

To study the status of ethno medicine to cure abdominal pain and acidity through home remedies in Valsad district, Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

The status of ethnomedicine to cure abdominal pain through home remedies in Valsad district of Gujarat state was tried through personal contact with the tribal people. The formula used by the healers of the arid to cure abdominal pain and acidity has been described here. Their formula is proved very much important as it became quite successful in curing disease even after the patients were not successfully cured in the hospital.

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Key words : Abdominal pain, Acidity, Ethnomedicine

INTRODUCTION

Gujarat is proud of being pioneer in having first state level flora viz., Flora of Gujarat State (Shah, 1978). 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.

Gujarat state is divided into six zones. 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 Patel (1971); Contractor (1986); 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.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

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 were noted. Tantrik's, Bhuva's, Bhagat's, and the professional medicinal healers were contacted. 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 all the information

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