



RESEARCH ARTICLE

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## DESCRIBING THE PAARVAI PAARTHAL-TRADITIONAL PRACTICES FOR DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF POISONOUS BITES IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

\*Dr. Gowthami, M., Dr. Rajarajeshwari, A. and Dr. Thiruthani, M.

Department of PG Nanju Maruthuvam, Govt. Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article History:

Received 09<sup>th</sup> June, 2019  
Received in revised form  
27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019  
Accepted 04<sup>th</sup> August, 2019  
Published online 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

#### Key Words:

Paarvai Paarthal, Traditional Healing,  
Ritual, Descriptive Study.

\*Corresponding author: Dr. Gowthami, M.

### ABSTRACT

Paarvai paarthal is a traditionally practiced method of magical healing the poisonous bite. Study of traditional healing practices is an important area in the discipline of folklore and anthropology in traditional societies most of the bodily illness are related to supernatural power and several kinds of ritual, vows and offering are performed in order to heal the illness. It tries to understand how the body is culturally professed, purified and healed through rituals in a particular cultural context. Finally the study was to assess the knowledge, attitude, healthcare seeking behaviour and practice regarding poisonous bite among paarvai paarthal.

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Citation: Dr. Gowthami, M., Dr. Rajarajeshwari, A. and Dr. Thiruthani, M., 2019. "Describing the paarvai paarthal-traditional practices for diagnosis and management of poisonous bites in Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu", *International Journal of Development Research*, 09, (09), 29730-29733.

### INTRODUCTION

Healing practices and their study is remarkable in the Indian socio-cultural context because there is heterogeneity in medical beliefs and practices. The concepts of Aetiology of illness, methods of diagnosis and treatment and ideas of prophylaxis, were developed and preserved as a traditional lore of every society and have had been orally transmitted from generation to generation. Religious beliefs, moral codes and social values have influenced the belief and practices of Aetiology of illness and treatment. In traditional societies, whenever the body suffered from certain kind of illness or defects, they are always connected with supernatural powers and several rituals are performed in order to heal the body. Healing is a part of culture which is closely related to rural religious practices.

**Aim:** The study was planned to document about paarvai paarthal for poisonous bite.

#### Objectives

**Primary:** To estimate the study about Paarvai paarthal in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli (D.T).

**Secondary:** To determine the interrelation between paarvai paarthal and diagnosis of poisonous bite.

➤ To find out the methods used during paarvai paarthal.

### Review of literature

**Modern aspect:** Snake bites are a serious and imported medical problems, especially in rural areas of tropical and subtropical developing countries, have been considered by the world health organization (WHO) as a neglected extrinsic injury. It is estimated that approximately five million people across the globe are bitten by snake annually, causing around 1,25,000 deaths and 4,00,000 individuals to be permanently disable and disfigure. However, existing epidemiological data are fragmented and therefore, the real impact of snake bites is very likely to be underestimated and the full burden of human suffering from snake bites remains unknown. More than 3000 known species of snake have been identified globally, a vast majority of which have non venomous bites (around 60-80%). However, since snake venoms are the most complex of all natural venom and poisons. The venomous snakebites may cause severe local and systematic symptoms and signs, including tissue damage, generalized myotoxicity, systematic hemorrhage and acute kidney injury. Even a non venomous bites has the potential to cause moderately severe damage resulting from an understandable fear of the bites consequences, such as a pins and needles of the extremities, vasovagal shock and being highly agitated and irrational. More

than 2000000 cases of snake bites are reported in India each year, envenomation by poisonous snake is an occupational hazard for the farmers and farm labourers, plantation workers, herders and hunters in tropical and subtropical countries. There are so many insects in India like honey bee, wasp and Indian hornets. The bites of these small but dangerous insects involve injection of venom in to the skin, apart from flying insects, there are few other species as well as who leave painful bites, some of them are highly venomous such as snakes and scorpions.

**Indian Hornets:** The giant Indian hornets are the world's largest wasp, found in India and nearby countries as well. bites of the great hornet of India is very painful and its swells the whole area. There are also known as killer hornets their painful sitting is about a quarter inch long, and so its bites is more painful.

**Honey bees:** Sting of the maker of honey are much painful, it can lead to death as well, if mob of honey bees has attack on human. There are four species of honey bees in India rock and rock bees of India are the largest honey bee species in the world.

**Indian wasp:** The yellow coloured Indian wasp has quite powerful sting as well, the Indian wasp bites also swell the whole area very dangerously and it take almost a week to get heel.

**Scorpion:** Scorpions are opportunistic predators of small arthropods and insects. The red and black India scorpions are listed as most dangerous scorpions around 10-20 people die by scorpions bites in India.

#### Study area:



Figure 1. Tirunelveli District in tamilnadu

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Study period:** 4½ months (April to Mid of August 2019)

**Study population:** This research work conducted in observational descriptive study in Traditional Medical Practitioner's (TMP) in palayamkottai, Tirunelveli.

**Study design:** Cross sectional Descriptive study by collect the primary data in Traditional medical practitioners.

**Operational definitions:** In this research defined as key features of samples are known "PAARVAI PAARTHAL" Persons.

#### Data collection

**Information collected:** The information will be collected from Traditional medical practitioners.

**Data Collection Producer:** Main investigator collect all data from traditional medical practitioner, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli.

**Data Analysis:** In research data analysis; including recording of key exposure / outcome variables, indicators to be calculated for the descriptive analysis (e.g., Measures of Treatment Plan of Paarvai Paarthal frequency (Prevalence, incidence), measures of central tendency (mean, median). These to key dummy tables that are attached in appendices.

**Quality Assurance:** Following procedures are conducted in-time with good planning by chief investigator whole research work himself with time frame schedule.



Figure 2. Research Taluk in district

- Protocol development
- Field procedures
- Data collection
- Data analysis

### Practical Considerations

**Logistics for data collection:** Chief investigator arrangements for the data collection time schedule with Traditional medical practitioners.

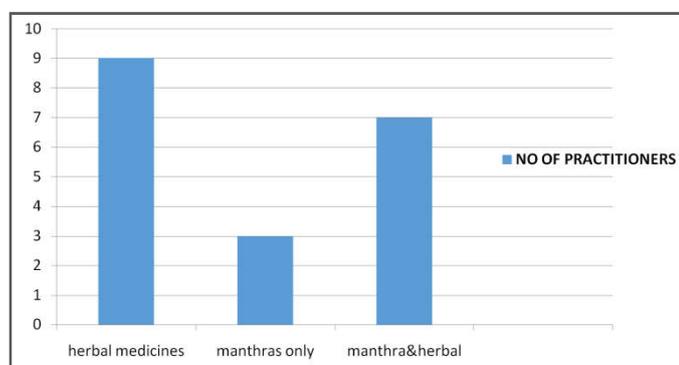
**Ethical issues:** The study is to be carried out in primary data of traditional medical practitioners by direct interview, therefore don't need to IEC approval.

### RESULTS

When a patient comes for treatment, healer observes the spot of the poisonous bite in the body and identifies the nature of poisons. After identifying the poison, he sits in front of the patient, worships his ancestors and holds a bunch of "Neem" leaves in his hand and shakes the leaves slowly the in front of the patient face simultaneously he says some "manthras" in a very low voice. Shaking of the leaves begins slowly and accelerates to high speed. It is performed for about five minutes.

**Table 1. Practices summary in traditional treatment for paarvai paarthal**

| Methods of practitioners                             | No. of practitioners |
|--|----------------------|
| Paarvai paarthal with fresh herbal medicines.        | 9                    |
| Paarvai paarthal with manthras only.                 | 3                    |
| Paarvai paarthal with manthras and herbal medicines. | 7                    |



**Chart 1. Summary of practitioners in traditional medical practitioners**

Then he gives a juice known as kashayam made from a mixture of herbs. The patient is asked to stay there for. Some more days it the affect of the poison is more separate diet is also prescribed to the patients. Snake bites are mostly identified through paarvai paarthal also well knowledge practitioners are could identified which type of snake bites. Then first aid for snake bites and advice to go for hospital. Dog bites are also treat first aid and advice go to hospital. Scorpion, honeybees, rat, hornets, and some insects bites treatments for different types of medicines to give the patient after paarvai paarthal.

The medicines such as,

- Aristolochia bracteolate root
- Piper nigrum with piper betle

- Cynodon dactylon juice

These are first aid for after paarvai paarthal for any poisonous bites. Especially, there are give to some herbal powders. But not say this type of medicines for another persons.

### DISCUSSION

Expected benefits were this study the epidemiology, manifestations and treatment of Paarvai Paarthal in traditional medical practitioners in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli and find – out the traditional diagnostic method and treatment methods of Paarvai Paarthal. Outcome of this research work is treatments of poisonous bites according to siddha texts and Documentation and explore the traditional treatment schedule for Paarvai Paathal to the public. According to the results; Single or Poly herbal formula only practices for treating poisonous bites in tirunelveli by traditional medical practitioners. In findings; don't using of minerals, metals and dry herbs for treatment. only fresh herbal parts were used for a treatment. Practices as; spiritual believes, diet restriction and herbal medicines.

### Summary and Conclusion

In this descriptive study as snap shot of the view study concluded as;After identifying the poison, he sits in front of the patient, worships his ancestors and holds a bunch of "Neem" leaves in his hand and shakes the leaves slowly the in front of the patient face simultaneously he says some "manthras" in a very low voice. Shaking of the leaves begins slowly and accelerates to high speed. It is performed for about five minutes. Then he gives a juice known as kashayam made from a mixture of herbs. The patient is asked to stay there for. Some more days it the affect of the poison is more separate diet is also prescribed to the patients.

Learning of medicine is spiritual in kaanikarar society. It is informed that there are 2 types of schools to learn the medicine.

- 1) Maya padipu
- 2) Palliitupadipu.

In "mayapadipu" the person learns the knowledge of medicine. Though dream in this sleep. It is believed that their ancestors appear in dream and teaches the knowledge of medicine. Sometimes the persons leave this home and stay in the jungle for months together to learn. During this type of learning they avoid salt in their food and stay away from family life. In "palliitupadipu" is another kind of learning generally it appears in the Tamil month of Karthigai. A group of person worship their ancestors and jump into the river. At that time there an ancestors (or) their family deity select the suitable persons and teach the knowledge of medicine in the water. Every day they stay in the water for hours together and learn the medicine. This will continue for about six months sometimes they leave their homes and stay in the forest for months together and learn medicines. But this knowledge is gradually lost by some superstitious beliefs of these groups .numerous ancient knowledge has been lost by the absences of supportive literature. The medicinal plants used against snake bites treatment by kani tribes possess some chemical compound responsible for snake venom inhibition. This traditional

knowledge has to be protected and for the chemical and pharmacological investigation may lead to discovery of novel antidotes against snake bites and other poisonous bites. with help of new technologies, the data could be scientifically proved, so that the scientific world will accept the traditional systems.

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