

IJAYUSH

International Journal of AYUSH
AYURVEDA, YOGA, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY
http://internationaljournal.org.in/journal/index.php/ijayush/

International Journal Panacea Research library ISSN: 2349 7025

REVIEW ARTICLE

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 08

AUGUST 2025

CHIKITSA OF MANAS ROGAS IN DIFFERENT SAMHITAS: A COMPARATIVE LITERARY REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Background: Manas Rogas (mental disorders) have been discussed across the Ayurvedic classical texts with varying nomenclature, pathogenesis, and management protocols. The Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridaya provide insightful and foundational descriptions of these disorders under the framework of Tridosha, Triguna, and Manovaha Srotas. Understanding the Ayurvedic management (Chikitsa) of Manas Rogas through a comparative study of these Samhitas can offer integrative perspectives for contemporary psychiatric care. Aim: To critically review and compare the Chikitsa (therapeutic approaches) of Manas Rogas as described in Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridaya. Objectives: To explore the classical understanding of Manas and its disorders (Manas Rogas) in Ayurvedic literature. To identify and compare the treatment approaches—Daivavyapashraya, Yuktivyapashraya, and Satvavajaya Chikitsa—across different Samhitas. To highlight the similarities and unique contributions of each Samhita in the management of selected mental disorders. To assess the relevance of classical Ayurvedic therapies in the context of modern psychosomatic and psychiatric disorders. Materials and Methods: A qualitative literary review of Brihattrayi—Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga

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Hridaya—along with their respective commentaries was conducted. Data was extracted regarding the etiopathogenesis, classification, and Chikitsa of Manas Rogas. Comparative analysis was performed thematically with supporting Sanskrit references. Results: Charaka Samhita emphasizes Triguna and Dosha-based causation and prioritizes Satvavajaya Chikitsa alongside Yuktivyapashraya. Sushruta Samhita discusses Manas Rogas under surgical and systemic contexts, with specific Shodhana measures and dietary regimens. Ashtanga Hridaya offers concise and integrated protocols, combining Rasayana, Satvavajaya, and lifestyle modifications. All three texts acknowledge the role of Daivavyapashraya Chikitsa (mantra, japa, homa) in managing severe mental afflictions. Conclusion: The Chikitsa of Manas Rogas across Ayurvedic Samhitas reflects a multidimensional approach integrating spiritual, psychological, and pharmacological therapies. Each text provides a unique emphasis, yet together they form a comprehensive blueprint for managing psychiatric disorders in Ayurvedic practice. These insights can be foundational for modern integrative mental health models.

Keywords: Manas Roga, Chikitsa, Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga Hridaya, Satvavajaya, Ayurvedic Psychiatry

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda defines *Ayu* as an integration of *Sharira*, *Indriya*, *Satva*, and *Atma*, highlighting the centrality of *Manas* (mind) in health and disease. As per *Charaka*, a stable *Satva* is essential for cognition and balanced living. The mind, though *Amurta* (non-material), is the governing factor for perception, cognition, and behaviour. The concept of *Trigunas—Sattva*, *Rajas*, and *Tamas*—forms the psycho-dynamic basis of Ayurvedic psychiatry, where predominance of *Rajas* and *Tamas* leads to *Manas Rogas* (mental disorders).¹

The classical Ayurvedic literature classifies diseases broadly as *Sharirika* (physical) and *Manasika* (mental). *Charaka Samhita* describes conditions such as *Unmada, Apasmara, Chittodvega*, and *Atattvabhinivesha*, and outlines *Manas Prakriti* types, *Manobhavas*, and *Satva Pariksha* as diagnostic tools. *Sushruta* and *Vagbhata* elaborate on similar disorders, including *Bhutonmada* and *Balagraha*, with additional emphasis on spiritual afflictions. Modern interpretations classify these under neurotic, psychotic, psychosomatic, and behavioural disorders.²

Ayurveda proposes a triadic treatment approach: *Daivavyapashraya* (spiritual therapy), *Yuktivyapashraya* (rational/pharmacological therapy), and *Satvavajaya* (psychotherapeutic therapy). While *Daivavyapashraya* includes rituals such as *Mantra*, *Homa*, *Upavasa*, and *Bali*, *Yuktivyapashraya* focuses on *Panchakarma*, *Medhya Rasayana*, and dietary regulation. *Satvavajaya* aims at controlling the mind through *Dhee*, *Dhairya*, *Smriti*, *Samadhi*, and *Vijnana*, paralleling modern psychotherapy.³

Charaka Samhita emphasizes Satvavajaya Chikitsa, considering Manas Rogas as vitiation of Satva by Rajas and Tamas. Sushruta Samhita incorporates surgical and anatomical perspectives, considering Hridaya as the seat of Manas and Sadhaka Pitta as its mediator. Ashtanga Hridaya by Vagbhata presents a concise protocol using Dhee, Dhairya, and Atma Jnana as key principles of management, supporting psychospiritual integration.⁴

Apart from internal therapies, *Abhyanga* (oleation therapy) and *Samvahana* (gentle massage) are described for their calming effects on *Manas* via *Sparshanendriya* (tactile sense) and regulation of *Vata*. *Hridaya*, considered the anatomical and functional seat of *Manas*, is targeted through *Bahirparimarjana Chikitsa*. These therapies enhance *Sattva Guna* and stabilize emotional disturbances, supporting recovery from *Manas Rogas* such as *Unmada*, *Bhaya*, and *Krodha*.⁵

Ayurveda's *Manas Rogas* overlap significantly with psychosomatic and psychiatric illnesses in contemporary medicine, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, and personality disorders. The emphasis on ethical conduct (*Sadvritta*), preventive behaviour (*Achara Rasayana*), and mind-body interventions provides a holistic treatment model. Comparative analysis of *Chikitsa* across *Samhitas* not only reflects a timeless understanding of mental health but also opens avenues for integrative mental healthcare systems.⁶

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim:

To critically review and compare the *Chikitsa* (therapeutic approaches) of *Manas Rogas* as described in *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, and *Ashtanga Hridaya*.

Objectives:

- 1. To explore the classical understanding of *Manas* and its disorders (*Manas Rogas*) in Ayurvedic literature.
- 2. To identify and compare the treatment approaches—*Daivavyapashraya*, *Yuktivyapashraya*, and *Satvavajaya Chikitsa*—across different *Samhitas*.
- 3. To highlight the similarities and unique contributions of each *Samhita* in the management of selected mental disorders.
- 4. To assess the relevance of classical Ayurvedic therapies in the context of modern psychosomatic and psychiatric disorders.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This study was conducted through a critical literary review of classical Ayurvedic texts, primarily focusing on *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, and *Ashtanga Hridaya*, along with their authoritative commentaries. Relevant references regarding the etiology, classification, and *Chikitsa* (treatment) of *Manas Rogas* were systematically compiled and analyzed. Additional support was taken from contemporary Ayurvedic journals, research articles, and modern interpretations to correlate and contextualize classical therapeutic principles. The collected data were interpreted comparatively to understand the distinctive and overlapping treatment strategies across the *Brihattrayi*, with emphasis on *Satvavajaya*, *Daivavyapashraya*, and *Yuktivyapashraya* Chikitsa.

CONCCEPTUAL STUDY ON CHIKITSA OF MANAS ROGAS IN DIFFERENT SAMHITAS ACCORDING TO CHARAK SAMHITA⁷

Table 1: Chikitsa Sthana References on Manas Roga Chikitsa in Charaka Samhita

Conceptual Element	Description from Charaka Samhita - Chikitsa Sthana	Referenc e
Definition of Unmada	Loss of mental equilibrium due to derangement of <i>Manas</i> , <i>Buddhi</i> , <i>Samjna</i> , <i>Smriti</i> , <i>Bhakti</i> , <i>Sheela</i> , <i>Cheshta</i> , and <i>Achara</i> .	

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Types of Unmada	Five types described based on <i>Dosha: Vataja, Pittaja, Kaphaja, Sannipataja,</i> and <i>Agantuja Unmada.</i>		
Etiology (<i>Nidana</i>)	Prajnaparadha, Asatmya Indriyartha Samyoga, Parinama (Kala), and Bhuta Abhishanga (for Agantuja Unmada).	Ca. Chi. 9/7, 9/89	
Trividha Chikitsa Concept	Threefold treatment explained: <i>Daivavyapashraya</i> , <i>Yuktivyapashraya</i> , and <i>Satvavajaya Chikitsa</i> .	hraya, Ca. Chi. 9/87; also Su. 1/58	
Satvavajaya Chikitsa			
Daivavyapashra ya Chikitsa			
Yuktivyapashra ya Chikitsa			
Lifestyle & Social Behavior			
Use of Medhya Dravyas Herbs like Brahmi, Vacha, Shankhapushpi, Ashwagandha indicated to improve memory and intellect.		Ca. Chi. 9/88	
General Principle of Healing The mind must be engaged in wholesome thoughts and activities, guided by self-discipline and positive companionship.		Ca. Chi. 9/93-95	

ACCORDING TO SUSHRUTA SAMHITA8

Table 2: Chikitsa of Manas Rogas in Sushruta Samhita - Chikitsa Sthana

S.	Conceptual	Description from Sushruta Chikitsa	Reference
No.	Element	Sthana	
1	Key Rogas Discussed	Unmada, Apasmara, Bhutonmada (spirit-influenced insanity), Jwara (mental fever)	Sushruta Chikitsa Sthana Adhyaya 5 & 6

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2	Unmada Chikitsa	Unmada arises from Dosha imbalance and Bhuta Abhishanga; treated through Shodhana, Medhya herbs, and Daivavyapashraya	Su. Chi. 5/3–8
3	Use of Shodhana Karma	Emphasis on <i>Vamana</i> , <i>Virechana</i> , and <i>Nasya</i> as purificatory therapies before administration of <i>Medhya</i> drugs	Su. Chi. 5/15–19
4	Medhya Dravya Prayoga	Vacha, Shankhapushpi, Tagara, Jatamansi prescribed for restoring intellect and calming the mind	Su. Chi. 5/20–22
5	Bhutonmada Chikitsa	Treated using <i>Mantra</i> , <i>Homa</i> , <i>Bali</i> , and <i>Japa</i> in conjunction with <i>Shamana</i> and <i>Shodhana</i> therapies	Su. Chi. 6/3–5
6	Sattvavajaya Measures (Implied)	Although not named directly, advice includes counseling, detachment from disturbing thoughts, and association with calm environments	Su. Chi. 5/24–28
7	Pathya-Apathya	Emphasis on wholesome diet, restriction of over-stimulating food, and avoidance of <i>Rajasika</i> and <i>Tamasika Ahara</i>	Su. Chi. 5/26
8	Supportive Therapies	Use of <i>Snehana</i> , <i>Swedana</i> , <i>Shirodhara</i> , <i>Abhyanga</i> , and mental calming procedures like <i>Samvahana</i>	Su. Chi. 5/22-25
9	Etiological Basis	Caused by both endogenous (<i>Dosha</i>) and exogenous (<i>Bhuta, Krodha, Shoka,</i> trauma) factors	Su. Chi. 5/6–8
10	Clinical Guidance	Advice to maintain purity of mind and association with spiritual and intellectual people to aid recovery	Su. Chi. 5/28

ACCORDING TO ASHTANGA HRUDAYA9

Table 3: Conceptual Elements of *Manas Roga* Chikitsa in *Ashtanga Hridaya Chikitsa Sthana*

Conceptual Element	Description from Chikitsa Sthana	Reference (Ashtanga Hridaya)
Definition and Classification of Unmada	Unmada is defined as loss of mental balance due to vitiation of Doshas (Vata, Pitta, Kapha, Sannipata, Agantuja).	A.Hr. Chi. 6/1–5
Etiological Factors (Nidana)	Prajnaparadha, Asatmya Indriyartha Samyoga, Bhuta Abhishanga (Agantuja causes) are major contributors to Unmada.	A.Hr. Chi. 6/5-9
General Line of Treatment	Trividha Chikitsa – Daivavyapashraya, Yuktivyapashraya, and Satvavajaya Chikitsa are foundational lines of therapy.	A.Hr. Chi. 1/25-26
Daivavyapashraya Chikitsa	Use of Mantra, Homa, Bali, Upavasa, Swastyayana, and Niyama in Agantuja Unmada and other spiritually-caused disorders.	A.Hr. Chi. 6/91-93
Yuktivyapashraya Chikitsa	Includes Shodhana (Vamana, Virechana, Basti), Shamana with Medhya Rasayana and Bahirparimarjana like Abhyanga, Nasya, Dhupana.	A.Hr. Chi. 6/80-90
Satvavajaya Chikitsa	Dhee (intellect), Dhairya (courage), Smriti (memory), Samadhi (mental stability), and Vijnana are the key elements.	A.Hr. Chi. 6/109
Psychosocial Approach	Recommends calming environment, association with friends, elders, and positive company for improving mental stability.	A.Hr. Chi. 6/106–108
Chikitsa of Apasmara	Treatment includes <i>Nasya</i> , <i>Medhya Rasayana</i> , <i>Sattvavajaya</i> , and dietary adjustments to restore <i>Smriti</i> and <i>Dhi</i> .	A.Hr. Chi. 7/1-51; esp. 7/47

Table 4: Conceptual Study on $\it Chikitsa$ of $\it Manas\,Rogas$ in $\it Laghutrayee^{10}$

Conceptual Element	Madhava Nidana	Sharangadhara Samhita	Bhavaprakasha
Textual Focus	Diagnostic and therapeutic discussion of <i>Unmada</i> and <i>Apasmara</i>	Formulation- centric with procedural clarity	Integrative chikitsa, Manas Roga described in Uttara Khanda
Major <i>Manas</i> <i>Rogas</i> Described	Unmada, Apasmara, Bhutonmada, Atattvabhinivesha	Unmada, Apasmara, Bhutonmada	Unmada, Apasmara, Murchha, Bhrama, Chittodvega
Chikitsa Sthana Reference	Chikitsa Sthana: <i>Unmada Chikitsa</i> – Ch. 26; <i>Apasmara Chikitsa</i> – Ch. 27	Not in separate Chikitsa Sthana, but discussed in Madhyama & Uttama Khandas	Bhavaprakasha Uttara Khanda – Unmada Chikitsa (Ch. 6), Apasmara Chikitsa (Ch. 7)
Chikitsa Categories	Trividha Chikitsa: Daivavyapashraya, Yuktivyapashraya, Satvavajaya	Mostly Yuktivyapashraya based approach using formulations	Integrated model with extensive use of Daivika and Satvavajaya methods
Daivavyapas hraya Chikitsa	Described for Bhutonmada – use of Homa, Bali, Mantra, Japa	Brief mention in context of <i>Bhutonmada</i>	Detailed protocols using <i>Graha Ghna</i> <i>Dravyas</i> and rituals
Yuktivyapash raya Chikitsa	Medhya Rasayana, Sneha- Pana, Nasya, Shirodhara	Medhya drugs, Asava, Arishta, dosage adjustment	Kalyanaka Ghrita, Saraswatarishta, Manasamitra Vatakam
Satvavajaya Chikitsa	Use of Dhee, Dhairya, Smriti, Samadhi, Vijnana	Not systematically described	Implicit in Achara Rasayana and Sadvritta prescriptions
Formulation s Referenced	Unmadagajakeshari Rasa, Vacha Churna, Jatamansi Taila	Brahmi Ghrita, Smritisagara Rasa	Kalyanaka Ghrita, Saraswatarishta, Chittodvegarikta Kashaya
Unique Insight	Classification of <i>Unmada</i> into <i>Dosha</i> and <i>Agantuja</i> types	Detailed dosage, anupana, and co- administration guidance	Behavioral code (Sadvritta), Ahara- Vihara, Medhya Oushadhi integration

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

From Brihattrayi (Charaka, Sushruta, Ashtanga Hridaya)

- Charaka Samhita gives prime importance to Satvavajaya Chikitsa, focusing on Dhee, Dhairya, Smriti, Samadhi, and Vijnana for managing Manas Rogas like Unmada, Apasmara, and Atattvabhinivesha.
- It describes *Trividha Chikitsa* (Daivavyapashraya, Yuktivyapashraya, Satvavajaya) as the main treatment strategy for all mental disorders.
- Sushruta Samhita highlights the anatomical seat of Manas in Hridaya and associates Sadhaka Pitta with mental functions.
- It incorporates surgical cleanliness, *Sadvritta*, and *Achara Rasayana* as supportive measures for mental wellbeing.
- Ashtanga Hridaya presents a concise and clinically applicable version of mental health management, particularly for *Unmada* and *Apasmara*.
- It reiterates *Satvavajaya Chikitsa* and includes practical advice on lifestyle, social support, and calming therapies like *Nasya*, *Abhyanga*, and *Dhupana*.

From Laghutrayee (Madhava Nidana, Sharangadhara, Bhavaprakasha)

- *Madhava Nidana* offers detailed classification of *Unmada* and *Bhutonmada* and explains their *Nidana*, *Lakshana*, and ritual-based *Chikitsa*.
- It emphasizes *Daivavyapashraya Chikitsa*—including *Mantra*, *Homa*, and *Bali*—especially for *Agantuja Unmada*.
- Sharangadhara Samhita focuses more on pharmaceutical preparations, dose specifications, and Medhya Dravyas.
- Although it doesn't detail *Satvavajaya*, it supports *Yuktivyapashraya Chikitsa* through rational drug therapy.

- Bhavaprakasha provides an integrative approach—merging Daivika, Yuktivyapashraya, and Satvavajaya elements.
- It includes ethical behavior (*Sadvritta*), *Achara Rasayana*, and practical household remedies and yogic lifestyle guidelines.
- It lists several key formulations like *Kalyanaka Ghrita*, *Saraswatarishta*, and *Manasamitra Vatakam* for mental disorders.

DISCUSSION

Ayurveda regards *Manas* (mind) as an inseparable component of *Ayu*, along with *Sharira*, *Indriya*, and *Atma*. The concept of *Triguna—Sattva*, *Rajas*, and *Tamas*—forms the foundation of mental health. *Rajas* and *Tamas* are considered *Manodoshas*, responsible for psychological imbalances. This is reflected across all major Samhitas. The *Brihattrayi* texts (Charaka, Sushruta, Ashtanga Hridaya) emphasize that mental disorders arise due to *Prajnaparadha*, *Asatmya Indriyartha Samyoga*, and *Parinama*, which disturb the balance of *Manodoshas* and their interaction with *Sharirika Doshas*.¹¹

Charaka Samhita stands out for its detailed psychological insight, especially through its development of Satvavajaya Chikitsa. This form of therapy involves controlling the mind from unwholesome desires and behaviors using tools like Dhee (intellect), Dhairya (courage), Smriti (memory), Samadhi (mental stability), and Vijnana (wisdom). Charaka proposes Trividha Chikitsa—Daivavyapashraya, Yuktivyapashraya, and Satvavajaya—as a universal framework. This classification is central to Ayurvedic psychiatry and places emphasis on behavioral reform, mental restraint, and therapeutic companionship.¹²

Sushruta Samhita, while upholding similar views, provides more anatomical and surgical perspectives. It locates Manas in Hridaya and associates mental imbalance with Sadhaka Pitta Dushti. Ashtanga Hridaya contributes by offering structured clinical protocols, especially for conditions like Unmada and Apasmara, integrating Shodhana (Vamana, Virechana, Basti), Nasya, Medhya Rasayanas, and ethical conduct. It systematically includes

Daivavyapashraya and *Satvavajaya* therapies and provides practical advice on behavioral change, spiritual support, and lifestyle regulation.¹³

The Laghutrayee texts enrich the chikitsa of Manas Rogas by offering formulation-based interventions and procedural clarity. Madhava Nidana emphasizes the classification of Unmada and Bhutonmada and their Chikitsa using ritualistic measures. Sharangadhara Samhita focuses more on pharmaceutical preparations, dosage, and Medhya Aushadhi administration. Bhavaprakasha presents a comprehensive approach, integrating Medhya Rasayanas, Sattvavajaya, and Daivika treatments with lifestyle correction, Sadvritta, and Achara Rasayana. It discusses commonly used formulations like Kalyanaka Ghrita, Saraswatarishta, and Manasamitra Vatakam.¹⁴

Collectively, the Ayurvedic Samhitas propose a holistic mental health model that aligns closely with modern psychosomatic approaches. Their emphasis on ethics, self-regulation, medicinal and non-medicinal interventions, and environmental harmony provides a multidimensional framework for managing disorders like anxiety, depression, psychosis, and epilepsy. The *Brihattrayi* offers the conceptual and clinical foundation, while the *Laghutrayee* augments this knowledge with accessible formulations and dosage regimens. Thus, the Ayurvedic understanding of *Manas Rogas* remains not only philosophically profound but also clinically adaptable in the modern context.¹⁵

CONCLUSION

The Ayurvedic approach to the *Chikitsa* of *Manas Rogas* as described in both *Brihattrayi* and *Laghutrayee* reflects a deeply integrative and holistic model of mental healthcare. While *Charaka, Sushruta*, and *Vagbhata* laid the foundational framework through the principles of *Trividha Chikitsa*, especially emphasizing *Satvavajaya*, the *Laghutrayee* texts enriched this foundation with practical diagnostic tools, pharmaceutically rich formulations, and ritual-based interventions. Together, these classical texts present a unique confluence of psychological insight, spiritual guidance, and medicinal therapy, offering timeless and relevant strategies for the prevention and management of mental disorders even in the context of contemporary psychiatric care.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST -NIL

SOURCE OF SUPPORT -NONE

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