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ARTICLE

Title: Exploring the healing power of Dr. Bach's flower remedies

Authored By: Dr. Rithi Mutum PG Scholar, Bakson Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital.

ABSTRACT

The evolution of Bach Flower Remedies began during 20th century, although it was freshly bloomed with its remarkable significance on human economy. As far as we know, the ultimate cause of disharmony in an individual, are consistently interconnected with imbalance in mental or emotional plane. With regard to it, in order to revive an overall well-being in physical, emotional as well as psychological plane, the discovery were a worthwhile contribution in mankind. Due to paucity of research works or experimentations, fewer number of practitioner had acknowledged the extraordinary healing properties of these flower remedies in management of various health problems. The foremost objective of BFR are more widely found in managing daily stresses, in females undergoing pregnancy, and especially in managing lifestyle disorders.

Keywords: Flower Remedies, Emotional states, Holistic approach.

ABBREVIATIONS: Bach Flower Remedy – BFR

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INTRODUCTION

BFR, flower remedies are essence which plays a fundamental role as a supplementary or an alternating agent in maintaining psychologically and emotionally balanced equilibrium in disease state. These was first discovered by Dr. Edward Bach, a British medical doctor, bacteriologist and homoeopath in 1930s.[1] He recognized the interrelationship of physical and mental plane in acute, subacute or chronic disease condition, which led to its origin. These flowers are required for a happy and balanced life which brings positive affect in our They are of 38 wild flowers emotions. including spring water, which include namely - Impatiens, Rock water, Cherry plum, Beech, Centuary, Cerato, Crab apple, Larch, Chestnut bud, Chicory, Clematis, Elm, Gentian, Holly, Gorse, Olive, Heather, Wild oat, Honey suckle, Star of Bethlehem, Hornbeam, Mimulus, Walnut, Mustard, Oak, White chestnut. Red Agrimony, Scleranthus, Sweet chestnut, Vervain, Vine, Water violet, Rock rose, Aspen, Wild rose and Willow. [1][2]

Dr. Bach divided the 38 flowers into 7 groups, and each group were categorized on the basis of various emotional states recognized according to different situations. Each group include list of flower remedies mention consecutively below:^[2]

a) Group 1: Loneliness - Water violet, Impatiens, Heather.

- b) Group 2: For Those Who Suffer Fear Rock rose, Mimulus, Cherry plum, Aspen, Red chestnut.
- c) Group 3: For Despondency or Despair -Larch, Pine, Elm, Sweet chestnut, Star of Bethlehem, Willow, Oak, Crab apple
- d) Group 4: Not Sufficient interest in present circumstances Clemetis, Honeysuckle, Wild rose, Olive, White chestnut, Mustard, Chestnut.
- e) Group 5: Overcare for Welfare of Others Chivory, Vervain, Vine, Beech, Rock water.
- f) Group 6: Oversensitive to Influences & Ideas Agrimony, Centuary, Walnut, Holly.
- g) Group 7: For Those Who Suffer Uncertainty
 Cerato, Scleranthus, Gentian, Gorse,
 Hornbeam, Wild oat.^[2]

In addition to these above groups, another unique group known as Rescue remedy or five flower remedy, which includes composition of Impatiens, Star of Bethelhem, Cheery plum, Rock water and Clemetis.^[2]

SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Bach considered illness to be a reflection of disharmony between the soul and the conscious personality.^[4]

In comparison with Homoeopathy, treating man as a whole, from curing conditions from within outwards, considering all symptoms of generals – physical or mental and particular as a complete whole representing the organism. Bach flower, on the other hand, aims at

managing the mental and emotional imbalance internally. The distinction of BFR over Homoeopathy, is that, it acts more deeper and possess a long lasting effect as it stimulates the inborn healing power by rebalancing itself. It acts on physical plane, BFR acquire a unique character which heals instantly, with a lightening effect in the areas that is already negatively charge by blocked emotions.^[4]

These essence not only neutralize the negative emotional state, they flood the body with positive healing vibrations. [4]

When both Homoeopathy and BFR are administered consecutively, the help releases, the mental or emotional blockage initiated which triggered at the beginning of the disease condition. Or when given during Homoeopathic treatment, it yields and render the previous treatment more lasting and effectively. Before Homoeopathic treatment, it stimulates and energized the vital force, diminishing the blockage of negatively charge mind and emotions, letting the energy to level up at a certain healing position. Disease of chronic as well as acute cases. where mental symptoms predominate and acts as an exciting cause of the illness, it acts efficiently.[4]

BFR in pregnancy – The significant changes in their emotional suffering and apprehensive nature, during pre and post-natal periods, had faced impressive helped after its usage. The hormonal fluctuation which affect emotional or mental perceptions, and thoughts are well aided by remedies such as rescue remedy as well as walnut. Among these two remedy, walnut gives protection against the adverse effects of oversensitivity to trifles, influences and environment. Rescue remedy also helps in restoring the sadness back to normal and overthinking to calmness, and help to combat daily stresses. It also relieves the sufferer's fear facing around delivery period. [3]

BFR in babies - In case of infants and children undergoing different stages of psychological development, they faced irritability or difficulty in adjustment to surrounding in search of their identity, rights,

after gaining their consciousness. Mimulus, is a remedy of fear of known things. When babies are found to be sensitive or visible inability to cope, mimulus will certainly helped.^[3]

BFR in children - Children undergoing excessive parental control, lack of concentration, inability to comprehend, facing bullies, flower remedies namely, beech, holly, vine will be helpfull. Vervain in cases of children who is never still, wakefulness. For timid, shy, clingy children - Chicory, Mimulus and Larch. [3]

BFR in drug addicts & alcoholics - Hiding worries and pain behind a happy face are known to be more prominent character among substance abusers. Agrimony whose effect is mental torture behind a masked face, because of their pretendance of all is well, contributes to bring remarkable difference by its action in alcoholics.^[3]

BFR in dentistry - Conditions related to dental pain, anxious about future, apprehension, panic when about to reach for checkup. Remedies like white chest nut to remove the repetitive thoughts of apprehension.^[3]

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT FEATURES – [4]

- **a)** They are of 38 remedy to handle different disease condition, as compared to thousands of other system of treatment.
- **b)** They are safe to use and no side effects even in wrongly selected prescription or overdosing.
- Every individual can study and prescribed as a complementary remedy for momentary relief.
- **d)** Anybody can adopt the degree independent of previous course for degree for own knowledge, as it comes under alternative system of medicines.
- e) Can be used and prescribes as an adjuvens along with other remedies.
- f) Not that expensive as compare with other remedies.

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- **g**) Prescriptions is based on symptoms not in accordance to any organ or part of the body.
- **h)** The application in accordance to each flower are as follows:- [1][2][4]

Table: 1 application in accordance to each flower are as follows

S.No.	Flower remedy	Application
1.	Agrimony	Hiding worries and problems behind a happy
1.	(Agrimonia Eupatoria)	face
2.	Aspen (Populus Tremula)	Unknown fears
3.		Intolerance
4.	Beech (Fagus Sylvatica)	
4.	Centaury	Inability to say 'no'
	(Erythraea Centaurium)	X 1 0 1 1 1
5.	Cerato	Lack of trust in one's own decisions
	(Ceratostigma Willmottiana)	
6.	Cherry plum	Fear of losing control and sanity
	(Prunus Cerasifera)	
7.	Chestnut Bud	Constant repetition of the same mistakes
	(Aesculus Hippocastanum)	
8.	Chivory (Cichorium Intybus)	Selfish and possessive love
9.	Clemetis (Clemetis Vitalba)	Excessive daydreaming about the future
10.	Crab apple	For cleansing, self-loathing, disgust, fear of
	(Pyrus Lamus)	infection
11.	Elm (<i>Ulmus Camprestus</i>)	Overburdened with responsibilities
12.	Gentian (Gentiana Amarella)	Discouragement after a setback
13.	Gorse (<i>Ulex Europaeus</i>)	Loss of hope, despair
14.	Heather (Calluna Vulgaris)	Excessive self-centredness
15.	Holly (Ilex Aquifolium)	Hatred, envy and jealousy
16.	Honeysuckle	Excessive thinking about the past
	(Lonicera Caprifolium)	2.00 cost ve timining the out-time plant
17.	Hornbeam (Carpinus Betulus)	Tiredness at the very thought of doing something
18.	Impatiens (Impatiens Royleii)	Impatience
19.	Larch (Larix Europaea)	Lack of self confidence
20.	Mimulus (Mimulus Luteus)	Everyday fears, from familiar things
21.	Mustard (Sinapis Arvensis)	Depression that occurs for no reason
22.	Oak (Quercus Pedunculata)	Overwork beyond one's endurance limits
23.	Olive (Olea Europaea)	Fatigue after mental or physical effort
24.	Pine (Pinus Sylvestris)	Feeling of guilt
25.	Red Chestnut (Aesculus Carnea)	Over- concern for the welfare of loved ones
26.	Rock Water	Self imposed restrictions, rigid attitudes, self –
		punishment
27.	Scleranthus (Scleranthus Annus)	Inability to make a decision
28.	Star of Bethlehem	Shock
20	(Ornithogalum Umbellatum)	
29.	Sweet Chestnut	Extreme mental anguish, feeling of having no
20	(Castanea Vulgaris)	way out
30.	Vervain (Verbena Officinalis)	Excessive enthusiasm Domination over others and inflavibility
31. 32.	Vine (<i>Vitis Vinifera</i>) Rock Rose	Domination over others and inflexibility
34.	(Helianthemum Vulgare)	Panic and Fright
	(11euaninemum vuigare)	

33.	Walnut (Juglans Regia)	Protection from unwanted influences of others
		and help with adjustment in periods of change
34.	Water Violet (Hottonia Palustris)	Self-built barrier between us and others, leading
		to loneliness
35.	White Chestnut (Aesculus	Unwanted thoughts that cause ruminations and
	Hippocastanum)	mental torture
36.	Wild Oat (Bromus Asper)	Uncertainity when choosing a life direction
37.	Wild Rose (Rosa Canina)	Defeatism, resignation to destiny, listlessness
38.	Willow (Salix Vitellina)	Self-pity, rancour, resentment

ROLE AS A COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE IN HEALTH CARE:

Evidence concludes that BFR are primarily effective, especially, in terms of reducing anxiety, depression, fear, and pain. As its primary aims and objective of flower therapy is to restore individual balance and positive state, in order to treat mental, emotional, and behavioral aspects. It is widely used as a curative or preventive method. [5] In this review, the most commonly used remedies are Impatiens, Cherry Plum, White Chestnut, and Beech. In addition, it was highlighted that, Impatiens is usually used to deal with the symptoms of solitude; Cherry Plum to treat fears; White Chestnut to avoid undesired thoughts; and Beech to treat interpersonal intolerance.^[5] It restores the positive state of the individual by providing them with relaxation, relief stress and anxiety, along with psychological development towards cure resulting from the reduction of pain.^[5]

Natural therapeutic for balancing emotions: *Emotions can get in the way or get you on the way.* ^[6]

BFR influences the way we think, how we feel, and behave accordingly to our day-to-day life. It enables us to build relationship and take care of our work-life balance. Besides, it promotes the right skills and resources to facilitate and manage life's unpredictable consequences. The capability is ranged at higher level by promoting good and healthy lifestyle as it is safe with no adverse effect, and holistic way to cure disease. [6]

Utility in managing stress:

A study concluded that the major acting remedy among the remedies in each group. The stress ground included are academics, interpersonal stress, work related, health related, financial, etc. In fear group, Aspen works more effectively with 43 responses among 93 participants. In uncertainty group, Cerato 50/90 responses; and in lack of interest group - White chestnut, Mustard and Honeysuckle gives immense result. In oversensitive to slightest things, Agrimony and Centaury; Loneliness – Water Violet.

Utility in mental health disorders:

On the basis of an article, BFR are found to be beneficial in mental health disorders. To fight against drug addictions, anxiety and stress problems, depressive mood, post traumatic stress disorder, insomnia, suicidal ideations. Including emotional and psychological conditions namely – anger isssues, traumas, fears, grief, restlessness, low self-confidence, loneliness, and mental fatigue.^[8]

Utility in lifestyle disorders:

Furthermore, it has prominent role in management of lifestyle disorders including Obesity, Hypertension, Diabetes, Gastritis and Sleep disorders.

 a) Obesity can be managed by ruling out the maintaining causative factors associating with psychological issues like craving, binge - eating.

- b) It helps to calm a hyperactive mind and bring stability in hypertensive patients.
- c) Few known the fact, but diabetes can be a result of a psychological instability to accept all that is 'sweet' in life.
- d) Gastritis can be healed by giving directions to manage chronic and suppressed anger through BFR.
- e) These therapy helps patients to restore sleep by relaxing and blocking the unnecesary, unwanted thoughts and disconnect from the nature of thought process that produces disturbance towards falling asleep. [8]

CONCLUSION

BFR has a large impact in management of psychological problems affecting the whole human race, gradually, restoring the normal balanced economy. The additional and complementary effect of BFR that works beyond balancing emotional state, contributing in the treatment of long standing chronic cases, lifestyle disorders. By continuous research, the holistic approach of BFR were discovered to be favourable towards human beings. Along the healing power, with when accompanied with Homoeopathy, establish beneficial, through research conducted so far.

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