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MULTIFARIOUS USES OF PLANTS OF AKOT REGION, MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT:

Documentation and evaluation of uses of plants in Popatkehd Village of Akot region was conducted through personal interview. Multifarious uses of plants of this region were recorded from the informants. In this study, 72 plants species from different families were recorded. These plants were used for medicines and edible purposes.

KEY WORD: Multifarious uses, Popatkhed village, Medicinal plants, Edible plants.

INTRODUCTION:

The Akot is situated in the Akola district of Maharashtra. It lies between 21°06' N and 77°06' E. The area of Akot Tehsil is about 1424.5 sq. kms. The altitude is 345 m from the sea level. The present ethnobotanical study was carried out among the Gond and Korku tribals of Popatkhed village. The Akot Tahsil is traversed by many rivers, rivuluts and streams. The peoples of the village Popatkhed depends upon natural resources for their food and medicines. They have strong faith in the knowledge of plants based medicines. These peoples preserve and utilized traditional knowledge of medicinal plants. The information on medicinal plants from Maharashtra has been reported earlier by various workers, but information of this area is scanty. Gond and Korku tribes are depends on nature for their livelihood. During illness they prefer herbal cure than allopathic medicines. Therefore, they have a lot of knowledge of medicinal plants. Various diseases like stomach disorders, jaundice, skin diseases, kidney problems, insect and snake bites are cured by the medicine man or elders of the Village.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Ethnobotanical surveys were done on the medicinal plants used by Gond and Korku. For this purpose, Popatkhed village is selected. The investigations were carried out using a questionnaire (Jain, 1987). The elder peoples and medicine man were consulted. Around 100 plants were claimed for multifarious uses of plants by Gonds and Korku. The local names and plant parts used were noted during the interaction. These plants were identified with the help of flora (Kamble and Pradhan, Dhore). These plants are listed in table 1 in alphabetical order.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The present study reveals uses of 72 plants. About 23 ailments are cured by these plants by the local peoples of the Village Popatkhed. The various ailments or diseases are cured by these medicinal plants are enumerated in the table 1 & 2.

In the future context, selecting plants with economic potential from these plants and practicing their cultivation will ensure and enhance income of farmers and also decrease exploitation of these plants from wild habitat. The cultivation will also provide sustainable supply of these plants in local and export markets at a wider commercial level. Further, the information might be valuable for many pharmaceutical companies as these have huge potential for innovative pharmaceutical products

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TABLE 1:

S. N.	NAME OF THE PLANT	FAMILY	LOCAL NAME	PARTS USED	USES
1	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet	Malvaceae	Petari	Leaves and fruits	Skin diseases
2	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Del.	Mimosaceae	Babul	Bark, seeds	Mouth diseases
3	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Blume	Amaranthaceae	Aghada	Leaves, Flowers, Fruits	Cough and cold
4	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees.	Acanthaceae	Adulsa	Leaves, flowers	Cough and cold
5	<i>Aegle mormelos</i> (L.) Corr.	Rutaceae	Bel	Leaves and fruits	Stomach disorders
6	<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss.	Amaranthaceae	Jhurmuta	Roots	Scorpion sting
7	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	Asteraceae	Khobi	Leaves	Skin diseases
8	<i>Ailanthus excels</i> Roxb.	Simaroubaceae	Maharukh	Bark	Leucorrhoea
9	<i>Albizia lebbek</i> (L.) Willd.	Mimosaceae	Siris	Leaves	Cough and cold
10	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) R.Br. ex DC.	Amaranthaceae	Sag	Leaves	Skin diseases
11	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Cholai	Leaves, Tender shoots	Edible
12	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. F.) Wall. ex Nees	Acanthaceae	kalmegh	Roots and Leaves	Snake bite
13	<i>Argemone Mexicana</i> L.	Papaveraceae	Satyanashi	Roots	Asthama
14	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.	Liliaceae	Shatawari	Tuberous Roots	Urinary disorders
15	<i>Balanites aegyptica</i> (L.) Del.	Simaroubaceae	Hinganbet	Roots	Snake bite
16	<i>Basella alba</i> L.	Basellaceae	Pallak	Leaves and Fruits	Stomach disorders
17	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Punarnava	Roots	Arthritis
18	<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i> (Lam.) Oken.	Crassulaceae	Panphuti	Leaves	Kidney stone
19	<i>Butea monosperma</i> Lamk.	Fabaceae	Palas	Flowers	Menstrual problems
20	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L.	Capparadaceae	Vaghati	Fruits	Stomach
21	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	Caricaceae	Papaya	Fruits, Latex	Jaundice
22	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae		Leaves	Edible
23	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Hadjod	Stem	Bone fracture
24	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L.	Cleomaceae	Chikata	Leaves	Ear ache
25	<i>Clerodendrum phlomidis</i> L.f.	Verbenaceae	Safed fuli	Leaves	Diabetes
26	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L.	Fabaceae	Gokarni	Flowers, Leaves	Menstrual problems
27	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Theob.	Menispermaceae	Vasan	Leaves, Stem	Stomach disorders

28	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott	Araceae	Arvi	Leaves, Corm	Edible
29	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L.	Commelinaceae	Kena	Leaves	Edible, Sore treatment
30	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i> Forsk.f.	Boraginaceae	Gondan	Fruits	Urinary problems
31	<i>Costus speciosus</i> (Koen.) Sm.	Zingiberaceae	Keokand	Rhizomes	Skin diseases
32	<i>Curcuma pseudomontana</i> Grah.	Zingiberaceae	JangaliHaldi	Rhizome	Cough and cold
33	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Poaceae	Haral	Leaves	Stomach diseases
34	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Cyperaceae	Nagarmotha	Rhizomes	Skin diseases
35	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Solanaceae	Dhotra	Leaves	Ear ache
36	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) C. Jeffery	Cucurbitaceae	Shivlingi	Seeds	Aphrodisiac
37	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> L.	Asteraceae	Maka	Whole Plant	Fever
38	<i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> (L.) DC.	Asteraceae	Piwali	Leaves	Fever
39	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Moraceae	Bargad	Latex	Impotency
40	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> L.	Moraceae	Umbar	Roots	Dysentery
41	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R.Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Anantmul	Roots	Blood purifier
42	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Malvaceae	Jaswand	Flowers	Aphrodisiac
43	<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schum.) Heiner	Acanthaceae	Talimkhana	Roots	Bile stone
44	<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> Poit.	Lamiaceae	Sugandhi	Leaves	Stomach disorders
45	<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Haldikunku	Leaves, flowers	Diarrhea
46	<i>Martynia annua</i> L.	Martyniaceae	Waghnakhi	Seeds	Stomach problems
47	<i>Mentha arvensis</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Pudina	Leaves	Stomach disorders
48	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Mimosaceae	Lajalu	Whole plant	Body weight Loss
49	<i>Mimusops elengi</i> L.	Sapotaceae	Bakul	Bark, flowers, fruits	Mouth disorders
50	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	Khajkhuili	Seeds	Leucorrhoea
51	<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> L.	Oleaceae	Parijatak	Leaves	Skin diseases
52	<i>Oledenlandia corymbosa</i> L.	Rubiaceae	Bhuisag	Whole plant	Jaundice
53	<i>Orthosiphon rubicundus</i> Benth.	Lamiaceae	Jhurmuta	Whole plant	Mosquito repellent
54	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	Oxalidaceae	Khattibuti	Whole plant	Stomach diseases
55	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Chior.	Asclepiadaceae	Utaran	Whole plant	Chest pains
56	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Aonla	Fruits	Stomach problems

57	<i>Phyllanthus madaraspatensis</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Bhuiaonli	Whole plant	Jaundice
58	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Plumbaginaceae	Chitrak	Roots	Fever
59	<i>Prosopis cineraria</i> (L.) Druce	Mimosaceae	Soundad	Bark	Leucorrhoea
60	<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i> L.	Fabaceae	Bavachi	Seeds	Leucorrhoea
61	<i>Pupalia lappacea</i> (L.) Juss.	Amranthaceae	chirchita	Leaves	Edible
62	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Mokai	Leaves	Kidney problems
63	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> L.	Myrtaceae	Jamun	Bark	Gonorrhea
64	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) Pers.	Fabaceae	Sharipunkha	Whole plant	Fever
65	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (L.) Lam.	Menispermaceae	Gulvel	Leaves	Piles
66	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Zygophyllaceae	Gokharu	Fruits, Leaves	Kidney problems
67	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	Kambarmodi	Leaves	Wounds
68	<i>Vernonia cinerea</i> (L.) Less.	Asteraceae	Sahdevi	Leaves	Mouth diseases
69	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Niragudi	Leaves	Rheumatism
70	<i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal.	Solanaceae	Ashwagandha	Rhizomes	Aphrodisiac
71	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> (Roxb.) L.	Asteraceae	Gokharu	Leaves	Urinary problems
72	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Bor	Leaves	Piles

Table 2

S.N.	Disease	Number of plant species
1	Stomach disorders	09
2	Menstrual problems, Leucorrhoea, Gonorrhea	07
3	Kidney problems, Urinary diseases	07
4	Skin diseases	06
5	Cough and cold	05
6	Edible	05
7	Fever	04
8	Mouth diseases	04
9	Aphrodisiac, Impotency	03
10	Snake bite, scorpion sting	03
11	Jaundice	02
12	Piles	02
13	Arthritis, Rheumatism	02
14	Ear ache	02
15	Dysentery, Diarrhea	02
16	Mosquito repellent	01
17	Chest pains	01

S.N.	Disease	Number of plant species
18	Body Weight loss	01
19	Blood impurity	01
20	Lactation	01
21	Bone fracture	01
22	Asthma	01
23	Wound	01
24	Diabetes	01
	Total	72