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Astrological influence of dimensional system in Kerala Vasthu

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Abstract

Mathematics is one of the most essential elements in the practical level of traditional architecture (*Vasthusasthra*). Traditional architecture is the essence of ancient technology. Many theories about the origin of the '*manapramana*' are mentioned in architectural texts. The mathematical figures in the *vasthusasthra* are very simple. It can be easily mastered if the basic concepts of mathematics in *vasthusasthra* with *jyothisha* concepts are understood systematically and studied well. Any astrologer or *vasthu* consultant should be aware of the astronomical standards of *vasthusasthra*.

Keywords: Measurement system (*manapramana*), *ayadishadvarga* and other canons

Introduction

Vasthu is any artefact used for dwelling (*vasanti praninan yatra*). It is classified in four: Land (*Bhumi*), Buildings (*harmaya*), Conveyances (*yana*) and furniture (*sayana*). *Vasthuvidhya* is mentioned in *Sthapatya Veda*, one of the *upaveda* of *Adharveda*. It is very effective and beneficial for the human being in the building construction, which are conducive for comfortable and peaceful living. The effectiveness, splendor and greatness of this science are quite evident in numerous ancient temples, monuments, palace, etc. scattered all over India.

Vasthuvidhya includes not only the prescriptions but the theoretical aspects conceptual basics of the building science and related knowledge measurement form is the basis of defining and describing the size and shapes of all artefacts covered in *Vasthuvidhya*.

Vasthuvidhya follows a scale of measurement based on the human body with the help of astrological computations. Measurement system is known as '*Purushapramana*'. The span (*vyama*) is the reference length. It is the distance between the tips of the middle fingers both are fully outstretched. Anthropometrically it is also equal to the height (*kaya*) of the person the system of measurement used to calculate the perimeter of *Vasthu*. The auspiciousness or otherwise of the perimeter is traditionally determined from astrological computations.

Measurement system (*Manapramana*)

Manapramana is the basic principle of mathematical calculations in *Vasthuvidhya*. *Manam* means measurement, and it is classified in to six types. *Manam*, *Pramanam*, *Unmanam*, *Parimanam*, *Upamanam* and *Lambamanam* are the six types. Measurement of the length is called *manam*, *pramanam* is the measurement of width, measurement of perimeter using length and width is called *unmanam*. Measurement of perimeter using width and thickness is called *parimanam*. Measurement using depth and height is called *upamanam*. *Lamba* (perpendicular) and inclined length measured is called *lambamanam*. Time (*kala*) is also used for the calculation of measurement.

Vyama is the large length. Octal system divisions are used to derive the smaller units. The smallest unit in this system is *Paramanu* (*like an atom*).

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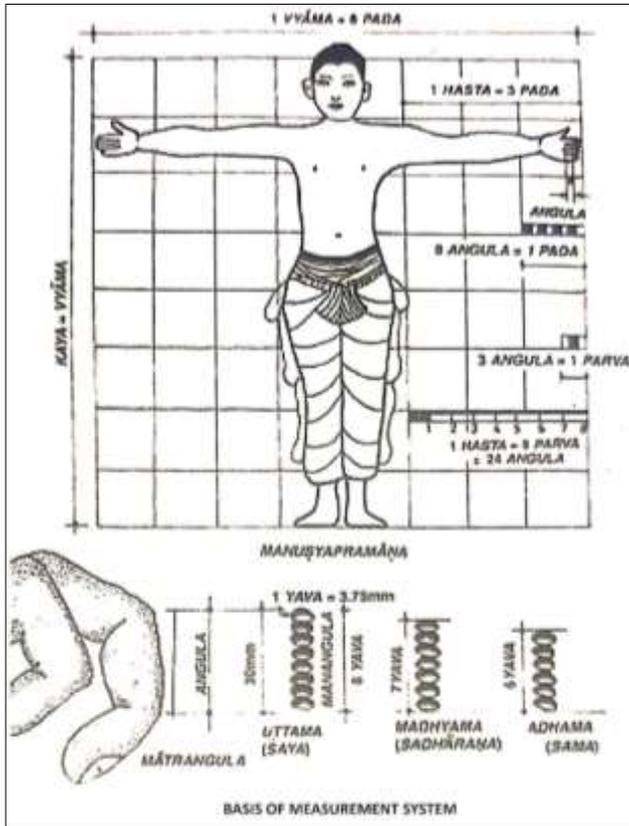


Fig 1: Basis of measurement system

8 Paramanu	=	1 Thraserenu
8 Thraserenu	=	1 Romagra (Tips of hair)
8 Romagra	=	1 Liksha
8 Liksha	=	1 Yuka
8 Yuka	=	1 Yava (Centre width of a paddy seed)
8 Yava	=	1 Angula
8 Angula	=	1 Pada
8 Pada	=	1 Vyama
12 Angula	=	1 Vithasthi (1/2 Hasta)
2 Vithasthi	=	1 Hasta (Kole)
3 Pada	=	1 Hasta (Kole)
24 Angula	=	1 Hasta (Kole)

Octal system is easier to obtain the smaller units by successive subdivisions. For example; measure vyama by a string, fold into half to get 1/2 vyama. Two further folding give 1/8th vyama, which is equal to 1 pada. The decimal system, the sub unit is 1/10th of the major unit. This cannot be as easily obtained at site without a scale or measuring tape as in an octal division. Hasta (Kole) is the length of the arm, measured from shoulder to the tip of middle finger it is equal to 3/8th of vyama or 3 pada. As 1 pada equal to 8 angula, 1 hasta equal to 24 angula.

A hasta is a scale derived from human body; it will be different in different ethnic groups. Hence difference in regions of India, scales of different lengths is found to exist. Tests give eight different scales of measuring length. The standard hasta is of 24 standard angula in length it is acceptable for all purpose. Other hastas have lengths of 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 standard angulas.

24 angula	-	Kishku
25 angula	-	Prajapathya
26 angula	-	Dhanurmushti
27 angula	-	Dhanurgraha
28 angula	-	Prachyam
29 angula	-	Vydeham

30 angula	-	Vypulyam
31 angula	-	Prakeernam

24 angula hasta is called kishku. It is also called karam, arathi, bhujam, doss, mushti, etc. commonly used hasta is kishku Prajapathya is used to measure airplanes. It is also used to measure temple in some places. Dhanurmushti is used to measure all houses. Dhanurgraha is used to measure gramam, puram, pathanam, agrahas, etc.

Angula is the length of the middle phalanx of the middle finger of the right hand. This length will vary in different persons. So it is defined as the middle width of grain (yava) angulas of 8, 7 and 6 yava width are referred to uthamangula, madhyamangula and adhamangula. Respectively of these uthamangula is accepted as the standard as it conforms to octal system. If its length taken as 30mm, the metric equivalent of traditional unit will be as follows.

1 tila	=	1/64 angula	=	0.47mm
1 yava	=	1/8 angula	=	3.75mm
1 angula	=	1 angula	=	30mm
1 parva	=	3 angula	=	90mm
1 pada	=	8 angula	=	240mm
1 vithasthi	=	12 angula	=	360mm
1 hasta	=	24 angula	=	720mm
1 vyama	=	64 angula	=	1920mm

Hasta and its subunit angula are used for measurement of building, rooms and building elements. For measuring smaller parts, angula and its sub unit yava is used. For measuring larger length, a scale of danda which is equal to 4 hasta is used. Danda is 1 rajju. Danda is also equal to the perimeter of a square 1 hasta side. It is commonly used for measurement of plots and settlements. But small plots as encounter in cities today can be conveniently measured in hasta and angula.

The Prime Dimension

The prime dimension of Vasthu can be its width, height, area or perimeter according to different texts of these, the perimeter has come to be accepted as the prime dimension, because it can be directly measured for all shapes of Vasthumandala and it incorporate other shape factor also depending on its form (akara). In traditional practice design tables are prepared to obtain suitable perimeters based on the two criteria of orientation (yoni) and astrological proportion defining their auspiciousness.

Orientation of the Plot

Method using the fixation of the orientation of the plot (Vasthu) from its prime dimensions with respect to a focal point (Brahmanabhi), a plot can take 8 positions four number of cardinal directions and four number of corner directions. These positions and directions are taken as the origin of the Vasthu (plot) in the cosmos and denoted by its Yoni. Yoni thus is in architectural formula denoting its position with respect to the focal point.

Position of Vasthu with respect to focal point	Yoni name & number
East	Dhwaja - 1
South East	Dhuma - 2
South	Simha - 3
South West	Kukkura - 4
West	Vrishabha - 5
North West	Khara - 6
North	Gaja - 7
North East	Vayasa - 8

Computation of Yoni of a plot (*Vasthu*) by dividing the prime dimensions (*usually perimeter*) by 8 corresponding to the 8 directions and the remainder left should be the Yoni. For example, if the remainder is 1, it is taken as Kizhakkini (*Poorva Vasthu*) located to the east of the Brahmanabhi and named as Dwajayoni (*facing west*). The prime dimensions referred in different texts in different ways. *Brihat samhita* says the area, *Vasthurajavallabha* prescribes the height, *Manasara* refers the width and *Tanthra Samuchaya* recommends the perimeter as the prime dimension of the plot (*Vasthu*). In Kerala, the prime dimension used is perimeter.

Ayadi Calculations and Astrological analysis

Auspicious and inauspicious matters involved in the perimeters determined in form of astrological calculations. On this basis perimeters are classified as most auspicious (*Uthama*), moderately auspicious (*Madhyama*) and less auspicious (*Adhama*). Among the less auspicious perimeters some are considered to be highly inauspicious (based on what is known as their age) and are not recommended for residences and such other functional buildings for human occupancy. Ayadi calculations are astrological computations against the perimeter and closely committed with Astrology.

1. Yoni

Adding the length and breadth of a house or temple and multiplied by two gets the perimeter of that house or temple. This perimeter multiplied by 3 (converting into Pada) and divisible by 8, the remainder will be the yoni number of quotient is 1- Dwajayoni, 2-Dhumayoni...etc. For example: one house have width 3 Hastha 14 Angula and length 11 Hastha and 6 Angula, adding this given 14 Hastha 20 Angula and multiplied by two gives 29 Hastha 16 Angula. This 29 Hastha 16 Angula is the prime perimeter of the house. This perimeter is multiplied by 3 and divided by 8, the remainder is 1. Thus the yoni of the perimeter of the house is Dwajayoni.

Dwajayoni have Sathwaguna. Adidevatha (prime God) of this yoni is Jupiter. Dwajayoni is used to all faced of houses, mostly in west faced houses (*Kizhakkini*).

Simhayoni have Thamoguna and Adidevatha is Mars (*Kuja*). This yoni is used to north faced houses (*Thekkini*). It is also used in east faced and south faced houses.

Vrishabhayoni gives Thamoguna. Adidevatha is Saturn. It is used for east faced house (*Padinjattini*).

Gajayoni gives Rajoguna. Mercury is the Adidevatha of Gajayoni. This yoni is used for south faced houses (*Vadakkini*). This also used for east faced houses.

2. Nakshathra (Star)

The perimeter is multiplied by 8 and divided it by 27. The remainder gives the nakshathra from Aswathy to Revathy (1 Aswathy, 2 Bharani... etc.). In these stars, benefit stars will be selected for good perimeter.

3. Gandantha Dosha

First pada of Aswathy, Makam, Moolam stars and last pada of Ayilyam, Thrikketta, Revathy have Gandantha Dosha. Avoid these stars for selecting good perimeter.

4. Ushna Dosha

3 Hours after the 3 hours of the stars Aswathy, Rohini, Punartham, Makam, Atham last 2 hours of Bharani, Makayiram, Pooyam, Pooram, Chithira, 8 hours 24 minutes after the 3 hours 36 minutes of Karthika, Thiruvathira,

Ayilyam, Uthram, Chothi, first 3 hours 12 minutes of Vishakam, Moolam, Thiruvonam, Pooruruttathi, last 3 hours 12 minutes of Anizham, Pooradam, Avittam, Uthrittathi and 8 hour after the 4 hours of Thrikketta, Uthradam, Chathayam, Revathy have Ushna Dosha. Dosha time of these should be avoided.

5. Visha Dosha

Last 4 hours of Aswathy, after 9 hours 36 minutes of Bharani, Pooradam, Uthrittathi, last 12 hours of Punartham, Makam, Revathy, last 8 hours of Rohini, after 5 hour 36 minutes of Makayiram, Chothi, Vishakam, Thrikketta, after 4 hours 24 minutes of Thiruvathira, after 8 hours of Pooyam, Pooram, Chithira, Moolam, Uthradam, after 12 hours 48 minutes of Ayilyam, 7 hours 12 minutes of Uthram, Chathayam, after 8 hours 48 minutes of Atham, 4 hours of Anizham, Thiruvonam, Avittam and after 6 hours 24 minutes of Pooruruttathi have 1 hour 36 minutes of Visha Dosha. These time period of stars should be avoided in perimeters.

Stars derived from prime perimeter should be 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9 from Janmanujanma stars of house owner. This will give good effects.

6. Age (Condition)

Age varies as age from childhood (*Balyam*), adolescence (*Kaumaram*), adulthood (*Yavvanam*), old age (*Vardhakayam*) and death (*Maranam*). In order to know the stars (constellation) of the perimeter, multiplied 8 and divided by 27, the quotient indicates age. If quotient is 1, the age of perimeter is childhood, if it is 2 the age is adolescence, if it is 3 the age is adulthood, if it is 4 the age is old age and if it is 5 it is death. The death perimeter can't be accepted for nothing. Accepting of death perimeter can lead to many forms of disasters. Childhood and old age are Madhyama (Average) perimeter; adolescence and adulthood are Uthama (good) perimeter.

7. Thithi

Multiplying the perimeter by 8 and dividing it by 30, the remainder is the number Thithi starting from Suklapaksha prathipatha. Thithis have some doshas (ill effects). Thithis starting from the Prathipatha names starting with Nandha, Bhadra, Jaya, Riktha and Poorna respectively. In these Riktha have two pakshas, chathurthy, navami, chathurdhasi are conceivable (*asubha*). In the Poorna, panchami, dashami, panchadashi are good (*Uthama*).

8. Karana

Each thithis have two Karanas, in the first half has one karana and other has another karana. Tiger, pig, donkey, cow and vishiti karanas are starting from the second half (Utharardham) of Suklapaksha Prathipatha to second half of Krishnapaksha chathurdhashi gradually follow through. Second half of Krishnapaksha chathurdhashi has pullu, first half of amavasi has cattle (Nalkkali), second half has snake and first half of Suklapaksha has worms.

Pullu, cattle, snake, worms and vishiti gives ill effects, thus these should be avoided.

9. Week (Varam)

Multiplying the perimeter by 8 and divided by 7, the remainder gives the week from Sunday, Monday... etc. In these, Sunday, Tuesday and Saturday are malefic and others are benefic.

10. Ayam (income)

The perimeter multiplied by 8 and divided by 12, the remainder is termed as number of income (*Ayam*).

11. Vyayam (expenditure)

Multiplying the perimeter by 8 and divided by 14 the remainder is taken as the number expenditure (*Vyaya*) always the income is greater than expenditure.

12. Pakshanthara Vyayam (Different opinion of expenditure)

Multiplying the perimeter by 8 and divide by 10 the remainder referred as Pakshanthara vyayam.

13. Pakshanthara Yoni (different opinion of Yoni)

In this calculation, the area is used. Area is divided by 8, the remainder is taken as Pakshanthara yoni.

14. Pakshanthara Varam (different opinion of week)

Divide the perimeter or thrice the perimeter by 7, the remainder gives the week.

15. Pakshanthara Ayam (Different opinion of Income)

Adding the one third of perimeter to the perimeter and multiplied by 2, divided by 8 and the remainder is taken as Pakshanthara Ayam.

16. Pakshanthara Age (Different opinion of Age)

The perimeter is multiplied by 27 and divided by 20, the result will be the age.

17. Pakshanthara Thithi (Different opinion of Thithi)

Divide the perimeter or 9 times perimeter by 30, the remainder is taken as Pakshanthara thithi.

18. Brahmandi Varnams (Brahmandi colours)

Multiplying the perimeter by 3 or 8 and divided by 4, the remainder gives the Brahmandi colours, if the remainder is 1 the colour is Brahmin. When it is 2, the colour is Kshathriya, if it is 3, the colour is Vaisya and if it is 4, the colour Shudra.

19. Rasis

Multiplying the perimeter by 4 or 8 and divide by 12, the remainder referred to Meshadi rasis (Rasis from Aries, Taurusetc.)

Conclusion

An effort has been made to present basic principles, design and application of dimensional system in Vasthuvidhya and its astrological influences. This analytic approach will be helpful to take up further studies of all aspects related to Vasthuvidhya.

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