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A study of medicinal plants used by the Banjara community inhibited in Neemuch District of Madhya Pradesh

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Abstract
The Neemuch city is surrounded by Aravali Hills. The region or area is inhabited by many Banjara People. The word Banjara is said to be derived from Sanskrit word Vanachara (Wanderers in the jungle). Present research tries to explore medicinal wisdom of Banjara community of Neemuch District. This community uses 73 plant species belonging to 39 families. They use 8 plant parts namely Leaves, Stem, Flower, Fruit, Bark, Gum, Resin, Root and whole plant for treating various diseases. The botanical names, family, local names, habit, distributions and the medicinal uses of the plants are presented in this paper.

Keywords: Medicinal plants, Neemuch, Banjara community

Introduction
The Neemuch district is spread over 24º15' and 25º02' North latitude 74º43' and 75º37' East longitude. This district is surrounded by Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan in the north-west and north-east while in the south and south-east; it is surrounded by the district of Mandsaur. The district comprises the area of 4256 sq. km and stands at 40th place in the state in terms of area. The district can be divided into two natural divisions. The area spread over Northern hilly towns of Jawad and Manasa tahsils and the lower side of Malwa Plateau is the Neemuch tahsil. In the north-west section of Jawad, Manasa and Neemuch, many variations are found on the Rampur-Manasa road. In the middle of Plateau series of hills are stretching from east to west area. The maximum altitude of the district is 565 meter at Gopalpur village and minimum altitude is 417 meter at Janawad village. In the northern area of Jawad tahsil, there are series of hills which are branches to Aravalli. On the surface of hills, generally open shrubs and mixed forests are found. The district can be divided into two natural divisions. The area spread over Northern hilly towns of Jawad and Manasa tahsils and the lower side of Malwa Plateau is the Neemuch tahsil. In the north-west section of Jawad, Manasa and Neemuch, many variations are found on the Rampur-Manasa road. In the middle of Plateau series of hills are stretching from east to west area. The maximum altitude of the district is 565 meter at Gopalpur village and minimum altitude is 417 meter at Janawad village. In the northern area of Jawad tahsil, there are series of hills which are branches to Aravalli. On the surface of hills, generally open shrubs and mixed forests are found.

Banjara community is spread all over in India. In different states of India, they are known by different names, like in Maharashtra known as Banjara or Gor, in Karnataka known as Lamani, in Andhra known as Lambada, in Panjab known as Bazighar, in Uttar Pradesh known as Nayak etc. The Lambani or Lamani is derived from the Sanskrit word Lavana (salt), which was the principal product they transported across the country. Another meaning of Banjara for today's scenario is the community of travelling pupils from one place to another, with a different set of culture, different clothing with a particular type of ornaments and rules and regulations.

Women of the Banjara community used to work in farms. They used to collect wood, Honey, wild vegetables and fruits, fodder, tubers, gums and resins etc. Nature is the source for them to provide various things which they needed. Health care problems were solved with the help of medicinal plants. The wisdom of knowledge about the plants carried from one generation to another generation with the help of the medicinal practitioners of different Banjaras who were called as Bhagat or Maharaj. They use to travel from one place to other as per the emergency. For gynaecological problems, the Banjara women are consulted by experienced Dai. Many medicinal plants and their uses were practised by many peoples of Neemuch. Poverty and fewer resources of economical freedom are an important factor to limit their health care system based on medicinal plants.

Banjara women used to express themselves through singing songs along with a beautiful and unique pattern of dance performed in groups. Their each and every moment of social life is connected with melodious songs and celebration. If we tried to understand the meaning of these songs with the help of dialect we come to know that their songs were based on nature, especially plants were close to them. Morphological characteristic of a particular plant, their habit and habitat, flowering qualities, seasonal timing of flowering, medicinal uses and importance in religious activities becomes the theme of folk songs.

Materials and Methods
The present study is the outcome of the one years of critical field survey in the different parts of Neemuch district various seasons. Medicinal information was gathered from Banjara peoples from Tamoti, Navalpura, Chikali, Shinpuriya, Banjarikhurd, Baisala, Dayali, Pipalda, Amarpura, Pilkhedi, Amargarh, Bhawanipura, Navali, Badi,

Pagara Bujurg, Amad, Kotri, Buj and Narwali villages. All the specimens were collected in duplicate forms and they were deposited in the Herbarium of Botany department of Government Madhav Science College, Ujjain (M.P.) Descriptions of species and identification were done with the help of published related literature and Flora of Madhya Pradesh, Verma *et al.*, (1993) [14].

Observation

During our study of plants used by Banjara people in the region of Neemuch District as medicinal plants we observed that the diseases like diaphoretic, stomachache, laxative and diuretic, diarrhea, dysentery, anaemia, asthma, bronchitis, cough, hypertension, insomnia, rheumatism, toothache, leucorrhoea, haemorrhage, piles, epilepsy, inflammation, sore throat, burns, itching, skin affections, tuberculosis, respiratory disorders, increase libido, Fever, spleen, malaria, gastritis, skin diseases, ringworm, typhoid fevers, cholera, kidney stones, gall bladder ailments, hepatitis, tumours, gonorrhea, cleaning gums, teeth, vaginal diseases, blood sugar, bleeding, toothaches, rhinitis, cold, headache, constipation, weakness, infection of the urinary tract, Scorpion sting, Joint pain, Wounds, Painful menstruation, inflammation, Chickenpox, syphilis, pneumonia, stomached ache, tonsillitis, wing worms, pain, tumour, Earache, diabetes, jaundice, febrifuge, abdominal pain, Passing urine painfully and in spurts, Hemorrhoids, Vomiting, Painful menstruation and urinary troubles dyspepsia, colic disorder, leprosy, scabies, priorities, Sciatica, parasitic worms, painkiller, astringent and sexual desire are treated by plant parts such as Leaves, Stem, Flower, Fruit, Bark, Gum, Resin, Root and whole plants (Table-1).

Table 1: Medicinal Plants Observation

Sr	Botanical Name	Local Name	Family	Habits	Part Used	Used
1.	*Abrus precatorius* Linn.	Gunj	Fabaceae	Climbing Herb	Leaves and Seed	Fevers, coughs and colds
2.	*Abutilon indicum* Linn.	Kanghi	Malvaceae	Shrub	Leaves, root and bark	Venereal diseases, Burning sensation, Wound
3.	*Acalypha indica* L.H.	Capperleaf	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Roots	Cough, Asthma, toothache
4.	*Achyranthus aspera* Linn	Apamarg	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Leaves, seeds and roots	Abdomen Pain
5.	*Ageratum conyzoides* L.	Bisadodi	Asteraceae	Herb	Leaves	Epilepsy and wounds
6.	*Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth.	Safed Siris	Fabaceae	Tree	Bark, Gum, Root and Flower	Asthma and cold
7.	*Amaranthus viridis* L.	Cholai	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Whole plants	Threatened abortion and Urinary stones
8.	*Annona squamosa* Linn	Sitafal	Annonaceae	Small Tree	Root, Leaves and Fruit	Cough & asthma
9.	*Anogeissus latifolia* (DC) Wallich ex.	Dhawada	Combretaceae	Tree	Bark	skin diseases and Snake biting
10.	*Asparagus reacemous* Willd	Satavar, Narbodh	Liliaceae	Climbing Herb	Tubers	Breast milk
11.	*Azagdirachta indica* linn (Nees)	Neem	Meliaceae	Tree	Leaves and Bark	Soar, fever and worms
12.	*Bacopa monieri* Linn	Brahmi	Scrophulariaceae	Herb	Whole plant	Tonic
13.	*Barleria prionitis* Planch	Piyabansi	Acanthaceae	Herb	Root and Leaves	Bleeding gums, Joint pains, backaches and paralysis
14.	*Bauhinia variegata* Linn. (purple)	Kachnar	Fabaceae	Tree	Bark and leaves	Swellings and sprains
15.	*Boerhoavia diffusa* (Linn)	Laal punarva	Nyctaginaceae	climbing Herb	Whole Plants	Anaemia, nervous weakness and stomach disorders
16.	*Bosewallia serrata* Roxb.	Salai	Burseraceae	Tree	Bark and gum	Toothache and Bleeding gum
17.	*Butea monosperma* (Lamk)	Palash	Fabaceae	Tree	Bark, gum, flower and seed	Diarrhoea and Dysentery
18.	*Calotropis procera* (Ait.) R.Br.	Aak	Apocynaceae	Herb	Leaves, root and latex	Scorpion sting and fever
19.	*Cassia fistula* Linn	Amaltaas	Fabaceae	Tree	Bark leaves and pod	Worms and Scabies
20.	*Celosia argentea* (Linn)	Kalangi	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Leaves and root	Blood purifier
21.	*Cleome viscosa* Linn.	Pila hur hur	Capparidaceae	Shrub	Leaves and seed	Earache and infections
22.	*Clitoria ternetea* Linn	Aprajita	Fabaceae	Climbing Herb	Roots and leaves	Fever, Cough disorder and Leprosy
23.	*Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn. (EN)	Kali Musali	Hypoxidaceae	Herb	Rhizome	Diarrhoea, Leucorrhoea and Fresh cuts
24.	*Dhatura metal* Linn	Kaladhatura	Solanaceae	Herb	Leaves and flower	cough and asthma
25.	*Diplocyclos palmatus* L.C	Shivlingi	Cucurbitaceae	Climbing Herb	Fruits	wounds and inflammation

	Jeffery					
26.	*Eclipta prostata* (Hassk)	Bhringraj	Asteraceae	Herb	Whole plant	skin infections and ringworm
27.	*Euphorbia hirta* L.	Dudhi	Euphorbiaceae	Herb	Leaves and latex	Leucoderma, wounds and boits
28.	*Euphorbia nerifolia* Linn	Sehund	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Latex	joint pains
29.	*Evolvulous alsinoides* (Linn.)	Shankhahuli	Convulvulaceae	Creeper	Whole plants	Asthma and stomach-ache
30.	*Ficus glomerata* Roxb.	Gular	Moraceae	Tree	Fruits	Diabetes, liver disorders, diarrhoea, inflammatory
31.	*Ficus hispida* L.	Katgular, Umar	Moraceae	Tree	Fruits	ulcers, psoriasis, dysentery, piles, diabetes and jaundice
32.	*Ficus religiosa* L.	Pipal	Moraceae	Tree	Bark, leaves and fruit	Gynaecological disorder
33.	*Gardenia latifolia* Ait.	Papda	Rubiaceae	Tree	Leaves	rheumatism, cuts, wounds, diarrhoea, and dysentery
34.	*Gardenia resinifera* Roth.	Decamali	Rubiaceae	Small Tree	Bark and flower	snakebite
35.	*Grewia hirsute*	Gudsakri	Tiliaceae	Tree	Whole plants	Unconsciousness and dysentery
36.	*Grewia tiliifolia*	Dhaman	Tiliaceae	Tree	Leaves	ulcerative colitis, and cough
37.	*Gymnema sylvestre* R.Br	Gudmar	Apocynaceae	climber	Whole plants	Sugar patient
38.	*Haldina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Hook.	Haldu	Rubiaceae	Tree	Leaves	anti-fertility
39	*Helicteres isora* L.	Marodfali	Sterculiaceae	Shrub	Leaves and fruits	stomach-ache and dysentery
40.	*Justicia adhatoda* L.	Adusa	Acanthaceae	Shrub	Leaves	coughs and Cold, bronchitis, asthma
41.	*Kydia calycina* Roxb.	Baranga	Malvaceae	Small Tree	Leaves	skin diseases and body pains
42.	*Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb.	Lediya	Lythraceae	Tree	Leaves	Stomach Pain
43.	*Lannea coromandelina* (Hautt.) Merr.	Moyan	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Leaves and Bark	swellings and body pains
44.	*Lawsonia inermis* (L.) Linn.	Mehndi	Lythraceae	Tree	Leaves	Dysentery, Liver disorders, Baldness and Skin diseases
45.	*Mallotus philippensis* (Lam.) Muell.	Rori	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Leaves	intestinal worms
46.	*Martynia annua* L.	Bagankha	Martyniaceae	Shrub	Whole plants	sore throat, burns, itching, and tuberculosis
47.	*Moringa oleifera* Lamk.	Munga	Moringaceae	Tree	Leaves	asthma, cough and respiratory disorders
48.	*Nyctanthes arbortristis* L.	Har shringar	Oleaceae	Shrub	Leaves	spleen, blood dysentery, cough and gastritis
49.	*Ocimum sanctum* (Linn)	Tulsi	Labiateae	Herb	Leaves and seeds	dry cough, gastric troubles
50.	*Ougeinia oojeinensis* (Roxb.)	Tinsa	Fabaceae	Tree	Leaves and seed	asthma, bronchitis, cholera, dysentery and fish poisoning
51.	*Phyllanthus niruri* L.	Bhui Aambla	Euphorbiaceae	Herb	Whole plants	kidney stones, hepatitis, flu, cold and tuberculosis
52.	*Pongamia pinneta* L.	Karanj	Fabaceae	Tree	Seed and Roots	tumors, piles, skin diseases, and ulcers
53.	*Prosopis juliflora*	Bawaliya	Fabaceae	Small tree	Fruit and Bark	piles, skin diseases
54.	*Ricinus cummunis* L.	Arandi	Euphobiaceae	Shrub	Leaves and Seeds	Headache and Constipation
55.	*Schleichera oleosa* (lour.) oken	Kosum	Sapindaceae	Tree	Leaves and bark	colds, bronchitis, skin disorders, heart ailments, general weakness, fever
56.	*Senegalia catechu* (L. f) Willd	Kher	Fabaceae	Tree	Bark	Scorpion sting, Joint pain and Wounds
57.	*Senna tora* Linn	Chakramard	Fabaceae	Herb	Roots, Leaves and seeds	Painful menstruation
58.	*Smilax zeylanica* L.	Ramdatun	Smilacaceae	Climber	Roots and Leaves	Dysentery and Chicken pox
59.	*Solanum nigrum* L.	Makoi	Solanaceae	Herb	Whole plants	syphilis, gonorrhoea and skin disease
60.	*Solanum Xanthocarpum* L.	Bhatkataiya	Solanaceae	Herb	Fruites and Roots	Sore throat, Cough and Toothache
61.	*Sparanthus indicus* L.Murr	Gorakhamundi	Asteraceae	Herb	Whole plants	Skin disease, Earache and Impotency
62.	*Sterculia urens* Roxb.	Kullu	Sterculiaceae	Tree	Bark and Gum	dysentery and diarrhoea
63.	*Syzygium cumini* Skeels	Jamun	Myrtaceae	Tree	Leaves and	diabetes

					Fruits	
64.	*Terminalia arjuna*	Arjun	Combretaceae	Tree	Barks	Abdominal pain
65.	*Terminalia bellirica* (Gaerth)	Baheda	Combretaceae	Tree	Fruits	Bleeding in fresh wound
66.	*Tinospora cordifolia*	Gilloy	Menispermace	Climber	Whole plants	Fever and Jaundice
67.	*Tribulus terrestris* L.	Gokharu	Zygophyllaceae	Herb	Fruits	Painful menstruation and urinary troubles
68.	*Tridex procumbens* L.	Phulni	Asteraceae	Herb	Whole plants	uncontrolled bleeding wound
69.	*Vachellia leucophloea* (Roxb.) Willd.	Rimjha	Fabaceae	Tree	Bark	bronchitis, cough and vomiting
70.	*Vachellia nilotica* L.	Babool	Fabaceae	Tree	Leaves	Blood dysentery
71.	*Ventilago calyculata*	Keoti bel	Rhamnaceae	Climbing Herb	Bark and Leaves	dyspepsia, colic disorder, leprosy and scabies
72.	*Vitex negundo* L.	Nirgundi	Verbenaceae	Herb	Whole plants	Sciatica and Rheumatism
73.	*Woodfordia fructicosa* Lkurz	Dhavae	Lythraceae	Tree	Flower	Diarrhoea and Watery, colourless stool
74.	*Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb.) R. Br.	Dudhi	Apocynaceae	Tree	Roots and Leaves	parasitic worms, painkiller, fever to stimulate sexual desire
75.	*Xanthium strumarium* L.	Chhota Gokharu	Asteraceae	Herb	Fruites and leaves	scabies and skin infections

Result and Discussion

The role of the ecosystem and their inspiration is to live and lead the life, the present study revealed that 8 plant parts namely leaves, stem, root, flower, fruit, bark, gum, resin and the whole plant of 73 species belonging to 39 families are widely used for various diseases by Banjara community of Neemuch District. Many medicinal plants of the present research shows the references of contents, which will become the base for formation of many valuable drugs against severe diseases. Many life-saving drugs will be derived from such phytochemicals present in medicinal plants covered above in the present survey.

World Health Organisation gave formal recognition to traditional medicine and there were several publications on its behalf. Bannerman (1980) and Bassher (1980) emphasized the role of WHO on promotion and development of researches on traditional medicine with mutual cooperation among the developing countries. A Colourfull Atlas of Medicinal Plants of World by Thompson (1978), eminent work on Health Plants of the World by Anonymous (1979) and Indian Indigenous System of Medicine By Kurup (1979) and Mukesh (1980) provide a sincere strength towards national health care program, Rai and Gupta (1980) brought a scientific synopsis of Charak Samhita and Sushruta Samhita, re-discovering the medical practice of the legend by figures of ancient Indian medicine. Farnsworth (1985), Director of WHO, recommends that all those plants used by the folk healers should be scientifically investigated for valuable chemicals. Akerela (1987), Programme Manager, Traditional Medicinal Division of WHO stressed the need of researches into herbal medicine. He also indicated that WHO has twenty-one collaborating research centres on herbal medicine in the world and India should play an important role. At the same time, Borins (1987) has greatly emphasised the importance of medicinal herbs of India.

Several valuable contributions on medicinal plants used by the natives of our country were made since last two decades. Noteworthy contributors among these are Asbasta (1986), Caius (1986), Chowdhary (1988), Mukherjee and Namhata (1990), Jain *et al.* (1991) [6], Prakarsh (1998), Shrestha Joshi (1993), Yoganarasmghan (1996), Alagesaboopathi *et al.* (1999), Haridarsan (2001) Sharma (2004) [10], Tiwari and Tandon (2004), Prajapathi (2004), Kulkarani and Ansari (2004), Tirkey (2004) and Bhardwaj and Gakha (2005). However, excellent work on medicinal plants of Madhya Pradesh includs those by Bhalla *et al.* (1982). Medicinal wisdom coming from generation to generation will be a base of sustainable health care system of developing India. The building of the health care system needs the empowerment of medicinal practitioner knowledge which must be authentic and scientific. So small initiative should be taken to join a medicinal practitioner as a respected profession in the mainstream, it will help the Banjara community to fight against health problems with the help of medicinal wisdom.

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