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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PLANTS USED BY GOND AND BAIGA WOMEN IN ETHNOGYNAECOLOGICAL DISORDER IN PALI BLOCK UMARIA DISTRICT, M.P.

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Abstract

Traditional medicines are still under practice in Indian villages and have been developed through experience of many generations. The present communication reports first hand information gathered on 15 plant species traditionally used by Gond and Baiga women of Pali block, Umaria district for the treatment of various diseases and disorders related to gynecological problems. Valuable information about the medicinal uses of certain plants against various diseases of the Gond and Baiga women were obtained through personal interviews and collection. The botanical names, families, local name, and locality of these collections are also given along with medicinal uses.

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Introduction:-

Pali is a Tehsil in Umaria District of Madhya Pradesh state, India. Pali is a head quarter of Pali town. It belongs to Shahdol division. It is located 48 km towards East from district head quarter Umaria. Pali is located at 23.35° N 81.05°E. It has an average elevation of 450 meters (1476 feet). The ethno-medicinal research is important aspects of ethno-botanical research. The tribal tracts are storehouse of information and knowledge on the multiple uses of plants. The common tribal communities are Gond, Kol, Baiga, Sahariya tribes. They are partially or completely dependent on forest product for their survival. Indigenous knowledge is a potential tool for searching new economic plants for uses of medicinal plants for various purposes by tribal. Most of the population lives in rural areas and mainly belongs to Gond tribes and other non tribal localities. Ethno-gynecology is an important field of study that deals with various diseases among Gond tribal societies and their major problems as sterility, conception, abortion etc. and the uses of plants as a medicines for these diseases. Very little work has been done on the ethno-gynecological use of plants in the treatment and health-care program me of women as evidenced by the literature and reference.

Material and Methods:-

The survey to collect the data, presented in this paper was conducted during the period of July 2014-2015 in 03 village of the Pali block namely, Chhottumbi, Waghannara, and Majouli. The local tribal medicine man or herbal informants were selected and their views regarding the subject matter were used. It has been observed during survey that the chief trainer women play a significant role in discussions since they possess more cognizance about the utility of local herbal products in curing various ailments. Data on the preparation of ethno-herbal recipes along with their application were gathered from experienced and knowledgeable medicine man and women. More than fifteen plants were reported to be commonly used in medicine in this block. There are some plants which are used in Gynecological problems. Details are given below.

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S.NO	LOCAL NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY	USES
01	Chirchita	<i>Achyranthus aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	The fresh root is tied around the thump of right leg for easy delivery.
02	Sataver	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Asparagaceae	Boiled tuberous roots are eaten to the increase lactation in women. 2. Leaf juice (two teaspoon a day) is given during pregnancy for easy delivery.
03	Gwarpatha	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Liliaceae	Juice of leaves is given to lesson labor pain during delivery.
04	Bhatkatai	<i>Argemone maxicana</i>	Papaveraceae	Dried root powder used as tea for regulating fertility. The ripe fruits are smoked and said to be useful in venereal disease. Leaves juice is given in leucorrhoea.
05	Sitaphal	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Annonaceae	Leaf decoction is drunk for easy delivery. One spoon of seed powder with a cup of water taken for 3-4 days for abortion.
06	Palas	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Paste of the bark is applied to treat gonorrhoea.
07	Amaltash	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Paste of the flower is applied on the affected part to treat gonorrhoea.
08	Chawokra	<i>Cassia tora</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Young seedling of the plants after washing is chewed by pregnant women for timely and easy delivery.
09	Amarbel	<i>Cuscuta reflexa Roxb</i>	Convolvulaceae	For anti fertility. Powder of seeds used orally
10	Kala datura	<i>Datura metel</i>	Solanaceae	One tea spoon root powder given twice a day for 15 days after menstruation for permanent sterility.
11	Kulthi	<i>Dolichos biflorum</i>	Leguminosae	Decoction of seeds is used orally in leucorrhoea.
12	Sissum	<i>Dalbergia sisoo Roxb</i>	Papilionaceae	Extract of leaves is taken daily in the morning to cure leucorrhoea Decoction of leaves is useful in the diarrhea
13	Dudhi	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Leaves are crushed and the extract is taken orally with honey once a day in the morning for leucorrhoea for a month.
14.	Kapas	<i>Gossypium arboretum</i>	Malvaceae	Root bark is used for a menorrhea and dysmenorrhoea.
15.	Nirgundi	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Verbenaceae	One teaspoon powder of young root is used for restore fertility.

Results and Conclusion:-

During the survey it has been observed that although tribal of this Pali block are still in primitive stage of economic life and depend upon wild resources around them for their needs, they possess fairly good knowledge about the medicinal uses of plants. Due to the constant association with the forest environment and in the absence of any other medical facility available to them in their localities, they have evolved curious knowledge by the method of tribal and have developed their own way of treatment of ailment.

The present findings indicate that tribal women of the study area have deep faith in traditional medicine. They seem to depend upon the plants for curing various disease including abortion, sterility, conception disorder, menstrual

troubles, leucorrhoea etc. Prevailing among them. Traditionally they do not go to a doctor or a clinic but depend upon herbal treatment suggested by old ladies (Chief trainers) or experienced medicine men of the village.

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