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Review Article

A REVIEW ON SRISTI UTPATIKRAM

Dr. Geetanjali¹, Dr. Ajitkumar S. Wahane², Dr. Arushi Sharma³

- 1. P.G. Second year Scholar, Dept. of Rachana Sharir, Parul Institute of Ayurved, Parul University, Vadodara (Gujarat), India.
- 2. Associate Professor, Dept. of Rachana Sharir, Parul Institute of Ayurved, Parul University, Vadodara (Gujarat), India.
- 3. P.G. second Year Scholar Dept. of Kayachikitsa, Institute of Teaching and research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, (Gujarat), India.

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Geetanjali, P.G. Second Scholar, Dept. of Rachana Sharir, Parul Institute of Ayurved, Parul University, Vadodara (Gujarat), India. E-mail- geetanjalikataria125@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT:

Sristi utpatikram (evolution process) is always the centre point of discussion among scholars. There are theories regarding *Sristi utpatikram* according to the *Vaisheshik*, *Samkhya*, Susruta, Charaka Samhita, and modern concept. One should be clear about *Prakriti*, *Purusa*, *Mahat* (intellect), *Ahamkara* (ego), five *Jnanendriyas* (sense organs), five subtle elements (*Tanmatras*) and five gross elements (*Bhutas*) are the twenty-five basic factors and knowledge of these factors is the only answer which provides the help and freeness from bondage.¹ Out of these twenty-five factors, thirteen are eliminators and disclosers. Their objects are *Adhibhautika* (material) while they are *Adhyatmika* (Spiritual), and *Adhyatmika* (divine).² The *Samkhya* distinction between *Purusa* and *Prakriti* is fundamental that between subject and the object. The Subject can never be the object and the object can never be the subject. Samkhya system asks, what is the cause of these objects and how did they come about what is the ultimate stuff of which the various objects of the world are constituted?

According to the modern concept, the knowledge of human origin or Purush arises from different

fragmentary evidence available from many disciplines. It can be pre-assessed from various clues, presently; it is available from the study of fossils that are in extinct forms. In this study, we will discuss the *Sristi Utpatikram* (evolution process) according to different Ayurveda classics.

INTRODUCTION

Constantly it has been the question of talk of every student, that, when, where, how, and why the evolution of the basic elements of the universe came into existence. What are the basic elements of this universe and whether it is single or multiple, conscious or unconscious, living or non-living, etc the doubts in front of everybody? These questions have been tried to answer in a different philosophical manner. Thinking on these, four aspects appear before us that are Vyasti (individual or a single creature), Samasti (society as a whole or aggregate of things), Sristi (universe with its all the mobile and immobile creations), Parmesthin (the almighty which is above to all these and exists omnipresent). All these forms are indifferent and the changed forms of the same entity. It is the view available in different references of various Indian Philosophical thoughts. Ayurved accepts some important philosophical principles for a proper understanding of creation. The Samkhya system represents the theory of dualistic realism, as it describes two ultimate realities that are *Prakriti* (matter) and *Purusa* (soul or self). Samkhya accepts Prakriti as the ultimate cause of the universe and the process of evolution takes place with the help of and for the sake of *Purusa*.³ All the forms of life are stated to be assailed by the three kinds of miseries (Adhystmika Duhkha, Adhyatmika Duhkha, Adhidaivika Duhkha). Actually, for understanding the mystery of the universe, it is essential to know the factors which pre-exit before evolution. Karya Dravyas are infinite and it is impossible to understand them but the Karana Dravyas are few and can be understood easily. Samkhya system describes twenty-five basic elements (Tattvas) one can feel himself free from all worldly miseries and can reach salvation (*Moksa*) which must be the ultimate aim of every human being.⁴

Aim-

To review Sristi Utpatikram

Objective-

- Study of Sristi Utpatikram according to Acharya Susruta
- Study of Sristi Utpatikram according to Acharya Charaka
- Study of Sristi Utpatikram according to Samkhya Darsana
- Study of Sristi Utpatikram according to Vaisheshik Darsana
- Study of Evolution according to modern concepts

Material and Methods-

The entire classical Ayurvedic textbook including Bruhata-trai and Laghu-trai was analyzed.

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Sristi or evolution of the universe-

This is the basic question what are the basic elements of the visible, revolving, and ever-changing world? According to *Jainism* and *Nyaya-Vaisesika*, objects are produced by the combination of material atoms. But here a question arises how material atoms can produce such objects as a mind (*Manas*) and intellect (*Mahat or Buddhi*)? The cause is always subtler and finer than the effect for example seeds are finer than trees. So Material atoms cannot themselves be the cause of such subtle and fine objects as *manas* (mind).

Therefore the *Samkhya Darsana* argues, there must be some finest and sublets kinds of stuff or principle underlying all physical existence. *Prakriti* is such a principle; it is the first and ultimate cause of all gross and subtle objects. *Prakriti* is both, the material and the efficient cause of the physical world. Being the ultimate cause, *Prakriti* itself is uncaused, eternal, and all preventing and being the subtlest and finest, *Prakriti* cannot be perceived but only one can be inferred from its effects.⁵

The evolution of *Prakriti* results in twenty-three different kinds of objects. The first among these is *Mahat* or *Buddhi* (intellect) which is the base of all our intellectual modes, and is the faculty by which we discriminate, deliberate, adjudge and make decisions. From *Mahat* the *Ahamkara* (ego) arises, which is the source of 'I' and 'mine' ness. From *Ahamkara* two sets of objects are produced. The first consists of the five sense organs, five motor organs, and the mind (*Manas*), and the second is comprised of five subtle elements (*Panch Tanmatras*) and five gross elements (*Panch Mahabhuta*). This *Purusa*, (self) *Prakriti, Mahat* (intellect), *Ahamkara* (ego), five *Jnanendriyas* (sense organs), five *Karmendiriyas* (motor organs), *Manas* (mind), five subtle elements (*Tanmatras*) and five gross elements (*Bhutas*) are the twenty-five basic factors according to *Samkhya* system and the knowledge of these factors is the only remedy which provides the salvation and freeness from bondage.⁶

Tatva	No.	Name of Tatva
Prakriti	1	Pradhan, prakriti, Avyakta
Vikruti	16	PanchKarmendriya+ Panchjnanendriya+Mana+ panchmahabhut
Prakriti-Vikruti	7	Mahat+Ahankar+ Panchtanmatra
Na Prakriti –Na Vikruti	1	Purush

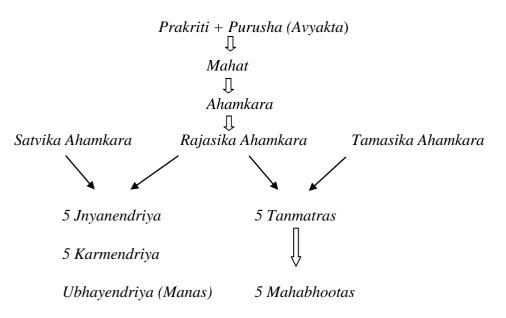
Classification of Tatva as per Sankhya Darshan: -

Sristi utpatikram according to Acharya Susruta View-

- सर् के ान कारण- Primary Causative factor for all things in the Universe.
- अক মেন- There is no any cause for its Creation.
- सत्र् रज: तम**ो लक्ष्ण- Has 3 qualities like सत्र्**, रज: & तम
- आर्रूप- Has 8 Forms.
- आित अस्य जगत: सभर्हते ु:- Causative factor for the Entire Universe.
- तदेक बहूना क्रोत्तकाना आिज जिलान- Only one. Even though it is only one, it is the substratum
- "समक्ष इर् औदकाना भार्ानाम् " -Similar to Ocean which is the substratum for various mobile & immobile

aquatic things like fishes, lotus etc.

Ayurveda accepts generally the Samkhya view of evolution (Sristi Utpati) with minute changes. Susruta describes the root cause of the universe as Avayakta (the unmanifested). Thus the total number of the basic elements (Tattvas) according to Susruta is twenty-four and all of them are Achetana (unconscious). As the sea is a sheltered place for various innumerable creatures, so the Avayakta or Mula Prakriti provides an establishment for countless creatures and a complete world. Mahan (intellect) is generated from Avayakta and from Mahan the Ahamkara (ego) is produced having the same qualities (as the Avayakta bears, ie. Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas are developed). Ahamkara (ego) bears three types that is Vaikarika, Taijasa and Bhutadi.⁷ Eleven organs are five sense organs (Buddhindriyas), Śrotra (ear), Twak, (skin), Caksuh(eyes), Jihva (tongue), and Nasika (Nose), five motor organs (Karmendiriyas) that are Vak (faculty of speech), Hasta (hand), Pada (feet), Upastha (genitals) and Payu (Anus) and the mind (Manas) having both the sensory and motor properties, are evolved from Vaikarika Ahamkara with an association of Taijasa Ahamkara. Five subtle elements named Sabda, Sparsa, Rupa, Rasa, and Gandha Tanmatra are produced from Bhutadi Ahamkara with an association of Taijasa Ahamkara and from these subtle elements, the five gross elements (Mahabhuta) that are Vyoma, Anila, (Vayu) Anala (Tejas) Jala and Urvi (Prathivi) are developed. The above-mentioned twenty-four elements are Achetana (unconscious) in nature and only the twenty-fifth element the *Jihva* (*Purusa* or soul) is a conscious one.⁸ Previously described twenty-four factors being even unconscious in nature engage themselves in action for the salvation of *Purusa* as the milk being unconscious inclines in the action in the body for the use of the child.⁹



Out of these 25 factors, thirteen are eliminators and disclosers. Their objects are *Adhibhautika* (material) while they are *Adhyatmika* (spiritual), and *Adhidaivika* (divine) as the following divine powers or deities empower them.¹⁰

Element (Tattvas)	Divine Force (Deities)
1. Buddhi (intellect)	Bramha
2. Ahamkara (ego)	Iswara
3. Manas (mind)	Chandrama (moon)
4. <i>Śrotra</i> (ear)	Dik
5. Twak	Vayu
6. Caksuh	Surya
7.Rasana	Apaḥ (Jala)
8. Ghrana	Prithvi
9. Vak	Agni
10. Hasta (hands)	Indra
11.Pada (Feet)	Vishnu
12. <i>Payu</i>	Indra
13. Upastha	Prajapati

Sristi Utpatikram to Caraka Samhita-

Describing the process of evolution, Caraka Samhita explains that the intellect (*buddhi*) originates from *Avayakta*, the ego (*Ahamkara*) from the intellect, and five *Mahabhuta* (*Akasa*, etc.) from the ego (*Ahamkara*). The Empirical soul thus manifested in its entirety is regarded as born.¹¹ In Caraka's view the combined *Prakriti* and *Purusa* are admitted *Avayakta* and thus the total number of elements remains 24

only.¹² Samkhya and Susruta accept the sense organ to be developed from ego (*Ahamkara*) but Caraka describes that they are developed from *mahabhutas*,¹³ Susruta also in another reference accepts the material development of senses¹⁴ because the physical entity of these is more useful for treatment.¹⁵ Kasyapa Samhita describes the same outlook.¹⁶

Evolution (Utpati) and dissolution (Vinash) as per the Vaisheshik view-

According to *Vaisheshik's* philosophy, the desire of *Iswara* is the cause of the evolution and destruction of the universe. All the main systems accept that the manifestation of the unmanifested stage (*Avayakta*) is *Sristi* (evolution) and the merger of manifested forms into the unmanifested stage is *Laya* or *Pralaya* (destruction or retrocession) and the cycle of evolution and retrocession runs always due to the *Sattva*, *Rajas*, and *Tamas*, which are the constituents of *Prakriti*."

CONCLUSION

This description seems to be the shadow of early descriptions available in ancient Indian texts. Thus, it is interesting to note that, despite their vast cultural differences, the basic philosophical problems rise, as well as the solutions proposed but the Indian and European traditions are similar.

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