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Ethnomedicinal study of Chhura block of Gariaband district, Chhattisgarh, India

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Abstract- Chhura is one of the five blocks of the district of Gariaband. This is situated at 20.82˚ N, 82.22˚ E. which is covered in forest and inhabited by tribes. The major tribes live in the area are Gond, Kamar and Bhunjiya. Bhunjiya is a particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) which is mainly found in Gariaband District of Chhattisgarh. These tribal communities often reside in rural areas and maintaining traditional livelihoods and a strong connection to the surrounding forest. In present study a survey was conducted in tribal dominant villages of Chhura block of district during 2025. The documentation during the investigation was done by gathering knowledge from tribals (age group 35-65) and medicine man with the help of questionnaire and by conducting personal interviews. The questions were asked to gain the information of Ethnomedicinal plants of the study area where we recorded 40 different plant species belonging to 32 families for treatment of 27 health conditions in which Zingiberaceae family is dominant and most used plant part is leaf. This survey revealed that there is a rich knowledge of plant and medicine and it is required to be documented for future in order to design effective drugs.

Keyword- Ethnomedicine**,** Tribe, Baiga, Medicinal plants, Traditional knowledge.

Introduction- Plants have been used as a source of medicine since ancient time in all over the world to control various ailments affecting humans and their livestock's. In developing countries like India, most of the local tribal communities are still relying on plant based medicine. This plant based knowledge is traditional and has been transferred orally to one generation to another generation. Chhattisgarh is one of the states of India which is heavily forested state, 44% of its land covered by tropical dry and moist deciduous forests having an important biological diversity and rich in flora. Gariaband is one of the districts of it with five blocks- Gariaband, Fingeshwar, Chhura, Mainpur and Deobhog. It is situated in southeast of state with full of natural resources. Chhura block of Gariaband is known for its rich biodiversity in medicinal plants and locals have been relied on these plants for treating various diseases from long time. This traditional medicinal knowledge remains vital for their primary health care needs. Ethnomedicine is a field which dedicates to the study of traditional medicinal practices across diverse cultural contexts. It has gained increasing attention to the scientific community due to its contribution to the documentation this knowledge. In many areas the indigenous groups fail to sustain and preserve this communal Ethnomedicinal knowledge that's why it need to be documented in a proper way to insure that our future generation can access it and use this knowledge for designing the effective drugs. India is a habitat for wide range of aromatic and medicinal plants and herbal medicines are in high demand in all over the world because it has low side effects and high promises. These natural resources of earth are threatened by these increasing demands so it need to be preserve and conserve for future generations.

Material and Methods-

Study area- Our study area included localities from Chhura Block of Gariaband District, Chhattisgarh. The area is distinguish by hilly terrain, red and laterite soils and also covered by tropical dry deciduous forests. It is one of the tribal dominant blocks of Gariaband and most of the people of this block depend on agriculture, agroforestry and forest resources. The study was conducted in 2025 in villages like Gidhni, Mudagao, Sioni and Baherabhata. The study sites are very significant for Ethnomedicinal studies showing to the dominance of so many tribal communities like- Gond, Kamar, Bhunjiya etc. They have great knowledge about plants and medicine and heavily dependent on minor forest produce for their livelihood.

Methodology- the data was collected from different tribal dominant areas of Chhura block with the help of questionnaires, which was devised to identify the Ethnomedicinal knowledge of area from local people and well experienced vaidya or Baigas. After interview, plant specimens were collected, dried, identified and preserved in herbarium. Identification of plant was done with the help of different floras and previous literature. Data were made for collection of medicinal plants, and their identification for documentation followed by vernacular name, botanical name, family, used plant part and disease. The recorded plant detail has been presented in table 1.

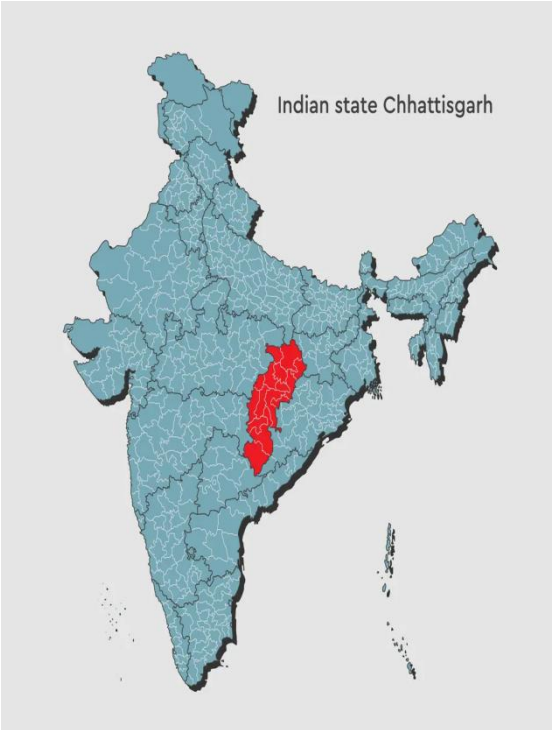

Fig1: Map of India showing Chhattisgarh

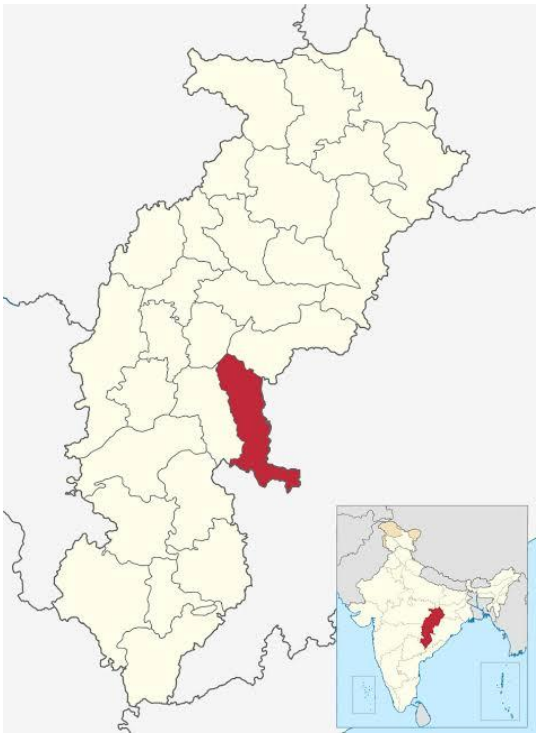

Fig 2: Map of Chhattisgarh showing Gariaband district

Result and Discussion- The present study systematically categorized 40 different plant species from 32 families, and the dominating family is Zingiberaceae. The study included numerous plant families after Zingiberaceae. The Acanthaceae, Brassicaceae, Combretaceae, Fabaceae, Moraceae and Solanaceae contributed two species. The survey also found that other 25 plant families with one plant species so it shows a wide range of botanical diversity used in indigenous medicine or traditional medicine (Table 1). It shows that these medicinal plants are used by villagers, baiga and vaidhya to cure 27 various diseases like- diarrhoea, piles, Fever, Diabetes, Jaundice, Epilepsy, body pain, respiratory disorders, skin problem, gynaecological problems, cough & cold etc. It signifies the

embedded Ethnomedicinal knowledge and reliance on herbal treatment in these communities of the study site. Leaves are the most widely (33%) used plant part of the reported Ethnomedicinal plant uses, followed by root (15%), Bark (14%), fruit (12%), seed (10%), Rhizome (6%), stem, endosperm, flower, gum resin, and whole plant (2-2%). A majority of remedies are prepared in the form of decoction and the administration includes oral administration, inhalation and paste applying. Similar results were recorded by other researchers across the world like Islam *et al.* (2020). In India Singh *et al.* (2013) had similar results whereas Kanwar and Sharma (2019) and Chand *et al.* (2021) in Chhattisgarh.

Table 1: List of plant species used for different medicinal purpose

S.no	Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Plant parts used	Medicinal uses
1	*Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa	Bel	Rutaceae	Leaf, Fruit	Eye ailment, Diarrhoea
2	*Ailanthus excels*	Mahaneem	Simaroubaceae	Leaf, Root-bark	Piles, Sciatica, Skin problem
3	*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm F.)	Bhui-neem	Acanthaceae	Leaf	Fever, Malaria
4	*Biophytum sensitivum* (L.) DC.	Chhui-mui	Oxalidaceae	Root, Leaf	Epilepsy
5	*Brassica juncea*	Sarson	Brassicaceae	Seed	Jaundice, Body ache
6	*Calatropis gigantean*	Aank	Apocynaceae	Leaf	Body ache
7	*Cassia fistula* L.	Sonari	Caesalpiniaceae	Roots,	Snake bite
8	*Cinnamomum camphora*	Kapur	Lauraceae	Bark	Sprain, Skin infection
9	*Cocos nucifera*	Nariyal	Arecaceae	Endosperm	Eczema
10	*Coriandrum sativum*	Dhaniya	Apiaceae	Leaf	Digestion, Blood sugar
11	*Curcuma amada* Roxb.	Aami haldi	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	Neuro-compression
12	*Curcuma longa* L.	Haldi	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	Fever
13	*Datura metel* L.	Dhatura	Solanaceae	Leaf, Root	Fever, Sores, Muscle spasm
14	*Ferula assa-foetida*	Hing	Umbelliferae	Gum resin	Piles
15	*Ficus religiosa* L.	Peepal	Moraceae	Leaf, Bark	Respiratory disease, Body ache
16	*Ficus tinctoria* G. Forst.	Koriya	Moraceae	Leaf, Bark	Diabetes
17	*Gossypium herbaceum*	Kapas	Malvaceae	Root bark	Gynaecological problems
18	*Justicia adhatoda* L.	Adusa	Acanthaceae	Leaf	Diabetes, Fever
19	*Linum usitatissimum*	Alsi	Lianaceae	Seed	Diabetes

20	*Lipidium sativum* L.	Chamsur	Brassicaceae	Seed	Neuro-compression
21	*Madhuca longifolia* (L.) J.F.Macbr.	Mahua	Sapotaceae	Root	Snack bite
22	*Mirabilis jalapa*	Lal gulal	Nyctaginaceae	Flower	Gynaecological problems
23	*Musa paradisiacal L.*	Kela	Musaceae	Fruit	Piles
24	*Nyctanthes arbour-tristis* L.	Harsingar	Oleaceae	Leaf	Bone fracture
25	*Phyllanthus amarus* Schumach.and Thonn	Bhui-amla	Phyllanthaceae	Leaf	Jaundice
26	*Piper betle* L.	Paan	Piperaceae	Leaf	Gynaecological problems
27	*Radermachera xylocarpa*	Lal garud	Bignoniaceae	Whole plant	Snack bite
28	*Saraca asoca*	Ashok	Fabaceae	Bark	Piles, Skin problem, diabetes
29	*Semecarpus anacardium* L.F	Bhelwa	Anacardiaceae	Root	Acidity, Pneumonia
30	*Sesamum indicum*	Safed til	Pedaliaceae	Seed	Piles
31	*Solanum xanthocarpum*	Safed bhaskatiya	Solanaceae	Root, Leaf, Fruit	Gynaecological problems & Respiratory issues
32	*Soymida febrifuga* (Roxb.) A. Juss	Rohina	Meliaceae	Stem bark	Piles
33	*Swertia chirayita*	Chirayta	Gentianaceae	Leaf	Jaundice
34	*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels	Jamun	Myrtaceae	Leaf, Fruit	Tooth ache, Diabetes
35	*Termenalia bellerica*	Bahera	Combretaceae	Fruit	Cough & Cold, Diarrhoea
36	*Termenalia chebula*	Harra	Combretaceae	Fruit	Cough & Cold, Indigestion
37	*Tinospora cardifolia* (Wild.)	Giloy	Menispermeaceae	Stem	Diabetes, Fever, Immunity
38	*Trigonella foenum-graecum*	Methi	Fabaceae	Seed	Neuro-compression, Diabetes
39	*Ventilago calyculata*	Keovti	Rhamnaceae	Roots	Eczema
40	*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe	Adrak	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	Piles, Cold, Sore throat

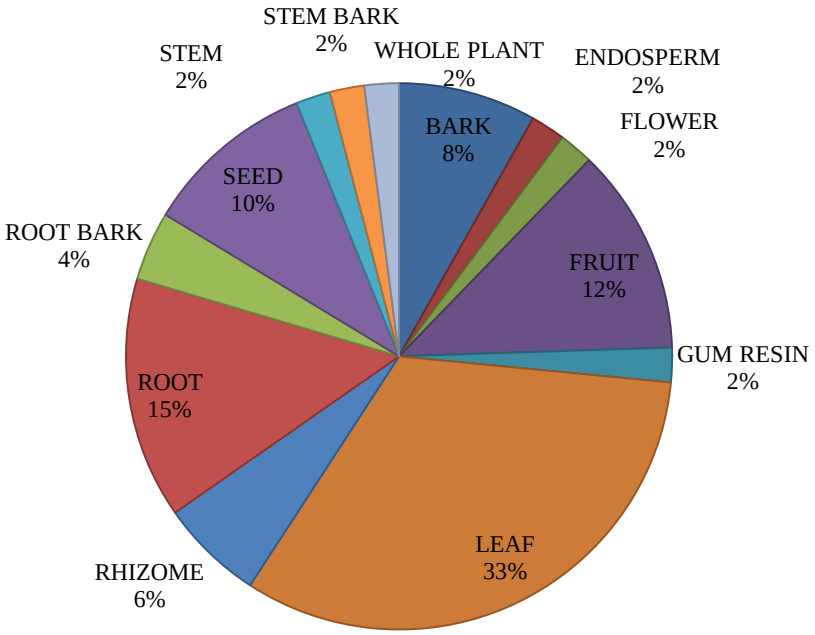

Fig 3 : Plant part used by tribes of Chhura Block for various ailments

Conclusion- Plants are still the main source of medicine to majority of people in developing countries. The Ethnomedicinal information serves as a base for new compounds with active principles for pharmacological, phytochemical & clinical research. The study showed that the area is blessed with abundance of medicinal plants, which are used by tribes of Chhura to treat different human ailments like-cough, cold, fever, headaches, poisonous bites and gynaecological disorders etc. This wealth of plant resources in the area emphasizes how crucial it is to document and conserve traditional knowledge about these plants; because now day's extensive human exploitation is endangering these practices. Generally this traditional knowledge about plants is transmitted orally in one generation to next generations and there are chances to lost it if it's not documented properly therefore conservation of these plants and their knowledge is so important.

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