

Horopathic treatment of menorrhagia among the indigenous women of Chandil block of Saraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand, India

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SUMMARY

The present article deals with the documentation of informations and collection of life forms of the plants and plant parts [total 11 plants] being used as medicines for the treatment of Menorrhagia [Excessive and long period of Menstruation cycle] by the local Horopaths (Tribe medicine practitioners) in Chandil block under Saraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand. Informations has been documented through direct interview with the local Horopaths and life forms has been collected taking the help of Horopaths and local knowledgeable persons.

Key words : Menorrhagia, Horopathic, Hesitation, Horopath, Pahan, Ethno-medicinal

Chandil block under Saraikela- Kharsawan district of Jharkhand is predominantly an indigenous belt having about 90% indigenous population that includes both Tribes as well as Non-tribes. Indigenous non-tribes are commonly called as Sadan.

Chandil block is situated in the East of Ranchi and West of Steel city Jamshedpur, and lies between 22°29" to 22°54" North Latitude and 80° 50" to 86°11" East Longitude. The block enjoys a dominating tribes population (42.27%) with rich tropical and sub-tropical forest area (42.99%). The area has rich biodiversity with mosaic of vegetation having enormous number of medicinal plants being used as medicine for the treatment of all sorts of diseases of human beings as well as cattle wealth (Rameshwar Mahto and H.B.Sahu, 2007).

The indigenous women of the area suffer from a number of gynecological diseases and menorrhagia is one of the most common problems among them. The area is still very backward and conservative. The women has very low rate of literacy. The area is so backward that the women don't know about the various natural systems such as menstruation, bleeding and other sex related problems. Lack of awareness, illiteracy, conservativeness, poverty, lack of medical facilities, hesitation are the factors that the women suffers from many sex related problems. The victims prefer to go to local horopaths who use to give herbal medicines for the treatment of different gynecological problems. There are certain horopaths who are expertise in the treatment of Menorrhagia (Hembrom, 1994).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Continuous field survey was conducted in different villages/village hats (markets) of Chandil block during the

years 2005-2007 as a part of Research work on "Ethno-medico-botanical Studies of Chandil Block under Saraikela Kharsawan District of Jharkhand". Direct interaction and interview with the local Horopaths, Pahan, and other knowledgeable persons was conducted and important Ethno-botanical as well as Ethno-medico-botanical informations were documented following the methods Jain (1965), Jain and Rao (1976) using specific questionnaire for categorized diseases and other utilities of plants.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ethno-medico botanical survey revealed that indigenous women suffer from many different types of problems related to gynecology or sexual. (Sahu *et al.*, 2003) Menorrhagia is one of the most common problems among them. It was further noticed that there are certain horopaths who are expertise in the treatment of Menorrhagia. Direct dialogue and interview was conducted with such horopaths and all relevant informations with regard to symptoms, diagnosis, indigenous medicinal plants and methods used for medicine preparation, mode, duration and dose of medicines and the precautions to be taken by the affected women have been documented.

The documented informations have been given here with the list of the Horopaths of the area who use to treat the patients of Menorrhagia.

Interview with following horopaths were conducted—

- Sri Bauri Layak— Age- 45 years, Village— Dirlong Chandil, Exp.—20 yrs.
- Sri Govind Puran— Age-55 years, Vill- Bidri Tola,

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