Formulation and standardization of herbal nutritious bar and their sensory

# evaluation specially reference to menopause women.

Formulación y estandarización de barritas nutritivas a base de hierbas y su

## evaluación sensorial especialmente referidas a mujeres menopáusicas.

Dr. Dipali Saxena<sup>1\*</sup> Dr Shweta Keswani<sup>2</sup> and Aditi Gupta<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Foods and Nutrition, Shri Vaishnav Institute of Home Science Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

<sup>3</sup> Student, Department of Foods and Nutrition Shri Vaishnav Institute of Home Science Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Corresponding author's email: dipalisaxena@svvv.edu.in

#### ABSTRACT

Women in the menopausal transition commonly report a variety of symptoms such as hot flushes, night sweats, heart discomfort, sleeping problems, joint or muscular discomfort, imbalanced hormones etc. The objective of the current study is to formulate an herbal nutritious bar" specifically for women going through menopause utilizing a variety of components, including popped amaranth seeds, amaranth flour, shatavari and some spices. The ingredients were solely used to relieve menopausal symptoms while still giving women essential nourishment. The organoleptic qualities of the items on the 9-Point Hedonic Scale were assessed using the score card method. It was discovered that T8, T9, and T10 were the most successful therapies for all sensory aspects. acceptance of experimental T7 and T8 as minor components generally. It was found that functional meals made for women at risk of menopause with good nutrition not only assist them but also prevent menopause.

Keywords: menupause, hot flashes, amaranth, score card, nutrients etc.

#### RESUMEN

Las mujeres en la transición a la menopausia comúnmente reportan una variedad de síntomas como sofocos, sudores nocturnos, molestias cardíacas, problemas para dormir, molestias musculares o articulares, hormonas desequilibradas, etc. Las mujeres que pasan por la menopausia utilizan una variedad de componentes,

que incluyen semillas de amaranto reventadas, harina de amaranto, shatavari y algunas especias. Los ingredientes se usaron únicamente para aliviar los síntomas de la menopausia y al mismo tiempo brindar a las mujeres una nutrición esencial. Las cualidades organolépticas de los artículos en el 9-Point La escala hedónica se evaluó utilizando el método de tarjeta de puntuación Se descubrió que T8, T9 y T10 fueron las terapias más exitosas para todos los aspectos sensoriales Aceptación de T7 y T8 experimentales como componentes menores en general Se encontró que las comidas funcionales hechas para mujeres en riesgo de menopausia con una buena nutrición no solo las ayuda sino que también previene la menopausia.

Palabras clave: menupause, sofocos, amaranto, score card, nutrientes etc.

#### INTRODUCTION

A healthy woman's reproductive, or premenopausal, phase, which is characterized by normal ovulation and cyclic monthly flow, ends with the postmenopausal phase, which is characterized by amenorrhea. Since the cause of menopause is still largely unknown to mankind, it is an unspoken and unattended reality of existence. Menopause, which signifies the end of a woman's reproductive years, is one step in a continuum of life stages. Except in extremely rare circumstances when specialized fertility procedures are applied, a woman cannot become pregnant beyond menopause (World Health Organization, 2022). In most cases, menopause sets in between the ages of 45 and 55 as a normal byproduct of biological ageing. At least 60% of women experience mild symptoms, 20% experience severe symptoms, and 20% experience no symptoms, according to the research. (Tumbull S., 2010)

Hot flushes, night sweats, heart discomfort, sleeping issues, joint or muscular discomfort, imbalanced hormones, sore breasts, depressive mood, emotional changes, irritability, anxiety, headaches, weight gain, hair loss, physical or mental exhaustion, sexual problems, bladder problems, dryness of the vagina, vaginal symptoms, urinary incontinence, sexual dysfunction, labile mood, fatigue, and headache are among the symptoms that women in the menopausal transition frequently report (Dennerstein L. et al., 2009). However, only vasomotor symptoms, vaginal symptoms, and difficulty sleeping are consistently related with the menopausal transition in longitudinal studies, even controlling for age and other variables (Digumarti L., 2013).

Menopausal women's food consumption and food preferences are impacted by the menopausal changes. The prevention and control of changes in body composition can be greatly aided by proper nutrition. A nutrient is considered essential if it is necessary for human life but cannot be produced by the body and must be obtained from food and drink. Therefore, there is a need to create wholesome dietary products that would aid in lowering menopausal women's problems (Fouad S, 2018). According to the definition, a functional food is one that has been added new ingredients or more of existing ones to give it a claimed additional function (typically one that has to do

with promoting health or preventing disease). Functional foods have been shown to include numerous bioactive phytochemicals that have been proven to have positive health impacts.

In this study, a novel product that has been created uses herbs, millet, and spices to treat menopause symptoms while also giving women essential nutrients. The symptoms that are being highlighted are :

1. Hot Flushes: Hot flashes are abrupt, strong feelings of heat accompanied by sweating and a frenzied heartbeat that normally last two to thirty minutes (Casper RF and Yen SS. 1985). Apples, bananas, broccoli, soy products, berries, pears, cucumbers, fennel, licorice, shatavari, black cohosh, brahmi, and other foods fight disease.

2.Night Sweats: The frequent occurrence of profuse sweating while you sleep is known as night sweats. Sage herbs, fenugreek, black cumin, oats, berries, panax ginseng, fennel, shatavari, Brahmi, etc. are foods that fight (Aiello EJ., 2004).

3. Hormonal imbalance: An endocrine disorder that develops when the body produces too many or too few hormones (Ray S and Dasgupta A., 2012).

To create a novel product that functions as a food, especially for menopausal women experiencing symptoms including hot flashes, night sweats, insomnia, anxiety, and mood swings because of hormonal imbalances. For this reason, many substances that aid in reducing menopausal symptoms have been researched. The following ingredients were chosen for the recipe.

A. Shatavari: This remarkable plant is referred to as the "Queen of Herbs" in Ayurveda since it fosters attachment and affection. The primary ayurvedic rejuvenation remedy for women is shatavari, and for men, Withania (Japee J. & Pandya M A., 2006). It is regarded as a general tonic and a tonic for female reproduction. It has the power to boost energy and fertility. The roots of plants are thought to be effective in modern Ayurvedic practices as an antispasmodic, appetizer, stomach tonic, aphrodisiac, astringent, antidiarrheal, antidysentery, laxative, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, blood purifier, antitubercular, antiepileptic, as well as in night blindness, kidney issues, and throat complaints (Thompson B., 1973). The Shatvari is known to possess a wide range of phytochemical constituents.

Women who had osteoporosis risk factors who were menopausal, premenopausal, or postmenopausal were administered shatavari. Shatavari both promotes bone growth and inhibits bone loss. It works in both directions and balances bone remodelling, which can stop bone loss and aid in building up bone mass. Shatavari medication should continue in order to reduce the possibility of postmenopausal osteoporosis (Mitra S. K. et al., 2001 & Dwiwedi M and Kulkarni K.S.2003).

B. Amaranth Flour: The amaranth is becoming a superfood due to the high quality of its nutrients, which include squalene, tocopherols, phenolic compounds, flavonoids, phytates, omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, and vital amino acids. The full nutritional profile of amaranth seed, which is used to analyze the nutritional profile and create the product, is shown in Table 1.

S.No.	Nutrients	Amaranth (Pale brown)	Per 100g	Jaggery Per 100g
1.	Energy	1489±10 KJ		1480±9KJ
2.	Carbohydrate	61.46g		84.87±0.63g
3.	Protein	13.27g		1.85±0.19g
4.	Fat	5.56g		0.16±0.02g
5.	Minerals	3.05g		1.92±0.17g
7.	Dietary Fibre	7.47g		-
8.	Moisture	9.20g		11.20±0.49g
9.	Polyphenols	11.75±2.48mg		127±5.1mg
10.	Carotenoids	59.68±3.09µg		18.49±2.26g
11.	Organic Acids	209 ±49.7 mg		-
12.	Folic acid(B9)	24.65±3.21 μg		14.40±2.40g
13.	Iron	8.02±0.93 mg		4.63±1.23mg

## Table 1: Nutritional composition of amaranth and jaggery

Reference: Indian Food Composition Table 2017 by National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad

Jaggery's nutritional value is also highlighted, and it is specifically employed as a sweetener to raise the product's general acceptability.

C. Spices : Major symptoms like hot flashes, night sweats, hormonal imbalance, mood swings, anxiety, and lack of sleep are treated with a variety of unusual spices. The total nutritional value of spices is shown in table No. 2 and 3 below, which is used to research the nutritional profile and create the desired product.

S.No.	Nutrients	Fennel	Cardamom	Nutmeg	Sesame seed
		Per 100g	Per 100g	Per 100g	Per100g
1.	Energy	1274±19KJ	1067±16KJ	1940±11KJ	2174±9KJ
2.	Carbohydrate	22.62±1.05g	47.76±0.47g	27.64±0.70g	10.83±0.50g
3.	Protein	13.91±0.50g	8.10±0.41g	6.30±0.24g	21.70±0.44g
4.	Fat	16.64±0.15g	2.60±0.15g	36.52±0.04g	43.05±0.04g
5.	Minerals	5.90±0.09g	7.21±0.46g	1.99±0.11g	4.13±0.16g
7.	Dietary Fibre	30.35±0.71g	23.10±0.14g	11.99±0.18g	16.99±0.30g
8.	Moisture	10.59±0.51g	11.25±0.51g	15.55±0.55g	3.30±0.28g
9.	Polyphenols	165±4.4mg	117±1.7mg	645±3.9mg	23.00±1.29mg
10.	Carotenoids	553±32.5 μg	366±22.6 μg	80.91±9.87 μg	57.06±19.48 μg
11.	Organic Acids	817±117mg	1961±174mg	194±87.7mg	2004±123mg
12.	Calcium	878±78.0 mg	378±40.7mg	148±12.1mg	1283±149mg
13.	Iron	20.58±4.24mg	8.33±1.44mg	2.33±0.20mg	15.04±2.09mg

Table 2: Nutritional composition of other ingredients of bar

D. (Reference: Indian Food Composition Table 2017 by National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad)

Food Safety and Standards Regulation 2016 states that Schedule IV, which was published in the Food Act Schedule, recommends a certain quantity to be used in foods, health supplements, nutraceuticals, foods for special dietary needs, foods for medical purposes, and novel foods (table 4).

	S.No.	Ingredients	Function eeds Energy, Protein, Minerals, Fiber Energy, Protein, Minerals, Fiber Hot Flashes, Anxiety, Night Sweats, Sleeplessness, White discharge Sweetener, Minerals (Iron)					
	1.	Amaranth Popped Seeds						
	2.	Amaranth Flour						
	3.	Shatavari						
	4.	Jaggery						
	5. Honey 6. Ghee		Sweetener Lubricating & Greasing agent, Healthy fat					
	7.	Fennel	Hot Flashes Blood Circulation, Hormone Balancing Mood Enhancer, Anxiety					
	8.	Nutmeg						
	9.	9. Cardamom						
	10.	Sesame Seeds	Hormone Balancing, Antioxidants, Garnishing agent, Minerals (Calcium)					
	Table 4: Permitted range of usage table for functional food (Food Safety and Standard 2016).							
0.	Botanical	name and Part used	Common Name	Permitted range of usage for adults per day				
	Asparagu	s racemosus Wild (Tuberous root)	Shatavari, Sitawar, Satawari	3-6 g (as powder)				
	Elettaria d	ardamomum <i>(L.)</i> Maton (Seed)	Choti elaichi	250-500 mg (as powder)				
	Foeniculum vulgare Mill (Fruit)		Saunf 5-10 g (as powder)					
	Myristica malabarica Lam (Seed)		Jaiphala 0.5 -2 g					

#### Table 3: Ingredients of the formulated product and their functions

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

A study can be performed in a systematic manner with predefined objectives. Following objectives have been identified in the present conducted study.

1. To formulate the functional food.

2. To standardize the functional food.

3. To conduct a sensory evaluation of formulated functional food.

#### Material and Methodology

a) Preparation of ingredients: Amaranth grains, and other ingredients used in snack bar making were purchased from the local supermarket of Indore. Amaranth grains were hand washed to eliminate stones, grit, chaff, and other contaminants after being sun dried for one day. To make flour, the dried grains were then ground. The prepared sample was then manually sieved out of the flour, put in airtight containers, and kept at room temperature until it was utilized to make bars. The raw amaranth grains were used in popped form.

Shatavari, the herb, was sun-dried before being pulverised and squeezed into powder. Additionally, the employed spices are ground and filtered into powder. Every ingredient has unique properties that are used in the formulation of functional foods.

#### **b)** Formulation of product

Ten trails given table 5 with various ingredients were developed in the nutrition lab of the food and nutrition department at the Shri Vaishnav Institute of Home Science under the supervision of the faculty and lab assistants.

S.No.	Ingredients(g)	T1	T2	Т3	T4	T5	Т6	Τ7	Т8	Т9	T10
1.	Amaranth Seeds	35	35	35	35	20	20	20	20	20	20
2.	Amaranth Flour	-	-	-	-	12	15	12	12	12	12
3.	Jaggery	15	20	20	25	30	30	30	30	30	30
4.	Honey	10	15	15	15	10	10	10	10	10	10
5.	Ghee	15	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
6.	Shatavari	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
7.	Cardamon	6	3	4	2	3	2	3	3	3	3
8.	Nutmeg	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
9.	Fennel	10	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
10.	Sesame Seeds	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	2	2

#### Table 5: Formulation Table of the Executed Trials

### c) Procedure of formulation of bar

Weigh all the ingredients and place them in individual bowls.

 $\downarrow$ 

Take a bowl; add Honey and form of Shatavari, Fennel, Cardamom, and Nutmeg. Keep it aside for few minutes.	Powdered Mix it well.
$\checkmark$	
Parallely, take a pan, heat it up to high temperatures. check the temperature, add few seeds in pan, popped up then add all other seeds.)	(To if seeds
Add seeds to the pan. out all the popped seeds in the plate.	Take
$\checkmark$	
In the same pan add jaggery and few drops of water to melt it. off the flame. Add Ghee, Amaranth popped seeds and flour. well.	Switch Mix it

 $\checkmark$ 

Now, add Honey mixture to the pan.

 $\downarrow$ 

Mix the whole mixture properly.

 $\downarrow$ 

Take greased mold and add mixture to it. Take it out on plate from mold and give the shape of bar with help of hands and spoon.

 $\downarrow$ 

Garnish the bar with Sesame seeds.

 $\downarrow$ 

Pack the snack bar tightly in zipper-lock pouch.

### d) Sensory Evaluation

Sensory evaluation has been defined as the sensory attributes of colour, appearance, texture, flavour, taste and overall acceptability by using nine-point hedonic scale score and scientific discipline used to evoke, measure,

analyze and interpret those responses to products as perceived through the senses of sight, smell, touch and hearing (Sipos, L et al., 2021).

Acceptability trials were conducted by a semi-trained panel of the respondents from the Department of Food and Nutrition. Sensory evaluation of the samples was carried out using 9-point Hedonic scale. The degree to which a product was liked expressed as like extremely (9), like very much (8), like moderately (7), like slightly (6), neither like nor dislike (5), dislike slightly (4), dislike moderately (3), dislike very much (2), and dislike extremely (1).

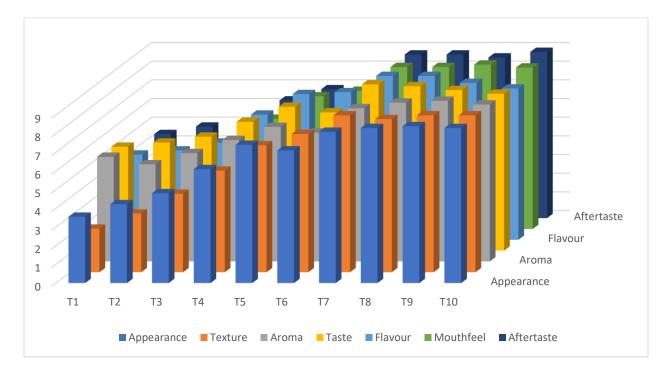
### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Fifty participants were subjected to sensory evaluation by a semi-trained food and nutrition department panel from the Shri Vaishnav Institute of Home Science. T1 in the provided figure 1 was unacceptable in terms of appearance and texture, but acceptable in terms of flavour, aroma, and taste. However, the bitter taste of fennel overpowered the flavours of cardamom and nutmeg. The texture was greasier because there was a lot of ghee used (Figure 1, Trail 1).



Figure 1: Photographs of all the trials performed.

T2's appearance and texture were unacceptable, but its flavor, scent, and taste were still good. The fennel and cardamom amounts were slightly altered. T3 and T4 were unsatisfactory in terms of texture and look, but it was a successful experiment in terms of flavour, aroma, and taste. However, the bar's binding was still not seen. As amaranth was utilized in the product in two different forms, popped seeds and flour, a minor binding capacity was seen in T5 (Figure 1, Trail 5). The number of popped seeds decreased, and flour addition was seen. The quantity of the remaining ingredients remained constant. Sesame seeds are shown being used as a garnish. In the given Fig. 2 the T7 was considered as the idea trial for all the sensory parameters as the proper appearance and texture was observed. The proper flavour, taste and aroma were observed.



#### Fig 2: Graphical representation of sensory evaluation from Trail 1 to trail 9

The panel generally found the product to be high in acceptability and acceptable. To determine the ideal bar shape, additional trials (T8, T9, and T10) are conducted. Despite variations in shape, size, and weight, the product's overall formulation remains the same. The correct snack bar was set in T9 based on the intended shape, and T10 was taken into consideration for the product's repeatability.

#### CONCLUSION

According to the results of the current study, menopausal and post-menopausal women have a variety of physical, mental, and vasomotor health issues that are caused by menopause hormone changes. Since there hasn't been a specific health programme for those women in remote areas, it is necessary to address the women's group

separately and provide nutrition instruction. They were ignorant of the advantages of eating nutrient-rich foods. Similar to this, it is important to promote and practice counselling during this stage, as well as the dissemination of knowledge on physical and psychological activities.

To improve the product's acceptability and friendliness to consumers of all ages and genders, research should be done further and the practice of adding other ingredients such as nuts, seeds, powdered fruits and vegetables, millet flours, other herbs and spices should be used.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We were grateful to our coordinator of Shri Vaishnav Institute of Home Science Prof. Uttam Sharma for all the facilities and opportunities that we have been provided. We would like to thank our friends and family for their motivation and encouragement.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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Received: 26th April 2023; Accepted: 11th Jule 2023; First distribution: 31th August 2023

Observations