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**Ethonobotanical study of Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh**

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**Abstract**

Sidhi District is well known for rich population of tribals. These tribal peoples are very rich in their culture, tradition and faith on natural resource and nature. These aboriginals have gathered knowledge through long experiences of interaction among their surrounding flora and fauna of the respected. Men civilization started and poses away with modern society through the principle of sustainability. Phytopathy is somewhat different from 15at of all modern pathy exist in the world. Men has long history and faith on plants and nature. Long experiences of knowledge particularly on phytopathy based on old epics such as puran, Ramayana etc. these tribes have great tradition and believe on recovery of ailments from various diseases. The arrangement has been made for Sidhi district to ones the potential of economic and ecological importance of flora of region related with the culture and tradition of tribal peoples. The survey and inventory have been prepared. 394 plants have been recorded. 19 categories have been made. Maximum 90 medicinal plants have been noted followed by 78 fuel yielding plants and 62 food and vegetable plants etc. majority of plants have been conserved by these peoples for safety of nature and natural resources. Among number of uses this is areite astonishing that 6 plants have been recorded as psychotropic drug for hallucinogen. The various base level uses which are indeed important for family like milk yield production. The indigenous plants can enhance the ecology and economy of these rural poors. Their experiences broaden the spectrum of knowledge that can be used in judicious manner for the welfare of human kind.

**Key words:** Sidhi, Ethonobotanical, Madhya Pradesh

**Introduction**

Man's curiosity to biologic environs becomes deeply implanted with the passage to time. This is not true for an individual, but holds equally good for a race of tribe. There has been a constant evolution in the ways, modes and extent of biologic environs by a race of tribe as a result of interaction between the biologic environ and the tribe. This evidently results in a dynamic equilibrium between the tribe and its biologic environs in a particular period, but in terms of time, the equilibrium constantly exhibits an evolutionary progress.

The true picture of an ethnobiologic equilibrium, therefore, can only emerge with reference to time and space. Tribes inhabiting different ecologic niches in a country from separate nuclei of ethnotanical investigations has been given. In an all india conference held at Meerut (U.P.) in 1978, it was heartening to find as many as 22 investigation papers presented on ethnobotanical progress in different parts of the country.

The tribal region mainly covered in these investigations included Arunanchal, Meghalaya, Assam plains, Central India, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, South Indian tribe and tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Island, Madhya Pradesh, the largest state in area (area 4,43,000 sq. km.) support a population of as little as 4,17,00,000 people standing sixty in position. Vindhyan traverses the north and south parts of this state and Kaimur ranges respectively. Sidhi district of Rewa division of M.P. is situated to the North-East Corner of the state and abounds in hilly forests tracts inhabited by tribals such as Kil, Gond, beiga, Agaria, Bhumiya, Bhariya, Paliha, khairwar, Korwa, Panika, etc. details of area total population and population of tribal races in the different Development blocks is given in the table.

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Table 1: Development block in study site

S.No.	Development Blocks	Area in Km <sup>2</sup>	No. of Village	Total	Tribals	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	% in total Population
1	Sidhi	960	293	187804	53907	27821	26086	51576	2332	4.42
2	Rampur Naikin	890	209	172394	29874	15453	14421	29874	-	27.20
3	Singhwat	803	314	167188	31890	16318	15572	31890	-	19.02
4	Manjhouli	577	134	102135	33899	17465	164434	33899	-	33.53
5	Kusumi	1475	143	51148	33443	16996	16447	33443	-	64.33
6	Devsar	1822	221	174711	78549	40106	38443	78549	-	43.12
7	Chitrangi	1946	311	193848	84370	43612	40758	84370	-	44.02
8	Baidan	1904	284	293668	58760	30204	28556	53917	4743	25.20

Total area = 10,39,196 hectares; Total Forest area = 4,31,775 hectares

### Material and Methods

- For ethno biological studies in Sidhi district of M.P. more than 10% village of each tahsil were randomly during my study period i.e, 2001-2002.
- Those villages are tehsil wise tabulated.
- Tribal communities i.e. gond, kol,baig,agariya,khaiwar, and panika, bhumiya, bhariya inhabiting in each village were selected for the study and are recorded in table.
- Ethno biological information regarding each tribal community was recorded as per schedules presented in table.
- Elderly & experienced person of tribal communities were sources of information of above parameters.
- Surveys and collection of plant material were done by youths in presence of elderly persons of tribal communities.
- After collection of plants products, utensils basket etc. each were given a specific number and its photographs also taken.
- A herbarium of plants of specimens was prepared and numbered.
- Various herbal medicines preparation and their uses in various diseases were recorded.
- Each specimens location of collection was recorded.
- In the field local names of plants were recorded while in lab their botanical names were indentified with the help of flowering twigs using various flora.
- The description of plant is made in alphabetical order.
- Various animals used tribes for different purposed were listed. Their identification was made by reendowed zoologists of Rewa division.
- Bentham and hooker's system of classification is used to fix plants taxonomic position.
- District hospital of Sidhi has provided us climatic data of the area.
- Similarly Dept. of Statistics and Dept. of Tribal Welfare collectorate, Sidhi provided us data on demography.
- Different data relating to forest, revenue, public work and mining departments were also procured from the concerned departments of Sidhi district.
- Some agricultural implements and house hold utensils were collected. Their photographs ar kept in album.
- Some very specific methods are mentioned in the text elsewhere.

Table 2: Schedule of Ethnobiological Information

S. No	Routine	Name of Plant and Parts there of used by						
		Kol	Gond	Agaria	Baiga	Biyar	Khairwar	Panika
1	Fuel							
2	Furnitures							
3	Food and Vegetables							
4	Ornaments							
5	Medicine							
6	House hold materials							
7	House Building							
8	Ethno Musicology							
9	Agricultural Implements							

### Results and Discussion

During study tours it has been often observed that tribals and other people of the district also make the hedge of *Jatropha curcas* Linn around their huts/homes. Chaghtai and javed Ahmad (1978) have studied the ethnobotany of this plant. The seed oil of the plant, according to the article by Udai Mahoorakar in India Today 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 is going to replace the fossil diesel. The oil (*Jatropha Methyl ester*) obtained one litre from 3.5kg. seeds of the plants has less phosphorus, sulphur and is more inflammable as reported by the director of central salt and marine chemical research institute Bhavnagar, Pushpito Ghose (2004). So, it is very safety advisable that plantation of *Jatropha curca* Linn. In Sidhi district may cause economic revolution among the tribals and other poor communities. Minor financial help, to tribes from the Govt. in Plantation and establishing cottage industries can change their future brighter.

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