

Study of the status of ethnomedicine to cure jaundice through home remedies in Valsad district, Gujarat

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Jaundice is liver disorder disease. In this disease there is obstruction in the bile duct or loss of the functions of bile producing liver cells. A person suffering from jaundice looks yellowish in colour specifically eyes and urine, this is due to increased bile pigment secretion. Person turns anemic. Characterized by extreme weakness, headache, fever, loss of appetite, fatigue, severe constipation, nausea and yellow coloration of eyes, tongue, skin and urine. In the region of south Gujarat, Jaundice is a frequent disease found during specific time in a year. Any person who is affected with Jaundice do start with the medical treatment in the hospital, but the majority of the people know that allopathic can not cure Jaundice. Due to the frequent affect of the disease, people do prefer the parallel alternative to allopathic that is to visit the healer who are specialized in giving medicine for Jaundice.

Gujarat is proud of being pioneer in having first state level flora *viz.* Flora of Gujarat state (Shah, 1978) and also first state level document *viz.* Medicinal plants of Gujarat (Pandey *et al.*, 2005). In fact the pioneering work was "The Identification and status survey of medicinal plants" (Umadevi, 1988, Umadevi *et al.*, 1989).

Umadevi (1988) listed about 748 taxa having medicinal importance plants. Pandey *et al.* (2005) listed about 1277 medicinally useful plants from Gujarat.

Gujarat State is divided into six zones (Pandey *et al.*, 2005). Among this, Zone 1 consists of south Gujarat, which includes Valsad, Navsari and Dangs districts. This area receives moderately high rainfall varying from 1500 to 2000 mm/annum, the forest type of the zone is predominantly moist and deciduous. They have reported 923 medicinal plant species from this zone. In terms of density of species diversity (No. of species per 100

sq.km.), the zone ranks first in the state with 13.17 species/ 100 sq.km.

The ethnobotany of Valsad is known through the works of Santapau (1955); Patel (1971); More (1972); Jhala and Patel (1972); Desai (1976); Joshi *et al.* (1980); Contractor (1986); Reddy (1986, 1987); Bhatt (1987) and Gohil (2004). In fact these workers have studied the flora of the area. While surveying the floristic components the information came in incidentally, such information is appended with the botanical description of the taxon.

The exclusive Ethnomedicinal study of the area was carried out by Gopal (1989).

All the earlier data lacked the detailed recipe and the dosage.

Present work has attempted to fill in this lacuna.

Survey was carried out for Valsad district and surrounding area. A questionnaire was prepared in English and Gujarati consisting of different questions for the details of plants and people who were giving the information but practically it was not possible to collect all the details at the spot, prior information like name of the person, village, age, caste and the recipe was noted. We met Tantrik's, Bhuva's, Bhagat's, and the professional medicinal healers. Many of them did not entertain us and bluntly told us that they would not give us any information, many of them gave us the interviews but were not ready to tell us the plants which they utilized, many could not explain us the details of the plants which they utilized and many told us such a vernacular names that it was not possible for us to know their botanical source as they were not having the samples. But there were many people who gave us all the information and also showed plants and gave the samples too.

The questionnaire, which was used as a major tool is appended here.

The Questionnaire prepared for the data collection was as follows.

Information of the person:

Name:

Village:

Correspondence to:

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