

Short Communication
**AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL ON INDIAN SYSTEMS OF
MEDICINE, HOMOEOPATHY & RELATED SCIENCES
RESEARCH - A NEED OF HOUR**

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ABSTRACT

Department of AYUSH has launched the online AYUSH Research portal on 18-04-2011 to serve the scientific community for disseminating the research findings in the domain of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy researchers and allied faculties.

Main aim of this portal is to show-case the research findings in an organized fashion and to prevent duplication of work; to encourage interdisciplinary research and generate evidence for wide acceptance of these systems worldwide.

The clinical research articles are categorized as per individual AYUSH medical systems against standard set of medical conditions, based on WHO disease classification ICD-10, and navigation is provided according to ICPC (International Classification of Primary Care). An important value addition of the portal is categorization of Clinical research work into Grade A, B, C based on 'General Guidelines for methodologies on Research and Evaluation on Traditional medicine published by World Health Organization (WHO). Such grading allows the researchers and also policy makers to assess the current R & D status of AYUSH and plan further to fill the gaps. The Portal also provides the relevant indigenous names of the medical conditions pertaining to each medical system, which further adds to clarity.

AYUSH Research portal application has been developed by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS); content is being provided by all AYUSH Research councils, Drug standardization laboratories, and National Institutes from published and online journals. Abstracts of PG/ Ph. D. thesis works of AYUSH national institutions are also uploaded in this portal. Such research data can help research scholars in further planning of research and also for the review/ meta-analysis of research data.

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Introduction:

Awareness on the therapeutic potentials of natural products and indigenous medical practices is increasing day by day. Usage of traditional medicines in preventive health care and in disease management is also rising. Similarly, enormous research is being carried out on traditional medical practices (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga & Naturopathy, Homoeopathy, Sowa Rigpa etc.). Scholars from various premier research organizations like AIIMS, CSIR, ICMR, etc. and AYUSH academic institutions and research councils are also engaged in conceptual studies, standardization of drugs/ procedures, safety and efficacy studies in relation to research on AYUSH systems of medicine. In addition, research outcomes in the allied sciences like Botany, Biochemistry, Phytochemistry, Inorganic chemistry, Pharmacology, Veterinary sciences, Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Science and Technology, Pharmaceutical sciences, etc. are also help in proper understanding of AYUSH systems and to explore the potentials from these AYUSH systems wisdom. However, such research data is very scattered and not available to scientific community at a glance; hence causing repetition/ duplication of research. There is an urgent need for a Research Database to address the above lacunae.

Initiatives of CCRAS/ NIIMH:

Considering the need and importance of Research Database, Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS)* has initiated the task of developing Research database on Ayurveda, Siddha and other Traditional Medicines & related Sciences to make available the data at a glance to the scientific community/ academicians/ industries which would help in appraising the research for further planning, to avoid repetition, to find out collaboration and to explore new areas of research initiatives.

National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), CCRAS, Hyderabad has been entrusted to execute this task, compile the data of research abstracts and to develop web based research database for online access and online submission of data. NIIMH (CCRAS) coordinated and compiled research abstracts from various institutes. Department of AYUSH has appraised this project and entrusted the institute (NIIMH, Hyderabad) to develop online AYUSH Research Portal with a wide scope by including the all AYUSH systems research data.

* Presently bifurcated into Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) & Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS)

Outcome:

AYUSH Research Portal has been developed and hosted through NIC server; it facilitates the viewers for online access to AYUSH research abstracts (<http://ayushportal.ap.nic.in>). More than 14000 research abstracts have been uploaded in the AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL by the AYUSH Research Councils, National Institutes, Universities, etc.

Research records/ abstracts uploaded in AYUSH Research Portal : 14657**I. Research data upload on Ayurveda and allied sciences (total articles uploaded: 8689)**

- ✓ Nearly 2611 full-text articles from the following journals are available freely in the AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL

A. CCRAS journals

- a. Journal of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (JRAS)
- b. Journal of Indian Medical Heritage- JIMH (previously known as Journal of Indian Institute of History of Medicine - JIHM/ Bulletin of Indian Institute of History of Medicine - BIIHM / Bulletin of the Department of History of Medicine - BDHM)
- c. Journal of Drug Research in Ayurveda and Siddha - JDRAS (previously known as Bulletin of Medico-Ethno Botanical Research - BMEBR)

B. Other journals

- d. Aryavaidyan
 - e. Ancient Science of Life
 - f. International Journal of Research in Pharmacy and Chemistry
 - g. International Journal of Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Biological Sciences
 - h. Deerghayu International
- ✓ In addition, 3877 article abstracts have been provided with a hyperlink to the concerned journal website URL, by which user can access full-text articles freely.



AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL (<http://ayushportal.ap.nic.in>) HOME PAGE

II. Research records/articles uploaded on other AYUSH systems

- a. Yoga & Naturopathy: 1396
- b. Unani: 1944
- c. Siddha: 591
- d. Homoeopathy: 2037

UNIQUE FEATURES AND APPLICATIONS OF AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL

AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL contains the research data of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy along with AYUSH related research done by the allied sciences.

It has mainly two applications.

- a. Search & access of AYUSH research data by the USER
 - b. Uploading of research data by the selected institutes
- a. Search of research data by the USER

Portal provides information in the following headings

1. Clinical Research
2. Drug Research
3. Preclinical Research and
4. Fundamental Research

The screenshot displays the AYUSH Research Portal interface. At the top, it says "AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL" and "Evidence Based Research Data of AYUSH Systems at Global Level". Below this, there are navigation links: Home, Search, Login, About Us, Contact Us, and Feedback/LogOut. A search bar is present with options for Single Search, Search with AYUSH Terminology, Search in Article Title, Search in Author's Name, Search in Journal Name, and Search in Institute / Department. There are also filters for medical systems: Ayurveda (2126), Yoga and Naturopathy (1396), Unani (1944), Siddha (591), Homoeopathy (2037), and Kriya Rigas (0). Below these are buttons for CLINICAL RESEARCH, PRE CLINICAL RESEARCH, DRUG RESEARCH, and FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH. The CLINICAL RESEARCH button is highlighted. Below the buttons, there are links for About IJCC, About IJH, and Evidence Grade criteria for Clinical studies. A dropdown menu for "Select body system" is set to "MUSCULOSKELETAL". A search box contains the text "RHEUMATOIDISMPORITHEARTHRITIDOPCLIFEICCDMD.MDE.MDE.M46" and a "Clear" button. Below the search box, it says "CLINICAL RESEARCH: Results found for EVIDENCE GRADE - A: 813 EVIDENCE GRADE - B: 1094 EVIDENCE GRADE - C: 1390". There are radio buttons for EVIDENCE GRADE - A, EVIDENCE GRADE - B, EVIDENCE GRADE - C, and EVIDENCE GRADE - N. The EVIDENCE GRADE - A option is selected. At the bottom, there is a breadcrumb trail: "All >>> RHEUMATOIDISMPORITHEARTHRITIDOPCLIFEICCDMD.MDE.MDE.M46 >>> CLINICAL STUDIES >>> EVIDENCE GRADE - A".

Evidence grade of clinical research articles

Click on the title to open to the research abstract. By clicking the full paper hyperlink or on the full paper in PDF, full-text article will be opened.

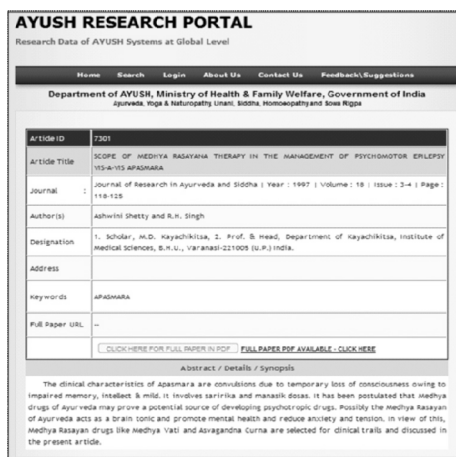
Clinical research articles can also be accessed by selecting body system and disease based on ICPC/ICD classification.

By clicking the area of subject, list of article titles displayed.



List of preclinical articles

The selected article data is presented in the following format



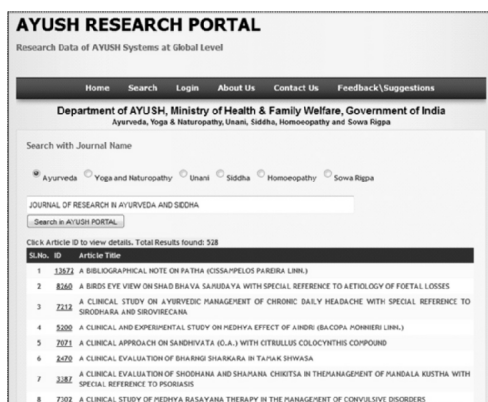
Research abstract format

Further, User can also obtain the research data on the requisite area of interest by the following search options:

- ✓ Simple search - (word search in abstract template)
- ✓ Search with AYUSH terminology
- ✓ Search in Article title
- ✓ Search in Author's name



Search options



- ✓ Search in Journal name
- ✓ Search in Institute / Department

b. Uploading of research data by the selected institutes

To upload the data in the AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL, user has to login by entering the user name and password (which are provided by the NIIMH, Hyderabad to all AYUSH Research Councils & National Institutes)

Data entry and approval systems

Each AYUSH Research Council has constituted AYUSH Research Portal Committees to ensure the quality research data in the portal.

- a. Research articles from various journals are screened and AYUSH related articles are identified.
- b. The selected articles data is presented in the prescribed format and categorized into above-said four categories.
- c. These data is circulated to the committees of AYUSH RESEARCH PORTAL for their suggestions/ modifications.
- d. Finally research data is uploaded in the Research Portal.