

## Indigenous knowledge among tribal women about medicinal plants

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### ABSTRACT

For the present study six villages were selected and twenty tribal women from each village were randomly selected for the study, making the total sample size 120. Statistical tools used were frequency, percentage, correlational analysis and multiple regressions. Collection of the data regarding indigenous knowledge about name of disease, name of the plants, medicinal plants used in the form of seed, root, stem, bark, leaves, flowers, rhizomes, bulb was done. Findings revealed that the significant percentage (64.17) of tribal women was having medium knowledge about medicinal plants. Access to medicinal plants was found to be positively correlated with the knowledge while access to medical facilities shown negative significant contribution in the indigenous knowledge of tribal women about medicinal plants.

### INTRODUCTION

The new branch of science, Medicothano Botany acts as a bridge between traditional knowledge of tribal people and botany regarding medicinal aspects of the global population which relies on traditional medicine and a large part of the therapies consists of plant extracts of their active constituents. India is very rich in medicinal plants and is continued to be an important therapeutic aid for alleviating ailments of human kind. The tribals living in and around the forests in India continue using an enormous range of medicinal plants and are aware of the necessity of the preservation and propagation of many plant species. Plants are one of the most important sources of medicine. The application of plants as medicines dates back to prehistoric period. In India, the references to the curative properties of some herbs in the *Rigveda* seems to be the earliest records of use of plants in medicines.

The medicinal plants are extensively utilized throughout the world in two distinct areas of health management – traditional system of medicine and modern system of medicine. The traditional system of medicine mainly functions through two distinct streams: 1) Local or Folk Tribal stream and 2) Codified organized Indian system of medicines like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani etc. With these considerations, the present study entitled has

been undertaken with following objectives to study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of tribal women, to study the indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants of tribal women and to explore the relationship of selected characteristics of tribal women with indigenous knowledge about medicinal plants.

### METHODOLOGY

From Kinwat taluka twenty villagers from six villages were randomly selected for the study. Thus, from each village 20 respondents were selected making the total sample size 120. From Kinwat tahsil randomly, six villages were selected namely as, Loni (Zendiguda), Kamthala, Ganeshpur, Kothari, Navakheda (Ghoti) and Amadi. Collection of data regarding indigenous knowledge of the tribal women about various medicinal plants was done. Ex-post-facto research design was used for the present study.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads:

#### *Personal and socio-economic characteristics of tribal women:*

It is observed from Table 1 that majority of the respondents were from old age group (80.30 per cent) and illiterate (97.51 per cent),

### Key words :

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