Cowpathy is just like any other system of medicine such as Homeopathy, Allopathy or Naturopathy. In this, the human or animal ailments are treated with products of cow also known as Panchgavaya means five things derived from cows i.e. milk, ghee, dahi, urine and dung. In our ancient literature of Ayurveda it is described as Panchgavya Chikitsa. In recent years, interest has been generated among scientific community of the world to develop or scientifically validate the Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) as an alternate therapeutic or preventive approach. As is evident from the trends of modern allopathic treatments particularly the development of resistance in microorganisms and side effects, the alternative system of medicine gains momentum not only in India but WHO also established recognition to such systems. In fact in the western world also, scientists/clinicians are facing problem in handling the multiple drug resistance in microorganisms, presence of antibiotic residues in food chain and/or associated allergies and autoimmune disorders in man. As per WHO, the twentieth century wonder drugs “antibiotics” will not remain useful and become almost ineffective by the year 2020, then one has to think over the alternative therapeutic approaches to control the infections. In fact most of the antibiotic drugs are bacteriostatic in nature and as such they do not kill the bacteria rather they stop or check their growth and bacteria have to be destroyed by the body’s own defence mechanism known as “Phagocytic System” through macrophages (monocytes of the blood). During last few years it has been observed that the efficiency of these macrophages reduced drastically as a result of the environmental pollution and presence of pesticides, heavy metals, fungal toxins etc. in the food chain. That is attributed to the heavy use of agrochemicals in agriculture and poor storage conditions of food grains. Any how deficient functioning of macrophages leads to inefficacy of antibiotic drugs, development of resistance in bacteria, recurrent infections, and or decreased immune status of an individual. Recent researches showed that cow urine enhances the immune status of an individual through activating the macrophages and augmenting their engulfment power as well as bactericidal activity. This research opened a new era in medical science and CSIR has got a patent from US on cow urine for its bioenhancing properties and its use in tuberculous patients. Along with traditional therapy of tuberculous drugs, if one also consumes cow urine, the antituberculous drugs act faster even in low doses and thereby reducing the cost of treatment and its duration. Very recently, researches have found that use of cow urine along with the antibiotics prevents the development of resistance in microorganisms against the antibiotics. This is thought that the cow urine blocks the R-factor, a part of plasmid genome of bacteria responsible for the development of antibacterial resistance. Several scientists from different laboratories of CSIR, AIIMS, G.B. Pant University Pantnagar, and IVRI, besides NGOs are working on different medicinal properties of cow urine. In fact there are several medicinal preparations available with NGOs who are also marketing cowpathy drugs under FDA license and some of the NGOs are even not able to cope up with the demand of the public. Several students of M.Sc., M.V.Sc., M.D. and/or Ph.D. are working on the medicinal properties of cow urine and other products of cows. It has been found to enhance the body’s immunity and resistance
power to fight with infections. Cow urine has antioxidant properties and thus it neutralizes the oxidative stress produced in body through action on free radicals. It has been found to repair the damaged DNA and thus is effective for the cancer therapy. Scientists proved that the pesticides even at very low doses cause apoptosis (cell suicide) in lymphocytes of blood and tissues through fragmentation of DNA and cow urine helps the lymphocytes to survive and not to commit suicide, it also repairs the damaged DNA. Besides, in poultry cow urine enhances the immunocompetence of birds and provides better protection along with vaccination. It also increases egg production, egg shell quality and egg weight. Moreover, by using cow urine in poultry ration one can enhance the productivity that too without using antibiotics and the fear of antibiotic residues in poultry products.

There are several NGO’s working in Kanpur, Nagpur, Jaipur, Rishikesh, Haridwar and other parts of the country who are in this business. Mostly they prepare Ark of cow urine i.e. 50-60% distillation of cow urine. But, on the basis of chemical fingerprinting through modern equipments like HPLC, it has also been observed during the scientific research that the urine of Indian cows are highly effective and almost nil or few medicinal properties are present in the urine of crossbred, exotic cows, buffaloes, etc. The Indigenous cow urine contains “Rasayana” tatva, which is responsible to modulate immune system and act as bioenhancer. It is not only the cow urine which is a wonder product by cow but others like dung, milk, ghee and curd are also equally effective for various ailments and other operations. Cow urine as such and/or after addition of neem leaves is a wonderful biopesticides. Such biopesticides are safe to use, do not accumulate in the food chain and as such do not have the harmful effects like chemical pesticides. Cow dung is an excellent farm yard manure and if processed and prepared vermi-compost, very small amount of vermi-compost is sufficient for a large field. Similarly, many medicines are prepared from the cow milk, ghee and curd. However, again the problem is same, scientific validation of these products is required.

Though, the end user claims are many but scientific validation of those claims is required. The people frustrated from the heavy medication of allopathy are using cowpathy drugs and taking its benefits. It has been observed that the sick individuals first try allopathic doctors and medicine for cure but when there is no hope in modern medicine then they switch over to either Ayurveda/ homeopathy/ naturopathy or cowpathy. The Ayurvedic Vaidyas practicing cowpathy are getting handsome income now a days as they claim to cure renal failure, leucoderma, arthritis, skin disorders, early stage cancer and several other ailments which are not so curable by use of allopathic medicines.

Regardless of scientific validation, people are using and getting benefits of it. One cowpathy practitioner’s interview appeared in India Today few years ago. At that time it was not taken seriously but today it is a fact. In the time to come, the field of cowpathy will come up with strong scientific facts and hopefully dominate on other systems of medicine. Hence, this old system of Panchgavya medicine at present known as cowpathy may get popularity and may provide relief the ailing people and give them peaceful life without pain.

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