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FOLKLORES OF SANTHALS INHABITING JOYपुर FOREST OF BANKURA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT: The present work, an outcome of thorough field survey, deals with the documentation of ethnomedicinal plants used by the folk communities in Bankura district, West Bengal. Information collected from traditional practitioners of the area concerns as many as 25 plant species belonging to the 17 families, their local names, disease curing property, parts used, preparation and mode of administration. As taxonomic documentation of medicinal plants and documentation of their ethnomedicinal uses deserve topmost priority in contemporary scientific researches, much care has been taken in their identification and nomenclature. This study attempts to draw attention for in-depth study on the concerned medicinal plants, the result of which is likely to provide novel, better and efficient remedies for many dreadful diseases. This kind of study is likely to prove useful for protection of intellectual property right (IPR) of the persons from whom the knowledge has been shared.

KEYWORDS: Folklore, Ethnomedicinal plants, Joypur forest, Bankura District.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ethnobotany, is a subject which deals with the revelation of direct relationship between aboriginal people and their surrounding plants, has presently been given much emphasis by the scientific world since the scientific rationale cryptic in the traditional knowledge can convey enormous benevolence to mankind [1, 2, 3, 4]. In view of this the present author felt the necessity to document the indigenous traditional knowledge through door to door survey in areas of Bankura district of West Bengal dominated by Santhals, Oraon, Munda, Kora. Tribal peoples mainly habituated to use

various medicinal Plants for primary healthcare. The outcome of different research [9, 10, 11, 12] revealed the simple unique practice of medicines by the tribal communities which on therapeutic proving could be potential source of many modern medicines. The work of Sinhababu and Banerjee (2013) documented 43 ethno-medicinal plants of Bankura district, West Bengal, India belonging to 24 families used by the local health healers for the treatment of different diseases like inflammation, cough and cold, skin diseases, ulcers, leucoderma and leprosy. Rahman and Karmakar (2014) were able to document from the district, in all 25 plants which are used by the santal people living in and around Susunia hill of Bankura for curing 27 types of diseases. As many as 32 species belonging to 20 families could be documented with their scientific and local names, family, medicinal properties, plant parts used, mode of preparation and administration by [13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25] has been recorded some important household medicinal plants which are used by the tribal of Bankura, Cooch Bihar, Derjeeling, Purulia and Medinipur districts of the same state to cure diabetes.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ethnobotanical survey was carried out from 2012 in different areas of Bankura district mainly covering the tribal dominated villages and according to the standard methods given by Rao, 1981. Ethnomedicinal Information were collected by semi structured questionnaire based interviews of such knowledgeable informants as such traditional healers, senior persons etc. Concerned plant specimens were identified on the basis of taxonomic workout and authentic literature [5, 6, 7, 8]. Bankura District lying within It is situated between $22^{\circ} 38'$ and $23^{\circ} 38'$ north latitude and between $86^{\circ} 36'$ and $87^{\circ} 46'$ east longitude covers an area of 6,788 square kilometers. On the north and north-east the district is bounded by Bardhaman district (in between Bankura and Burdwan their present Damodar River) where as the south-east is bounded by Hooghly district. The south and west bounded by Paschim Medinipur district and Purulia district respectively. Bankura district has a dry and hot summer with moderate monsoon and cold winter. Major portion of the rain is received during the monsoon season (June-September). (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bankura_district)

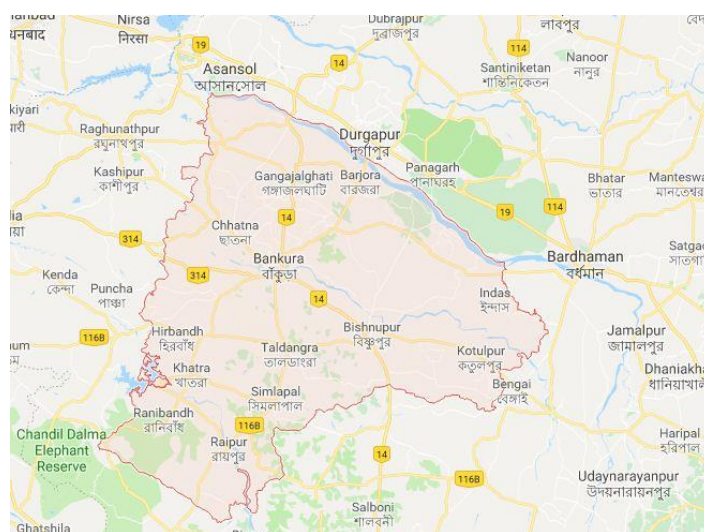


Fig: Map showing the Study Site (Map not in scale)

Source:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Bankura,+West+Bengal/@23.1788859,86.6755538,9z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x39f7a593b82e1dfd:0x1d9113821e483737!8m2!3d23.164543!4d87.0624261>

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present work studied ethnomedicinal uses of Plant species belonging to the 25 genera and 17 families from the primary sources from tribal villages of Bankura district, indicating the plant name, Local Name, Status, Mode of administration and their uses. (Table 1 and Fig 2)

Table1:Account of the medicinal plants within the District of Bankura,West Bengal,India

Sl No	Scientific Name & Family	Local Name	Status	Parts used	Mode of Administration	Disease cured
1.	<i>Abelmoschus moschatus</i> Malvaceae	Latakasturi	Frequent	Seed	Firstly seeds are dusted and then taken	Kidney problem
2.	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> Papaveraceae	Adhejenu	Very common	Whole plant	Whole plants are crushed for extracting juice which is taken twice a day for 7 days	Epilepsy
3.	<i>Brassica rapa</i> Brassicaceae	Turi dare	Very common	Seed	Infusion of seeds is taken twice a day	Epilepsy
4.	<i>Carica papaya</i> Cariaceae	Pipe dare	Very common	Latex	About 10 drops of latex collected from the plant is taken with sugar-candy twice a day	Jaundice
5.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> Meliaceae	Neem	Very common	Leaf	Two leaves crushed and taken perday	Diabetes, Skin disease
6.	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> Cleomaceae	Hurhuria	Very Common	Leaf and Fruit	Decoction of leaves is taken twice a day	Renal problem
7.	<i>Shorea robusta</i> Dipterocarpaceae	Sarjom baha	Common	Bark	200mg dust of resin along with 250 ml of water is taken for 3 consecutive days in empty stomach	Dysentery

8.	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> Malvaceae	Berela	Very common	Root	Roots are crushed to make a paste of it and 10 gm of the paste is mixed with 250 ml of water, boiled and taken once daily	Piles
9.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> Acanthaceae	Akando	Very common	Whole plant	Root, leaves etc are crushed and taken powder form	Asthma, Bronchitis
10.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> Caesalpinaceae	Kalkasunda	Very common	Whole plant	Fresh leaf juice is applying on the diseased area.	Leprosy, Skin disease, Diabetes
11.	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> Apocynaceae	Nayantara	Very common	Root and leaves	Roots and leaves in the form of a decoction, leaves are crushed and paste form and taken one times daily.	Diabetes
12.	<i>Abroma augusta</i> Sterculiaceae	Ulotkambol	Common	Root and leaves	Roots are crushed to make a paste which is taken twice a day	Menstrual disorder
13.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> Anacardiaceae	Uldare	Very common.	Roots and leaves	Roots and leaves 5gm each, are crushed to make a paste which is used in the treatment of leprosy and leucorrhoea	leprosy
14.	<i>Enhydra fluctuans</i> Asteraceae	Hinche	common	Leaf and Stem	Plant body is to be paste and form liquid and taken 2 tea spoon hot juice daily 2 times	Rheumatism, Eczema
15.	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> Boraginaceae	Hatisur	Very Common	Leaf	Leaf juice mixed with 10 drops water and taken 2 to 3 times per day	Rheumatism, Eczema, Fever

16.	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> Cucurbitaceae	Telakuch	Common	Leaf , root	Leaf and root juice taken 4 to 5 teaspoon at morning and evening	Cough, Dysentery fever
17.	<i>Spondias pinnata</i> Anacardiaceae	Amra	Common	Bark	Plant bark is firstly boiled and prepared a soup and taken two times per day daily	Diarrhoea
18.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> Fabaceae	Kuch	Less Common.	Leaf	A paste of leaves is used for treatment of cold, cough and fever	Cough, fever
19.	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> Nyctaginaceae	Sapune	Common	Whole plant	Leaf juice taken for 2 times per day	Kidney problem
20.	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> Fabaceae	Tumur	Less Common	Leaf	Leaves are crushed in little water for preparing a paste a pinch of which is taken orally thrice a day	Jaundice
21.	<i>Crotalaria retusa</i> Fabaceae	Atasi	Common	Leaf	Crushed leaves (10gm) are mixed with milk (250ml), boiled and cooled for taking it once a day	Jaundice.
22.	<i>Desmodium motorium</i> Fabaceae	Bancharal	Common.	Whole plant	Decoction of the whole plant is cooled, sieved and the fluid is used as an ear drop which is used twice a day.	Ear problem
23.	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> Fabaceae	Ban Nil	Common.	Root	Roots (2-3gm) are crushed to make a paste of it which is mixed with 10 seeds of <i>Dolichos biflorus</i> and crushed which is divided in to two doses for use on a single day at an interval of atleast eight hours to expel kidney- stones.	Kidney- stones

24.	<i>Bauhinia acuminata</i> Caesalpiniaceae	Swet kanchan	Very common	Flower	Dried flowers are ground and the dust thus obtained is locally applied twice in piles affected areas. A pinch of the dust made from dried flower is taken once a day for 2-3 days	Dysentery.
25.	<i>Saraca asoca</i> Caesalpiniaceae	Ashok	Less common	Flower and Bark	Flowers and bark is paste properly and mixed with water and taken per day one times	Dysentery

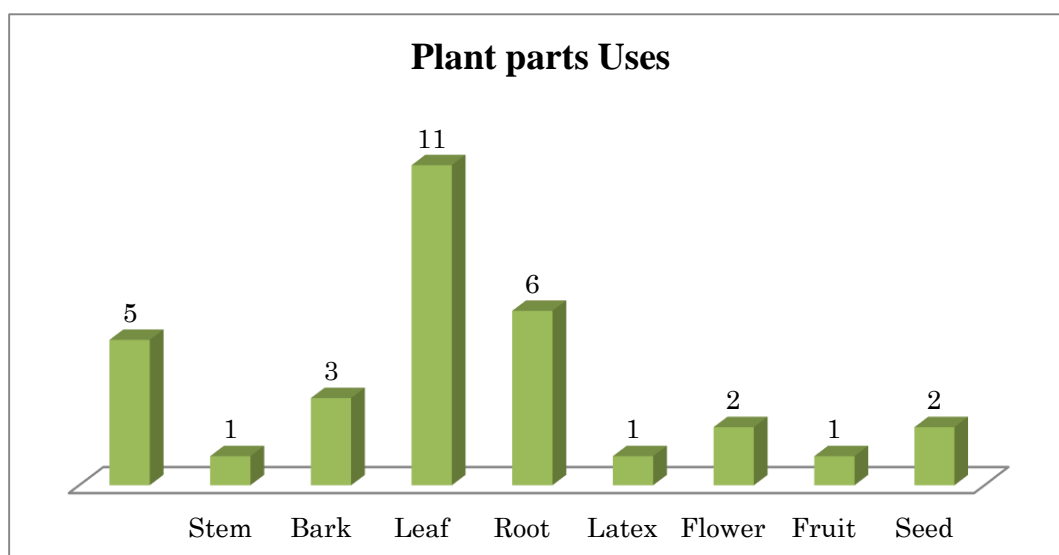


Fig 2: Bar graph showing the ethnomedicinal uses of plant parts

These plant species mainly found to grow naturally in forested area of Bankura District. The investigated plant taxa and ethnomedicinal uses against various health disorders and ailments speaks of their importance in conveying benevolence to man because these plants are easily accessible by people for utilizing medicinal purpose. From the result it can be conclude that Leaves are used by the communities in maximum followed by root and whole plant (Fig 2).

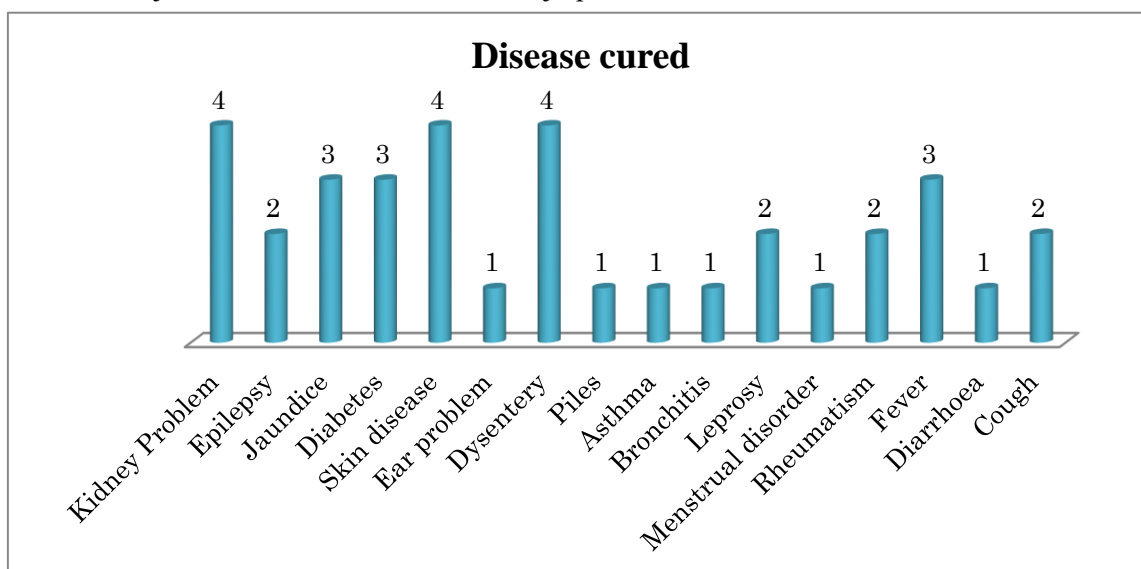


Fig 3: Bar graph showing the disease cured by plant parts

From the result in can be conclude that the plant has different curative properties thus these plants can be used for treatment in Kidney problem, Epilepsy, Skin disease, Dysentery, Leprosy, Rheumatism and Diarrhoea etc (Table 1 and Fig 3). Maximum uses of phytoresources are effective against Kidney problem, Skin disease and Dysentery.

4. CONCLUSION

While summing up it can be said the Tribal communities have the sense of sustainable uses of phytoresources as they use the vegetative parts more than that of reproductive parts. Findings of these work very much helpful to discover the new drug against dreadful diseases such as dysentery (*Saraca asoca, Bauhinia acuminata*), Jaundice (*Cajanus cajan, Crotalaria retusa*), Diabetes (*Azadirachta indica, Catharanthus roseus*).

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest declared none.

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