

Medicinal plants used in local health care system of Chanawada village, Udaipur, Rajasthan

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SUMMARY

An insight into local healthcare systems and traditional knowledge about medicinal plants is always instrumental in providing nascent ideas to pharmaceutical industries to develop strategic research programmes for the identification of new bioactive compounds for the production of synthetic drug molecules. Many a times this undocumented information is lost much before it is realized by the users since it passed from generation to generation orally. For strengthening the proper usage and conservation of the medicinal traditions prevailing in the Chanawada village of Girwa block in Udaipur, a survey was undertaken to document the medicinal plants used by the tribal inhabitants of the area. Traditional uses of 24 medicinal plants occurring in wild habitat were recorded and are being presented in this paper.

Key Words : Medicinal plants, Health care

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Traditional medicines and traditional healers are getting much importance because even today in the world of modern medicine, 80 per cent of the population still depends on the plant based drugs for their daily primary health care needs. The glare of the western medicines is loosing its charm in light of age-old jungle remedies long employed by the traditional practitioners.

The Chanawada village lies in the Girwa block of the Udaipur district of Rajasthan which constitute 26 per cent of the tribal population. The village in particular has a total population of 5340 of which 1508 families belong to the ten tribes namely Meghwal, Kalbelia, Doli, Meena, Kalal, Brahmin, Jain, Vaid, Lohar and Teli. The primary source of income is agriculture. The total area of the village is 3243.4hectare of which agricultural land comprise 653.1 ha. in addition to the 2822.64 ha of forest area and 767.6 ha of waste land. There are

five primary schools, six anganwadies and one each of secondary and senior secondary school. The medical facilities are in the form of a veterinary dispensary in Prasad village and one ayurvedic dispensary in Chanawada. All local people in general take medication from the dispensary and the medical practitioner is giving herbal formulations both purchased from the market as well as self-made using the local biodiversity available in the area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 26 people (aged between 20-85 years) were interviewed including the Ayurvedic doctor employed in the dispensary in the village but most of the information was provided by three informants and the medical practitioner. The informants were selected randomly. The interviews were not structured and involved no formal questionnaire. All the discussions were held during our field visit for plant biodiversity register documentation survey (November 2011 and March 2012).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 123 plant species of trees, shrubs, climbers

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