

ETHNOBOTANICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF BARPETA, ASSAM, INDIA

Abstract

The research was conducted in two village of Barpeta district .This research tries to primarily focus on the relationship of man with its biological surrounding by investigating the ways to how Muslim community of Barpeta district cure and prevent diseases on their own ways directly with the help of plants and herbs. It was found that both man and its environment is interrelated. The local healers do diagnose and treat the people. They are also into spiritual healing and other kinds of treatments. The knowledge of plants and the parts to be used for different diseases were incredible.

Keywords: Ethnobotany, herbal plants, human, disease, treatment, medicine.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Ethnobotany has major role to play in man's life right from food to cure . Survival depends mostly on ethnobotany as it is all about how human developed relationship with nature through trial and error and how indigenous plants are being used as food and cure for diseases. The use of plants is a part of complex socio- ecological system; it indicates how relationship between nature and human evolve in time and space (Albuquerque *et al.* 2017). Ethnobotany is a branch of biology that focuses on the relationship between people and plants in general and, more specifically, on the research, observation, and identification of the diverse botanical species used to treat and prevent human and animal diseases. Ethnobotany is the study of plants used by the aboriginal people (Harshberger, 1896). Studies on ethnobotany can shed light on how communities locally interact with their natural resources, ethnobotanical studies have the ability to combine and integrate local and scientific knowledge. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the use of herbal remedies throughout the world exceeds that of the conventional drugs by two to three times (Evans, 1994). In India vast sections of the rural population have no access to modern medicine (Mudur, 1997)

II. STUDY AREA

The research was conducted in the beginning of 2023 in Barpeta district of Assam, India. Two villages were considered for field study, they were Nagaon, Batgaon. The atmosphere of the study area was calm, clean and green. Though it is a rural area, still it has all kinds of medical facilities, apart from this other facilities like transportation and communication, educational institution, road connectivity is well developed.

III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The researcher was keenly invested in investigating the grounded connection of man, environment and disease.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The primary focus of the research was to acquire primary data from the field via random sampling , observation method, interview method , audio recording method.

V. RESULT

Serial No	Scientific Name of The Plant	English Name	Local Name	Usable In Disease	Local Name	Parts In Use
1	<i>Cynodondactylon</i>	Bermuda grass	<i>Long duburi</i>	Nerve disease	<i>Hotok</i>	Root
2	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	<i>Khastel</i>	Nerve disease	<i>Hotok</i>	Seed
3	<i>Aervajavarnica</i>	Desert cotton	<i>Bilaisara gosh</i>	Piles	<i>Baoshi</i>	Root
4	<i>Amaranthus tricolor</i>	Edible amarnath	<i>Murogphool</i>	Piles	<i>Baoshi</i>	Root

5	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Shame plant	<i>Lajjapati</i>	Piles	<i>Baoshi</i>	Root
6	<i>Tinosporacordifolia</i>	Heart-shaped moonseed	<i>Amburaz</i>	Acidity and worm	<i>Gas and kirmi</i>	Stem
7	<i>Diplaziumesculentum</i>	Fiddlehead fern	<i>Dhekia</i>	Fractured bone	<i>Thetelahar</i>	Root
8	<i>Colocasiaesculenta</i>	Taro	<i>Kala kosu</i>	Night fever	<i>Churajor</i>	Root
9	<i>Eclipta prostrate</i>	False daisy	<i>Kala keshur</i>	Asthma	<i>Hapani</i>	Root
10	<i>Heliotropiumindicum</i>	Indian helitrope	<i>Gathisurgosh</i>	Tonsil	<i>Golorbikh</i>	Leaf
11	<i>Typhoniumtrilobatum</i>	Bengal arum	<i>Kharkongosh</i>	Liver ailment	<i>Okhusthokolija</i>	Tuber
12	<i>Euphorbiahirta; Diplaziumesculentum</i>	Milk hedge Fern	<i>Dudhujaron Dhekia</i>	Diarrhea	<i>Shutigari</i>	Leaf Bark Root
13	<i>Bryophyllumpinnatum</i>	Life plant	<i>Paategoja</i>	Kidney stone	<i>Kidney khil .</i>	Leaf
14	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem	<i>Neem</i>	Skin irritation	<i>Saalokhukh</i>	Leaf
15	<i>Centellaasiatica</i>	Indian pennywort	<i>Manimuni</i>	Dysentery	<i>Pet bemar</i>	Leaf
16	<i>Tinosporacordifolia</i>	Giloy	<i>Giloy</i>	Fever Dengue Stomach ache Immunity booster	<i>Jor Dengue Pet bikh Gaarkhokti</i>	Leaf Stem Root

VI. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

The ethnobotanical study in Barpeta district highlights how environment plays the major role in the life of the people right from survival to curing diseases. A plant available around people has the potential to cure any form of ailments and with time which people has acknowledged through trial and error, practice and oral traditions. Assam is a land of forest which holds numerous plants and herbs. The herbal medicines / traditional medicaments have therefore been derived from rich traditions of ancient civilizations and scientific heritage (Kamboj, 2000). Planting trees and taking care of them were the primary activity of the people in the district as they practice sustainable agriculture. The richness in vegetation permits the people to consume more of vegetarian diet which includes root, leaf, flower, fruit, stem, rhizome, seed etc. This kind of diet has always been the healthiest food dishes cooked in the kitchen. Such kind of diet did help the locals to understand the properties of the plants around them which aided in prevention and cure of different ailments. The locals do visit herbal practitioners in their localities to consult and treat different types of ailments of all age group people irrespective of gender (sex). On the other hand they do visit Allopathy, Homeopathy, Ayurveda practitioners for treatments in the first place or after the failure under traditional healer.

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