Report on Some Socio-Religious Importance Plants in Village Ghunghuti District Umaria, Madhya Pradesh, Central India

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Abstract: The present survey deals about the information regarding the socio-religious importance of plants in village Ghunghuti district Umaria Madhya Pradesh region of Central India. The rural and forest area of Madhya Pradesh were surveyed and covered extensively to record the socio-religious plants. During the survey 51 plant species of angiosperms have been enumerated which are being used by the people in various social and religious customs like marriage, worshipping, child birth and festivals.

Keywords: Socio-religious plants, Tribes, Worship, Madhya Pradesh

1. Introduction

Ghunghuti village is present in district Umaria. This forest is very dense forest. District Umaria is located to the North East of Madhya Pradesh. Mathematically the coordinates of the District extend from 23° 38' to 24° 20' North and 80° 28' to 82° 12' East. It has geographical area of 4548 sq.km. The greatest length of the district is about 150 km. from north to south and the greatest width is about 60km from east to west. The population of the district on the basis of 2001 census is 515963. Out of which about 83% population resides in rural areas. The district has extensive forests. About 42% of the total area is covered by forests only. The District is rich in minerals. The most important mineral found in the district is coal and as a result 8 mines are being operated by South Eastern Coalfield Limited in the district. The famous Bandhavgarh National Park (Tala) and Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Station Mangthar (Pali) are located in the district. Umaria was formerly the headquarters of the South Rewa District and thereafter the headquarters town of the Bandhavgarh tehsil. It is situated at a distance of about 69 Km. from Shahdol, the parent district. Metalled roads connect the town with Katni, RewaShahdol.

Umaria is also a railway station on the Katni-Bilaspur section of the South-Eastern Railway. Bandhavgarh is the name of tehsil in Umaria District. Formerly it was the capital of the Bandhavgarh Kingdom of the Magha dynasty, then the head-quarters of the tehsil. At present its headquarters is Umaria. The fort of Bandhavgarh is a place of considerable archaeological and historical importance. It is a natural impregnable fort and stands on a hill, at an attitude of about 2430 metres above sea-level. The Bannia hill is also a part of the fort, because it is enclosed by a rampart. The fort is on the Rewa-Umaria road, at a distance of about 41Km from Umaria Town. Chandia is situated on the Umaria-Katni road, at a distance of about 21 km. from Umaria. The
district. The hilly tracts of Central India are covered by luxuriant vegetation. The tribals are distributed mostly in the aforesaid hilly tracts of the thick forest. They are adopted to live in these habitations. Baiga tribes are the dominant tribe’s inhabiting in Umaria district and most of the tribal populations are using plants for their domestic livestock. The Ethnobotany and Ethnoveterinary plants and traditional knowledge of ethno medicines are gradually depleting due to lack of proper records and documentation. They usually collect their materials from nearly forests and use in their health care system, which is well developed and proven successfully for generation together (Figure 1-2).

Figure 1: Showing of District Umaria and study site village Ghunghuti, in Madhya Pradesh, India

Figure 2: Showing on healer Mr. Bholu Bhumia and Dr. Ramesh Kumar Ahirwar interviews at village Ghunghuti and forest area

2. Material and Method

During the current January 2015 to September 2015 the different area of district Umaria village Ghunghuti were surveyed and covered extensively to record the socio-religious role of plants. The information collected on the basis of intensive interviews and long discussions with villagers of Madhya Pradesh region regarding the uses of plants in different rites and rituals1. All of the plants were recorded and identified by consulting the available literatures. A list of plants is alphabetically prepared along with their botanical name, local name, family and uses. Some of the noteworthy contributors are those of Ahirwar (2010, 2011, 2015), Ahirwar (2013), Brijlal and Dube (1992), Gupta et al. (1999) Gupta and Mishra (2000), Jain (1965), Jain et al. (1976), Khan et al. (2008), Khanna et al. (2004), Kumar and Sikarwar (2002), Maheshwari (1990), Oommachan and Masih. (1993), Oommachanet et al. (1986), Sahu (1983) and Vermaet al. (1995).

3. Results and Discussion

Present survey we can find 51 plant species belonging to different families of monocot and dicot of Angiosperms have been enumerated and recorded in Madhya Pradesh region at village Ghunghuti, which are being used in different social and religious customs. The relevant information regarding the role of socio-religious plants have been documented (Table 1).

4. Conclusion

During this survey on the basis of foregoing discussion it can be concluded that the 51 plant species have been enumerated which are being used in different rites and rituals like marriage ceremony, worshipping, child birth, festivals and cremation by the people of Madhya Pradesh region. People treat these plants like socio-religious entity and worship them. Their devotion to these plants is so high that they never think to cut these plants. If it happens so they try to expiation. It is hoped that the present study may be
useful to mankind. It will inspire to conserve these plant species wherever possible.

5. Acknowledgement

We thankful to the tribal and rural people of district Umaria village Ghunghuti of Madhya Pradesh for providing valuable information’s to Socio-religious plants and their uses various ceremony.

Table 1: Some Socio-religious plants used by tribes in village Ghunghuti, district Umaria, Madhya Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Local name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Uses of plant parts</th>
<th>Socio-religious uses of Ceremony</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aegle marmelos</td>
<td>Bel</td>
<td>Rutaceae</td>
<td>Leaves</td>
<td>Mahashivaratri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Azadirachta indica</td>
<td>Neem</td>
<td>Meliaceae</td>
<td>Leaves</td>
<td>Bad effect of Soul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Abrus precatorius</td>
<td>Ghumchi.</td>
<td>Papilionaceae</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Marriage Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Anthocephalus indicus</td>
<td>Kadam</td>
<td>Rubiaceae</td>
<td>Whole plant</td>
<td>Lord Krishna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bambusa bambos</td>
<td>Bans</td>
<td>Poaceae</td>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>Marriage Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Boswellia serrata</td>
<td>Salai</td>
<td>Burseraceae</td>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>Marriage Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Butea monosperma</td>
<td>Palash</td>
<td>Papilionaceae</td>
<td>Branches and leaves</td>
<td>Marriage Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Brassica compestris</td>
<td>Sarson</td>
<td>Brassicaceae</td>
<td>Grains</td>
<td>Bad effect of Soul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Calotropis procera</td>
<td>Akwan</td>
<td>Asclepiadaceae</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>Mahashivaratri/ Lord Shiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cannabis sativa</td>
<td>Bhang, Ganja</td>
<td>Cannabisaceae</td>
<td>Young leaves</td>
<td>Mahashivarati/ Lord Shiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Capsicum annum</td>
<td>Mirchi</td>
<td>Solanaceae</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Bad evils eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cicer arietinum</td>
<td>Chana</td>
<td>Papilionaceae</td>
<td>Pulses of Gram</td>
<td>God Bajrangbali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Citrus limon</td>
<td>Neebu</td>
<td>Rutaceae</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Navratri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Clitoria ternatea</td>
<td>Aparajita</td>
<td>Papilionaceae</td>
<td>Whole plants</td>
<td>Many holy functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Cocos nucifera</td>
<td>Nariyal</td>
<td>Areaceae</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Many holy functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Curcuma domestica</td>
<td>Haldi</td>
<td>Zingiberaceae</td>
<td>Turmeric powder</td>
<td>Marriage Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Cynodon dactylon</td>
<td>Doob</td>
<td>Poaceae</td>
<td>Whole plants</td>
<td>Many holy functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Datura alba</td>
<td>Dhatura</td>
<td>Solanaceae</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>Mahashivaratri/ Lord Shiva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Emblica officinalis</td>
<td>Amla</td>
<td>Euphorbiaceae</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Ichchha Navmi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Epipremnum aureum</td>
<td>Money plant</td>
<td>Araceae</td>
<td>Whole plants</td>
<td>Many holy functions and happiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Eugenia jabolana</td>
<td>Jamun</td>
<td>Myrtaceae</td>
<td>Branches and leaves</td>
<td>Marriage Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ficus religiosa</td>
<td>Peepal</td>
<td>Moraceae</td>
<td>Whole plants</td>
<td>Many holy functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ficus benghalensis</td>
<td>Bargad</td>
<td>Moraceae</td>
<td>Whole plants</td>
<td>Many holy functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ficus virens</td>
<td>Pakar</td>
<td>Moraceae</td>
<td>Whole plants</td>
<td>Many holy functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Gloriosa superba</td>
<td>Kaliyari</td>
<td>Liliaceae</td>
<td>Root</td>
<td>Many holy functions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
26 Hordeum vulgare Jawa Poaceae Whole plants Many holy functions
27 Ipomoea batatas Sakarkand Convolvulaceae Tuberous roots Ganesh Chaturthi
28 Lannea coromandelica Gunja Anacardiaceae Stem Marriage Ceremony
29 Lawsonia alba Mehdi Lythraceae Leaves Rakshabandhan
30 Mangifera indica Aam Anacardiaceae Leaves Marriage Ceremony
31 Madhuca indica Mahua Sapotaceae Flowers Harchhath
32 Mitragyna parviflora Kaima Rubiaceae Whole plant Many holy functions
33 Musa paradisiaca Kela Musaceae Leaves Ganesh Chaturthi.
34 Nelumbo nucifera Kamal Nymphaeaceae Flower Dipawali
35 Nymphaea alba Harsringar Nymphaeaceae Whole plant Many holy functions
36 Ocimum basilicum Bobai Lamiaceae Whole plant Many holy functions
37 Ocimum sanctum Tulsi Lamiaceae Whole plant Many holy functions
38 Oryza sativa Dhan Poaceae Grains of Rice Rakshabandhan and Khujliya
39 Phoenix sylvestris Khajur Arecaceae Leaves Marriage Ceremony
40 Piper betle Pan Piperaceae Leaves Many holy functions
41 Polyalthia longifolia Ashok Annonaceae Whole plant Many holy functions
42 Putranjiva roxburghii Putranjiva Euphorbiaceae Whole plant Many holy functions
43 Saccharum officinarum Ganna Poaceae Whole plant Dipawali
44 Saccharum spontaneum Kans Poaceae Whole plant Harchhath
45 Santalum album Chandan Santalaceae Whole plant Many holy functions
46 Sesamum indicum Tili Pedaliaceae Grains Makarsankranti
47 Tamarix ericoides Jhau Tamaricaceae Stem Many holy functions
48 Trapa bispinosa Singhara Trapaceae Fruits powder Many holy functions
49 Triticum aestivum Gehu Poaceae Grains of Wheat Addra Nakshtra
50 Vigna mungo Urdha Papilionaceae Seeds Many holy functions
51 Ziziphus nummularia Ber Rhamnaceae Whole plant Harchhath

References


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