



Study of ethnomedicinal plants used by the Oraon tribe of Jashpur district (C.G.) India

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Abstract

Jashpur situated in the eastern side of the state Chhattisgarh, India. Jashpur is inhabited by a large number of tribes such as Oraon / Kurunkh, Nagesia, Kanwar, Birhor, Baiga, Paharia korwa and Munda, amongst which Oraon is the major tribe. Ethnobotanical survey was conducted among the Oraon tribe of Jashpur during 2014 to 2016. In the present study survey is being made to explore the use of medicinal plants for piles, bone fracture, diarrhoea, respiratory problems, polio, body swelling, backache, delivery problems, fever, paralysis, rangbaj (skin discolouration) for shock due to lightning, veterinary fracture, when children become unconscious due to fear or shock., oral diseases, blood purification, liver disorders and wounds by the aboriginals of the district.

Keywords: ethnobotanicals, jashpur, medicinal plants, Oraon tribe, traditional

Introduction

Ethno botany is the study of correlation between plants and people especially in the tribal and traditional scenario. The world health organization (WHO) has considers traditional medicine an important factor to achieve its health goals. 65% of the rural population in India, primarily use medicinal plants for treating various ailments. Indian systems of medicine derive many of their curative tools from plants (Ghouse *et al.*, 2017) ^[1], which are used as drugs. The Indian systems of medicine still continue to provide medical care to majority of the people on account of their cheaper cost with no side effects (Ghouse *et al.*, 2017) ^[1]. Herbal drugs obtained are safer in the treatment of various diseases (Ghouse *et al.*, 2017) ^[1]. The people of rural India are still dependent on traditional medicine, for their health care and treatment of diseases.

These have developed through experience and fragments of ayurvedic, unani and tribal systems of medicine were assimilated and transferred from generation to generation. These, thus may called folk medicine, earlier investigation were carried out on different ethnobotanical aspect such as vegetation based tribal life (De, 1980a) ^[2], general ethnobotanical practices and ethno medicines to treat human disorders (Jain and De, 1966; De, 1967 & 1979 and Sur *et al.* 1992a) ^[3-6].

Jashpur is the district headquarter, situated at in eastern part of Chhattisgarh and situated in between 20°2' at north latitude to 23°16' at north longitude and 83°28' at east longitude, covering an area of 5322.6sqkm. The altitude of Jashpur upperghat is 1000m above sea level. The range in temperature is from 10°C in winter to 32°C in summer and the total annual precipitation in between 1200-2396mm. The total annual rain fall ~ 95 days. The deciduous forests account for 889sqkm of total area.

Review of Literature

Ethno botany broadly means, all aspects of direct relationship of plants with man, according to Cotton (1996)⁷ it's the study

of all forms of vegetation used by aborigines. Man has been using flora and fauna since time of his emergence on this planet. He gained the knowledge of useful and harmful plants. This knowledge becomes an integral part of his culture. Studies in archaeology, paleobotany, and ethnography revealed the close relationship between plants and man. In India 2000-1000 BC mentions are there in Rig-Veda and Atharveda about the uses of plants. Since then man knows the importance of plants.

Ethno botanical work in relation to primitive tribe was done by several workers like Elvin (1943) ^[8] who provided valuable information with reference to Maria Gond of Bastar, Kamble and Pradhan (1980) ^[9] on Korkus tribe of Maharashtra, Rao and Niyogi (1980) ^[10] on Khasi and Garo tribe of Meghalaya, Shrivastava (1985) ^[11] on Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh, Das and Mishra (1987) ^[12] on Deomali tribe of Koraput, Orissa, Lal (1988) ^[13] on Baiga tribe, Goel and Mudgal (1988) ^[14], Singh (2003) ^[15] on Santhal parghanas tribe of Jharkhand, Jain (2002) ^[16] conducted the phytochemical study on plants used by tribals in Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh. Kritikar and Basu (1933-35) ^[17] had written medicinal plants (4-volumes). Ambastha (1986) ^[18] edited "The useful plants of India.

Methodology

Ethno botanical field work was conducted in several tribal rich villages of Jaspur district. Data on uses were recorded in the field from experienced people. Some very common plants like well known trees were not collected for voucher specimens. Only information provided by the tribal people for these species was recorded. The Ethnomedicinal information was obtained from knowledgeable person, experienced people, medicine men, and heads and local inhabitants of the village, who have knowledge of plants for health and livelihood security. The First hand information was recorded during the field visits to the study area. Field work was done as per planned schedule of field visit. Information collected through questionnaire and personal interview on the spot was the basic

source of the knowledge in the present study.

Ethnomedicinal studies were conducted in the two villages of district Jaspur in Chhattisgarh state. All the villages were regularly visited and data was recorded by using following methods.

Village men, Birth attendants, Traditional Bone setters, traditional Ophthalmologists etc. Information's were collected by asking questions in interview session in their own dialect. Data was also recorded during the field visits in groups. Help was also taken from the forest officers posted in the area. Interviews were also conducted with rural development professionals working in the study area.

Result

The tribals of Jaspur have developed vast knowledge of plants as observed by the author during their field survey from July 2014 to June 2016 of ethno botanical work which they have acquired through their traditional practices since time immemorial. Use of certain plants for some particular purposes (e.g. Joint pain, Kidney stone, Worms, Sexual disease, Malaria, weakness etc.) is restricted to some people only and normally they are quite reluctant to share their knowledge with any outsider. There is an urgent need of documentation of this irreplaceable knowledge. It may be lost when traditional cultures collapse with advent of modernization.

Table 1: shows data related to plants which are used in different diseases

S. N.	Name of disease	Botanical name of the plant	Vernacular name of the plant	Family	Habit	Plant part used
1	Joint Pain	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> , wild.	Satawar	Liliaceae	Climber	Tuber
		<i>Vitex negundo</i> , Linn.	Nirgundi	Verbenaceae	Herb	Root Leaves
		<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (Linn.)	Karanji	Leguminosae	Tree	Seed, Bark
		<i>Costus speciosus</i> , Retz.	Keo-kand	Costaceae	Herb	Rhizome
2	Kidney Stone	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> , Linn.	Pathribaji	Nyctaginaceae	Herb	Root
		<i>Mycrotyloma uniflorum</i>	Kulthi	Leguminosae	Climber	Whole pant, seed
3	Leucorrhoea	<i>Butea monosperma</i> , Lam.	Palas	Leguminaceae	Tree	Flower, Root Bark
		<i>Punica granatum</i> Linn	Anar	Lythraceae	Shrub	Flower.
		<i>Smilax macrophylla</i> , Roxb.	Ramdatoon	Liliaceae	Climber	Leaves, Stem
4	Malaria	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> , Burm.f	Bhui neem	Acanthaceae	Herb	Whole plant
		<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> , Willd.	Giloy	Menispermaceae	Shrub	Stem, Stem Bark
		<i>Azadiricta indica</i> A.juss	Leem	Meliaceae	Tree	Bark, Leaves
5	Male Impotency	<i>Alangium salviifolium</i> , (L:F)	Thelkajari	Alangiaceae	Herb	Whole plant
		<i>Peucedanum agpurense</i> , CB.Clarke.	Tejraj	Apiaceae	Herb	Whole plant
6	Sexual desease	<i>Peucedanum nagpurense</i> , CB.Clarke	Tejraj	Apiaceae	Herb	Leaves
		<i>Curculigo orchioides</i> , Gaertn.	Kalimusli	Hypoxidaceae	Herb	Root
		<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> , Baker.	Kavra kanda / Safed musli	Sterculiaceae	Herb	Root
7	Tooth ache and Pyorrhea	<i>Smilax macrophylla</i> , Roxb.	Ramdaton	Liliaceae	Climber	Stem, Leaves
		<i>Dioscorea daemona</i> , Roxb.	Koliyapad	Dioscoreaceae	Climber	Stem, Leaves
		<i>Spilanthes oleracea</i>	Akarkara	Asteraceae	Herb	Whole plant
8	Eye problems	<i>Aloe vera</i> , Linn	Ghritkumari	Liliaceae	Herb	Leaf pulp
9	Weakness	<i>Costus speciosus</i> , Retz.	Keo-kand	Costaceae	Herb	Root
		<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> , wild.	Satavari	Liliaceae	Climber	Root
10	Cuts & Worms	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> , Link	Kanghi	Malvaceae	Shrub	Root
		<i>Holarrhaena antidysenterica</i> , Well	Kurai	Apocynaceae	Tree	Seed, Bark, Leaves
		<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> , Baker non, D.C	Kevanch	Leguminosae	Climber	Seeds, Leaves

Conclusion

From this study, it could be concluded that district Jaspur possess a mixed vegetation. However, concentration of dominance was found to be shared by more than one species. Different parts of plants are used in curing different diseases. Such information should be spread among other societies living in urban area and villages.

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