

---

**TRIBLE MEDICINE IN WESTERN GHATS**

---

**Dr. M.A. Sivaraman***Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of Linguistics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai***Abstract**

India has a wonderful tradition of the arts and science of healing with view of tribal's medicine (noteworthy area). But organised medicine, Ayurveda emerged from folk medicine at least 2,000 yrs ago with its well-developed recorded system and habitual practices in day today life. It is interestingly reported that over 20,000 plant drug formulations are lucidly placed and listed in Ayurvedic traditional practice with high sounds apply in variety of field especially in medicine field. Unfortunately, it is conveniently keep away from modern people's perspective, i.e.tribals medicine valuable knowledge. And more spectacularly, the major groups of tribes in Kerala are, Kani, Adiyar, Paniyar kurichiar, koragar, kurumar kattumaykkar, etc. Kanis mainly inhabit the forests of Kerala - Tamil Nada border which is situated in the southern most part of Western Ghats popularly known as Agasthyar koodam.It is really believed to be the sacred abode of the great saint Agasthya and the heaven of medicine herbs. It has one of the most diverse biological resources in the particular region.

**Keywords:** Ayurveda, Kani, Adiyar, Paniyar kurichiar, koragar, kurumar kattumaykkar, Tribal

Tribal's have broad knowledge about traditional medicine for different kind of various diseases. Since the tribes have some superstitious beliefs they do not divulge the medicine secrets to their contemporaries. Thus, a particularly medical treatment is lost with the death of the knowledge holder. Therefore, the study was planned to document the medicine plants used by kani tribes of Agasthiyamalai to cure various diseases. Plants have been used in traditional medicine for several thousand years ago and it is heavily watchdog area of present generation and also future users in the way of traditional method and to protect the natural cure with highly Ayurvedic treatment in distinguished manner with the help of local tribal people. The knowledge of medicinal plants has been accumulated in the course of many centuries based on different medicinal systems such as Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha. In India, it is tremendously reported that traditional healers use 2500 plant species and 100 species of plants serve as regular sources of medicine.

During last few decades there has been an increasing important in the study of medicinal plants and their traditional use in different parts of the world (Lev, 2006). Herbal remedies are considerable concern of the oldest forms of health care known to mankind on this earth. Prior to the development of modern medicine, the traditional systems of medicine that have evolved over the centuries within various communities, are still maintained as a great traditional knowledge base in herbal medicines (Mukherjee and Wahil, 2006). Traditionally and much more practically, this treasure of knowledge has been passed on orally from generation to generation without any written document (Perumal

Samy and Ignacimuthu, 2000) and is still retained by various indigenous groups around the world.

#### **Methodology**

For the ethno botanical investigation ,three tribal settlement in Agasthiya forest were selected, The chonanpara tribal settlement is predominantly located in the (biosphere area of Agasthyar koodam) near kottoor,situated about 40 km away from Thiruvananthapuraam, the capital of kerala. Klamala tribal settlement area is critically situated near Aarukani in kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.

A questionnaire was used collecting the resourceful details about tribal medicine and their sources in various areas. The medical plants were collected and identified by using regional and local floras and the standard methodologies were adopted for herbarium preparation.

#### **Result and outcome**

Kani tribes give practical valuable vital information about numerous number of medicinal plants and their uses. Following observations about different plants were observed.

- In stone formation, euphobia hirta linn. (Euphorbiaceae) which is highly and commonly known among the tribal community. It is used for the treatment of urinary problems and some skin diseases.
- During the childbirth acceleration, Gloriosa superba linn (liliaceae).Tuber paste of the plant, known among the tribes as menthonni or karal vatti and kalihari in north India is applied externally on the head to accelerate childbirth.
- Social diseases Leprosy, blood purification and inducing lactation are generally given treatment with the help of Ficus hispida linn(moraceae).
- Treatment of jaundice (chasali curviflora) Rubiaceae.commonly known among the kani tribe as vellamundan is an effective medicine for the treatment of jaundice.
- Syphilis and blood purification are highly curable by using this herbal medicine with ceropogia spiralis (asclepiadaceae).
- Apama siliquosa lamk (Aristolochiaceae) The root of the plant, known among the kani tribes as kuravan kanda or kuttilla vayana is used for the treatment of stomach ache, chest pain and some skin disorders.
- Anaphyllum beddomei engl (Araceae) commonly known the tribes as keerikkizhangu is found only in thick forest and used as an antidote for snake venom the plant rhizome paste is given internally.

#### **Patenting, licensing and benefit-sharing**

The main crux of this tribal's medicine (patent rights)is the role of intellectual property rights in the benefit-sharing arrangements concerning the “Jeevani” drug, which was developed by scientists at the Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), based on the tribal medicinal knowledge of the Kani tribe in Kerala, South India. “Jeevani” is a restorative, immuno-enhancing, anti-stress and anti-fatigue agent, based on the herbal medicinal plant arogyapaacha,

used by the Kani tribal's in their traditional medicine. Within the Kani tribe the customary rights to transfer and practice certain traditional medicinal know ledge are held by tribal healers, known as Plathis. And additionally our government has to concentrate to get patent rights in certain valuable medicine (it is absolutely necessary).

#### **Kerala to Protect Tribal Intellectual Property Rights**

The Kerala government has straightly decided to introduce legislation to protect the intellectual property rights of its tribal's people who have been practicing traditional nature-based medicine for centuries. "The Kerala government will soon pass legislation to protect tribal intellectual property rights (safeguards measures). With the new legislation, the government would be able to get patent rights for the traditional tribal medicines," M.A. Kuttappan, the Minister for Welfare of Backward and Scheduled Communities and Youth Affairs, told IANS.

#### **Conclusion**

Peculiarly in India, the tribes in western ghates have a well-developed system of traditional medicine. They known about number of rare medicinal plants and their application. But, all this knowledge is gradually lost by some superstitious beliefs of these ethnic groups

Even though these beliefs have certain advantages, a lot of valuable knowledge has been lost by this way. With the help of new technologies, the data could be scientifically proved.so that the scientific world will accept the traditional system. Nature is providing what we need and our task is to save nature for posterity.

Lastly and finally, Western Ghats tribal's medicine is externally remarkable and significant compare to other tribal's

Within the preview of governments maintenance steps in the notable area especially medicine accumulated belt.

In order to protect ours traditional tribal's medicine are in the line of contemplation and are to be protected by the government welfare scheme on the basis of tribal's medicine protection act. So government has to take stringent measure and safeguard steps to maintain and protect the tribal's medicine.

During the budget time central government has to allot huge money to protect the tribal's medicine. Some valuable medicines are simple ignored and conveniently forget in the modern people. So our government has pay much more attention to this area.

#### **References**

1. Veerapur, V. P., et al. "Antiulcerogenic activity of various extracts of *Dodonaea viscosa* (L) Jacq. Leaves." *Indian journal of pharmaceutical sciences* 66.4 (2004): 407.
2. Devi, VN Meena, K. Kalirajan, and P. Nagendra Prasad. "Existence of vitamin C fruit sources in the Kani tribal settlements of south TamilNadu." *Journal of Phytology* (2010).
3. Harisha, C. R., et al. "Pharmacognostical evaluation on roots of *Cissus repanda* vahl. a folk medicine." *Pharmacognosy Journal* 2.17 (2010): 17-20.
4. Hazarika, Ridip, Santoshkumar Singh Abujam, and Bijoy Neog. "Ethno medicinal studies of common plants of Assam and Manipur." *Int J Pharm Biol Arch* 3.4 (2012): 809-815.