemical and GC-MS profile of *M. sapota* plants from two selected sites of southern Tamil Nadu. The profiled phytochemicals showed antimicrobial properties against common bacterial and fungal pathogens. The medicinal properties of the fruits were also proved by antioxidant and anticancer assays. The anticancer studies were supported by docking analysis of compounds from fruits with target molecules. Finally genetic variation of plants was also analysed which showed that the two specimens showed less variation. However the difference shown in their phytochemical, antimicrobial, antioxidant, anticancer assays s due to the influence of environment in which they grow. Moreover the fruits from plat of site II (Kudamkulam of Tirunelveli district) exhibited suggesting that the plant is fighting stress in the environment by counteracting with its phytochemicals to prevent oxidative damage. The effect of this stress has to be screened in humans as the fruit is consumed by the rich and poor alike. For which many high end evaluation techniques has to be used in the future. The high sequence similarity to reference *M. zapota* confirms the effectiveness of matK and rbcL as barcoding markers for this species. Observed intra-species variation suggests possible eco-geographic adaptation among Southern Tamil Nadu populations. Phylogenetic placement within Sapotaceae aligns with earlier taxonomic classifications. This molecular approach strengthens species authentication for conservation, breeding, and trade regulation.

Future Scope

DNA barcoding using matK and rbcL markers successfully identified *M. zapota* and elucidated its phylogenetic relationships within Sapotaceae. The study highlights minor genetic differentiation among regional populations, underscoring the need for further molecular studies to support conservation and sustainable utilization.

DECLARATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We the authors of this paper declare no potential conflict of interest.

Author's Contribution

Dr. M. Brintha Mconceived and designed the study, carried out the molecular and phylogenetic analyses, and prepared the original manuscript draft. Dr. M. Prabha supervised the research, contributed to data interpretation, and revised the manuscript.

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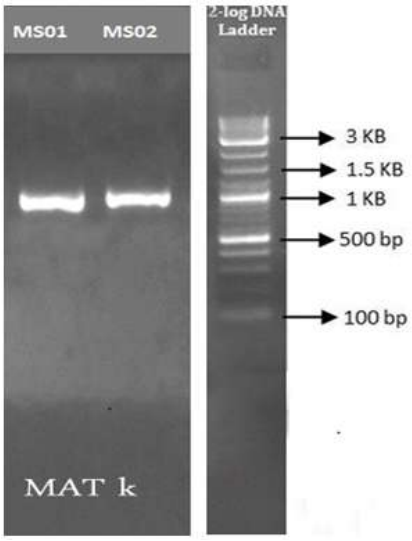


Plate 1 Profiling mat K genes of *M. zapota*from selected sites

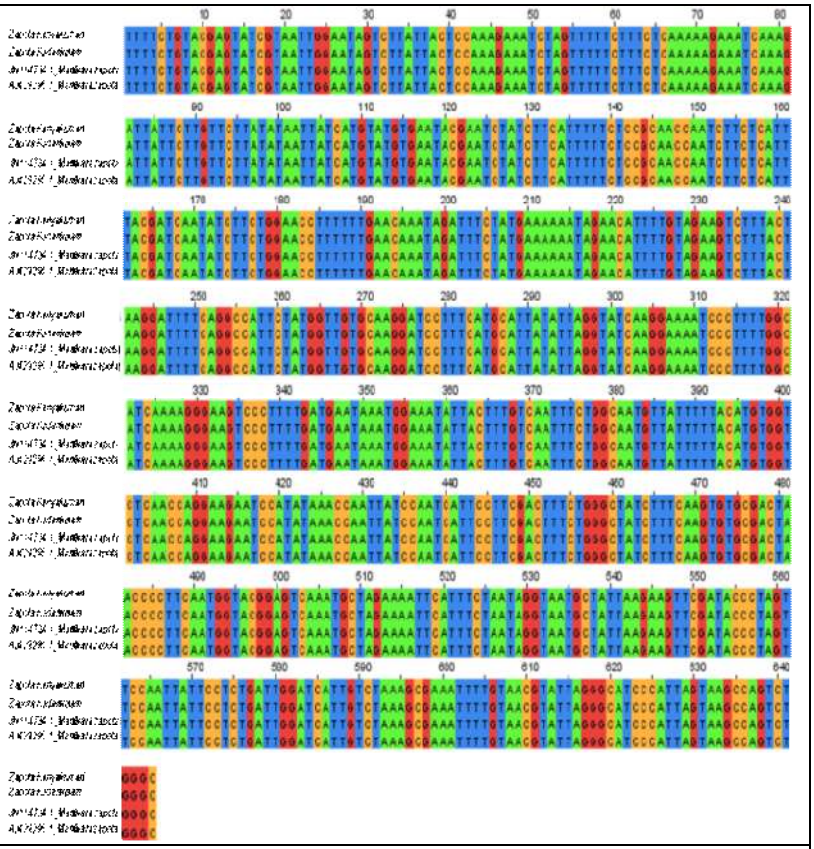


Plate 2 Multiple sequence alignment of mat K genes of *M. zapota* from selected sites

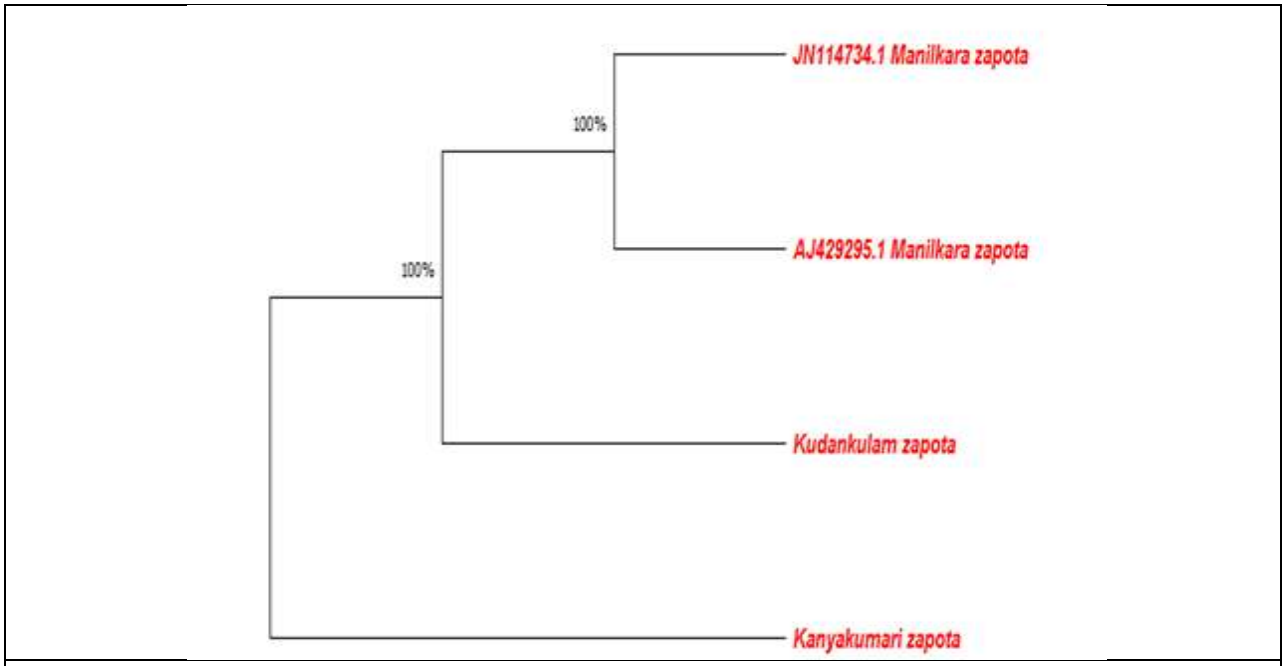


Fig.1 Phylogenetic tree of *M. zapota* from site I and II

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Ozonized Gel Versus Chlorhexidine Gel in Management of Periodontal Pockets in Chronic Periodontitis: A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial

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ABSTRACT

Scaling and root planing (SRP) is the gold standard approach for treatment of chronic periodontitis but used alone it may not be effective in removing periodontal pathogens from sites where access is poor. To evaluate and compare the clinical effectiveness of ozone (OZ) and chlorhexidine (CHX) as an adjunct to SRP in patients with Stage 2 periodontitis. Thirty patients with generalized moderate to severe chronic periodontitis with presence of at least one site in each quadrant with a probing depth ≥5 mm were recruited. In a split mouth study design, bilateral pockets were randomly allocated to the SRP and OZ therapy. Plaque index (PI), Gingival index (GI), Probing pocket depth (PD), Clinical attachment loss (CAL) was assessed and compared for two different treatment groups at baseline and at 3 months. Both groups demonstrated significant intragroup reduction in PI, GI, PPD and CAL from baseline to 3 months follow-up. There were no significant intergroup differences between two groups for PI, GI, CAL on statistical evaluation but for PPD results were highly significant ($p< 0.05$). Ozonated gel could be used as an adjunctive chemical plaque control agent in patients with chronic periodontitis

Keywords: Chlorhexidine; Ozone Therapy, Periodontitis

INTRODUCTION

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition, periodontal health is characterized as a condition free from inflammatory periodontal disease that permits a person to function properly and prevents repercussions from existing or previous diseases[1]. An infectious and inflammatory condition affecting the tissues of the mouth and teeth is called periodontitis. The main cause of periodontal disorders is dental plaque. The development of dental plaque starts with the concentration of Gram-positive streptococci, which are produced by the aggregation of Gram-negative anaerobic bacteria[2]. One of the main reasons for tooth loss is plaque. Plaque causes periodontal and gingival disorders, which impact a patient's dental health and are linked to several systemic illnesses. The major objectives of periodontal disease prevention and therapy are plaque reduction and the elimination of bacterial biofilms from tooth surfaces. The use of various antiseptic chemicals in mouthwash formulations can supplement mechanical clearance of plaque in addition to mechanical control. Clinical studies showed that many of these antimicrobial agents have inhibitory effects on plaque and gingivitis compared to negative controls or a placebo, in the absence of tooth brushing[3]. Antimicrobials were used in addition to SRP since mechanical therapy can be difficult at times because it cannot reach deeply ingrained germs. According to studies, brushing your teeth will only remove 50% of dental plaque; therefore, chemical measures are needed to further reduce the bacterial burden in addition to mechanical measures[4]. The potential of several antimicrobial substances to stop tooth plaque from forming and to stop gingivitis from developing has been investigated. Metal salts (tin fluoride, zinc, and copper)[5], essential oils[6], phenols[7], fluorides (sodium fluoride and stannous fluoride)[8], bisbiguanides (chlorhexidine)[9], sanguinarine, oxygenating agents, and more substances are examples of these microbiological agents. Being a broad-spectrum antiseptic, chlorhexidine (CHX) is the "gold standard" agent for chemical plaque control techniques and is regarded as the most commonly used supplementary antiseptic in periodontal therapy. Furthermore, even low concentrations of CHX may be toxic to gingival fibroblasts, which could slow down periodontal repair by lowering the formation of collagen and non-collagen proteins. Chlorhexidine's substantivity can last up to 12 weeks. Additionally, a growing number of immediate-type allergies, such as anaphylactic shock, occupational asthma, and contact urticaria, have been documented in relation to this substance. Topical application of CHX, especially to mucous membranes, is limited due to the risk of harmful allergic reactions. Ozone is now being regarded in dentistry as a possible alternative antiseptic agent. Ozone has effective antimicrobial activity against bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and viruses and does not induce microbial resistance. There are several actions of ozone such as

- Antimicrobial
- Antiinflammatory and Analgesic
- Formation of Peroxides
- Bioenergetic and Biosynthetic (activation of the metabolism of carbohydrates, proteins and lipids) actions
- Enhancement of Circulation
- Stimulation of oxygen metabolism
- Dissolution of malignant tumors
- Activation of the immune system

Both gaseous and aqueous forms of ozone have been shown to have antimicrobial effects on oral infections in recent studies, and the usefulness of ozone in treating oral disorders is currently a hotly debated topic. Aqueous ozone is highly biocompatible with fibroblasts, cementoblasts, and epithelial cells, according to other findings. This suggests that aqueous ozone could be useful in treating infectious illnesses of the mouth, including periimplantitis, apical periodontitis, and periodontal disease. There are various ways to employ ozone to treat periodontal disease, including gaseous ozone, ozonated water, and ozonated oil. Investigating the clinical efficacy of Ozone Gel with Chlorhexidine Gel at baseline and three months is the goal of the current in-vivo investigation.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the study were to evaluate and compare the effects of subgingival application of Chlorhexidine gel with Ozonated gel for clinical parameters- Periodontal indices (PI), Gingival Indices (GI), pocket depth (PD) and clinical attachment loss (CAL).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design and Settings

The present prospective study was a controlled clinical trial with a split mouth design which was conducted in the Department of Periodontology, Rural Dental College, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Maharashtra Loni from 2021-2024. The study was planned in accordance with the CONSORT 2010 criteria. This study was assessed and accepted by institutional ethics committee, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 as revised in 2000. The study was initiated after getting CTRI registration number as CTRI 2022/6/043056.

Study Population

The patients following exclusion and inclusion criteria were enrolled for the study after getting informed consent in English, Hindi or local language Marathi. A total of 30 patients within the age group of 30 - 60 years belonging to both the genders were allocated. The patients included were suffering from generalized moderate to severe chronic periodontitis, with the presence of at least one site in each quadrant with a probing depth ≥5 mm was selected. While, patients with history of any systemic diseases, smokers, chronic alcoholics, pregnant and lactating women, patients who had received any periodontal therapy in last 6 months, patients with the history of use of any oral rinse or antibiotic therapy in last 6 months were excluded from the study. Patients with history of any systemic diseases, smokers, chronic alcoholics, pregnant and lactating women, patients who had received any periodontal therapy in last 6 months, patients with the history of use of any oral rinse or antibiotic therapy in last 6 months were excluded from the study. A randomized double-blind, split mouth study design was performed. All treatment procedures were performed by a single trained assessor.

Study Groups

The sample population was scrutinized and split mouth design was prepared. The comparator group was Chlorhexidine gel group (CHX) and interventional group was ozonated gel group (OZ). Both the groups had undergone periodontal nonsurgical therapy which included scaling and root planing followed by application of both the gels in the patient. Table 1 depicts the materials used and composition of gels used in the study.

Randomization

The randomization was conducted by lottery system. Equal number of right and left slips were prepared (15 slips each of left and right side). The patient was asked to pick one slip and that was for the interventional group, where Ozonated gel had to be delivered for that particular patient. Similarly, all the patient selected their side of intervention themselves maintaining the randomization.

Blinding

The clinical assistant dispensed the gels in similar coloured syringes which were covered with tapes so that gel colour was not visible to the operator. After the subgingival delivery into the pockets, recording was done by the clinical assistant for the interventional and comparator sites. The delivery of gel was done at baseline, 7 day, 14 day and 21 day by the same operator who was blinded. The statistician was also blinded making the study double blinded. Clinical measurements were recorded in all patients by operator to keep the results blinded.

Clinical Parameters

The following clinical parameters were recorded in all patients: PI according to Silness J and Loe H (1964); GI according to by Loe H and Silness J (1963); PD—It was measured from base of the pocket to the gingival margin at mesiobuccal, midbuccal, distobuccal and lingual surfaces using WHO probe; CAL was measured from base of the pocket to the cementoenamel junction at mesiobuccal, midbuccal, distobuccal and lingual surfaces. Clinical parameters were recorded at baseline (Figure 1) and 6 months after the treatment (Figure 2).

Treatment Procedure

Scaling and root planing (SRP) was carried out in all patients using ultrasonic and hand instruments in two visits. In the first appointment, each patient received full mouth supragingival scaling with a piezoelectric handpiece (EMS). After 1 week, on the second appointment, full mouth subgingival SRP was done using both Gracey curettes (Hu-Friedy) and piezoelectric handpiece under local anaesthesia of 2% lidocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine. Following which, periodontal pockets were assigned to the CHX group and the the pocket on the other side of the mouthwas assigned to the OZgel group. The site with probing pocket depth ≥5 mm was isolated carefully with cotton rolls and thoroughly dried. CHX (0.2%) gel or OZgel wasdelivered carefully locally into sub-gingival pockets with the help of a disposable 2 ml plastic syringe and a 28-gauge needle. (Figure 2) Patients were instructed not to eat, drink or rinse for at least 30 min. Subgingival application of ozonated and chlorhexidine gels was performed immediately after SRP on the second visit at 7 day and repeated at 2nd week and 3rdweek.

Clinical Examination

For measuring the baseline PPD and CAL the clinical stents were placed with the marking groove, the WHO probe was used to measure the pocket through the groove on right side and in a similar manner for the left side. (Figure 1) The recordings were taken at baseline as well as at 3 months with the clinical stent in place. The intraoral radiographs were also taken at baseline (Figure 1) and 3 months. The recordings were taken by the trained assessor who was blinded.

Statistical Analysis

Power calculation and statistical analysis Using G* Power 3.1.9.4 software the sample size was estimated to be 30. A sample size of 35 was recruited to compensate for the possible dropouts during the study. The sample size estimation before the start of the study considered beta error to be 20%. Post- hoc power analysis done after completion using G* Power 3.1.9.4 software suggested that the power achieved in the present study is 100%. Statistical analysis was performed using the statistical software SPSS version 20.Intragroup differences in clinical parameters were analyzed by paired t test, whereas, the intergroup differences were analyzed using independent sample t test. Statistical significance was set at 95% probability level ($P < 0.05$).

Descriptive statistics

Descriptive analysis was used for explaining the outcome and explanatory parameters byusing the frequency and proportions for categorical variables and mean and SD forcontinuous variables.

Inferential statistics

Paired t- test and independent t- test were used to compare the mean values of Periodontal Index (PI), Gingival Index (GI) index, Probing pocket depth and clinical attachment levels between the two groups at different time intervals. P value was set at 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). Both male and female patients were recruited.

RESULTS

Thirty- five patient were recruited in both the groups and five drop outs were there in each group. No discomfort or side effects were reported by any of the patients by the use of ozone gel or chlorhexidine gel. The mean age of the volunteers for Group I, control group (Chlorhexidine group) is 44. 29 years Group I, control group (Chlorhexidine

group) is 44. 29 years and for group II, interventional. group (ozonated gel group) was 45.87 years. The age and gender distribution for both the groups is tabulated in Table 2. At baseline examination, there were no statistically significant differences between the groups with regard to any of the recorded parameters. Both the groups demonstrated significant intragroup reduction in PI, GI, PPD, CAL from baseline to 3 months follow-up. However, on intergroup comparison, no statistically significant differences were found between the CHX and OZgel groups for parameters viz. GI, PI and CAL while for PPD the results were highly significant (p value= 0.001). Table 3, 4, 5 and 6 depicts the comparison of mean values for GI, PI, PPD and CAL respectively.

DISCUSSION

Ozone derives its name from the Greek word "ozein" which means "to smell," named after its characteristic odor usually detected by human nose at 0.02 or 0.05 ppm[10]. It is known to be a potent oxidizer and has the ability to oxidize any known biological entity. The principal action of ozone is its antimicrobial effect on bacteria, virus, and fungi, besides its immunomodulatory, anti-hypoxic, biosynthetic, and anti-inflammatory properties[11,12]. Ozone has been used in the field of medicine for over a century as a disinfectant, to purify blood, and during the World War I it was used to treat gangrene, burn wounds, osteomyelitis, fistulas, and many other infections. Christian Friedrich Schonbein(1839) first noticed the emergence of a pungent gas with an electric smell and called it as ozone. E. A. Fisch(1950) , a German dentist, was the first person to use ozone for disinfection and to aid healing in his own practice . Henceforth, ozone has been accepted as an alternative and complementary therapy[13]. The mechanical removal of plaque and calculus and the adjunctive use of antibiotics and antiseptics have been the conventional methods for periodontal therapy. The powerful antimicrobial action of ozone, with its ability to modulate the immune response makes it a potential therapeutic agent in the treatment of multifactorial periodontal disease. Ozone's potential benefits have drawn a lot of interest to its application in dentistry and medicine in recent years. Numerous investigations have shown that ozonated compounds are effective against a wide range of pathogenic microbes (Colombo *et al*., 2021)[14]. Furthermore, ozone's ability to regulate the immune system, fight hypoxia, lessen inflammation, and encourage tissue regeneration has been acknowledged (Butera *et al*., 2021)[15]. Caries, hard-to-heal wounds, halitosis, oral lichen planus, gingivitis, osteonecrosis of the jaw, tooth sensitivity, temporomandibular disorders, and tooth discolouration are some of the several oral and dental clinical entities that can be treated with ozone (Monzillo *et al*., 2020)[16]. The effectiveness of ozone gel and chlorhexidine gel in treating periodontal pockets was examined in the current randomized controlled clinical trial. Given that both study groups experienced notable improvements in periodontal markers, chlorhexidine and ozone seem to be dependable adjuncts in the treatment of periodontal disease. Nevertheless, a statistically significant difference in PPD levels was observed in the ozone-treated group when the means were compared between the groups at the end of the trial. The study's null hypothesis was partially disproved. In reference to other studies in this field, one examined the effectiveness of chlorhexidine and ozone in treating periodontal disease (Colombo *et al*., 2021)[14]. Ten patients got SRP; ozone hydrogel was used to treat the test sites and chlorhexidine gel was used to treat the control sites. At baseline and one and three months into therapy, indicators such PPD, CAL, gingival index (GI), plaque index (PI), and BOP were measured. According to the current study, there is no discernible difference between using ozonated hydrogel as an adjuvant to SRP and traditional SRP + chlorhexidine. In a randomized controlled clinical trial, Shruthi Nambiar, Sardhar Malothu, Shaswata Karmakar, Anish Varkey, Deepan Chandra, Vijay Kumar Chava, *et al*. (2022) [16] evaluated the effectiveness of chlorhexidine gel and ozonated olive oil as a supplement to nonsurgical periodontal therapy for the treatment of chronic periodontitis. According to the findings, both groups' metrics significantly improved three months after treatment. Nevertheless, the statistical significance of the intergroup comparison was not achieved.When used to treat periodontal disorders, ozonated olive oil may improve the results of SRP. Indurkar MS, Verma R 2016 [17] evaluated and contrasted the clinical effectiveness of chlorhexidine gel and ozonated oil on plaque-induced gingivitis. The study concluded that ozonated oil and chlorhexidine gel, both can be used as an effective agent in maintaining and improving gingival health. Currently, only limited data is available from controlled clinical trials comparing the efficacy of ozone therapy to the gold standard CHX. Another study compared chlorhexidine and ozonized olive oil as adjuncts to SRP forperiodontitis. Nambiar and colleagues

conducted a split-mouth randomized controlled trial with 30 subjects (Nambiar *et al*., 2022)[18]. Kaur A, Bhavikatti SK, Das SS, Khanna S, Jain M, Kaur A investigated the effectiveness of 0.2% chlorhexidine gluconate and ozonized water as an irrigation agent in conjunction with phase I therapy for the treatment of chronic periodontitis. Regarding the improvement in the clinical indicators, the study revealed noteworthy outcomes in both groups. Ozonated water outperformed the chlorhexidine group in terms of improvement when the two groups were compared. However, only the Plaque score showed a statistically significant difference. With the exception of the PPD values, which were significant in our study, the results are consistent with our research[19]. The effectiveness of ozone and chlorhexidine in treating different disease entities has also been compared in other investigations. The effects of topical ozone, chlorhexidine, and metronidazole on palatal wound healing were assessed in a recent study (Acikan *et al*., 2022)[20]. At the histologic level, the researchers discovered that all three therapies enhanced wound healing. Additionally, they came to the conclusion that ozone might be a viable substitute for chlorhexidine in the treatment of diabetic wounds. Another study examined two distinct disinfection methods for root canal therapy of apical periodontitis: one that used ozonized gas and the other that used hypochlorite/chlorhexidine. Gaseous ozone was suggested by the researchers as a possible disinfectant. According to the current investigation, periodontal disease could be effectively treated using nonsurgical mechanical periodontal debridement combined with the tested gels as an adjuvant. Crucially, no discernible changes were seen between the two therapies, suggesting that they are comparable. Nevertheless, since ozone was compared to an active treatment, its effectiveness should be confirmed following comparisons with a control group that did not receive any further treatment. Ozone could take the role of chlorhexidine due to its lack of usually linked side effects, like tooth discolouration, even if no discernible differences were observed with the control therapy (Gallo and Scribante, 2021)[21]. Longer time periods and comparisons between the ozonized oil-based gel and alternative supplementary nonsurgical techniques should be part of future studies. (e.g., photobiomodulation, photodynamic therapy, air polishing powders, and probiotics), both alone and in combination with ozone therapy itself. In addition, it may be interesting to direct research toward natural and more readily available compounds (Ripari, Cera, *et al*., 2020] [22]. The present study aims to evaluate and compare the effects of subgingival application of ozonatedgel and chlorhexidine gel into periodontal pockets as an adjunct to SRP in patients with chronic periodontitis. Ozone is a thousand times more potent than other bacterial killing agents and kills bacteria very quickly at high concentrations. Ozone is utilized in treatments at an average concentration of 25 grams per milliliter of oxygen/ozone gas combination, which is equivalent to 0.25 parts ozone to 99.75 parts oxygen. Ozone efficiently destroys bacteria, fungus, viruses, and parasites at this concentration, according to evidence-based studies. At a significantly lower concentration than chlorine, it functions as a potent oxidant and antibacterial agent without any of the harmful side effects. Ozone destroys harmful organisms 3,500 times faster than chlorine, with one molecule of ozone being equivalent to 3,000–10,000 chlorine molecules[23]. Studies have revealed that it only takes 10 sec to kill 99 % of bacteria, fungi and viruses. [24] It can oxidize many organic compounds and it is a powerful germicide[25].

LIMITATIONS

Regarding other limitations of the study, it should be emphasized that a specific severity and complexity ofperiodontitis i.e. stage 2 was considered as selection criterion. Therefore, the external validity of the study, that is, thegeneralizability of the results to other types of periodontitis, should still be evaluated. The study had follow up at 3 months, the results could also be evaluated at 6 and 9 months to evaluate the long term stability of periodontal status.

CONCLUSION

Both chlorhexidine and ozone appear to be reliable adjuncts in the treatment of periodontal disease, as significant improvements in periodontal parameters occurred in both study groups. The adjunctive use of ozonated gel in the treatment of chronic periodontitis significantly improves clinical results and is equally effective as chlorhexidine, and at the same time is free from adverse effects, so a better alternative to chlorhexidine gel.

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Table 1: Materials used and composition of gels used in the study

OZORAL GEL	Innovares Srl, Sant'Ilario d'Enza, RE, Italy	Ozonized sunflower seed oil/Heliantus annuus (sunflower) seed oil (product with ozone), aqua/water, carbomer, polycarbophil, aroma/flavor, glycerin, glyceryl caprylate, ascorbyl palmitate, sodium hydroxide, sodium saccharin, tocopherol, illicium verum fruit/seed oil/illicium verum (anise) fruit/seed oil, limonene, linalool, disodium EDTA
Curasept Periodontal Gel (with 1% chlorhexidine)	Curasept S.p.A, Saronno, VA, Italy	Propylene glycol, purified water, sodium metabisulfite, aroma, sodium acetate, hydroxy ethyl cellulose, acetic acid, PEG-40 hydrogenated castor oil, PVP/VA copolymer, chlorhexidine digluconate, and ascorbic acid

Table 2: Age and Gender distribution in both CHX and OZ gel

Parameters	**GrpI (CHX)N=30**	**GrpII(OZ)N=30**
Age	44.29±9.30	45.87±9.219
Gender	Male-21(46.7%)	Male-23(48.9%)
	Female-24(53.3%)	Female-24(51.1%)
	1.53±0.50	1.51±0.50

Table 3: Comparison of meanvalues of Gingival index

Groups	Baseline	3 months	Pvalue(Intragroup Comparison)
Group I(CHX)	1.968 ±0.37	1.462 ±0.45	0.001
GroupII(Ozonegel)	2.128 ±0.30	1.53 ±0.44	0.005
Pvalue(Intergroup Comparison)	0.07	0.52	
t value	-1.808	-0.644	

Table 4: ComparisonofmeanvaluesofPlaque Index

Groups	Baseline	3 months	P value (IntragroupComparison)
Group I(CHX)	2.01 ± 0.42	1.496 ± 0 .48	0.001
GroupII(Ozonegel)	2.30 ± 0.57	1.491 ± 0.56	0.001
P value (IntergroupComparison)	0.03	0.96	
t value	-2.207	0.039	

Table 5: ComparisonofmeanvaluesofPPD

Groups	Baseline	3 months	Pvalue(Intragroup Comparison)
Group I(CHX)	4.61 ±1.13	2.40 ±1.01	0.001
GroupII(Ozonegel)	5.10 ±1.06	3.06 ±0.87	0.002
Pvalue(Intergroup Comparison)	0.001	0.001	
T value	-3.61	-5.68	

Table 6: ComparisonofmeanvaluesofCAL

Groups	Baseline	3 months	P value (Intragroup Comparison)
Group I(CHX)	3.50 ±0.50	2.08 ±0.61	0.001
GroupII(Ozonegel)	3.50 ±0.50	2.16 ±0.59	0.001
Pvalue(Intergroup Comparison)	1.00	0.30	
T value	0.00	-1.04	

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Microscopic Perspectives on the Structure of Heterosporous Fern *Selaginella* P. Beauv

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ABSTRACT

This investigation highlights the morphological and anatomical diversity observed among four species of *Selaginella* P. Beauv. (*S. ciliaris*, *S. delicatula*, *S. wightii* and *S. tenera*). Morphological characterization considered traits such as stem orientation and colour, position of rhizophores, and the form, arrangement, and margin of leaves. While *S. ciliaris* and *S. wightii* were characterized by creeping stems, *S. delicatula* and *S. tenera* exhibited an erect growth pattern. Rhizophore distribution also differed: in *S. ciliaris* and *S. wightii* they arose at branching nodes, in *S. delicatula* from the lower portions of the stem, and in *S. tenera* from the basal third. Species-specific distinctions were particularly evident in median and lateral leaf characters. Anatomical studies based on transverse sections revealed interspecific differences in the number of root vascular bundles, xylem configuration within the rhizophore, and the organization of the stem stele. Despite these variations, trabeculae and exarch xylem remained consistent features. Such morpho-anatomical traits serve as reliable taxonomic markers for distinguishing species within the genus.

Keywords: Morphological and Anatomical, *selaginella* p. Beauv., *S. delicatula* and *S. tenera*, Rhizophore, trabeculae and Exarch Xylem

INTRODUCTION

Selaginella P. Beauv., the only extant genus in the family Selaginellaceae, represents one of the most ancient lineages of vascular plants, with origins tracing back nearly 440 million years (Weng and Noel, 2013; Nguyen *et al*., 2015). The genus comprises more than 700 species, predominantly distributed in tropical and subtropical zones, yet it extends into diverse ecosystems ranging from alpine tundra (*S. selaginoides*, *S. rupestris*) to desert habitats (*S. lepidophylla*, *S. sartorii*). A majority of species flourish in rainforest environments. Their persistence under extreme ecological conditions is facilitated by specialized traits, including waxy cuticles, drought-induced stem curling (Adame *et al*., 2019; Uphof, 1920), high intracellular trehalose content, the presence of bizonoplasts in *S. erythropus*, and iridescent foliage in species such as *S. willdenowii* and *S. uncinata.* Taxonomically, *Selaginella* has been divided into seven subgenera (Weststrand and Korall, 2016). Among them, *S. lepidophylla*, known as the "false rose of Jericho," is recognized as a poikilohydric resurrection plant, while *S. apoda* is valued as a fast-growing lycophyte with model-system potential (Schulz *et al*., 2010). Members of the genus are a reservoir of phytochemicals, particularly biflavonoids such as amentoflavone and ginkgetin, which display diverse pharmacological effects including antioxidant, anticancer, and anti-inflammatory activities. Additional compounds such as phenolics, alkaloids, terpenoids, and trehalose further enhance their medicinal significance. Conservation attention is warranted since many taxa, especially those from humid and cool habitats, are increasingly vulnerable to anthropogenic disturbances and climate change. Biosystematic studies on *Selaginella* employ a multidisciplinary framework, incorporating morphology, ecology, genetics, and phytochemistry to elucidate evolutionary affinities. Nevertheless, frequent misidentification occurs because of the high degree of morphological resemblance among species, which in turn leads to errors in herbal drug preparations. To achieve reliable identification, careful assessment of traits such as pinnule and pinna dimensions, number, scale or hair patterns on the rachis and costae, and the occurrence of indusia is necessary. The use of stereomicroscopy, high-resolution imaging, and detailed morpho-anatomical evaluations has been recommended (Maideen *et al*., 2013). In the present work, the morpho-anatomical features of four selected *Selaginella* species were examined to clarify their taxonomic distinctiveness and interrelationships.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of plant materials

Healthy and matured plant material of *Selaginella* species for Morpho-anatomical studies was collected from different parts of the Valparai Hills, Western Ghats, as a part of a taxonomic study of Pteridophytes.

Preparation of specimens

The collected plant materials were washed with ethanol in order to remove dust and dirt. Materials such as young and mature root, rhizophore and stem was cut into small pieces and individually preserved in screw-cap bottles containing fixative, formalin acetic acid alcohol (FAA) for further studies. The fixative was prepared by mixing 50 ml of 95% ethyl alcohol, 2.5ml of glacial acetic acid, 5.5ml of formaldehyde and 42ml of distilled water (Thomas, 2004).

Morphological studies

The Morphological features such as stem colour and length, rhizophore length, leaves shape, colour, length and arrangments, leaf margin, size and shape of the strobili were examined for correct identification and to prepare artificial key of selected species.

Anatomical studies

The anatomical study of the collected species of the common pteridophytes was carried out through preparing thin free hand section of root, rhizophore and stem using razor blade and subject to series of concentrations of ethanol in order to remove the water content present in the section.The dehydrated sections was then stained by using safranin. The section was placed on a clean slide and mounted using 50% glycerine and which were examined under high

power microscope to identify the vascular bundles, epidermis, cortex, parenchymatous cells, sclerenchyma and collenchyma cells and also pericycle, endodermis and pith (Johansen, 1940).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

MORPHOLOGICAL STUDIES

Based on the analysis of features such as stem colour and nature, rhizophore arrangement, leaves shape and arrangements, leaf margin, four *Selaginella* species were differentiated morphologically and the artificial key has prepared.

Morphological studies of stem

In *Selaginella ciliaris,* main stem was shortly creeping or prostrate, rooting throughout its length. In *Selaginella delicatula,* suberect or erect stem, rooting at base only. In *Selaginella wightii* creeping stem, with much branched, greenish during wet season and silvery or greyish- white and curled when dry. Stem was fully covered with leaves. In *Selaginella tenera,* stem was erect and pink, rooting at the base only, alternate branches which several times branched into secondary branches and vegetative buds were also seen.

Stem of *Selaginella ciliaris* (Fig 1)
Stem of*Selaginella delicatula* (Fig 2)
Stem of*Selaginella wightii* (Fig 3)
Stem of*Selaginella tenera* (Fig 4)

Key to the species based on the morphology of stem

1a.Stemsub-erect, rooting at base only	*S. delicatula*
1b.Stemprostrate, rooting throughoutits length	*S. ciliaris*
2a.Vegetativebudspresent	*S. tenera*
2b.Vegetativebudsabsent…	S. wightii

Selaginella ciliaris and *Selaginella wightii* typically has a creeping stem habit while *Selaginella delicatula* and *Selaginella tenera* remains erect growth habit. Similar studies were reported by William and Terry in 1976. An anatomical and morphological comparison of *Selaginella apoda* and *Selaginella ludoviciana*. In. *Selaginella ludoviciana* typically has an erect growth habit while *S. apoda* remains prostrate. Xin-Mao and Li-Bing in 2015 has studied the classification of *Selaginella* (Selaginellaceae) based on molecular, macromorphological, and spore features. The result of the study was species of *Selaginella* can be erect, climbing, creeping, prostrate, epiphytic and rosette-forming.

Morphological studies of Rhizophore

In *Selaginella ciliaris* the rhizophore is located at branching point of stem and in *Selaginella delicatula* rhizophore is restricted to lower part of stem or up to middle of stem main stem. In *Selaginella wightii* rhizophores are thick and located at the branching point of stem. In *Selaginella tenera* rhizophore is thick, long, restricted to basal one third.

Rhizophore of *Selaginella ciliaris* (Fig 5)
Rhizophore of *Selaginella delicatula* (Fig 6)
Rhizophore of *Selaginella wightii* (Fig 7)
Rhizophore of *Selaginella tenera* (Fig 8)

Key to the species based on the morphology of rhizophore

Thick rhizophore

Rhizophore at every branching point of stem	*S. wightii*
Rhizophore restricted to lower poin tof stem	*S. delicatula*
Rhizophore dichotomously branched	*S. tenera*

Thin rhizophore

Rhizophore at every branching point of stem *S. ciliaris*

In *Selaginella ciliaris* and *Selaginella wightii,*the rhizophore was located at branching point of stem while in *Selaginella delicatula,* rhizophore was restricted to lower part of stem and in *Selaginella tenera,* rhizophore was restricted to basal one third. Numerous studies were conductedbyKelly *et al.* in 2017 and they had reported, rhizophore vascularization in nine*Selaginella* species. Of the nine species, seven exhibit central divergence, one species is characterized by stem divergence (*S.* sp. 2), and one by branch divergence (*S. wallacei*).

Morphological studies of leaves

In *Selaginella ciliaris* median leaf was ovate to narrowly ovate, margins denticulate; lateral leaves oblong, ovate, margin ciliate. In *Selaginella delicatula,* median leaf ovate to lanceolate, entire aristate; lateral leaves oblong acute. In *Selaginella wightii,* leaves isomorphic throughout, linear, triangular, fimbriate, stiff, spirally arranged, long acuminate at apex, margin ciliate, the cilia piliform at base but dentiform towards apex. In *Selaginella tenera,* leaves heteromorphic throughout, distant towards base; median leaves small, ascending ovate, aristate ,arista is long, acuminate, ciliolate; lateral leaves spreading, oblong lanceolate, acroscopic margin, obliqueat base, ovate, obtuse.

Leaf of*Selaginella ciliaris* (Fig 9)
Leaf of*Selaginella delicatula* (Fig 10)
Leaf of *Selaginella wightii* (Fig11)
Leaf of *Selaginella tenera* (Fig 12)

Key to the species based on the morphology of leaves

Dimorphic

1a.Apex of lateral leaves sub-acute	*S. ciliaris*
1b.Apex of lateral leaves apiculate	*S. delicatula*
1c.Apex of lateral leaves lanceolate	*S. tenera*

Isomorphic

2a.Leaves linerar, fimbriate *S. wightii*

In the present studies, the leaf morphology of these four *Selaginella* species have difference in leaves shape, arrangements and leaf margin. Similar studies were studied by William and Terry in 1976. They studied the anatomy of the two taxa *Selaginella ludoviciana* and *S. apoda.* Both species have difference in leaf morphology. Comparative leaf morphology and anatomy of six *Selaginella* species was studied by Belen*etal.,* 2019. The six isophyllous species of Mexican *Selaginella* (subgen. *Rupestrae*): *S.arsenei*, *S.extensa*, *S.peruviana*, *S.rupincola*, *S. sellowii* and *S. wrightii.* All studied species have small lanceolate vegetative leaves, and have hypostomatic leaves, with a central longitudinal stomatal groove on the abaxial surface.

Anatomical Studies

Based on the shape of the vascular bundle in root, rhizophore and stem all the four studied Selaginella are anatomically differentiated and the artificial key was prepared.

Transverse section of *Selaginella ciliaris* root

Transverse section of *Selaginella ciliaris* root consists of centrally located stele surrounded by cortex and epidermis. Some epidermal cells arise root hairs, below the epidermis are few layers of parenchymatous cortex. Pericycle is one to three-layered. Stele is monarch and exarch, consist of two vascular bundles. Metaxylem is present in the centre having two proto xylem groups on two opposite ends. Phloem is surrounding the xylem.

Transverse section of *Selaginella delicatula* root

Transverse section of *Selaginella delicatula* root possesses unicellular root hairs over the epidermis. Just below the epidermis is present a wide zone of cortex. The cortex is made up of thin-walled parenchymatous cells or there may be sclerenchymatous outer cortex, 3to5celledinthickness.Endodermisisfollowedbyonetothreelayeredpericycle.It is made up of parenchymatous cells. Xylem is exarch in condition, metaxylem present towards the centre and protoxylem present towards the periphery.

Transverse section of *Selaginella wightii* root

Transverse section of *Selaginella wightii* root consist of one cell thickness epidermis. Just below the epidermis is present a wide zone of cortex. Endodermis is well defined with one cell thickness. Vascular bundle is of protostelic type**.** Vascular bundle is amphicribal, in which phloem surrounds the xylem. Xylem is exarch in condition, meta xylem present towards the centre and proto xylem present towards the periphery. Pith is absent at the centre.

Transverse section of *Selaginella tenera* root:

Transverse section of *Selaginella tenera* root is differentiated into epidermis, cortex, and vascular bundle. Some epidermal cells arise unicellular root hairs. Epidermis followed by sclerenchymatous hypodermis and parenchymatous ground tissue. Vascular bundle is of protostelictype**.** Vascular bundle is amphicribal, in which phloem surrounds the xylem. Xylem is exarch in condition, metaxylem present towards the centre and protoxylem present towards the periphery. Pith is absent at the centre.

T.S of *Selaginella ciliaris* root (Fig 13)

Fig 14 -T.S of *Selaginella delicatula* root

Fig 15-T.S of *Selaginella wightii* root

Fig 16- T.S of *Selaginella tenera* root

Key to the species based on the anatomy of root

Double vascular bundle

1a.Vascularbundlesare monarch *S. ciliaris*

Single vascular bundle

2a.Vascularbundlearediarch *S. delicatula*

2b.Vascularbundlearemonarch *S. tenera*

2c.Vascularbundlearetriarch *S. wightii*

Similar studies were studied by William and Terry in 1976. The study was about an anatomical and morphological comparison of *Selaginella apoda* and *Selaginella ludoviciana*. Based on the comparison of the anatomy of roots, in both species adventitious roots arise at the dichotomies of the stem and exhibit a monarch form and exarch xylem maturation.

Transverse section of *Selaginella ciliaris* rhizophore

The internal structure of rhizophore is almost similar to that of root. It is also circular in outline. Epidermis is single layered and root hairs absent. Inner to the epidermis is present a wide zone of cortex differentiated into outer sclerenchymatous and inner parenchymatous zones. Stele is typically protostele. The xylem is surrounded by phloem. Xylem shows distinct protoxylem and metaxylem elements.

Transverse section of *Selaginella delicatula* rhizophore

Transverse section of *Selaginella delicatula* rhizophore is circular in outline. It is single layered and the outer wall of epidermal cells is covered with a thick cuticle. Inner to the epidermis is present a wide zone of cortex differentiated in to outer sclerenchymatous and inner parenchymatous zones. Endodermis is also single layered. Inside the endodermis is present a single layered parenchymatous pericycle. The xylem is surrounded by phloem. Xylem shows distinct protoxylem and metaxylem elements. xylem is exarch.

Transverse section of *Selaginella wightii* rhizophore

Internal structure of rhizophore is almost similar in all species.It is circular in outline. It is single layered and the outer wall of epidermal cells is covered with a thick cuticle. Root hairs and stomata are absent. Inner to the epidermis is present a wide zone of cortex. Endodermis is also single layered. Inside the endodermis is present a single layered parenchymatous pericycle.Xylem shows distinct protoxylem and metaxylem elements. xylem is exarch.

Transverse section of *Selaginella tenera* rhizophore

Transverse section of *Selaginella tenera* rhizophore has an epidermis followed by sclerenchymatous hypodermis and parenchymatous ground tissue. Vascular bundle is of protostelic type. Usually, the rhizophores are with two groups of xylems surrounded by phloem. The xylem is exarch.

T.S of *S.ciliaris* rhizophore (Fig 17)
T. S of *S.delicatula* rhizophore (Fig 18)
T.S of *S.wightii* rhizophore (Fig 19)
T.S of *S. tenera* rhizophore (Fig 20)

Key to the species based on the anatomy of rhizophore
Distelic
1a.Uniform parenchymatous cortex *S. tenera*

Monostelic
2a.Thick cuticle, parenchymatous cortex *S. ciliaris*
2b.Thick cuticle,sclerenchymatous and parenchymatous cortex *S. wightii*
2c.Thin cuticle, sclerenchymatous and parenchymatous cortex *S. delicatula*

In present study, almost all rhizophores are similar expect *S. tenera*, it has two groups of xylems. Morpho-anatomical studies on *Selaginella tenera* for the identification of physico-chemical in *selaginella tenera* is carried out by Suganya *etal.,* in2011.Based on this study the anatomy of rhizophores and roots are similar to stem except for the presence of trabeculae in the vascular bundle. Usually, the rhizophores are with two groups of xylems surrounded by phloem. Another study based on the Vascularization of the *Selaginella* rhizophore in nine species is carried out by Kelly *et.al.* in2017. In the nine *Selaginella* species they surveyed, the architecture of the vascular supply of the rhizophore falls into three main types:(1) the vascular bundle supplying the rhizophore diverges centrally, from the angle between stem stele and branch stele; (2) the rhizophore trace diverges from the stele of the main stem, close to but above the divergence of the branch stele; and (3) the rhizophore trace diverges from the stele of the side branch above the divergence of the latter from the main stem stele.

Transverse section of *Selaginella ciliaris* stem

Transverse section of *Selaginella ciliaris* stem is somewhat circular and the epidermis is the outer most covering layer comprising of a single cell in thickness. The cells of the epidermis are without hairs. Inner to the epidermis is present a well-defined zone of cortex. The central portion of the stem is occupied by a well-developed stele. The stele is of protostelic type i.e., xylem is present in the centre and surrounded by phloem on all sides. Phloem, in turn, is surrounded by a single layered pericycle. Pith is absent. The stele remains suspended in the centre by radially elongated tubular, unicellular structures called trabeculae. In between the trabeculae large spaces are present known as air spaces.

Transverse section of *Selaginella delicatula* stem

Transverse section of *Selaginella delicatula* stem is irregular in shape. The epidermis is the outer most covering layer comprising of a single cell in thickness. Inner to the epidermis is present awell-defined zone of cortex where three stellar regionis arranged i.e., called tristelic stem. In these vascular bundles the middle one is large and other two are small. Xylem is present in the centre and surrounded by phloem on all sides.The stele remains suspended in the

centre by radially elongated tubular, unicellular structures called trabeculae. In between the trabeculae large spaces are present known as air spaces. Xylem is exarch and sometimes mesarch.

Transverse section of *Selaginella* wightii stem

Transverse section of *Selaginella* wightii stem is star shaped. Outer side consists of multi lacunar leaf traces followed by single cell epidermis. Inner to the epidermis is present a well-defined zone of cortex. The central portion of the stem is occupied by a well-developed stele.The stele is of protostelic type i.e.,xylem is present in the centre and surrounded by Phloem on all sides. Phloem,in turn,is surrounded by a single layered pericycle.Pith is absent. Well defined meta xylem and proto xylem is present. Xylem is exarch.

Transverse section of *Selaginella tenera* stem

Transverse section of *Selaginella tenera* stem is some what irregular in shape and the epidermis is the outer most covering layer comprising of a single cell in thickness. Inner to the epidermis is present a well-defined zone of cortex. The central portion of the stem is occupied by a well-developed stele. The stele is of protostelic type. Phloem, in turn, is surrounded by a single layered pericycle. Pith is absent. The stele remains suspended in the centre by radially elongated tubular, unicellular structures called trabeculae.In between the trabeculae large spaces are present knownas air spaces. Xylem is exarch.

Key to thes pecies based on the anatomy of stem

Trabaculae present

1a.Monostelic, sclerenchymatous cortex	*S. ciliaris*
2a.Monostelic, sclerenchymatous hypodermis	*S. tenera*
2c.Tristelic, sclerenchymatous hypodermis	*S. delicatula*

Trabaculae absent

2a.Monostelic, leaf trace prominent *S. wightii*

T.S of *Selaginella ciliaris* stem (Fig 21)
T.S of *Selaginella delicatula* stem (Fig 22)
T.S of *Selaginella* wightii stem (Fig 23)
T. S of *Selaginella tenera* stem (Fig 24)

The result of my study is the arrangement of stelar region is different in different species and the common character of T.S of stem is the presence of trabeculae and the xylem is arranged in exarch condition. William and Terry in 1976 studied the anatomy of the two taxa *Selaginella ludoviciana* and *S. apoda* and the result of the study was the stellar pattern of the stem is protostelic, with the stele suspended by trabeculae in a lacuna. Xylem maturation is exarch in the stem.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Variations in morphological and anatomical studies of stem, rhizophore, root and leaf of four species of *selaginella P*.Beauv in Valparai Hills and Western Ghats of Kerala have been studied and documented. Morphological studies were based on the stem colour and nature, rhizophore arrangement, leaves shape and arrangements, leaf margin. In *Selaginella ciliaris* and *Selaginella wightii* typically has a creeping stem habit while *Selaginella delicatula* and *Selaginella tenera* remains erect growth habit. Based on the morphology of rhizophore in *Selaginella ciliaris* and *Selaginella wightii*the rhizophore is located at branching point of stem while in *Selaginella delicatula* rhizophore is restricted to lower part of stem and in *Selaginella tenera* rhizophore is restricted to basal one third. Based on the morphology of leaves in *Selaginella ciliaris* median leaf is ovate to narrowly ovate, margins denticulate; lateral leaves oblong, ovate, margin ciliate. In *Selaginella delicatula* median leaf ovate to lanceolate, entire aristate; lateral leaves oblong acute. In

Selaginella wightii leaves triangular, fimbriate, stiff, spirally arranged.In *Selaginella tenera* leaves, distant towards base; median leaves small, ascending ovate, aristate. Based on the anatomy of root *Selaginella ciliaris* consist of two vascularbundles. In *Selaginella delicatula* and *Selaginella tenera* transverse section of root is almost same. Based on anatomy of rhizophore almost all rhizophores are similar expect *S. tenera*,it has two groups of xylems. Based on the anatomy of stem arrangement of stellar region is different in different species and the common character of T.S of stem is the presence of trabeculae and the xylem is arranged in exarch condition. The morphological and anatomical studies on four species of *Selaginella* gives additional evidence for its proper identification.

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Fig 1- Stem of*Selaginella ciliaris*



Fig 2- Stem of*Selaginella delicatula*



Fig 3-Stem ofSelaginella wightii



Fig 4- Stem of*Selaginella tenera*

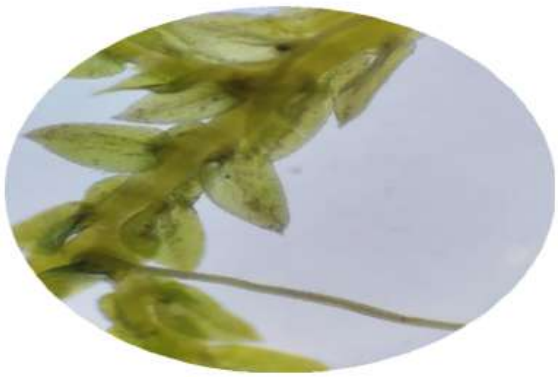


Fig 5-Rhizophore of *Selaginella ciliaris*

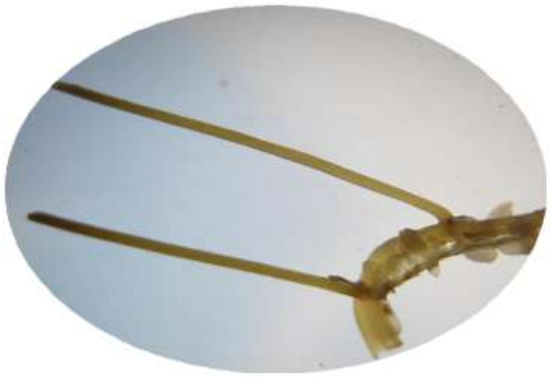


Fig 6-Rhizophore of *Selaginella delicatula*



Fig 7-Rhizophore of *Selaginella wightii*



Fig 8- Rhizophore of *Selaginella tenera*

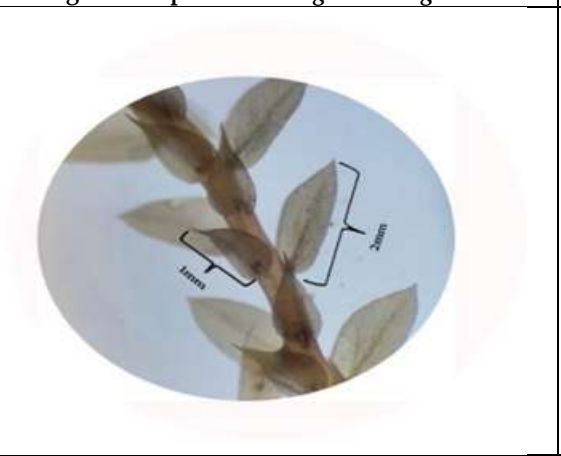


Fig 9-Leaf of*Selaginella ciliaris*



Fig 10-Leaf of*Selaginella delicatula*



Fig11-Leafof*Selaginella wightii*



Fig12- Leaf of *Selaginella tenera*



Fig 13: T.S of *Selaginella ciliaris* root



Fig 14: T.S of *Selaginella delicatula* root



Fig 15: T.S of *Selaginella wightii* root

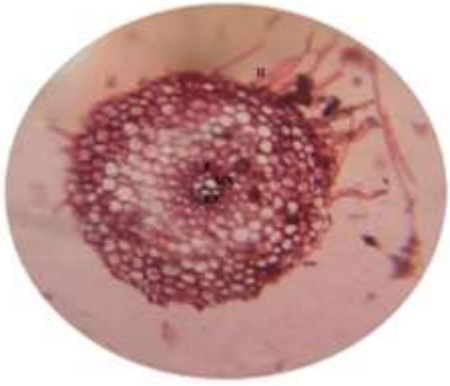


Fig 16: T.S of *Selaginella tenera* root



Fig 17: T.S of *S.ciliaris* rhizophore



Fig 18: T. S of *S.delicatula* rhizophore

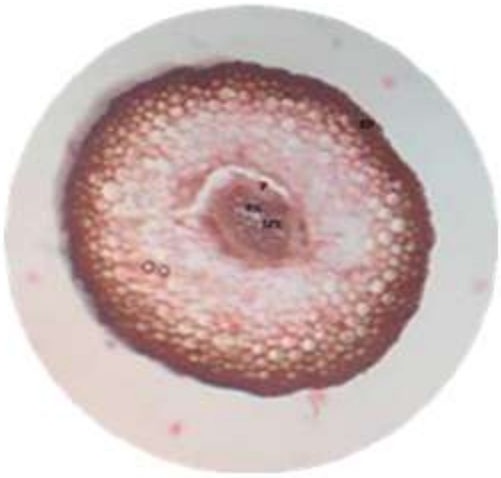


Fig 19: T.S of *S.wightii* rhizophore



Fig 20: T.S of *S. tenera* rhizophore

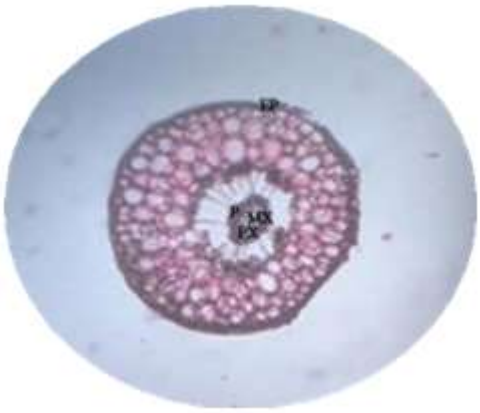


Fig 21: T.S of *Selaginella ciliaris* stem



Fig 22: T.S of *Selaginella delicatula* stem



Fig 23: T.S of *Selaginella* wightii stem



Fig 24: T. S of *Selaginella tenera* stem

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Recurring Average Penalty Method for Optimal Solution of Assignment Problem

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we have introduced a new method for finding optimal solution for assignment problem. This new method contains very simple arithmetical calculations. Existing Hungarian method of finding optimal solution requires more iterations and time consuming method. Our method is simple and time saving method as compared to existing method. Further we have illustrated with suitable examples and same is calculated in 'R' program.

Keywords: AP, ROP, COP, Hungarian Assignment Problem.

INTRODUCTION

Assignment problem is a specific part of a transportation problem where both supply and demand constraints are equal to one. It is a basic application in which our objective is to assign a number of jobs to number of machines at a minimum cost. The assignment technique may be useful for assignment of operators to machines, classes to rooms, drivers to trucks, vehicles to routs, draftsmen to task, counters to salesman etc. Many researchers have attempted and solved assignment problems by developing their own methods, But Hungarian method is the best method for solving assignment problem. This method was introduced by Kuhn in 1955.Dr. Rao. And Dr. Shrinivas Developed an effective algorithm for finding the optimal solution of an assignment problem. Dr. Kore B.G. developed a new approach to solve unbalanced assignment problem. R. Sophia Porchelvi and M. Anitha introduced optimal solution for assignment problem by Average total opportunity cost method.

Mathematical Formulation

Given m number of classes and n number of rooms and effectiveness of each class for each room the problem lies in allocating each class to one and only one room so that the given problem is optimized.

Rooms

	1	2	……..	n	
1	C11	C12	……	C1n	1
2	C21	C22	……	C2n	1
	.	.	.	.	.
Classes	.				
.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.
M	Cm1	Cm2	……	Cmn	1
	1	1	……	1	

Let, Yij Denote the assignment of resource I to activity J such that Yij=0 if the I^{th} class is not assigned to J^{th} room and Yij=1, if the Ith class is assigned to the Jth room. and Cij represent the cost of assignment of class to room.

The mathematical model is

Subject to,

Minimize Z=Z=$\sum^{m}$

m

nj=1

$^{C}ij^{Y}ij$

$\Sigma Y_{ij}=1$,

j=1m

$\Sigma Y_{ij}=1$,

i=1

And Y_{ij}=0or1,for all i andj.

Algorithm of proposed method

STEP 1: Deduct least cost from every element of every row of cost matrix and put it on right top of that element

STEP 2: Deduct least cost from every element of every column of cost matrix and put it on right top of that element

STEP 3: a) ROP:- Find row penalty by taking average of right tops of the costs of that rows

b) COP:-Find column penalty by taking average of right bottom of the costs of that Column

STEP 4: Identify the top most ROP and COP and allocate this cell having m in value of element in corresponding ROP and COP. If there is a tie between maximum penalty then select arbitrarily and remove that row and column

STEP 5: Repeat STEP 3 to STEP 4 to until an optimal solution is obtained.

Numerical Examples

Ex.(1)

Consider the following assignment problem

	J1	**J2**	**J3**	**J4**	**J5**
M1	**12**	**8**	**7**	**15**	**4**
M2	**7**	**9**	**1**	**14**	**10**
M3	**9**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**7**
M4	**7**	**6**	**14**	**6**	**10**
M5	**9**	**6**	**12**	**10**	**6**

Solution

Subtract min cost from every element of every row of table and put it on right top of that element and similarly Subtract min cost from every element of every column of table and put it on right bottom of that element.

	J1	J2	J3	J4	J5
M1	12^{8} 5	$_{8}4$ 2	$_{7}3$ 6	$_{15}11$ 9	$_{4}0$ 0
M2	$_{7}6$ 0	$_{9}8$ 3	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{14}13$ 8	10^{9} 6
M3	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	12^{6} 11	$_{6}0$ 0	$_{7}1$ 3
M4	$_{7}1$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	14^{8} 13	$_{6}0$ 0	10^{4} 6
M5	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	12^{6} 11	10^{4} 4	$_{6}0$ 2

Iiteration

	J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	ROP
M1	12^{8} 5	$_{8}4$ 2	$_{7}3$ 6	$_{15}11$ 9	$_{4}0$ 0	5.2
M2	$_{7}6$ 0	$_{9}8$ 3	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{14}13$ 8	10^{9} 6	7.2
M3	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	12^{6} 11	$_{6}0$ 0	$_{7}1$ 3	2
M4	$_{7}1$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	14^{8} 13	$_{6}0$ 0	10^{4} 6	2.6
M5	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	12^{6} 11	10^{4} 4	$_{6}0$ 2	2.6
COP	1.8	1	8.2	4.2	3.4	

Since maximum penalty is 8.2 in third column and least cost in this row is in cell (2,3)

IIiteration

	J1	J2	J4	J5	ROP
M1	12^{8} 5	$_{8}4$ 2	$_{15}11$ 9	$_{4}0$ 0	5.75
M3	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	$_{7}1$ 3	1
M4	$_{7}1$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	10^{4} 6	1.25
M5	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	10^{4} 4	$_{6}0$ 2	1.75
COP	2.25	0.5	3.25	2.75	

Since maximum penalty is 5.75 in first row and least cost in this row is in cell (1,5)II Iiteration

	J1	J2	J4	ROP
M3	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	1
M4	$_{7}1$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	0.333
M5	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	10^{4} 4	2.333
COP	1.333	0	1.333	

Since maximum penalty is 2.333 in fifth row and least cost in this row is in cell (5,2) IV iteration

	J1	J4	ROP
M3	$_{9}3$ 2	$_{6}0$ 0	1.5
M4	$_{7}1$ 0	$_{6}0$ 0	0.5
COP	1	0	

Since maximum penalty is 1.5 in third row and least cost in this row is in cell (3,4)Optimal solution

Machines	Jobs	cost
M1	J5	4
M2	J3	1
M3	J4	6
M4	J1	7
M5	J2	6

Hence the minimum cost=4+1+6+7+6=24

Ex.(2)

Consider the following assignment problem

	R1	R2	R3	R4
C1	4	5	2	5
C2	3	1	1	4
C3	13	1	7	4
C4	12	6	5	9

Solution

Subtract min cost from every element of every row of table and put it on right top of that element and similarly Subtract min cost from every element of every column of table and put it on right bottom of that element.

	R1	R2	R3	R4
C1	$_{4}2$ 1	$_{5}3$ 4	$_{2}0$ 1	$_{5}3$ 1
C2	$_{3}2$ 0	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{4}3$ 0
C3	$_{13}12$ 10	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{7}6$ 6	$_{4}3$ 0
C4	12^{7} 9	$_{6}1$ 5	$_{5}0$ 4	$_{9}4$ 5

Iiteration

	R1	R2	R3	R4	ROP
C1	$_{4}2$ 1	$_{5}3$ 4	$_{2}0$ 1	$_{5}3$ 1	2
C2	$_{3}2$ 0	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{4}3$ 0	4.25
C3	$_{13}12$ 10	$_{1}0$ 0	$_{7}6$ 6	$_{4}3$ 0	5.25
C4	12^{7} 9	$_{6}1$ 5	$_{5}0$ 4	$_{9}4$ 5	3
COP	5	2.25	2.75	1.5	

Since maximum penalty is 5.25 in third row and least cost in this row is in cell (3,2) IIiteration

	R1	R3	R4	ROP
C1	$_4$2 1	$_2$0 1	$_5$3 1	1.667
C2	$_3$2 0	$_1$0 0	$_4$3 0	1.667
C4	12^7 9	$_5$0 4	$_9$4 5	3.667
COP	3.333	1.667	2	

Since maximum penalty is 3.667 in four throw and least cost in this row is in cell(4,3)

	R1	R4	ROP
C1	$_4$2 1	$_5$3 1	2.5
C2	$_3$2 0	$_4$3 0	2.5
COP	0.5	0.5	

Here is tie between maximum penalties in row 1 and row 2, we select arbitrarily first row and least cost in this row is in cell (1,1)

Optimal solution

Classes	Rooms	cost
C1	R1	4
C2	R4	4
C3	R2	1
C4	R3	5

Hence the minimum cost=4+4+1+5=14

CONCLUSION

In this paper we introduced a new method for solving assignment problem. Here we have solved different types of examples; the results obtained by this proposed method are same as that of results obtained by Hungarian method. This proposed method is easy and time saving method as compared to Hungarian method.

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

In-Vitro and *In-Vivo* Assessment of Anti-Oxidant and Antiurolithiatic Activity of Hydro-Alcoholic Extract of *Pentas lanceolata* (Forssk.) Deflers in Ethylene Glycol Induced Urolithiasis in Rats

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study was to assess for *In-vitro* and *In-vivo* assessment of anti-oxidant and anti-urolithiatic activity of the *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers in ethylene glycol induced Urolithiasis in rats. HAEPL was prepared by macerating *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers stem bark and leaves powder in *hydro-alcoholic* solvents (ethanol and water). The dried extracts were subjected to preliminary phytochemical analysis and quantitative analysis *in-vitro* inhibition of nitric oxide radical and DPPH radical scavenging assay is a measure of anti-oxidant activity. *In-vitro* techniques such as nucleation, aggregation assays were performed using different concentrations (20, 40, 60, and 80mg/mL) of HAEPL

and the standard drug Cystone to determine their Calcium oxalate (CaOx) crystals inhibitory potential. In albino rats, (n=6) calculi were induced by oral administration of Ethylene glycol (0.75% v/v) for 28 days. The doses (200 and 400mg/kg) of HAEPL were administered orally to albino rats. Various pathological parameters such as body and kidney weight, serum (creatinine, blood urea nitrogen, and uric acid), urinary (calcium, creatinine, urea, uric acid and volume) analysis, and kidney histopathology were executed. The preliminary phytochemical analysis showed the presence of Flavonoids, Phenols, Alkaloids, Glycosides (Cardiac), Saponins, Tannins, Proteins, and Amino acids, Sterols, Triterpenoids and Carbohydrates. Results demonstrated that HAEPL significantly inhibited various steps of CaOx crystal formation such as nucleation, aggregation, in dose dependent manner. HAEPL normalized the raised levels of creatinine, calcium, urea, uric acid, restored alterations in histopathology while elevated the reduced levels of urine volume. The undertaken study rationalized that the usage of *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers as an alternative or adjuvant treatment for renal calculi after clinical trials in human subjects.

Keywords: *In-vitro, In-vivo,* Anti-oxidant; Anti-urolithiatic; Hydro-alcoholic extract; Pentas lanceolata (forssk.) deflers; Ethylene glycol; Renal calculi.

INTRODUCTION

Urinary stone is one of the common disorder of urinary system which is found more predominantly in men over women. Reoccurrence of stone formation is a common part of the medical care of patients with stone disease[1]. These stones may be classified on the basis of their constituents i.e. calcium-containing stones, specially calcium oxalate monohydrate, calcium oxalate dihydrate and basic calcium phosphate are the most commonly occurring ones to an extent of 75-90%, magnesium ammonium phosphate (Struvite) to an extent of 10-15%, uric acid 3-10% and cystine 0.5-1% out of which the most common type is calcium oxalate or magnesium ammonium phosphate type[2]. Many medications and remedies have been used during the past many years to treat urinary stones. Generally in the traditional systems of medicine, the majority of the remedies are based on plants and they were proved to be useful. The use of plant products with claimed uses in the traditional systems of medicine assumes importance. In the Ayurvedic system of medicine in India, plants which belong to 'Pashanabheda' group are claimed to be useful in the treatment of urinary stones. 'Pashanabheda' is the Sanskrit term used for a group of plants with diuretic and anti-urolithiatic activities[3].

Herbal medicines that contain several phytoconstituents and exert their beneficial effects by multiple mechanisms like

- By increasing the urine volume, pH and anti-calcifying activity (Diuretic activity) helps in spontaneous passage.
- By balancing the process of Inhibition and promotion of the crystallization in urine it affects the crystal nucleation, aggregation and growth (Crystallization inhibition activity)
- Relieves the binding mucin of calculi (lithotriptic activity)
- By Improving renal function
- Regulation of oxalate metabolism
- Regulates the crystalloid colloid imbalance and improve renal function, thus prevents recurrence of urinary calculi.
- Improve renal tissue antioxidant status and cell membrane integrity and prevent reoccurrence (Antioxidant activity)
- ACE and Phospholipase A2 Inhibition
- Exerts significant anti-infective action in against the major causative organisms (Antimicrobial activity)
- Reveals marked improvement in symptoms of urinary calculi like pain, burning micturition and hematuria (Analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity)[4].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection and authentication of plant materials

Fresh leaves and stem bark of *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers were collected in the month of October 2020 from Beypore, Kozhikode district, Kerala. The plant material was authenticated by Dr. K. Kishore kumar Head, Botany Department, Farook College, Kozhikode, Kerala. The voucher specimen (143763) has been deposited for the future reference. After washing all the leaves and stem bark, they were dried in the shade for 3–4 days. Parts were cut into small pieces in a grinder and were grounded to coarse powder. Coarsely powdered drug was placed in round bottom flask and Stoppard to prevent the evaporation of menstrum which is 70% of ethanol and 30% of water. The mixture was stirred thoroughly with a glass rod. The conical flask was kept with intermittent shaking for 72 hours. The mixtures were filtered using muslin cloth and through Whatman No. 1 filter paper. The filtrate was concentrated using a DLAB rotary evaporator at 40°C, and the resultant residue was kept in a refrigerator till further use[5].

Phytochemical screening:

Preliminary phytochemical analysis of the crude extract was carried out for qualitative estimation of phytoconstituents using different tests for Flavonoids, Phenols, Alkaloids, Tannins, Glycosides, Amino acids, Proteins, Glycosides, Saponins, Triterpenoids, Carbohydrates[6].

Pharmacological Evaluation

***In-Vitro* Anti-Oxidant / Free Radical Scavenging Activity Assay**

DPPH radical scavenging assay

The free radical scavenging activity of the fractions will measure *in-vitro* by 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) assay. The % scavenging activity at different concentrations will be determined and the IC50 value of the fractions can be compared with that of ascorbic acid, which will be used as the standard[7-9].

Nitric oxide radical scavenging assay

A volume of 2 ml of 10 mM Sodium nitroprusside prepared in 0.5 mM phosphate buffer saline will added to 0.5 ml of various concentration of plant extract or standard (10, 20,30, 40 60, 80, and 100 µg/ml). The mixture was incubating at 25°C for 2.5 hours. After incubation, 1.5 ml of reaction mixture was mixed with 1.5 ml of Griess reagent (1% Sulphanilamide, 2% Phosphoric acid, and 0.1% Naphthyl ethylenediamine dihydrochloride) and incubate at room temperature for 5 min[10]. The absorbance (Abs) will be read at 546 nm and ascorbic acid will taken as standard. Percentage inhibition can be calculated.

***In-Vitro* Anti-Urolithiatic Activity**

Nucleation assay

This assay will be conducted with plant extract or standard compound cystone at 10, 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100 mg/ml concentrations. For each sample testing, 1 ml of 0.025 M $CaCl_2$, 2 ml of 0.05 mol/l Tris–buffer, 1mL of plant extract or standard at different concentrations are added to test tube initially, then 1 ml of 0.025 M $Na_2C_2O_4$ is added at room temperature (37°C) to study the percentage of inhibition. Procedure will repeat for six duplicates for each sample. The rate of nucleation will be determined by comparing appearance of crystals that reached critical or optically detectable size in the presence of extract and that of control with no extract[11].

Aggregation assay

The Calcium oxalate crystals will be prepared by mixing1 ml of 0.025 M $CaCl_2$ and 1 ml 0.025 M $Na_2C_2O_4$. Both solutions will equilibrate at 60°C in a water bath for 1 hour. The solutions will then be cooled overnight at 37°C. The crystals formed will centrifuge for 5 min and harvested crystals will be evaporated for 5 min at 37°C. The crystals will be used at concentration of 0.8 mg/ml, buffer with Tris hydrochloride 0.05mol/l, and sodium chloride 0.15 mol/l at pH 6.5. Experiments were conducted at 37°C with 1 ml of plant extract or cystone (standard) at various concentrations

(10, 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100mg/ml). Stirred well and then the rate of aggregation will be estimated by comparing the turbidity in the presence of plant extract or cystone (standard) with that of control.
The Absorbance at 620 nm was recorded[12].

***In-Vivo* Anti-Urolithiatic Study**

Animals

For the pharmacological evaluation male Wistar rats of age around 2-3 months and weighing around 150-200g was used. The animals will be placed in clean polypropylene cages under controlled temperature 25°C ± 2°C, humidity 45% – 55%, and 12 hours light-dark cycle throughout the experimental period. Animals will be given standard diet and have free access to food and water *ad libitum* throughout the study. However, food is withdrawn while collecting 24 hours urine samples inside metabolic cage. The study protocol (DAMCOP/1AEC/064) was approved by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) of CCSEA (Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals)[13].

Acute toxicity studies

Acute toxicity studies will be carried out as per OECD guidelines 423 using female Swiss albino mice prior to evaluating the extracts for anti-urolithiatic activity. The plant extract were subjected to *in-vivo* acute oral toxicity studies as per OECD guidelines 423. Healthy Swiss albino mice, normally females were used for the study. All animals were fasted overnight before the acute toxicity tests. The starting dose is selected as 300 and 2000mg/kg .After oral administration of a single dose of drug, the animals were observed individually at least once during the first 30 minutes, periodically during the first 24 hours, with special attention given during the first 4 hours and daily thereafter, for a total of 14 days[14].

Ethylene glycol induced urolithiasis

Ethylene glycol (0.75% v/v) induced urolithiasis model is used to study the anti-urolithiatic activity in Wistar albino rats.
The animals were divided into five groups containing six each[15].
Group I: Serve as control receives Normal saline orally (10ml/kg)
Group II to V: Receives ethylene glycol (0.75% v/v) orally in drinking water from day 1 to day 28 for the induction of renal calculi.
Group II: Serve as disease induced group.
Group III: Receives standard drug Cystone (750mg/ kg b. w) p.o from 1st day to 28th day.
Group IV and V: Receives high and low doses of plant extract *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers treated with urolithiasis induced rat through oral administration between from 1st day to 28th day.
Urine samples will be collect on 28th day for 24 hours by keeping the animals in individual propylene metabolic cages. Animals have free access to drinking water during the urine collection period. The collected urine is analyzed for calcium and phosphate using standard methods. The volume of urine collected from all groups will be recorded. Further, microscopy of the urine will be performed to identify the presence of crystals[16].

Collection and analysis of urine

All animals will be kept in individual metabolic cages with the hydration of 15ml of water, and urine samples of 24 hours are collected. Animals have free access to drinking water during the collection period. Drop of conc. Hydrochloric acid is added and store at 4 4ºC.Total urinary excretion of calcium, urea, creatinine and uric acid are measured by various biochemical kits.

Urine Parameters

Estimation of Calcium Concentration in Urine

Calcium concentration in serum is calculated by modified Arsenazo III method.

Assay procedure

Three cuvettes were taken and label it as blank, standard, test. To these three test tubes add 1ml of reagent solution. Then to the standard cuvette add 1µl of standard reagent, to the cuvette add 10µl of sample and to the blank test tube add 10µl of distilled water. All three cuvette were incubated at room temperature for 1 minute and measure the absorbance using semi auto analyzer[17].

Estimation of Uric Acid in Urine

Uric acid can be estimated by single reagent method.

Assay procedure

Three cuvettes were taken and label it blank, standard and test. To these three cuvettes add 1ml of reagent solution. Then to the standard test tube add 0.025µl of standard reagent, to the test tube add 0.025µl of sample and to the blank test tube add 0.025µl of distilled water. All the three cuvettes are incubated at room temperature for 1 minute and measure the absorbance at 505nm[18-20].

Estimation of Urea Concentration in Urine

Urea concentration in urine can be determined by Modified Berthelot method.

Three cuvettes were taken and labeled it as blank, standard, and test. To these three cuvettes 1ml of enzyme reagent solution was added. Then to the standard test tube 10µl of urea standard and to the test tube 10µl of sample were added. All the three cuvettes were incubated at room temperature. Then 1ml of coloring reagent was added to the three cuvettes. The sample were mixed and incubated 1 minute at room temperature and absorbance was measured at 578nm against blank.

Estimation of Creatinine Concentration in Urine

Creatinine concentration is calculated by Modified Jaffe's method.

Three cuvettes were taken and labeled it as blank, standard and test. To these three cuvettes 1ml of working reagent solution was added. Then to the standard test tube 100µl of standard reagents and to the cuvette 100µl of sample was added. All the three test tubes were incubated at room temperature for 5 minutes and the absorbance was measured at 505nm against blank. The absorbance after 60 seconds interval time was also recorded.

Serum analysis

On 29th day animals will be anaesthetized by Thiopentone sodium (30mg/kg). Blood will be collected via retro-orbital puncture. Serum is separated by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm for 5 minutes. Analyze for calcium, BUN, uric acid and creatinine by various biochemical kits[21].

Kidney homogenate parameters

The animals will be sacrifice by cervical decapitation and the abdomen will be cut open to remove both the kidneys from each animal. Isolated kidneys will clean off extraneous tissue and wet weight of kidney will be measured (g/100g body weight) followed by preservation in 10% neutral formalin. Left kidney will be weighed on electronic weighing balance, and dried at 80°C in a hot air oven and weight of kidney (g/100 g body weight) will be measured. A sample of 100mg of the dried kidney will be boil in 10ml of 1N hydrochloric acid for 30 min. and homogenized. The homogenate will be centrifuge at 2000 rpm for 10 min and the supernatant will be separated. The calcium, phosphate and oxalate content in kidney homogenate will be determined[22].

Histopathology

The abdomen was cut open to remove both kidneys from each animal. Isolated kidneys were cleaned off extraneous tissue and rinsed in ice cold physiological saline. Kidneys were fixed in 10% neutral burred formalin processed in series of graded alcohol and xylene, embedded in paraffin wax, sectioned at 5µm and stained with H and E (Hematoxylin and Eosin) for histopathological examination. The slides were examined under light microscope to study the architecture of kidney and calcium oxalate crystal deposits[23].

DISCUSSION

The present study was designed and evaluated the anti-urolithiatic activity of leaves and stem bark of *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers. The leaves and stem bark of *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers were collected and authenticated by a taxonomist. *Hydro-alcoholic* extract were prepared from the dried powdered leaf and stem bark by using maceration techniques respectively. The percentage yield of the hydro alcoholic extracts was found to be 9.6%w/w. The preliminary phytochemical analysis was carried out on hydro-alcoholic extract. *Hydro-alcoholic* extract showed the presence of Alkaloids, Glycosides, Tannins, Flavonoids, Carbohydrates, Terpenoids, Phenolic compounds. The acute toxicity study of *hydro-alcoholic* extract of *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers were carried out as per OECD guidelines 423. The results showed that there was no significant behavioral as well as weight change in the animals. It can be concluded that hydro-alcoholic extract were safe up to dose of 2000 mg/kg. *In-vitro* antioxidant DPPH radical scavenging assay, a linear increase in reducing power was observed over the concentration range 50-200µg/ml sample, equivalent to 50-200µg/ml ascorbic acid. The results indicated that *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers consist of hydrophilic polyphenolic compounds that cause the greater reducing power. *In-vitro* inhibition of nitric oxide radical is a measure of antioxidant activity. Nitric oxide is a free radical which plays an important role in the pathogenesis of pain, inflammation, etc. All the fractions of *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers decreased the amount of nitrite generated from the decomposition of sodium nitroprusside *in-vitro*. This may be due to the anti-oxidant principles in the fractions which compete with oxygen to react with NO thereby inhibiting the generation of nitrite. *In-vitro* anti-urolithiatic study was carried out using aggregation and nucleation assay. The result showed that both the extracts possess significant inhibitory activity on calcium oxalate crystallization in dose dependent manner. *In-vivo* anti-urolithiatic study was carried out Wistar albino rats. Urolithiasis was induced by ethylene glycol and the result showed that *hydro-alcoholic* extracts possess a significant anti-urolithiatic activity in which the extract markedly reduced the stone forming constituents in urine volume, serum BUN, calcium, creatinine, uric acid, creatinine, urine parameters like calcium, urea, uric acid, creatinine which is a potent inhibitor of kidney stone. By comparing the low dose and high doses, high dose (400mg/kg) was found to have extremely significant anti-urolithiatic activity in extracts.

CONCLUSION

The results of the present investigation on the evaluation of anti-urolithiatic activity of *hydro-alcoholic* extract in rat models of preventive lithiasis have led to the following conclusion. In preventive studies of hydro-alcoholic extract of *Pentas lanceolata* (forssk.) deflers showed significant reduction in calcium, urea and uric acid, creatinine levels in urine and a restoration of normal urine volume. Serum levels of creatinine, calcium, uric acid and BUN were also brought down to normal values by the extract. Histopathological observations also confirms the same. These findings indicate the potential of the extracts in inhibiting kidney stone formation as well as a lithotripsic action on the formed renal stones. The promising antioxidant activity of the extracts as revealed by *in-vitro* nitric oxide scavenging assay, DPPH scavenging assay study would have contributed to the anti-urolithiatic activity of the extract. Triterpenoids, Polyphenols and Flavanoids present in the extracts may be responsible of the anti-oxidant and anti-urolithiatic activity of the extract.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All the authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Table No. 1: % Inhibition and IC_{50} values of DPPH Scavenging Activity.

S. No.	Concentration (µg/ml)	% of Inhibition		IC_{50}Value (µg/ml)	
		Ascorbic Acid	HAEPL	Ascorbic Acid	HAEPL
1	50	17.83±0.43	39.96±0.97	129.1	101
2	100	36.01±0.74	47.56±0.49		
3	150	52.16±0.80	55.76±0.31		
4	200	75.64±0.57	62.84±0.44		

Values are expressed as mean± SEM of three parallel measurements (n=3).

Table No. 2: % Inhibition and IC_{50} values of Nitric oxide radical Scavenging Activity

S. No.	Concentration (µg/ml)	% of Inhibition		IC_{50}Value (µg/ml)	
		Ascorbic Acid	HAEPL	Ascorbic Acid	HAEPL
1	50	21.85±1.14	46.21±0.65	114	106
2	100	42.58±0.40	58.02±0.03		
3	150	57.32±0.57	69.47±0.10		
4	200	76.86±2.19	87.20±0.11		

Values are expressed as mean± SEM of three parallel measurements (n=3).

Table No.:3: Effect of *Pentas lanceolata* on Nucleation assay.

S. No.	Concentration (mg/mL)	HAEPL (%inhibition)	Standard (%inhibition)
1	20	65 ± 1.73	84 ±2.08
2	40	74± 2.33	86 ±2.08
3	60	85±2.65	87±1.76
4	80	94±2.03	96±1.53

Values are expressed as mean± SEM (n=3).

Table No. 4: Effect of *Pentas lanceolata* on Aggregation assay.

S. No.	Concentration (mg/mL)	HAEPL (%inhibition)	Standard (%inhibition)
1	20	63 ± 2.40	76 ±2.60
2	40	75 ± 1.76	82±1.45
3	60	82±0.88	91±2.08
4	80	87±1.76	96±0.88

Values are expressed as mean± SEM (n=3).

Table No. 5: Effect of *Pentas lanceolata* on general characteristics

Treatment Group	Body weight	Kidney Weight	Urine Volume	Urine Ph
Control	322±5.9	4±0.7	23±0.8	7.88±0.1
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) (Negative group)	206±2.2***	5±0.0**	15.3±0.4***	9.85±0.1**
Ethylene glycol (0.75%)+Cystone (750 mg/kg)	289±2.4***	3.3±0.8**	18.41±0.1*	7.89±0.6***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) + HAEPL (200 mg/kg)	250±3.7***	4.2±0.8**	20.1±1.5***	9.02±0.7**
Ethylene glycol (0.75%)+HAEPL (400 mg/kg)	273±2.1***	3±0.5***	17.1±0.8**	8.17±0.1**

Values are expressed as mean±SEM (n=6) ***P<0.001, **P<0.01, *P<0.05 when compared with disease control group (Tukey's Kramer multiple comparison test), ns: non-significant.

Table No. 6: Effect of *Pentas lanceolata* on urine parameters in control and experimental animals

Treatment Group	Calcium (mg/ dL)	Urea (mg/ dL)	Uric Acid (mg/ dL)	Creatinine (mg/ dL)
Control	6.69 ± 0.65	32.25 ± 3.4	6.2± 0.12	8.65 ± 0.007
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) (Negative group)	14.5±0.85**	55.8 ± 2.69 ***	9.15±0.3**	12.32±3.22***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) +Cystone (750 mg/kg)	8.14±1.12***	38.3±2.64*	7.3±1.88**	9.42±0.007***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) +HAEPL(200 mg/kg)	9.41±1.94^{ns}	40.98±5.4^{ns}	8.6±0.12***	10.3±0.15***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) +HAEPL (400 mg/kg)	8.21±1.12***	38.01±2.79**	7.5±0.100**	9.43 ±0.11**

Values are expressed as mean±SEM (n=6) ***P<0.001, **P<0.01, *P<0.05 when compared with disease control group (Tukey's Kramer multiple comparison test). ns: non-significant

Table No. 7: Effect of *Pentas lanceolata* on serum parameters in control and experimental animals

Treatment Group	Calcium (mg/ dL)	BUN (mg/ dL)	Uric Acid (mg/ dL)	Creatinine (mg/ dL)
Control	1.32±0.8	33.9±3.9	1.5±0.08	1.66 ± 0.67
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) (Negative group)	4.38±0.28**	54.15±2.0***	3.2±0.2**	5.9±2.7***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%)+ Cystone (750mg/kg)	2.4±1.0***	38.15±2.7**	1.02±0.1**	2.73±0.07***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%)+HAEPL(200mg/kg)	1.9±0.18**	40.2±3.8***	2.02±0.18*	4.56±0.07***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) +HAEPL (400mg/kg)	1.9±0.10**	36.5±1.9***	0.9±0.20**	3.0 ±0.09***

Values are expressed as Mean±SEM (n=6) ***P<0.001, **P<0.01, *P<0.05 when compared with disease control group (Tukey's Kramer multiple comparison test, ns: non-significant.

Table No. 8: Effect of *Pentas lanceolata* on kidney homogenate in control and experimental animals

Treatment Group	Calcium (mg/g)	Phosphate (mg/g)	Oxalate (mg/g)	Uric Acid (mg/g)
Control	3.20±0.21	3.51±0.15	0.92±0.09	1.85±0.19
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) (Negative group)	6.64±0.27*	6.79±0.35**	4.28±0.25*	4.64±0.28*
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) + Cystone (750mg/kg)	3.69±0.17***	3.90±0.20**	1.11±0.09**	2.15±0.14***
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) + HAEPL (200mg/kg)	5.47±0.18***	5.59±0.24^{ns}	2.96±0.13***	3.80±0.15**
Ethylene glycol (0.75%) + HAEPL (400mg/kg)	4.02±0.20**	4.18±0.21*	1.44±0.19**	2.26±0.25***

Values are expressed as mean±SEM (n=6) ***P<0.001, **P<0.01, *P<0.05 when compared with disease control group (Tukey's Kramer multiple comparison test).ns: non-significant.

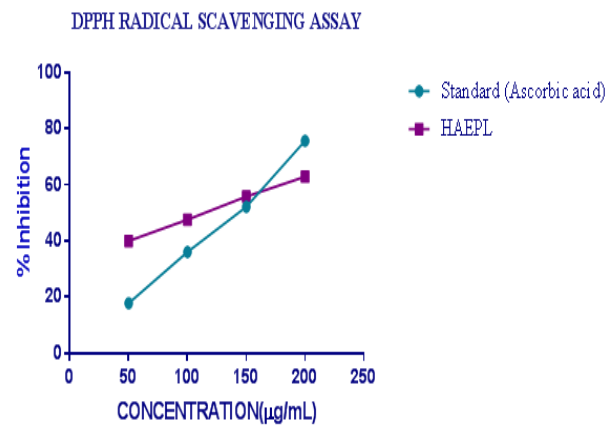


Figure 1: DPPH radical scavenging assay

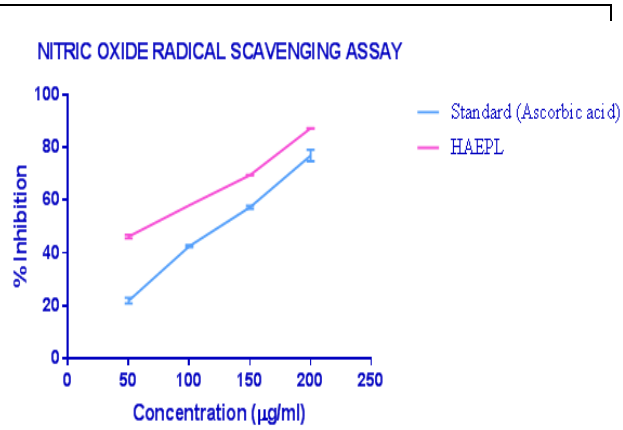


Figure 2: Nitric oxide radical scavenging assay

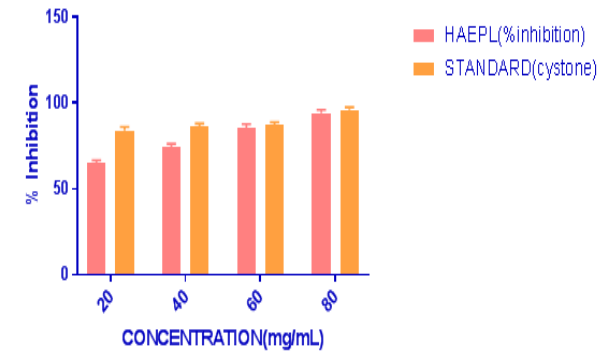


Figure 3: Nucleation assay

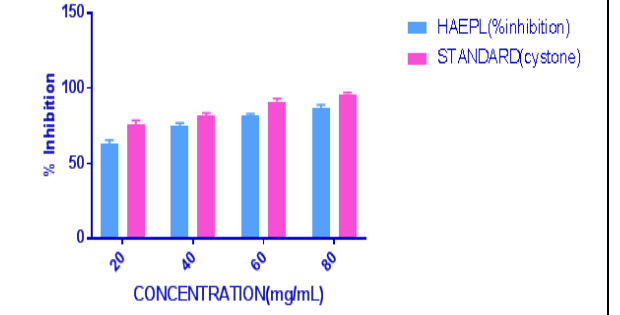


Figure 4: Aggregation assay

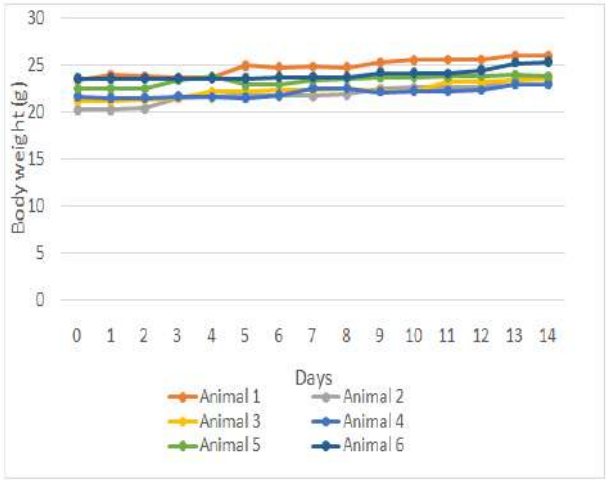


Figure 5: Body weight changes of *Pentas lanceolata* extract in acute toxicity study

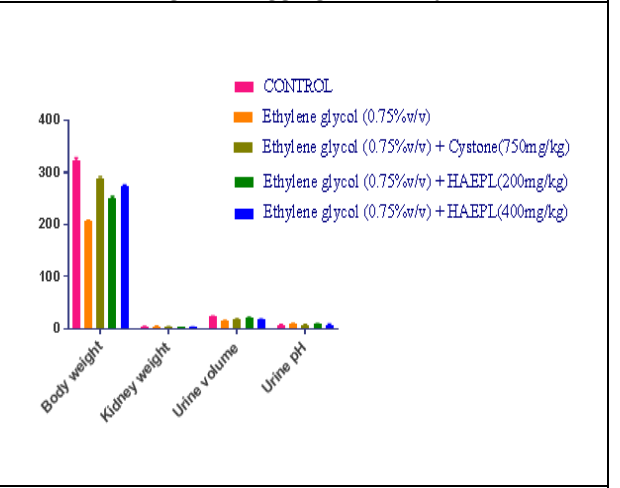


Figure 6: General characteristics

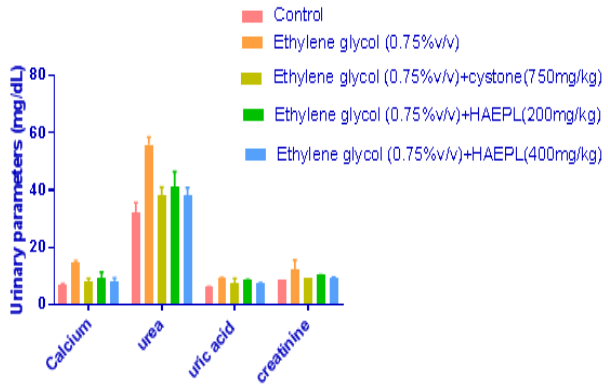
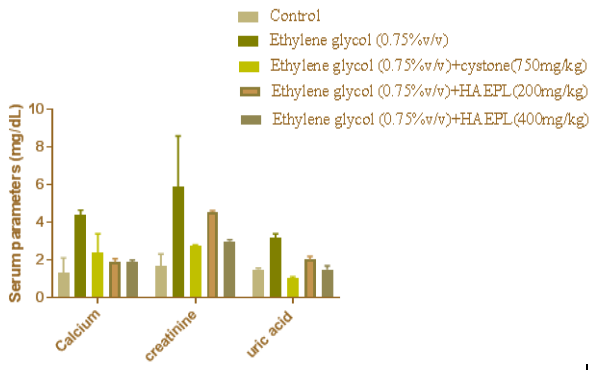
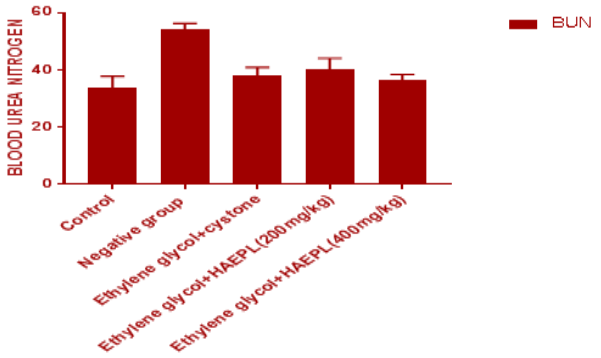


Figure 7: Urinary parameters



Figures 8: Serum parameters



Figures 9: Blood Urea nitrogen parameters



Figures 10: Section of kidney

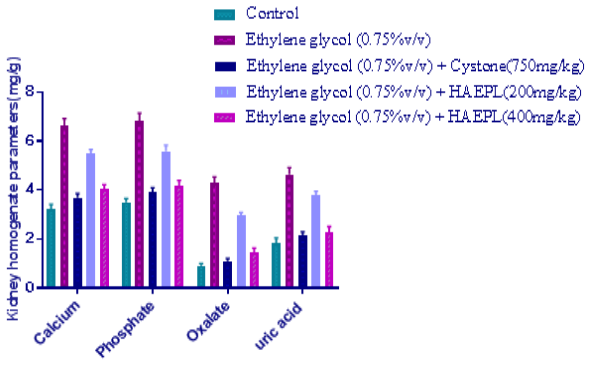


Figure 11: Kidney homogenate parameters

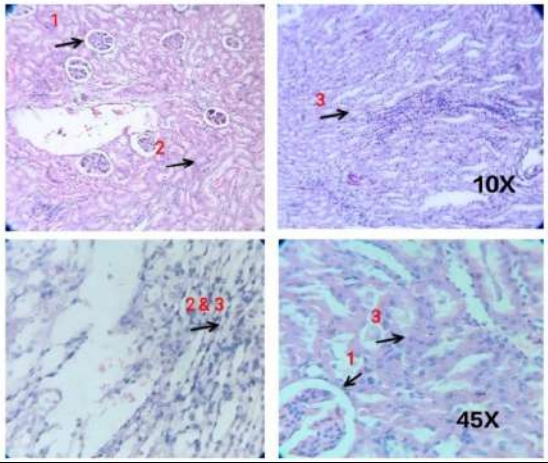


Figure 12: H and E stained section of control group

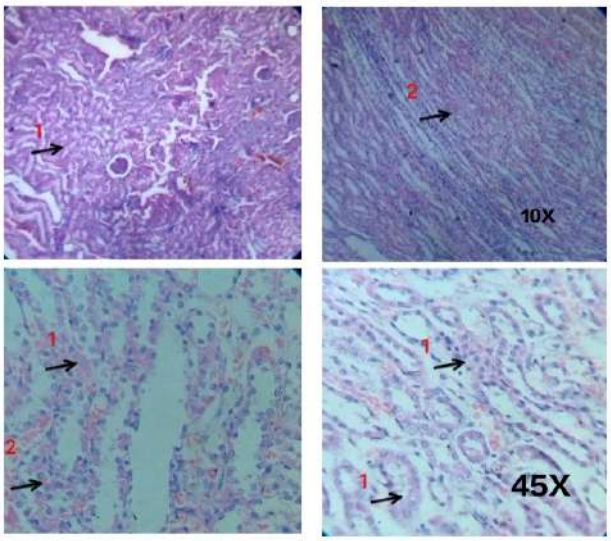


Figure 13: H and E stained section of group treated with Ethylene glycol (0.75%v/v)

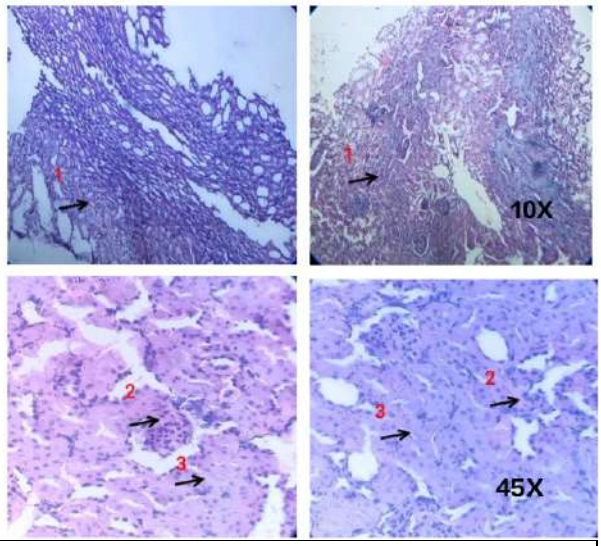


Figure 14: H and E stained section of group treated with standard drug cystone (750 mg/kg)

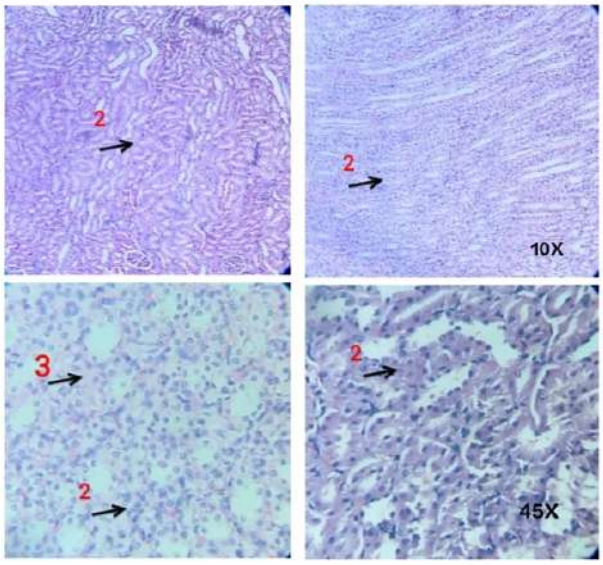


Figure 15: H and E stained section of group treated with Ethylene glycol (0.75%v/v) and treated with HAEPL (200 mg/kg) hydroalcoholic extract

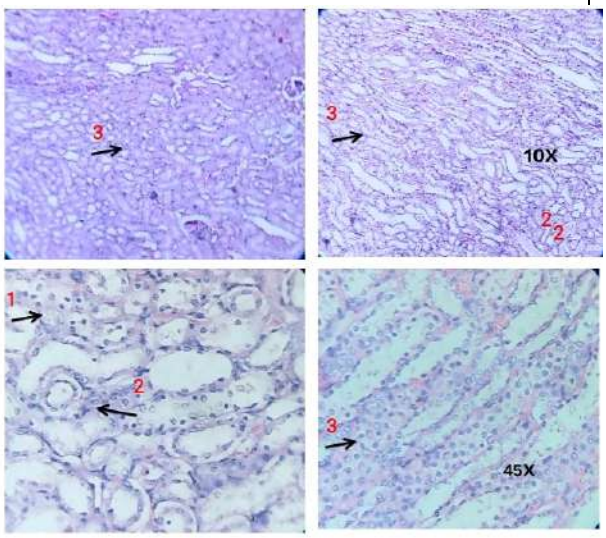


Figure16: H and E stained section of group treated with Ethylene glycol (0.75%v/v) and treated with HAEPL (400 mg/kg) hydroalcoholic extract

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Production -Inventory System for Perishable Goods with Negative Customers and Machine Breakdowns

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ABSTRACT

This study explores a production-inventory system that deals with perishable items and occasional machine breakdowns. Customers are considered ordinary when they arrive and increase their level in waiting hall with a probability of p. Conversely, a customer who drops their level without inventory with a probability of 1-p is referred to as a negative customer. Completing service makes one customer leave the system and decreases the inventory level by one. Inventory items may also perish over time. The inventory is managed using an (s, S) policy. The machine used for production can break down randomly and is repaired over time. In the steady state, we determine the joint probability distribution of the number of customers in waiting hall, the inventory level and the machine's status. We then evaluate system performance measures and use them to build a cost function. Finally, numerical results are presented to illustrate the model.

Keywords: Production Inventory System, Service facility, Negative Customers, (s,S) Policy, Perishable items, Machine Breakdown.

INTRODUCTION

Buzacott and Shanthikumar [4] provide a comprehensive analysis of stochastic models in manufacturing systems. Groenevelt *et al*. [2] examined production batching in the presence of machine breakdowns and safety stock considerations. He *et al*. at [5] considered a production inventory system with arrival of demands forming a Poisson process, production time having exponential distribution and lead time is zero, so that the production can be started at any required time. Perumal and Arivarignan [7] analyzed a production-inventory model with two production rates and the possibility of backorders. Berman and Sapna [6] explored optimal service rates for facilities that manage perishable inventory. Manuel *et al*. [10] discussed a perishable inventory system incorporating service facilities and retrial customers. Anita *et al*. [11] investigated a production-inventory system subject to machine breakdowns, using exponential distributions for production time, failure time, and repair time. Karthick *et al*. [12] described a production-inventory model involving two types of customers and machine failures. Kung *et al*. [13] proposed a model for deteriorating inventory items with inspection, partial backordering, and machine breakdowns. Sunjida Haque *et al*. [14] analyzed a stochastic perishable inventory system within an infinite pool framework. Gelenbe [1] introduced the concept of negative customers in queueing networks, which was further extended by Shin and Choi [8] to include dependencies between positive and negative customer arrivals. Sivakumar and Arivarignan [9] presented a detailed study on perishable inventory systems with service facilities and negative customers. In this paper, we integrate a perishable production-inventory system with machine breakdowns and the concept of negative customers to develop a more realistic and comprehensive model.

Model Description

We consider a production-inventory system with a maximum inventory capacity of S units. The arrival process of customers is modelled as a Poisson process with parameterε. The probability of an arriving customer increasing their level in the waiting hall is p, whereas the chance of a customer decreasing by one without inventory (negative customer) is $1-p=q$. When a customer lowers by a unit item, the service rate occurs. Service times are assumed to follow an exponential distribution with parameterη. When any item from the inventory level that is on hand perishes, the perishable rate occurs. This rate follows an exponential distribution with parameter θ. Production is triggered when the inventory level drops below a predefined reorder point s (where $s(<S)$). Production times for each unit are exponentially distributed with parameterς and the machine stops producing once the inventory level reaches the upper limit S. During production, the machine may experience random breakdowns. The time until a breakdown is exponentially distributed with parameter ϑ. After a breakdown, the machine undergoes repair, with repair times also exponentially distributed, using parameter ϱ.

Mathematical Analysis

Let U(t) be a number of customers in the waiting hall at time t, V(t) be the on-hand inventory level at time t and W(t) be the status of the machine at time t.

$$W(t)=\begin{cases}0, the\ machine\ is\ idle\\ 1, the\ machine\ is\ switched\ on\\ 2, the\ machine\ is\ under\ repair\end{cases}$$

It can be demonstrated that the stochastic process is a continuous-time Markov chain with state space {(U(t), V(t), W(t)), t≥ 0} based on the assumptions made about the input and output processes.

$$\Omega=\begin{cases}(u,v,0), & u=0,1,2,\dots;\ v=s+1,s+2,\dots,S;\\ (u,v,w), & u=0,1,2,\dots;\ v=0,1,2,\dots,S-1;\ w=1,2;\end{cases}$$

The ordering of the above states space is denoted by $(\ll 0\gg,\ll 1\gg,\ll 2\gg,\dots)$, where

$\ll u\gg=(<u,0>,<u,1>,\dots,<u,S>)$, $u=0,1,2,\dots$

$$\text{and } <u,v>=\begin{cases}((u,v,1),(u,v,2)), & v=0,1,2,\dots,s\\ ((u,v,0),(u,v,1),(u,v,2)), & v=s+1,s+2,\dots,S-1;\\ (u,v,0), & v=S;\end{cases}$$

Due to the possibility of a single customer increase, decrease or stay constant within the orbit, the infinitesimal generator matrix T (block matrix) is a tridiagonal matrix.

Let

$$T = \begin{matrix} \\ \ll 0 \gg \\ \ll 1 \gg \\ \ll 2 \gg \\ \ll 3 \gg \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} \ll 0 \gg & \ll 1 \gg & \ll 2 \gg & \ll 3 \gg & \ldots \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} B_0 & A_0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ A_2 & A_1 & A_0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & A_2 & A_1 & A_0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & A_2 & A_1 & \ddots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$\text{here}[A_0]_{vv'} = \begin{cases} A_{00}, & v' = v, \quad v = 0,1,2,\ldots,s; \\ A_{01}, & v' = v, \quad v = s+1,\ldots,S-1; \\ A_{02}, & v' = v, \quad v = S; \\ 0 & otherwise. \end{cases}$$

$$A_{00} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} p\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & p\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \quad A_{01} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} p\varepsilon & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & p\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & p\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \quad A_{02} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} p\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$[A_2]_{vv'} = \begin{cases} \tilde{A}_{20}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = 1,2,\ldots,s; \\ \tilde{A}_{21}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = s+1; \\ \tilde{A}_{22}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = s+2,\cdots,S-1; \\ \tilde{A}_{23}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = S; \\ A_{20}, & v' = v, \quad v = 0,1,2,\ldots,s; \\ A_{21}, & v' = v, \quad v = s+1,\ldots,S-1; \\ A_{22}, & v' = v, \quad v = S; \\ 0 & otherwise. \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{A}_{20} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \eta & 0 \\ 0 & \eta \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \tilde{A}_{21} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \eta & 0 \\ \eta & 0 \\ 0 & \eta \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \tilde{A}_{22} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \eta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \eta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \eta \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \tilde{A}_{23} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ (\eta \quad 0 \quad 0)' \end{matrix}$$

$$A_{20} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} q\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & q\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, A_{21} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} q\varepsilon & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & q\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & q\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, A_{22} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} q\varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$[B_0]_{vv'} = \begin{cases} \tilde{B}_{01}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = 1,2,\ldots,s; \\ \tilde{B}_{02}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = s+1; \\ \tilde{B}_{03}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = s+2,\cdots,S-1; \\ \tilde{B}_{04}, & v' = v-1, \quad v = S; \\ B_{00}, & v' = v, \quad v = 0; \\ B_{11}, & v' = v, \quad v = 1,2,\ldots,s; \\ B_{22}, & v' = v, \quad v = s+1,\ldots,S-1; \\ B_{33}, & v' = v, \quad v = S; \\ B_{01}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = 0,1,\ldots,s-1; \\ B_{02}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = s; \\ B_{03}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = s+1,\ldots,S-2; \\ B_{04}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = S-1; \\ 0, & otherwise. \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{B}_{01} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} v\theta & 0 \\ 0 & v\theta \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \tilde{B}_{02} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} v\theta & 0 \\ v\theta & 0 \\ 0 & v\theta \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, \tilde{B}_{03} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} v\theta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & v\theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & v\theta \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$\tilde{B}_{04} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ (v\theta \quad 0 \quad 0)' \end{matrix}, B_{00} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(p\varepsilon + \varsigma + \vartheta) & \vartheta \\ \varrho & -(p\varepsilon + \varrho) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$B_{11} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(p\varepsilon + \varsigma + \vartheta + v\theta) & \vartheta \\ \varrho & -(p\varepsilon + \varrho + v\theta) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$B_{22} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & \quad & 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(p\varepsilon + v\theta) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(p\varepsilon + \varsigma + \vartheta + v\theta) & \vartheta \\ 0 & \varrho & -(p\varepsilon + \varrho + v\theta) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$B_{33} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(p\varepsilon + v\theta) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$B_{01} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \varsigma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, B_{01} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & \quad & 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \varsigma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, B_{03} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & \quad & 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \varsigma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}, B_{04} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \varsigma \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}.$$

$$[A_1]_{vv'} = \begin{cases} \tilde{B}_{01}, & v' = v - 1, \quad v = 1,2, \dots, s; \\ \tilde{B}_{02}, & v' = v - 1, \quad v = s + 1; \\ \tilde{B}_{03}, & v' = v - 1, \quad v = s + 2, \cdots, S - 1; \\ \tilde{B}_{04}, & v' = v - 1, \quad v = S; \\ A_{10}, & v' = v, \quad v = 0; \\ A_{11}, & v' = v, \quad v = 1,2, \dots, s; \\ A_{12}, & v' = v, \quad v = s + 1, \dots, S - 1; \\ A_{13}, & v' = v, \quad v = S; \\ B_{01}, & v' = v + 1, \quad v = 0,1, \dots, s - 1; \\ B_{02}, & v' = v + 1, \quad v = s; \\ B_{03}, & v' = v + 1, \quad v = s + 1, \dots, S - 2; \\ B_{04}, & v' = v + 1, \quad v = S - 1; \\ 0, & otherwise. \end{cases}$$

$$A_{10} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(\varepsilon + \varsigma + \vartheta) & \vartheta \\ \varrho & -(\varepsilon + \varrho) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$A_{11} = \begin{matrix} \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(\varepsilon + \eta + \varsigma + \vartheta + v\theta) & \vartheta \\ \varrho & -(\varepsilon + \eta + \varrho + v\theta) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$A_{22} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & \quad & 1 & \quad & 2 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(\varepsilon + \eta + v\theta) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -(\varepsilon + \eta + \varsigma + \vartheta + v\theta) & \vartheta \\ 0 & \varrho & -(\varepsilon + \eta + \varrho + v\theta) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix},$$

$$A_{33} = \begin{matrix} \\ 0 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} 0 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} -(\varepsilon + \eta + v\theta) \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Stability Analysis

Now, let us examine the generating matrix A=A_0+A_1+A_2 is provided by the

$$[A]_{vv'} = \begin{cases} D_0, & v' = v-1, \quad v = 1,2,\dots,s; \\ D_1, & v' = v-1, \quad v = s+1; \\ D_2, & v' = v-1, \quad v = s+2,\cdots,S-1; \\ D_3, & v' = v-1, \quad v = S; \\ C_0, & v' = v, \quad v = 0; \\ C_1, & v' = v, \quad v = 1,2,\dots,s; \\ C_2, & v' = v, \quad v = s+1,\dots,S-1; \\ C_3, & v' = v, \quad v = S; \\ B_{01}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = 0,1,\dots,s-1; \\ B_{02}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = s; \\ B_{03}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = s+1,\dots,S-2; \\ B_{04}, & v' = v+1, \quad v = S-1; \\ 0, & otherwise. \end{cases}$$

where$D_i = \tilde{A}_{2i} + \tilde{B}_{0(i+1)}, i = 0,1,2,3;$ $C_0 = A_{00} + A_{10} + A_{20};$ $C_1 = A_{00} + A_{11} + A_{20};$$C_2 = A_{01} + A_{12} + A_{21};$ $C_3 = A_{02} + A_{13} + A_{22};$

The ergodic of the generating matrix A is evident from this structure. The probability distribution for a steady state exists.

Assume that Π represents the steady state probability distribution of A, fulfilling the equation.

$\Pi A = 0$ (1)

$\Pi \boldsymbol{e} = 1$ (2)

where the vector $\Pi = (\pi^{<0>}, \pi^{<1>}, \pi^{<2>}, \dots, \pi^{<S>})$. From the above two equations, we get the following set of equations

$\pi^{<i>}C_0 + \pi^{<i+1>}D_0 = 0 \qquad i = 0,$

$\pi^{<i-1>}B_{01} + \pi^{<i>}C_1 + \pi^{<i+1>}D_0 = 0 \qquad i = 1,2,\dots,s-1,$

$\pi^{<i-1>}B_{01} + \pi^{<i>}C_1 + \pi^{<i+1>}D_1 = 0 \qquad i = s,$

$\pi^{<i-1>}B_{02} + \pi^{<i>}C_2 + \pi^{<i+1>}D_2 = 0 \qquad i = s+1,$

$\pi^{<i-1>}B_{03} + \pi^{<i>}C_2 + \pi^{<i+1>}D_2 = 0 \qquad i = s+2, s+3, \dots, S-2,$

$\pi^{<i-1>}B_{03} + \pi^{<i>}C_2 + \pi^{<i+1>}D_3 = 0 \qquad i = S-1,$

$\pi^{<i-1>}B_{04} + \pi^{<i>}C_3 = 0 \qquad i = S,$

Lemma 1. *The stability condition of the system under study is given by*

$p\varepsilon < q\varepsilon + (1 - \pi^{<0>}\boldsymbol{e})\,\eta$(3)

Proof. From the well known results of Neuts [3] on the positive recurrence of A, we have

$\Pi A_0 \boldsymbol{e} < \Pi A_2 \boldsymbol{e}$ (4)

and by exploiting the structure of the matricesA_0, A_2 and Π stated result follows.

Steady State Analysis

It is clear that the continuous-time Markov Process {(U(t), V (t), W(t)), t ≥ 0} with state space Ω is regular from the irreducible structure of the rate matrix T and the lemma 3.1. Hence the limiting distribution Φ

$\Phi^{(u,v,w)} = \lim_{t\to\infty} \Pr[U(t) = u, V(t) = v, W(t) = w | U(0), V(0), W(0)]$

exists and is independent of the initial state. That is $\Phi = (\Phi^{(0)}, \Phi^{(1)}, \dots)$satisfies

$\Phi T = 0, \Phi \boldsymbol{e} = 1$ (5)

System Performance Measures

We derive numerous important system performance metrics in the steady state in this section. We create an extended total cost function using them.

Expected Inventory Level

$$\aleph_I = \sum_{u=0}^{\infty}\sum_{v=1}^{S} v\,\Phi^{(u,v)}\boldsymbol{e}$$

Expected number of customers in the waiting hall

$$\aleph_O = \sum_{u=1}^{\infty} u\Phi^{(u)}\boldsymbol{e}$$

Expected value of arrivals of negative customers

$$\aleph_N = \sum_{u=1}^{\infty} q\varepsilon\Phi^{(u)}\boldsymbol{e}$$

Expected Production Startup Rate

$$\aleph_P = \sum_{u=0}^{\infty}(s+1)\theta\Phi^{(u,s+1,0)} + \sum_{u=1}^{\infty}\eta\Phi^{(u,s+1,0)}$$

Expected Repair Rate

$$\aleph_R = \sum_{u=0}^{\infty}\sum_{v=0}^{S-1} \varrho\,\Phi^{(u,v,2)}$$

Expected Perishable rate

$$\aleph_{PR} = \sum_{u=0}^{\infty}\sum_{v=1}^{S} v\theta\,\Phi^{(u,v)}\boldsymbol{e}$$

Cost Analysis

The long-run total expected cost rate for this model is defined to be

$\mathrm{TC}(s,S) = c_h\aleph_I + c_s\aleph_P + c_o\aleph_O + c_n\aleph_N + c_r\aleph_R + c_{pr}\aleph_{PR}$

where c_h : The inventory carrying cost per unit item per unit time

c_s : Production startup cost for per production initiation

c_o : Waiting cost of a customer in the waiting hall per unit time

c_n : Loss per unit time due to arrival of a negative customer

c_r : Machine service cost per repair per unit time

c_{pr} : Perishable cost per unit item per unit time

substituting the values of ℵ's, we get the Total Expected Cost.

Numerical Analysis

We have not provided an analytical demonstration of the convexity of TC (*s, S*) for the model presented in this work. On the other hand, our extensive numerical case experience suggests that the function TC (*s, S*) is convex. Here, we obtain the optimal values of the total cost rate, *s*, and *S* (let's say TC*, *s**, *S**) by a simple numerical search process. A typical three-dimensional plot of the expected total cost function is given in Figure 1. The optimal cost value TC* = 1.040022 is obtained at (*s**, *S**) = (4,13) for fixed ε = 0.95; η = 1.5; *p* = 0.6; ς = 1.03; ϑ = 0.07; ϱ = 0.31; θ = 0.006; c_h = 0.02; c_s = 1.5; c_o = 1.05; c_n = 0.017; c_r = 0.15; c_{pr} = 0.82

We have examined the impact of changing cost rates and system parameters on optimal values. The following tables show some of our findings. The optimal cost rate is indicated by the bottom entry in each cell and the matching *S** and *s** are indicated by the higher entries. For fixed c_h = 0.02; c_s = 1.5; c_o = 1.05; c_n = 0.017; c_r = 0.15; c_{pr} = 0.82, we analyse tables 1, 2, and 3 and find that

- The optimal cost value increases when ε, ϑ and θ increases.
- The optimal cost value decreases when η, ς and ϱ increases.
- S^* monotonically increases when ε, θ and ϑ increases .
- S^* monotonically decreases when ϱ increases.
- s^* monotonically increases when ε and ϑ increases.
- s^* monotonically decreases when ϱ and θ increases.

From tables 4, 5 and 6 for fixed ε = 0.95; η = 1.5; p = 0.6; ς = 1.03; ϑ =0.07; ϱ = 0.31; θ = 0.006 we observe that

- The optimal cost value increases when c_h, c_s, c_o, c_n, c_r and c_{pr} increases
- S^* monotonically decreases when c_h increases
- S^* monotonically increases when c_s and c_o increases.

For every other parameter, the S^* and s^* are unaffected.
A typical three-dimensional plot for convexity of total expected cost rate Figure 1.
Impact of Parameter on the Optimal Values for fixedε=0.9 Table1.
Impact of Parameter on the Optimal Values for fixedε=0.95 Table2.
Impact of Parameter on the Optimal Values for fixedε=1 Table3.
Effects of costs on the Optimal Values for fixed$c_h = 0.018$ Table4.
Effects of costs on the Optimal Values for fixed $c_h = 0.02$ Table 5.
Effects of costs on the Optimal Values for fixed $c_h = 0.022$ Table6.

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Table1: Impact of Parameter on the Optimal Values for fixedε=0.9

ε = 0.9	ϱ		0.308						0.31						0.312					
θ			0.0055		0.006		0.0065		0.0055		0.006		0.0065		0.0055		0.006		0.0065	
η	ς	ϑ																		
1.45	1.02	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3
			1.0058		1.0071		1.0085		1.0051		1.0065		1.0078		1.0044		1.0058		1.0072	
		0.07	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0139		1.0155		1.0170		1.0132		1.0148		1.0163		1.0125		1.0141		1.0156	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0220		1.0236		1.0252		1.0212		1.0228		1.0244		1.0204		1.0220		1.0236	
	1.03	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3
			1.0047		1.0060		1.0074		1.0040		1.0054		1.0067		1.0034		1.0047		1.0061	
		0.07	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0129		1.0145		1.0160		1.0123		1.0138		1.0153		1.0116		1.0131		1.0146	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0208		1.0224		1.0240		1.0201		1.0217		1.0232		1.0193		1.0209		1.0225	
	1.04	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3
			1.0036		1.0050		1.0064		1.0030		1.0044		1.0057		1.0024		1.0037		1.0051	
		0.07	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0120		1.0135		1.0150		1.0114		1.0129		1.0144		1.0107		1.0122		1.0137	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0197		1.0213		1.0229		1.0190		1.0206		1.0221		1.0183		1.0198		1.0214	
1.5	1.02	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3
			0.9809		0.9823		0.9836		0.9802		0.9816		0.9829		0.9796		0.9809		0.9823	
		0.07	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			0.9891		0.9906		0.9922		0.9884		0.9899		0.9914		0.9877		0.9892		0.9907	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9972		0.9989		1.0005		0.9964		0.9980		0.9996		0.9957		0.9972		0.9988	
	1.03	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3
			0.9798		0.9811		0.9825		0.9791		0.9805		0.9818		0.9785		0.9798		0.9812	
		0.07	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			0.9881		0.9896		0.9911		0.9874		0.9889		0.9904		0.9867		0.9882		0.9897	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9960		0.9976		0.9992		0.9953		0.9968		0.9984		0.9945		0.9961		0.9976	
	1.04	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3
			0.9787		0.9801		0.9814		0.9781		0.9794		0.9808		0.9775		0.9788		0.9801	
		0.07	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			0.9871		0.9886		0.9901		0.9865		0.9879		0.9894		0.9858		0.9873		0.9887	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9949		0.9965		0.9980		0.9942		0.9957		0.9973		0.9934		0.9950		0.9965	
1.55	1.02	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3
			0.9577		0.9591		0.9604		0.9570		0.9584		0.9597		0.9564		0.9577		0.9590	
		0.07	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			0.9660		0.9675		0.9690		0.9652		0.9667		0.9682		0.9645		0.9660		0.9675	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9742		0.9758		0.9773		0.9733		0.9749		0.9765		0.9725		0.9741		0.9757	
	1.03	0.06	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3	12	3

			0.9566	0.9579	0.9592	0.9559	0.9572	0.9586	0.9552	0.9566	0.9579
		0.07	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			0.9649	0.9664	0.9679	0.9642	0.9657	0.9672	0.9635	0.9650	0.9664
		0.08	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			0.9729	0.9745	0.9760	0.9721	0.9737	0.9752	0.9713	0.9729	0.9744
	1.04	0.06	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3
			0.9555	0.9568	0.9581	0.9548	0.9562	0.9575	0.9542	0.9555	0.9568
		0.07	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			0.9639	0.9654	0.9669	0.9632	0.9647	0.9662	0.9625	0.9640	0.9655
		0.08	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			0.9718	0.9733	0.9748	0.9710	0.9725	0.9741	0.9702	0.9718	0.9733

Table 2: Impact of Parameter on the Optimal Values for fixed ε=0.95

ε = 0.95		ϱ	0.308			0.31			0.312		
θ			0.0055	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	0.0065
η	ς	ϑ									
1.45	1.02	0.06	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0578	1.0593	1.0609	1.0571	1.0586	1.0602	1.0564	1.0579	1.0595
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0667	1.0683	1.0700	1.0659	1.0675	1.0692	1.0651	1.0667	1.0684
		0.08	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0764	1.0782	1.0800	1.0755	1.0772	1.0790	1.0745	1.0763	1.0780
	1.03	0.06	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0568	1.0583	1.0598	1.0561	1.0576	1.0591	1.0554	1.0570	1.0585
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0655	1.0671	1.0687	1.0647	1.0663	1.0679	1.0639	1.0655	1.0671
		0.08	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0748	1.0766	1.0783	1.0739	1.0756	1.0774	1.0729	1.0747	1.0764
	1.04	0.06	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0558	1.0573	1.0589	1.0552	1.0567	1.0582	1.0545	1.0560	1.0575
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0643	1.0659	1.0675	1.0636	1.0652	1.0668	1.0629	1.0644	1.0660
		0.08	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0733	1.0750	1.0768	1.0724	1.0741	1.0758	1.0715	1.0732	1.0749
1.5	1.02	0.06	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0315	1.0330	1.0346	1.0308	1.0323	1.0338	1.0301	1.0316	1.0331
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0405	1.0421	1.0437	1.0397	1.0413	1.0429	1.0389	1.0405	1.0421
		0.08	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0505	1.0522	1.0540	1.0495	1.0512	1.0530	1.0485	1.0502	1.0520
	1.03	0.06	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0304	1.0319	1.0335	1.0297	1.0313	1.0328	1.0291	1.0306	1.0321
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0392	1.0408	1.0424	1.0384	1.0400	1.0416	1.0377	1.0392	1.0408
		0.08	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0488	1.0505	1.0523	1.0478	1.0496	1.0513	1.0469	1.0486	1.0503
	1.04	0.06	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0294	1.0310	1.0325	1.0288	1.0303	1.0318	1.0281	1.0296	1.0311

		0.07	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0380		1.0396		1.0412		1.0373		1.0388		1.0404		1.0365		1.0381		1.0397	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0472		1.0490		1.0507		1.0463		1.0480		1.0497		1.0454		1.0471		1.0488	
1.55	1.02	0.06	12	4	13	4	13	4	12	4	12	4	13	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0070		1.0085		1.0099		1.0062		1.0078		1.0093		1.0055		1.0071		1.0086	
		0.07	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0161		1.0177		1.0193		1.0152		1.0168		1.0184		1.0144		1.0160		1.0176	
		0.08	13	5	14	5	14	4	13	4	13	4	14	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0262		1.0280		1.0297		1.0252		1.0270		1.0287		1.0243		1.0260		1.0277	
	1.03	0.06	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0059		1.0074		1.0089		1.0052		1.0067		1.0082		1.0045		1.0060		1.0075	
		0.07	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0147		1.0163		1.0179		1.0139		1.0155		1.0171		1.0132		1.0147		1.0163	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0245		1.0263		1.0280		1.0236		1.0253		1.0270		1.0226		1.0243		1.0260	
	1.04	0.06	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0049		1.0064		1.0078		1.0042		1.0057		1.0071		1.0035		1.0050		1.0065	
		0.07	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0135		1.0151		1.0167		1.0127		1.0143		1.0159		1.0120		1.0135		1.0151	
		0.08	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0229		1.0246		1.0264		1.0220		1.0237		1.0254		1.0211		1.0227		1.0244	

Table3: Impact of Parameter on the Optimal Values for fixedε=1

ε = 1	P		0.308						0.31						0.312					
θ			0.0055		0.006		0.0065		0.0055		0.006		0.0065		0.0055		0.006		0.0065	
η	ς	ϑ																		
1.45	1.02	0.06	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.1101		1.1117		1.1134		1.1093		1.1110		1.1126		1.1086		1.1102		1.118	
		0.07	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.1209		1.1227		1.1245		1.1200		1.1218		1.1235		1.1190		1.1208		1.1226	
		0.08	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5
			1.1305		1.1324		1.1344		1.1295		1.1315		1.1334		1.1286		1.1305		1.1325	
	1.03	0.06	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.1088		1.1105		1.1121		1.1081		1.1097		1.1113		1.1074		1.1090		1.1106	
		0.07	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.1193		1.1210		1.1228		1.1183		1.1201		1.1219		1.1174		1.1192		1.1209	
		0.08	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5
			1.1289		1.1309		1.1328		1.1280		1.1299		1.1319		1.1271		1.1290		1.1309	
	1.04	0.06	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.1077		1.1093		1.1109		1.1070		1.1086		1.1102		1.1063		1.1079		1.1095	
		0.07	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.1177		1.1194		1.1212		1.1168		1.1185		1.1203		1.1159		1.1176		1.1194	
		0.08	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5	14	5
			1.1275		1.1294		1.1314		1.1266		1.1285		1.1304		1.1258		1.1277		1.1295	
1.5	1.02	0.06	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0824		1.0840		1.0856		1.0816		1.0832		1.0848		1.0808		1.0825		1.0841	
		0.07	13	5	14	4	14	4	13	4	13	4	14	4	13	4	13	4	13	4

			1.0934	1.0952	1.0969	1.0925	1.0943	1.0960	1.0916	1.0933	1.0951
		0.08	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5
			1.1030	1.1049	1.1069	1.1020	1.1039	1.1059	1.1010	1.1030	1.1049
	1.03	0.06	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0811	1.0827	1.0843	1.0803	1.0819	1.0835	1.0796	1.0812	1.0828
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0918	1.0935	1.0953	1.0908	1.0926	1.0943	1.0899	1.0916	1.0934
		0.08	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5
			1.1014	1.1033	1.1052	1.1004	1.1024	1.1043	1.0995	1.1014	1.1033
	1.04	0.06	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0799	1.0815	1.0831	1.0792	1.0808	1.0823	1.0785	1.0800	1.0816
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0901	1.0919	1.0936	1.0892	1.0910	1.0927	1.0883	1.0900	1.0918
		0.08	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5
			1.0999	1.1018	1.1037	1.0990	1.1009	1.1028	1.0981	1.1000	1.1019
1.55	1.02	0.06	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0566	1.0582	1.0598	1.0558	1.0574	1.0590	1.0550	1.0566	1.0582
		0.07	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 4	14 4	14 4
			1.0676	1.0693	1.0711	1.0668	1.0685	1.0703	1.0660	1.0677	1.0694
		0.08	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5
			1.0774	1.0793	1.0813	1.0764	1.0783	1.0802	1.0754	1.0773	1.0792
	1.03	0.06	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0552	1.0568	1.0584	1.0545	1.0561	10576	1.0537	1.0553	1.0569
		0.07	13 4	14 4	14 4	13 4	13 4	14 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0662	1.0679	1.0696	1.0652	1.0669	1.0687	1.0642	1.0660	1.0677
		0.08	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5
			1.0757	1.0776	1.0796	1.0748	1.0767	1.0786	1.0738	1.0757	1.0776
	1.04	0.06	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0540	1.0556	1.0571	1.0533	1.0548	1.0564	1.0525	1.0541	1.0556
		0.07	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0645	1.0662	1.0679	1.0635	1.0653	1.0670	1.0626	1.0643	1.0660
		0.08	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5	14 5
			1.0742	1.0761	1.0780	1.0733	1.0751	1.0770	1.0724	1.0742	1.0761

Table 4: Effects of costs on the Optimal Values for fixed $c_h = 0.018$

$c_h = 0.018$	c_r		0.14			0.15			0.16		
c_{pr}			0.8	0.82	0.84	0.8	0.82	0.84	0.8	0.82	0.84
c_s	c_o	c_n									
1.45	1.01	0.015	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			0.9912	0.9915	0.9919	0.9916	0.9919	0.9922	0.9919	0.9922	0.9925
		0.017	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			0.9915	0.9918	0.9921	0.9918	0.9921	0.9924	0.9922	0.9925	0.9928
		0.019	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			0.9917	0.9920	0.9923	0.9921	0.9924	0.9927	0.9924	0.9927	0.9930
	1.05	0.015	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0231	1.0234	1.0237	1.0235	1.0238	1.0241	1.0238	1.0241	1.0244
		0.017	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0234	1.0237	1.0240	1.0237	1.0240	1.0243	1.0240	1.0243	1.0247

		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0236		1.0239		1.0242		1.0239		1.0242		1.0246		1.0243		1.0246		1.0249	
	1.09	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0550		1.0553		1.0556		1.0553		1.0557		1.0560		1.0557		1.0560		1.0563	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0552		1.0556		1.0559		1.0556		1.0559		1.0562		1.0559		1.0562		1.0565	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0555		1.0558		1.0561		1.0558		1.0561		1.0564		1.0562		1.0565		1.0568	
1.5	1.01	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9924		0.9927		0.9930		0.9927		0.9930		0.9934		0.9931		0.9934		0.9937	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9926		0.9930		0.9933		0.9930		0.9933		0.9936		0.9933		0.9936		0.9939	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9929		0.9932		0.9935		0.9932		0.9935		0.9938		0.9936		0.9939		0.9942	
	1.05	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0243		1.0246		1.0249		1.0246		1.0249		1.0252		1.0250		1.0253		1.0256	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0245		1.0248		1.0251		1.0249		1.0252		1.0255		1.0252		1.0255		1.0258	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0248		1.0251		1.0254		1.0251		1.0254		1.0257		1.0254		1.0257		1.0261	
	1.09	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0562		1.0565		1.0568		1.0565		1.0568		1.0571		1.0568		1.0572		1.0575	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0564		1.0567		1.0570		1.0567		1.0571		1.0574		1.0571		1.0574		1.0577	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0566		1.0570		1.0573		1.0570		1.0573		1.0576		1.0573		1.0576		1.0579	
1.55	1.01	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9936		0.9939		0.9942		0.9939		0.9942		0.9945		0.9942		0.9945		0.9949	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9938		0.9941		0.9944		0.9941		0.9944		0.9948		0.9945		0.9948		0.9951	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			0.9940		0.9944		0.9947		0.9944		0.994		0.9950		0.9947		0.9950		0.9953	
	1.05	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0254		1.0258		1.0261		1.0258		1.0261		0.0264		1.0261		1.0264		1.0267	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0257		1.0260		1.0263		1.0260		1.0263		1.0266		1.0264		1.0267		1.0270	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0259		1.0262		1.0265		1.0263		1.0266		1.0269		1.0266		1.0269		1.0272	
	1.09	0.015	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4
			1.0573		1.0576		1.0579		1.0576		1.0579		1.0583		1.0580		1.0583		1.0586	
		0.017	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4
			1.0575		1.0578		1.0582		1.0579		1.0582		1.0585		1.0582		1.0585		1.0588	
		0.019	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4	14	4
			1.0578		1.0581		1.0584		1.0581		1.0584		1.0587		1.0584		1.0588		1.0591	

Table 5: Effects of costs on the Optimal Values for fixed $c_h = 0.02$

$c_h = 0.02$	c_r		0.14						0.15						0.16					
c_{pr}			0.8		0.82		0.84		0.8		0.82		0.84		0.8		0.82		0.84	
c_s	c_o	c_n																		
1.45	1.01	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0061		1.0064		1.0067		1.0064		1.0067		1.0070		1.0068		1.0071		1.0074	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0063		1.0066		1.0069		1.0067		1.0070		1.0073		1.0070		1.0073		1.0076	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0066		1.0069		1.0072		1.0069		1.0072		1.0075		1.0072		1.0076		1.0079	
	1.05	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0380		1.0383		1.0386		1.0383		1.0386		1.0389		1.0386		1.0390		1.0393	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0382		1.0385		1.0388		1.0386		1.0389		1.0392		1.0389		1.0392		1.0395	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0385		1.0388		1.0391		1.0388		1.0391		1.0394		1.0391		1.0394		1.0397	
	1.09	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0699		1.0702		1.0705		1.0702		1.0705		1.0708		1.0705		1.0708		1.0711	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0701		1.0704		1.0707		1.0704		1.0707		1.0711		1.0708		1.0711		1.0714	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0703		1.0706		1.0710		1.0707		1.0710		1.0713		1.0710		1.0713		1.0716	
1.5	1.01	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0073		1.0076		1.0079		1.0076		1.0079		1.0082		1.0079		1.0082		1.0085	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0075		1.0078		1.0081		1.0078		1.0081		1.0084		1.0082		1.0085		1.0088	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0077		1.0080		1.0083		1.0081		1.0084		1.0087		1.0084		1.0087		1.0090	
	1.05	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0391		1.0394		1.0398		1.0395		1.0398		1.0401		1.0398		1.0401		1.0404	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0394		1.0397		1.0400		1.0397		1.0400		1.0403		1.0400		1.0404		1.0407	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0396		1.0399		1.0402		1.0400		1.0403		1.0406		1.0403		1.0406		1.0409	
	1.09	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0710		1.0713		1.0716		1.0714		1.0717		1.0720		1.0717		1.0720		1.0723	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0713		1.0716		1.0719		1.0716		1.0719		1.0722		1.0719		1.0722		1.0725	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0715		1.0718		1.0721		1.0718		1.0721		1.0725		1.0722		1.0725		1.0728	
1.55	1.01	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0084		1.0087		1.0090		1.0088		1.0091		1.0094		1.0091		1.0094		1.0097	
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0087		1.0090		1.0093		1.0090		1.0093		1.0096		1.0093		1.0096		1.0099	
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0089		1.0092		1.0095		1.0092		1.0095		1.0098		1.0096		1.0099		1.0102	
	1.05	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0403		1.0406		1.0409		1.0406		1.0409		1.0413		1.0410		1.0413		1.0416	

		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0405		1.0408		1.0412		1.0409		1.0412		1.0415		1.0412		1.0415	1.0418
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0408		1.0411		1.0414		1.0411		1.0414		1.0417		1.0415		1.0418	1.0421
	1.09	0.015	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0722		1.0725		1.0728		1.0725		1.0728		1.0731		1.0729		1.0732	1.0735
		0.017	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0724		1.0727		1.0730		1.0728		1.0731		1.0734		1.0731		1.0734	1.0737
		0.019	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4	13	4
			1.0727		1.0730		1.0733		1.0730		1.0733		1.0736		1.0733		1.0736	1.0740

Table6: Effects of costs on the Optimal Values for fixed $c_h = 0.022$

$c_h = 0.022$		c_r	0.14						0.15						0.16			
c_{pr}			0.8		0.82		0.84		0.8		0.82		0.84		0.8		0.82	0.84
c_s	c_o	c_n																
1.45	1.01	0.015	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0202		1.0205		1.0208		1.0206		1.0209		1.0212		1.0209		1.0212	1.0215
		0.017	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0205		1.0208		1.0211		1.0208		1.0211		1.0214		1.0212		1.0214	1.0217
		0.019	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0207		1.0210		1.0213		1.0211		1.0214		1.0217		1.0214		1.0217	1.0220
	1.05	0.015	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0524		1.0527		1.0530		1.0527		1.0530		1.0533		1.0530		1.0533	1.0536
		0.017	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0526		1.0529		1.0532		1.0529		1.0532		1.0535		1.0533		1.0536	1.0539
		0.019	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0528		1.0531		1.0534		1.0532		1.0535		1.0538		1.0535		1.0538	1.0541
	1.09	0.015	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0845		1.0848		1.0851		1.0848		1.0851		1.0854		1.0851		1.0854	1.0857
		0.017	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0847		1.0850		1.0853		1.0851		1.0853		1.0856		1.0854		1.0857	1.0860
		0.019	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0850		1.0853		1.0855		1.0853		1.0856		1.0859		1.0856		1.0859	1.0862
1.5	1.01	0.015	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0216		1.0219		1.0221		1.0219		1.0222		1.0225		1.0222		1.0225	1.0228
		0.017	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0218		1.0221		1.0224		1.0221		1.0224		1.0227		1.0225		1.0228	1.0231
		0.019	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0220		1.0223		1.0226		1.0224		1.0227		1.0230		1.0227		1.0230	1.0233
	1.05	0.015	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0537		1.0540		1.0543		1.0540		1.0543		1.0546		1.0543		1.0546	1.0549
		0.017	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0539		1.0542		1.0545		1.0542		1.0545		1.0548		1.0546		1.0549	1.0552
		0.019	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0542		1.0544		1.0547		1.0545		1.0548		1.0551		1.0548		1.0551	1.0554
	1.09	0.015	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4
			1.0858		1.0861		1.0864		1.0861		1.0864		1.0867		1.0865		1.0868	1.0870
		0.017	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4	12	4

			1.0860	1.0863	1.0866	1.0864	1.0867	1.0870	1.0867	1.0870	1.0873
		0.019	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0863	1.0866	1.0869	1.0866	1.0869	1.0872	1.0869	1.0872	1.0875
1.55	1.01	0.015	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0229	1.0232	1.0235	1.0232	1.0235	1.0238	1.0235	1.0238	1.0241
		0.017	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0231	1.0234	1.0237	1.0234	1.0237	1.0240	1.0238	1.0241	1.0244
		0.019	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0234	1.0236	1.0239	1.0237	1.0240	1.0243	1.0240	1.0243	1.0246
	1.05	0.015	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0550	1.0553	1.0556	1.0553	1.0556	1.0559	1.0557	1.0559	1.0562
		0.017	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0552	1.0555	1.0558	1.0556	1.0559	1.0561	1.0559	1.0562	1.0565
		0.019	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4
			1.0555	1.0558	1.0561	1.0558	1.0561	1.0564	1.0561	1.0564	1.0567
	1.09	0.015	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0870	1.0873	1.0877	1.0874	1.0877	1.0880	1.0877	1.0880	1.0883
		0.017	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0873	1.0876	1.0879	1.0876	1.0879	1.0882	1.0879	1.0883	1.0886
		0.019	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4	13 4
			1.0875	1.0878	1.0881	1.0879	1.0882	1.0885	1.0882	1.0885	1.0888

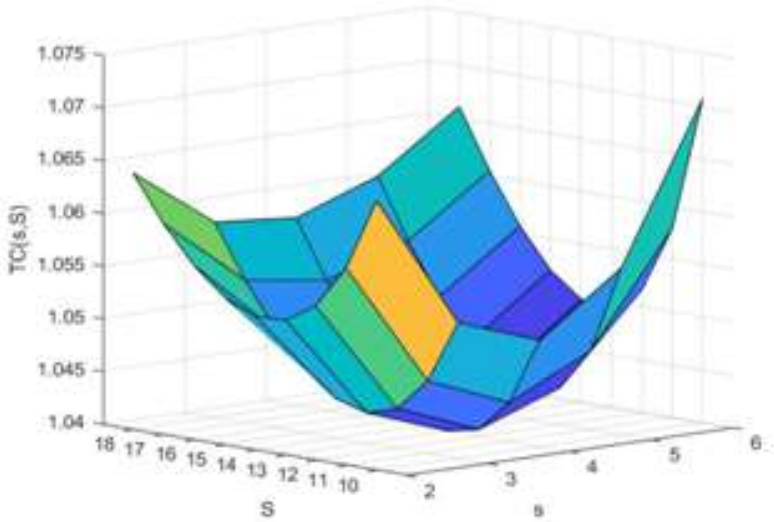


Figure 1: A typical three-dimensional plot for convexity of total expected cost rate

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Students' Awareness of Indigenous Vocations: A Critical Factor for Effective Integration of Traditional Knowledge for Economic Development

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ABSTRACT

Indigenous vocations, encompassing traditional roles and professions unique to Indigenous communities, play a significant role in economic development by blending cultural heritage with contemporary economic activities. Indigenous artisans/practitioners contribute to the economy through the production of traditional crafts, which not only preserve cultural heritage but also generate income and create jobs. Despite their cultural significance and continued relevance, indigenous vocations often remain marginalized within mainstream education and economic systems, leading to limited recognition, support, and opportunities for practitioners to pursue these vocations. Moreover, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has emphasized over the preservation and promotion of indigenous knowledge systems, including traditional vocational skills, as part of its commitment to foster a more holistic and culturally responsive education system. It calls for integrating these traditional skills into mainstream education and revitalizing traditional crafts and henceforth awareness of them marks its relevance. In this context, the present study explores awareness of Indigenous vocations among higher secondary school students and their implications for economic development. Using a descriptive survey method, the study sampled 140 students and collected data through a self-constructed awareness scale and analysed using frequency-percentage. The findings revealed that students have limited awareness of Indigenous vocations within their communities and their potential for economic growth. The study asserts this lack of awareness as a significant barrier to effective integration of Indigenous vocations into educational and economic frameworks. Hence, the study emphasizes the need for enhanced educational initiatives and

curriculum reforms aimed at increasing student awareness and appreciation of Indigenous vocations. The study further provides recommendations for collaboration among the various stakeholders for integrating and promoting traditional practices.

Keywords: Indigenous Vocations, NEP 2020, Students Awareness, Economic development, Curricular reforms, Sustainable Growth

INTRODUCTION

In the context of a rapidly evolving global economy, the focus on inclusive and sustainable development is more crucial than ever. Indigenous communities, rich in cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, stand at a unique crossroads where their vocational opportunities can serve as both a means of economic empowerment and a vehicle for cultural preservation thereby promoting sustainability. Indigenous vocational opportunities refer to career paths specifically designed to align with the unique needs, values, and skills of Indigenous communities. These opportunities span a range of fields, including but not limited to environmental management, traditional arts and crafts, cultural tourism, and community health. Such vocations are not merely about employment but are intrinsically linked to the sustainability and growth of Indigenous cultures and economies. They offer pathways that honour traditional knowledge while addressing contemporary economic needs. By recognizing and integrating Indigenous vocations into broader economic strategies, societies can benefit from their unique contributions while fostering more inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In this context, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of India highlights the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge systems into the educational framework, recognizing their value in fostering a more holistic, inclusive and culturally responsive education system. NEP 2020 emphasizes the need for preserving and promoting traditional vocational skills as a way to enhance the educational experience and contribute to economic development. By incorporating these skills into mainstream curricula, the policy aims to revitalize traditional crafts and create pathways for sustainable economic growth. Yet, the extent to which these Indigenous vocational opportunities are known and understood among students remains a significant concern. Despite the intrinsic value of these vocational opportunities, there is often a lack of awareness among students regarding their existence and potential benefits. This gap in awareness is because of several factors, including limited exposure to Indigenous career paths in mainstream educational curricula, insufficient outreach efforts, and a general lack of understanding about the role these opportunities play in both personal and community development. Increasing student awareness is crucial for several reasons. First, it can lead to higher participation rates in vocational programs, contributing to the economic and cultural vitality of Indigenous communities. Second, a well-informed student body can foster a more inclusive workforce that benefits from diverse perspectives and skills. Finally, enhancing awareness can help bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern economic opportunities, ensuring that Indigenous cultures continue to thrive while adapting to contemporary demands. Thus, the present study aims to address this gap by exploring the awareness of Indigenous vocations among higher secondary school students and examining the implications of the same for economic development. By assessing current levels of awareness and identifying barriers to effective integration, the study seeks to provide recommendations for enhancing educational initiatives pertaining to the preservation and integration of Indigenous vocations.

INSIGHTS DRAWN FROM LITERATURE REVIEW

Gupta et al. (2020) in their study highlighted how vocational education positively influences youth empowerment and social inclusion in rural areas. Showkat and Tiwari (2014) also proposed that skill development and training programs significantly influence employment generation, production, and economic growth. They also contribute substantially to sales and exports, benefiting both the national and state economies. Din and Bhushan (2014) revealed in their research that the handicraft sector is vital for the development of the country as a whole, and holds special

importance for Jammu and Kashmir. In his book, F.M. Hassanain (1980) discussed various traditional Kashmiri crafts, including Namdhas, Shawls, Woodcarving, Silk, Willow Work, Chain Stitch, and Paper Machié. He emphasized the significance and relevance of the handicraft sector, particularly for the economy of Kashmir. Along with the significance of vocational education and local crafts, the studies literature also revealed that the Indigenous vocations face several significant challenges that hinder their development and integration into broader economic and educational frameworks. One major issue is *marginalization and lack of recognition*. Indigenous vocations often remain underrepresented in mainstream educational curricula, resulting in limited awareness among students and educators about their importance and potential. Moreover, *cultural erosion* poses a substantial threat. Rapid modernization and globalization can lead to the erosion of traditional practices, as younger generations may be drawn to contemporary careers and technologies over traditional vocations. *Inadequate support and resources* further exacerbate these challenges. Many Indigenous vocational programs suffer from a lack of sufficient funding and infrastructure, which impedes their growth and sustainability. Additionally, existing policies often fail to address the specific needs of Indigenous communities, creating a disconnect between policy initiatives and practical requirements. *Market access and sustainability* issues pose significant obstacles. Indigenous artisans often struggle to compete with mass-produced goods due to the high cost of traditional materials and labor-intensive production processes (Hassan, 2007). Finally, *Challenges in integration* also hinder progress. Integrating Indigenous vocations into mainstream educational frameworks involves practical difficulties, such as the lack of adequate resources, including funding, training, and materials, to support the integration of indigenous vocationsin schools to effectively teach these skills. Addressing these multifaceted challenges is crucial for preserving and promoting Indigenous vocations in today's rapidly changing world.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the awareness level of Higher Secondary School Students towards indigenous vocations.
2. To propose recommendations for effective integration of traditional knowledge in educational institutions in the light of NEP 2020.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was descriptive in nature, survey method was employed.

- **Population:** The population of the present study consists of Higher Secondary school students studying in 12th class of different Hr. Sec. Schools in Jammu division.
- **Sample:** A representative proportion of the entire population is randomly chosen from 3 districts namely Kathua, Samba and Rajouri. The sample consists of 140 students studying in total 15 schools (5 schools from each district).
- **Tool Used:** Based on the methodology of the current study, the investigator developed the awareness scale. This Scale comprised of total 26 statements and the total items were divided into 4 dimensions covering the different aspects of vocational education.
- Two alternatives were given against each statement such as (Yes/No). Respondents were required to tick one option from the given two**.**
- **Techniques used**

Frequency and Percentage

Data Analysis and Interpretation

For achieving the formulated objectives, the investigator collected the data from 140 Hr. Sec. School students. The data collected through awareness scale was analyzed using frequency and percentage. Table 1 reveals that about (43%) participants knew about the meaning and scope of vocational education, whereas the remaining 57% were not aware of it. Also, 55% of the respondents were not aware of the importance of vocational education in career development and even more than 55% of the participants were also not aware of the well-paying job opportunities associated with vocational education. It was also observed that only few participants (30%) knew about the different

fields covered by vocational education in their schools like trades, healthcare, technology etc. A significant number of participants (68.2%) were not informed of the role of vocational education for achieving self-reliance. From the Table 2 it can be concluded that only about (17%) participants were aware of the rich handicraft of J and K whereas the remaining 83% were not aware of it. Also, one fourth of the respondents (25%) were aware of the different indigenous vocational opportunities prevalent in J and K whereas the majority did not know about different vocational practices of J and K. It was also observed that very few participants (17%) were aware of the indigenous agricultural and horticultural practices of J and K and when asked about their awareness regarding the GI tagged products of different districts in J and K, only 13.5% i.e. 19 out of 140 students were aware of the same and the rest did not know about these products at all. A significant number of participants (90%) were not informed of the success stories of different indigenous practitioners/local artisans/ local entrepreneurs. Also, majority of the students i.e. more than 70% were not aware of the need of preserving indigenous vocations, their cultural relevance and not even they knew about the different challenges that threaten their survival. From the Table 3 it can be observed that more than half of the participants (61%) were not aware the role of indigenous vocations in empowering communities, whereas only 39% were aware of them. Approx. same no. of participants (41%) was aware of the economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities associated with indigenous vocations. It was also observed that near about half of the participants (47%) knew about the role of vocational education in raising employment and 68% of the respondents believe that indigenous vocations generate rural livelihood. From the Table 4 it can be observed that most (81%) participants stated were not aware of the different initiatives led by J and K for preserving and promoting indigenous vocations, whereas only 19% were aware of them. Majority of the participants (87%) responded that they were not aware of the govt supported melas and exhibitions for showcasing indigenous crafts of J and K. It was also observed that very few participants (30%) responded that they knew about the different vocational institutes in J and K for teaching vocational courses. A significant number of participants (76.2%) answered that they were informed about government funding or grants available for artisans and traditional craftsmen in J and K.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The study reveals a significant gap in students' awareness of Indigenous vocations and their socio-economic impacts. The data indicates that a substantial portion of higher secondary school students lack knowledge about the rich cultural heritage and economic potential of Indigenous vocations in Jammu and Kashmir. For instance, awareness levels regarding indigenous vocations, crafts, and agricultural practices, and government initiatives are notably low, with only a small fraction of students familiar with these aspects. Additionally, students' understanding of the broader socio-economic benefits of Indigenous vocations, such as community empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities, is limited. This lack of awareness not only undermines the integration of Indigenous vocations into mainstream education but also hampers their economic development potential. The findings underline the critical need for educational reforms, awareness campaigns, and community engagement initiatives to bridge these gaps and enhance students' understanding and appreciation of Indigenous vocations. Such measures are essential for aligning with the vision of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and fostering a more inclusive and sustainable approach to vocational education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of present study, following recommendations are proposed to enhance awareness of Indigenous vocations among higher secondary school students and support the integration of the same in mainstream curricula aligning with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

Integrating Vocational Education into Mainstream Curriculum: Offering indigenous vocational courses as part of the school's elective options or core curriculum while ensuring that these courses are designed to be relevant to local industries and indigenous practices.

Awareness Campaigns: Launch awareness campaigns in schools to educate students about Indigenous vocations, their economic significance, and their role in cultural preservation.

Conducting Workshops and Field Visits: Organize workshops, seminars, and field visits to local artisan workshops and traditional vocational sites. This hands-on approach can provide students with practical insights and experiences related to Indigenous vocations.

School-Community Partnerships: Partner with Indigenous communities and practitioners, local NGOs and cultural organizations to conduct educational sessions and demonstrations. This collaboration can help students gain firsthand knowledge and appreciation of traditional practices.

Involving local artisans: There must be acollaboration and involvement of local artisansin school events for the dissemination of the skills related to indigenous practices and vocations while fostering a collective approach to cultural preservation and education.

Guidance and Career Counselling: Provide career counseling services that include information about Indigenous vocational opportunities. This can help students to know about the various local potential career paths and the benefits of pursuing them.

Holding information sessions: To increase awareness among students about existing government initiatives, funding, and grants available for Indigenous vocations, schools should carry out information sessions and organize talks by government representatives.

Highlighting Success Stories: Highlighting the success stories of Indigenous artisans to inspire students and demonstrate the viability of Indigenous vocations as a career option.

Digital Platforms and Resources: Create and promote digital platforms (websites, apps) that provide interactive resources, virtual tours, and educational content about Indigenous vocations and crafts.

Cultural Exhibitions and Fairs: Organizing cultural exhibitions and fairs to showcase local handicrafts and vocational skills is a powerful way to raise awareness, foster appreciation, and promote the economic viability of Indigenous vocations.

By implementing these recommendations, educational institutions can play a significant role in bridging the gap in awareness and fostering a more inclusive approach to vocational education that values and promotes Indigenous knowledge and practices.

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Table 1: Responses related to general awareness of students towards vocational education (N=140)

S.No.	Statements	Yes	No
1.	I know what vocational education entails.	42.8% (60)	57.2% (80)
2.	I know that vocational education is important for career development	44.2% (62)	55.8% (78)
3.	I know that vocational education can lead to well-paying jobs	42% (59)	58% (81)
4.	I am aware of the practical skills taught in vocational education	27.1% (38)	72.9% (102)
5.	I am aware of the different fields covered by vocational education (e.g., healthcare, technology, trades)	30% (42)	70% (98)
6.	I know that vocational education can help in starting my own business	40.7% (57)	59.3% (83)
7.	I am aware that vocational education is a means to achieve self-reliance.	37.1% (52)	62.8% (88)

Table 2: Responses related to awareness of students regarding indigenous vocational opportunities in J and K (N=140)

S.No.	Statements	Yes	No
1.	I am aware of the rich handicraft of J and K.	17.2% (24)	82.8% (116)
2.	I am aware of the local vocational opportunities prevalent in J and K.	25% (35)	75% (105)
3.	I am aware of various Self- Help Groups (SHGs) involved in indigenous vocations in my localized area.	20% (28)	80% (112)
4.	I am aware of the indigenous agricultural and horticultural practices of J and K	17.1 % (24)	82.9% (116)
5.	I am aware of various GI Tagged products in different districts of J and K	13.5% (19)	86.5% (121)
6.	I believe that preserving indigenous vocations is important for maintaining cultural heritage.	19.2% (27)	80.8% (113)
7.	I am aware of the need to incorporate indigenous vocations into formal education system	37.8% (53)	62.25 (87)
8.	I am aware of cultural significance of indigenous vocations in J and K.	30% (42)	70% (98)
9.	I know the success stories of artisans from Jammu and Kashmir in handicrafts and indigenous vocations.	9.2% (13)	90.8% (127)
10.	I am aware of the challenges that threaten the survival of indigenous vocations.	19.25% (27)	80.75% (113)

Table 3: Responses related to awareness of students towards socio-economic impact of indigenous vocations (N=140)

S.No.	Statements	Yes	No
1.	I am aware of the role of indigenous vocations in empowering communities	39.2% (55)	60.8% (85)
2.	I am aware of economic development associated with indigenous vocations	41.4% (58)	58.8% (82)
3.	I am aware of the entrepreneurial opportunities associated with indigenous vocations	40.7% (57)	59.3% (83)
4.	I am aware of the role of vocational education in raising employment	46.4% (65)	53.6% (75)
5.	I believe that practising indigenous vocations generates rural livelihood	32% (45	68% (95)

Table 4: Responses related to awareness of students towards different govt. initiatives in J and K for promoting indigenous vocational practices and products (N=140)

S.No.	Statements	Yes	No
1.	I am aware of governmental initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting indigenous vocations in J and K.	19.2% (27)	80.8% (113)
2.	I am aware of government-supported Melas or exhibitions in J and K that showcase indigenous crafts.	12.8% (18)	87.1% (122)
3.	I am aware of Government aided vocational institutes in J and K for teaching indigenous vocations	30% (42)	70% (98)
4.	I am informed about government funding or grants available for artisans and traditional craftsmen in J and K.	23.6% (33)	76.42% (107)

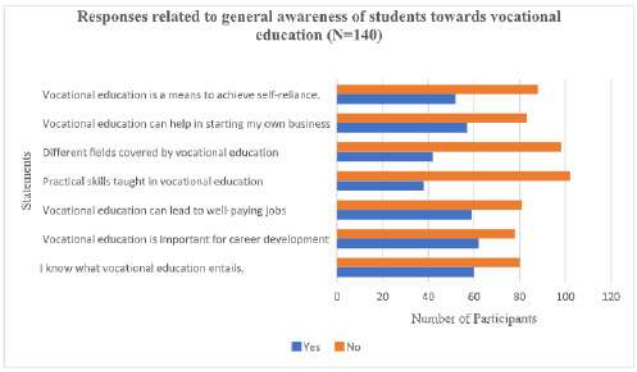


Fig.1: Responses related to general awareness of students towards vocational education (N=140)

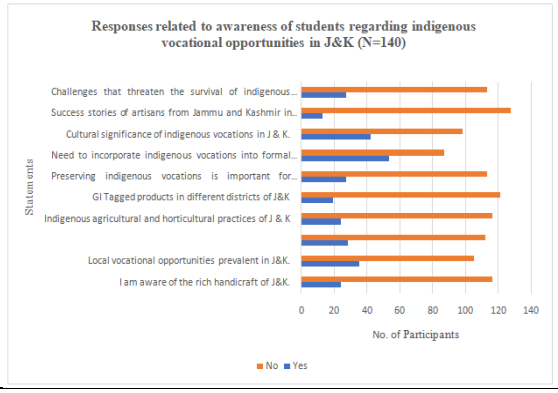


Fig.2: Responses related to awareness of students regarding indigenous vocational opportunities in J and K (N=140)

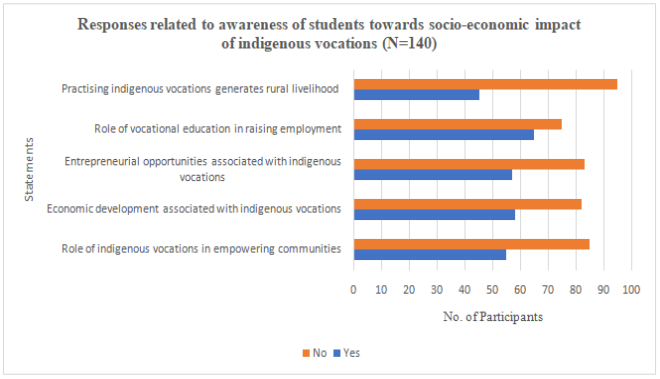


Fig.3: Responses related to awareness of students towards socio-economic impact of indigenous vocations (N=140)

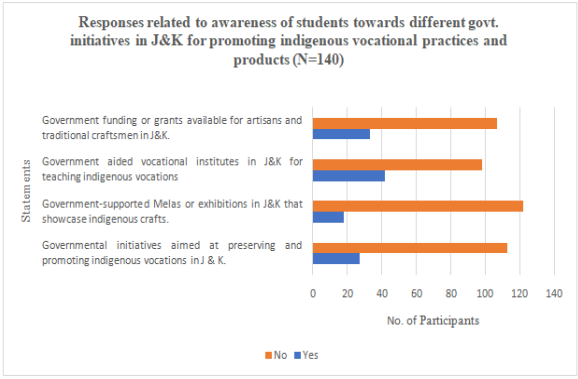


Fig.4: Responses related to awareness of students towards different govt. initiatives in J and K for promoting indigenous vocational practices and products (N=140)

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Anti-Bacterial Efficacy of Aqueous Extract of *Azadirachta indica* A.Juss Flowers

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ABSTRACT

People widely use neem *(Azadirachta indica)* to treat various infections, metabolic diseases, and cancerous diseases. The present study was undertaken to prepare aqueous extracts of neem flower by using a decoction method, assessing phytochemical screening and antibacterial activity by the agar disc diffusion method against 4 human bacterial pathogens. The flowers were collected from the surroundings of Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu. It was used for extraction by a decoction method using distilled water. Phytochemical screening of the aqueous extracts of neem flower revealed positive results for carbohydrates, phenols, glycosides, alkaloids, reducing sugars, saponins, and flavonoids. However, quinone, tannins, amino acids, and terpenoids were not detected in the extracts of neem flowers. The MIC of antibacterial activity against human bacterial pathogens was quantitatively assessed by testing serial concentrations. The human bacterial pathogens *Bacillus subtilis* (gram-positive pathogens) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (gram-negative pathogens) were sensitized up upto 31.25 µg/ml, as recorded by using the Hi-Media Zone Scale.

Keywords: *Azadichta indica* , Phytochemical screening , Anti bacerial activity of Human pathogens , MIC

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants have been used as traditional remedies for a number of human ailments, and several studies detailing the pharmacological characteristics of medicinal plant extracts have been published. Because the plant components increase antibacterial activity, they play a significant role in both preventing and treating disease. Numerous viral, metabolic, or malignant conditions are treated with it [1,]. A member of the Meliaceae family, neem (*Azadirachta indica)* is an evergreen tree that grows all over the world. Neem is a pretty broadleaf that can reach heights of 30 m and widths of 2.5 m. Its typically straight trunk has a diameter of 30 to 80 cm. Its spreading branches grow up to 20 meters broad, forming a circular canopy of deep green foliage and honey-scented flowers. *Azardiracta indica* (Figure: 1).

Local name of Neem: Hindi-neem , Tamil-vembu, vempu , Malayalam-veppu, aryaveppu, aruveppu, kaippan, veppu, vepa , Telugu-vepa. The Indian villager has long considered the neem tree to be a friend and defender. It has been utilized as a natural insecticide and fertilizer for fields, as well as for the preservation of food and grains[2]. Antibacterial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties are among the many biological and pharmacological actions that have been documented. Almost every component of the tree, including the bitter fruits, seeds, oil, leaves, roots, and bark, contains chemicals that have been shown to have antiviral, antifungal, antiplasmodial, antiseptic, antipyretic, and antidiabetic effects[3] [4]. The complex of different components found in *Azadirachta indica*, such as limonoids, nimbin, nimbidin, and nimbolide, contributes to the treatment of sickness. The first polyphenolic flavonoids to be isolated from fresh neem leaves were quercetin and β-sitosterol, which were known to possess antifungal and antibacterial properties[5]. Neem flowers have long been utilized in Ayurveda medicine to treat bile suppression, phlegm, and intestinal worm removal. Higher antioxidant qualities are obtained from neem flower extraction. It was discovered that floral aqueous extracts had stronger antibacterial activity and higher levels of free radical scavenging.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection and Storage condition

Fresh *Azadirachta indica* flowers were gathered from the Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, area. verified by Prof. P. Jayaraman, a botanist from the Plant Anatomy Research Center (PARC) in West Tambaram, Chennai. The certificate's registration number was PARC/2020/4332. The fresh *Azadirachta indica* blossoms were properly cleaned two or three times using distilled water before being allowed to dry in the shade. The dried flower was coarsely mashed with a mortar and pestle in a single direction. The resulting powder was then put through mesh (mesh no. 60) and kept in an airtight container.

Aqueous Extract by Decoction Method

Neem flower powder was obtained by boiling it with distilled water (1:3, w/v) for an hour at 40–50°C, followed by filtering. In order to obtain the decoction extract, additional distilled water was added to the marc, and the extraction process was repeated until the final extract was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated on a boiling water bath till weight was reached[6].

Phyto chemical Screening

Test for Carbohydrates: Two milliliters of Molisch's reagent are added to one milliliter of extract. After giving the mixture a good shake, 2 milliliters of sulfuric acid concentrate are gradually added to the test tube's sidewalls. The development of a reddish ring signifies the presence of carbohydrates

Test for Phenols: To 2ml of extract, 3ml of ethanol and a pinch of ferric chloride are added. A greenish yellow color indicates the presence of phenols.

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Test for glycosides

Borntrager's test: To 3 ml of test solution, diluted sulfuric acid was added, boiled for 5 min and filtered. To the cold filtrate, an equal volume of benzene/chloroform was added and shaken well. The organic solvent layer was separated, and ammonia was added. Formation of pink to red color in the ammoniacal layer indicates glycosides.

Test for alkaloids: Mayer's test To a few drops of extract, 2 drops of Mayer's reagent were added by the side of the test tube. A green-colored precipitate confirms the presence of alkaloids.

Test for reducing sugar: To 0.5 ml of extract, 1 ml of water and 5-8 drops of Fehling's solution were added and heated over a water bath. Brick-red precipitate indicates the presence of reducing sugar.

Test for quinone: Add a few drops of extract to 5 ml of HCl. Formation of yellow precipitate indicates the presence of quinone.

Test for tannins: To a portion of extract diluted with water, 3-4 drops of 10% ferric chloride solution were added. Blue color indicates gallic tannins, and green color indicates catecholic tannins.

Test for saponins: Froth test: To a few ml of extract, 20 ml of distilled water was added and shaken for 15 min. Formation of a 1cm layer of foam indicates the presence of saponins.

Test for flavonoids: To a few ml of extract, a few drops of dil. Sulfuric acid was added. Orange color indicates the presence of flavonoids.

Test for amino acids: A few drops of extract and a few drops of ninhydrin solution were added to a test tube. Blue color indicates the presence of amino acids.

Test for terpenoids: To 2 ml of extract, 2 ml of acetic anhydride and conc. sulfuric acid were added. Formation of a green ring indicates the presence of terpenoids[7].

Antibacterial Activity: Bacterial sources were required from Biotechnology Clinix Lab in Chengalpattu.

Preparation of medium: 3.8g of Muller Hinton Agar is added to 100ml of distilled water and autoclaved at 121°C for 15 minutes and poured into sterile petri plates up to a uniform thickness of approximately 4mm, and the agar is allowed to set at ambient temperature, and the plate is used for further steps.

Agar disk diffusion method: The agar plates are inoculated with a standard inoculum of the test microorganism with the sterile cotton swab. Then the filter paper disc (about 6mm in diameter) containing the test compound at the desired concentration was prepared. And the disc was placed on the agar surface by using the sterile forceps. Meanwhile, the petri dishes were incubated at 37°C for 18-24 hours. Further, the antibacterial agents inhibit the germination and growth of the test microorganisms. Then the zone of inhibition was measured by using the Hi-Media Zone Scale[8].

Determination of minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC): The different concentrations (1000, 500, 250, 125, 62.5, and 31.25 μg/ml) of aqueous extract of neem flower were prepared by serial dilution. Then the filter paper discs of 6mm were loaded with the aqueous extract of the desired concentration. And the discs were placed on the agar surface by using the sterile forceps. The petri dish was incubated at room temperature (37°C) and kept aside for 18-24 hours. Then the zone of inhibition (formation of a zone around the disc) was measured by using the Hi-Media Zone Scale. The lowest concentration inhibiting growth was considered to be the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)[9].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Phyto chemical screening methods

The results of phytochemical screening of *A.I* Flowers in Decoction method (Table.1).

In these results, aqueous extract in the decoction method responses has more phytochemicals, less time consumed, and less expense compared with when other methods of extraction and solvents are used.

MIC of the A *Azadirachta indica A.Juss* flowers in Decoction method (Table 2).

The neem tree has different parts, especially the flower, which contains various phytochemical constituents like alkaloids, glycosides, carbohydrates, phenols, coumarins, terpenoids, amino acids, and flavonoids. Phytochemical analysis of neem flower in the decoction method of extract identified secondary metabolites, which indicates antibacterial activity against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. Advantages of this method are that it is less expensive and less time-consuming and gives a high yield of product. The minimum inhibitory concentration was interpreted as the serial dilution concentration of the extract that did not show any visible growth when compared with the negative control. The results of the agar disc diffusion method were found to be Bacteria strains are sensitive to aqueous extract of *Azadirachta indica a.juss* flowers. The antibacterial activity of MIC is shown in Table 2. The *Azadirachta indica a.juss* flower extract exhibited antibacterial activity against the *Bacillus subtilis, Staphylococcus aureus* (G+Ve), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and Klebsiella pneumoniae* (G-Ve) bacteria. *Bacillus subtilis* had 7.96mm at 31.25 μg/ml, *Staphylococcus aureus* had 8.32mm at 123 μg/ml, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* had 12.38 mm at 31.25 μg/ml, and Klebsiella pneumoniae had 8.75mm at 250 μg/ml.

CONCLUSION

In this study, as per the results and discussion, neem flowers were activated against human pathogenic bacterial agents. Further study is needed to describe the potential antibacterial activity of the crude extract in more detail.

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Table.1 The results of phytochemical screening of *A.I* Flowers in Decoction method

S.NO	Test for Phytochemicals	Decoction method(Aqueous extract)
1.	Test for Carbohydrates	+
2.	Test for Phenol	+
3.	Test for Glycosides (Borntrager's test)	+
4.	Test for Alkaloids (Mater's test)	+
5.	Test for Quinone	-
6.	Test for Tannins	-
7.	Test for Saponins (Froth test)	+
8.	Test for Flavonids	+
9.	Test for Amino acids	+
10.	Test for Terpenoids	+
11.	Test for Coumarine	+

Table 2. MIC of the A *AZADIRACHTA INDICA A.JUSS* flowers in Decoction method

CONC ⇩ ⇨ Bacteria	1000 µg/ml	500 µg/ml	250 µg/ml	125 µg/ml	62.5 µg/ml	31.25 µg/ml
Bacillus subtilis	16.43mm	15.73mm	11.01mm	10.48mm	8.50mm	7.96mm
Staphylococcus aureus	15.08mm	14.23mm	13.35mm	8.32mm	-	-
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	23.24mm	22.34mm	20.01mm	18.43mm	14.12mm	12.38mm
Klebsiella pneumoniae	15.43mm	13.89mm	8.75mm	-	-	-
Negative control	-	-	-	-	-	-



Figure 1. *Azardiracta indica*

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Applications of Nanotechnology in Veterinary Medicine : A New Frontier in Animal Health

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ABSTRACT

Nanotechnology, defined as the manipulation and application of materials at the nanoscale (1–100 nanometers), has emerged as a revolutionary discipline in veterinary medicine. At this scale, materials exhibit unique physicochemical properties, including increased surface area, enhanced reactivity, and the ability to penetrate biological barriers, which enable novel approaches to diagnostics, therapeutics, and disease prevention. In recent years, the veterinary field has begun to harness these nanoscale properties to enhance animal health, productivity, and welfare through more precise and effective interventions. One of the most promising applications of nanotechnology in veterinary medicine lies in targeted drug delivery. Nanoparticles such as liposomes, dendrimers, and polymeric carriers can encapsulate drugs and deliver them specifically to diseased tissues or organs, thereby increasing therapeutic efficacy while minimizing side effects. This is particularly beneficial in treating chronic infections, parasitic infestations, and cancer in companion animals and livestock. Additionally, nano-formulated drugs can exhibit improved bioavailability, stability, and controlled release profiles, further enhancing treatment outcomes. In the domain of disease diagnostics, nanotechnology offers high sensitivity and specificity through the

use of nanosensors and quantum dots. These nanoscale devices can detect pathogens, toxins, and biomarkers at very low concentrations, allowing for early diagnosis and timely intervention. Point-of-care nanodiagnostic tools are increasingly being developed for rapid and on-site disease detection in field settings, which is particularly crucial for livestock management and outbreak control in rural and remote areas. Nano-vaccines represent another significant advancement. Engineered nanoparticles can mimic pathogens or deliver antigens in a controlled manner, eliciting robust and long-lasting immune responses. These vaccines often do not require cold-chain storage and can be administered orally or intranasally, making them ideal for mass immunization programs in poultry, ruminants, and swine. Moreover, nanotechnology has shown promise in regenerative medicine, where nanomaterials are used to stimulate tissue repair, enhance wound healing, and support the regeneration of damaged organs. Nano-engineered scaffolds and delivery systems can aid in the controlled release of growth factors, stem cells, or therapeutic agents at injury sites, facilitating faster recovery in injured animals. Despite its immense potential, the application of nanotechnology in veterinary practice faces several challenges. These include the high cost of production, lack of regulatory guidelines, limited understanding of long-term toxicity, and environmental concerns related to nanoparticle accumulation. Addressing these issues through interdisciplinary research, policy development, and risk assessment is essential for the safe and sustainable adoption of nanotechnological innovations in animal health care. In conclusion, nanotechnology presents a new frontier in veterinary medicine, offering innovative solutions for diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccination, and regenerative care. Continued advancements in this field hold the potential to revolutionize animal healthcare systems globally, contributing to improved productivity, disease control, and overall animal well-being.

Keywords: Nanotechnology; Veterinary medicine; Nanoparticles; Targeted drug delivery; Nano-vaccines;

INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology has emerged as a groundbreaking field in various sectors, including veterinary medicine. By manipulating materials on a nanometer scale, which is one-billionth of a meter, this technology provides unprecedented opportunities for improving diagnostics, treatments, and prevention of diseases in animals. As we continue to understand the full potential of nanotechnology, it promises to revolutionize the way veterinary care is provided, offering solutions that are more precise, effective, and tailored to the needs of individual animals. This comprehensive article explores the diverse applications of nanotechnology in veterinary medicine, its benefits and challenges, and the exciting future directions for this innovative field. The integration of nanotechnology into veterinary medicine marks a paradigm shift from conventional therapeutic and diagnostic methods toward more precise, efficient, and personalized animal health interventions. The ability to manipulate materials at the nanoscale has led to the development of nanocarriers, nanosensors, and nano-adjuvants, which significantly improve the pharmacokinetics, bioavailability, and targeting of veterinary drugs and vaccines ((El-Sayed and Kamel, 2020).

Nanoparticles for Disease Diagnosis and Treatment

Nanoparticles have proven to be a powerful tool for enhancing disease diagnosis and treatment in animals. By targeting specific cells or tissues, nanoparticles can deliver treatments more accurately, significantly improving the effectiveness of veterinary care. Nanoparticles can also enhance the imaging of diseases, making it easier for veterinarians to detect and diagnose conditions early, when they are most treatable((Bhattarai *et al*., 2010; Jain, 2001).

Nanoparticle-Based Imaging Technologies

Nanoparticles are used in imaging techniques such as MRI contrast agents, which allow for the visualization of internal structures with high precision. These particles can also serve as fluorescent markers, enabling the tracking of disease progression or the effectiveness of treatments in real-time. For example, superparamagnetic nanoparticles can be used for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), allowing veterinarians to detect tumors, infections, or other abnormalities in animals with exceptional clarity and detail (Cheng *et al*., 2014; Padhye *et al*., 2009).

Targeted Drug Delivery

Beyond diagnostic imaging, nanoparticles offer the advantage of targeted drug delivery. Drugs can be encapsulated within nanoparticles and delivered directly to diseased cells or tissues. This precise targeting minimizes the impact of the drug on healthy cells, reducing side effects and improving the overall therapeutic outcome. For instance, nanoparticles are used to deliver chemotherapeutic drugs directly to cancerous tumors, allowing for higher doses of the drug to be administered while minimizing harm to surrounding tissues (Torchilin, 2005). Magnetic nanoparticles, for example, can be controlled externally with magnetic fields, allowing for targeted drug delivery with high spatial accuracy. This is particularly beneficial in treating conditions such as cancer, where conventional treatments often harm healthy cells along with the diseased tissue (Chouly *et al*., 1996).

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Nanotechnology-Based Vaccines

Vaccination is an essential tool in preventing diseases in animals, and nanotechnology is transforming the development of more effective and safer vaccines. Nanotechnology-based vaccines are designed to improve immune responses, increase vaccine stability, and reduce side effects.

Nano-adjuvants

Nano-adjuvants, which are nanoparticles used to enhance the immune response, are incorporated into vaccines to increase their effectiveness. These adjuvants help to stimulate the immune system, ensuring a stronger and longer-lasting immune response. This is particularly valuable in animals, where immune systems may respond less robustly to conventional vaccines (Kumar *et al*., 2008).

Chitosan-based Nanoparticles

Chitosan, a biopolymer derived from the shells of crustaceans, is used to develop nanoparticles that can enhance the delivery and stability of vaccines. Chitosan-based nanoparticles have been successfully used in vaccines for avian influenza, improving both their stability and effectiveness. These nanoparticles act as carriers that ensure the vaccine reaches the immune cells efficiently (Moore *et al*., 2012; Patel *et al*., 2011).

Virus-like Nanoparticles (VLNPs)

Virus-like nanoparticles are engineered to mimic the structure of actual viruses but are devoid of harmful genetic material. When used in vaccines, VLNPs can trigger a strong immune response without causing disease. This approach is especially useful for preventing viral diseases, offering an alternative to traditional vaccines that may require weakened or inactivated forms of the virus (Cui *et al*., 2016).

Nanoparticle-Mediated Gene Therapy

Gene therapy, which involves altering the genetic material of an organism to treat or prevent disease, is an exciting application of nanotechnology in veterinary medicine. Nanoparticles serve as delivery vehicles for genetic material, allowing for precise targeting of specific cells or tissues (Suri *et al*., 2016; Singh and Lillard, 2009).

Delivery of DNA and RNA

Nanoparticles can be used to deliver DNA or RNA molecules into animal cells, enabling the correction of genetic disorders or the introduction of therapeutic genes. This technology is particularly useful for treating inherited diseases that were previously untreatable. Nanoparticles made of lipids, polymers, or inorganic materials can carry these genetic materials into cells efficiently, enhancing the overall success of gene therapy (Yang *et al*., 2014).

CRISPR-loaded Nanoparticles

CRISPR-Cas9 technology has made gene editing more accessible and precise. When combined with nanoparticles, CRISPR can be used to modify specific genes in animals, offering potential cures for genetic diseases. Nanoparticles act as carriers, protecting the CRISPR components and ensuring their delivery to the correct cells. This technology could revolutionize the treatment of genetic disorders in veterinary patients (Harris *et al*., 2015).

Lipid-based Nanocarriers

Lipid-based nanocarriers are particularly effective for gene therapy due to their ability to encapsulate genetic material and protect it from degradation. These carriers improve the stability and efficiency of gene delivery, allowing for more successful gene therapies in animals. Their use in veterinary medicine could lead to cures for a variety of inherited conditions, including those in companion animals, livestock, and wildlife (Akbarzadeh *et al*., 2012).

Regenerative Veterinary Medicine

Nanofibers, nanocomposites, and hydrogel scaffolds are being employed in tissue engineering for the repair of bone, cartilage, and skin injuries in animals. These materials support cellular adhesion, proliferation, and differentiation, accelerating healing and functional recovery (Gao *et al*., 2012).

APPLICATIONS

- Bone graft substitutes in equine orthopedics.
- Wound dressings for companion animals.
- Injectable nanocomposite gels for cartilage repair.

Real-Time Health Monitoring

Nanosensors integrated into wearable devices (like smart collars) allow for continuous monitoring of physiological parameters like temperature, respiration rate, and biomarkers, facilitating early disease detection and improved herd health management (Aziz *et al*., 2025).

Environmental Applications and Food Safety

Nanoparticles such as zinc oxide and silver have antimicrobial properties and are used in biocides to sanitize farm environments. Moreover, nanosensors help detect contaminants in milk, meat, and poultry products, ensuring food safety (Saeed and Asseel, 2023).

Benefits and Challenges of Nanotechnology in Veterinary Medicine

Improved Drug Delivery and Efficacy

Nanotechnology offers a significant advantage in the delivery and efficacy of veterinary drugs. Nanoparticles can increase the bioavailability of drugs, ensuring that more of the medication reaches the target tissues. By encapsulating drugs within nanoparticles, they can be released gradually over time, ensuring a consistent therapeutic effect. This can reduce the need for frequent administration, making treatment more convenient for both animals and their caregivers. Furthermore, nanotechnology allows for the development of drugs with improved solubility, stability, and bioavailability. For example, nanogels can enhance the solubility of hydrophobic drugs, which would otherwise be difficult to administer. This results in higher drug concentrations at the site of action, improving the overall treatment outcome (Langer, 1998; Singh *et al*., 2008).

Targeted Therapy and Personalized Medicine

Nanotechnology opens up the possibility for personalized and targeted therapies in veterinary medicine. By using nanoparticles that respond to specific triggers, such as changes in pH or temperature, drugs can be released only when they reach the diseased tissues. This precision reduces the risk of side effects and increases the effectiveness of treatments. Additionally, the integration of genetic information in veterinary care enables the tailoring of treatments to meet the specific needs of individual animals. Nanotechnology facilitates the delivery of therapies based on an

animal's genetic profile, ensuring that the treatment is not only targeted but also personalized to maximize therapeutic outcomes.

Toxicity and Safety Concerns

While the potential of nanotechnology in veterinary medicine is vast, there are concerns regarding the safety and toxicity of nanoparticles. Studies have shown that nanoparticles can accumulate in certain organs, such as the liver, kidneys, and spleen, potentially causing long-term health issues. The impact of these particles on animal health and the environment is still not fully understood, necessitating further research. Additionally, there are concerns about the environmental impact of nanoparticles, particularly their release into the environment through animal waste. The fate of nanoparticles in natural ecosystems and their potential effects on wildlife and soil health remain critical areas for investigation.

Thus, the benefits and challenges of nanotechnology in veterinary medicine can be tabulated hereunder(Table:

Future Directions and Opportunities

Nanotechnology and Precision Medicine

The future of veterinary medicine lies in precision medicine, and nanotechnology is poised to play a pivotal role in its development. By integrating genetic data with nanotechnology, veterinarians will be able to tailor treatments specifically for each animal. Nanoparticles can be designed to deliver drugs, genes, or other therapeutic agents directly to the target tissues, increasing treatment effectiveness and minimizing side effects.

Nanotechnology and Regenerative Medicine

Nanotechnology is also advancing the field of regenerative medicine, offering the potential to heal tissues and organs that have been damaged due to injury, disease, or aging. Nanoparticles can deliver stem cells or other regenerative agents to the site of injury, promoting faster and more effective healing. In veterinary orthopedics, nanocomposites and nanofibers are being used to enhance bone and cartilage repair, enabling animals to recover from fractures or joint injuries more efficiently (Yin *et al*., 2001).

Nanotechnology and Animal Health Monitoring

Real-time health monitoring is a major area where nanotechnology is making strides. Nanosensors, which can be implanted in animals or worn as part of a collar or harness, can continuously track vital signs such as temperature, heart rate, and disease markers. These sensors can detect early signs of illness, allowing for timely interventions and improved health outcomes. Lab-on-a-chip technology also enables rapid disease diagnostics, even in remote locations, providing veterinarians with essential information when and where it is needed most (Zhang *et al*., 2013; Sahoo and Labhasetwar, 2003).

CONCLUSION

Nanotechnology is undoubtedly transforming veterinary medicine, offering innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges in animal health. From disease diagnosis and treatment to the development of vaccines, gene therapies, and regenerative medicine, the potential of nanotechnology is vast. While challenges such as toxicity and safety concerns must be addressed, the continued research and development of nanotechnology will pave the way for a future in which veterinary care is more personalized, efficient, and effective. As this technology continues to evolve, the possibilities for improving the health and well-being of animals seem limitless.

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Declaration of Interest

All authors declare that there exist no commercial or financial relationships that could, in any way, lead to a potential conflict of interest.

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Table.1: Thus, the Benefits and Challenges of Nanotechnology in Veterinary Medicine can be Tabulated here Under

Advantages	Challenges
Improved bioavailability and targeting	Potential organ accumulation and toxicity
Sustained and controlled drug release	Unknown long-term environmental effects
Reduced drug dosage and side effects	Need for regulatory frameworks
Enhanced immune responses in vaccinations	Lack of standardization in veterinary settings

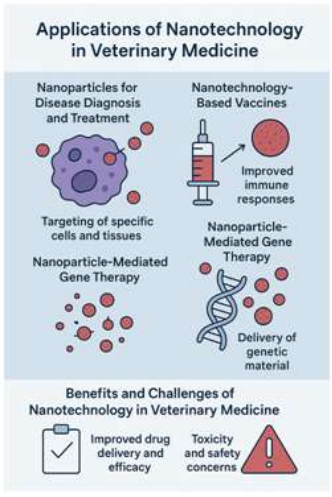


Fig.No.1: Benefits and Challenges of Nanotechnology in Veterinary Medicine

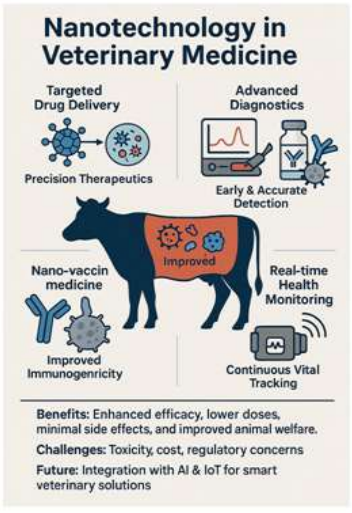


Fig. No.2: Toxicity and Safety Concerns

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Green Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles using *Zanthoxylum armatum* Seed Extract and Its Characterization, Efficacy on Antioxidant and Antibacterial Properties

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ABSTRACT

Silver nanoparticles are nanosized particle which has antibacterial and antioxidant activity. The present study highlighted a biocompatible and eco-friendly method for the synthesis of nanoparticles through green synthesis using *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract. The synthesized nanoparticle was analyzed through analytical techniques. Physically, the presence of AgNPs was confirmed by color change from pale yellow to yellowish-brown color. UV-Visible spectroscopy revealed a peak at 332nm. And the FTIR showed the presence of N-H stretch, O-H stretch, and CN stretch, confirming the phytochemicals reduction and presence of Alkaloids, flavonoids, and Polyphenols. The DLS depicted low PDI values, which indicated the presence of moderate polydispersity. The in vitro antibacterial activity showed the potential of ZAAgNps against bacteria like Klebsiella pneumoniae, S. aureus, and E. coli, with zone of inhibition 19mm, 16mm, and 14mm at their highest concentrations. The antioxidant potency of ZAAgNps was estimated by in vitro assays like DPPH and FRAP, which showed their inhibitory and reducing potential at 79.17% and 78.42%. Compiling these data, it revealed that the synthesized AgNPs from *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract have capabilities to be them in biomedical application

Keywords: Silver nanoparticles,Zanthoxylum armatum, antibacterial activity, green synthesis

INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology

In this emerging world, one of the rapidly developing technology or we can say biological weapon is the Nanotechnology. They are the wide range of particles that are sized between 1nm and 100 nm. Based on the overall shape they can be in various form,0D,1D,2D and 3D (Tiwari *et al*., 2012). They are important as their size can influence the optical properties of a substance. The technology by which these particles are studied are known as Nanotechnology. And it is known as the field of research since last century. During a famous lecture at California Institute of Technology in 1959 "There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom" Nobel laureate Richard P. Feynman presented "Nanotechnology" and since there happened to be various revolutionary developments in the Nanotechnology field (Feynman, 1960). The Nanoparticles or Nanomaterials aka Nps, are not the simple ones, they are made up of three layers i.e. (a) outer layer which is also known as surface layer which can be functionalized using metal ions, polymers, surfactants and a range of tiny molecules, (b) the shell layer, which differs chemically from the inner or the core layer in every way and the final (c) inner or the core which is the actual Nps itself (Shin *et al*., 2016).

The Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering (2004) have recently defined nanoscience as: *"The study of phenomena and manipulation of materials at atomic, molecular and macromolecular scales, where properties differ significantly from those at a larger scale"* and nanotechnology as: *"the design, characterization, production and application of structures, devices and systems by controlling shape and size at nanometer scale"*.With the help of Nanotechnology, new materials and products are developed at nano-scale and this will eventually lead to great impact on the environment in terms of harm and energy saving. According to the Nanotechnology Products Database (NPD) currently, based on Nanotechnology, there are over 11,149 products available in the markets and 3,910 companies are involved in 68 countries. The various domains of these products are Electronics, Medicine, Construction, Cosmetics, Automobile, Textile, Food, Renewable energies, Agriculture etc.

Types of Nanoparticles

Nanoparticles or the Nanomaterials are classified broadly into various types based on their physical and chemical characteristics, size and morphology. Some of them are discussed below:

Carbon based Nanoparticles

Two significant kinds of Carbon-based nanomaterials are fullerenes and carbon nanotubes (CNTs). Allotropic forms of carbon and other nanomaterials composed of globular hollow cages are seen in fullerenes. Their excellent strength, structure, electron affinity, electrical conductivity and adaptability have generated significant commercial interest (Astefanei *et al*., 2015). Pentagonal and Hexagonal carbon units are organized in these materials and each carbon is sp^2hybridised.Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are elongated tubular structures with diameters ranging from 1 to 2nm (Ibrahim, 2013). Their electrical properties can be classified as either metallic or semiconducting based on their diameter and chirality (Aqel *et al*., 2012). Structurally, they resemble a graphite sheet that has rolled up. These rolled sheets are classified as single-walled (SWNTs), double-walled (DWNTs), or multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWNTs) based upon their number of layers. They are primarily produced by depositing carbon precursors, particularly atomic carbon, which is vaporized from graphite through laser ablation or electric arc processes onto metal particles. Recently, carbon nanotube s has also been synthesized using chemical vapor deposition (CVD) techniques (Elliott *et al*., 2013).

Metal Nps

Metal nanoparticles (NPs) are entirely composed of metallic precursors. Owing to their well-established localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) properties, these NPs exhibit distinct optoelectrical features. NPs made from alkali and noble metals, such as copper (Cu), silver (Ag), and gold (Au), demonstrate a broad absorption spectrum in the visible region of the electromagnetic solar spectrum. The controlled synthesis of metal NPs, in terms of facet, size, and shape, is crucial in today's advanced materials research (Dreaden *et al*., 2012). Thanks to their exceptional optical characteristics, metal NPs are utilized across various research fields. Coating with gold NPs is commonly employed

for scanning electron microscopy (SEM) sampling to improve the electronic stream, facilitating the acquisition of high-quality SEM images.

Ceramic Nps

Ceramic nanoparticles (Nps) are solid inorganic materials that lack metallic properties and are produced through heating and subsequent cooling processes. They can exist in various forms including amorphous, polycrystalline, dense, porous, or hollow structures (Sigmund *et al*., 2006). As a result, these Nps are attracting significant attention from researchers due to their potential in numerous applications, such as catalysis, photocatalysis, dye photodegradation and imaging technologies (Thomas *et al*., 2015).

Polymeric Nps

Nps with an organic base are typically referred to as polymeric nanoparticles (PNPs). Most of them have the shape of nanospheres (Mansha *et al*., 2017). At the outer edge of the spherical surface, the other molecules are adsorbed, while the former are matrix particles with an overall mass that is typically solid. The solid mass is entirely contained within the particle in the latter instance (Rao and Geckeler, 2011). Numerous applications of PNPs can be found as they are easily functionalized (Abd Ellah and Abouelmagd, 2016).

Lipid based Nps

As the name itself says, these nanomaterials have lipid moieties and they are used in various biomedical applications. The lipid Nps is typically spherical, with a diameter between 10 and 1000nm. Lipid nanomaterials have a solid lipid core and a matrix of soluble lipophilic molecules, just like polumericNps. The external core of these nanomaterials where stabilized by surfactants or emulsifiers (Rawat *et al*., 2011). (Mashaghi *et al*.'s work on lipid nanotechnology, 2013) is a specialized field that focuses on the design and synthesis of lipid nanoparticles for a range of uses including drug delivery and carriers (Puri *et al*., 2009).

Semiconductor based Nps

Semiconductor Nps are the nanoscale particles that exhibit tunable optical, magnetic, and electronic properties.These nanocrystals, which typically have sizes between 1 and 100 nm are retrieved from bulk materials which act as a bridge between small molecules and large crystals by exhibiting distinct electronic transitions that resemble isolated atoms and molecules and by making it possible to utilize the beneficial qualities of crystalline materials. The composition-dependent band gap energy, which is the bare minimum of energy needed to excite an electron from the ground state valence energy band into the unoccupied conduction energy band, is a characteristic of bulk semiconductors (Smith AM, Nie S, 2010). They are composed of materials like Silicon, Germanium. Various applications of semiconductor nanoparticles are drug delivery, imaging, and biosensors in biomedical field, also used in LEDs, solar cells, batteries. They also act as water and air purification as part of environment treatment.

Synthesis of Nanoparticles

When it comes to Nanomaterials, to achieve the desired results tremendous significance needs to be given to the synthesis part, as it holds the major stake in controlling the size and shape of the desired nanomaterials. There are basically two broad categories onto which various methods are for the synthesis of Nanostructures. The two classes are: (a) Bottom-up type and (b) Top-down type (Wang and Xia, 2004). In Bottom up type, the nanoparticles are formed from the smaller or simpler substances. And in the Top down method, the bigger materials are broken down into sub-micron level particles, which are ultimately the nanostructures. Theabove-mentioned methods can be broadly put in to three categories which are physical, chemical and biological. Every method has their own advantages and disadvantages and depending upon the availability of the facilities, cost and environmental concerns, the synthesis method is preferred.

Physical Methods

Physical methods for the synthesis of the nanomaterials is the significant approach in the larger field of nanotechnology. It can yield high purity nanomaterials along with minimized contamination. The physical method

for nanoparticles synthesis typically followstop-down strategy, where bulk or the large materials are broken down into nanoscale by application of physical forces. There is less chance of contamination because it doesn't call for the use of chemical reagents. The high expense of the laser equipment and the difficulties in expanding the procedure for mass manufacturing, however, continue to be major drawbacks (McNamara *et al*., 2003; Boulos *et al*., 2002). Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD) is another pervasively used physical method for coating and thin firm applications. PVD method of nanomaterials synthesis follows a vacuum environment in which a material is vaporized and then condensed onto a substrate to form nanoparticle. Several sub-techniques, including sputtering, evaporation, and laser ablation, can do this. PVD is perfect for applications requiring high-quality coatings or thin films because it provides exact control over the content and structure of the particles. However, the process necessitates sophisticated equipment and vacuum chambers, which can be costly and challenging to scale up for mass production (Ohring, 2002; Liu *et al*., 2005).

Chemical Method

Similar to physical method of synthesis, chemical methods are also one of the commonly approached synthesis methods in the nanotechnology. By monitoring and adjusting various parameters like temperature, pH, reaction time, and concentration it results in the yield of desired size, shape and composition of the nanoparticles. Methods such as Solvothermal, Hydrothermal, Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) and Chemical Reduction, Precipitation, Sol-Gel synthesis, Microemulsion are some of the examples of this category. The Solvothermal and Hydrothermal are one of the most widely used methods for the synthesis Nps. As the name itself says, Solvothermal means they use organic solvent and Hydrothermal means they use water instead solvent for the synthesize of nanomaterials. The key feature of these methods is that they use high-temperature solvents or water to synthesize Nps. Under certain circumstances like proper temperature and pressure, the precursor material is dissolved in the solvent (organic or water) in a sealed container and the reaction is carried out. Under these circumstances, there will be high yield of nanoparticles with uniform size and high crystallinity. These are helpful in the production of inorganic Nps like metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and semiconductors (Feng *et al*., 2007; Zhao *et al*., 2008). Another well-known chemical method is the Chemical Reduction Nps synthesis. In this method, metal salts are reduced to metal nanoparticles with the help of reducing agents, hence the name Chemical reduction. Depending on the system, this extremely adaptable process can be run in either the liquid or gas phase. For instance, Silver nanoparticles are formed from silver nitrate which is reduced in the presence of Sodium citrate. By varying the temperature, reaction time, and reducing agent concentration, the nanoparticles size can be regulated. This method is preferred when there is need to synthesize noble metal nanoparticles like gold, silver, and platinum. Nevertheless, the major disadvantage of this method is potential for the formation of agglomerates and this can reduce the efficacy of the nanomaterials (Xie *et al*., 2015; Daniel and Astruc, 2004). The sol-gel process can be readily adapted for large-scale manufacturing; however, it may necessitate precise control of the reaction parameters to avoid particle aggregation or the development of unwanted phases (Brinker and Scherer, 1990; Aegerter *et al*., 2011).

Biological Methods

The Nanoparticles synthesized through biological methods are often referred to as Green synthesis and it is regarded as the eco-friendly method for the synthesis of Nps. Unlike chemical and physical methods, they are abstained of using harsh and harmful chemicals that can damage the environment. Instead they prefer living organisms like plants, microorganisms, plant extracts to produce nanoparticles. As this method avoids the use of toxic chemicals and harsh chemical reactions, they are cost-effective, sustainable, biocompatible and has high purity. Due to this, they are used in the field of biomedical and environment.

Plant Mediated Synthesis (Green Synthesis)

Plant extracts are one of the most widely used green synthesis method for the synthesis of nanoparticles due to their ease of availability and cost effective. When extract derived from plants are mixed with metal salt solution and kept at room temperature, the nanoparticles are derived within minutes to hours after completing the reaction. Various metals like silver, gold, platinum is derived in this way. For instance, silver nanoparticle derived from plant extracts has exhibited anti-microbial properties which makes them using in the medical devices and wound healing (Siddiqi

et al., 2018; Kalishwaralal *et al*., 2010). The below figure shows the chemical constituents of plants that are involved in the formation of Nps.

Microbial Mediated Synthesis

Another important green synthesis method for the nanoparticles is by use of microorganism. The microorganisms can be bacteria, algae and fungi. The synthesis is similar to the plant extract but one of the major advantages being the availability of whole cell or cell-free extracts. These extracts reduce the metal salt or ions into nanoparticles. Microorganisms like *Aspergillus niger, Escherichia coli, Bacillus subtilis, Streptomyces and Trichoderma harzianum*are capable to synthesize nanoparticles. (Bansal *et al*., 2009; Jha *et al*., 2009). (Bose and Sahu, 2012).

The Green synthesis of metal nanoparticles have various advantages over the traditional chemical and physical methods. The use of non-toxic chemicals, minimizing the reaction time and reducing the adverse effects of chemicals on environment and majorly biocompatibility has shown the intense and vast usage in the biological and medical fields.

Bacterial Mediated Synthesis

It is another kind of green synthesis method which shows great ability for the nanoparticle formation. This is due to their high metabolic activity and the capacity to produce various reducing agents. Bacteria like Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus, Streptomyces, Bacillus subtilis has the ability to reduce metal salt solution to synthesize nanoparticles. The nanoparticles synthesized from bacteria have excellent stability and functionalization potential making them as controlled scalable process which are ideal for the biomedical applications. (Bose and Sahu, 2012).

Biomolecules Mediated Synthesis

In addition to various Microorganisms and plants, biomolecules are also used for the successful synthesis of nanoparticles. Biomolecules such as enzyme, protein and peptides are used as reducing and stabilizing agents for nanoparticles synthesis. For an instance, enzymes can facilitate the reduction of metal ions and stabilization of nanoparticles resulting as efficient route for nanoparticles synthesis. This way of synthesis of nanoparticles is promising for the production of nanoparticles which have complex surface chemistry, and they are used in the applications like drug delivery and bio sensors (Brennan *et al*., 2015).

Significance of Green Synthesis and Silver Nanoparticles

Though the traditional synthesis methods are effective and widely used, they do result in the environment concern as it involves use of toxic chemicals, harmful environmental byproducts, longer reaction time and complex protocols. This is where the Green synthesis method comes where it minimizes the use of toxic chemicals and are bio compatible unlike the conventional methods. Green synthesis is Eco-friendly alternative, cost-effective and environment sustainable as it involves the use of plant extracts, microorganisms to produce nanoparticles. Reducing agents like Sodium borohydride or hydrazine, are toxic to the environment while natural reducing agents like polyphenols, flavonoids are utilized in green synthesis which are generally found in plant extracts and they also operate under ambient conditions and are low cost making it an ideal method for the synthesis of nanoparticles. Along with this, their enhanced bio compatibility due to the presence of natural capping agents like phytochemicals reduces their toxicity, making it safety and ideal for various bio medical applications. And incorporating this method in the synthesis of silver nanoparticles has ample number of benefits to the world. Silver nanoparticles has been studied extensively as they have shown excellent anti- inflammatory, antimicrobial and antioxidant activities (Raj, M., *et al*. (2009). Even though they can be synthesized through the conventional methods, biological or the green synthesis has been effective and safe when it is used for the medical purposes. The Phytochemicals like flavonoids, phenolic acids, tannins, alkaloids present in the plant extract acts as natural capping agents making them safe. Due to their exceptional antimicrobial activity, silver nanoparticles are incorporated in medical devices, wound healing and also in agriculture pest control. (Kumar *et al*., 2019). They also possess antioxidant activity which reduces the oxidative stress by scavenging the free radical. In addition to this, they are also useful in treating conditions like arthritis and wound making them act as anti-inflammatoryagents. (Patel *et al*., 2018). Kumar, R., *et al*. (2019).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To collect the sample and authenticate.
- To perform qualitative and quantitative analyses of the phytochemical present in the extract.
- To synthesize AgNps (Silver Nanoparticles) using the *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract.
- To characterize the synthesized nanoparticles.
- To evaluate the biological properties of nanoparticles.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE AI

Green Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles and its Significance

Plants are known for their immense medicinal benefits. When chemically synthesized drugs were not available in the early days, people used plants as natural medicine. People generally link them to religious and spiritual thing for many healing and cure. Over the past few years, the environmentally friendly synthesis of silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) has gained significant interest based on their diverse applications and decreased environmental footprint. Traditional physical and chemical synthesis routes, although effective, tend to use harmful chemicals and high amounts of energy. Conversely, green synthesis offers a sustainable, cost-effective, and eco-friendly alternative by using biological species such as plant extracts with a mix of phytochemicals that have the ability to convert silver ions ($Ag^{+)}$ into silver nanoparticles (Ag^{0}).

Role of Light Conditions in Nanoparticle Synthesis

Light has been found to have a marked effect on the synthesis and properties of silver nanoparticles. Light can result in photoactivation of silver nitrate, which can be responsible for uncontrolled reduction and nanoparticle agglomeration. Hence, a number of studies have underscored the necessity of carrying out synthesis in the dark to keep the reaction in check and produce uniform nanoparticle properties.

Green Synthesis Using Some plants

In a study by International Journal of Nanomedicine, 2021, ginger *(Zingiber officinale)* extract was utilized for green AgNPs synthesis. The scientists modified the pH to 12 and left the mixture in dark conditions for 24 hours to avoid photoactivation. Dark brown color change indicated nanoparticle formation, which was further confirmed by UV-Vis spectroscopy and other characterization methods. The dark condition enabled a slow and controlled process of reaction, improving the stability and homogeneity of the particles (International Journal of Nanomedicine, 2021). Silver nanoparticles were synthesized in dark conditions using safflower extract according to a rather interesting study published in Heliyon back in 2021. Incubation of reaction mixture in dark conditions prevented unwanted side reactions precipitated by light thereby resulting in significantly improved AgNPs quality. External conditions like light and pH played a pivotal role in nanoparticle synthesis success (Heliyon 2021).

Ferulago macrocarpa extract facilitates green synthesis rather remarkably according to a study published in Journal of Experimental Nanoscience during 2020. They obtained optimal synthesis using 1 mM silver nitrate at pH 11 and keeping mixture in darkness at 80°C for two and half hours. Nanoparticle formation occurred successfully as solution turned brown signifying a rather complex chemical reaction had taken place quietly. Proper reaction conditions especially darkness play a crucial role in green synthesis procedures according to a recent study published in Journal of Experimental Nanoscience in 2020. A study carried on with the green synthesis of silver nanoparticles with *Zanthoxylum armatum* stem extract showed the successful formation of silver nanoparticles having characteristic absorption in UV-Vis Spectroscopy at 385nm (Habib, U., Ahmad khan, A., Rahman, T. U., Zeb, M. A., and Liaqat, W. (2022). The literature also reviewed the further confirmation of nanoparticle by SEM having the size range of 46.66nm to 60.12nm, spherical shape and XRD showed FCC structure. FTIR analysis exhibited the presence of secondary alcohol and phenol groups over the AgNps. The antibacterial activity against the specific bacteria showed zone of inhibition of 21mm for Staphylococcus aureus, 17mm for Pseudomonas aeruginosa, 18mm for Salmonella enteric.

Though some research have been conducted with different parts of *Z.armatum*, primarily fruits and leaves for nanoparticles synthesis. They have been successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of gold and silver nanoparticles. However, research with seed remain scarce which is highlighted through this study with the hydroalcoholic solvent ratio (70:30). Results from current research on *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract in water-ethanol solvent medium which comprises 70% ethanol apply fairly generally. Changes in light exposure and reaction conditions can markedly enhance synthesis yield by drawing cues from experiences garnered through various prior studies.

Zanthoxylum armatum

Zanthoxylum armatum, also known as Timur or tooth ache tree is a traditional medicinal plant which are predominantly grown in Himalayan regions. They are endemic to India, Japan, Korea and China. The different parts of plants are used for various purposes in different parts of region. For an instance, it is used by Bhotiya communities of Uttaranchal for food, medicines and trade. Bhotiyas people of Pithoragarh district of Kumaon region uses fruit while the sticks of *Zanthoxylum armatum*has been collected and traded to the pilgrims of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Gangotri by peoples of Kamoli district of Garhwal. However, the seeds, barks and leaves are used as condiment in Indian households. Seeds of Z. armatum are rich in essential oils, alkaloids, flavonoids, lignans, and fatty acids, making them suitable for nanoparticle synthesis (Shrestha and Jha, 2010). The plant belongs to Ruttaceae family and it is an aromatic deciduous, spiny shrub which grows to 3.5 meters in height. It is commonly known as Timur in Nepal, Tejphal, Tumru, Trimal in Hindi. Differentvarieties of the tree are found in various parts of India such as Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Assam, Nepal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh.

Taxonomic Classification

Taxonomical Classification of *Zanthoxylum armatum* (Table:1).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation of Plant materials

Zanthoxylum armatum seeds were bought from the verified local source and they were rinsed with water to remove the dirt or dusts. The seeds were then shade dried at room temperature for several days so that the moisture present in the seed would be eliminated without the loss of phytochemical constituents. Then they were hand grounded into coarse powder using conventional mortar and pestle and stored in zip lock bag or air tight container. Fig:1. Zanthoxylum armatum seed powdered sample.

Solvent Preparation

Based on the desired components, the solvent was preferred. For this study, water and ethanol (hydroalcoholic) in the ratio 70:30(v/v). Ethanol dissolves non-polar compounds while water extracts polar components providing a broad spectrum of phytochemicals for nanoparticle synthesis.

Phytoextraction

It was carried out in the ratio 1:10 i.e., for 1gm of sample 10ml of solvent was used. Therefore, 10gm of seed powder was dissolved in 100ml of hydroalcoholic solvent in a 200ml beaker and they were covered with aluminium foil to prevent the vaporization of ethanol. They were boiled at 60^0C for 20min and filtered with cheese cloth after cooling. Further, the extraction was kept in the glass beaker sealed with aluminium foil and stored at 4^0C in the refrigerator. The extraction mixture is shown below (Fig: 2. An Extracted Sample).

Nanoparticle Synthesis

Silver nitrate procured from Vels University Central Reagent Lab was used for the synthesis process. To synthesize Silver nanoparticles, 1mM aqueous solution of Silver nitrate was prepared by dissolving approximately 169.7mg of silver nitrate in 1000ml of distilled water. From that, 90ml of the solution was transferred into a 200ml beaker and 10ml of the plant extract was added into it, making it as in the ratio (1:10) and the mixture was continuously stirred at

room temperature. They were sealed with aluminium foil and stored at room temperature in dark conditions to prevent photoreduction. The mixture was monitored for any visible color change. The color change from pale yellow to brown color was observed over 24hrs if there's formation of silver nanoparticles. Reaction mixture after the immediate addition of Seed extract (Fig: 3). Reaction mixture after 24hrs of incubation in dark condition (Fig: 4).

Characterization Techniques

After physically confirming the presence of Silver Nanoparticles with the help of color change from pale yellow to dark yellowish-brown, they were further studied for the characterization. The characterization techniques help in the characterization of the Nps synthesized therefore it is the essential step that can confirm the formation of nanoparticles. They also help to understand their morphology, size and stability. The analytical tools for the characterization of nanoparticles are UV-Visible Spectroscopy, Dynamic Light Scattering, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy.

UV-Visible Spectroscopy

UV-Vis or Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy is the first and foremost analytical technique used for the confirmation of nanoparticles. It measures the light in the ultraviolet and visible region of the spectrum. It is one of the useful techniques used to analyze the amount of substance present in a sample. This technique is based on the principle of Beer Lambert's Law which states that amount of light absorbed is directly proportional to the concentration or amount of substance present in a sample. It is given by $A= \varepsilon bc$ *where,* A is the absorbance of light, b is path length, c is concentration of absorbing compound and ε is the molar absorptivity. The UV-Vis spectrum ranges from 200nm-800nm and each nanoparticle has their own wavelength or to put it scientifically, each metal nanoparticles has a distinct surface plasmon resonance (SPR) band onto which they show peak or spike. Likewise, for AgNps (Silver Nanoparticles) the SPR usually appears between 400nm-450nm due to the continuous oscillation of electrons on the nanoparticles surface when excited by light (Kora and Rastogi, 2013). And peak within this range confirms the presence of AgNps.

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

FTIR or Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy is another powerful analytical technique for the characterization of nanoparticles. It helps in the identification of organic and inorganic molecules of the synthesized nanoparticles which are on the surface of nanoparticles after interacting with the plant extract. The principle of FTIR is a beam of infrared radiation is passed through a sample to produce an infrared spectrum, and the transmission percentage of the radiation is recorded as a function of transmitted radiation wave number. A certain portion of infrared radiation is transmitted through the sample and other remaining portion are absorbed. The radiation of infrared absorbed and transmitted by sample produces molecular fingerprint from the spectrum. Two regions can be distinguished in an infrared spectrum. One of them is fingerprint region which is between 1000 and 400 cm^{-1} while another is functional group region where majority of the functional groups exhibit absorption bands in the 4000-1000 cm^{-1} area. These two regions usually detect the molecular vibrations corresponding to various bonds such as O-H, C=O, and N-H where these bonds represents the phytochemicals present in the sample (e.g., alkaloids, phenols, flavonoids). These phytochemicals get participated in the capping and reduction of nanoparticles (Mittal *et al*., 2013).

Dynamic Light Scattering

Another important analytical technique for the characterization of nanoparticles. Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) also known as Quasi-elastic light scattering. It helps in the study of size of small particles which ranges from nanometer to sub-micrometer, suspended in a liquid. The fundamentals of DLS is that it is based upon the Brownian movement of particles in a fluid. It determines the hydrodynamic diameter of nanoparticles in suspension by measuring the fluctuations in light intensity scattered by particles undergoing Brownian motion, which are then correlated with particle size. The speed of this motion is inversely proportionally to particle size, i.e., smaller the particle faster they move and inverse. A laser beam is directed at the particle suspension from monochromatic light source. When the laser hits particle in suspension, the light gets scattered in various directions. Overtime, due to the

particle movement, the intensity of the scattered light gets fluctuated. And these fluctuations are recorded at fixed angle by a detector. The hydrodynamic diameter is calculated using Stokes-Einstein equation

$$D=k_BT/3\pi nd_H$$

where,
D= diffusion of coefficient
k_B=Boltzmann constant
T= absolute temperature
n= viscosity of the solvent
d_H= hydrodynamic diameter of the particle
It also provides data on the PDI (polydispersity index) indicating the uniformity of particle size in sample.

Antibacterial Activity

The Antibacterial activity was performed in Avigen Biotech Lab, Chrompet, and Armats Biotech Lab, Guindy, Chennai. The Antibacterial activity which is usually done against the bacterial pathogens was carried out by agar well diffusion method (Mosachristas, 2018). The pure culture of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* was obtained and maintained in Nutrient Agar (NA) slant. The bacterial strain of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* were grown overnight in NA liquid medium or broth on a shaking incubator at 37^0C at 100rpm. The Mueller-Hinton Agar was prepared and sterilized by autoclaving. The inoculum containing a microbial load of $1x10^5$ CFU/ml was then applied to respective agar plates. A 6mm diameter of wells were punched aseptically with sterile well cutter. Then they were loaded with different concentrations of sample (ZAAgNps) (25, 50, 75, 100ug/ml) respectively. Further, 20ul of gentamycin (positive control) into another well which acted as control, 10ug). The plates were incubated at 37^0C for 24hrs. Further, zone of inhibition (mm) was measured which are appeared around the wells. For *Staphylococcus aureus (25923)* and *Escherichia coli (25922)*bacteria, Muller-Hinton Agar was prepared and sterilized by autoclaving. The control used was antibiotic tetracycline (50µg/mL). The *E. coli* and *S. aureus* strains were inoculated in the nutrient broth and incubated overnight at 37^0C. Then on the sterile MHA plates, *S. aureus* and *E. coli* bacterial culture were uniformly spread on their respective plates and using well cutterfour wells (C, 250uL, 500uL, 1000uL) were made in both the plates. Using sterile micropipette, 100uL of sample (ZAAgNps) was added into the wells. The plates were incubated at 37^0C for overnight. The next day zone of inhibitions were measured.

Antioxidant Assay

This assay was carried out in Avigen Biotech Lab, Chrompet, Chennai and Armats Biotech Lab, Guindy, Chennai. Antioxidant activity exhibits the potential of sample to scavenge free radicals. To assess the antioxidant activity, DPPH scavenging activity were performed, by using 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (Manzocco *et al*, 1998) and Ferric Reducing Power Assay (FRAP).

DPPH Assay

0.4mM solution of DPPH were prepared using methanol and 2ml of this sample was added to different concentration of the sample ranging from 20ul, 40ul, 60ul, 80ul, and 100ul. And then they were kept at room temperature for 15min. Then, the absorbance was read at 517nm against blank samples. Lower the absorbance of reaction mixture, higher the free radical scavenging activity. The percentage of DPPH radical scavenging is calculated by below equation:

Radical scavenging activity/ Inhibition (%) = (Abs Control-Abs sample/ Abs control) x 100

FRAP Assay

FRAP or Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power Assay is a method that uses antioxidant as reductants in a redox-linked colorimetric reaction. Different concentrations of the extracts (20 – 120 µg/mL) were mixed with 1 mL of phosphate buffer (0.2 M, pH 6.6) and 1mL of 1% potassium ferric cyanide. The mixture was incubated at 50°C for 20 minutes. Then, 1 mL of 10% trichloroacetic acid was added to the mixture. Further, 1 mL of 0.1% of freshly prepared ferric

chloride was added and the absorbance of the resultant solution was measured at 700 nm. The percentage of reduction was calculated by the below formula:

% of reduction = Sample - Control × 100/ Sample

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

UV-Visible Spectroscopy

The UV-Visible spectroscopy was carried out through Systronics (India) Limited, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer-119. The sample are analyzed in the UV-Visible region or spectrum which ranges from 200nm -800nm. It is the primary technique used to confirm the formation of nanoparticles or any mixture. After the presence of silver nanoparticles (AgNps) by physical confirmation, this technique is specialized to provides insight into the behavior of nanoparticles through surface plasmon resonance (SPR). In the current research carried out with seed extract of *Zanthoxylum armatum,* in the hydroalcoholic solvent ratio 70:30 displayed absorbance at 332nm. The extraction was carried out under 60^0C for 20 min and further the extract was mixed with 1mM silver nitrate solution for the synthesis of nanoparticles. However, the solvent used in this research is water and ethanol depicted the peak at 332nm which is not corresponding to the characteristics of silver nanoparticles but the literature [9] carried out with the same plant but different part revealed peak at 385nm and confirming the presence of Silver Nanoparticles. Though, it is not corresponding to the characteristics of AgNp, it may have less stability or could have low concentration of silver nanoparticles in the obtained mixture. The lack of SPR band indicates that either the phytochemical concentration in the extract was insufficient to facilitate reduction or it may also be due to reaction conditions. The below figure. 5 describes the SPR of the synthesized silver nanoparticles.

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy

FTIR was performed in Vels University Central Instrumentation Laboratory with Spectrum Two FT-IR/Sp10 software model, PERKIN ELMER, USA. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy is another analytical technique which are used to identify the functional groups in a mixture. They are carried out by the measurement of infrared absorption of molecules present in the compound. It provides important information of the phytochemicals that are present in the plant. During the interaction with metal ions, the phytochemicals of the plants react with them and reduces to form nanoscale structures. The functional groups that are involved in the reducing of metal ions to nanoparticle are analyzed and detected by the infrared spectrum and are portrayed as in the form of peaks with %T (Transmission). In the study conducted with dried seed extract of *Zanthoxylum armatum,* in the hydroalcoholic solvent ratio 70:30 displayed two peaks when analysis was carried out with FTIR in the infrared range 4000 to 400cm^{-1}. The peaks were formed at 3341.89cm^{-1}, 51.66%T and 1636.16cm^{-1}, 72.31%T. These peaks were corresponding to the N-H stretch, C-N stretch, O-H stretch, C=O stretch and these are corresponding to the Alkaloids, Flavonoids and Polyphenols. So, FTIR peaks displayed in the Fig 6, showed the presence of phytochemicals like polyphenols, alkaloids and flavonoids. This shows the confirmation of phytochemicals of the silver nanoparticles of *Zanthoxylum armatum*seed extract.

Dynamic Light Scattering

DLS was performed in Vels University Central Instrumentation Laboratory with Nanotrac Wave II model, Microtrac, Inc. USA.Dynamic Light Scattering is a powerful analytical tool in the characterization of nanoparticles. They analyze the size distribution and stability of nanoparticles suspended in liquid media. It is based upon the Brownian motion of particles suspended in liquid medium. When a beam of light usually laser is made pass through the solution mixture, these get hit by the particles in the solutions due to which fluctuations happen. It measures the fluctuations in the intensity of scattered light caused by Brownian motion of particles in suspension and these fluctuations are used to determine the hydrodynamic diameter of the particle. This gives insights of their distribution, agglomeration and their average size. DLS result of ZAAgNps (Fig:7). The study carried out with *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract in the hydroalcoholic solvent ratio 70:30 showed three peaks. This may be due to the solvent preference or the reaction conditions that there's size variability. These were identified using the PDI (Polydispersity index) which tells

how uniform the sample in the mixture are. The PDI value obtained is 0.24 which indicates there's moderate polydispersity. The lower the PDI values better the quality of particles, i.e., uniformly sized and inverse for the higher PDI values.

Antibacterial Activity

The antibacterial activity was carried out by Agar well diffusion method. The pure culture of bacterial strain *Klebsiella pneumonia* was obtained and maintained in nutrient agar slant for 37^{0}C. Further, the bacterial strain of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* were grown overnight in NA liquid medium or broth on a shaking incubator at 37^{0}C at 100rpm. The inoculum containing a microbial load of 1x10^5 CFU/ml was then applied to respective agar plates. A 6mm diameter of wells were punched aseptically with sterile cork borer. Then they were loaded with different concentrations of sample (AgNps) (25, 50, 75, 100µL) respectively. Further, 20ul of gentamycin (positive control) into another well which acted as control, 10ug). The plates were incubated at 37^{0}C for 24hrs. Further, zone of inhibition (mm) was measured which are appeared around the wells. After 24hrs of incubation at 37^{0}C, the study carried out with the silver nanoparticles synthesized from *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract showed prominent effect or the inhibition was best in the concentration 100ug/ml showing 19mm of zone of inhibition. The positive control used was gentamycin which has the zone of inhibition 20mm against the bacteria *Klebsiella pneumoniae.* And the AgNps of *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract had the zone of inhibition in its highest concentration 100ug/ml of 19mm. Higher the concentration, better the zone of inhibition. The test results showed following zone of inhibitions (mm) 0, 14, 17, and 19 in the respective concentrations (µL) 25, 50, 75, and 100 against the pathogen *Klebsiella pneumoniae.* The zone of inhibitions against the bacteria *Klebsiella pneumoniae* are showed in the below. The figure 8 shows the activity of AgNps from *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract against the bacteria. For the *Staphylococcus aureus (25923)* and *Escherichia coli (25922),* the positive control used was tetracycline (50µg/mL) which has the standard zone of inhibition value of 35mm and 23mm. For these two bacteria the concentrations used were 250µL, 500µL, and 1000µL respectively. After the incubation at 37^{0}C, there were significant formation of zone of inhibitions. The Zone of Inhibitions for *E. coli* are 11mm, 11mm, 14mm and that for *S. aureus* is 15mm, 16mm, 16mm respectively. Therefore, the highest (mm) of zone of inhibitions in both the bacteria is corresponding to the concentration 1000µL indicating that, higher the concentration higher the amount of zone of inhibitions. The Zone of inhibitions of *E. coli and S. aureus* are shown in the figure 9 and figure 10. *S. aureus* had better zone of inhibition when compared to*E. coli.* Table: 2. Result of ZAAgNps against *Klebsiella pnemoniae.* Fig: 8. ZAAgNps (Silver Nanoparticles) activity against *Klebsiella pneumonia.* Table:3. Result of ZAAgNps against *E. coli and S. aureus.*

Antioxidant Assay

DPPH Assay

The antioxidant assay was performed by DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl) scavenging activity.0.4mM solution of DPPH were prepared using methanol and 2ml of this sample was added to different concentration of the sample ranging from 20ul, 40ul, 60ul, 80ul, and 100ul. And then they were kept at room temperature for 15min. Then, the absorbance was read at 517nm against blank samples. Lower the absorbance of reaction mixture, higher the free radical scavenging activity. The study carried out with AgNps of *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract, it showed potential effect in the concentration 100ul which had the absorbance of 0.201. The control had the 0% inhibition at absorbance 0.965 but the concentrations (uL) from 20, 40,60, 80 and 100 showed the inhibitions 4.45, 9.32, 20.93, 45.80, 79.17 with their corresponding absorbance 0.922, 0.875, 0.763, 0.523, 0.201 respectively. The higher the concentration of sample higher the scavenging potential.

The inhibitions were calculated with the formula

Radical scavenging activity/ Inhibition (%) = (Abs Control-Abs sample/ Abs control) x 100

ZAAgNpsResults of DPPH antioxidant assay (Table: 4). Chart depicting % of inhibitory activity of ZAAgNps (Chart: 2). DPPH Antioxidant Assay of ZAAgNps (Fig:11).

FRAP Assay

Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power **Assay** is a method that uses antioxidant as reductants in a redox-linked colorimetric reaction. Different concentrations were used to assess the reducing potential of ZAAgNps. The study

carried out with AgNps of *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract, it showed potential effect in the concentration 120ul which had the absorbance of 1.400. The control had the 0% inhibition at absorbance 0.302 but the concentrations (µg/mL) from 20, 40,60, 80, 100 and 120 showed the inhibitions (%)14.44, 55.97, 69.70, 75.84, 76.38 and 78.42 with their corresponding absorbance 0.353, 0.686, 0.997, 1.250, 1.279 and 1.400 respectively. The higher the concentration of sample higher the percentage of inhibitions. The % of inhibitions were calculated with the formula:
% of reduction = Sample - Control × 100/ Sample
ZAAgNpsResults of FRAP antioxidant assay (Table: 5). Chart depicting % of reducing activity of ZAAgNps (Chart: 2). FRAP Antioxidant Assay of ZAAgNps (Fig:12)

CONCLUSION

The study green synthesis of silver nanoparticles using *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract revealed the preliminary indications of reaction like color change, peaks formation in UV-Vis spectroscopy, presence of Alkaloids, flavonoids and polyphenols which are all corresponding to the silver nanoparticles. Though the color change to yellowish-brown suggested some reactions between the seed extract and silver nanoparticles, the characteristic surface plasmon resonance was absent due to which the formed AgNps may have less stability with the solvent preferred with 70:30 hydroalcoholic. suboptimal reagents, or the need for certain conditions like temperature, pH etc. Despite of the lesser stability of ZAAgNps, it showed prominent activity against *Klebiella pneumoniae* and *S. aureus*with 19mm of zone of inhibition and 16mm in 100ug/ml and 1000µLconcentration. And the DPPH assay resulted their inhibitions of 79.17% at 100uLof concentration and 78.42% of reduction at 120µg/mL in FRAP Assay.

SUMMARY

The present study was undertaken to explore the green synthesis of silver nanoparticles using Zanthoxylum armatum seed extract in the solvent ratio 70:30 hydroalcoholic. The Plant based method offers a biocompatible and environment friendly route compared to traditional methods, making it easily approachable for nanoparticle production. During the study, the reaction mixture showed a visible color change from pale yellow to yellowish-brown color which typically indicates the presence of silver nanoparticles in the initial stage. Further, confirming with the UV-Vis spectroscopy revealed peak at 332nm confirming the presence of silver nanoparticle with reference to the literature [9]. The characterization using FTIR spectroscopy indicated the presence of functional groups hydroxyl and carbonyl with two peaks at 3341.89cm^{-1}, 51.66%T and 1636.16cm^{-1}, 72.31%T which played the role in stabilization and reduction process. The DLS results were not conclusively supportive but the PDI values indicated the presence of moderate polydispersity. The antibacterial activity against *E. coli, S. aureus* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and antioxidant activity were also promising with the isolated silver nanoparticles using green synthesis of *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract.

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Table: 1: Taxonomical Classification of *Zanthoxylum armatum*

Botanical name	***Zanthoxylum armatum***
Family	Rutaceae
Kingdom	Plantae
Sub kingdom	Viridaeplantae
Domain	Eukaryote
Phylum	Tracheophyta
Sub phylum	Euphyllophytina
Infra phylum	Radiatopses
Class	Magnoliopsida
Sub class	Rosidae
Super order	Rutanae
Order	Spindale
Sub order	Rutineae
Genus	*Zanthoxylum*

Table.2: Result of ZAAgNps against *Klebsiella pnemoniae*

Pathogens	**Zone of Inhibition (mm)**				
	Positive Control (C)	**25 µL**	**50 µL**	**75 µL**	**100 µL**
Klebsiella pnemoniae	20	0	14	17	19

Table. 3: Result of ZAAgNps against *E. coli and S. aureus*

Pathogens	**Zone of Inhibition (mm)**			
	Positive Control (C)	**250 µL**	**500 µL**	**1000 µL**
E. coli	23	11	11	14
S. aureus	35	15	16	16

Table. 4: ZAAgNps Results of DPPH antioxidant assay

Concentration (µL)	**Absorbance**	**Inhibition (%)**
Control	**0.965**	**0**
20	**0.922**	**4.455958549**
40	**0.875**	**9.32642487**
60	**0.763**	**20.93264249**
80	**0.523**	**45.80310881**
100	**0.201**	**79.17098446**

Table. 5: ZAAgNps Results of FRAP antioxidant assay

S. No.	**Conc. (µg/mL)**	**Absorbance @700nm**	**% of Reduction**
1.	Control	0.302	-
2.	20	0.353	14.44
3.	40	0.686	55.97
4.	60	0.997	69.70
5.	80	1.250	75.84
6.	100	1.279	76.38
7.	120	1.400	78.42



Fig: 1. *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed powdered sample



Fig: 2. An Extracted Sample



Fig: 3. Reaction mixture after the immediate addition of Seed extract



Fig: 4. Reaction mixture after 24hrs of incubation in dark condition

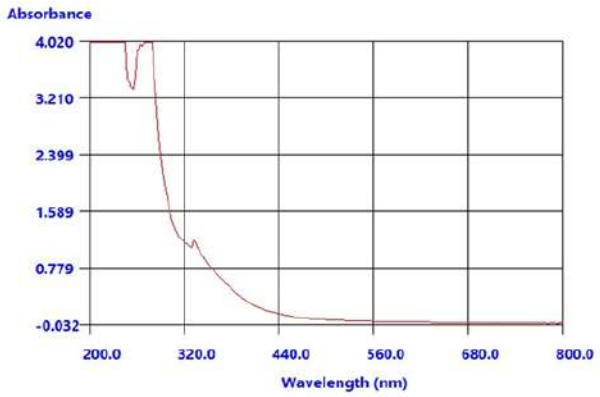


Fig: 5. UV-Vis Spectroscopy of ZAAgNps (Silver nanoparticles) showing peak at 322nm.

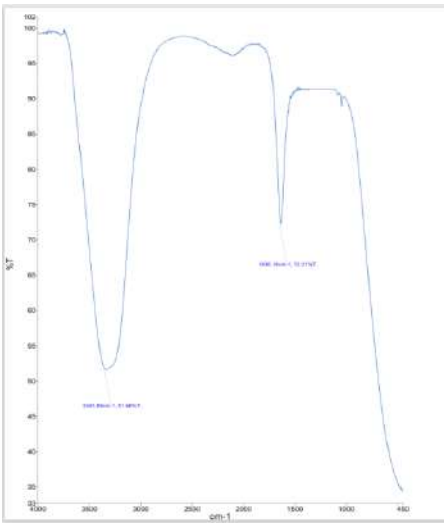


Fig: 6. FTIR peaks of silver nanoparticles of *Zanthoxylum armatum* seed extract (AgNps)

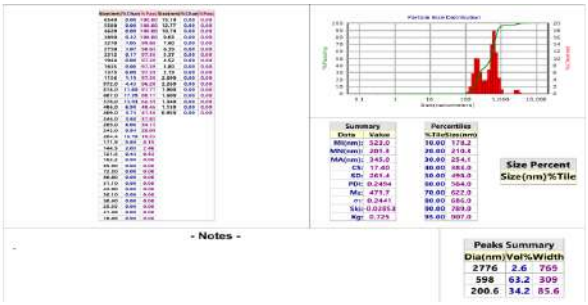


Fig: 7. DLS result of ZAAgNps



Fig: 8. ZAAgNps (Silver Nanoparticles) activity against *Klebsiella pneumoniae*



Fig: 9. ZAAgNpsactivity against*E. coli*



Fig: 10. ZAAgNps activity against *S. aureus*

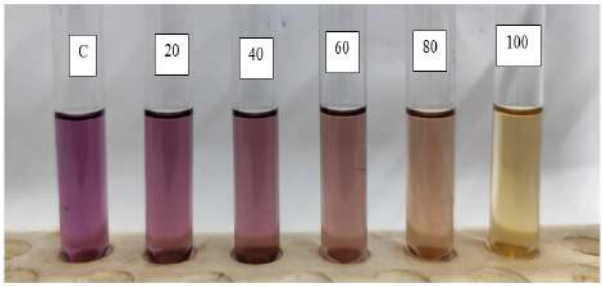


Fig: 11.DPPH Antioxidant Assay of ZAAgNps

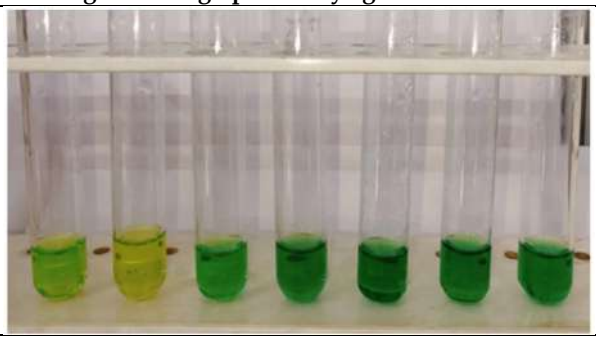


Fig: 12. FRAP Antioxidant Assay of ZAAgNps

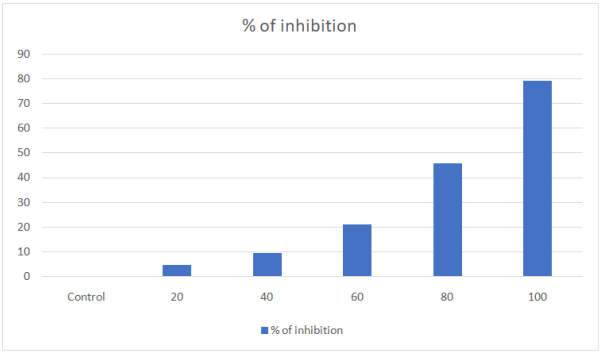


Chart: 1. Chart depicting % of inhibitory activity of ZAAgNps

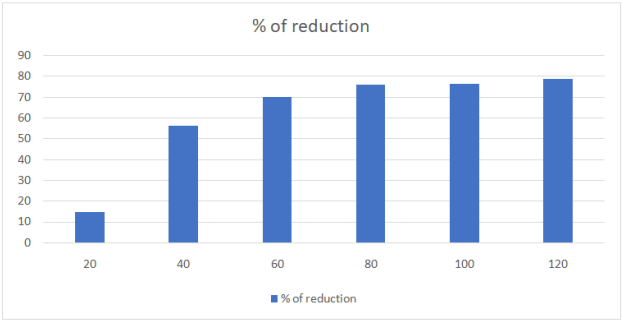


Chart: 2. Chart depicting % of reducing activity of ZAAgNps