



AGNIHOTRA: A BOON TO HUMANITY

Sharad Bissa

Centre of Advanced Study, Department of Botany, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur-342005 (INDIA)

ABSTRACT

From the times unknown, the *Agnihotra* is a ritual to purify the environment using fire. *Agnihotra* is a healing fire from the vedic science of Ayurveda. During *Agnihotra* tremendous amount of energy is resonated and a magnetic field is produced which reinforce positive energies and stops negative energies. People around the world have experienced the power of *Agnihotra* to reduce stress, clarity of mind and improvement in complete health. When performed regularly every day, it enables the atmosphere to gain cosmic energy from the planetary bodies such as Sun and Moon, which has positive effect on man, plants and animals, leading to good health, balanced environment and harmony.

KEYWORDS: *Agnihotra*, *Yajnya*, *Homa*, water pollution, biodiversity

INTRODUCTION

India has been a land of traditions, rituals, beliefs and festivals. With the onset of *Navratri*, the most celebrated Hindu festival devoted to Goddess *Durga*, *Yajnya* is performed on *Homa-ashtami* i.e. the eighthth day of this festival. *Yajnya* or *Yagya* or *Homa* symbolizes sacrifice and purity, underlying the principle of sacred fire ceremony. *Yajnya* when performed at a small scale in daily life i.e. at sunrise and sunset are called *Agnihotra* or *Havan* and is a process of removal of toxic substances from atmosphere through the agency of fire and Sanskrit mantras, inducing beneficial changes in atmosphere with holy fire prepared with specific organic materials, in synchronization with biorhythm of sunset and sunrise.

Agnihotra is a gift to mankind from the ancient vedic sciences of bioenergy, agriculture and climatic engineering and also stated as healing fire in ancient science of *Ayurveda* (Koch, 2004). It is a very unique ritual performed at festivals, weddings, to celebrate a birth or a time of renewal. Though *Agnihotra* is a vedic ritual, it has scientific basis and therefore have effects on environment and plants. Application of *Agnihotra* ash to enhance soil fertility results in overall bacterial flora including nitrogen fixers and phosphate solubilizers (Berde *et al.*, 2015). With reference to soil quality, increased water holding capacity and improved level of solubility of macronutrients and trace elements is observed as a direct postulate of *Homa* treatment (Paranjpe, 1989). *Agnihotra* has the credit to purify the environment and have profound impact in mitigating problem of water pollution. *Agnihotra* creates an energy field beyond the electromagnetic field which has significant impact (Berk and Sharma, 2015). It is also observed that when water is treated with *Agnihotra* ash, there is notable decrease in biological oxygen demand and microbial contamination along with solid content in water and hardness. Hence, the waste water becomes potable and can be reused in fields (Abhang *et al.*, 2015). The *Agnihotra* practices are known to purify air from the times immortal and have adverse effect on total microbial load of the air. It has been also reported that SO_x , NO_x , RSPM (Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter) and SPM (Suspended Particulate Matter) levels in the air were also considerably reduced by performance of *Agnihotra* as compared to the conditions without *Yajnya* (Sharma *et al.*, 2014).

The *Agnihotra* vapours along with ash create a holistic system for plant development by stimulating root growth in presence of light. Besides India, this potential of *Agnihotra* is being utilized in countries like Germany and Poland for organic farming (Limaye, 2013). Plants grown in *Agnihotra* environment are able to withstand drought more efficiently and causes modifications in cellular structure of plants, which translocate more nutrients to fruits rather than leaves. In words of Tejasvi Naik and Asha Naik, the receiver of prestigious ASPEE L.M. PATEL farmer of the year award in 2010, "By practising *Agnihotra homa* farming technique we have been able to manage pest and diseases. In addition the atmosphere has become pure and filled with positive energies created by the *Homa*. Leaf size and quality have improved tremendously showing its impact on the yield". They also said that the number and diversity of birds in the farm also increased surprisingly after *Agnihotra homa* farming technique (www.agriculturesnetwork.org). Hence, *Agnihotra* system is also aiding in increasing biodiversity of farms. Medicinal benefits of *Agnihotra* includes reduction in allergy and mental stress, renewal of brain cells and positive effect on circulatory and nervous system. It harmonizes the functioning of *Prana* (Life energy) and neutralizes harmful radiations.

CONCLUSION

Agnihotra can be referred as a non conventional approach to control air and water pollution, as the core aim of *Agnihotra* system is "You heal the atmosphere and the healed atmosphere heals you" and people from different parts of globe are experiencing wonders of *Agnihotra* technique by creating hygienic environment with fast healing of all sorts of ailments.

REFERENCES

1. Abhang, P., Patil, M. and Moghe, P. (2015). Beneficial effects of *Agnihotra* on environment and agriculture. *International Journal of Agriculture Science and Research*, 5(2), p. 111-120.
2. Berde, C., Kulkarni, A., Potphode, A., Gaikwad, A. and Gaikwad, S. (2015). Application of *Agnihotra* Ash for enhancing soil fertility. *International Journal of Science, Engineering and Technology Research*, 4(7), p. 2546-2551.
3. Berk, U. and Sharma, S. (2015). Effect of *Agnihotra* energy field on water purification. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*, 1(1), p. 63-68.

4. Koch, M. (2004): Homa Therapy- The ancient science of healing. Fivefold path Inc., White Oak Dr. Madison, USA, p. 96.
5. Limaye, V. (2013). *Agnihotra*: A holistic energy system affecting plant growth. Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary studies, 1(1), p. 6-15.
6. Paranjpe, V.V. (1989): Homa Therapy-Our last chance. Fivefold path Inc., White Oak Dr. Madison, USA.
7. Sharma, P.K., Ayub, S., Tripathi, C.N., Ajnavi, S. and Dubey, S.K. (2014). *AGNIHOTRA*- A non conventional solution to air pollution. International Journal of Innovative Research in Science and Engineering, 2(4), p. 177-189.
8. <http://www.agriculturesnetwork.org/magazines/india/insects-as-allies/farmers.pdf>