



HAVAN : A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Dr. Pratibha Kumari

Shri Jai Ram Mahila College Of Education Research And Development

ABSTRACT

Rituals of *Hawan & Yajna* have always remained a very important and crucial part of Indian society since Vedic period. *Yajna or hawan* is an ancient ritual which is performed to purify the environment of a particular place where it is performed. It is accompanied by chanting of some Vedic mantras in a defined manner. The atmosphere of the earth is filled with harmful gases like NO₂, CO, SPM and RSPM, which are all above the standards prescribed by the Ministry of Environment & Forest of the Government. These pollutants are extremely harmful for human health. The indiscriminate burning of fossil fuels resulted in release of harmful gases and chemical into the air and poisoning it. The green house gases have increased the temperature of the earth. Use of CFC's has depleted the ozone layer. The Government is spending crores of Rupees for tackling this problem but not many results are seen. In an endeavor to find some solution which is effective and long lasting for the environmental protection, the Vedic science of '*Yajna*' was chosen for the necessary experimentation to see if it actually helped in the reduction of air pollution as mentioned in the ancient books.

Key Words: Hawan, Yajna, Environmental pollution, Medicinal plants, Medicinal properties, Photo synthesis.

INTRODUCTION

There can be no other opinion about the environment being polluted by human activities and modernization process. Since we are psychologically and socially at a higher level than animals, so we humans should feel guilty about it and take measures to save the environment for future generations to come. A large number of remedial actions have to be taken at global level, to ensure that the environment is restored to its former glory. Government has enacted many laws and taken various measures but a lot more need to be done. Indeed education system has to impart compulsory environment education to students for environment conservation and adopting religious and cultural practices to involve all human beings in the conservation activity. Practical application of cultural and religious knowledge like performing *Vedic havan* in large numbers can be one of the methods for purification of environment.

The process of purification of the elements takes place within the individual who performs *havan*, thereby transforming one's thought-patterns. Qualities of annoyance, rash and irrational thinking are replaced by peaceful, tranquil and controlled attitudes. The individual acquires greater control of his life, which offers wider scope for daily success.

Yajna is an age-old Hindu ritual in which offerings of ghee, googol, sugar and other samagri are offered into the sacred fire to the accompaniment of Sanskrit mantras. *Havan* has a purifying effect on both the devotee who performs the *havan* as well as one's environment. Through the chanting of mantras and offerings into the fire, one's *chakras* are re-energized, creating an invigorated and rejuvenating effect for both the body and mind. Positive thoughts, words and actions then pave the way for further success. The combined effect of mixed and used materials in *havan* produces fumigation responses to the atmosphere results in purifying the environment. Negative energies are dispelled and a protective shield is built around the house where the ritual is performed, thereby warding off any untoward energies. This induces peace, prosperity and good health, conditions which foretell well for clarity of thought, increased power of discrimination and improved usage of mental faculties.

IMPACT OF HAVAN ON ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS

Today the air we breathe in is loaded with harmful gases like NO₂, CO, SPM and RSPM, which are all above the standards prescribed by the Government and are extremely harmful for

human health. There are also new species of bacteria and virus coming up which cause new diseases and are resistant to old drugs.

In an Endeavour to find some solution which is effective and long lasting for protecting the environmental, the Vedic science of '*Yajna*' was chosen for the necessary experimentation in Yaghya Shala of Jai Ram Vidya Peeth , Kurukshetra to see if it actually helped in the reduction of air pollution as mentioned in the ancient books.

Initially several types of wood were burnt to see the CO emissions from each of them. The emissions were recorded on digital analog. It was found that the mango wood gave almost near zero CO emission. Hence the mango wood was taken as the basic *Samidha* for the experiment. The special *Havan Samigri* prescribed by *Brahma Varchas*, for the purification of atmosphere, was used along with the normal havan samigri. Cow's pure ghee was used for the Havan which was obtained from milk of *desi* Breed Cow of jairam gaushala.

In all the experiments, the effect of *Yajna* was studied on the atmospheric odour, on the air microflora and also on the gaseous pollutants like NO₂, SO₂ and RSPM. The effect of odour was very good as after *Yajna*, the nice smelling odour lingered on till the evening and a very faint smell remained till the next day (in the indoor experiments).

To study the impact of *Yajna* on air microflora, several experiments were conducted indoor .The effect was studied on the air microflora bacteria, fungi and pathogens by exposing the pretreated petri-dishes to the atmosphere before the *Yajna*, during the *Yajna* and till three days after *Yajna*. In one experiment the effect was studied till 15 days after *Yajna*, which was an indoor experiment. The results were very encouraging. In all the indoor experiments there was a significant reduction in the microbes especially the pathogens. These results are supportive of the fact that *Yajna* renders the atmosphere clean and it kills the harmful microbes in the atmosphere.

This is a very significant result as it shows that the effect of *Yajna* is long lasting and it continues till long after the physical process has been completed. It is the general belief that any type of fumes help in the reduction of air microbes.

The experiment was repeated again after every three month year and the results of this experiment were again similar.

CONCLUSION

From the above results it can be concluded that smoke/ gases produced as a result of *Yajna* led to an overall decrease in the air micro flora in the atmosphere.

The findings is indicative of the fact that the process of *Yajna* is effective in the reduction of air pollution both gaseous and microbial and also removes the bad odour, if any, at the place. It is also seen that the effect of *Yajna* remains in the atmosphere for days after it has actually been performed. Hence, we see that ‘Yajna’ is probably the only possible solution for today’s environmental pollution problems.

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