

UGC MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

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ON

Ethno Botanical Assessment of plant resource in Western Ghats region of Dakshina Kannada District Karnataka – India

By

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Documenting and protecting ethno botanical knowledge has become key aspect in planning and management of plant resources. Further detailed exploration and collection of ethno botanical information, chemical studies and screening for medicinal properties will provide effective and reliable source of medicine for the welfare of humanity. This rapidly vanishing cultural diversity needs to be studied and documented before it disappears. The researchers should give attention to create awareness on the application and management of ethno medicinal plants .There is a need for further investigation for better human healthcare by using plants to get better results. Ethno botanical research can provide a wealth of information regarding both past and present relationship between plant and traditional societies.

The main objective of this study are to provide information about ethno medicinal plants to phytochemists and pharmacologists for further investigation, to conserve the documented ethno medicinal plants by means of insitu and exsitu methods and to create awareness among the youths and public regarding the identification, utilization and conservation of wild medicinal plants

Ethno botanical data is collected in very close interaction with informants using semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, participant observation and walk-in-the words. Questionnaires are designed to the respondents about ethno botanical knowledge of plants, mainly focused on common local name, knowledge about past and present use, part of the plants used, the method of collection and

usage, place of collection and habitats, threats and conservation status, The different landscapes identified in the Western Ghat region of Dahshina Kannada district are evergreen forests, semi evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, dry deciduous forests, scrubby jangles, grass lands, rivers and streams, containing numerous medicinal plants and important genetic resources such as the wild edible leaves and wild edible fruits. The ethno botanical knowledge of the following groups of plant resources is studied in this project.

A.Medicinal plants.

A.1 Utilization of tree barks

A.2. Plants used in shampoo and oils for the healthy hair

A.3.Plants for snake bite

A.4.Plants used for the treatment of bone fracture

A.5.Medicinal plants used for eye care, ear ache and nose problems

A.6.Plants used to treat the jaundice

A.7. Plants for the treatment of kidney stones

A.8.Ethno medicinal plants used for the toothache

B.Wild edible leaves

C.Wild edible fruits

It is clearly evident from the study that the knowledge of plants and its usage is limited to elder people. This rapidly vanishing cultural diversity needs to be studied and documented before it disappears. The researchers should give attention to create awareness on the application and management of ethno medicinal plants .There is a need for further investigation for better human healthcare by using plants to get better results. Attention must be given to conserve the ethno medicinal plants.