

Folklore Treatment of Skin Diseases by Koya Tribes of Bhadradri Kothagudum District, Telangana State.

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Abstract

Folklore Medicine uses in Gangolu village, Bhadradri Kothagudum District, Telangana State, which is mainly occupied by Koya tribes revealed that some medicinally important plants were used by herbal healers (ages between 54 - 80 years). In the present study, local name, scientific name, family, habit, uses have been identified. Folklore Medicine studies were conducted particularly in dense forest where the Koya tribal community inhabits. The present study of the area belonging to the Koya tribes and we were visited, identified and gathered information on different plants used as medicine was recorded by direct observation, casual interview and taken photographs.

In the present study, a number of plants which are used by Koya tribes of Gangolu village, Bhadradri Kothagudum District, Telangana State, India for treatment of skin diseases have been documented. The present study is based on the concept of "a plant for cure of a common disease". For example a single plant was selected for common skin diseases like wounds, ring worm, itching, warts, eczema, vitiligo, chicken pox, measles and etc.. Among these plants, some species like *Azadirachta indica*, *Curcuma langa*, *Annona squamosa*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Citrus lemon*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Hybiscus rosasinensis*, *Tridax procumbens*, *Lucas aspera*, *Ricinus communis* and *Mangifera indica* were collected from the forest for treatment. From the present analysis plant parts used roots, stem, bark, leaves, seeds and flowers.

The present study concludes that, the Koya of Gangolu village used the pharmacognostic values of these plants. Such proven plant species may be used in the formulation of new drugs against different ailments. Hence, there is great need of cultivation and conservation of such plants.

Keywords: Folklore Medicine

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization, over 80% of the world's populations rely upon traditional plant based systems of medicine to provide them with primary healthcare^{1,2,3}. World-wide a total of more than 38,000 plant species are used for medicinal purposes. India and China are leading countries with more than 40% species of plants market in medicinal plants^{6,7,8,9}. The pattern of tribal livelihood has not changed since immemorial. In the dense forest areas, nature is so kind that for thousands of years it has been possible for these tribal to live in comparative ease by simply hunting and food gathering^{11,18,21,14,15}. A variety of natural products provide them a balanced diet. They include fruits, nuts, berries leafy vegetables, tubers, yams mushrooms and honey. Over 210 such natural wild plant products can be gathered in a season^[16,17,18,]. Besides these, materials for shelter, fabrics, medicine and other necessities for survival are found in surrounding nature (Vartak and Gadgil, 1980). The primary benefits of using plant derived medicines are that they are relatively safer than modern medicine.

Study Area:

Bhadrachalam famous pilgrim place near Godavari River in Telangana state. It lies between at 11°55' N latitude and 75°5' N longitude temperature

Goes down to 15°C during the winter season and to 33°C during the summer month

The rain fall ranges from 310mm-1010mm. The first types are deciduous forest. Soil is alluvial type. Surroundings areas are Chhattisgarh. Climate is favorable for growth and development of plants. Traditional herbal plants are readily available in rural area for treatment of skin diseases

II. Methodology

Frequent field visits were conducted in selected villages of Bhadradi Kothagudum District in Telangana State and gathered information about traditional knowledge pertained to skin diseases and the detailed application and administration of plant remedies for skin diseases. Data sheets and questionnaire were used for data collection, which includes collection number, name and age of informant, place, location name, family, specificity in collecting useful parts detailed method of drug preparation, specificity of dosage, restriction if any and administration. Photographs were also taken for correct identification. The plants are enumerated in the scientific name followed by family local name, plants used and medicinal uses. A detailed description about preparation administration and application of the drug are also given.

For gathering information regarding plants using medicinally by the rural areas several field trips were Under taken in the district and surrounding areas of different season. Ethnobotanical data was collected According to the methodology suggested by SK Jain 1991. informations (vernacular names, mode of preparation , medicinal uses) through questionnaires interviews and discussion among the rural practitioners in their local languages accorded in the field note book Collected Information was cross checked with the available literature (SK Jain 1965).

These study also involved an extensive literature search and herbarium examination jain 65

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Enumeration of plant species scientific name, family, habit, vernacular name, useful plant parts and mode of administration. Present information deals with 30 medicinal plants which are used for the treatment of skin diseases these plants are arranged in alphabetical order .This indicates that rural people of this area posses good survey of folklore plants for treatment of skin diseases in Bhadradi Kothagudum district

S.No Scientific name , Family , habit , Vernacular name , useful plant parts , uses

Abrupretorius L. Fabaceae gurilinga climber leaf paste is applied on affected parts to cure any type of skin disease,

Allium sativum L. Liliaceae vellulli herb -crushed garlic bulb applied on Segalumps

Aloe vera L. burmf .Liliaceae – kalabanda herb leaf paste is applied on wounds and cuts

Amaranthus cardatus L. Amaranthaceae- thotakura herb applied on skin diseases

Amaranthus spinosus L. Amaranthaceae -mullathotakura herb fresh leaf paste applied on skin diseases for three days

Azadirachta indica L. Meliaceae- vepa tree fresh leaf paste applied on skin allergies, seed oil used for exzema fresh leaf paste apply in ring worm and scabies .Seed paste is applied to cure any type of skin diseases

Carrica papaya L.- Caricaceae ,Boppayee small plant unripe fruit latex applied on warts daily until for cure

Centella asiatica L. Urban Apiaceae Saraswathi,- fresh root extract is applied on effected parts of skin and whole plant is used for skin allergies.

Citrus lemon L. Rutaceae nimma small tree fresh fruit juice applied on scabies on fold hands and rashes.

Curcuma augustifolia Roxb Zingiberaceae- Kasturi pasupu rhizome and Moringa oleifera, L. For Moringaceae bark applied on leucoderma daily until for cure and daily below 9am exposed to Sun rays with effected parts of the skin ten minutes in daily. Cold allergy on skin-apply a paste made of dry turmeric and Cynodon dactylon, Poaceae, garika leaves on effected skin with cold allergen on skin. Boils –application of dry turmeric powder on effected parts of skin boils

Curcuma Longa L. Zingiberaceae-pasupu rhizome is applied on fresh cuts & wounds a Hot poultice of the rhizome is applied on affected part from 2-3 hours twice a day for 5 days.

Datura metel L. Solanaceae –herb ummetha leaf paste is applied to treat skin diseases.

Ficus glomerata Roxb Moraceae-medi latex applied on bacterial infections till cure

Hibiscus rosa-sinesis L. Malvaceae –mandara leaf and flower paste applied on hair fall

Jatropha curcas L. Euphorbiaceae adaviamudam shrub and Ricinus communis, amudam, shrub, fresh bark are taken in equal amounts are boiled together and mixed with the processed leaves of Nicotiana glauca L. Solanaceae, Pogaku, shrub are prescribed to apply locally for itching.

Melia azedarachlinn-Meliaceae-turkavepa leaf paste applied on skin infections

Mirabilis jalapa L. Nyctaginaceae, Rudraksha leaf paste applied on skin itches regularly every day

Morus indica L. Moraceae Tree of leaf paste is applied locally as plaster.

Ocimum sanctum L. Lamiaceae -tulsi ,herb leaf paste applied on acne and allergy.

Pongamia pinnata L. Fabaceae-ganuga, Seed oil is applied on skin diseases

Plumbago zeylanica L. – Lamiaceae, Chitramulam, herb fresh leaves of Osmium sanctum Lamiaceae ramathulasi herb are grounded and mixed with a little amount of salt are prepared in the form of paste used in ringworm.

Tridox procumbens L. Asteraceae- gaddi chemanthi herb fresh leaf paste applied on skin healing and dandruff .

IV. Conclusion:

In conclusion, the study underscores the resilience and relevance of Koya folklore medicine in contemporary times, offering insights into alternative healthcare systems rooted in cultural heritage and ecological wisdom. Preserving and promoting Koya traditional medicine not only contributes to healthcare diversity but also supports efforts towards sustainable development and community resilience. Future research should focus on further documenting medicinal plants, validating their efficacy through scientific studies, and fostering partnerships between traditional healers, scientists .

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