



## A Priliminary Study On Traditional Medicinal Plants And Practioners Of Kalahandi District

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### Abstract:

The indigenous people of Kalahandi district are accustomed to a wide variety of Ethnomedicinal plants used in their herbal medicinal practices. A field study carried out on some tribal village of Kalahandi district and it reported several Ethnomedicinal plants and practitioner. Ethno-medicine help us to understand the development in healthcare system and stresses the importance of alternative system that may be beneficial to modern world too. The systematic study of Ethno-medicine by indigenous group of people began since about four decades, although ethnographers always reported about the traditional healthcare and the treatment of illness in the indigenous group they are investigating. However, in recent days there has been an increasing interest in Ethno-medical research because the healthcare traditions have been fast changing and many indigenous system have been threatened by modernization.

**Keywords:** ethnomedicine, Ethnographer, Indigenous, Traditional knowledge

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ethno- medicine have a long and respected history. Many familiar medications of the twentieth century were developed from ancient healing traditions that treated health problems with specific plants. Today science has isolated the medicinal properties of a large number of botanicals, and their healing components have been extracted and analysed many plant components are now synthesized in large laboratories for use in pharmaceutical preparation.

There are over 750,000 plants on earth only a very few of the healing herbs have been studied scientifically and because modern pharmacology looks for one active ingredient and seeks to isolate it to the exclusion of all the others most of the research that is done on plants continues to focus on identifying and isolating active ingredients rather than studying the medicinal properties of whole plants. Herbalist however consider that the power of a plant lies on the interaction of all its ingredients plants used as medicines offer Synergistics both known and unknown.

Ethno-medicine has a long history and a time tested valuable place in the treatment of many common health problems. Because they act gently herbs are particularly suitable for treating children. World is endowed with a rich wealth of medicinal plants is as old as human civilisation but in recent years their use has been growing in popularity. During the last two decades, because of issues on population ageing changes in patterns of common diseases and for other reasons, the use of traditional medicine has dramatically increased worldwide.

A comprehensive term traditional medicine refers both to traditional and alternative medicinal system and includes traditional Chinese medicines, Indian Ayurvedic medicines, Unani medicine Naturopathy , Homeopathy and various form of indigenous medicines.

According to world health organisation about 80 % of worlds populations relies on traditional medicines for their primary health care needs and most of this therapy involves the use of plants extracts or their active component.

## **THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The present study is basically an exploratory study of the indigenous tribal medicinal practices which are prevalent among the autochthonous tribal population of the state, that is the Kalahandi district who constitute about 24% of the population. The study is kind of pilot survey which provides with certain clues rather than providing any solution to the given problem. Kalahandi is one of the economically backward district of western Orissa with a geographical area of 7920 Sq. Km and is an integral part of Western Orissa Development Council constituted by Govt. of Orissa very often reels under severe drought condition. About 92.5% percent of the population of the district live in rural areas and agriculture is the main stay of the people. The agriculture is mostly rainfed and due to lack of adequate irrigation facilities and recurring severe drought conditions in the district, the agricultural production is very often curtailed. In the year 1974,1998,1999 the district witnessed an unprecedented drought situation. Kalahandi district lies between North latitudes 19°03' and 20°45' and East longitudes 82°18' and 83°48', falling in Survey of India toposheet nos. 64 L, 64P, 65 I and 65 M. It is bounded on the north by Balangir and Nuapada districts, on the east by Phulbani district, on the south by Koraput district and on the west by Nawarangpur district of Orissa and Raipur district of Chhattisgarh. The district is well connected by rail and roads. Two National Highways are passing through the district. All the block headquarters are connected by metalled roads. The district comprises two subdivisions namely Kalahandi and Dharamgarh and 13 community Development blocks with the district headquarters at Bhawanipatna (Plate-I). According to 2001 census data, the total population of the district is 1335494 constituting 3.6% of the total population and 5.09% of land area of Orissa. The rural and urban populations are 1235275 and 100219 respectively. The rural population constitutes 92.5 % of the total population. The density of population is 168 against the state figure of 236 persons per sq. km . The rural people of Kalahandi district they depend on plant resources for their domestic and primary health care needs. They collect the useful plant their herb and bark of the trees and also collect from various habitats such as forest grassland cultivated field wetlands, and riverbanks and use those following traditional practices.

## **THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY ARE BROADLY AS-**

- i-To study the concept of diseases and sickness among the indigenous people of Kalahandi.
- ii-To study the different methods treatment undertaken by the people.
- iii- To examine the health policies undertaken in Kalahandi district and the ethnomedicinal practitioner.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

The research were done from different village through the Ethnomedicinal practitioner of Kalahandi district. All the interviews were performed in the local Oriya language. Throughout the interview information was collected on plant part and the medicinal preparation. The first hand information and views given by them were recorded data . Both participant and non-participant observation with interview technique were followed by the investigation and extensive field visit were made to local medicine men for collection of information and identification of places of occurrence of the medical plants in the survey area. This study was conducted with the help of the informants from indigenous community who are familiar with plants and their mode of utilisation. The details about medicinal plants such as local parts used for the treatment name of the disease for which plants are used preparation and mode of administration, dosage etc were provided by the indigenous people and elderly persons of the locality.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that the persistence of ethnomedicine practices of tribal in Kalahandi District. The tribal are still dependent on indigenous knowledge for their health care providing a cheaper, biological safe and accessible alternative to the high cost pharmaceutical remedies. Medical plant constitute the base of health care system among the indigenous

community in Kalahandi of Odisha. Ethnomedicine and their traditional knowledge is a good illustration of traditional healthcare practices different plant parts are directly used as medicine by the indigenous people.

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