

Traditional use of Medicinal plants Practiced by the Oraon Tribe of Jashpur District, CG, India

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Abstract

Jashpur is the eastern most district 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 2011 to 2015. 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 plants¹, 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 effects¹. Herbal drugs obtained are safer in the treatment of various diseases¹. 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 life², general ethnobotanical practices and ethno medicines to treat human disorders^{3, 4, 5, 6}.

Jashpur is the district headquarter, situated at in eastern part of Chhattisgarh and situated in between 20^o2' at north latitude to 23^o16' at north longitude and 83^o28' 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^oC in winter to 32^oC 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.

The present paper provides ethno medicinal information on some important plant species used by the Oraon tribe of Jashpur district to cure above mentioned various diseases.

Materials and Methods

Observations are based on surveys conducted in Oraon tribe dominated areas of Jashpur district during 2011-2015. Group interviews were organized bringing plants from selected locality and showing or talking local medicine men in to the forest, as suggested by Jain⁷. Information regarding plant i.e. local name, parts used, method of drug preparation, doses etc was gathered from the tribals as well as medicine men 'Baidyas'. The plant specimens collected have been identified taxonomically taking references from authentic published literature and regional flora. Herbarium specimens prepared following the standard method.



Figure1
Study Site

Results

The plants used for various diseases are enumerated alphabetically with their botanical name, family, vernacular name and medicinal uses.

Plant used: Banda (*Dendrophthoe falcata*, Family-Lorentaceae): Epiphytic bushy herb and common parasite. It's flowers are medicinal. It's properties depend on the host tree.

Asan banda (found on *Terminalia alata*) is used for the following purposes:

Unspecified parts infusion is taken orally as well as plant paste applied on polio and paralysis. Unspecified plant paste applied on 'rangbaj' (skin discolouration) and for shock due to lightning and on veterinary fracture.

Paste of those Banda growing on *Semecarpus anacardium* used for application when children become unconscious due to fear or shock.

Five ml leaf juice of those bandas growing on *Mangifera indica*, *syzygium cumini*, *Zizyphus zuzuba* or *Acasia arabica* is given to cure diarrhoea.

Viscum articulatum (Kendu banda)- Plant paste applied for 'chhinta or bhula' and leaf paste applied for bone fracture, bruises. Plant paste used for curing fever.

Gathiwan or Granthiperni (*Leonotis nepetifolia*, Family-Lamiaceae): Leave of Gathiwan, Guava and Syzygium is

boiled in water and gargle with this solution for curing stomatitis, dentalgia and oropharyngeal diseases. Ash of inflorescence mixed with mustard oil and applied on breast for postnatal breast pain. Flowers or seed powder seasoned in karanj oil is useful for skin diseases, sores and wounds. Root paste applied on swollen breast. Stem paste is applied on swelling on body. Ash of whole plant mixed with mustard oil and applied on paralysed body. Plant decoction is used as blood purifire and useful for hepatic diseases.

Gokulkanta (*Hygrophila auriculata*, Family-Acanthaceae): Plant is burnt in a mud pot under the bed of patient suffering from swelling and oedema. Leaf paste applied on body for curing body pain and jaundice. 5-10 ml leaf juice and vegetable of leaf is given in gout. Paste of whole plant is applied on body to cure rheumatoide arthritis.

Salperni (*Phyllodium pulchellum*, Family-Fabaceae): Root paste of salperni mixed with water in which rice has been washed and paste is applied on umbilicus, genitals and stomach for easy smooth delivery. Plant decoction is given to drink to patient to reduced labour pain. 10-30 ml decoction of equal amount of salperni and chirayita is used for curing fever.

Sunsunia bhaji (*Marsilea minuta*, Family-Marsileaceae): 1-2gm of seed pasted with butter milk and dissolve in butter milk and drunk to check renal and urinary bladder diseases. 1-2gm of seed and equal amount of sugar candy is used in anuria. Leaves cooked, in less salt, water and oil and eaten with chapaties of barley, sawan or kodo is useful in stiffness of thighs. A paste of one handful leaf and half handful fermented rice of haria (country liquor) is applied on piles.



Dendrophthoe falcata



Leonotis nepetifolia



Hygrophila auriculata



Phyllodium pulchellum



Marsilea minuta

Figure2
Medicinal plants

Conclusion

The use of plants for the management and treatment of diseases has been in practice since ages. Because of their few toxic effects, easy availability and low cost plant derived medicines are more sought after than the synthetic alternatives. The most common preparations are infusions and decoctions. The delicate parts of plants like leaves, flowers and stem buds are used for infusion preparation. This method is better since it provides extraction of many active principles without altering their chemical structure thus all their properties are preserved. The hard parts of plant like roots, rhizome, seed and stem barks were used to prepare decoctions and herbal teas were made from them. Due to the rate at which the natural resources are being exploited and the indiscriminate use medicinal plants are depleting at a faster rate. Hence an initiative has to be taken to conserve and cultivate these resources of medicinal plants. Conservation of medicinal plants is the essence in protecting the traditional knowledge.

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