



A study of the medicinal value of the most exploited plants

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ABSTRACT

In this present study, the total six plant species are enumerated. They are from different families of dicotyledonous. They are trees. These plants are exploited for various reasons. Sometimes it is used for religious purposes, for doing medicine, in the name of medicine, for fun, for research, for laboratory use, epidemic, heavy rainfall, natural calamities etc. these plants are effective against ailments such as fever, weakness, cough, leucoderma, snake bite, diarrhea, dysentery, pile, laxative, acidity, diabetes, cooling, leucorrhoea, antihelmintic, antifungal, antibacterial, antidiabetics, antipyretic, leprosy, jaundice, pilex fever, skin diseases, infertility and cholera etc.

KEYWORDS: Exploited plants; medicinal value; religious purpose; ailments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Exploitation is defined as the act of using resources or the act of treating people unfairly in order to benefit from their efforts or labor.

Plants are a treasure of nature. Plants are just as alive as humans. Plants and humans complement each other. More than that, the lions of the plant are waiting for the balance of this living earth. Basic human needs are derived from this plant. Earth has been a living planet in the solar system for thousands of years due to its abundant vegetation. But day-to-day life is threatened by a number of factors, such as rising global temperature, declining water levels, earth quakes, epidemic, over rainfall, and so on.

Every human being is a taxonomist who has information about many plants. They also know the uses of plants as food, shelter and for medicinal values. They also have knowledge about the importance of plants. The plants provide wood for making furniture and for use as fuel. They are also cultivated as ornamental plants in the garden and at the sides of roads. Plants trap the radiant energy and take carbon dioxide from air because of which the temperature of Earth is being maintained for years. Hence it keeps the ozone layer safe. Ozone protects the Earth from ultraviolet rays and other harmful rays which are passing from the sun.

Nowadays not only forest is being redneed due to the human activity such as industrial development, tremendously increasing population and resultant increase in the area of cities for civilization, making roads and highway and bridges, megavolt electric line, railway rout etc. but farming is also affected. Consequently such activities two affect the life of human beings.

For the sake of forest as well as human beings and animals, we should pay attention towards such excessive activity. We must conserve the forest, we must save the nature, we must protect animal world. We must give helping hand for the live Earth.

If the plants decline, human being would also suffer. Recently we knew that natural calamities have been occurring due to adverse environment, either high temperature or high cold. High flood is also because of increase in the rate of deforestation. Therefore we must spread the awareness among the people in every nook and corner and through different kinds of media.

Last but not least the plants provide valuable and precious oxygen for mankind to breath. It does not segregate human on the basis of caste, creed and religion. It is present continuously in the ample quantity for every person living on the world wherever he is present, without taking any price because of plants.

II. METHODOLOGY

Frequent surveys were conducted in Hinganghat taluka of Wardha district in Maharashtra. Many elder people were asked for information. They were also asked how the plant is used, what diseases are treated. Information was also collected on which plants are used in which festivals. The plants are identified by using the flora of Nagpur district (Ugemuge, R. N.; 1986).

III. OBSERVATION

1. NEEM

Botanical name : *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss

Family name : Meliaceae

Religious rituals : This plant has been threatened by humans from the very beginning. People break the stick and brush their teeth. The leaves are placed near the corpse. Even sorcerers use the leaves during mantra techniques. This plant is also used in various religious rituals.

Medicinal use: Juice with honey and dried powder of leaves applied on skin to treat skin diseases and jaundice, to control diabetes dissolve 50 gms seeds in water and drink; bark is chewed in cough; 5 gm bark powdered added with butter and applied over the skin to cure wounds and ringworms; the fresh juice is given for intestinal worms, paste used as face pack; take bath with water containing boiled leaves for skin diseases; paste is made from leaves and applied on skin; juice of leaves make blood, to test snake bite few leaves are given to patient for chewing.

2. APTA

Botanical name : *Bauhinia racemosa* Linn.

Family name : Caesalpiniaceae

Religious rituals : On the day of Dussehra festival, the leaves of *Bauhinia* are given to each other as Sona (gold).

Medicinal use: The juice of leaves and bark is used to cure the dysentery and diarrhea.

3. PALAS

Botanical name : *Butea monosperma* (Lam)Kuntz

Family name : Fabaceae

Religious rituals : Pallas branches are placed near the door of the house during the Pola-festival. At the time of Holi, people make the colour of pallas flower. The leaves are used for feeding leaves and other purposes.

Medicinal use : Mix powder of flower with batasha and take for three days with two times to treat fever. It also used against urinary disorders.

4. WAD

Botanical name : *Ficus benghalensis* L.

Family name : Moraceae

Religious rituals : On the festival day of Vat-Savitri, women tie cotton thread on wad's trunk. The plate for the meal is made from leaves.

Medicinal use: Mix powder of leaves in ½ cup milk with batasha and take twice a day to treat infertility; make paste of roots and dal of masur in milk and apply on dark spots.

5. BAEL

Botanical name : *Aegle marmelos* (Linn.) Correa ex. Roxb

Family name : Rutaceae

Religious rituals : Bael (*Aegle*) leaves are used for worship during many festivals.

Medicinal use: Apply butter on leaf; warm it and wrap over eyes; put drops of leaf juice in eyes to relieve eye troubles, eat fresh leaves for acidity, juice for diabetes, fruit directly given to patient in diarrhea.

6. MANGO

Botanical name : *Mangifera indica* L.

Family name : Anacardiaceae

Religious rituals : Mango leaves are used to make pyre for various festival days. Also used for decorating plant twigs.

Medicinal use: Powder of 20 gms of leaves, boil in ½ liter water and boil it to become 125 ml filter it and drink.

IV. DISCUSSION

Gerald, *et al.* (1988) noticed over exploitation of medicinal plant resources, such as *Prunus Africana* can be explained by micro-social theory [2], Wagh and Jain (1993) concluded over exploitation that even results in ecological imbalance [8], Uniyal *et al.* (2002) observed declining population of 14 threatened medicinal and aromatic plant species [6], Ziblim, *et al.* (2013) used 47 medicinal plants for treating 56 diseases but the parts exploited for treatment and the methods used for exploiting them are not sustainable, hence herbalist complained of rareness of certain species [9], Chen, *et al.* (2016) reported medicinals plants are valuable sources of herbal products, and are disappearing at a high speed [1], and Volenzo and Odiyo (2020) also noticed the over exploitation of medicinal plants have adverse impacts on ecosystems [7].

These plants are used against ailments such as fever, weakness, cough, leucoderma, snake bite, diarrhea, dysentery, pile, laxative, acidity, diabetes, cooling, leucorrhoea, antihelmintic, antifungal, antibacterial, antidiabetics, antipyretic, leprosy, jaundice, piler fever, skin diseases, infertility and cholera etc. These observations are well supported by the previous studies of Shende, *et al.* (2012) reported 108 plant species uses of various ethnomedicinal plant parts against the diseases [3] and Shende, *et al.* (2014) also reported 71 medicinal plants are used against different kinds of disease [4].

According to Nagesh Tekale Botanist said, “All the Apta and Shami trees are on the verge of extension and are now are endangered species and they are exploited a lot in the season; and the trees are of great medicinal importance and are used to cure several diseases [10].

V. CONCLUSION

Exploitation of such plants should be stopped. Awareness about nature should be created among the people. The plant should be used as required in religious ceremonies and other rituals. Plants should be nurtured and preserved. The medicinal properties of the plant should be communicated to the people. Such plants need to be conserved to maintain ecological balance. The biodiversity losses and environmental deterioration will severely threaten. Exploitation can lead to resource depletion and put a number of threatened and endangered species, at risk of extinction.

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VII. REFERENCE

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