

Ethnobotanical Investigation of Some Medicinal Plants Availed by Gond Tribe of Naoradehi Wild Life Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh

Dinesh Kumar Tiwari and Ashok Yadav

INTRODUCTION

Ethnobotany deals with the relationship between primitive human society and their plant environment, more simply it is anthropological approach to botany. Importance is chiefly realized with respect to varied economic uses of plants by the primitive human society.

As indigenous cultures are closely maintained by the tribal and other forest dwellers throughout the world, the ethnobotanical investigation is a prerequisite for any developmental planning concerned with the welfare of tribal and their environment. Considering the fact that traditional knowledge forms the basis for development of new product and cultural diversity is more endangered than biodiversity. It is an urgent necessity to record as quickly as possible all information about plants and animal and the role of tribe's in conserving them (Rao, 1996).

The present study report the uses of medicinal plants by the Gond tribe of Naoradehi Wild Life Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Present study has been undertaken among the Gond tribe residing at Naoradehi Wild Life Sanctuary, which was created in 1975. It covers 1, 97, 042 km's forest area of Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh. This sanctuary comprises 69 villages, which lies between 79°5' and 79°25' east longitude and 23°5' and 23°45' north latitude. Its management represents a challenge for conservation. This area not only takes care the bio-diversity conservation of this area but also preserves the cultural diversity of the region. Relevant information on ethnomedicine have been collected from the medicinenemen and elderly persons of Gond community, residing in these villages. For this purpose 50 percent villages (34) were randomly selected out of 69 villages of the sanctuary.

RESULTS

Altogether 10 species of ethnomedicine were recorded from the present study. The method of treatment for the major causes among the Gond population are given in Table 1, which are described in the preceding section's.

1. *Fever*: The Leaves and roots of the plant Kalmegh (*Andrographis paniculata*) is used to cure fever. They also use the same as blood purifier.
2. *Chest Pain*: In case of this symptom the Leaves and roots of Kachnar (*Bauhinia variegata*) are used. They extract juice form the said plant and use orally.
3. *Bone Fracture*: The stem of Harjor/Haddijor (*Vitis quadrangularis*) is used to cure bone fracture.
4. *Headache*: In case of headache the seeds of Hurhur (*Cleome gynandra*) is used. Paste of the seeds is applied externally to cure this disorder.
5. *Vomiting*: In this case the bark of the plant Garbijaur (*Litsea chinensis*) is used. Powder prepared form the bark orally taken twice in a day. Each dosage contains 10 gm's approximately.
6. *Abortion*: In case of induced abortion they grind rhizome/tuber of the plant kalihari (*Gloriosa superba*) mixed with ghee and used orally.
7. *Snake Bite*: In this case leaves of the plant Ishwarmul/Kirmar (*Aristolochia indica*) is used. The paste of the leaves applied externally. They also use roots for this purpose and eat the leaves of this plant.
8. *Ear Pain*: In case of ear pain the decoction of Banda/Rasana (*Vanda tessellate*) leaves is used three or four times a day for relief.
9. *Eye Pain*: In this case the juice of Drond pushi (*Leucas aspera*) is put into the eyes two or three times in a day to relieve burning sensation and redness of eyes.

Table 1: List of medicinal plants used by the Gond

S. No.	Name of the plant	Local name medicinal plant	Disorder	Part of the plant used	Mode of use
1.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Kalmegh	Fever	Leaves/Root	Decoction is used for fever and as a blood purifier.
2.	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Kachnar	Chest pain	Leaves/Root	Juice used orally
3.	<i>Vitis quadrangularis</i>	Harjor/Haddijor	Bone Fracture	Stem	Given internally and applied for fracture of bone
4.	<i>Cleome gynandra</i>	Hurhur	Headache	Seeds	Paste is used externally for 3-7 days
5.	<i>Litsea chinensis</i>	Garbijaur	Vomiting	Bark	Powder used 2 dosage (aprox. 10 gm's.) in a day
6.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Kalihari	Abortion	Rhizome	Grind with ghee and used orally
7.	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	Ishwarmul/Kirmar	Antipoison (Snake bite)	Roots	Paste used orally
8.	<i>Vanda tessellate</i>	Banda/Rasana	Ear pain	Leaves	Decoction is used orally
9.	<i>Leucas aspera</i>	Drond Pushpi	Eye pain	Leaves	The juice put into eyes for two or three times daily to relieve burning sensation and redness of eyes
10.	<i>Urgenia indica</i>	Jangali Piyaz	Ulcer	Bulb	Mixture of bulb paste with oil of Mahua (<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>) is used on affected part of the body.

10. *Ulcer*: To cure ulcer the bulb paste of Jangali piyaz (*Urgenia indica*) with the oil of mahua (*Madhuca longifolia*) is used.

DISCUSSION

The diagnosis of diseases by the Gond tribe of Naoradehi is interesting because they live in interior, inaccessible area and lack the use of modern scientific equipment's for treatment. They do not express the exact causes behind the disorders however, using their eyes, ear, nose and hand they can check a base and tell the treatment of diseases. They believe that all ailments as caused by supernatural forces and the Patel (headmen) is the only hope for curing all ailments. It is observed among Gond tribal community that one man is not knowledgeable about the treatment of all diseases. However, they treat diseases by medicinal plants.

Thus this is proper time to identify these valuable medicinal plants carefully, with the help of local people. The important thing is that efforts

should be made to conserve and develop these plants. So that the Gond people of the area will be benefited. Ethnobotanical studies should be profitably utilized for the interaction between organized traditional medicine and folk medicine, and such plants may be utilized in different types of diseases also.

KEY WORDS Tribe. Medicinal Plants. Diseases. Health.

ABSTRACT The Gond tribe of Naoradehi Wild Life Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh were studied in term of use of medicinal plants. Altogether 10 species of medicinal plants were recorded among them, which are used for fever, chest pain, bone fracture, headache, vomiting, abortion, snake bite, ear pain, eye pain and ulcer, respectively. It is emphasized that all efforts should be made to conserve these medicinal plants in a proper way for the health benefit of this community.

REFERENCES

- Chaubé, R.: Unpublished Report on "Identification and Enhancement of India's Cultural Heritage: An Internal Necessity in the Management," UNESCO (2000).
 Rao, R. Raghavendra: Traditional knowledge and sustainable development: Key role of ethno-biologist *J. Ethnobotany*, **8**: 14-24 (1996).

Authors' Addresses: **Dinesh Kumar Tiwari**, Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India
Ashok Yadav, Research Scholar, Department of Botany, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India