

Looking Back on the Technique of Crime Investigation

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Abstract:

Committing crime is not new for the human society . Since creation some individuals committed some activities against the established social customs and caused disharmony and indiscipline . These acts were in the form of causing loss of name , fame , property or life of individual . Individuals , by virtue of their character or being inspired by some other wicked persons caused harm even to the life of some socially reputed / important persons . Kings , socially reputed persons were the common victims of such conspiracy . It was not uncommon for the kings to be the target of enemy king and face conspiracy to cause harm to his life . For all such situations initially the society did investigation and punished the guilty one . Later on the administrators (kings) developed a system for the purpose and now-a-days a very sophisticated , organized system is working with assistance of some ultramodern techniques and equipments in the field of crime investigation which is facilitating the judiciary to work more efficiently .

Toxicology (Agadatantra as given the nomenclature in Ayurvedic classics) is related with the discussion on use of poisons basically aimed to cause harm to the others . Charaka Samhita and Susruta Samhita being the basic classics of Ayurveda discuss in detail about poisons in different references . Initiating the discussion they stressed on the danger to the life of the kings from poison givers , cautions to be taken to prevent such efforts and also the methods to be opted to identify such people .

A study and discussion on the crime investigation procedures discussed in the mentioned classics can be considered as an important work to understand the depth of knowledge and observations of the 2 eminent Ayurvedic scholars viz. Charaka and Susruta .

Keywords: crime , disharmony , conspiracy, Toxicology , poison givers

INTRODUCTION

Crime is defined as the activity against the established system of the society/nation aimed to cause harm to the others . Since unknown time some persons involved themselves in committing crime with the intention of himself or being inspired by others (homicidal intent) . Modern society is also facing a number of problems and need of agencies for crime investigation is seemed to increase day by day . Now , with the scientific inventions of newer instruments/devices the agencies related with crime investigation are gradually proved to be more efficient in the field . Previously the number of objective document to identify a person involved in crime was very less . Almost all decisions were made basing upon subjective observations like study of the appearance , behaviour etc. along with questioning . Questions were asked by designated persons to the accused in different techniques and ultimately the decision about the involvement of the individual with the crime was made . Examination of a suspected accused in different round on police custody by the investigating officer , special investigation agencies , in certain

circumstances taking the aid of some sophisticated machineries are followed by examination in the court by counsels and judge is being followed now to decide about involvement of an individual in a crime . Ultimately the court announces the verdict.

Poisoning is a situation having medicolegal importance . Generally causing poisoning seems to be the easiest and commonly used method to kill a person by the enemies . There are many incidences of killing famous and important personalities by using poison in the history . Being concerned and experienced with the life threat of poison to the socially reputed personalities the Ayurvedic scholars discuss about the techniques of investigation for detection of involved person when a crime occurs (**BISHADATA LAKSHANANI**) . The concept and advice in this respect can be considered as the basics of crime investigation . A study and discussion on the topic is considered to be beneficial not only for the academia , researchers and students of Toxicology, Forensic Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence but also for the agencies related with crime investigation .

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES -

The study was conducted with the below mentioned aims and objectives –

1. To study Charaka Samhita and Susruta Samhita to get information on the description on the process of crime investigation
2. To give an effort to justify the descriptions available in modern light
3. To prepare an article by following standard protocol
4. To send the article for publication to a reputed peer reviewed journal for publication to appraise the ancient concepts on crime investigation to the modern scientific society

MATERIALS AND METHODS –

The study was conducted by using the following materials and following the method as mentioned below:

1. Charaka Samhita and Susruta Samhita were studied in the central library of Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Science and Research Hospital , Sri Sri University , Cuttack , Odisha , India
2. The result of search on the concept of crime investigation in the 2 classics were noted
3. An effort was made to justify the findings available in the said classics in the light of the modern techniques of crime investigation
4. The complete material was organized in the form of an article
5. Ultimately adding the references the article was sent for publication with the aim to appraise the modern scientific society about the ancient concepts on the topic

OBSERVATION AND RESULT –

The study revealed the following results –

1. The great Ayurvedic scholar , Charaka , the father of Indian Medicine states the identification criteria of a person who intends to give poison as – atyarthasankita, bahuvak , alpavak , bigatalakshmi , prakritibikara [1]
2. Susruta , the father of Indian Surgery , states that, an expert or experienced person in interpreting the appearance can easily identify a person with the intention to give poison by observing the change in the behaviour related to vak, chesta and mukha . Detailing the points he says the characters as na dadati uttarang , bibakshan mohameti , apartha bahu sankirna bhashate , muhravat bhashate , sphotayati anguli , bhumim akasmat bilikhet , haset , bepathuh jayate , trastah anyonyam abhikshate ,

kshamabibarnabaktrata , nakhaih kinchit chinati , karena cha shiroruhan , niriyasu aparaih dwaraih , bikshate cha punah punah , bartate biparitang , bichetanata[2]

3. Susruta also says that , sometimes some individual may show the character of being involved in a crime (**BISHADATA**) due to weak psychology or fear . Hence before confirmation the suspected individual should be re - examined after counselling and consolation [3]

DISCUSSION

From the observations the discussion on the topic can be made as follows –

1. Charaka , the father of Medicine , briefly mentions the techniques to suspect an individual involved in giving poison to another individual . As he says one can be suspected to get involved in unlawful act by studying the talking behaviour and appearance . The word “**ATYARTHASANKITA**” means and indicates the behaviour of a person to be more phobic/afraid of the situation then should be . One can show this behaviour either due to weak psychology or due to his/her involvement in crime . “**BAHUVAK**” indicates a state of speaking more than necessity . At this state the person can give a unnecessarily descriptive answer to the question asked that indicates the effort to acquire more faith . “**ALPAVAK**” is a situation when an individual speaks too less than the need which is nothing but an effort to escape from the investigating authorities . “**BIGATALAKSHMI**” indicates loss of the lustre of the appearance (change of facial appearance/ facial pallor without any underlying cause) . “**PRAKRITIBIKARA**” is a state of change of behaviour without any acceptable cause .
2. Susruta , being the scholar and expert of Surgery , seems to study the psychology of a person involved in unlawful act more elaborately . He advise the crime investigators to observe and study the persons with special reference to speaking behaviour , physical behaviour and the face . To elaborate these 3 points he says as “**NA DADATI UTTARANG**” (will not give answer to the questions asked) , “**APARTHA BAHU SANKIRNA BHASATE**”(speaks meaningless , more or less than needed) , “**MUHRAVAT BHASHATE**” (speaks like a stupid) which are related with “**VAKVIKRITI**” (abnormality of speech) ; “**BIBAKSHAN MOHAMETI**” (faints without reason) , “**SPHOTAYATI ANGULI**” (makes sound by pressing the fingers) , “**BHUMIM AKASMAT BILIKHET**” (digs soil with toes) , “**BEPATHUH JAYATE**” (trembles unnecessarily) , “**TRASTAH ANYONYAM ABHIKSHATE**” (looks unsteadily towards different directions), “**NAKHAIH KINCHIT CHINATI**” (tears or breaks something with the nails) , “**KARENA CHA SHIRORUHAN**” (pulls the hairs) , “**NIRYIYASU APARAIH DWARAIH**” (tries to go out through unusual route), “**BIKSHATE CHA PUNAH PUNAH**” (looks in different directions purposelessly), “**BARTATE BIPARITANG**” (the behaviour of the person becomes abnormal) , “**BICHETANATA**” (the person faints without any cause) are related to **CHESTABIKRITI** (abnormal activity) and **MUKHABIKRITI** (change of appearance) .
3. Interestingly Susruta has also paid attention sincerely on the psychology of the individuals . Hence he said that , the person involved in the security / working in the crime detection agency should always be cautious in the screening procedure . He/she should also be a sincere observer of the psychological strength of the individual under examination . Some individuals are psychologically weak / non resistant towards the untoward situations and they may be phobic to the security personals / investigating officers . So when they face any disturbed situation (crime, death, bleeding etc.) they feel helpless and loose patience , intelligence and co-ordination ability . They primarily wants to escape any way and during the efforts show the behaviours similar to the mentioned ones . If only in the 1st

investigation such individuals will be confirmed then there is every scope of giving punishment to innocent ones . Hence stress is given by Susruta on repeated examination of the individuals suspected to be involved in committing crime with assurance and consolation .

4. In occurrence of any crime the security personals initially gharao the area , conducts a preliminary examination of all the persons on the spot and even neighbouring area , detains some of suspects which is followed by different rounds of examination by different category investigation experts till arrest and filing of case .
5. The guidelines provided by Charaka and Susruta can be considered as the base of modern crime investigation procedure . Though the two scholars mention the characters as the criteria for identification of the individual involved in poison giving (**BISHADATA**) then also in all situations of crime investigation the concept is nicely applicable . Interestingly in the present crime investigation process also the same principles are followed .

SUMMARY -

From the study the following facts can be considered as the summary –

1. Charaka and Susruta , in addition to discussion of a wide range of subjects on preventive and curative aspects of health also throw light on criminal psychology .
2. Both the scholars consider the crime “**homicidal poisoning**” (**BISHADANA**) as the crime of top importance .
3. The basic principle of suspicion /identification of an individual involved in crime is said as abnormality in the behaviours related to speech and activities and change of appearance without any ground .
4. The advice of suspicion to an individual to verify with re-examination with consolation and assurance can be considered as an important and interesting message of the Ayurvedic scholars .

CONCLUSION – As a conclusion it can be said that , the advice of examination of a suspected poison giver (**BISHADATAPARIKSHA**) is the base of crime investigation depending upon the sudden , visible and purposeless changes in the speech , activity and facial expression . Though the description is brief it carry an important message to the security /investigation agencies .

REFERENCES –

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