

CONTRIBUTION OF ORAON TRIBE OF JASHPUR DISTRICT IN THE TRADITIONAL PREPARATION OF MEDICINES

PRITI TIWARI ^{a1}, EKKA MARY KUSUM^b AND HARISHANKAR PRASAD ^c

^a Prof. and Head Deptt. of Botany, Govt. J. Yoganandam P.G. College Raipur (C.G.)

^b Department of Science Govt. Nagarjuna (P.G.) College of Science, Raipur, Pt. R.S. University, Raipur (C.G.)

ABSTRACT

Chhattisgarh, the herbal state has 59772 sq. km. area of forest, comprising rich and unique biological diversity of total geographical area of large variety of plants which account about 44% of total geographical area of the state. The Jashpur area of Chhattisgarh has abundant forest area. In Jashpur the tribal's are 65.37% of the total population. Oraon is one of the major populations amongst all the tribal's found in Jashpur. The total forest area of Jashpur is 2752.28 sq. km. which constitutes 51.54% of the total area of the district. The Oraon tribe has rich knowledge of medicinal plants for their inherited and old tradition and systems of treatment of diseases and ailments. The tribal's always survive on locally available medicinal plants to treat their diseases and ailments. In the present study an ethno-botanical survey was carried out amongst the Oraon tribe in Jashpur area. The drug preparation and its procedure of administration were also documented. Some ethno botanically important plants of this area are:- Palas/Farasa (*Butea monosperma*), Bariyari (*Sida acuta*), Chakoda (*Cassia tora*), Aloe (*Aloe vera*), Giloy (*Tinospora cordifolia*), Vajradanti (*Tephrosia purpurea*). These plants were frequently used by Oraon for the treatment of boils and backache .

Keywords: Backache, Boils, Medicines, Oraon tribe, Traditional preparation.

Ethnobotany deals with the direct relationship of plants with man. In the last few decades, ethnobotany has become an important thrust area of research for documentation and preservation of historical traditional knowledge at tribal level. Tribal communities live in remote and inaccessible parts of the country. Tribes are distinct ethnic groups usually confined to definite geographical area with a common dialect, are culturally homogenous and adopt a unifying social organization. Forests and plants play an important and vital role in their life style.

Ethnic groups of various regions of the world are the real custodians of nature's wealth and experts in herbal medicine. The traditional indigenous knowledge transferred orally for centuries is fast disappearing because of the technological development and changing culture of ethnic groups (Ganesan, *et al*, 2004). In spite of all these disturbances the indigenous phytocure methods are restored among the tribes, as it is part of their culture. Moreover the people in ethnic tribes are averse to change the mode of their life and traditions, but this traditional knowledge is slowly diminishing, so it is to be procured and preserved in various form for future generation

(Burmol and Naidu, 2007). The indigenous groups possess their own distinct culture, religious rites, food habit and rich knowledge of traditional medicine (Harsha *et al*, 2001, 2003).

Today in urban areas human beings are removed from the benefits of plants, whereas in tribal areas people still live with much dependence on plants. Jashpur is one such area in Chhattisgarh, where tribal people live with nature in total harmony. They know the importance of plants and forests for their survival, hence practicing sustainable use of plant resource.

One important current concern of ethno botanical research is the potential use of the plants as medicine, a knowledge that is often exclusive to the specific communities and linked to the local flora. Ethno botanical studies are now in progress worldwide. Many projects are aimed at the documentation of traditional knowledge about plants. In the present study ethno botany in relation to health security were investigated in the villages of Jashpur.

METHOD

Survey

Personal visits:- Personal visit made in the villages of Jashpur of Chhattisgarh state.

Personal interviews:- Personal interviews conducted with the knowledgeable persons viz.

Village men, baidyas, gunias, folk healers, traditional health practitioners.

Documentation of local health tradition made for different ailments .

Identification and use of medicinal plants were documented.

Boils: There were 5 plants found to be used against boils, they were following-

Chakoda (*Cassia tora*): Take leaves of chakoda and make paste then apply over boils.

Bariyari (*Sida acuta*): Take leaves of Bariyari and make paste then apply over boils till it burst.

Palas/Farasa (*Butea monosperma*): Grind seeds of palas and cook with oil of karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*) then apply over boils.

Backache: There were 3 plants found to be used against backache, they were following-

Aloe (*Aloe vera*): **For adults-** Take 1 teaspoon paste of aloe with jaggry in empty stomach twice a day, for 15 days, or till recovery.

For children- Take ½ teaspoon paste of aloe with jaggry in empty stomach twice a day, for 15 days, or till recovery.

Vajradanti (*Tephrosia purpurea*): Take 3 pices of stem of bajradanti (each of 3-3 inches) and make paste for 1 dose. **For adults-** Take ½ part of paste and dissolve in 1 cup of water and take in empty stomach twice a day, for 5-7 days or till recovery.

For children- Take ¼ part of paste and dissolve in 1cup of water and take in empty stomach twice a day, for 5-7 days or till recovery.

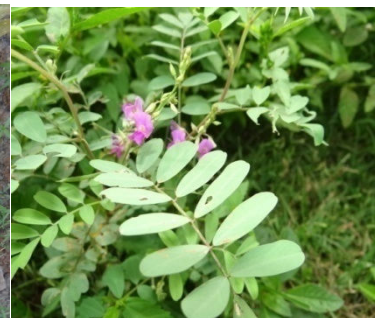
Giloy (*Tinospora cordifolia*): Take small pieces of stem of giloy and make paste. Take cotton cloth wet in juice of giloy and dry it. Then wrap over the back portion till morning to evening.



Sida acuta



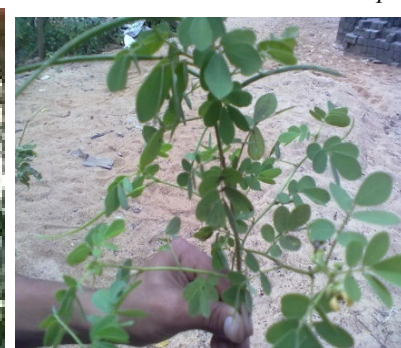
Aloe vera



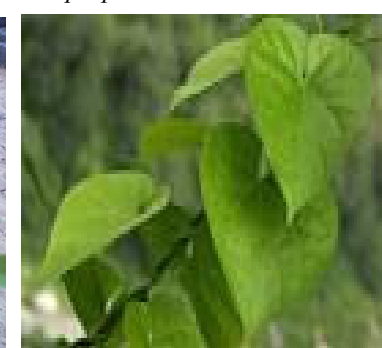
Tephrosia purpurea



Butea monosperma



Cassia tora



Tinospora cordifolia

Fig. Medicinal plants are used in boils and backache

CONCLUSION

The socio economic data of the proposed study will be useful for the Government and non-Government bodies for the improvement of the condition of the tribals in Jashpur. The raw material for the drug will be easily available and affordable to the tribals with the added benefit of higher efficacy and no after effects. The traditional herbal treatment knowledge requires to be popularized amongst the rural people.

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