
Traditional Uses of Medicinal Plants by Ethnic People of Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat in the Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal, India

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Abstract

The present study deals with the ethno-medicinally important plants of Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat in the Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal, India. There are twenty-four medicinal plants belonging to fifteen families are used as ethno-medicine to treat the various diseases and disorders have been identified. The different medicinal plants are beneficial and used by the tribal peoples to protect them from disorders. The tribal peoples who live at different villages of this panchayat are Tudu, Santal, Munda etc. from ancient time and maintain their healthcare system by traditional uses of medicinal plants to protect them from common diseases. The information such as uses of the plant parts, the medicinal value and mode of treatment are recorded based on the interaction with the tribal peoples. This area is of immense diversity of medicinal plants. According to the study, medicinal plants can be used as common cough and cold, asthma, antiseptic, stimulant, carminative, epilepsy, dyspepsia, stomachic, abdominal pain, and amoebic dysentery etc. The traditional knowledge may open up a new avenue in future for our society.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal plants, Tribal peoples, Traditional knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

The ethno-medicinal plants are the potent source of food and medicines for different ethnic peoples and other inhabitants of this Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat of Paschim Medinipur District. The utilization of medicinal plants has become an important source of daily life despite of in modern medicinal and pharmaceutical research. The study of traditional or folk medicines of tribal peoples from plants is called ethno-medicines. Approximately, three thousand plants species are known to have medicinal properties in India (Prakash et al., 2010). The Mansuka-2 Gram panchayat consists of some villages namely Banaharisinghapur, Daulatchak, Chaulisinghapur, Gangaprasad, and Shrirampur. These villages of this panchayat are severely flood - affected area. Approximately, eight thousand inhabitants are lived throughout the different villages of this Panchayat. The villages of the Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat are of great importance for the exploration of ethno-medicinal plants. The many tribal peoples like Santal, Bhumij, Munda and Tudu etc. are living in this area since long. These tribal peoples collect the ethno-medicinal plants from fields and consume as food as well as medicinal values.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The investigation based on the continuous field survey in the different villages of the Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat. The survey has been carried out during the year 2022-2023 in this rural area inhabited by ethnic tribal communities such as Santal, Tudu, Bhumij, and Munda etc. The ethno-medicinal plant parts used for their healthcare purpose are recorded through personal interview with the local old aged peoples and the information collected from the available literatures. The ethno-medicinal plant parts (leaves, roots, small branches, barks, flowers, fruits etc.) are collected and used by the ethnic peoples. The ethnic peoples have crushed the plant parts and taken with purified water. The plant extract mixed with water and is swallowed by the tribal peoples. Sometimes, they are also relieved from diseases after taking plant extract regularly for few days. This information on folk-medicinal use of plants is obtained during the field works. The local older peoples as well as traditional healers are the primary informants during oral interviews.

RESULTS

The different ethno-medicinal plants growing in Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat and their uses are given in Table-1.

Sl. No.	Local Names (in Bengali)	Scientific names	Family name	Plant parts used	Medicinal Uses
1	Neem	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Leaves, barks, Fruits etc.	Skin diseases, treatment in blood sugar level, loss of appetite, antifungal activity, insecticide, prevent gastro-intestinal disease etc.
2	Kulke	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Fruits	Antioxidant, helps in vasodilation and maintain blood pressure etc.
3	Kulekhara	<i>Hygrophilla articulata</i> (Schum.) Heine	Acanthaceae	Leaves, stems, entire plants	Jaundice, urine genital disease, mental disorder of children etc.
4	Hinche	<i>Enhydra fluctuans</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves, stems	Laxative, blood purifier, diabetes,

		<i>Lour.</i>			myopia etc.
5	Telakucha	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> (Linn.) Voigt	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves, fruits	Skin disease, diabetes, stomach problems, cooked as vegetables, burning of hands and legs etc.
6	Nishinda	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Insecticidal activity, fever and asthma, extract of plant is taken as a diuretic, muscle sprain and joint pain etc.
7	Gritakumari	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> (L.) Burm. f.	Asphodelaceae	Leaves	Skin irritations, cuts and insect bites, skin swellings, antibacterial and antioxidant properties, Worms and amoebic dysentery etc.
8	Ayapana	<i>Ayapana triplinervis</i> Vahl	Asteraceae	Leaves	Laxative, antiseptic, hemorrhage, cardiac stimulant, antibacterial and antifungal activity, amoebic dysentery etc.
9	Ghentu	<i>Clerodendrum infortunatum</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Skin disease, tumors and worms, treatment of inflammation, rheumatism, arthritis, diabetes, swellings, edema and gout etc.
10	Neulkathi	<i>Lippia alba</i> (Mill.) N. E.Br. ex. Britton & P.	Verbenaceae	Leaves and stems	Amoebic dysentery.

		<i>Wilson</i>			
11	Dhutura	<i>Datura metel L.</i>	Solanaceae	Seeds and leaves	Anti-asthmatic, intoxicant, antispasmodic, neurological and heart diseases, and skin disease etc.
12	Bon tulsii	<i>Croton bonplandianus Baill.</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Roots	Amoebic dysentery, ring worm infection, to cure the swelling of body etc.
13	Thankuni	<i>Centella asiatica (Linn.) Urban</i>	Umbelliferae	Leaves	Constipation, cough and cold, diabetes, amoebic dysentery etc.
14	Keshut	<i>Eclipta alba (L.) Hassk.</i>	Asteraceae	Leaves	Pain clearing, jaundice, tonic and hair dye etc.
15	<i>Nayantara</i>	<i>Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. Don.</i>	Apocynaceae	Leaves	Diabetes, to treat high blood pressure, and used as disinfectants, and alkaloids used for cancer fighters etc.
16	Kurchi	<i>Hollarrhena antidysenterica (L.) wall. Ex A. DC.</i>	Apocynaceae	Leaves, bark and seed	Fever, dysentery, intestinal worms etc.
17	Lal-bherenda	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia L.</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Shoot and leaves	Boils, carbuncles, dental diseases, pesticidal, anticancer, blood purifier, to treat stomach problem etc.
18	Jagat-madan	<i>Justicia gendarussa Burm. f.</i>	Acanthaceae	Leaves and shoots	Rheumatism, ear-ache, headache, fever, cough,

					inflammation etc.
19	Kalmegh	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burman. f.) Wallich. Ex Nees	Acanthaceae	Leaves and stems	Liver tonic, liver troubles, irregular stools and in worm problems in children, constipation, scabies, jaundice, as an antioxidant and cardiovascular health etc.
20	Kakmachi	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> Linn.	Solanaceae	Entire plant	Liver disease, piles, dysentery, skin diseases etc.
21	Kalmisak	<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> Forssk.	Convolvulaceae	Entire plants	Nervous diseases etc.
22	Shet-drone	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (wild.) Link.	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Scabies, insecticides, fever, cough and cold etc.
23	Basil	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Leaves, twig, stem	Parasitical skin diseases, antifungal activity etc.
24	Lal-berela	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i> L.	Malvaceae	Leaves and roots	Swelling, rheumatism, bleeding piles, and gonorrhoea etc.

DISCUSSION

The result of the present study shows that a total number of twenty-four ethno-medicinal plants belonging to fifteen different families are in common practice of food values as well as medicinal values for healthcare in the Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat of Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal, India. All the twenty-four plants with families are beneficial for tribal communities. These ethno-medicinal plants are mostly used in different diseases like common cough and cold, stomachic and antiseptic, asthma, dyspepsia, epilepsy etc.

Out of which, *Lippia alba*, *Clerodendrum infortunatum*, *Vitex negundo* (Family-Verbenaceae) contributed maximum used by the tribal peoples. The remaining plants contributed less used of ethnomedicinally important plants by the tribal peoples distributed in different villages of this panchayat area.

Chakraborty and Bhattacharjee (2006) reported 57 plant species belonging to 57 genera and 40 families are used as ethno-medicinal plants in Purulia, the western most district of West Bengal. The ethno-medicinal plants are identified. India is the mega diversity region of the World. The important ethno-medicinal plants diversity is found throughout in different villages of this panchayat. However, the present study region resulted in twenty-four ethno-medicinal plant species belonging to fifteen families.

The ethno-medicinal plants are very important for curation by tribal peoples distributed throughout the different areas of this Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat. These tribal peoples prevent themselves from diseases and disorders by using these plants without money. They remain eco-friendly not using artificial medicines. They maintain the local biodiversity of this Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat as well as in the world. Thus, the tribal peoples protect themselves as well as the world life.

CONCLUSION

The present investigation recorded twenty-four ethno-medicinal plants belonging fifteen families of angiosperms. The tribal peoples collect plant parts from fields and use for their curation. They also preserve the plants for future use. This Mansuka-2 Gram Panchayat area is very rich in density and diversity of the ethno-medicinal plants. The plants are potential source of ethno-medicines. The scientific awareness is very essential for the rural inhabitants of this area.

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