

Ethnobotanical Survey and Documentation of Medicinal Plants used by Traditinal Healers in Challakere, Chitradurga Dist. Karnataka

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Abstract: *In order to make an inventory of herbal remedies commonly used in the treatment diseases. Considerable knowledge accumulated by the tribal's and villagers on herbal medicine remains unknown to the scientists and urban people[16]. Ethnobotanical information from traditional healers provides a solid lead towards development of new drugs than random screening. The task was to screen extracts prepared from documented plants and perform a bioassay guided fractionation of the active extracts so as to isolate the active compounds from plants surveyed. The present study was undertaken to record the traditional knowledge of medicine from Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka. The present investigation comprises 67 species of ethno-medicinal plants distributed in 65 genera belonging to 38 families. For each species botanical name, family, vernacular name, parts used, methods of preparation, mode of administration, ailments and diet regime are provided*

Keywords: Documentation, Medicinal plants, Challakere

1. Introduction

The term "Ethnobotany" indicates, plants used by primitive and aboriginal people. Medicinal plants, possessing therapeutic properties form the backbone of traditional medicine.

India is a repository of medicinal plants. The herbal treasure of nation is rich in its floristic wealth[16]. It has been estimated that traditional healers in India use approximately about 2500 species of medicinal plants, in which few more than 100 species serve as regular sources of medicine[12].

Traditional medicine, as the health practices, approaches, and knowledge, believes incorporating plants, animal and mineral based medicine, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercises applied singularly or in combination to treat, diagnose and prevent illness and maintain well-being[11]. Further documentation of indigenous and traditional knowledge is very important for future critical studies leading to sustainable utilization of natural resource and to face the challenges of biopiracy and patenting indigenous and traditional knowledge by others[10]. The knowledge of certain herbs, animals and minerals that have curative and palliative effects were transmitted from one generation to another and it is the outcome of bold experimentation through trial-and-error method over hundreds of years[13]. The present investigation is an effort to document and analyze the indigenous traditional knowledge about medicinal plants used by local health healers to cure various ailments.

2. Materials and Method

2.1 Study Area

Challakere is a taluk headquarter in Chitradurga district in the state of Karnataka, India. Challakere is located at 14.312°N 76.651°E. It has an average elevation of 585

meters (1919 ft). The total population of Challakere Taluk is 365,784 out of which urban population is 55,194 while rural is 310,590.

2.2 Data collection

Local traditional healers having practical knowledge of plants in medicine were interviewed in villages of Challakere taluk during August and December 2021. Methods of selecting informants depended upon the distribution of local people having traditional knowledge. They were requested to share their knowledge and to show the plant species they used for treatment.

The wealth of medicinal plant knowledge among the people of this taluk is based on hundreds of years of beliefs and observations. This knowledge has been transmitted orally from generation to generation, however it seems that it is vanishing from the modern society since younger people are not interested to carry on this tradition.

The ethnomedicinal data were collected through general conversations with the traditional healers. The questionnaires were used to obtain information on medicinal plants with their local names, family, part used, ailments, formulations, mode of administration, diet regime. A total of 29 traditional healers were identified. The medicinal plants were collected from study area and photographed.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of the survey are presented in **Table 1** and the families of the plants are arranged in alphabetical order. The present investigation comprises **67 species** of ethno-medicinal plants distributed in **65 genera** belonging to **38 families**. For each species botanical name, family, vernacular name, parts used, methods of preparation, mode of administration, ailments and diet regime are provided. Traditional healers are using these plants to cure diseases related to skin problems, cold, fever, cough, headache,

diarrhea, fertility problems, toothache, stomach ache, pox, bone fractures, earache, hair loss and poison (snake, wounds, diabetes, rheumatism, asthma, dysentery, small scorpion and insect) bites, pits, stroke etc.

Table 1: List of Medicinal Plants with Family and Uses

Table 1

Sl. No	Scientific name	Vernacular name (kannada)	Family	Habit	Part used	Ailments	Formulations and mode of administration
1.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i>	Mudregida	Malvaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Dyspnea (Shortness of breath)	Leaves are crushed, placed in mouth, the air is blown into the patient's ear.
2.	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	Kasturijali	Mimoseae	Shrub	Bark	Dog bite	Bark is dried and powdered mixed with one glass of either goat milk or cow milk given for 3 days.
3.	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Bhaje	Acoraceae	Shrub	Rhizome	Bloating	Baje + 2 to 3 grams of Ginger + 5 pepper + 5 cloves of garlic made into fine paste using castor oil + few drops of lemon juice. This extract is mixed with one glass of water and given.
4.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Utthrani	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Leaves	Oligomenorrhea (Irregular periods)	Leaves are grind into fine paste mixed in one glass of lukewarm water. Taken for 3 days.
5.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Bilwathre	Rutaceae	Tree	Fruit	Frizzy hair, dandruff.	Fruit is cut and put in water. The gel is applied to hair and scalp results in smooth and shiny hair.
6.	<i>Aerva lanata</i>	Bilihuli	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Young leaves	Leucorrhoea (White discharge)	The leaves of <i>Casia auriculata</i> +leaves of <i>Azardachta indica</i> +leaves of <i>Aervalanata</i> grind into paste and given.
					Leaves	Infertility	Leaves of <i>Securingaleucopyrus</i> + leaves of <i>Aervalanata</i> + leaves of <i>Casia italica</i> dried and powdered. The Powder is given during periods for three days on empty stomach.
7.	<i>Aglaia roxburghiana</i> .	Thottilugida	Meliaceae	Tree	Leaves	Infertility	Leaves of <i>Aglaia roxburghiana</i> +bark of <i>Pongamepinmata</i> Grinded into paste. Given the form of tablets for 7 to 15 days thrice a day.
8.	<i>Allium cepa</i>	Bilieerulli	Liliaceae	Herb	Bub	Tuberculosis	Turmeric is filled in split onion and roasted. Given after meals at night for 3 days.
9.	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Bellulli	Amaryllidaceae	Herb	Bulb	Jaundice	Garlic and pepper are grinded and mixed with tender coconut kept overnight. Given on empty stomach.
10.	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Hongonnesoppu	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Leaves	Eye problems (Cataract, blurred vision)	Few drops of leaf extract is added to milk allowed to ferment, butter is extracted from this curd. This extracted butter is placed over eyes.
11.	<i>Anisomeles malabarica</i> .	Mogabeera	Lamiaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Infertility, Dysmenorrhoea.	10 to 15 grams of leaves + 5 pepper seeds + 5 cloves of garlic are grind into paste and are given in the form of tablets. During periods for 3 days in the morning on empty stomach.
12.	<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Datturi	Papaveraceae	Herb	Roots	Food poisoning.	Grind bark of cassia and roots of Argemone+Plumbago+ cardamum(1)+ required amount of jaggery. Made into tablets, one tablet in one glass of lukewarm water.
13.	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	EeshwariBalli	Aristolochiaceae	Creeper	Leaves	Snake bite	Leaves of EshwariBalli + leaves of Adumuttadasoppu made into paste. Paste is mixed with one glass of lukewarm water and given.
					Roots	Head ache	Roots are grinded into paste given orally.
14.	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	Halasu	Moraceae	Tree	Leaves	Stroke	Castor oil is applied to leaf and warmed. The warmed leaf is placed in affected area.
15.	<i>Balanites</i>	Inglaradagida	Zygophyllaceae	Tree	Bark	Giddiness	Bark is dried in shade made into powder

Sl. No	Scientific name	Vernacular name (kannada)	Family	Habit	Part used	Ailments	Formulations and mode of administration
	<i>aegyptiaca.</i>		e				packed in a cloth and tied to the forehead.
16.	<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i>	Ranapala	Crassulaceae	Herb	Leaves	Abdomen pain caused due to kidney stones and urinary disorders.	Coconut oil is applied to leaves and eaten. Eaten for 15 to 20 days.
17.	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	Gajjuga	Fabaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Loss of appetite	Leaves + cardamom +jaggery made into paste. Eaten during morning in empty stomach.
						Infertility	5 gram leaf + 5 cloves of garlic grinded and made into tablets. Given during periods in empty stomach.
						Eye redness , head ache , cold	Leaves of Nilgiri + leaves of Eechalgida + young fruit of gajjuga, boiled in water. Steam is taken for 10 minutes.
18	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	Yekkegida	Asclepidaceae	Shrub	Tender leaves	Heat boils	Tender leaves are eaten along with betel leaves chewed and swallowed.
					Tender leaves	Giddiness	2 to 3 drops of tender leaves juice is poured into Nasal openings.
					Tender leaves	Infertility	Three tender leaves + cardamom(1) + 5 gram jaggery. Eaten during period for 3 days for 3 days on empty stomach
					Ripened leaves	Asthma	Saindhalavana + caco3 is applied to leaf , dried in shade and given.
					Tender leaves	Scorpion bite	Milky latex + asafoetida powder. Applied to affected area.
19.	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Yekkadagida	Asclepidaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Unconsciousness	Leaves are grind into paste along with patient's urine. This extract is poured in nasal openings.
					Milky latex	Scorpion bite	Seeds of asafoetida are grinded using milky latex of calotropis. Apply to the affected area.
20	<i>Canthium parviflorum</i>	Kaaregida	Rubiaceae	Shrub	Root	Snake bite	Leaves are grind into paste. The paste is given orally for 3 days.
21.	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Parangi	Caricaceae	Tree	Leaves, fruit	Piles	Fruit and leaves made into paste and kept overnight. The paste is given on empty stomach.
					Unripened fruit	Alcohol consumption, smoking.	Fruit is given directly along with salt.
22.	<i>Cassia mimosoides</i>	Nelthangte	Caesalpinaceae	Shrub	Bark	Arthritis	Bark of <i>Cassia mimosoides</i> + fruit of <i>Ficus racemosa</i> + seeds of <i>Embelia robes</i> made into churna including cumin seeds 5 grams and dried dates 2-3. Given twice a day.
23.	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Datura	Solanaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Wound with pus	Leaves are warmed and placed over wound .
24	<i>Euphorbia tirukalli</i>	Kalligida	Euphorbiaceae	Medium sized tree	Root	Wheezing	Roots + honey made into tablets. Given twice a day on empty stomach.
25	<i>Gynandropsis pentaphylla</i>	Ramabanagida	Capparaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Migraine	Leaves are smashed made into balls and kept in ears.
26	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	Bilidasvala	Malvaceae	Small tree	Leaves	Leucorrhoea (white discharge)	Leaf extract is given on empty stomach.
27	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i>	Thabsegida	Ulmaceae	Tree	Fibre	Cuts , wounds , bone fracture	Fibre is soaked in water for 5 minutes and then it is crushed. Tied to the affected area , it has to be changed once in three days.
					Leaves	Burning soles	Leaves are tied to the feet for half an hour , it reduces the burning sensation.
28	<i>Indigofera aspalathides</i>	Koggligida	Fabaceae	Shrub	Whole plant	Jaundice	Whole plant +cardamom(1) + 5 cloves of garlic +5 pepper seeds grind ,in this extract 200 grams of chickpeas soaked overnight , then these chickpea are dried under sunlight and powdered along with 100 gram of candy sugar. One tablespoon of powder is given 2

Sl. No	Scientific name	Vernacular name (kannada)	Family	Habit	Part used	Ailments	Formulations and mode of administration
							times a day , morning and evening is preferred.
29	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Kaaduowdalamara	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Cavities	Milky latex is directly used. Brush the teeth using this milky latex.
30	<i>Leucas aspera</i>	Thumbe	Lamiaceae	Herb	Leaves	Paralysis	Leaves + 5 cloves of garlic + 5 pepper seeds made into fine paste .Pongrasa (hot iron metal is dipped in extract) Above extract is mixed with pongrasa given for 5 days.
31	<i>Maerua arenaria</i>	Bhoochakragedde	Capparceae	Shrub	Root	Snake bite.	Roots are grinded and given directly. Given immediately after snake bite.
32	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Muttidaremuni	Fabaceae	Creepers	Whole plant	Delayed menarche	Whole plant is grinded and the extracted juice is filtered , to this add required amount of sesame seeds and jaggery and roots of <i>Argemonemexicana</i> .
33	<i>Momordica charantia</i>	Bitter gourd	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Fruit	Diabetes	Fruit juice is given directly.
34	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Kari leaves	Rutaceae	Small Tree	Fruit	Eye watering	4- 5 fruits should be taken orally on empty stomach.
35	<i>Musa acuminata</i>	Banana	Musaceae	Tree	Leaves	Skin burns	Castor oil is applied to the leaves. These leaves are placed over affected area.
					Stem	Cuts , kidney stones.	Middle portion of the stem is taken and juice is extracted. Juice is applied on the affected area. Juice is given orally on empty stomach.
36	<i>Oscimum basilicum</i>	Kamkasthuri	Lamiaceae	Herb	Seeds	Excess of heat	Seeds are soaked in a glass of lukewarm water. Given two to three times a day after meal .
					Seeds	Urine cut	Seeds are made into fine paste along with the children urine warmed and given orally.
37	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i>	Cactus	Cactaceae	Shrub	Fruit	Easy parturition	Fruits are eaten during pregnancy.
38	<i>Pedaliium murex</i>	Aneneglu	Pedaliaceae	Herb	Leaves	Infertility	Leaves of <i>Pedaliium murex</i> and <i>Phyllanthusniruri</i> are grind along with 5 pepper seeds , 5 cloves of garlic and given in the form of tablet.
39	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	Sajje	Poaceae	Herb	Grain	Mammary hypoplasia (insufficient lactation)	Sprouts + dried coconut grind into powder and given.
40	<i>Phyllanthus maderaspatensis</i>	NelaNelli	Phyllanthaceae	Herb	Whole plant without root	Yellow jaundice	Leaves paste is mixed with sugar. Taken orally.
					Leaves	Solitary fibrous tumors	Leaves + turmeric +salt made into paste. paste is applied to the affected area.
41	<i>Pergularia daemia</i>	Pergularia	Apocyanaceae	Herb	Leaves	Gum pain	Milky latex is rubbed over the affected area.
42.	<i>Plumeria acuminata</i>	Devakanagala	Apocyanaceae	Tree	Leaves	Ringworm	Milky latex is applied over affected area.
43	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Guava	Myrtaceae	Tree	Leaves	Canities (premature greying of hair)	Leaves are grind into paste mixed with coconut oil. Applied to hair one hour before shower thrice in a week.
44	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Honge	Fabaceae	Tree	Roots	Stomach ulcer , burning sensation	Fibrous root is crushed and leave it for 10 minutes then it is a smashed with tender coconut and is filtered (50ml).
					Roots	Stroke , loss of appetite, easy motion	Roots of neem + roots of <i>Balanitesaegyptiana</i> + roots of <i>Pongameapinnata</i> are grinded along with camphor . Given orally immediately after stroke.
45	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomogranate	Lythraceae	Medium sized tree	Young fruit	Dysentery	Unripened fruit + red hibiscus leaves grinded and juice is extracted. Given orally twice a day on empty

Sl. No	Scientific name	Vernacular name (kannada)	Family	Habit	Part used	Ailments	Formulations and mode of administration
							stomach.
					Rind / skin of young fruit	Constipation	One spoon of dried rind powder is mixed with a glass of goat milk. Given orally twice a day after meal.
46	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Adavimulangi	Brassicaceae	Herb	Tubers , leaves	Piles	Tuber is soaked in salt water for 2 to 3 hours this soaked Tuber is eaten along with the leaf extract of the same plant.
47	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Owdala	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Fruit	Snake bite	Leaves of <i>Cocculushirsutus</i> (DagudBalli) + castor fruit + pepper (3) + 3 cloves of garlic grind into paste. The paste is given orally to the patient.
48.	<i>Citrulluscolocynthis</i>	Doddamara	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Bark	Menorrhagia (Excessive menstrual flow)	Bark is made into paste mixed with one glass of lukewarm water. Given during first five days of periods.
49	<i>Centratheryuri</i>	Kaadjeerge	Asteraceae	Shrub	Seeds	Covid -19	Seeds of <i>Centratheryuri</i> + leaves of <i>Tinosporacardifolia</i> + leaves of <i>Oscimum sanctum</i> are grinded . Given after meal twice a day.
50	<i>Coccinia indica</i>	Thonde	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Fruit	Heart pain	Fruit is given orally. Reduces the risk of heart pain.
51	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i>	DagadBalli	Menispermaceae	Creeper	Leaves	Infertility	Leaves are grind, two spoons of leaf extract is mixed to one glass of lukewarm water. Given during first 3 days of period.
52	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	Challehannu	Boraginaceae	Tree	Leaves	Ulcer	Leaves are chiewed and swallowed.
53	<i>Curcuma aromatica</i>	Kasthuriarishina	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Rhizome	Ulcers	Curcuma rhizome + 5 cloves of garlic + 5 pepper seeds + 5 cloves + Ginger + baje + 3 Kari leaves + one betel leaf + required amount of jaggery. Made into churna and given orally.
54	<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	Adaviyellu	Pedaliaceae	Tree	Tuber	Abortion	Tuber + banana + required amount of jaggery + asafoetida are powdered and given in the form of tablets , for 2 month pregnant woman.
55.	<i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i>	Kantakari	Solanaceae	Shrub	Fruit	Cavities	10 to 15 fruits made into paste mixed with cow butter and given orally.
56.	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>	Koggligida	Fabaceae	Shrub	Roots	Acidity	5 to 10 grams of root is washed and powdered. Powder is mixed with one glass of lukewarm water and given orally.
57	<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>	Gantehoovina gida	Apocyanaceae	Tree	Milky latex	Ringworm	Milky latex is directly applied to the affected area.
58	<i>Trichodesma zeylanicum</i>	Yetthinnaalgesoppu	Boraginaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Paralysis	Leaves + 5 cloves of garlic boiled in water and filtered , residue is mixed with 1 tablespoon of ghee. Given twice a day , morning and evening.
59	<i>Tridax procumbens</i>	Addike	Asteraceae	Herb	Leaves	Fresh wounds, cuts	Leaves are crushed , juice is applied to the wound .
					Leaves	Scorpion bite	Leaf extract is applied to the affected area. Then the leaves paste is placed over the wound.
60	<i>Tylophora asthmatica</i>	Adumuttada soppu	Asclepidaceae	Climbing Shrub	Leaves	Snake bite	Leaves extract is given orally. It is taken through mouth during normal conditions , if the patient is unconscious , it is poured into nasal openings.
61	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Karenakligida	Lamiaceae	Tree	Leaves	Herpes	Leaves + turmeric + salt made into paste. The paste is applied to the affected area.
62	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i>	Maralemara	Apocyanaceae	Tree	Stem	Tuberculosis	Hole is made in Marale stem 50 gram of clove is kept inside that hole. kept for 5 days . Cloves are removed and dried in shade , powdered. Given along with egg for 9 days.
63	<i>Catharanthus</i>	Basvanapada	Apocyanaceae	Shrub	Leaves	Dandruff	Leaf paste is directly applied to scalp.

Sl. No	Scientific name	Vernacular name (kannada)	Family	Habit	Part used	Ailments	Formulations and mode of administration
	<i>roseus</i>						
					Leaves	Scorpion bite	Leaves juice is given orally.
64	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i>	Lole Sara	Lilliaceae	Herb	Pulp	Eye redness , burning eyes .	Pulp is placed over eyes , overnight.
65	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Shathavari	Asparagaceae	Herb	Root	To increase sperm count	Roots of <i>Shatavari</i> + <i>Pedaliium murex</i> seeds are dried and powdered. Eaten along with honey for 4 days .
66.	<i>Azaridachta indica</i>	Bevu	Meliaceae	Tree	Leaves	Measles , mumps , chicken pox	Leaves are grinded , and the juice is applied to the affected area.
67.	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Shunti	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Rhizome	Throat infection	5 - 10 grams of rhizome + 5 cloves + 5 cloves of garlic +5 pepper seeds powdered. Powder is mixed with one glass of lukewarm water and given orally .

Table 2: Habit of the Plants Used in Traditional Medicine

S. No	Habit	Number of plants	Percentage
1	Shrubs	19	28.35
2	Trees	17	25.37
3	Herbs	20	29.85
4	Climber	4	5.97
5	Creepers	3	4.47
6	Medium sized tree	4	5.97

Table 3: Family Distribution of Plants in Treatment

Sl. No	Family	Number of plants	Per centage	Sl. No	Family	Number of plants	Percentage
1	Apocyanaceae	5	7.46	21	Amaryllidaceae	1	1.49
2	Caesalpinaceae	1	1.49	22	Papaveraceae	1	1.49
3	Fabaceae	5	7.46	23	Aristolochiaceae	1	1.49
4	Euphorbiaceae	3	4.47	24	Zygophyllaceae	1	1.49
5	Lamiaceae	4	5.97	25	Crassulaceae	1	1.49
6	Phyllanthaceae	1	1.49	26	Caricaceae	1	1.49
7	Amaranthaceae	3	4.47	27	Capparaceae	2	2.98
8	Cucurbitaceae	3	4.47	28	Ulmaceae	1	1.49
9	Malvaceae	2	2.98	29	Musaceae	1	1.49
10	Zingiberaceae	2	2.98	30	Cactaceae	1	1.49
11	Rutaceae	2	2.98	31	Poaceae	1	1.49
12	Meliaceae	2	2.98	32	Brassicaceae	1	1.49
13	Liliaceae	2	2.98	33	Minispermaceae	1	1.49
14	Acoraceae	1	1.49	34	Asteraceae	2	2.98
15	Moraceae	1	1.49	35	Asparagaceae	1	1.49
16	Myrtaceae	1	1.49	36	Mimosaceae	1	1.49
17	Asclepidaceae	3	4.47	37	Rubiaceae	1	1.49
18	Solanaceae	1	1.49	38	Lythraceae	1	1.49
19	Pedaliaceae	2	2.98				
20	Boraginaceae	2	2.98				

Table 4: Plant Parts Used in the Treatment of Human Diseases

Sl. No	Part used	Number of plants	Percentage
1	Leaves	37	55.22
2	Fruit	11	16.41
3	Root	9	13.43
4	Bark	4	5.97
5	Rhizome	3	4.47
6	Seed	3	4.47
7	Whole plant	3	4.47
8	Bulb	2	2.98
9	Milky latex	2	2.98
10	Tuber	2	2.98
11	Stem	3	4.47
12	Grain	1	1.49
13	Pulp	1	1.49
14	Fibre	1	1.49

The most dominant families in the study were Apocyanaceae and Fabaceae (5 species each) with 7.46%, Lamiaceae (4 species) with 7.46%, Euphorbiaceae, Asclepidaceae, Amaranthaceae and Cucurbitaceae (3 species) with 4.47%, Boraginaceae, Meliaceae, Rutaceae, Myrtaceae, Pedaliaceae, Malvaceae, Zingiberaceae, Capparaceae, and Liliaceae, (2 species) with 2.98%. Mimoseae, Acoraceae, Asparagaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Papaveraceae, Aristolochaceae, Moraceae, Zygophyllaceae, Caricaceae, Crassulaceae, Rubiaceae, Cactaceae, Menispermaceae, Ulmaceae, Musaceae, Poaceae, Lythraceae, Brassicaceae, Asteraceae, and Solanaceae each with one species with 1.49%.

Different parts of medicinal plants were used as medicine by the local traditional healers. Among the different plant parts, the leaves (55.22%) were most frequently used for the treatment of diseases followed by fruit(16.41%), root(13.43%), bark(5.97%), rhizome(4.47%), seed(4.47%), stem(4.47%), whole plant (4.47%), bulb, latex, tuber (2.98%), grain, pulp, flower and fiber(1.149%).

4. Conclusion

The survey indicated that, the study area has plenty of medicinal plants to treat a wide spectrum of human ailments. This documentation of ethnobotanical knowledge provides a catalogue of useful plants and will serve as a physical record for the education of the future generation. This can help in preserving the traditional knowledge of rural community which is slowly fading away due to modernization and the influence of the urban culture. This study can also serve as baseline knowledge for future functional bioactivity screening of indigenous plants.

It is evident from the interviews conducted in different villages, knowledge of medicinal plants is limited to traditional healers, herbalists and elderly persons who are living in rural areas. This study also points out that certain species of medicinal plants are being exploited by the local residents who are unaware of the importance of medicinal plants in ecosystem.

The present day traditional healers are very old. Due to lack of interest among the youngster generation as well as their tendency to migrate to cities for lucrative jobs, there is a possibility of losing this wealth of knowledge in the near future. It thus becomes necessary to acquire and preserve this traditional system of medicine by proper documentation and identification of specimens.

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Plate -1



Aglaia roxburghian



Allium cepa



Balanites aegyptiana



Alternanthera sessilis



Anisomeles malabarica



Allium sativa



Bryophyllum pinnata



Caesalpinia bonduc



Cassia mimosoides



Cordia dichotoma



Gynandropsis pentaphylla



Jatropha curcus



Momordica charanta



Pedalium murex



Phyllanthus maderaspatensis



Sesamum indica

Plate 2



Leucas aspera



Calotropis procera



Calotropis gigantea



Abutilon indicum



Thevetia purpurea



Achyranthe saspera



Aloe barbadensis



Azadirachta indica



Acarous calamus



Asparagus recemous



Acacia faresiana



Aerva lanata



Argemone Mexicana



Aristolochia indica



Artocarpus heterophyllus



Coccinia indica

Plate-3



Datura stramonium



Carica papaya



Euphorbia tirrurkali



Murraya koenigii



Maerua arenaria



Musa acuminata



Mimosa pudica



Ricinus communis



Punica granatum



Opuntia dillenii



Ocimum basilica



Pennisetum glaucum



Tridax procumbens



Solanum xanthocarpum



Tephrosia purpurea



Pergularia dameia