



# “Importance of Questions asked by Agnivesh in Charak Samhita in teaching learning skill – A Literature Review.”

Dr. Harshali Murade<sup>1</sup> M.D. (Ayurved Samhita) Kriya Sharir Dept. K. J. Institute of Ayurved & Research, Savli, Vadodara.

Dr. Ganesh Mundada<sup>2</sup> M.D. (Ayurved Samhita)

## Abstract:

Charaka samhita is the most authoritative and comprehensive compendium of Ayurvedic knowledge covering almost each and every aspect of health care. This treatise is truly a versatile classic, despite being the oldest available literature of Ayurveda (the currently redacted version available is estimated to be documented in 200 BC).

In Ayurveda the teaching and learning was based on “Gurukula” system of education. A “Gurukula” was a place where a teacher (Guru) and students lived together. In this teaching & learning process the student was asking the questions to guru.

Hence this article focusing to review various teaching & learning methods used in Charak Samhita by questions asking and answering.

**Key Words:** Charak Samhita, Questions, teaching & learning methods.

## INTRODUCTION:

Ayurveda, then Bharadwaja, the semi-divine sage was instructed by Indra to spread this invaluable science of longevity on the earth. On his return, Bharadwaja imparted his knowledge to Punarvasu Atreya and later their six disciples. The present manuscript of Charak samhita has a long history behind it. The original source i.e. Charak samhita is identified as the Agnivesha Tantra based on the teachings of Punarvasu Atreya.

According to Charak samhita, once upon a time, when the people on earth were suffering with various kinds of diseases, the sage, Bharadwaja was deputed by an assembly of learned teachers to go to Lord Indra to learn Ayurveda. Then Bharadwaja, the semi-divine sage was instructed by Indra to spread this invaluable science of longevity on the earth. On this return, Bharadwaja imparted his knowledge to Punarvasu Atreya and later their six disciples.

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Charak samhita is composed in the form of questions and answers between Atreya and Agniveshadi six disciples. Therefore it was considered the best. But in course of time this tantra became mutilated and now original work of Agnivesha is not available for study. Noticing this condition, a scholar named Charak collected all the fragments of scattered tantra and revised with necessary corrections and made it suitable for study. After revision, Acharya Charak renamed Agnivesha Tantra as Charak samhita and hence after this it came to be known as Charak samhita. However, it is not easy to identify the chapters added, deleted or amended by Acharya Charak. To keep away our self from Abhidhyadosha, Acharya Charak clearly mentioned one quotation at the end of every chapter of Charak samhita which is “Agniveshakrute Tantre Charak pratisanskrite” which means this tantra was originally composed by Agnivesha and organized or put together by Charak.<sup>2</sup>

In Ayurveda the teaching and learning was based on “Gurukula” system of education. A “Gurukula” was a place where a teacher (Guru) and students lived together. In this teaching learning process the student was asking the questions to guru.

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To explain in detail of teaching & learning process in Charak samhita by means of answering the questions.
2. To highlight the importance of questions asked by Agnivesha in Charak samhita.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS:<sup>4</sup>

Number of Questions asked by Agnivesha

SN	CHAPTER	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ASKED
1	Ch. Su. 13. Snehopakram	12
2	Ch. Su. 15. Upkalpaniya	12
3	Ch. Su. 17. Kiyantashirashiya	6
4	Ch. Su. 30. Arthe dash mahamuliyaadhyay	15
5	Ch. Sha. 01. KatidhaPurushiya	23
6	Ch. Sha. 02. Atulyagotriya	36
7	Ch. Sha. 06. Sharirvichayasharir	9
8	Ch. chi. 21. Visarpachikitsa	7
9	Ch. Shi. 01. Kalpana siddhi.	12

#### DISCUSSION:<sup>5</sup>

To acquire knowledge Charak samhita advises Adhyayan (Study/learning), Adhyapan (Teaching) and Tadvid sambhasha (Discussion). As this study is related to teaching practices, one of the three knowledge acquiring pillars Study (Adhyayan) is not taken into consideration here because it is a process of an individual. Teaching and discussion are taken into consideration.

In Gurukul Paddhati a child would reside with the teacher for almost twelve years. Hence to nurture a child emotionally, psychologically, and professionally was teacher's duty. Hence the teacher would instruct him from very basic manners and etiquettes.

Teaching is an art. It is sharing of knowledge and make sure that the respondent received. This process includes various techniques and methods. Charak samhita itself is a book of Teaching & Learning Process. It is the very first teaching practice of Ayurved. It includes various Teaching and Discussion method to share knowledge.

Charak samhita is a series of lectures. Maharshi Atreya delivered lectures and his six disciples listened to it carefully. Every chapter of it starts with the word Vyakhyasyamah means to tell, to deliver a thought. While delivering a lecture every speaker/teacher should plan the lecture by detailed understanding of the context. In Charak samhita each chapter is allotted to a subject and each and every chapter is connected to each other i.e. there is a flow in lectures and connection to avoid any confusion.

Students ask questions to teacher when they feel free to ask. Fear of teacher or topic makes them least interested in subject. In Charak we find question and answer series of student and teacher, rather some chapters are the questions of Agnivesh and their responses from Acharya Atreya.

This topic is discussed in detail in present article and highlights the importance of questioning & answering in teaching & learning process in Charak samhita.

### Conclusion:

1. Questioning & answering is important pillar in teaching & learning process in Charak samhita.
2. Number of questions asked by Agnivesh in specific chapter is important for MCQ in competitive exam.

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