



Exploration of Ethno Medical information through Survey: The Current Emphasis

Medicinal plants are the major natural bioresource for Ayurvedic Drugs. For preparation of Ayurvedic formulation, the basic key is the availability and correct identification of the raw material. In view of this, CCRAS is conducting medicinal plant survey all over India, through its peripheral Institutes. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS); an apex body in India for the formulation, co-ordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda through a planned research programme that includes Medico-Ethno Botanical Research.



The main objective of the medicinal plant survey research is collection of specimens, classification and description of raw drugs and their botanical source to avoid adulteration and substitution. The survey work also gives the present status of the medicinal plants in comparison to past surveys. Collection of folk claims and information on local health tradition from the area visited during the tours provide the lead for validation and effective development of drugs based on traditional knowledge and not from any codified system of medicine.

Ethno medicinal claims on analysis by Ayurvedic experts were observed to be having reference in Ayurveda literature and other, with no reference. The inference out of this analysis indicates that the information in Ayurvedic literature is either spread to the society or the observations of the seers from the ethnic groups were documented in literature after validation fundamentally and clinically. That is the reason for authentication of medicinal herbs. The help of cow-sheep rearers or tribes is of utmost importance (Charak Samhita Sutra -1/124).

So the need to document the claim not documented in Ayurvedic literature needs more emphasis, and their "Ayurvedia Karana"/Ayurvedization is the need of the day. PCIM&H through APC has one of its agenda to document the non pharmacopeial drugs in a systematic manner.

In connection to documentation and exploration of indigenous medicinal plants, survey was carried out in various parts of the country. The information on medicinal plants properties and their uses have been well described after gathering information from folk healer's practitioners, traditional herbal medicine practitioners who were having well ancient knowledge of traditional healing practices.

Present issue of JDRAS comprises Comparative study on two variants of *Laghupanchamula*, Pharmacognostical evaluation of Raw and *Shodhita* (processed) Danti, Medico-Ethno Botanical claims used against Gastro-Intestinal Disorders, Pharmacological Profile of *Tithonia diversifolia* (Hemsl.) A.Gray, Medico-Ethno Botanical Survey, THCRP Format.

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