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RESEARCH ARTICLE

DIVERSITY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM MELGHAT FOREST OF AMRAVATI DISTRICT (MS) INDIA

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Abstract

Medicinal plants have been used for thousands of years in developing countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), traditional healthcare systems serve 70-80% of the population in India. Medicinal plants (MPs) and herbal remedies play an essential role in indigenous medicine systems such as Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha. The Melghat region is known for its rich biodiversity and cultural value. The present survey was carried out to document the traditional uses of medicinal plants among the korku triable community which are located in Melghat region of Amravati disrict, India. The Melghat forest has great diversity in medicinal plants. More than 769 naturalised plant species are listed in the Flora of Melghat belonging to about 400 genera representing 97 families. Local people are aware of medical cures produced from different plant species belonging to various families to treat a wide range of ailments.

Introduction:-

As plants are rich in active ingredients, knowledge of an area's plant diversity and knowledge of medicinal uses of those plants by local people is critical for the development of those species considered effective in the treatment of various ailments. The plants are also used for nutrition, appetizers, energy boosters, and aroma in teas.

The Melghat forest is an excellent source of biodiversity. The Melghat forest is located in the Satpuda hills range. Melghat is a dry deciduous forest. Plant species found in Melghat include Tectona grandis, Butea spp., Ocimum gratissimum, Abutulon indicum, Digera muricata, Feronia limonia, and others. [1, 2, 3].

Melghat Reserve Forest in Maharashtra State is being studied botanically. The region's unusual geographical position and physical features give an idea of the extreme isolation of trible people in the area, who rely on limited agricultural land and local plant products. Their close contact with and reliance on nature has resulted in the development of curious knowledge, which is ultimately reflected in traditional culture, local belief, and religion [4, 5, 6].

Materials and Methodology:-

Study area

The research site is located on a branch of the Satpuda range to the south of the Tapti River. The main ridge of the Gawilgarh hills is the most prominent feature. Melghat division reserve forest is divided into East Melghat and West

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Melghat divisions. It stretches between south and north. Latitudes 21 ^{0} -11' and 21 ^{0} - 46' north and longitudes 78 ^{0} - 38' and 77 ^{0} -34' east, from west to east. It curves southwest and broadens into the Chikhaldara and Vairat plateaus. The highest point in Vairat is 1,177.75 meters above sea level.

The current study was carried out using an ethnomedical survey that was conducted in various villages in the Melghat region of Amravati district. The local tribes depend upon plant resources to meet their daily needs and have used plant-based formulations for various diseases, including the treatment of jaundice, from generation to generation. Furthermore, traditional plant-based medicine provides the best rural or tribal healthcare. Korku vaidoos use the following plant species to treat a variety of diseases and other health issues. [7, 8, 9, 10]

The important Medicinal Plants of Melghat forest are shown in table: 1

Sr. no.	**Botanical name**	**Local Name of Plants**	**Family**	**Medicinal use plants for the Treatment of**
1	Sapindus trifoliatus L.	Ritha	Sapindanceae	For hair cleaning and conditioning.
2	Abutulon indicum L.	Karandi	Malvaceae	Snake bite
3	Abrus precatorius L.	Gunj	Papilionoideae.	Cough ,urinal disease, brain tonic
4	Acacia leucophloea Roxb.	Hiwar	Mimosaceae	Stomach disorders
5	Acacia arabica Willd.	Babul	Mimosaceae	Dental problems
6	Achyranthes aspera L.	Kutri/Chirchita	Amaranthaceae	Eye diseases, scorpion bite
7	Melia azedarach L.	Maharukh	Meliaceae	To treat skn diseases.
8	Eclipta alba Linn. Hassk	Bhangara	Asteraceae	Hepatitis and skin Infection.
9	Bacopa monnieri (L.) Penn.	Bramhi	Scrophulariaceae	Brain Tonic, Diuretic.
10	Vitex negundo Linn	Nirgudi	Vebenacceae	Asthma, Dysentery and Piles.
11	Andrographis paniculata Wall. Ex. Nees.	Kalmegh/ Bhineem	Acanthaceae	Blood purifier and stomachic.
12	Barleria cristata (L.)	Katsarika/ Katekoranti	Acanthaceae	Dental caries, wounds and cracking heels.
13	Bauhinia varigata Linn.	Kachnar	Caesalpiniaceae	Diarrhea and dysentery
14	Buchanania lanzan Spreng.	Charoli	Anacardiaceae	Chest and body pain.
15	Butea monosperma Roxb. Ex Willd	Palas	Fabaceae	Menorrhoea and against snake bite.
16	Caesalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb.	Sagargoti	Caesalpiniaceae	Against diabetes.
17	Commelina benghalensis L.	Vinchu	Commelinaceae	Treat Leprosy.
18	Cymbopogon martini (Roxb,) Wats.	GawatiChaha	Poaceae	Against skin diseases and epilepsy in children.
19	Digera muricata (L.) Mart.	Kunjar	Amaranthaceae	For kidney stone treatment
20	Evolvulus alsinoid Linn.	Shankhpuspi	Convolvulaceae	As general healing, brain-tonic and nervous disorders.
21	Euphorbia hirta L.	Dudhi	Euphorbiacea	Apply externally at the site of snake bites.

22	Enicostema axillare (Lam) Raynal	Kadunai	Gentinaceae	Treatment of intermittent fever.
23	Feronia limonia L.	Kanwat	Rutaceae	To cure skin allergies.
24	Glossocardia bosvalllia DC.	Dagad Shepu	Asteraceae	To cure sores and wounds.
25	Grewia tillifolia L.	Dhaman	Tiliaceae	Treatment of dysentery.
26	Helicteris isora (L.) Roxb.	Muradsheng	Sterculiaceae	To cure asthma.
27	Heteropogon conortus L.	Kusalgawat	Poaceae	against appendices and scorpion bite
28	Lagascea mollis Cav	Nikargua	Asteraceae	Cuts and injuries to cure.
29	Lantana camera L.	Rai-muni	Verbanaceae	Given as antidote for snake bite.
30	Limonia acidissima L.	Kawath	Rutaceae	To treat dysentery with vomiting.
31	Madhuca longifolia J. F. Gmel.	Moha	Sapotaceae	To cure mouth ulcers.
32	Meytinus emarginatus L	Bharati	Celastraceae	To relive tooth ache and also more mouth ulcers.
33	Merremia gangetica L.	Undirkani	Convolvulaceae	To treat headache and rheumatic pain.
34	Millingtonia hortensis (L.) F.	Akash Neem	Bignoniaceae	Given in asthma and Sinusitis.
35	Morinda tomentosa J.E. Smith.	Aal	Morindaceae	Digestive problem and gastric disorders.
36	Mucuna prurience (L.) DC.	Kuiri/ Kachkuiri	Fabaceae	To accelerate the delivery and reduce pain.
37	Ocimum gratissimum L.	Ran Tulasi	Lamiaceae	Digestive disorders.
38	Pergularia damia (Forssk.) Chiov.	Utaran/ Utarvel	Asclepidiaceae	To treat liver problems.
39	Plumbago zeylanica L.	Chitrak	Plumbaginaceae	Against intestinal disorders, skin diseases and rheumatic pain
40	Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.	Bija	Fabaceae	To cure leprosy, diabetes, ulcer and skin diseases to improve the complexion.
41	Ricinus communis L.	Erand/ Erandi	Euphorbiaceae	Hepatitis
42	Semicarpus anacardium L. f.	Bibba	Anacardiaceae	To treat bronchitis.
43	Terminalia belarica Roxb.	Beheda	Combrataceae	To treat headache, leucorrhoea, liver and gastro-intestinal complaints.
44	Terminalia chebula Retz.	Hirda	Combrataceae	As appetizer.
45	Trichodesma indicum L.	Dudhali	Boraginaceae	To cure skin allergy.
46	Tribulus terestris L.	Gokharu	Zygophyllaceae	To relieve abdominal pain.

47	Tridex procumbens L.	Kambermodi	Asteraceae	Treatment of inflammation, wound, ulcers.
48	Wrightia tictoria (Roxb.) R.Br	Kayakuda	Apocynaceae	Against gaseous intestinal problems and use as febrifuge.
49	Xanthium strumariumL.	Chhota Gokhru	Asteraceae	Against malarial fever and urinary trouble
50	Bambusa bamboo Vass.	Bans	Poaceae	Given in blood vomiting.

Conclusion:-

From present study it is clear that the Melghat Forest is rich with Biodiversity of large number of plant species it includes various medicinal plants which are used by the local inhabitants for their primary healthcare. The knowledge of traditional uses of plants is important to study and record for future. Such survey methods and data collection from local Korku vaidoos provide valuable information for isolation of important phytochemicals from individual plant species.

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