

Awareness and use of locally available medicinal plants for animal and human health in northern Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

India is a vast country where wide variation in soil, climate, altitude and latitude is available thus, despite of rich heritage of knowledge on the use of plant drugs little attention has been paid to grow them as field crops. Though many medicinal plant species exist in the northern Karnataka, they remain neglected due to lack of awareness and use by the people. The present study was conducted in Bijapur district. The total sample for the study consisted of 100 farmers. The results indicated that 80 to 100 per cent of the respondents were aware of use of medicinal plants used for treatment of animals as well as human beings. About 63.00 to 75.00 % of farmers used seasonal and perennial medicinal plants like Ekki (Calotropis), Kalli (Cactus), Karimenasu (Black pepper) for animals, where as for human beings Bevu(Neem), Shunti (Ginger), Hagalakai (Bittergourd) and Dhasawal (Hybiscus) were used. The independent variables like age, education, training, cosmopolitaness and access to medicinal plants were significantly correlated with awareness of farmers. The reasons for less utility of these medicinal plants among farmers are, more inclination towards allopathic medicines, non-transfer of knowledge and use pattern of these locally available herbal medicine to younger generations.

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INTRODUCTION

In India, medicinal plants have made a good contribution to the development of ancient Indian Material Medica, one of the earliest treatises on Indian medicine, the Charak Samhita (1000 B.C.) records the use of over 340 drugs of vegetables origin. Most of these continued to be gathered from wild plants to meet the demand of the medical profession. Our knowledge of medicinal plants has mostly been inherited traditionally. The use of plants for curing various ailments are not confined to the doctors only but is known to several households as well. There are many interesting and sometimes astonishing things to learn from collectors of medicinal herbs. Spreading and preserving this knowledge of medicinal plants and their use has become important for human existence.

India is a vast country where wide variation in climate, soil, altitude and latitude is available thus, despite the rich heritage of knowledge on the use of plant drugs, little attention has been paid to grow them as field crops. Though many medicinal plant species exist in the northern Karnataka, they have remained neglected due to difficulties regarding identification and lack of knowledge about medicinal value of the particular plant species. However, during the past one century,

increased awareness about the potential of this group of interesting and useful plants has encouraged by many innovative and progressive growers and entrepreneurs to take up their cultivation as commercial enterprise. Prior to initiate any research and development activity, it is necessary to have adequate and reliable information of the existing situation. With these considerations, the present study was conducted with the objectives that to know the farmers awareness and use pattern of locally available medicinal plants with farmers awareness and use pattern of medicinal plants for animal and human beings and o understand the correlation between farmers awareness and their personal characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Bijapur District. Five villages were selected in the district for study. From each selected village, 20 farmers were chosen for the study. Thus, the total sample consisted of 100 farmers. A teacher made test was developed to know the farmers awareness and use of medicinal plants. The data were collected through personal interview method and were analyzed with the help of frequency, percentage and simple correlation tests.

Key words :

Awareness,
Knowledge,
Medicinal plants,
Human health,
Animal health

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