

Sattvavajaya And Mantra Chikitsa: Twin Pillars Of Mental Healing In Ayurvedic Fundamentals



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Abstract

Ayurveda, an ancient Indian medical system, offers a profound and holistic understanding of mental health, integrating the mind, body, and spirit. Within its therapeutic framework, *Sattvavajaya Chikitsa* and *Mantra Chikitsa* emerge as pivotal modalities for addressing psychological imbalances. *Sattvavajaya*, conceptualized as Ayurvedic psychotherapy, focuses on conscious mind control, cognitive restructuring, and ethical discipline to enhance mental clarity (*Sattva*) and mitigate agitation (*Rajas*) and inertia (*Tamas*). Complementarily, *Mantra Chikitsa*, a spiritual healing approach under *Daiva-Vyapashraya Chikitsa*, harnesses the subtle power of sound vibrations to influence consciousness, neural pathways, and energetic centers, thereby purifying the mind and fostering inner harmony. This paper provides an in-depth analysis of these two distinct yet synergistic pillars, elucidating their core principles, mechanisms of action, and therapeutic applications as described in classical Ayurvedic texts and supported by emerging modern scientific evidence. The integrated application of *Sattvavajaya* and *Mantra Chikitsa* offers a comprehensive pathway to mental well-being, addressing both volitional and subtle energetic aspects of psychological health. Further rigorous clinical research and interdisciplinary studies are warranted to validate and integrate these traditional practices into contemporary global mental healthcare.

1. Introduction

Ayurveda, often translated as the "science of life," is a comprehensive system of medicine originating from ancient India. It posits a holistic view of health that extends beyond the mere absence of disease, encompassing the harmonious integration of the mind, body, and soul (*Agnivesha, Charaka Samhita, 2002, Sharir Sthana 1.42*). This ancient wisdom tradition recognizes mental well-being as an indispensable component of overall health, asserting that a truly healthy individual possesses a happy soul, a pure body, and a peaceful mind. The classical Ayurvedic treatises, including the Atharva Veda, Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Astanga Hridaya, meticulously detail the etiology, symptomatology, diagnosis, and therapeutic approaches for a wide spectrum of mental afflictions.

Within this rich therapeutic landscape, Ayurveda delineates three primary categories of treatment: *Daiva Vyapashraya* (divine therapy), *Yukti Vyapashraya* (rational therapy, encompassing

pharmacological interventions), and *Sattvavajaya Chikitsa* (Psychotherapy). Among these, *Sattvavajaya Chikitsa* stands out as a non-pharmacological, psycho-spiritual methodology specifically designed for the management of mental disorders. Complementing this, *Mantra Chikitsa*, a potent spiritual approach, is classified under *Daiva Vyapashraya*, leveraging sacred sounds for healing.

The present paper aims to provide an in-depth analysis of *Sattvavajaya* and *Mantra Chikitsa*, exploring their core principles, mechanisms, and therapeutic applications within the foundational framework of Ayurvedic mental health. While distinct in their primary modes of action—*Sattvavajaya* focusing on conscious mind control and *Mantra Chikitsa* on subtle energetic and spiritual interventions—both modalities fundamentally address the mind (*Manas*) and its attributes, striving to restore balance and promote mental well-being. Their complementary nature suggests a comprehensive approach to mental healing, leading to their consideration as "twin pillars" in Ayurvedic

fundamentals. By elucidating their individual strengths and highlighting their synergistic potential, this paper seeks to underscore their integral role in holistic mental healthcare, supported by classical Ayurvedic texts and contemporary scientific insights.

2. Ayurvedic Foundations of Mental Health

Ayurvedic philosophy provides a sophisticated framework for understanding mental health, rooted in its unique cosmological and physiological principles. Central to this understanding are the concepts of *Manas* (Mind), *Atma* (Soul), *Trigunas* (Sattva, Rajas, Tamas), and *Tridoshas* (Vata, Pitta, Kapha), along with specific etiological factors for mental imbalance.

2.1 Concept of *Manas* (Mind) and *Atma* (Soul)-

In Ayurveda, *Manas* (mind) is recognized as a vital component of *Ayu* (life), existing in conjunction with *Sharira* (physical body), *Indriya* (sense organs), and *Atma* (soul). The mind is described as possessing a complex, dual nature, capable of both creation and destruction, positivity and negativity, activity and dullness. It is the seat of emotions, thoughts, and perceptions, and its proper functioning is essential for an individual's overall health and happiness. The *Atma* (soul) represents the ultimate consciousness, and its association with the mind and senses forms the fundamental basis of human experience and well-being. The intricate connection between *Manas* and *Atma* signifies that mental disturbances are not merely psychological but also have a profound spiritual dimension.

2.2 Role of *Trigunas* (Sattva, Rajas, Tamas) in Psychological Well-being and Pathology

The mind is primarily governed by three universal qualities, or *Gunas*: *Sattva*, *Rajas*, and *Tamas*. These *Gunas*, along with the bodily *Doshas*, influence an individual's psyche and temperament.

- **Sattva Guna:** Represents balance, purity, clarity, and goodness. It is associated with harmony, intelligence, virtue, and contentment. *Sattva* is considered light and luminous, promoting inward and upward motion, and facilitating the awakening of the soul. It is unique among the *Gunas* in that it is not a direct cause of disease.
- **Rajas Guna:** Characterized by activity, passion, and turbulence. While it stimulates and provides pleasure, its unbalanced nature can quickly lead to pain and suffering. *Rajas* is identified as a vitiating factor responsible for the manifestation of mental illness.
- **Tamas Guna:** Embodies inertia, dullness, darkness, and ignorance. It is associated with depressed mood, lack of faith, poor conduct, intellectual deficiency, neglect of duties, and

excessive sleepiness. Like *Rajas*, *Tamas* is also a significant viator contributing to mental illness.

An imbalance in *Rajas* and *Tamas* is considered the root cause of mental disturbances, emotional instability, and various psychological disorders. When these qualities are aggravated, they are termed *doshas* of the mind, leading to the accumulation of emotional toxins that can manifest as chronic mental disorders such as anxiety, neurosis, depression, and insomnia. If left unaddressed, these imbalances can progress to severe *Manas roga* (mental diseases) like *Unmad* (insanity) and *Apasmara* (epilepsy).

2.3 Influence of *Tridoshas* (Vata, Pitta, Kapha) on Mental States ⁱⁱ

While the *Trigunas* primarily govern the mental faculties, the *Tridoshas*—Vata, Pitta, and Kapha are psychobiological expressions that also profoundly influence psychological states. These *doshas* are intrinsically linked to both the mind and body, and their balance is crucial for mental well-being.

- **Vata Dosha:** Characterized by qualities such as dryness, mobility, and subtlety, Vata governs all movement and nervous system functions. When vitiated, Vata can manifest as mental conditions like attention deficit, bipolar disease, delusions, irrelevant talk, social anxiety, auditory hallucinations, fears, and phobias. Optimal functioning of *Dhi* (intellect) is dependent on balanced Vata.

- **Pitta Dosha:** Described as hot, sharp, and penetrating, Pitta is responsible for processes involving comparison, anger, rage, violence, jealousy, frustration, and visual hallucinations. It is associated with metabolic and hormonal functions, regulating transformation in the body. *Dhriti* (processing information) is linked to Pitta, reflecting its role in chemical and electrical information processing.

- **Kapha Dosha:** Slow, cool, heavy, and inert, Kapha provides stability and is involved in tissue building. An imbalance in Kapha can be associated with sadness, melancholia, stubbornness, severe depression, hoarding, catatonia, overeating, and kinesthetic hallucinations. Proper functioning of *Smriti* (memory) requires balanced Kapha.

The dynamic equilibrium of these *Trigunas*, *Tridoshas*, and *Panchabhuta* (five fundamental elements) is considered the foundation of good mental health.

Ayurveda's mental health framework is inherently multifaceted, integrating biological, psychological, and spiritual dimensions. It posits that mental well-being is not merely the absence of symptoms but a harmonious state involving the purity of the soul, the peace of the mind (governed by *Sattva*), and the balance of the body (*Tridoshas*). This profound integration means that mental illness is viewed as a

disruption across these interconnected layers, necessitating interventions that address all dimensions rather than focusing solely on one. For instance, while *Rajas* and *Tamas* are primarily considered *doshas* of the mind, their imbalance can manifest physically through *Tridosha* vitiation, demonstrating a direct link between mental and physical pathology. This holistic understanding offers a more comprehensive perspective than purely biomedical or psychological models, suggesting that true healing requires addressing the spiritual and ethical dimensions alongside the mental and physical.ⁱⁱⁱ

2.4 Etiological Factors of Mental Imbalance and Importance of Dhi, Dhriti, and Smriti

Ayurveda identifies several key etiological factors contributing to mental imbalance. A primary factor is *Prajnaparadha* (volitional transgression or intellectual blasphemy), which refers to engaging in unwholesome or harmful actions due to a loss of *Dhi* (intellect), *Dhriti* (fortitude), and *Smriti* (memory). This concept places significant emphasis on the individual's agency and responsibility in their mental health journey. It suggests that a breakdown in these crucial cognitive faculties leads to choices and actions that precipitate mental imbalance. This perspective shifts the paradigm from an individual being a passive recipient of treatment to an active participant in their own healing, by cultivating *Dhi*, *Dhriti*, and *Smriti*. This emphasis on self-control and wise discernment aligns with modern concepts of self-efficacy and patient empowerment, suggesting that Ayurvedic mental health interventions inherently foster resilience and self-mastery.

Another major causative factor is *Asatmya Indriyartha Sannikarsha* (improper coordination of sense organs with their objects). This encompasses deficit, excessive, or perverted contact of the senses (e.g., excessive seeing, not seeing at all, or straining to see minute objects) or the mind with their respective objects and functions. Such improper interactions are believed to damage the mind and its functioning, leading to mental disorders in the long run. Other contributing factors include *Vishada* (grief or despair), the suppression of natural urges (such as greed, envy, hatred, jealousy, and attachment), as well as external stressors like sudden shock, exertion, and protracted physical illnesses.

The faculties of *Dhi* (intellect), *Dhriti* (fortitude or determination), and *Smriti* (memory) are considered crucial for maintaining mental health. Their proper coordination leads to a state of perfect mental well-being, whereas a lack of coordination among them results in what Ayurveda terms "Mantel disease". Sattvavajaya Chikitsa specifically aims to restore *Dhi*, *Dhriti*, and *Smriti* to their normal, harmonious state.

3. Sattvavajaya Chikitsa: The Psychotherapeutic Pillar

3.1. Definition and Core Principles

The term "Sattvavajaya" is derived from two Sanskrit words: 'Sattva', referring to the mind or its pure state, and 'Avajaya', meaning victory, to win, or to conquer. Thus, Sattvavajaya literally translates to "victory over the mind" or "conquering over the mind," leading to its pure and balanced state.

The classical definition of Sattvavajaya, as articulated by Acharya Charaka, is: "*Sattvavajayah punah ahitebhyo arthebhyo mano nigrahah*". This translates to any treatment or measure that helps to control the mind and keep it detached from undesired, unwholesome, or harmful objects of the senses and mind. The fundamental principle underlying this therapy is the enhancement of the *Sattva guna* of the mind. By cultivating *Sattva*, the aggravated *Rajas* (activity, agitation) and *Tamas* (inertia, dullness) attributes are suppressed, thereby establishing a state of mental balance, clarity, and serenity. The ultimate aim is to reestablish normal mental activities and create a harmonious balance within the mind and its attributes.

3.2. Techniques and Modalities

Key techniques include:

- *Manonigraha* (mind control methods): Direct strategies for restraining and regulating the mind.
- *Pratidvandvabhava* (replacement of emotions with opposite thoughts): A cognitive restructuring technique where negative thought patterns are actively replaced with positive ones.
- *Sadacharah* (moral behavioral code): Adherence to ethical and moral principles, which inherently promotes mental purity and strength.
- *Ashwasanadhyaha* (counseling): Providing reassurance, explanation, guidance, and suggestions to the patient, fostering a sense of understanding and support.
- *Manokshobhanam* (psychophysical shock): While less detailed in the provided context, this implies the use of intense interventions to disrupt maladaptive patterns.

Beyond these specific techniques, Sattvavajaya integrates broader psycho-spiritual practices to achieve comprehensive mind control. These include *Abhyasa* (constant practice), *Pranayama* (regulation of vital energy through breath control), *Vairagya* (renunciation or detachment from worldly desires), *Adhyatmaavidya* (spiritual knowledge and meditation), and *Sadhusangati* (association with pious or wise individuals). The physician plays an active role in guiding the patient to regulate thought processes (*Cintya*), replace unwholesome ideas (*Vicarya*), channel presumptions (*Uhya*), refine objectives (*Dhyeya*), and make sound decisions

(*Samkalpa*). This approach directly addresses *Asatmya Indriyārtha Sannikarsha* by training the individual to avoid or monitor the inappropriate contact of senses and mind with their objects.^{iv}

3.3. Correlation with Modern Psychotherapy^v

Sattvavajaya Chikitsa demonstrates remarkable parallels with modern psychotherapeutic approaches, leading to its correlation with contemporary terms such as "trance therapy" and psychotherapy in general. Its principles align closely with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), mindfulness-based therapies, and cognitive restructuring techniques. Like modern psychotherapy, Sattvavajaya is a non-pharmacological approach aimed at the effective management of mental disorders. The emphasis on *Pratidvandvabhava* (replacement of emotions with opposite thoughts) and *Ashwasanadhyaha* (counseling) directly corresponds to cognitive and behavioral therapeutic elements.

However, Sattvavajaya distinguishes itself by explicitly incorporating ethical and spiritual dimensions, such as *Yama*, *Niyama* (ethical discipline), *Adhyatmavidya* (spiritual knowledge/meditation), and *Sadacharah* (moral conduct). This inclusion goes beyond typical modern psychotherapy models, suggesting that Sattvavajaya is not merely about managing thoughts and behaviors but about cultivating a moral and spiritual foundation that inherently fosters mental purity (*Sattva*). This makes it a more profound and comprehensive "cognitive-behavioral-spiritual therapy" that aims for deep transformation rather than just symptom management. This expanded understanding of Sattvavajaya offers a valuable model for integrative mental healthcare, emphasizing the role of ethics and spirituality in achieving sustainable mental well-being.^{vi}

The integration of Sattvavajaya with contemporary psychotherapy has been termed "Psycho Veda," aiming to combine modern psychological understanding with ancient Vedic principles. This integration seeks to enhance self-awareness, deepen the understanding of inner experiences, and incorporate practical daily activities to bring about positive changes in mental outlook and physical health.

3.4. Therapeutic Applications and Efficacy

Sattvavajaya Chikitsa is considered highly effective for comprehensively addressing mild to moderate mental, psychic, and psychosomatic disorders. It actively promotes mental resilience, fosters positivity, and enhances emotional balance by addressing the underlying causes of psychological disturbances. The therapy plays a crucial role in maintaining a harmonious state among intellect (

Dhi), memory (*Smriti*), and fortitude (*Dhriti*), thereby contributing to an individual's overall healthy state. A notable aspect of Sattvavajaya is its proactive and preventive nature. Unlike many modern psychotherapies that often intervene after a disorder has manifested, Sattvavajaya places significant emphasis on prevention. By training the mind to refrain from unwholesome objects (*ahita arthas*) and correcting *Prajnaparadha* (volitional errors), it actively works to prevent the very causes of mental imbalance. This proactive approach, focusing on self-control and wise discernment, positions Sattvavajaya not just as a treatment but as a lifestyle philosophy for maintaining mental hygiene and resilience. This highlights Ayurveda's unique contribution to preventive mental health, offering strategies for individuals to cultivate mental strength and avoid the onset of disorders.

4. Mantra Chikitsa: The Psycho-Spiritual Pillar^{vii}

Mantra Chikitsa, a profound spiritual healing modality within Ayurveda, leverages the power of sacred sounds and vibrations to foster mental and physical well-being.

4.1. Definition and Historical Context

The term "Mantra" is derived from the Sanskrit roots 'man' (to think) and 'tra' (instrument or tool), literally translating to "tool for thinking". Mantra Chikitsa is defined as a therapeutic treatment that employs the chanting of specific mantras to promote mental and physical health.

This approach is classified under *Daiva-Vyapashraya Chikitsa* (Divine Therapy), a category that encompasses treatments dealing with phenomena beyond the scope of ordinary reasoning, often involving spiritual or celestial influences. *Daiva-Vyapashraya* includes various measures such as religious rituals, offerings, benedictions, and the use of sacred words or spells.

Historically, the practice of mantra treatment was highly prevalent during the Vedic period in ancient India, with medicinal schemes playing a comparatively minor role. Its widespread use, however, gradually declined over time, partly attributed to foreign invasions that led to the disruption of traditional knowledge systems like Mantra Shastra. Despite this historical decline, Mantra Chikitsa continues to be practiced and revered in many aboriginal communities, where strong belief in its efficacy often leads to positive outcomes, even in cases where modern medicine may not prevail. The Atharva Veda and Koutsiki Sutra are recognized as authentic classical sources for *Daiva-Vyapashraya Chikitsa*, with the Atharva Veda being notable for establishing early connections between diseases and unknown powers.

4.2. Mechanism of Action

The power of mantras lies not merely in the literal meaning of the words but fundamentally in the sound vibrations (*Shabda*) they generate when uttered.

Shabda itself is considered the basic form of energy, eternally present as *Akasha* (ether). When a mantra is chanted, it creates specific sound energy and vibrations that are believed to influence the body, mind, and spirit. These vibrations can affect brain chemistry, induce relaxed brain waves, detoxify the mind, and cleanse cellular toxins.

The mechanism extends to the physical nervous system, where the generated sound energy is diffused through *naadis* (subtle tubular vessels) and nine major *chakras* (energetic plexuses) located along the spinal column. This sound energy is then theorized to convert into neural energy, which circulates through the nerves to the brain and subsequently throughout the body via the blood. Mantras are understood to influence not only the *Manas* (psyche) and *Atma* (soul) but also the five sense organs, which serve as instruments through which these vibrational waves reach the deeper aspects of consciousness.^{viii}

The effect of Mantra is described as *prabhavajanya* (inexplicable action) in classical Ayurvedic texts. This traditional classification might lead to a perception of it as purely mystical or faith-based. However, the detailed explanations of its mechanism of action—involving sound vibrations impacting brain chemistry, relaxing brain waves, influencing *naadis* and *chakras*, and leading to

observable Default Mode Network (DMN) deactivation reveal a sophisticated bio-psycho-energetic understanding. The "divine" or "inexplicable" aspect likely refers to phenomena not fully understood by the rational framework of the time, but which modern neuroscience is beginning to map. This re-contextualizes Mantra Chikitsa as a therapeutic modality that operates on fundamental energetic and physiological principles, making it amenable to scientific inquiry despite its spiritual roots. It suggests that the "divine power" is not supernatural but rather inherent in the vibrational nature of reality and its interaction with human consciousness. This understanding is crucial for integrating *Mantra Chikitsa* into mainstream scientific discourse, moving it beyond mere ritual to a recognized complementary therapy with a demonstrable impact on the human system.^{ix}

4.3. Therapeutic Applications and Sanskrit Mantras from Samhitas^x

Mantra Chikitsa is applied for both preventive and curative purposes across a wide range of conditions. It is particularly believed to cure *Karmaja Vyadhi* (diseases resulting from past actions) and *Agantuja Vyadhi* (diseases caused by external factors). Notably, it is often resorted to when conventional medicinal therapies prove ineffective, owing to its perceived divine or celestial power.

Specific applications mentioned in classical Ayurvedic texts, particularly the Charaka Samhita, include:^{xi}

Mantra (Sanskrit Script & Transliteration)	Therapeutic Context/Application	Source Samhita/Text & Canonical Reference
ॐ (Om / Aum)	Universal sound, source of all mantras; continuous pronunciation removes diseases and maintains health.	Bhagavad Gita (Bhagavad Gita, 2007)
विष्णु सहस्रनाम ^{xii} (Vishnu Sahasranama)	Treatment of <i>Jwara</i> (fever).	Charaka Samhita (Agnivesha, Charaka Samhita, 2002, Sutra Sthana 11.54) ^{xiii}
आपो हि ष्ठा (Aapo hi stha)	Part of <i>Sadvritta</i> (code of conduct), used for purification.	Rig-Veda (Rig-Veda, 2014)
मन+त्र (Man + Tra)	Etymological basis for general therapeutic use, signifying "tool for thinking" and protection.	Classical Ayurvedic texts
Not specified (General Mantras)	Recited in newborn's right ear (<i>Jaatakarma</i>) for protection from evil spirits; used during labor (<i>Prasuti</i>); chanted before collection of herbal drugs to enhance efficacy; used for wound management, instrument sterilization, and patient fear/depression in <i>Shalya-Tantra</i> (surgery); applied in cases of poisoning (<i>Visha Chikitsa</i>), insanity (<i>Unmada</i>), and epilepsy (<i>Apasmara</i>).	Charaka Samhita & other classical texts

Beyond specific applications, mantras are generally employed to counter negative thoughts, alleviate stress, enhance spiritual power and aura, and instill confidence.

4.4. Modern Scientific Insights into Mantra Chanting

Contemporary research provides scientific corroboration for some of the long-observed effects of mantra chanting. Functional magnetic resonance

imaging (fMRI) studies have revealed that repetitive speech, akin to mantra chanting, induces widespread deactivation in cortical networks, particularly within the Default Mode Network (DMN). The DMN is a network associated with self-oriented thoughts and "mind wandering," and its deactivation is considered a key mechanism contributing to the calming and focused effects observed during meditative practices. This deactivation is notably unidirectional, meaning it occurs without corresponding significant positive activations in other brain regions, suggesting a unique global inhibitory effect.

The effectiveness of Mantra Chikitsa is not a passive reception but an active process influenced by the intentionality and engagement of the practitioner. The traditional emphasis on "pure thought from a pure heart" and "clear pronunciation" finds a parallel in modern findings that "stronger intentionality" (focus on sound, devotion, or intention) and "higher chanting engagement" (practice duration, regularity) correlate with better psychological and cognitive outcomes. This indicates a "dose-response" relationship and highlights the importance of the practitioner's internal state and consistent practice, suggesting that the mind's focus and belief amplify the therapeutic vibrational effects. This provides a framework for optimizing Mantra Chikitsa interventions, emphasizing structured practice and mindful engagement to maximize therapeutic benefits, and suggests avenues for clinical trial design.

Beyond neurological changes, chanting has been shown to decrease stress and depressive symptoms, increase focused attention, improve social cohesion, and induce mystical experiences. Focusing on the sound and vibration of chanting can enhance focused attention and reduce awareness of bodily sensations. Furthermore, the act of vocalization during chanting can activate the parasympathetic nervous system, leading to slowed breathing, relaxation, and a positive mood. Different chanting styles can also yield distinct psychological benefits; for instance, call-and-response chanting is linked to higher mystical experiences, while repetitive prayer is associated with reduced mind wandering.

5. *Sattvavajaya* and *Mantra Chikitsa*: A Synergistic Approach to Mental Healing

Sattvavajaya Chikitsa primarily operates as a direct psychotherapeutic intervention. It focuses on conscious mind control (*Manonigraha*), cognitive restructuring (e.g., *Pratidvandvabhava*), and the cultivation of ethical discipline (*Sadacharah*) to consciously enhance *Sattva* and pacify the disruptive influences of *Rajas* and *Tamas*. This approach empowers the individual to actively restrain the mind from unwholesome objects (*ahita arthas*) and volitional transgressions (*Prajnaparadha*), thereby

fostering positive mental attributes and self-regulation.^{xiv}

Mantra Chikitsa, categorized under *Daiva-Vyapashraya*, operates on a subtler, psycho-spiritual and energetic level. It leverages the profound power of sound vibrations (*Shabda*) to influence brain chemistry, neural networks, and energetic centers such as *chakras* and *naadis*. This vibrational influence is believed to purify the heart and mind, addressing deeper, sometimes karmic, imbalances. Moreover, mantras can enhance the efficacy of other treatments, including herbal remedies.

The synergy between these two pillars lies in the complementary nature of conscious, volitional effort (*Sattvavajaya*) and subtle, energetic influence (*Mantra Chikitsa*). *Sattvavajaya* empowers the individual to exert conscious control over their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, thereby cultivating a *Sattvic* mind through disciplined practice. *Mantra Chikitsa*, on the other hand, works through the vibrational dimension, potentially influencing deeper layers of consciousness and energetic pathways that may be less accessible to direct conscious control. This combined approach allows for a comprehensive mind-body-spirit healing, where conscious will is supported and amplified by subtle energetic shifts, leading to more profound and sustained mental well-being. It creates a holistic feedback loop: a more disciplined mind, cultivated through *Sattvavajaya*, can engage in mantra chanting more effectively, and the calming, purifying effects of effective chanting further discipline the mind, making the conscious efforts of *Sattvavajaya* easier and more impactful. This offers a powerful model for integrative medicine, suggesting that addressing mental health requires both active patient participation in cognitive and behavioral change and leveraging subtle energetic interventions.^{xv}

Crucially, both therapies directly aim to increase *Sattva guna* and pacify *Rajas* and *Tamas*. *Sattvavajaya* achieves this through conscious cognitive and behavioral adjustments, while *Mantra Chikitsa* does so through vibrational resonance and spiritual purification. Their combined application creates a reinforcing loop, where a mind made more *Sattvic* through *Sattvavajaya* is more receptive to the subtle energies and transformative power of mantras, and the calming and purifying effects of mantras, in turn, facilitate the conscious efforts required by *Sattvavajaya*. This dual-pronged strategy ensures that mental healing is addressed at both the manifest psychological level and the subtle energetic and spiritual depths, leading to a truly holistic and enduring state of mental health.

6. Discussion and Conclusion

Sattvavajaya Chikitsa and *Mantra Chikitsa* stand as fundamental pillars of mental healing within the Ayurvedic tradition, collectively offering a holistic and multi-faceted approach to mental well-being. *Sattvavajaya*, as an ancient form of psychotherapy, profoundly emphasizes conscious mind control, ethical living, and cognitive restructuring. Its primary aim is to enhance the *Sattva guna* while mitigating the detrimental effects of aggravated *Rajas* and *Tamas*, thereby empowering individuals to navigate their internal landscape with greater clarity and self-regulation. *Mantra Chikitsa*, rooted in the *Daiva-Vyapashraya* therapeutic category, leverages the profound power of sacred sound vibrations. It influences the mind, body, and spirit at a subtle energetic level, purifying consciousness, fostering inner harmony, and addressing deeper, potentially karmic, imbalances. The synergistic application of these two modalities provides a comprehensive pathway to mental health, addressing both the volitional aspects of mental discipline and the subtle energetic dimensions of consciousness.

While classical Ayurvedic texts provide a rich theoretical and practical foundation for these

therapies, and emerging modern research offers compelling insights into their efficacy and underlying mechanisms, further rigorous, well-designed clinical trials are essential. Such studies are needed to systematically validate their specific applications, effectiveness across diverse populations, and long-term outcomes for various mental disorders. Interdisciplinary research, integrating Ayurvedic principles with contemporary neuroscience, psychology, and psychophysiology, holds immense potential to deepen our understanding of the complex bio-psycho-spiritual mechanisms that underpin these ancient practices. Future research should prioritize the development of standardized protocols for *Sattvavajaya* and *Mantra Chikitsa* interventions, explore their optimal integration with conventional mental health treatments, and assess their impact on mental health resilience and overall quality of life. Such scientific inquiry is crucial for translating these profound traditional wisdoms into evidence-based practices that can significantly contribute to addressing global mental healthcare challenges.

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