

Impact Of Yoga as A Healthy Way for Improving Quality Of Life Of Human Beings in Modern Society

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Abstract

In today's society where stress, anxiety, and physical sickness are highly prevalent, yoga offers an all-around approach to the improvement of quality of life. It is through physical postures, breathing techniques, and meditation that bring balance to the body, mind and spirit. This review paper explores the positive impact of yoga on general well-being, highlighting its benefits in the physical, mental, and social spheres. It tells us about the place of yoga in contemporary medicine, its use in chronic disease management and the scope for improving mental health. It also tells about the increasing popularity of yoga across different demographics and how it impacts society on a social level in community building and interpersonal relationships.

Keywords: Yoga, Quality of Life, Modern Society, Mental Health, Healthy life

1. INTRODUCTION:

Yoga is a science of spirituality, meant for the integration and comprehensive growth and intensification of our physical, mental as well as our moral-spiritual dimensions. The philosophy underlying Yoga is very practical and relevant to daily life (R Lauche, 2017). The word 'yoga' originated from "the Sanskrit word 'yuj', meaning to yoke, join or unite". This represents uniting everything to an individual: the human being, the mind together with the soul into bringing an equilibrium into his living life. Through this yoga, unifies human being, as that with celestial.

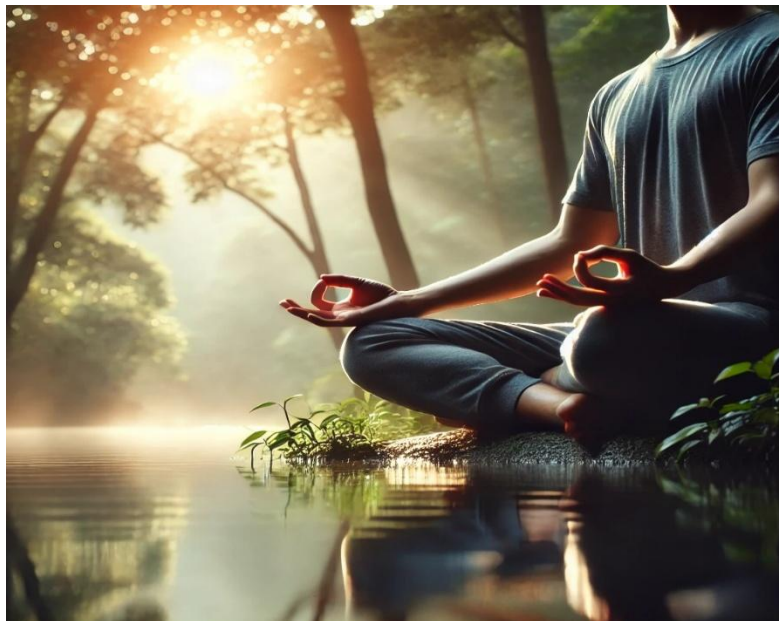


Figure 1: Serenity in Yoga: The Mind-Body-Spirit Connection

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The main aim of yoga is the transformation of humans from their normal form to an ideal form. The greatest remedy for these issues, which plague modern man, is yoga. Yoga is the only activity that can address all of these issues at once. Yoga brilliantly addresses all of these issues at once (CV Krishna, 2020). In contrast to other sports and workouts that solely focus on cardiovascular and muscular health, yoga promotes human development on all levels.

Yogi and the yoga are gaining worldwide acceptance. For the troubled and restless mind it has its boon. For the patient or the sick, it can be a god sent medicine. For the mass man, it is fashion, which keeps him healthy, fit, and graceful, and some people practice to gain memory, intellect and also creativity (AC Bilderbeck, 2013). It, owing to its many virtues is going to be part of study. The experts avail themselves of it in a search for further deeper states of consciousness on the move toward perfection. For that rational basis, it replaced nearly all the old and conventional systems of medicine on different parts of this world (Suchitra B Parkhad, 2015). It proved most useful for saving man from those hands, death, caused by contagious or infectious diseases. However, it is challenging the modern medical system to tackle these new psychosomatic maladies and psychiatric disorders that have come to prevail extensively. Here lies the role of yoga in contributing greatly to the modern medical system.

Over the past few decades, a great lot of research has shown how beneficial yoga is for treating various conditions as a long-term rehabilitation tool and as an efficient supplement to conventional treatment (Kumar, 2020). As the saying goes, "prevention is better than cure." Yoga may be essential in preventing illness. Yoga has become a component of every health club's curriculum, and many people go there just to practice yoga (SIDDAPPA, 2019). People who do not want to fall prey to contemporary illness are working to cultivate good health, and yoga is a significant part of this in the new century.

1.1. Increasing Quality of Life Through Yoga:

Yoga unites Jivatma with Paratma who identifies himself distinct from thoughts, feelings, self-confidence, and action. Yoga increases a sense of relaxation, confidence, self-image, and interpersonal relationship and enhances work productivity. Memory and thinking to set perfect goal for motivating an optimistic approach towards expenditure quality of life (S.Naragatti, 2018). Yoga also helps reduce symptoms of stress and anxiety, improves sleeping quality, boosts the immune systems, and improves memory as it increases blood flow along with the levels of haemoglobin and red blood cells within the body, which thus enables more oxygen to supply the body cells, making them function better. Additionally, yoga, breathing practices, and meditation can have an impact on reducing pain, promoting healing, and improving quality-of-life in cancer patients.

1.2. Integrating Yoga And Modern Medicine:

At first glance, it would seem that yoga and allopathic medicine are completely incompatible and even antagonistic. Both the system adherents frequently put themselves at on others' throats as part of the prevalent one-upmanship of the modern world. Nonetheless, as a student of these two vital sciences, I am making a modest effort to identify the similarities between them and create a bridge between these two world-class sciences. Naturally, since Ayurveda and Yoga share many ideas, such as Trigunas, Tridoshas, Chakras and Nadis, it would be much simpler to establish a bridge between the two practices (Malhotra, 2017). They are also aware that a healthy balance between the body, mind, and soul leads to overall wellness. Both of these systems emphasize the significance of conduct and diet, and they both contribute to achieve Moksha. We can see that there are many 'meeting points' for the building of a healthy bridge between yoga and modern medicine, even though they may not share all of these notions. Both yoga and modern medicine recognize the importance of overall health; in fact, the World Health Organization has recently expanded the concept of health to include spiritual health in its definition of the "state of health." Yoga plays a big role in spiritual health, and now that even the WHO is more conscious of this perspective, there is hope for the correct integration of these two systems. A state of optimal physical and mental health is the ultimate purpose and goal of modern medicine, which ultimately results in the best possible

wellbeing for the individual (S. P. Rayal, 2021). Although the goal of yoga is to achieve both mental and physical well-being, the means of doing so is unquestionably different. Modern medicine can still benefit humanity in many ways, including the treatment and management of acute illnesses, accidents, and infectious diseases. However, yoga has a lot of room to grow in terms of preventing, promoting, and rehabilitative efforts, as well as many other management modalities to deal with contemporary illnesses. The Yogi explores the depths within himself, while contemporary science looks outside for the source of all evils. Numerous solutions to the problems that modern man faces can be found through this two-way search.

2. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL BENEFITS OF YOGA:

2.1. In Mental Health:

Among the most common reasons for using alternative treatments, such as yoga, to seek treatment is depression, anxiety, stress and sleeplessness. Yoga teaches people to slow their breathing, relax and concentrate here and now. It brings the parasympathetic nervous system and the relaxation response into balance, replacing the sympathetic nervous system and the fight-or-flight response (H.Cramer R. J., 2013). Blood pressure, cortisol levels and blood flow to the intestines and other critical organs are all reduced by the latter, which is calming and restorative (Thomas, 2010). Achieving mental peace and fostering feelings of relaxation, well-being, self-worth, productivity, attentiveness, patience, and optimism are some of the primary goals of yoga.

Yoga has been shown to improve both healthy and sick people's quality of life. Review study shows that yoga is as effective as exercise, if not more so, in improving a number of mental and physical health indicators, such as stress, quality of life, emotional moods, heart rate variability, pulmonary function, and so forth (P. E. Jeter, 2015). A meta-analysis found that yoga might be a reasonably safe and helpful supplementary treatment for severe mental disorder due to the fact that many pharmacotherapies have adverse consequences like toxicity and weight gain. Yoga improved inmates' mental health, executive function and subjective well-being, according to a research. Yoga has been shown in numerous studies to enhance pregnant women's interpersonal interactions and quality of life (H.Cramer, 2017). Yoga has been found in studies over the past 15 years to enhance mental health and health-related quality of life in people who are stabilized by antipsychotics.

"The physical health benefits of yoga are very important, since it balances the body and energy. **Figure 2** graphically illustrates the sense of balance and life force that yoga can generate in the mind and the body."



Figure 2: Harmony in Motion: The Tranquil Benefits of Yoga for Mind and Body

Yoga's use as adjuvant therapy is recommended at Level 2, and promising research suggests it may be used as monotherapy for mild to moderate MDD. (A. Büssing, 2012) According to several studies, yogic therapy is better than no treatment for mild to moderate depression symptoms in people with major depressive disorder (MDD). b) Yogic therapy is comparable to tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) for treating severe major depressive disorder and c) Yogic therapy combined with concurrent antidepressants is more effective than a placebo alone for treating depression symptoms.

2.2. Physical Health:

An ideal body has the following features brought about by Yoga

- A proportionate body in which every muscle is relaxed in its typical state. Pliable to the core as soft as a flower.
- It may instantly reach the hardness of a diamond. The body's systems and organs all work together flawlessly and with few problems.
- In such a body, the acute and chronic ailments either go away or absent.

These physical manifestations of personality development allow the body to work as efficiently as possible by directing energies in the right direction. In order to conserve energy during rest periods, all of the muscles are relaxed and the joints are loose. Additionally, the metabolic rate is quite low. The body merely needs the quantity of energy consumed for regular activity. The organs' coordination is so flawless during stressful situations that the required energy is summoned and flows freely to the areas that need it the most. This gives the body all the strength it needs. Yogic techniques are an efficient way to develop this "stamina" by teaching the various organs and systems to function in such coordination and by harnessing inner vital energy. Wrestlers, athletes, acrobats, gymnasts and other experts in physical culture are very interested in and using yoga to its full potential in this field.

Table 1: Reference Table

Reference	Study-Article Title	Journal/Source	Year
H.Cramer, R. Lauche, J.Langhorst, & G.Dobos	Yoga for depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Depression and Anxiety	2013
A. Ross, & S. Thomas	The health benefits of yoga and exercise: A review of comparison studies	The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine	2010
P. E. Jeter, J. Slutsky, N. Singh, & S. B. S Khalsa.	Yoga as a therapeutic intervention: A bibliometric analysis of published research studies from 1967 to 2013	The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine	2015
H.Cramer, R. Lauche, P. Klose, S. Lange, J. Langhorst, & G. J. Dobos	Yoga for improving health related quality of life, mental health, and cancer related symptoms in women diagnosed with breast cancer.	Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	2017
A. Büssing, A. Michalsen, S. B. S. Khalsa, S. Telles, & K. J.Sherman	Effects of yoga on mental and physical health: A short summary of reviews	Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine	2012

3. SOCIAL IMPACTS AND HEALTHCARE APPLICATION OF YOGA:

3.1. Social Impact of Yoga:

In an age ruled by fast-paced lifestyles and digital connectivity, the social benefits of yoga have gained prominence and importance.

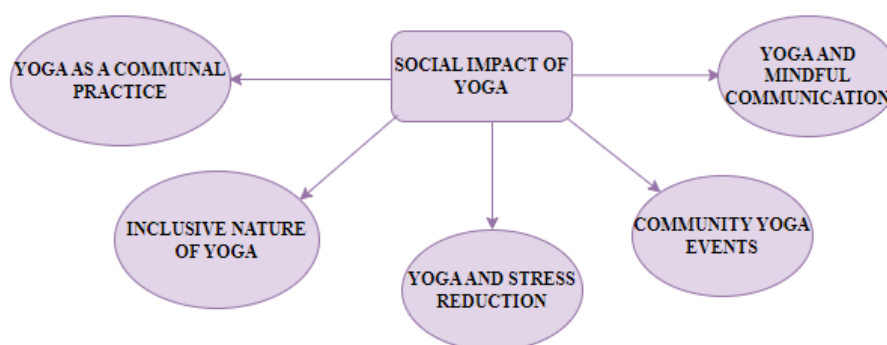


Figure 3: Social Impact of Yoga

Apart from its physical and psychological benefits, yoga has actually proven to be a key agent in creating bonds of belongingness, community building, and overall social well-being.

➤ **Yoga as a Communal Practice:** Traditionally a social activity, yoga had been practiced in a collective sense. The communal practicing yoga as a group creates a bond in itself. As one individual follows the rhythm of another person's breath and motion, a collective energy comes alive, creating a kind of social synergy that extends outside of the yoga studio into a larger community (B.R.Sharma, 2024). A great foundation for building more personal relationships and friendship between people begins

➤ **Inclusive Nature of Yoga:** One of the things that sets yoga apart is its inclusiveness. Some types of fitness activities may be reserved or intimidating, but this is not the case with yoga. It is inclusive and makes room for people of all ages, abilities and walks of life. Such diversity and openness in communities often break down barriers of class and social status and promotes social harmony (Naragatti S. , 2020). Yoga becomes a melting pot where the common pursuit of wellness and self-discovery unites everyone.

➤ **Yoga and Stress Reduction:** This typically left many in isolation and with strained social relationships. Yoga is perhaps a strong antidote, particularly given its focus on mindfulness and stress reduction. People are often able to find their sanctuary on their mats. It creates a ripple effect and affects their relationships. Low stress levels translate into patience, empathy and a greater ability to be present; therefore, this, in turn, makes people relate to their family, friends and colleagues much healthier.

➤ **Community Yoga Events:** Many communities host outdoor or public yoga events, bringing together many people in shared public spaces. Such events, of course, promote the participants' physical health, but they also provide ample scope for social interaction (M.Namazinia, 2023). From a yoga class in a park to a beach sunrise session or a community-wide yoga festival, these events do much to strengthen community bonds and promote a sense of communal well-being.

➤ **Yoga and Mindful Communication:** The application of mindfulness practice goes beyond the mat as well, to affect the way individuals relate with one another. Mindful communication emphasizes active listening, empathy and a non-judgmental understanding. When these qualities are cultivated by yoga, the practitioners carry them to the social field and consequently into the community.

3.2. Healthcare Applications of Yoga:

Yoga has gained wide acknowledgement with its significant contributions toward health care, offering holistic development for physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It supplements conventional treatments given through medicine and heals diverse concerns of health by providing its distinct combination of postures called 'Asanas', 'Pranayama' or breathing, and meditation techniques. As outlined below are the essential applications of yoga in healthcare:

➤ Chronic Disease Management:

Yoga is widely applied in the management of chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, asthma, and cardiovascular conditions. Through frequent practice, yoga manages symptoms, improves the function of the body and reduces reliance on drugs (Naragatti, 2020). It focuses on the breath control and movement of an individual, improving blood circulation, reducing inflammation and generally aiding in organ functions.

➤ Mental Health and Stress Reduction:

One of the most known benefits of yoga is that it's beneficial to mental health. Through the calming of the nervous system and the practice of mindfulness, it helps in the management of stress, anxiety and depression. Practice of deep breathing techniques and meditation lowers cortisol levels, the stress hormone and increases mood stability. Yoga has also been found to help with emotional regulation, hence promoting self-awareness and resilience to stress.

➤ Rehabilitation and Recovery:

Yoga has an important role in rehabilitation and recovery from surgeries, injuries and illnesses. It helps to restore flexibility, mobility and strength and helps to reduce pain and discomfort. Yoga helps to promote healing and enhances the natural body recovery mechanisms by working with gentle movements and controlled breathing. It is useful especially in post-surgical rehabilitation where patients can gain their functions and improve overall well-being.

➤ Pain Management:

Yoga is an effective pain management approach that is non-pharmacological, especially in chronic pain conditions. Certain asanas and breathing techniques in yoga help reduce the perception of pain, enhance circulation and relax tense muscles. It also helps improve posture and alignment, which reduces further risk of pain. This relaxation and mindfulness approach can be particularly helpful in the management of back pain, fibromyalgia and headaches.

➤ Preventive Healthcare:

Yoga is a very useful preventive measure. It increases overall health and prevents diseases that may arise from a myriad of sources. Cardiovascular health improves and it enhances the immune function with increased flexibility and strength (N. C. Ayala, 2024). Yoga teaches one how to live a balanced life, creating healthier habits, such as mindful eating, good sleeping patterns and physical activities. The overall improvement of physical and mental wellness brought about by yoga decreases chronic diseases and improves longevity.

➤ Sleep Disorders:

In dealing with sleep disorders, there exists effective intervention for people by applying yoga. Relaxation techniques calm the mind and help keep a calm body, which subsequently ensures better sleep quality. Stress and tension are further reduced by gentle postures combined with deep breathing and meditation, improving restful sleep and easier ability to fall asleep. Also, yoga helps in a well-balanced nervous system alongside the regulation of hormonal levels that contributes to better sleeping patterns.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF YOGA VS. TRADITIONAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:

Yoga and other methods of traditional health intervention that are usually medication, surgical intervention and physiotherapy differ in how approaches can improve health and welfare. Traditional health intervention strategies tend to focus mainly on treatment of specific symptoms and diseases, whereas yoga goes beyond that by offering all-round health through balancing and

harmonizing the body, mind and spirit. This comparative analysis of these two methods will cover specific features, benefits, and limitations of both techniques with regard to how yoga might complement traditional health interventions.

4.1. Yoga vs. Traditional Health Interventions: Key Differences:

The conventional health interventions are concerned with pharmaceuticals, surgery and physical therapies to administer and control or cure diseases. Most interventions have been disease-specific: They address the cause or manifestations of specific health conditions, but may be highly effective for treating acute illnesses, injuries and infections (Sharma C. S., 2020). Nonetheless, they usually have some side effects and dependency risks while focusing only on the physical aspects of health. In contrast, yoga is an age-old science that connects the mind and body through postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), and meditation. Yoga does not only enhance one's physical health by enhancing flexibility, strength, and balance but also helps the mental aspect of the body by reducing stress, anxiety and depression. This is a preventive and promotive approach to self-awareness, mindfulness and a balanced lifestyle.

4.2. Key Areas of Comparison:

To better understand how yoga compares to traditional health interventions, the following table highlights key aspects of both approaches:

Table 1: Comparison of Yoga and Traditional Health Interventions

Benefit Area	Yoga	Traditional Health Interventions
Treatment Approach	Holistic, mind-body-spirit focus	Disease-specific, symptom management
Prevention Focus	Strong emphasis on prevention	Treatment after illness or injury
Side Effects	Minimal, long-term well-being	Possible side effects (e.g. medication dependency)
Mental Health Impact	Reduces stress, anxiety, improves clarity	Treats mental health through meds or therapy
Physical Health Impact	Improves flexibility, strength, cardio	Treats physical ailments, enhances mobility
Rehabilitation Role	Supports rehab in chronic conditions	Focus on physical injury/surgery recovery
Chronic Disease Management	Effective for conditions like diabetes	Long-term meds or therapy for chronic diseases
Adaptability and Access	Accessible to all health levels	Requires specialized treatment and expertise

4.3. Discussion:

From the table, it's evident that both yoga and traditional health interventions play big roles in promoting health. The traditional interventions are indispensable regarding the treatment of acute diseases, injuries, or infections. They can give immediate relief and are critical in managing dangerous conditions. However, it often focuses on symptom control rather than the root cause of illness.

Yoga presents an overall approach that would aid disease prevention but ultimately bring lasting wellness through strengthening one's physical health, clarity in their mind and developing more emotional strength (L.Denham-Jones, 2022). Such activities would be particularly important to chronically ill individuals with psychological problems and can handle their stress with far fewer adverse effects. Through Yoga, the benefits from Western medication can be built on further, rehabilitation done through health care can become successful and lead to living lifestyles with more health aspects as in the case of all-inclusive wellness.

Whereas conventional health interventions may be required for acute or serious conditions, yoga is an approach to good health that can be sustainable and preventive. Integrating yoga with conventional treatments will enable individuals to take advantage of a more holistic, comprehensive approach to health care.

5. CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, this study underlines the enormous influence that yoga exerts on improving the quality of life for people in modern society through holistic practice, incorporating aspects of the physical, mental and spiritual realms. In dealing with contemporary challenges, such as stress, anxiety and physical complaints, yoga benefits individuals in many aspects-from physical fitness to emotional resistance, mental acuteness and social cohesiveness. Its preventive and therapeutic benefits complement modern medical practices in the management of chronic diseases and improvement of health conditions in general. It also fosters an atmosphere of inclusiveness and reduces stress while encouraging mindful communication, thus promoting a more harmonious society. The integration of yoga into daily life, school curricula, and the healthcare sector can greatly support the world's well-being as long as research continues to back up its benefits.

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