

TRIBUTE TO THE VISHWAKARMA OF MODERN SIDDHA SYSTEM

*Dr Gopalsamy Veluchamy,
Padmashri awardee, made Siddha Healing Practise Relevant and Reverberating*

*SANJEEVI PHARMA's TRIBUTE TO THE DOYEN
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Submitted: 25-02-2023

Accepted: 06-03-2023

Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy, the first generation Siddha graduate with BIM and MD (Siddha) degree is recently awarded with Padmashri by the Union Government of India, headed by Shri Narendra Modi the Honourable Prime Minister of India. Indeed, the award is to be conferred to the Siddha doyen by the Honourable President of India. The highest civilian award conferred to Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy must be considered as the highest recognition to the entire Siddha system of Medicine which is linked deeply with Tamil culture, Saiva spiritual philosophy, astrology and the supernatural powers of ancient Siddhars, who lived over thousands of years after attaining immortality through siddha healing process. Every Siddha graduate has lots to celebrate, exhilarate and perpetuate the Padmashri award to Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy, his teachings and contributions to the ancient super-natural healing system – Siddha.

A cursory peep into the professional saga of Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy which spreads over 5 decades, one can find how illustrious and glorious it was to the siddha system of healing practise. Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy indeed made the system to what it is today through his tireless, passionate work and dedication. When he took up his first career way back in 1970 as Lecturer in Govt. Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu, he brought a sweeping change to the system and as a result of his zeal and commitment, he was promoted as HOD in Arignar Anna Siddha Govt. College and Hospital, Chennai in 1981 and then became Asst. Director in 1981 in Central Research Institute (Siddha) under CCRAS (Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha), Government of India.

In the year 1999, he was made the additional charge of Director of CCRAS (Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha), Government of India, New Delhi and his tireless

contributions, he became the first O.S.D of National Institute of Siddha, Chennai and First Director in 2005.

The illustrious career journey of Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy is quite inspiring to everyone in the field where if you are committed to the cause selflessly, recognition will automatically follow you like your shadow and you need not go after any recognition or awards.

Invention of 777 oil

Siddha system of healing practice until the invention of 777 oil was thought, understood and believed to be a healing system which does not have much relevance to treat the modern day illness. But Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy changed such belief through his path breaking research. When he was holding different positions in Siddha System, he used to be very avid and used to interact every villager by reaching out to them to learn their knowledge about Siddha healing practice both for the purpose of documenting the same and also to take for future research. During one such interaction, he learned about the plant *Wrightia tinctoria* and how some of the traditional healers have been using the leaf oil of the above plant in coconut oil to treat various skin diseases, possibly, also psoriasis.

Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy did not leave his curiosity and scientific temperament just with gathering the wisdom about *Wrightia tinctoria* but instead analysed the plant, the scientific veracity and also discussed the same with cross functional team in the CCRAS (Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha) such a Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Pathology, Microbiology, Chemistry, Toxicology and finally the Clinicians attached to CRI (S) both Out and In-patient Departments.



Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy was the soul and heart of 777 oil, where he innovated a novel process of preparing an oil using the fresh leaves of *Wrightia tinctoria* in coconut oil using the proportion leaf and oil adjusted to 1:1 and then exposing the same sun (surya pudam) for 7 days. The oil thus obtained was quite viscous, rich, magenta coloured with very pleasant odour. The phyto-actives in the plant were converted into drug using such surya pudam process. Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy did not settle with the above invention, he went further to ensure the invention remains in the annals of Siddha system by obtaining patent right to the intellectual property of CCRAS and then the technology was transferred to NRDC (National Research Development Corporation) Government of India, for commercial utility.

Subsequently some vested interests without the knowledge of CCRAS and NRDC obtained trademark right of 777 oil that was later diffused.

Had there be no Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy, today the outstanding drug for psoriasis called 777 oil would not have come to earth to save Psoriasis patients and Siddha System also would not have a got its recognition that it enjoys today. Besides all the above contributions, Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy went further to interact with Dermatologists across India to discuss the role of 777 oil in the management of psoriasis and convinced many Dermatologists to initiate clinical evaluation of 777 oil. Then Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy himself went to several International Symposiums and presented the research work of 777 oil. Unfortunately, the exploitation of the term 777 oil on the product with *Wrightia tinctoria* where the process of manufacturing never involving surya pudam, marketed by many companies, the subsequent generations occupied the position in CCRAS did not check and as a result, Siddha System lost its glory that was once made by Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy & et.al.

Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy has made a great research contribution towards the research on a copper based Siddha concoction for the management of Peptic Ulcer where he was the first in the world to hypothesize the possible decrease of serum copper level in human system who suffer from peptic ulcer which the siddha concoction may be increasing. His hypothesis has enthused many renowned Gastroenterologists to do clinical evaluation of the same and today the copper based Siddha preparation offer great treatment value to Peptic Ulcer.

Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy was a member in several Government bodies, attended over 100 National and International seminars and published original research articles nearly 100 in number. Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy also edited and published 14 books, many of them remain as reference material, encyclopaedia and gospel treasures for Siddha system of healing practice.

As a teacher, he always focused on inspiring the students to have research outlook, curiosity and scientific temperament to bring out treasures from system and making them available to humanity as a whole so that every fellow is being benefited and at the same time, the system also is made relevant. Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy insisting all the Siddha Physicians to be proud in Siddha System of Medicine and to bring scientific evaluation, publications and also complete documentations of Tridosha based diagnosis and efficacy of Siddha Medicines used in their day to day practice. He was very eloquent and joyful when he explains how some Siddha drugs when the adjuvant is changed can exhibit different Pharmacological and Medical value like the adjuvant of water or ghee or milk or honey etc.

Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy is a very down to earth person, a sage, a living Siddhar of contemporary time, always live for the cause of Siddha system of healing practice promotion and recognition. Never had gone after money, position or recognition but instead wants to offer his best to ailing humanity through Siddha System of Medicine.

The Padmashri award conferred to Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy is the highest recognition ever the entire Siddha System can aspire for & wish and therefore every Siddha Graduate must come back to the system with pride and confidence and must promote the fundamentals of the system, Tridosha principles, taste based diagnosis & treatment and finally the spiritual healing tenets while searching the scientific foundation and authentication to all such healing recipes.

A few words about Sanjeevi Pharma

Sanjeevi Pharma dedicated itself since 1993 in promoting Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani Medicines to the Medical Faculties across India. Sanjeevi Pharma is having two manufacturing units and both are GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) certified.



Sanjeevi Pharma dedicates this article to Padmashri Awardee Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy and like to request the authorities to create Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy Chair for research in siddha system in CCRS (Central Council for Research in Siddha) so that posterity always cherish the doyen Dr.Gopalsamy Veluchamy and his immortal contributions.

Acknowledgement

We M/s. Sanjeevi Pharma hereby acknowledge the support of Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy and thankful for providing all the relevant data for this article