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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ETHNOMEDICINAL USES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS OF LOCAL VAIDYAS OF BADAMI DISTRICT BAGALKOT

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ABSTRACT

Traditional knowledge of local vaidhyas about medicinal plants and their importance in local health care is well known since Vedic period. Plants are considered as divine in origin and were worshipped as Mother(Goddess). Screening of medicinal plants has become a potential source of bio-dynamic compounds of therapeutic value in phytochemical researches. Ethnobotanical documentation is one way of capturing this body of knowledge. Hence the survey of medicinal plants and their traditional uses by traditional practitioners of Badami taluk of Bagalkot district as it has a long history of medicinal plants since from Chalukyan period.

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INTRODUCTION

Plants are the principle source of raw materials for plant based medicines since ancient times from the period of Charaka and Sushruta. Now a days traditional herbal medicines are receiving great importance in health care throughout the world. This traditional knowledge is handed down orally or in the form of scripts from one generation to the other through trial and error methods. In India most rural population and tribal community rely on traditional medicines for their health care needs.

Study area: The study area Badami taluk is located in Bagalkot District of Karnataka state. It has a long back history for its architectural beauty of Menabasadhi, Agasthathirta Mahakoot with rich source of medicinal plants. This taluk is situated between 15.92°N 75.68° E latitude. The study area has diverse type of vegetation like arid habitat, shrubby and thorny vegetation and rich in diversity of plants with medicinal values which are being explored by traditional practitioners of different locality in this taluk.

METHODOLOGY

Data sheets were prepared at different villages of the taluk where traditional practitioners are practicing, with village name and its locality, date of visit, address of the patients with their age, sex and the treatment they are getting from the medicinal plants.

The vernacular names of the plant and the part used for the treatment with questioners with the patient and traditional practitioners of particular locality. Frequent field survey in prominent villages like Mahakoot, Adagal, Nandikeshwa, Pattadakal, Belur, Hosoor, Yaragoppa, Kendur, Naganathkolla etc. Plant species were identified with flora and the preliminary data was recorded by observing the fresh plants in fields.

Results of Survey

Some plants species used to treat human ailments in Badami taluk of Bagalkot district is as Table showing details about medicinal plants and their use to treat various ailments

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Name of plant	Family	Parts used	Ailments
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Liliaceae	Roots	Hypertension&insomnia
<i>Andrographis peniculata</i>	Acanthaceae	Whole plant	Fever & weakness
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Liliaceae	Gelatinous extract of leaf	Laxatives, wound healing, & skincare
<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Rutaceae	Fruits & bark	Diarrhoea, dysentery, constipation
<i>Adathoda vasica</i>	Acanthaceae	Leaf	Antispasmodic, respiratory stimulant
<i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	Asclepidaceae	Flower powder, leaves	Cough and cold, dropsy inflammation
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Umbelliferae	Whole plant	Antiinflammatory, Jaundice diarrhoea
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Solanaceae	Fruits/wholeplant	Dropsy, Diuretic antidysentery
<i>Oscimum sanctum</i>	Labiatae	Leaves/seeds	Cough, cold and bronchitis
<i>Holerhina antydysentrica</i>	Apoyraceae	Bark/seeds	Scabies, antipyretic. Amoebic dysentery

Conclusion

The survey indicates that the study area has plenty of medicinal plants to treat a wide spectrum of human ailments. The study concluded that even though the accessibility of western medicine for simple and complicated diseases is available many people still rely on medicinal plants at least for treatment of some simple disease such as cold, cough, fever, headache, poison, snake bites, skin disease and tooth infections. It is necessary to acquire and preserve these medicinal plants by proper documentation and identification.

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