Effect of 'Ayurvedic' Drugs on Worm Infestation

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Eighty five subjects from 'Thevarakkulum' Area, an underprivileged sector of Jaffna Municipality area (next to Holy Family Convent, Jaffna) were selected. The subjects were in the age group of 3 - 12 . Twenty five subjects were administered with Embelia ribes (வாய் விளங்கம்) powder (6 g/day), 20 subjects were administered with Caesalpinea bondus (கனாசுரை) powder (10/day) and another 25 subjects were were administered with Butea frondosa (பலாசம் விதை) powder (7g/day) for three days after their dinner. Rest fifteen of the selected subjects were not fed with the above 'Ayruvedic' drugs and were used as controls. Thefecal samples of all the 85 were analysed on 0 day and 14th day after the in take of the drugs for hook-worm, round worm and whip-worm by iodine smear method and by concentration technique. By the treatment with Embelia ribes, the hook-worm infestation p 15 has decreased from 64 % to 8 %, round-worm infestation has decreased from 88 % and that of whip-worm has decreased

round-worm infestation has decreased from 88% to 8%, and that of whip-worm has decreased from 76% to 16% after 14 days. Before the administration of Caesalpinea bondus the hook-worm, round-worm and whip-worm infestation rates were 55%, 75% and 65% respectively. Whereas after the treatment all three types of infestation have decreased to 5%. The intake of Butea frondosa has decreased the hook-worm, round-worm and whip-worm infestation from 72%, 80% and 92% respectively to 4%. In controls the hook-worm, round-worm and whip-worm infestation were 63%, 79% and 73% respectively and remaind the same after 14 days. From the experimental results it could be concluded that all three 'Ayruvedic' drugs which were used to treat worm infestation have shown significant effect on the worm infestation. The cost of Vermox (500Mg) is SLR 21/= whereas the prices of 500 mg Embelia ribes, Butea frondosa and Caesalpinea bondus are Rs 7, Rs 8 & Rs 8 respectively. If these drugs have no toxic and side effects, it may be economical to use them

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