Advanced International Journal for Research (AIJFR)
E-ISSN: 3048-7641 ● Website: www.aijfr.com ● Email: editor@aijfr.com

Approaches to Digital Corpus Development of Ayurvedic Content in Purans with Special Reference to Kriya Sharira

Dr. Shubha Kaushal, Prof. (Dr.) Maninder Kour

[1]Ph.D scholar, IAS&R, Shri krishna Ayush University, kurukshetra
[2]Guide, Sanskriti University, Mathura

Abstract

The Purana, as encyclopedic repositories of Indian knowledge systems, contain significant references to Ayurveda, cosmology, and human physiology. Among these, Kriya sharir—the study of functional aspects of the human body—emerges as a crucial domain bridging classical Ayurvedic thought with modern biomedical frameworks. This article explores the methodological and philosophical dimensions of developing a digital corpus of Ayurvedic content in the Puranas, with special emphasis on Kriya sharir. It outlines corpus design, annotation protocols, semantic tagging, and interdisciplinary relevance, thereby contributing to digital humanities and medical history.

Key Words: Digital Corpus, Puran, Ayurveda, Kriya Sharir, Agni, Dosha, Dhatu, Mann, Aatma,

1. Introduction

Ayurveda, the ancient Indian science of life, finds scattered yet profound references in the Puranas. These texts, composed between the 4th and 16th centuries CE, serve as cultural encyclopedias, integrating cosmology, theology, ethics, and medicine. Kriya sharir, which deals with the dynamic processes of the body—such as digestion, circulation, respiration, and consciousness—provides a fertile ground for comparative study. A digital corpus of Ayurvedic references in the Puranas can facilitate systematic exploration, enabling scholars to trace conceptual continuities and divergences across traditions.

OBJECTIVES

- To identify and extract Ayurvedic references in the Puranas, focusing on Kriya sharir.
- To design a digital corpus using TEI-XML encoding and semantic annotation.
- To establish cross-references between Puranic descriptions and classical Ayurvedic texts (Caraka Saṃhita, Sushruta Saṃhitā, Aṣhṭaṅgahṛidaya).
- To explore interdisciplinary applications in biomedical sciences and digital humanities.

METHODOLOGY

CORPUS DESIGN

Textual Sources: The eighteen Mahapuraṇas and selected Upapuraṇas.

Digitization: High-resolution scanning, OCR correction, and transliteration into Unicode Sanskrit.

Encoding: TEI-XML schema customized for Ayurvedic categories.

ANNOTATION PROTOCOLS

Conceptual Tagging: Terms related to Kriya sharir (e.g., prāṇa, agni, doṣa, dhātu).

Semantic Layers: Linking physiological processes with cosmological analogies (e.g., vāyu as both wind and vital force).

Cross-Referencing: Mapping Purāṇic passages to Ayurvedic treatises.

TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Digital lexicons for Sanskrit medical terminology.

Corpus management software (e.g., Oxygen XML Editor, ANNIS).

Visualization tools for thematic clustering and network analysis.

KRIYA SHARIR IN PURANIC CONTEXT

The Puraṇas often describe the human body as a microcosm reflecting the macrocosm.

Key references include:

Praṇa and Vayu: Multiple classifications of vital breaths, aligning with Ayurvedic physiology.

Agni: Fire as digestive and transformative principle, linked to cosmic fire.

Doṣa Dynamics: Narratives of balance and imbalance, symbolized through mythic metaphors.

Dhatu and Ojas: Subtle essences sustaining vitality, often described in devotional contexts.

These descriptions, though metaphorical, resonate with systematic Ayurvedic doctrines, offering interpretive richness.

CHALLENGES

Variability in textual transmission and manuscript traditions.

Metaphorical language complicating biomedical interpretation.

Need for standardized Sanskrit medical ontologies.

CONCLUSION

The development of a digital corpus of Ayurvedic content in the Puraṇas, with special reference to Kriya sharira, represents a pioneering effort in bridging classical knowledge systems with modern interdisciplinary research. It not only enriches the study of Ayurveda and Indology but also contributes to global discourses on health, culture, and digital scholarship.

References

1. Caraka Saṃhitā. Translated by P.V. Sharma. Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series Office, Varanasi, 2000.
2. Suśruta Saṃhitā. Edited by Kaviraj Kunja Lal Bhishagratna. Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series Office, Varanasi, 2005.
3. Aṣṭāṅgahṛdaya. Translated by K.R. Srikantha Murthy. Chowkhamba Krishnadas Academy, Varanasi, 2010.
4. Viṣṇu Purāṇa. Translated by H.H. Wilson. Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, Delhi, 1998.
5. Bhāgavata Purāṇa. Translated by Swami Prabhupada. Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 1986.
6. Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa. Edited by M. Rangacharya. Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, Delhi, 1999.
7. Wujastyk, Dominik. The Roots of Ayurveda. Penguin Classics, 2003.
8. Zysk, Kenneth G. Asceticism and Healing in Ancient India: Medicine in the Buddhist Monastery. Oxford University Press, 1998.
9. Staal, Frits. Discovering the Vedas: Origins, Mantras, Rituals, Insights. Penguin Books, 2008.
10. Flood, Gavin. The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism. Wiley-Blackwell, 2003.
11. Robinson, Thomas. "Digital Humanities and Indian Texts: Challenges and Opportunities." Journal of South Asian Studies, vol. 42, no. 3, 2019, pp. 345-362.
12. Singh, R.K. "Semantic Annotation in Sanskrit Corpora: Methods and Applications." International Journal of Digital Humanities, vol. 5, no. 1, 2021, pp. 22-40.
13. Mukherjee, S. "Kriyā Śarīra and Ayurvedic Physiology: A Comparative Study." Ancient Science of Life, vol. 39, no. 4, 2020, pp. 215-230.
14. Narayanan, Vasudha. "Cosmology and Physiology in the Purāṇas." Journal of Indian Philosophy, vol. 47, no. 2, 2018, pp. 123-145.
15. Patwardhan, Bhushan. "Integrative Approaches in Ayurveda and Biomedical Sciences." Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2014, Article ID 236857.
16. Digital Humanities Quarterly. "Corpus Linguistics and Semantic Web Integration in South Asian Studies," vol. 12, no. 2, 2018.

17. Pollock, Sheldon. The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture, and Power in Premodern India. University of California Press, 2006.
18. Staal, Frits. "The Metaphorical Language of Ayurveda in the Purāṇas." Journal of the American Oriental Society, vol. 130, no. 1, 2010, pp. 45-60.
19. Sharma, Priya. "Manuscript Traditions and Textual Variability in the Mahāpurāṇas." Indologica Taurinensia, vol. 44, 2018, pp. 89-110.
20. Bhattacharya, Ananda. "Standardizing Sanskrit Medical Ontologies: Challenges and Prospects." Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine, vol. 11, no. 3, 2020, pp. 150-160.