

Clinical Research

Effect of Pippalimula on Ama w.s.r. to Samavaya

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Abstract

Background: Shad Karanas mentioned in Ayurveda are the means for attaining the state of Dhatusamyata. Samavaya is the sixth Karana among these and it provides the knowledge of relation between Dravya, Guna and Karma. This kind of knowledge becomes the basic tool in the field of diagnosis as well as in the selection of proper drug. **Aim:** To assess the Samavaya relation between Ama and its Hetu and Lakshanas along with Practical evaluation of Samavaya by using Pippalimula on Ama. **Materials and Methods:** The study comprising of total 23 patients of Ama and divided into two groups. Pippalimula tablet (each of 500 mg, 2 tablets four times daily) was administered in Group A (n = 13) while Group B (n = 10) was treated with placebo tablet (each of 500 mg, 2 tablets four times daily) for the duration of 10 days. **Results:** After the completion of treatment, all the parameters of Group A showed statistically highly significant results, whereas in Group B some parameters showed significant results and others were insignificant. **Conclusion:** The study specified the Karanatva of Samavaya as the Laghu, Ruksha and Ushna Gunas which were present Samavayatvena in Pippalimula, and were absent in placebo.

Key words: Ama, Pippalimula, Samavaya, Shadkarana

Introduction

In Ayurveda, "Karana-Karya Siddhanta" (cause-effect theory) is considered as one of the most important Siddhanta (principle) and for the practical approach Shad Karanas (six causative factors viz., Samanya, Vishesha, Guna, Dravya, Karma and Samavaya) are considered as Karana (cause) and Dhatusamya (equilibrium of body elements) is accepted as Karya (effect). [1] Samavaya (inherent relation) being the sixth Karana among these, also useful in the field of Chikitsa (treatment). [2]

Samavaya is defined as the inseparable relation between Dravya (substance) and Guna (property).^[3] It is also considered as the inherent relationship between the Karana and Karya; due to which one understands "this is in that".^[4] Samavaya is said to be present in five pairs viz., Avayava-Avayavi (whole and its parts), Guna-Guni (substance and its property), Karma-Karmavan (object and its motion), Vyakti-Jati (individual and its class) and Vishesha-Nityadravya (particularity and eternal substances).^[3]

In clinical practice while prescribing the medicine to the patient physician always keeps in mind that which properties

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are going to remain permanently in the particular drug which is intended for use. In the diagnostic field also one has to depend upon the *Pratyatma Lakshanas* (cardinal symptoms) which are inseparably concerned with the particular disease. So here in both the context *Samavaya* is an unavoidable cause as it provides the knowledge of relation between *Dravya*, *Guna* and *Karma* (action).

Ama is a unique concept of Ayurveda and plays an important role in vitiation of Dosha and occurrence of diseases. Ama has the properties such as Guru (heavy), Snigdha (unctous), (stickey), *Tantu* (forming threads), Avipakva Picchila (undigested), Asamyukta (uncombined), Anekavarna (different colours), Durgandha (foul smell) etc., which are considered as Samavayatvena (inherently) present in it. [5,6] It has been selected here for the applied study considering the Samavaya relation between Dravya and Guna as well as between Vyadhi (disease) and its Lakshanas (symptoms). Pippalimula (roots of Piper longum Linn.) was chosen as a drug for the clinical study since it is a drug of choice among all the drugs having Deepaniya (appetizer) and Pachaniya (digestive) properties.^[7] It has mentioned in the classics that *Pippalimula* possesses Laghu (light), Ushna (hot) and Ruksha (dry) properties which are present in Samavaya relation. [8]

Hence the clinical study was planned considering the hypothesis that Ama should be mitigated by the opposite Gunas like Laghu, Ruksha and Ushna which are Samavayatvena present in the drug Pippalimula while the drug placebo (rice flour) possessing the Gunas like Guru, Sheeta and Snigdha Samavayatvena should

not be able to relieve the symptoms of Ama (undigested food material). [9] Hence, the present study was carried out with the aim to assess the Samavaya relation between Ama and its Hetu and Lakshanas along with Practical evaluation of Samavaya by using Pippalimula on Ama.

Materials and Methods

Patients having the classical signs and symptoms of "Ama" attaining the Out-Patient Department and In-Patient Department were selected without any bar of cast, religion, occupation and sex. The study was approved by Institutional Ethics Committee (No. PGT/7-A/Ethics/2010-11/1858; dated on 01/09/2010).

Criteria for selection

- Patients suffering from the state of Ama
- Patients of age between 20 and 60 years.

Criteria for exclusion

- Patients of age <20 years and >60 years
- Patients having the condition of "Samshrishta Dosha" (chronic stage)
- Patients having any major systemic disease
- Patients having the dominancy of "Pitta Prakriti".

Grouping and sampling

Patients were randomly divided into two groups as:

Group A: Tablets (500 mg each) of *Pippalimula Churna* (*P. longum* root powder) has been provided

Group B: Tablets (500 mg each) of rice flour (placebo) has been provided [Table 1].

Investigations

Routine pathological tests such as blood, urine, stool etc., has been carried out to assess the actual status of the patients and to rule out any pathology.

Criteria for assessment

The result was assessed on relief of the signs and symptoms of the disease. [10,11] The sign and symptoms were Aruchi (aversion), Avipaka (indigestion), Udaragaurava (heaviness of abdomen), Kshudhanasha (dyspepsia), Tandra (lassitude), Hrillasa (nausea), Alasya (idleness), Gurugatrata (heaviness in body), Bahumutrata (polyuria), Malasamata (sticky stool) and decrease in Abhyavaharana and Jarana Shakti (slowness of hunger and digestion). The patient's sign and symptoms were noticed before and After treatment with scoring pattern depending upon their severities. [12]

Table 1: Drug and posology

Tubic I.	tuble 1. Drug und posology							
Details	Group A	Group B						
Drug	Pippalimula (roots of Piper longum Linn.)	Placebo (rice flour)						
Dose	Two tablets 4 times/day	Two tablets 4 times/day						
Anupana	Luke warm water	Luke warm water						
Time	Pragbhakta (before meal) and Adhobhakta (after meal)	Pragbhakta (before meal) and Adhobhakta (after meal)						
Duration	10 days	10 days						

Assessment of result

Overall percentage of improvement of each patient was calculated by the formula

$$\% \text{ change} = \frac{\text{Mean BT} - \text{Mean AT}}{\text{Mean BT}} \times 100$$

Paired t-test was carried out at each symptom individually in both groups, whereas unpaired t-test was applied to study the comparative results of both groups at the level of P < 0.05,

Scoring pattern of clinical features		
Aruchi (anorexia)		
Never		0
Very few times		1
Frequently		2
Always		3
Avipaka (indigestion)		
No indigestion		0
Occasional indigestion once or twice a week		1
Occasional indigestion 3-4 times a week		2
Everyday		3
Udaragaurava (heaviness in the stomach)		
No		0
Rarely/less		1
Most of the times		2
Everyday		3
Hrillasa (nausea)		
Absent		0
Occurs1-2 times/week		1
Occurs 3-5 times/week frequently		2
Present regularly		3
Tandra (drowsiness)		
Absent		0
Feeling sleepy after meals only		1
Feeling sleepy after meals and also at other time		2
occasionally		
Feeling sleepy throughout the day		3
Alasya (lassitude)		
Absent		0
Lassitude toward laborious work		1
Lassitude toward moderately laborious work		2
Lassitude toward easy/non-laborious work		3
Gurugatrata (heaviness of the body)		
No heaviness		0
Mild heaviness not hampering routine work		1
Moderate heaviness which hampers daily		2
routine work		0
Severe heaviness causing distress to the person		3
Bahumutrata (excessive urination)	N II I- A	
Day (times)	Night (times)	
5-6	0	0
7-8	1-2	1
9-10	3-4	2
>10	>4	3
/10	>4	S

	Avhad and Dwivedi: Effect of Pip
Abhyavaharana Shakti (power of	ingestion)
Quantity of food according to age	- :
Sufficient quantity	0
25% less quantity	1
50% less quantity	2
Quantity less than 50%	3
Frequency	
More than 2 times with proper h	nunaer 0
2 times with proper hunger	1
2 times without proper hunger	2
Once without proper hunger	3
Duration between two meals (h)	_
5-6	0
6-8	1
8-10	2
More than 10	3
Intensity of hunger	· ·
Proper on time	0
Moderate on time	1
Less on time	2
Less/no even after the proper ti	
Jarana Shakti (power of digestion	
Vegotsarga (elimination of wast	
As usual Swayameva Pravritti	
Occasional irregular/alter (Aya	atha kala) 1
Frequently irregular	2
Constipated	3
Laghuta (lightness of the body)	(h)
2-3	0
4-6	1
6-8	2
More than 8 h/absent	3
Utsaha (enthusiasm)	
Sufficient/enough	0
Not as much	1
Diminished	2
Absent	3
Udgara Shuddhi (pure belching)
Regularly/mostly	0

P < 0.01 and P < 0.001 levels. The obtained results were interpreted as:

Insignificant: P > 0.05, Significant: P < 0.05 or P < 0.01, Highly significant: P < 0.001.

Total effect of therapies

•	Complete remission	100% relief
•	Marked improvement	75-100% relief
•	Moderate improvement	50-75% relief
•	Mild improvement	25-50% relief
•	Unchanged	0-25% relief

Observations

A total of 23 patients were registered in the present study out of which 13 patients were in Group A and 10 were in Group B.

In the present study, 100% patients were suffering from Avipaka, Udaragaurava and Ksudhanasha while Aruchi was present in 95.62% patients. Maximum 91.30% patients were having Alasya as associated complaint whereas Tandra was found present in 79.91% patients. 60.87% and 56.52% patients were suffering from Gurugatrata and Hrillasa respectively. It has been observed that 91.30% patients were having Mandagni while Vishamagni was found in 8.70% patients.

Madhyama and Avara Abhyavaharana Shakti was found in 69.56% and 26.09% patients respectively whereas 65.22% and 34.78% patients were having Avara and Madhyama Jarana Shakti respectively.

Irregular and *Picchila Malapravritti* were found in 69.57% and 52.17% patients respectively whereas 82.61% patients were having unsatisfactory evacuation of their bowel.

According to the data *Atiguru* and *Atiruksha Ahara* found in 69.57% and 43.48% patients whereas habit of *Adhyashana* (eating before the last meal is digested), *Vishamashana* (irregular eating) and *Atimatrashana* (over eating) was found in 47.83%, 43.48% and 39.13% patients respectively.

The data also showed that 52.17% patients were drinking water in more quantity while 65.22% patients were drinking excess water after consuming the food.

Divaswapa (sleep by day), Vegavidharana (suppression of natural urges) and Chinta (stress) were found as causative factors in 78.26%, 43.48% and 62.21% patients respectively.

Results

1

2

3

1

2

3

Effect of therapy in Group A

In the present study, maximum 94.44% relief was observed in Avipaka whereas Kshudhanasha, Udaragaurava and Aruchi were reduced by 83.73%, 82.85% and 76% respectively. Statistically all the parameters of chief complaints showed highly significant results (P < 0.001) [Table 2].

The data revealed that maximum 100% relief found in Bahumutrata followed by 91.67% in Gurugatra, 90.92% in Tandra, 88.23% in Hrillasa and 81.48% relief was observed in Alasya. Statistically Alasya (P < 0.001) and Tandra (P < 0.001) showed highly significant results while Hrillasa (P < 0.01) and Gurugatrata (P < 0.01) showed significant results. Bahumutrata showed insignificant result (P > 0.05) [Table 3].

Further in Group A Malasamata reduced by 85.26% whereas Abhyavaharana Shakti and Jarana Shakti increased by 83.64%

Occasionally

Absent

Rarely/less

Frequently

Always/more

No

Very few times/rarely

consistency of stool)

Malasamata (sticky, foul smelling, loose

and 82.50% respectively. Statistically all the parameters showed highly significant results (P < 0.001) [Table 4].

Effect of therapy in Group B

In Group B maximum 46.83% relief found in *Avipaka* while *Aruchi*, *Udaragaurava* and *Kshudhanasha* were reduced by 38.09%, 37.50% and 24.64% respectively. Statistically *Udaragaurava* (P < 0.001) and *Kshudhanasha* (P < 0.001) showed highly significant result, whereas *Aruchi* (P < 0.01) and *Avipaka* (P < 0.01) showed significant results [Table 5].

In Group B the data reveals that maximum 47.09% relief observed in *Tandra* followed by 44.44% in *Hrillasa*, 37.50% in *Gurugatrata*, 23.52% in *Alasya* and 16.67% relief in *Bahumutrata* [Table 6].

Further *Jarana Shakti* and *Abhyavaharana Shakti* found increased by 27.71% and 27.38% respectively whereas *Malasamata* reduced by 33.33% [Table 7].

Comparative effect of therapy in both the groups Comparatively Group A showed statistically highly significant results in Avipaka (P < 0.001), Udaragaurava (P < 0.001),

Kshudhanasha (P < 0.001), Alasya (P < 0.001) and Tandra (P < 0.001) whereas significant results in Aruchi (P < 0.01), Hrillasa (P < 0.01), Gurugatrata (P < 0.01) and Bahumutrata (P < 0.01) than Group B. In Abhyavaharana Shakti, Jarana Shakti and Malasamata also Group A showed statistically highly significant results compared with Group B (P < 0.001) [Tables 8 and 9].

Total effect of therapies

0.303

Maximum 100% patients showed marked relief in Group A whereas 80% patients in Group B showed mild improvement and 20% patients unchanged [Table 10].

Discussion

The cardinal symptoms of Ama like Aruchi, Avipaka, Udaragaurava and Kshudhanasha were found present in almost all the patients who show the presence of Samavaya relation between "Ama" and these symptoms. Further the presence of associated symptoms indicates that Ama is the base of all these symptoms. Agnimandya is the prior state for production

0.084

21.947

Table 2: Effect of <i>Pippalimula</i> on chief complaints in Group A										
Chief complaints	n	n Mean % relief		% relief	SD±	SE±	t	Р		
		ВТ	AT							
Aruchi	12	1.923	0.462	76.00	0.660	0.183	7.982	<0.001		
Avipaka	13	2.769	0.154	94.44	0.506	0.140	18.623	< 0.001		
Udaragaurava	13	2.692	0.462	82.85	0.599	0.166	13.424	< 0.001		

83.73

0.385

SD: Standard deviation, SE: Standard error, BT: Before treatment, AT: After treatment

13

Kshudhanasha

					_
Table 3: Ff	fect of <i>Pinns</i>	<i>ilimula</i> on as	sociated cor	mnlainte in	Group A

2.227

Chief complaints	n	<i>n</i> Mean		% relief	SD±	SE±	t	Р
		ВТ	AT					
Alasya	12	2.077	0.385	81.48	0.751	0.208	8.124	<0.001
Tandra	9	1.692	0.154	90.92	1.127	0.312	4.924	< 0.001
Hrillasa	7	1.308	0.154	88.23	1.144	0.317	3.638	< 0.01
Gurugatrata	9	0.923	0.077	91.67	0.899	0.249	3.395	< 0.01
Bahumutrata	3	0.154	0.000	100	0.376	0.104	1.477	NS

SD: Standard deviation, SE: Standard error, NS: Non significant, BT: Before treatment, AT: After treatment

Table 4: Effect of Pippalimula on Agni and Malasamata in Group A

Chief complaints	n	Mean		% relief	SD±	SE±	t	Р
		ВТ	AT					
Abhyavaharana Shakti	13	8.462	1.385	83.64	1.115	0.309	22.881	<0.001
Jarana Shakti	13	9.231	1.615	82.50	1.446	0.401	18.994	< 0.001
Malasamata	13	7.308	1.077	85.26	1.666	0.323	19.271	< 0.001

SD: Standard deviation, SE: Standard error, BT: Before treatment, AT: After treatment

Table 5: Effect of placebo on chief complaints in Group B

Table of Elicot of placeboot of only complaints in Group E								
Chief complaints	n	Me	ean	% relief	SD±	SE±	t	P
		ВТ	AT					
Aruchi	10	2.100	1.300	38.09	0.632	0.200	4.000	< 0.01
Avipaka	10	2.400	1.300	46.83	0.876	0.277	3.973	< 0.01
Udaragaurava	10	2.400	1.500	37.50	0.568	0.180	5.014	< 0.001
Kshudhanasha	10	2.030	1.550	24.64	0.297	0.094	5.104	< 0.001

SD: Standard deviation, SE: Standard error, BT: Before treatment, AT: After treatment

< 0.001

of $Ama^{[13]}$ and in case of Vishamagni it is mentioned that sometimes it digests the heavy food and occasionally unable to digest proper or less food also and hence it leads to the production of $Ama.^{[14]}$ Here Samavaya relation is applicable in between Agnimandya and Ama which are Karana and Karya respectively. In Ama condition presence of Agnimandya and Udaragaurava leads to aversion towards the food and one feels satisfied with lesser quantity of food which results into a reduction in Abhyavaharana $Shakti.^{[15]}$ Further due to inadequate and feeble Agni the food consumed also not get properly digested, i.e. the Jarana Shakti also gets hampered. The properties of Ama like Guru, Picchila, Snigdha etc., reflects in the stool as Picchila (sticky), i.e. Sama Malapravritti and due to its sticky nature it adheres in Mahasrotasa making various difficulties in the bowel habits.

Atiguru Ahara qualitatively while Atimatrashana Adhyashana quantitatively becomes load over Agni, hence are responsible for Agnimandya and Ama. [16] Ajirnashana and Vishamashana directly causes the vitiation of Agni up to the extent that even the Laghu Ahara is not digested properly and becomes Visharupa (Poisonous), i.e. Ama. [17] Drinking excess amount of water causes trouble in the digestion process which ultimately causes Ama. [18] Divasvapa leads to Kapha-Pitta Vriddhi due to which Agnimandya occurs or the food consumed doesn't digest properly causing Ama production.[19] Habit of Vegavidharana leads to vitiation of Apana Vayu which in turn disturbs the function of Samana Vayu. Due to this the process of digestion gets hampered, ultimately leading to the production of Ama. [20] Chinta is directly mentioned as the causative factor for the production of Ama. [21] A person suffering from stress usually doesn't follow the Aharavidhividhana and consumes more or less food, without giving due concentration (Tanmana Bhunjita), which leads to indigestion and production of Ama. [22] All these causative factors work as Karana for the production of Ama (Karya). Hence a Samavaya relation is established between these Karanas (Hetu) and Ama.

In Group A, due to the presence of Ushna, Laghu and Ruksha properties Samavayatvena in the drug Pippalimula,

it mitigates the Guru, Snigdha, Picchila properties of Ama. Hence all the chief and associated complaints got relieved. The Agnidipaka action of Pippalimula helped to increase the Abhyavaharana and Jarana Shakti. Further due to the Amapachaka action Malasamata got completely eradicated. In Group B, the absence of Ushna, Laghu, Ruksha properties in placebo makes it incapable to act on Ama. Hence, the Amapachana did not occur completely in this group. Some amount of results in Group B was due to the presence of luke warm water given as Anupana and also due to the general instructions of "Pathyapathya" (diet regimen) and "Nidanaparivarjana" (avoidance of causative factors) in both the groups.

All these results proved the *Samavaya* relation between *Laghu*, *Ruksha*, *Ushna Guna* and *Pippalimula* and further it also indicates that such kind of relation is absent in placebo.

Conclusion

Based on the above study concluded it can be concluded that directly or indirectly everything in this universe depends on Samavaya and hence its presence is inevitable in every concept of Ayurveda. Each and every Dravya in this universe possesses Guna and Karma Samavayatvena likewise Aushadha and its Gunakarma, Vyadhi and its Lakshana are related with each other by Samavaya. The relation of Pippalimula and Ushna, Ruksha, Laghu Guna is a type of Guna-Guni samayaya and similarly the relation between Ama and its properties like Guru, Snigdha, Picchila etc., also taken as Guna-Guni kind of Samavaya. Further, the relation of Ama and its symptoms like Aruchi, Avipaka and Udaragaurava etc., comes under the category of Karma-Karmavan Samavaya. On the basis of observations and results it is opined that, Pippalimula having Laghu, Ruksha and Ushna properties Samavayatvena in it, mitigated the symptoms of Ama; which proved the Samavaya relation between Dravya and Guna as well as between Vyadhi and its Lakshanas.

Table 6: Effect of Placebo or	hateinnese r	complaints in	Group R
Table of Effect of Placebo of	i associated	Combiants ii	i Group B

Chief complaints	n	n Mean		% relief	SD±	SE±	t	Р
		ВТ	AT					
Alasya	9	1.700	1.300	23.52	0.516	0.163	2.449	NS
Tandra	8	1.700	0.900	47.09	0.632	0.200	4.000	NS
Hrillasa	6	0.900	0.500	44.44	0.699	0.221	1.809	NS
Gurugatrata	5	0.800	0.500	37.50	0.483	0.153	1.964	NS
Bahumutrata	5	0.600	0.500	16.67	0.316	0.100	1.000	NS

SD: Standard deviation, SE: Standard error, NS: Non Significant, BT: Before treatment, AT: After treatment

Table 7. Effect of Flacebo of Agm and Malasamata in Group B									
Chief complaints	n	Mean		% relief	SD±	SE±	t	Р	
		ВТ	AT						
Abhyavaharana Shakti	10	8.400	6.100	27.38	1.418	0.448	5.129	<0.001	
Jarana Shakti	10	8.300	6.000	27.71	1.337	0.423	5.438	< 0.001	
Malasamata	10	6.300	4.200	33.33	0.738	0.233	9.000	< 0.001	

SD: Standard deviation, SE: Standard error, BT: Before treatment, AT: After treatment

Table 8: Comparative effect of therapy on chief and associated complaints in both groups

Symptoms	df	Mean (Group)		SD	t	P
		Α	В			
Aruchi	20	1.583	0.800	0.783	3.205	< 0.05
Avipaka	21	2.165	1.100	1.515	5.227	< 0.001
Udaragaurava	21	2.231	0.900	1.331	5.400	< 0.001
Kshudhanasha	21	1.842	0.480	1.362	10.781	< 0.001
Alasya	19	1.833	0.444	1.389	5.658	< 0.001
Tandra	15	2.222	1.000	1.222	5.166	< 0.001
Hrillasa	11	2.143	0.667	1.476	4.299	< 0.01
Gurugatrata	10	1.571	0.600	0.971	3.073	< 0.05
Bahumutrata	6	1.000	0.200	0.800	3.000	< 0.05

SD: Standard deviation, df: difference

Table 9: Comparative effect of therapy on *Agni* and *Malasamata* in both groups

Symptoms	df	Mean (Group)		SD±	t	P
		Α	В			
Abhyavaharana Shakti	21	7.077	2.300	4.777	9.056	<0.001
Jarana Shakti	21	7.615	2.300	5.315	9.025	< 0.001
Malasamata	21	6.231	2.100	4.131	9.772	<0.001

SD: Standard deviation, df: difference

Table 10: Total effect of therapy

Category	Group (<i>n</i> (%))			
	Α	В		
Unchanged	0 (0)	2 (20)		
Mild improvement	0 (0)	8 (80)		
Moderate improvement	0 (0)	0 (0)		
Marked improvement	13 (100)	0 (0)		

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हिन्दी सारांश

समवाय के दृष्टिकोण से पिप्पलीमूल का आम पर प्रभाव

अनिल डी. आव्हाड, रामबाबू द्विवेदी

धातुसाम्य स्थापित करना ही आयुर्वेद का मुख्य कार्य है, जिसके लिए षड्कारणों कि आवश्यकता होती हैं। इनमें से समवाय छठा कारण है और वह द्रव्य, गुण और कर्म के संबधों का ज्ञान कराता है। यह जानकारी व्याधिपरीक्षण एवं द्रव्यनिर्धारण के क्षेत्र में महत्त्वपूर्ण तथा मूलभूत सिद्ध होती है। चिकित्सीय अध्ययन में आम के २३ रूग्णों को २ वर्गों में विभाजित किया गया। वर्ग 'अ'में पिप्पलीमूल वटी तथा वर्ग 'ब' में प्लेसिबो वटी दस दिनों के लिए प्रयुक्त की गई। वर्ग 'अ'में सभी मापदण्डों पर महत्तम परिणाम प्राप्त हुए तथा वर्ग 'ब' में कुछ मापदण्डों पर साधारण तथा कुछ मापदण्डों पर अच्छे परिणाम नहीं मिले। संपूर्ण अध्ययन समवाय की कारणता को दर्शाता है क्योंकि पिप्पलीमूल में लघु, रूक्ष एवं उष्ण गुण समवाय संबध से थे और प्लेसिबो में यह गुण अनुपस्थित थे।