



Ethnoveterinary Study from Melghat Forest Region of Amravati District

U. R. Kokate

Head, Dept. of Botany,
Arts, science & Commerce College,
Chikhaldara, Dist. Amravati. 444807.
drujwalakokate@gmail.com

Abstract

Melghat is known as paradise of Vidharbha Melghat means the 'meeting of Ghats' which is just what the area is, a large tract of unending hills. The forest of Melghat is mostly of the Dry Mixed Deciduous type and one of the important forests of Vidharbh region. The Melghat forest has great diversity of medicinal plants. Present study includes the study of Ethnovetarnary study of this region. The study of medicinal plants done by Botanical experts, Agriculture University students and the students of Ayurveda etc. time to time and explored by them. Now it is necessary to study the Ethnovetarnary View by the Expert.

Key words- Melghat, Ethnovetarnary, Tribes.

Introduction –

The forest of Melghat is mostly of the Dry Mixed deciduous type and one of the important forests of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra in India. The vegetation varies considerably with the change in altitude, soil, temperature, humidity and rainfall. The average rain fall varies from 1300 mm to 1450 mm, the temperature range varies from 13 to 41°C and humidity varies from 48% to 100%. The soil is also different types. The general floristic study of Melghat Forest includes the plants like 94 tree species, 708 shrubs, 368 small herbs, 66 climbers, 2 species of Bamboo, 127 species of grasses.

The study of medicinal plants done by Botanical experts, Agriculture University students and the students of Ayurveda etc. time to time and explored by them. Now it is necessary to study the Ethnovetarnary View by the Expert. The farmer can do the farming of these medicinal plants. Traditional agroforestry practices to some extent helped farmers in meeting diverse need. Adivasis are totally dependent on the Forest for their requirements.

The tribal population of region predominantly includes Korku, Gond, Nihal, Gawali and Gawlan. A field data were collected with structural interviews and open



discussion from few villages of Melghat. Knowledge of ethnoveterinary medicine was found to be orally preserved and there were no documentation occurred.

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Materials and Methods –

Biodiversity has become a topic of serious consideration through-out the world. Very few attempts are being made to know it. Melghat forest of Amravati district of Maharashtra state, with its varied physical features, harbor us a great diversification of biological wealth. But in spite of its luxuriant vegetation and rich plant wealth, the forest remain botanically poorly explored.

The climatic features of the hilly tracts of Chikhaldara and Dharni tehsils and of the plains are quite different because of the totally different topography of the two regions. Therefore they are treated separately. Chikhaldara is situated on this range and receives average rainfall of 1784 mm and Dharni is 1300mm. the air temperature ranges from 35°C to 23°C in summer and 22°C to 13°C in winter season. Traditional healers in the Korku tribes are known as Bhumka's and Parihar. People are still dependant on the medicinal plants for the primary healthcare and treatment of various diseases of animals. The data include occurrence, symptoms, frequency, mode of treatment, dose administration etc. study has to list various diseases, treatments, plants used for treatments. Plant samples were collected and identified with the help of state, regional and district floras.



Result and Discussion -

Present study revealed that 15 plant species belonging to 25 families having ethnoveterinary values were found to be use by traditional healer of the region. The plants were used to treat 05 diseases like diarrhoea, wound, fracture, foot and mouth diseases. Mode of treatment varies with type of animal and its diseases. Diseases can be treated either with whole plant, plant parts or in combination of different plants. The various plant parts used included leaf, stem, root, bark, seed, fruit and even flower. Leaves constituted major portion of plant part used. Majority of earlier work on ethnoveterinary medicine recorded that leaves were major portion used in various treatments. In preparation of the material use of salt, calcium carbonate, jaggery, sugar, coconut oil was found to be common way of treatment. Some plant are use to more than one disease while other as use as mixture. Farmers have rich knowledge of ethnoveterinary practices, livestock owners were found to be capable of treating animals by their own experiences or by getting information from either parents or neighbor. Women mostly prescribed remedies from kitchen and surrounding areas like turmeric, asafoetida, jaggery etc. which were easily available to them.

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