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Ethnomedicinal uses of plants by traditional healers in Ajaygarh, district Panna (MP) India

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants are important in traditional healthcare practices, providing clues to new areas of research for human welfare. This study was an effort to document the indigenous knowledge of traditional healers about traditional uses of medicinal plants for curing different human diseases. Janpad panchayat Ajaygarh, a tehsil of district Panna of Madhya Pradesh state is rich in diversity of medicinal plants. Data of traditional uses of medicinal plants have been collected from December 2021 to November 2022 by survey and interviews method with local villagers and Vaidya. Structured questionnaires, interviews and participatory observation were used to collect data of ethnomedicinal uses of plants in study area. 20 sampling villages of Janpad panchayat Ajaygarh were selected for study purpose and 60 informants including 40 men and 20 women, 3 from each sampling stations were selected and interviewed during the one year journey of data collection.55 medicinal plant species belonging to 53 genera of 33 families were identified. It shows that there is high potential available in the form of diversity of medicinal plants for treatment purpose of human beings in any system of medicine like as Folk medicine, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Siddha, Allopathy and others.

Figure: 01 References: 28 Table: 01

KEY WORDS: Ajaygarh, Biodiversity, Ethnomedicinal plants, Panna district, Traditional healers.

Introduction

The medicinal plants have been focused since ancient time for saving human life. The ancient Indian wisdom of medicine known as Ayurveda has come from Atharva Veda¹. Folk medicines, mainly based on plants are safe, effective and inexpensive. Indigenous remedies are gaining popularity today among the people. Information from indigenous traditional medicine has played a vital role in the discovery of novel chemotherapeutic products from plants. The people of the local villages and tribal areas are the repository of accumulated experience and knowledge about traditional uses of medicinal plants for various human ailments, which reaches them from generation to generation^{5,9,10,14,19}. More than 43% of the total flowering plants are from India reported to be of medicinal importance¹⁵. Medicinal plant's importance in traditional healthcare practices, providing clues to new areas of research and biodiversity conservation, is now well recognized^{7,20}. This study was an effort to document the indigenous knowledge of traditional healers and local people about traditional uses of medicinal plants for curing different ailments. Though some workers^{3,6,8,17,18} documented ethnomedicinally important plants of the area, still a lot of work is required to be done. In the present paper, folk medicinal preparations of 55 plant species used for different ailments has been represented. Objectives of present research work were: to explore the knowledge of traditional healers and local people on ethnomedicinal uses of plants in selected villages of Janpadpanchayat Ajaygarh to enlist the indigenous medicinal plants used by traditional healers and local people for common ailments and to create awareness among the local community about the protection of native medicinal plants.

Material and Methods

Janpad panchayat Ajaygarh is a tehsil of district Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

It falls under the latitude 24.90409 and the longitude 80.259899 with an average elevation of 215.99 meters (708.63 feet), climate is subtropical and vegetation type is deciduous. Data of traditional uses of medicinal plants have been collected fromDecember 2021 to November 2022 by the survey and interviews method with local villagers and Vaidya/Hakim.From selected 20 Village panchayats named as Vishramgani.

Pratappur, Singhpur, Ajaygarh, Hardi, Siddhpur, Dharampur, Nayagaon, Deogaon, Pishta. Biharasarvariya, Banaharikala, Sabdua, Bariyarpurbhumiyan, Gumangani, Bilahai, Laulas, Beera, Sinhai and Barakagareka. Total 60 informants including 40 men and 20 women, 3 from each sampling stations were selected and interviewed during survey period. Structured questionnaires, interviews and participatory observations were used to collect data. Frequent field trips were arranged for this purpose. The identification of the plants was done with the help of various 'Floras', such as 'The Flora of British India' 4, Flora of Madhya Pradesh^{12,18} and other pertinent literature^{5,9,10,12,16-28}

Result and Discussion

In the present work 55 medicinal plant species belonging to 53 genera of 33 families were collected and identified during all seasons of one year of study. 43 plant species have been reported from remote villages of Panna district (M. P.), India¹⁴. Information regarding Botanical name, local name, family and part used for medicinal purpose are listed in Table-1 and selected field photographs of identified medicinal plants shows in Fig. 1. Aak, Calotropis procera (Asclepiadaceae) is a perennial shrub, grows in wasteland and roadsides etc. Leaves used as antidote for snake bite, rheumatism, and body pain. Young fruits boiled in water and a paste prepared to remove blood clots.Adusa, Adhatodavasica (Acanthaceae) is a perennial shrub, grows in waste land, roadsides.Leaves, root & flower medically used in cough, cold, allergy etc.Amaltash, Cassia fistula (Caesalpiniaceae) is a moderate sized evergreen widespread forest tree. Bark, Leaf, Fruit and Root are used in the treatment of constipation, convulsions, diarrhoea, dysuria, epilepsy, hematuria, pimples, and glandular tumors. The pulp of the ripe pod is a powerful purgative and also used to cure mouth ulcers.Amla, Emblica officinalis (Euphorbiaceae) is a deciduous tree, grows in dry and moist deciduous forest, also cultivated in plains. Dried fresh fruits are used in several ayurvedic medicines like "Trifala (three fruits i.e., amla, bahera and harra) Churn". It improves overall digestion process, also used in traditional hair and skin care formulations. Arjun, Terminalia arjuna (Combretaceae) is a large deciduous tree, found mostly along the river banks from plains to 1000 m height. Bark used in curing of heart diseases, diabetes, high BP etc. Ashwgandha, Withania somnifera (Solanaceae) is a perennial shrub, wild and cultivated. Roots, stem, bark, leaves and flowers are traditionally used to cure heart problems, fever, liver disorders, respiratory infections, pain, wounds, ulcers and sex-related diseases. Bada Dudhi, Ephorbia hirta (Euphorbiaceae) is an annual herb grows as a weed of cultivated & wastelands, used in traditional medicine for asthma, skin ailments, female and hypertension. It is also consumed in herbal tea to cure fever.Bahera, Terminalia bellirica(Combretaceae) is a large deciduous tree, found in moist deciduous forests & plains. Fruit pulp is used as constituent in Ayurvedic medicine "Triphala Churn", relieve from constipation and gastric problems thus improves overall digestion process. Bel, Aegle marmelos (Rutaceae) is a deciduous tree, growing in hills and plain areas. Ripe fruit laxative, used in indigestion and constipation problems. Bhrangraj, Eclipta prostrata (Asteraceae) is an annual / perennial herb, grows commonly in moist places in tropical areas, used in traditional medicines, especially for wound healing, oil obtained from leaf used as hair tonic also. Chhirheta, Cocculus hirsutus (Menispermaceae) is a perennial climber grows in deciduous forest. Whole plant is used for the treatment of stomach disorders, fever, skin diseases and urinary problems. Chhotadudhi, Ephorbia prostrata (Euphorbiaceae) is an annual herb grows as a weed of cultivated land, wastelands & roadside. Leave extract is effective for treatment of bleeding. Chirchira, Achyranthus aspera (Amaranthaceae) is a perennial herb, grows in waste lands, road sides. Roots served as a tooth stick to clean the teeth, leaves, stem and root have medicinal value. Chitrak/Chitavar, Plumbago zeylanica (Plumbaginaceae) is a herb grows in moist deciduous forest, cultivated also. Leaves, root and root bark used in preparation of various Ayurvedic medicines for treatment of intestinal trouble, dysentery, leukoderma, inflammation, piles and bronchitis etc. Dahiman, Cordia macleodii (Boraginaceae) is a perennial tree of deciduous forest.Leaf and bark used ethnomedicinally for various purposes like healing wounds, mouth sores, and curing jaundice. Datura, Datura metel&D. stramonium (Solanaceae) is a herb / sub shrub of deciduous forest and wastelands.Leaves and seeds medically useful in treatment of inflammation, wounds, rheumatism and gout, sciatica, cough, fever, and asthma. Dudhi, Wrightia tinctoria (Apocynaceae) is a wild, perennial, deciduous shrub, grows in moist and dry deciduous forest. Leaf and bark of plant used for traditional medicine to cure toothache, headache, diarrhoea, jaundice, piles, ringworm and other skin diseases; oil obtained by soaking leaves in coconut oil is used for treating psoriasis. Gambhari/Khamhera, Gmelina arborea (Verbenaceae) is a moderately deciduous tree grows in open forests. Root is an ingredient of the "Dasamula", promotes digestive power also useful in fever, dyspepsia, heart diseases, nervous disorders, piles etc. Ganja, Cannabis sativa

Sr. No.	Local Name	Scientific Name	Family	Parts used in medicine
1	Aak/madar	Calotropis procera, C. gigantia	Asclepiadaceae	Leaves, root, bark and fruit
2	Adusa	Adhatoda vasica	Acanthaceae	Leaves, root & flower
3	Amaltas	Cassia fistula	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves, bark, root & fruit
4	Amla	Emblica officinalis	Euphorbiaceae	Fresh & dried fruits
5	Arjun	Terminalia arjuna	Combretaceae	Bark
6	Ashwgandha	Withania somnifera	Solanaceae	Leaves, bark, root & flowers
7	Bada Dudhi	Ephorbia hirta	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves
8	Bahera	Terminalia bellirica	Combretaceae	Fruits
9	Bel	Aegle marmelos	Rutaceae	Fruits
10	Bhranraj	Eclipta prostrata	Asteraceae	Leaves & whole plant
11	Chhirheta	Cocculus hirsutus	Menispermaceae	Leaves & whole plant
12	Chhota dudhi	Ephorbia prostrata	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves
13	Chirchira	Achyranthus aspera	Amaranthaceae	Stem & leaves
14	Chitrak/Chitavar	Plumbago zeylanica	Plumbaginaceae	Leaves & whole plant
15	Dahiman/Dahipalas	Cordia macleodii	Boraginaceae	Leaves & bark
16	Datura	Datura metel,D. stramonium	Solanaceae	Leaves, flower and seeds
17	Dudhi	Wrightia tinctoria	Apocynaceae	Leaves, bark, root and seeds
18	Gambhari/Khamhera	Gmelina arborea	Verbenaceae	Root
19	Ganja	Cannabis sativa	Cannabaceae	Leaves& inflorescence
20	Ghamra	Tridax procumbens	Asteraceae	Leaves & whole plant
21	Ghav bel	Argyreia nervosa	Convolvulaceae	Leaves & root
22	Ghritkunvari/gvarpatha	Aloe vera	Liliaceae	Leaves

23	Ghont	Zizyphus xylopyrus	Rhamnaceae	Fruit & bark
24	Goodsakari	Grewia hirsuta	Malvaceae	Leaves & whole plant
25	Gorakhmundi	Sphaeranthus indicus	Asteraceae	Whole plant
26	Gudmar	Gymnema sylvestre	Apocynaceae	Leaves
27	Gurch, Giloy	Tinospora cordifolia	Menispermaceae	Stem & leaves
28	Hadjod	Cissus quadrangularis	Vitaceae	Stem & root
29	Harra	Terminalia chebula	Combretaceae	Fruit
30	Harsingar/Seharua	Nyctanthes arbotristis	Oleaceae	Leaves
31	Hurhur	Cleome viscosa	Cleomaceae	Whole plant
32	Jangalipyaj	Urgenia indica	Liliaceae	Leaves & bulb
33	Kali Musli	Curculigo orchioides	Hypoxidaceae	Root tuber
34	Kalmegh/Chirayta	Andrographis paniculata	Acanthaceae	Leaves & whole plant
35	Kanghi	Abutilon indicum	Malvaceae	Leaves & root
36	Kateri	Solanum xanthocarpum	Solanaceae	Fruit
37	Makoy	Solanum nigrum	Solanaceae	Leaves & fruit
38	Marodfali/Enthi	Helicte resisora	Sterculiaceae	Bark & fruit
39	Motha	Cyperus rotundus	Cyperaceae	Rhizome
40	Mrigsinghi	Pistacia integerrima	Anacardiaceae	Leaf galls
41	Neem	Azadirachta indica	Meliaceae	Leaves, fruit & bark
42	Nirgundi	Vitex negundo	Verbenaceae	Leaves, root and seeds
43	Pattharchatta	Bryophyllum pinnatum syn. Kalanchoe pinnata	Crassulaceae	Leaves
44	Pudina	Mentha arvensis	Lamiaceae	Leaves & whole plant
45	Punarnava	Boerhavia diffusa	Nyctaginaceae	Leaves & whole plant
46	Putrinjiva	Putranjiva roxburghii	Putranjivaceae	Leaves

47	Ring worm bush	Cassia alata syn. Senna alata	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves
48	Safed Musli	Chlorophytum borivilianum	Asparagaceae	Root tuber
49	Sahdevi	Vernonia cinerea	Asteraceae	Whole plant
50	Satavar	Asparagus racemosus	Asparagaceae	Root
51	Shankhpushpi	Convolvulus prostatus	Convolulaceae	Whole plant
52	Tulsi	Ocimum sanctum	Lamiaceae	Leaves & Whole plant
53	Vidarikand	Pueraria tuberosa	Fabaceae	Tuber

(Cannabaceae) is an annual herb, cultivated and also in wild. Flowering top, leaves, tender shoots have medicinal importance, leaf used for treatment of skin disorders and circulatory system disorders; seed used for curing musculoskeletal system disorders and traumas; while inflorescence is used in treatment of nervous system and mental disorders. Ghamra, Tridax procumbens (Asteraceae) is a perennial herb grows indeciduous forest, fields and waste land, Whole plant is used in wound healing, oil for healthy hairs. Ghavbel, Argyreia nervosa (Convolvulaceae) is a perennial climbing shrub, grown as medicinal plant. Leave extracts is used in the treatment of eczema, ringworm, itch and related skin diseases, leaves poultice applied in chronic ulcers, root parts are used to cure gonorrhea, chronic ulcers, rheumatism and diseases of the nervous system. Ghritkunvari/gvarpatha, Aloe vera (Liliaceae)is a perennial succulent plant, cultivated & also grows as ornamental.Leaf gel is anti-inflammatory used to heal wounds and treat skin problems. Ghont, Zizyphus xylopyrus (Rhamnaceae) is a shrub to small armed tree found in scrub and deciduous forests. Bark used to prepare medicines for gastric problem. Goodsakari, Grewia hirsuta (Malvaceae) is a under shrub grows in moist and dry deciduous forest, also in grassland. Leaf extract used for to treat dysentery and diarrhoea. Gorakhmundi, Sphaeranthus indicus (Asteraceae) is an annual herb found growing in paddy fields & wet areas. Juice of plant is useful in liver and gastric disorder.Gudmar, Gymnema sylvestre (Apocynaceae) is a large climbing shrub grows in deciduous or scrub forest.Leaves are used to neutralize sugar test.Gurch/ Giloy, Tinospora cordifolia (Menispermaceae) is a climbing shrub, grows in tropical forest. Leaves and stem medicinally used for curing malarial and chronic fever, typhoid, dysentery, chronic diarrhea, jaundice, cancer, bone fracture, pain, asthma and skin disease. Hadjod,

Cissus quadrangularis (Vitaceae) is a succulent climber, found in open forest and cultivated also. Stem and root is used in treatment of bone fracture rheumatoid arthritis. osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. Harra, Terminalia chebula (Combretaceae) is a medium to large deciduous tree, found in deciduous forests and plains. Fruit is used as constituents in Ayurvedic medicine 'Triphala', also useful in constipation and diabetes. Harsingar/Seharua, Nyctanthes arbotristis (Oleaceae) is a deciduous shrub or small tree, grows in dry deciduous forests, also cultivated in plains. Leaves used in Ayurvedic medicine and Homeopathy for sciatica and arthritis. Hurhur, Cleome viscosa (Cleomaceae) is an annual/perennial herb, grows in waste lands and roadsides. Various extracts of plant are used in treatment of mental disorders, convulsions, liver diseases, arthritis and fractures.

Jangalipyaj, Urgenia indica (Liliaceae) is an annual herb found in forest edgePlantbulb used in treating rheumatism, dropsy, edema, gout, asthma erectile disinfection. Kali Musli, Curculigo orchioides (Hypoxidaceae)is a shade loving herb plant, grows in moist deciduous forest, cultivated also. Root tuber is used for many medicinal purposes such as impotency, aphrodisiac, tonic, jaundice, cough, asthma piles and skin ailments.Kalmegh/Chirayta,Andrographis paniculata (Acanthaceae) is an annual herb, found in forest edge, cultivated also. Whole plant traditionally used for the treatment of cold, fever, laryngitis and several infectious diseases ranging from malaria to dysentery and diarrhoea10.Kanghi, Abutilon indicum (Malvaceae) is a perennial, shrub, grows in degraded forest and wastelands.Root and leaves used in fever and curing piles.Kateri, Solanum xanthocarpum (Solanaceae) is a perennial sub-shrub, found in degraded forest and wastelands. Fruit and root are medicinally used. Makoy, Solanum nigrum (Solanaceae) is an annual herb, grows



Fig. 1: Selected field photographs of identified medicinal plants

wild, found in moist places. Leaves juice is used in stomach ache. Marodfali/enthi, Helicte resisora (Sterculiaceae) is an annual/perennial herb, found in forest edge.Bark, fruits, leaves and seeds of the plant are used in the traditional system of medicine to cure gastrointestinal disorders like stomachache, diarrhea¹². Maruadona, Ocimum gratissimum (Lamiaceae) is an annual/perennial herb, wild, grows in wasteland. Leaves have medicinal value. Motha, Cyperus rotundus (Cyperaceae) is an annual/perennial grass up to 40 cm, found in moists oil nearwaterbodies. The rhizomes used as traditional folk medicines for the treatment of stomach. bowel disorders, inflammatory diseases and menstrual Mrigsinghi, Pistacia integerrima disorders. (Anacardiaceae) is a tree of average size, found in moist and deciduous forest. The leaf galls are used for cough, asthma, diarrhoea, fever and vomiting etc. Neem, Azadirachta indica (Meliaceae) is a medium to large size deciduous tree, grown in tropical and subtropical regions. Leaves, bark and fruit have medicinal values, used in several traditional medicine. 'Neem oil' extract from seeds is used in preparation of soap and ointment etc. Nirgundi, Vitex negundo (Verbenaceae) is a perennial shrub, grows in wasteland, degraded forest and fallow fields. Root, leaves and seeds are used to treat joint pain, swelling, asthma, cough, wound, fever and ulcer etc.Pattharchatta, Bryophyllum pinnatumsyn. Kalanchoe pinnata (Crassulaceae) is a succulent herb. Leaves used in kidney stone. Pudina, Mentha arvensis (Lamiaceae) is a perennial, herb grows in marshes or cultivated. Leaves used in food, drinks and medicines. Punarnava, Boerhavia diffusa (Nyctaginaceae) is a perennial herb, grows in waste land and river bank. Roots are used as laxative, diuretic, expectorant, leaves used as an appetizer and alexiteric preparation, seeds used as energizer and also help in digestion. Plant also used to curenight blindness and helps to bring back virility in men².Putrinjiva, *Putranjiva roxburghii* (*Putranjivaceae*) is a moderate sized evergreen tree with pendent branches, found in moist deciduous forests. Leaves and fruits used as medicine for rheumatism. Ringworm bush, Cassia alatasyn. Senna alata (Caesal piniaceae) is a shrub, found in diverse habitats like roadsides, river banks etc. Plants have medicinal value due to its laxative. purgative and anti-fungal properties. Safed Musli, Chlorophytum borivilianum (Asparagaceae) is a herb, grows in moist deciduous forest, cultivated also. Tubers have very good Ayurvedic medicinal properties

used for increasing sexual desire, erectile dysfunction, athletic performance, osteoarthritis and gonorrhoea etc.Sahdevi, Vernonia cinerea(Asteraceae) is an annual herb, found in forest edge, weed of field and road sides etc. Whole plant is useful in piles, intestinal worms, blood disorders, wound healing, against chronic skin disorders, stomachache, liver ailments and fever etc. Satavar, Asparagus racemosus (Asparagaceae) is an annual, highly spinous and branched climber, found in all types of forest and plains. Tuberous roots are used in medicine improving the general state of health and for stressrelated immune disorders. Shankhpushpi, Convolvulus prostatus (Convolulaceae) is a creeping/climbing herb, weed of field and road sides etc. Whole plant is used medicinally in the form of decoction with cumin and milk in fever, loss of memory and nervous debility. C pluricaulisis used as brain tonic. Tulsi, Ocimum sanctum (Lamiaceae) is a perennial herb, cultivated, also grows as wild. Leaves used in decoction, tea and medicines. Whole plant specially leaves used in treatment of bronchitis, diarrhea, dysentery, skin diseases and malaria. Vidarikand, Pueraria tuberosa (Fabaceae) is a perennial herb, found in moist and deciduous forest and hilly region. Tuber used for treatment of fever, menorrhagia, skin disease, wounds, asthma and jaundice.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The study reveals that the traditional healers of the local villages and tribal areas are the repository of knowledge and experience about traditional uses of medicinal plants for various human ailments, which reaches to them from generation to generation. The documentation of this knowledge has provided novel information about ethnomedicinal uses of plants from the study area which will help in create awareness among the local communities about the conservation of native medicinal plants and providing pharmacological leads for the welfare of human beings. Identification of 53 medicinal plant species belonging to 53 genera of 33 families from the study area disclose that there is high potential available in the form of diversity of medicinal plants for treatment purpose of human beings in any system of medicine like as Folk medicine, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Siddha, Allopathy and others. It is recommended that there is a requirement of proper utilization of medicinal properties of these native plants for human betterment without causing any challenges of their sustainability.

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