



## **Correlation of Diet Regimen in Manifestation of Skin Diseases: A Survey**

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### **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Ahara plays main role in the life of every individual. Dietary regimen as always been placed first while discussing the causes for skin diseases. The normal integrity and the immunological role of skin is maintained by nutritional, biochemical and metabolic aspects of diet. Maintaining dietary lifestyle strictly prevents not only skin diseases but also various systemic diseases. So to assess the type of diet and dietary regime in the patient of skin diseases this study has been evaluated.

**Aim:** Assessing rule of diet-daily regimen in skin diseases of modern era with Ayurveda perspective.

**Methods:** 100 Patients visiting Kayachikitsa OPD within the duration of 6 months.

**Results:** It is observed that Aharja hetu and skin diseases are interlinked with each other which disturb psychological health, which ultimately gets affected to sleep pattern. The same subjective we came through while drawing the resultants of the present survey study, in certain aspect that, Mixed diet (70%), Oily and Spicy food (43%), Curd (42%), Tila taila (41%), Madhur (20%), Tea (28%), Snehadravya and Ushnadravya sevan (17%), Ksudha- Bad (38%).

**Conclusion:** Aharaj hetu are responsible for skin disease due, to habituation with various food

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entities, leading to rasa raktadi dhatu dushti & its precursor dhatu as well, also it should be taken in consideration that, dhatu are been vitiated by dushit avastha of dosha, which ultimately causes of skin disease.

*Keywords: Ahara; ayurveda; dietary regimen; skin diseases.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ahara, Nidra and Brahmacharya are been mentioned as Trayaupastambh which supports the body itself. Ahara has been enumerated first, which shows its importance [1]. Ayurveda focuses on logical and judicious use of ahara for the prevention and cure of diseases. Ayurveda follows the 4 fold therapeutic management steps which includes samshaman (palliation), samshodhana (biopurification), nidan parivarajan (avoiding causative factors) and pathya (food/diet suitable for pacification of disease) [2]. Acharya Charaka defines viruddhahara as certain diet and its combinations, which breaks the metabolism and inhibits the process of formation of tissue and which have opposite property to that of the tissue are called as viruddha Anna or incompatible diet [3]. Viruddha can be considered as diet which are having mutually contradictory properties, contradictory to tissues, diet capable of producing untoward effect on the body when processed in a particular form or proportion or those food which may produce unwanted effects when consumed at an inappropriate time. Ayurvedic literature has compiled almost 18 types of viruddha ahara and has also mentioned complications ranging from skin diseases (kushta), visarpa (erysipelas), unmada (insanity) and marana (death) [4]. Urbanization, change in lifestyle and fascination of western culture are the reasons for change in food habits and lifestyle of people these days. There is also a change in preparatory methods and food habits of people in present era compared to the ancient times. With this modification of the dietary habits and regimen, people are facing skin ailments [5]. Ayurveda states Viruddh Ahara (incompatible diet) is the main etiological reason for kushta (skin disease) [6]. The benefits of food can be achieved only when the food is taken judiciously and as per the methods of food will also leads to ill health. A wholesome diet is necessary for good health, combating diseases and co-morbid conditions and enhancing the potency of the medications. Intake of sufficient quantity of food leads longevity and healthy state of body is maintained [7]. All skin diseases has been

concluded under kushta vyadhis as per Acharya's and respectively divided into Mahakushta and Ksudrakushta. The primary stage of Kushta goes with the Nidana Virodhi Anna Paanani as Viruddha Ahara are meant to be significant causative factor of Skin diseases (Twakvikaras) [8].

With above point in mind and to search out cause and effect relationship between Viruddha Āhāra (incompatible diet) in Kushta (skin disease), the present study has been selected.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The 100 patients of diagnosed skin diseases were taken from the OPD of kayachikitsa, MGACH&RC. After giving the preliminary information about the project to the patient, consent is taken. Dietary regime of the patient is assessed on the basis of pre-designed questionnaires.

### 2.1 Inclusion Criteria

Patients suffering from skin diseases between age group 20-50 years of irrespective gender and who are willing to participate.

### 2.2 Methods

Survey studies, Observational cross-sectional.

### 2.3 Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis is done by using descriptive statistics.

## 3. OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

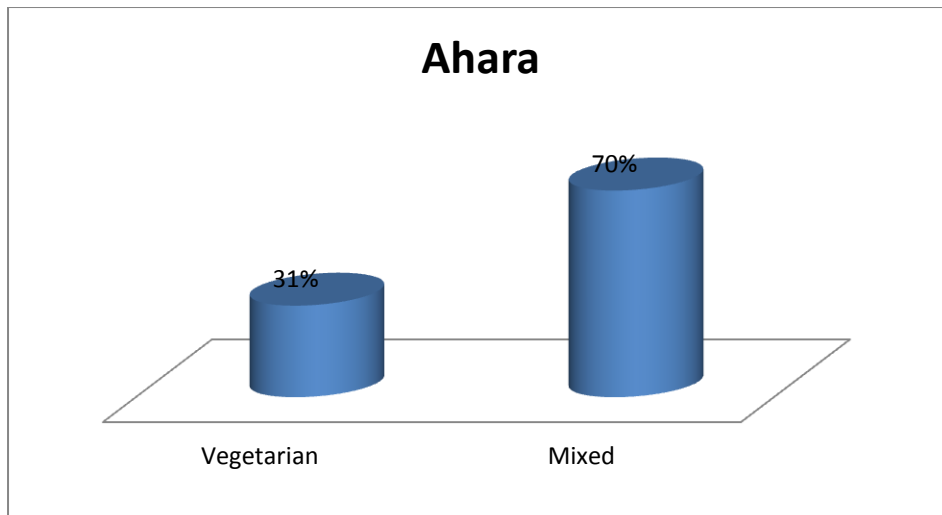
To understand the exact Ahara cause of skin disease in the patients visiting at kayachikitsa OPD of Mahatma Gandhi Ayurved College Hospital & Research Centre, salad, wardha on the basis on framed questionnaire made in Google form and the data been drawn through excel sheet and respectively graphs & tables prepared.

**Table 1. Causative factors leading to skin diseases**

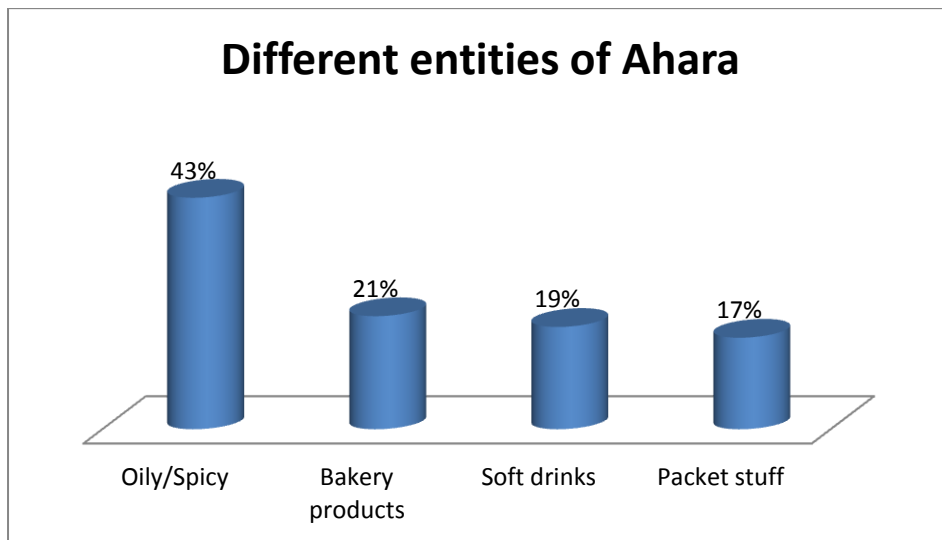
<b>Ahara</b>	<b>No. of patients consumed</b>
Vegetarian	31%
Mixed	70%
<b>Different entities of Ahar</b>	
Oily+Spicy	43%
Bakery products	21%
Soft drinks	19%
Packet stuff	17%
<b>Milk/Dairy products</b>	
Milk	22%
Curd	42%
Shikiran (shrikand, fruit salad., etc)	33%
Others	4%
<b>Routine usage of oil</b>	
Soyabean oil	24%
Sunflower oil	14%
Groundnut oil	15%
Sesame oil ( Tila taila)	41%
Linseed oil (Javas taila)	6%
<b>Oka satmya ( Habituated )</b>	
Alcohol	6%
Tea	28%
Coffee	12%
Tobacco	6%
Smoking	6%
Tea+Tobacco	10%
Tea+Alcohol	5%
No addiction	13%
Tea+Smoking	3%
Tea+Coffee	8%
Tea+Alcohol+Smoking	3%
<b>Satmya (Frequent usage)</b>	
Madhur	20%
Katu	7%
Madhur+Lavan	7%
Amla+Lavan	16%
Madhur+Katu	18%
Madhur+Amla+Lavan	16%
Madhur+Amla+Lavan+Katu	19%
<b>Incompatible diet</b>	
Snehadravya+Ushnadravya	17%
Navana+Milk	15%
Potato+Tila+Lasuna	13%
Dadhi+Udad dal	12%
Guruannapan +Guda	12%
Harita saka and vidahi anna	12%
Dugdha+Fish	8%
Atidravadravyapana	7%
Pishtanna	4%
<b>Kshudha</b>	
Good	31%
Bad	38%
Normal	31%

**Table 2. Skin diseases caused above mentioned Ahara respectively**

Twak vikar	Correlation according to Modern	No. of subjects found
Yuvanapidika	Acne Vulgaris	19%
Ekakushta	Psoriasis	18%
Shitapitta	Urticaria	17%
Vicharchika	Eczema	17%
Shwitra	Vitiligo/ Leucoderma	14%
Vyanga	Melasma	6%
Vatarakta	Lupus erythematosus	4%
Visphota	Blister	4%



**Graph 1. What type of Ahara you consume?**



**Graph 2. What kind of different Ahara you prefer frequently?**

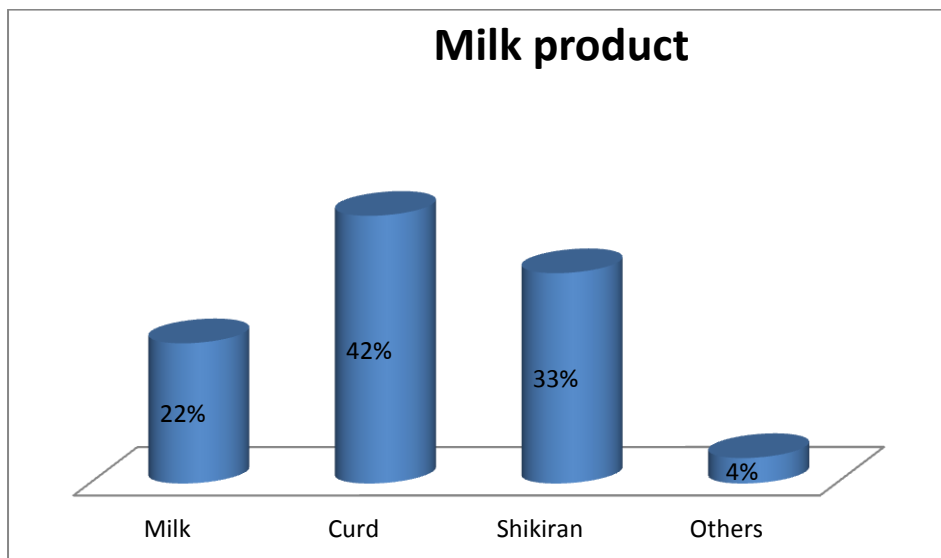
**4. DISCUSSION**

Among 100 participants maximum numbers of subjects were found to be consuming, mixed diet at about 70% (Graph 1) and the causative

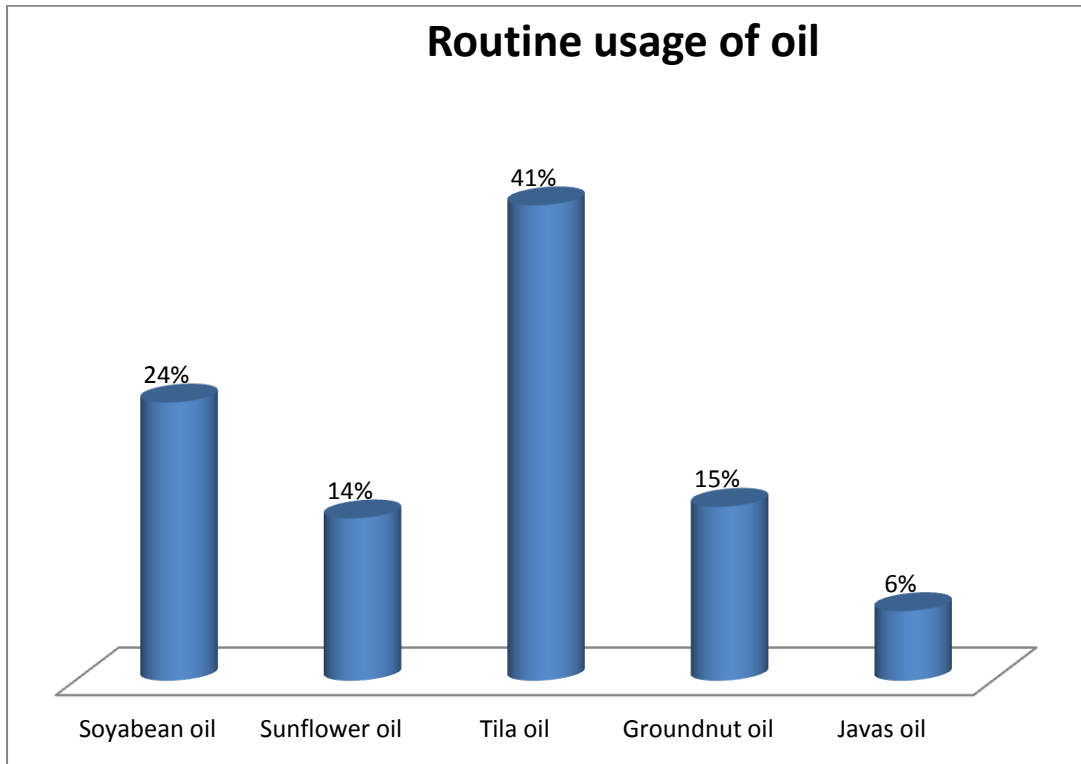
factors specifically the consumption of Aharaj hetu is 17% i.e., Oily and Spicy food items (Graph 8), and consumption of viharaj hetu is 36% i.e., Diwaswapa (Graph 9). Subjectives suffering with manas hetu yukta avasta were

35% (Graph 13), and suffering with nidra janya hetu were 47% (Graph 14). Subject consuming oily/spicy food were 43% however packet stuff consumer were found to be 17% (Graph 2), on the other hand 22% were consuming milk and 42% were consuming curd (Graph 3). Most preferred oil in daily routine was found to be tila taila 41% and linseed oil (javas taila) was found to be 6% (Graph 4). 28% of subjects were found to have tea consumption frequently (Graph 5), 20% were consuming madhur rasatmak ahara and amla, lavan rasatmak ahara consumer were 16% (Graph 6). The most causative factor among ahara was snehadravya, ushnadravya of about 17% and least 4% found was pishtanna consumption subjects (Graph 7). 36% subjects (patients) were prone to divaswapa (Graph 8). Reflecting 38% were having avara (bad) kshuda (hunger sensation) (Graph 9), ultimately jaran shakti was found to be pravara at 14% (Graph 10) likewise ahara shakti was found to be pravara at 3%(Graph 11), affecting manas avasta at 35% being krodita and chintita and 15% were drowned in shoka (Graph 12), likewise affecting nidra(Sleep pattern) 42% were suffering with disturbed sleep and on the other hand 11% were suffering with disturbed sleep due to skin diseases(Graph 13). 46% subjects were having past illness of diabetes mellitus and least 3% subjects found to be having no significant history (Graph 14). As Ahara plays the major in life of individual, proper intake of Ahara by following all the rules of conducts mentioned by the acharyas

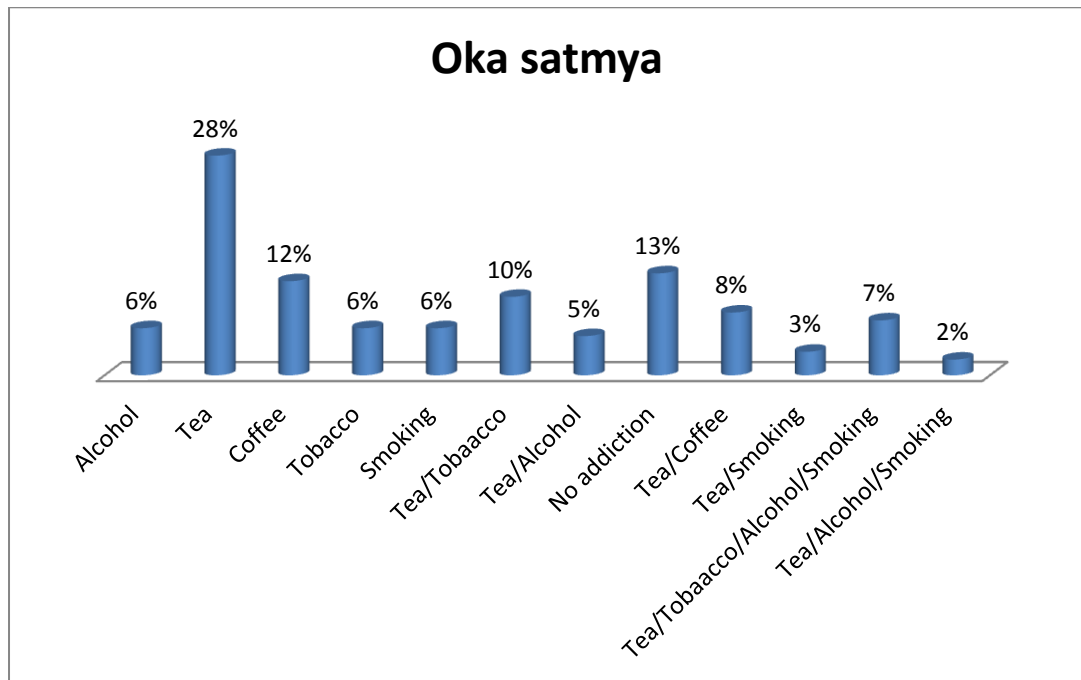
leads to healthy life and improper intake of Ahara i.e., intake of anything in excess or in contradictory way leads to disease state. Acharaya Charaka explains that anything taken in excess and at improper time disturbs the Annavaha strotas which can be taken as Amapradosha hetu. Atimadhura, Atiamala ras sevan leads to pitta and also causes agnimandya, raktadushti, raktaprakopa, mamsa sthathilya and pittavruddhi. Lavan has the properties of provoking pitta which in turn aggravates rakta and leading to the eruption of dermatic lesion, depletion of the muscle tissue. Tila when consumed in excess is kushtakara and which is already possesses ushna guna, ultimately leads to pitta prakopa avastha. Guda (jaggery) is kaphakara, krumikara, agnimandyakara, medokara. Anupa audak mamsa, guru snigdha, pichhila is agnimanday kara which hampers the functioning of prakrut dosha and dhatu. Curd (dadhi) is maha-abhishyandhi (stickness property) which vitiates the rasa raktadi dhatu , kushtakara, kaphakara and which causes stroto roda (blockage) of rasavaha( channels of lump), raktavaha ( channels of blood), mamsavaha (channel of muscles) strotas which leads to hampering of nutritive entities from being circulated throughout the body [9]. Fish (matsya) leadsa to bahudoshavikara. Pishtanna is guru in guna. Soka, kroda (anger or anxiety) leads to prakruta vata pitta dosha prakopa.



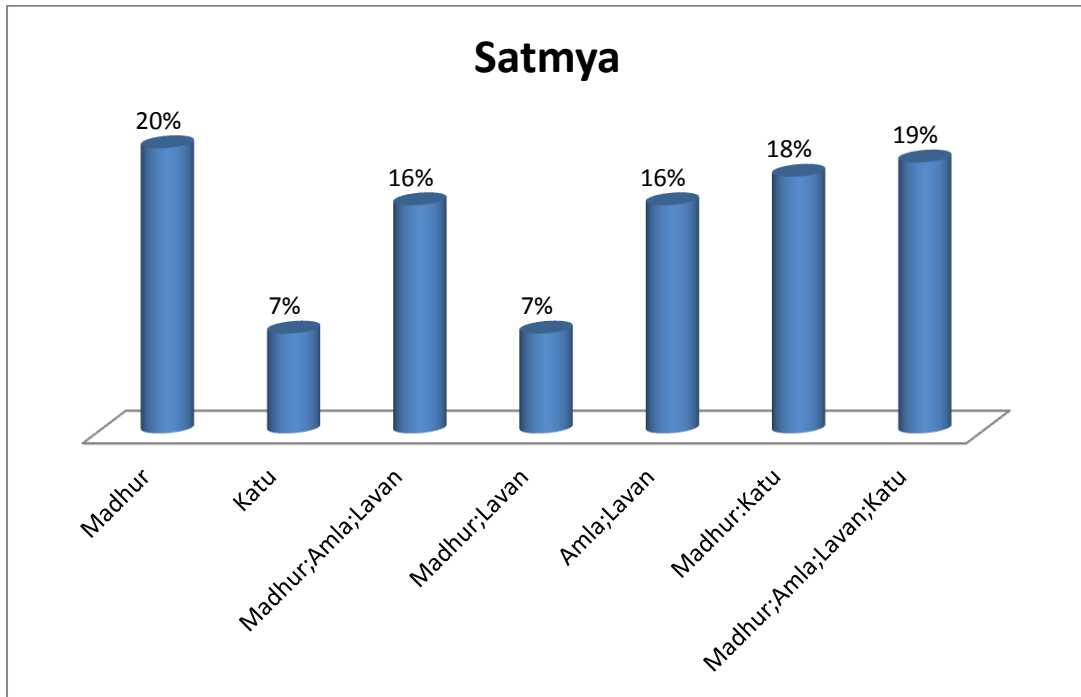
**Graph 3. What different type of Milk/Dairy products you prefer frequently?**



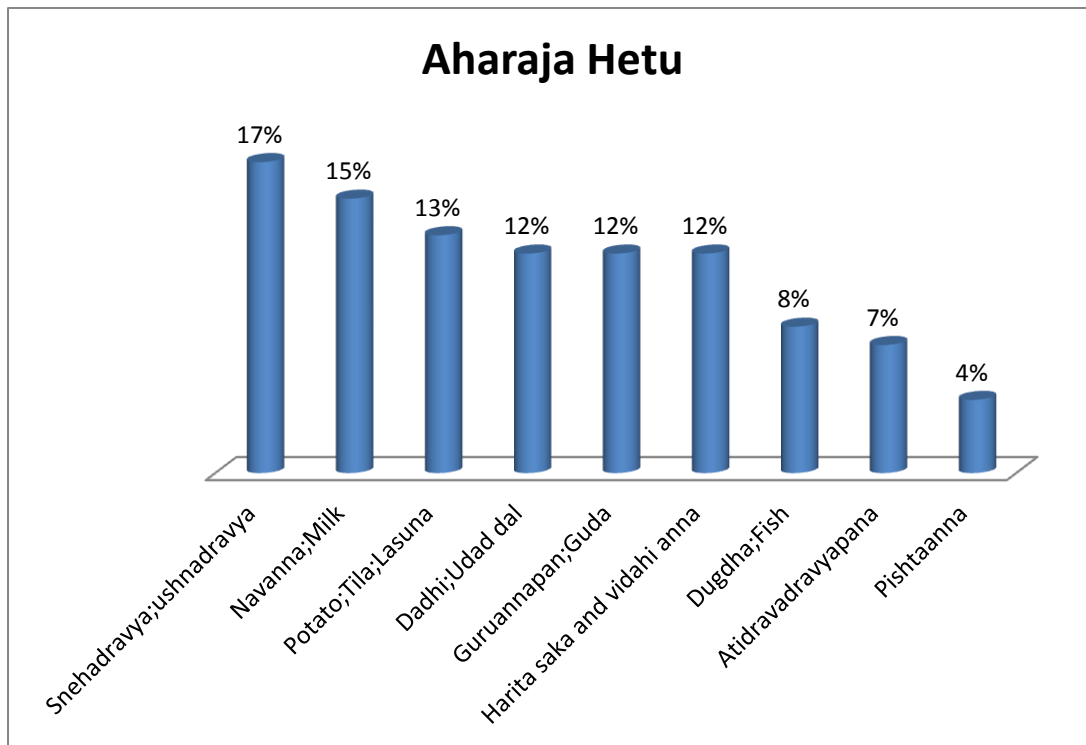
**Graph 4. What kind of oil you consume on daily basis?**



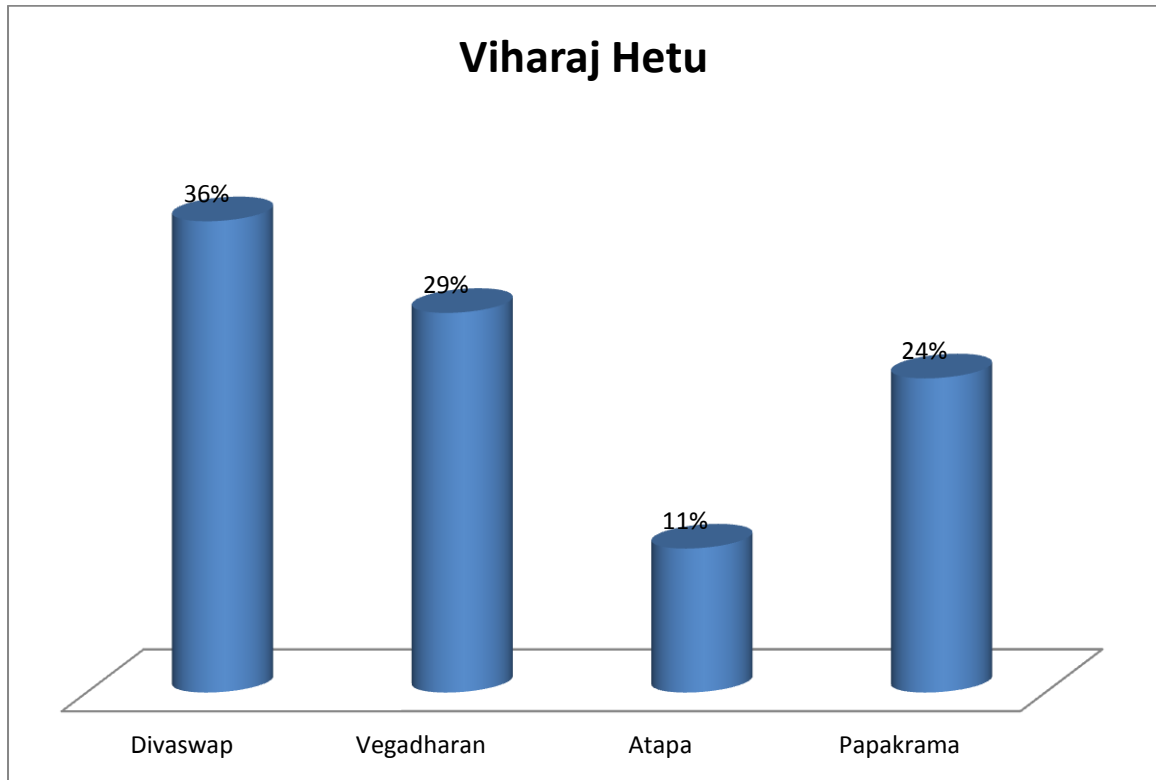
**Graph 5. What are you habituated of?**



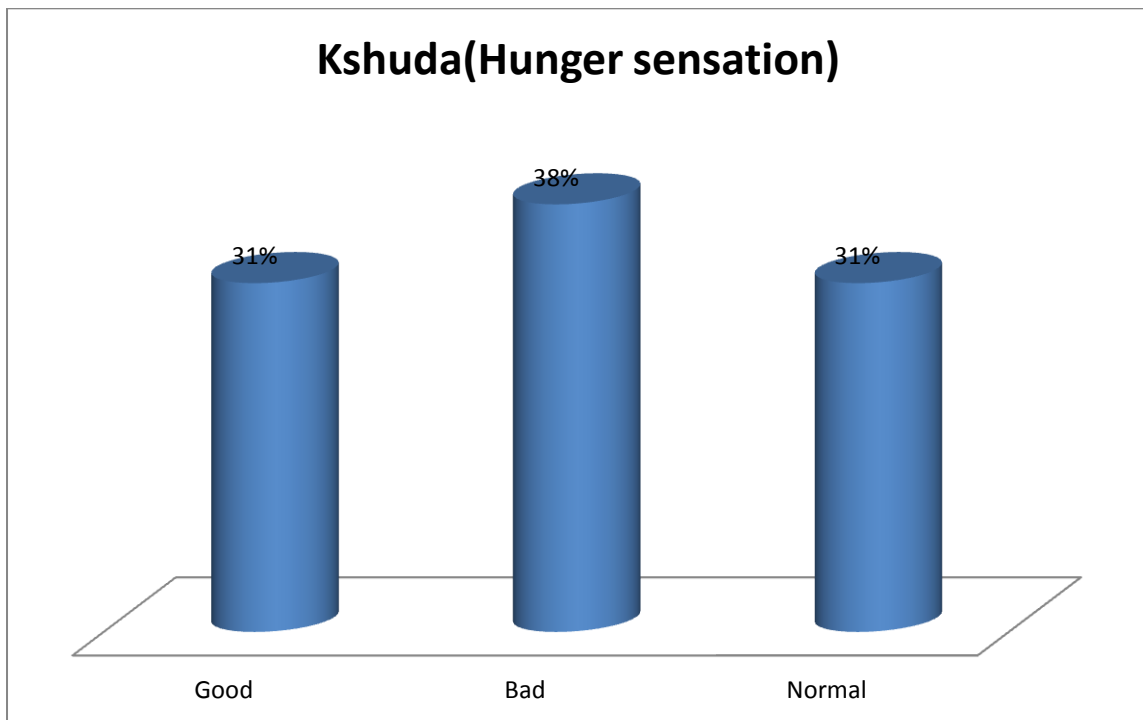
Graph 6. What kind of Ahara (Diet) you frequently are used to?



Graph 7. What kind of disease causing Ahara (Diet) you consume?

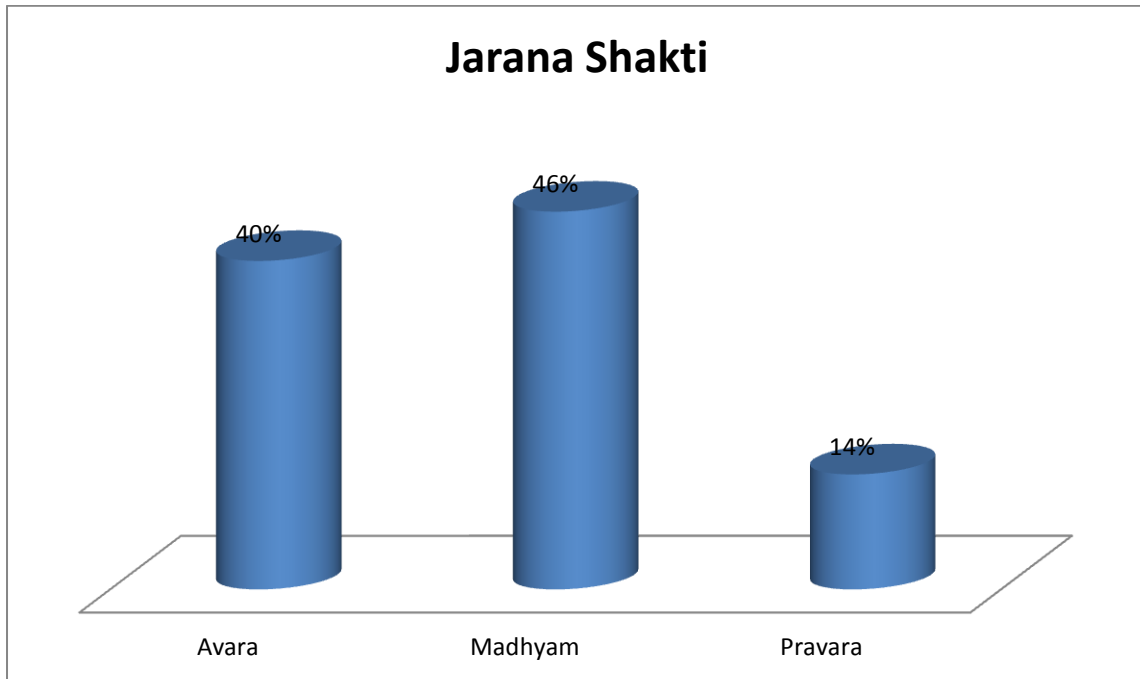


**Graph 8. What kind of disease causing vihar(Daily regimen) you follow?**

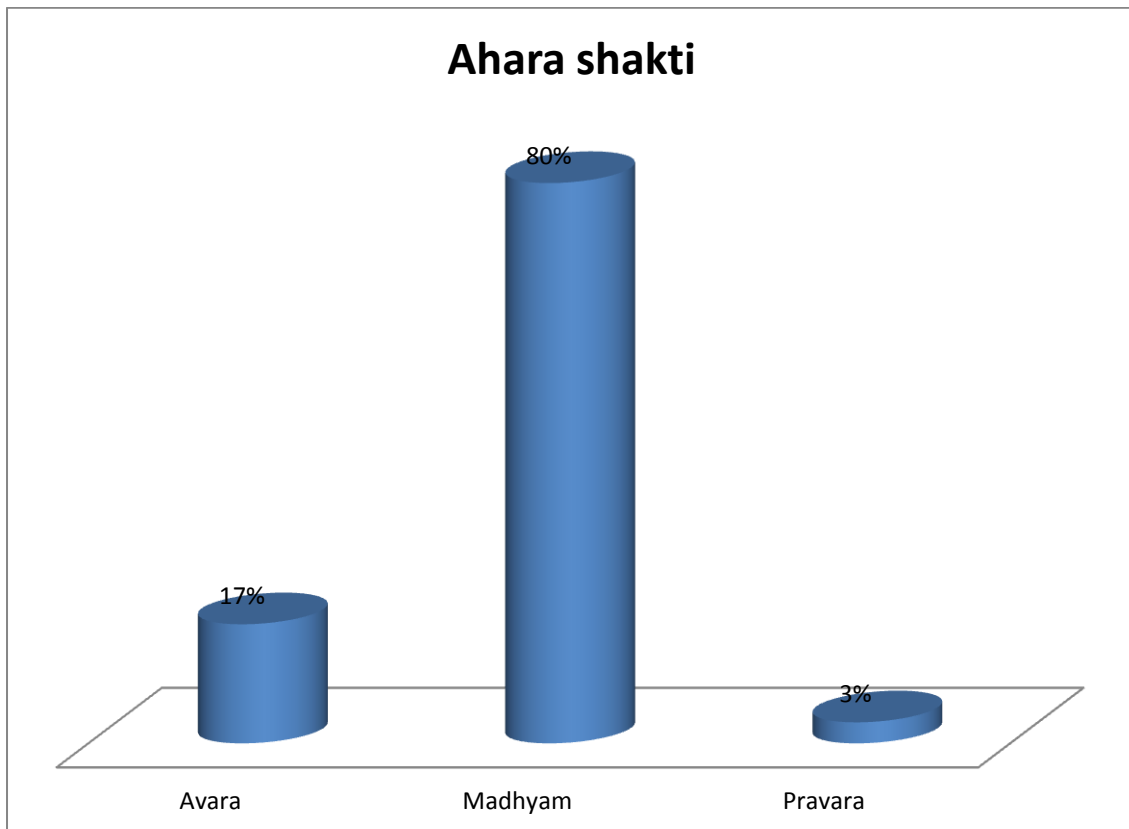


**Graph 9. How frequently you get hunger sensation?**

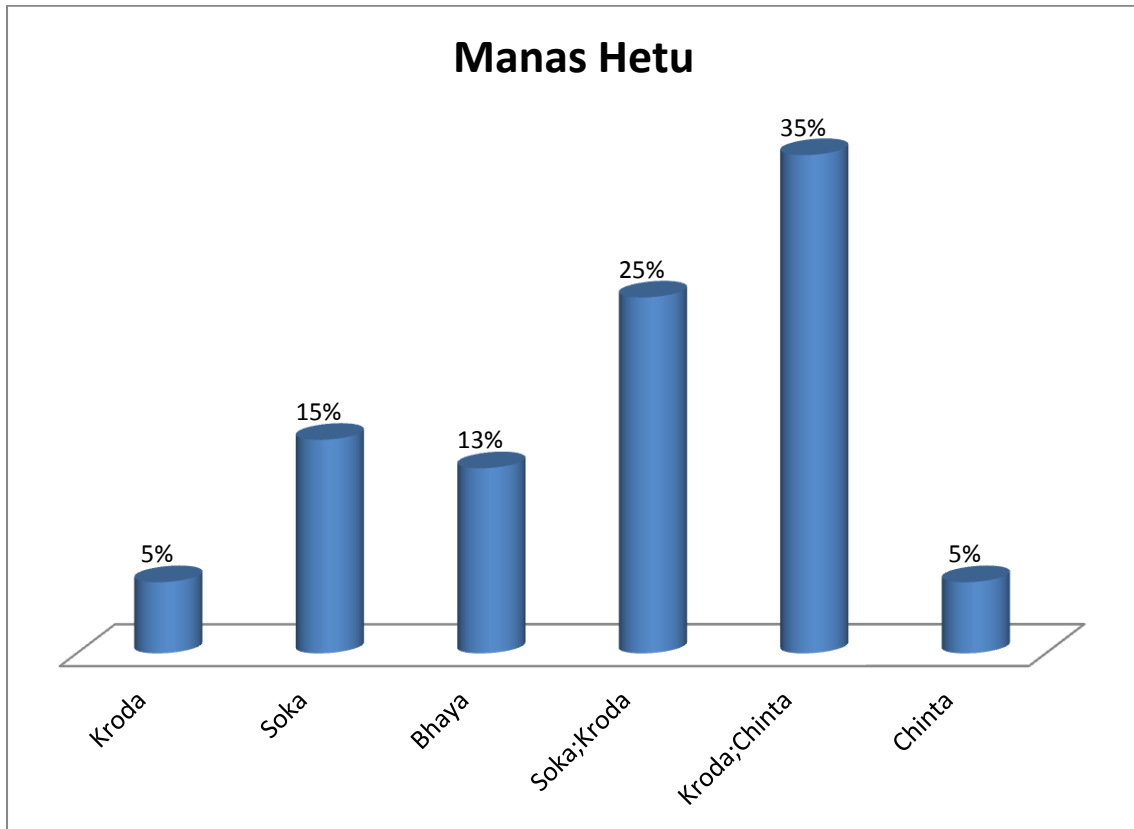




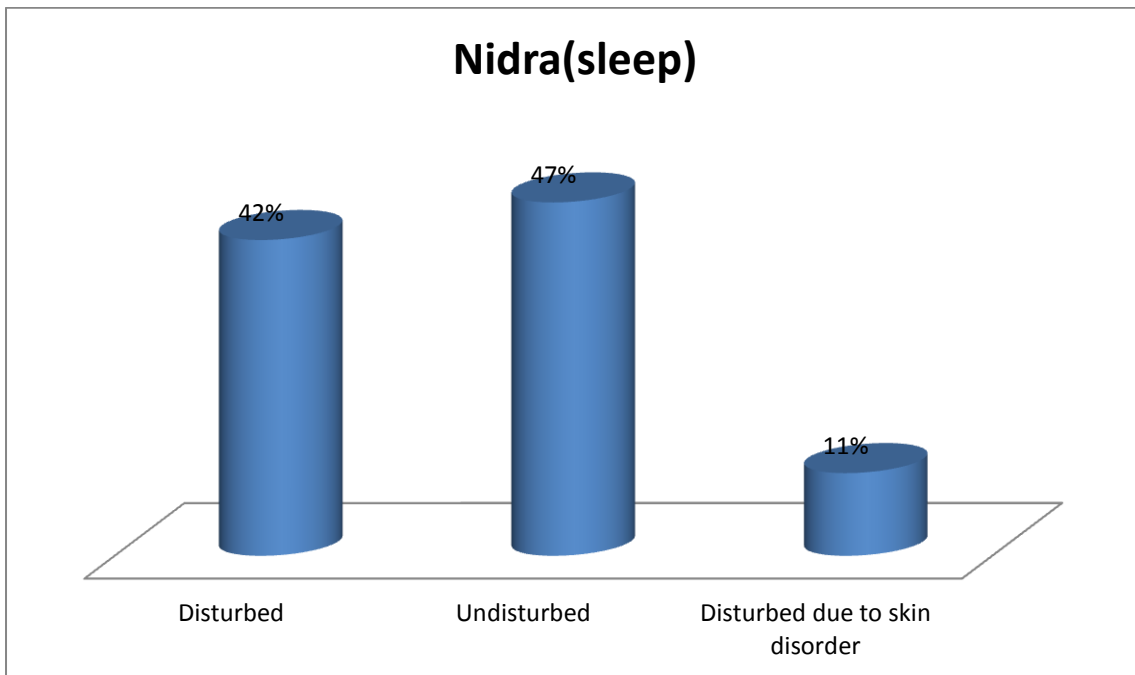
**Graph 10. How frequently you get hungry and you feel of food getting digested?**



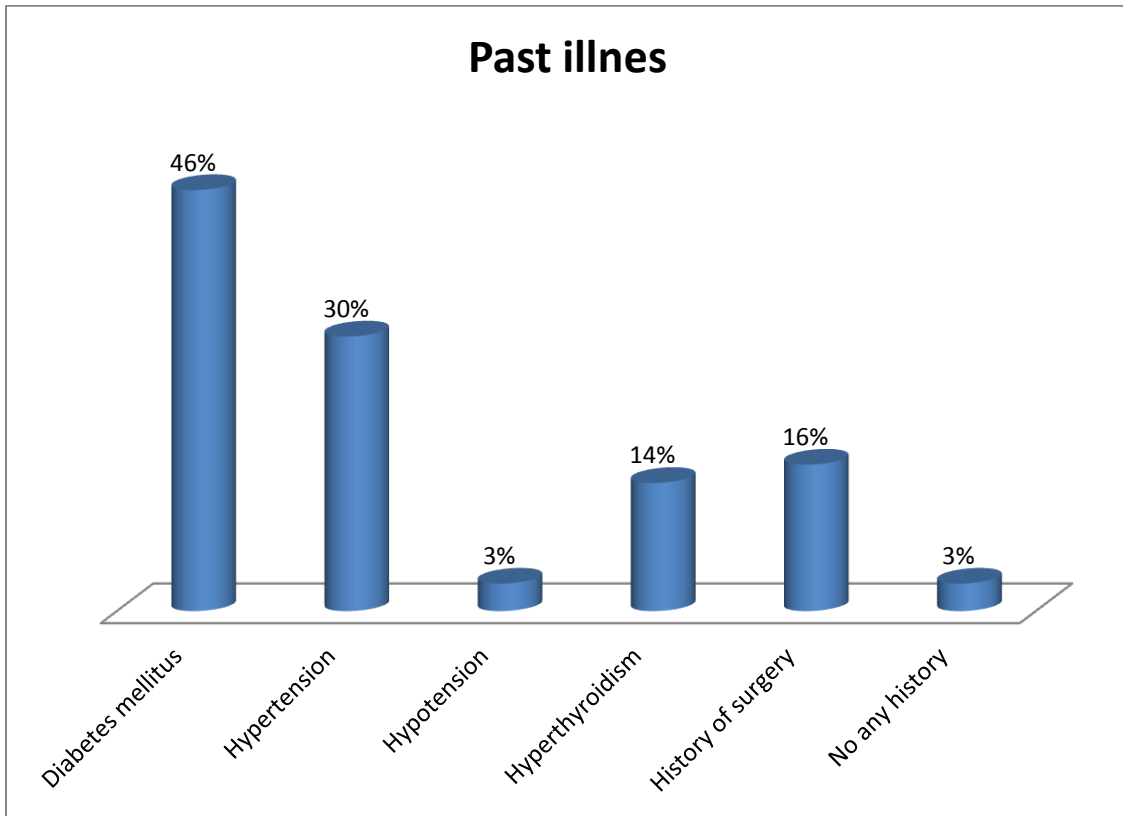
**Graph 11. How much quantity of Ahara (food) you can consume at a time?**



**Graph 12. Do you practice any of the causative factors among following?**



**Graph 13. What kind of sleep pattern you follow?**



**Graph 14. Do you have any of the past history among the followings?**

In samhita it is mentioned that Dooshivisha causing kitibha and kotha (skin lesions) due to vitiation of Rakta Dhatu. The Doshas one by one get vitiated and results in death due to Dooshivisha.(latent position) [10] Dooshivisha is compared with allergic reaction as per Ayurveda, allergic disorder are caused due to antigen and antibody reaction which leads to formation of inflammation, due to unhealthy environment-season-food, Diwaswapna (day sleep), these leads to vitiation of tissues, as mentioned in Critical review of Dooshivishari Agad with special reference to anti-allergic action by *Chalakh S* et al. [11] An epidemiology and physiopathology review on skin diseases and diabetes mellitus explained by de Macedo et al. Diabetol Metab Syndr (2016) explains the high prevalence of skin disease in Diabetes mellitus patients [12]. Role of viruddha ahara in kustha (skin disease): an epidemiological study by talekar manisha et al. concludes that viruddha ahara plays main role in manifestation of skin disease [13,14]. Few studies on skin diseases from modern medicine were reviewed [15-17]. Some interesting key studies on effects of treatment with modern medicines were reviewed [18-20]. Benefits of

Ghrelin in improving appetite were outlined by Khatib et al. [21-26].

## 5. CONCLUSION

From the overall study it could be concluded that Aharaj hetu plays a significant role in the manifestation of skin diseases. Due to frequent consumption of Aharaj hetu i.e., various food entities, it results into vitiation of Rasa Raktadi dhatu & its precursor dhatu as well, also it should be taken in consideration that, dhatu are been vitiated by Dushit Avastha of dosha, which ultimately causes of Skin Disease.

## CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, patients' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

## ETHICAL APPROVAL

The project is started after ethical clearance of IEC, MGACH&RC, DMIMS (DU).

## NOTE

The study highlights the efficacy of "ayurveda" which is an ancient tradition, used in some parts of India. This ancient concept should be carefully evaluated in the light of modern medical science and can be utilized partially if found suitable.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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