



Perspectives

Depiction of Homosexuality in Ayurveda

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Abstract

Sexual attraction towards same sex is called homosexuality. Ayurveda does not accept it as a disease. It is caused by genetic factors. It is somehow different from the normal sexual practice. Sandhi (lesbianism) is a type of female homosexuality caused by vitiated vatadosa. Such women have undeveloped breasts and they don't get interest for sexual intercourse with any male. Sandha (gay) is also a type of male homosexuality where the male is found to be un-masculine. Asekya is a type of male homosexuality in which men are having scanty sperm, they satisfy their sexual desires by sucking the genitals and drinking the semen of another man. As a result of sinful deeds of past life, unhealthy sperm and ovum of parents, vata dosa is vitiated. Ayurveda panchakarma therapies can treat impotency caused by homosexuality.

Key words : Ayurveda, Homosexuality, Gay, Lesbian

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Introduction

Homosexuality refers to sexual orientation towards same sex. It is the attraction for emotion, romance and sex between members of the same sex or gender. Implication of sexual acts and affections between members of the same sex is homosexuality. Lesbian and gay people are in committed same-sex relationships. As per Ayurveda, homosexuality is not a disease. Homosexual behavior is inborn as other sexualities. It is a genetic factor and deviation to the general sexual practice. It is seen as a result

of incorrect coitus and other factors. Some men cannot get aroused by conventional methods and hence, follow homosexual methods.

Types of Homosexual

In Susruta Samhita two types of homosexuals has been described. Those are as follows.

1) Asekya–The man has scanty sperm. To arouse his sexual desire and penile erection he sucks the genitals and drinks the semen of another man. This is male homosexuality or gay.

2) Sanda—This may be male homosexuality and female homosexuality or lesbian. A male having un-masculine behavior and a female having masculine behavior are called as sandha (Susruta Samhita Sarira Sthana 2/39-46; Kunjalal, 2012).

Cause of Homosexuality

- 1) The effects of misdeeds done in the previous life cause homosexuality (Charak Samhita Sarirasthana 2/17-21; Sharma & Dash, 2011).
- 2) Charaka Samhita states that sandhi yoni-roga (lesbianism) is due to a genetic factor in which the vata causes abnormal month-wise development of fetus within the uterus of the mother. Later the individual will have undeveloped breasts and dislike for sexual intercourse with male. Such type of woman is called Sandhi (Charaka Samhita Chikitsasthana 30/34; Sharma et al., 2011).
- 3) The aggravated vata dosa makes the sperm atrophied and later on the individual becomes emasculated. Causes of aggravation of vata dosa are unhealthy sperm and ovum of the father and mother respectively and sinful deeds of the past life (Charak Samhita Sarirasthana 30/189-190; Sharma et al., 2011).
- 4) In Astanga Hrdaya, it is stated that the woman who presents features of vata, in her vagina and uterus due to defect in the seed, which hates male and has no developed breasts is known as sandha. It leads to homo sexuality

(Astanga Hrdayam Uttarasthana 33/39-40; Murthy, 2011).

Line of Management of Homosexuality

1) Therapies for the management of homosexuality are medicated enema, medicated milk and ghee, rasayana (rejuvenating) and vajikara (aphrodisiac) recipes.

2) The main causes of homo sexuality are vitiation of dosas and dhatus. The physician well versed in medicaments (bhesaja) and time (kala) should manage those cases with the aforesaid therapeutic measures. The physician also should keep in view the of the patient's body strength (bala), dosas and agni (power of digestion and metabolism) while managing such cases.

3) Sometime the homosexuality is caused by abicara (black magic). The modes of management of such cases are religious prayers and doing rituals (daiva-vyapasraya-cikitsa) (Charak Samhita Sarirasthana 30/191-195; Sharma et al., 2011)

Conclusion

Ayurveda says that homosexuality may cause impotency. This behavior can be transformed up to some extent by giving different pancakarma therapies. First of all such cases are given snehana (oleation therapy) followed by svedana (fomentation therapy) and virecana (purgation therapy) with a recipe containing fat. Then they are advised to take appropriate food. Thereafter, they are administered as

thapana and anuvasanavasti (types of medicated enema). Again asthapana vasti should be administered with kvatha (decoction) of the leaves of palasa, eranda etc, or with musta etc (Charak Samhita Sarirasthana 30/196-198; Sharma et al., 2011).

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