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Short Communication

Medicinal Plants in Gopalganj District Bihar (India): A Case Study

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Abstract: Owing the high medicinal uses of the Plants found in the area, these plants of medicinal importance are exploited by the rural people in indiscriminate manner. Many Medicinal plants facing rare or endangered condition. But there are some people who know their uses along with the danger consequences of their extinction, so they have developed their own way of conserving these plants in nature. These practices are practiced by the local and rural people and these include common socio-cultural and religions belief and cultivation practices. This paper attracts our attention to the status and conservation of medicinal plants of the district Gopalganj.
Keywords: Medicinal Plants Conservation, Gopalganj District

INTRODUCTION

Gopalganj is a district of Bihar. It is spread in about 2033 sq. km. The total population of district as recorded in 2011 census is about 2558037 having male population about 1269677 and female population about 1288360. It is geographically located between 26.12^{o} to 26.39^{o} North latitude and 83.54^{o} to 85.56^{o} East longitude. The present communication gives a survey of the medicinal plants from different sources.

M.C. Joshi described some important Medicinal Plants which require survey on local region and cultivation in different types of locations [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Billore et al. have suggested three methods to study the plants [2]:-

1. In a situation where several threatened species happen to grow within a few hectares or Sq km, the whole area should be conserved as a Biosphere Reserve.
2. When a threatened species is growing in pure population of a few or more individuals, or in association with other vegetation, it becomes necessary to establish a sanctuary, for the individual plant (Gene Sanctuaries).
3. The above two methods are called in situ conservation and when it is not possible to conserve the species by any of the above two methods than conservation has to be done *ex-situ.* This conservation can be attempted by three chief methods.

(a) Living plant in herbal farms or botanical garden.
(b) As seeds in seed-banks and
(c) As *in vitro* cultures, or tissue cultures.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Exploitation of plants is continuing and people are concerned with conservation of only those plants for which they are essentially concerned. Due to such negligence the maximum exploitation has been done to the plants of medicinal importance. This is mainly because of limited use the drugs obtained from plants.

Due to illicit, indiscriminate collections and number of other biotic interferences, the herbal wealth is diminishing with a last rate, throughout the country. The same is true for Gopalganj District also. Conservation of the plant in the district is also going side by side the ratio however has not been maintained in a proper manner. There is a need to maintain it for which conservation practices should be followed by educating people. Attempt should be made to form data based glossary of the area mentioning the local names of the plants, more ethnological information from local inhabitants and to note its abundance or frequency. The present status of data based ethnobotanical survey in this region is quite inadequate but it has a great potential plant revealed with ethnobotanical surveys followed with laboratory and clinical research is practiced to our ailing sufferings.

Mallatus philippensis(Lam.)Muell.-Arg.

Mucuna pruriens (L.)DC.

Abutilon indicum L. Sweet.

Tribulus terrestris L.

A list of medicinal plants attempt for which has been made to conserve has been presented in Table.

Table:-1. Medicinal plants of Gopalganj District, Bihar attempt for which have been made to conserve.

Sl.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Family	Location
1.	Chirchira	*Achyranthes aspera* L.	Amranthaceae	Gopalganj
2.	Ghikuar	*Aloe vera* (L) Burm.	Liliaceae	Jalalpur
3.	Patharchatta	*Kalanchoe pinnata* (Lam.) pers.	Crassulaceae	Kuchaikote
4.	Kataiya	*Argemone mexicana* L.	Papaveraceae	Kuchaikote
5.	Bhangraiya	*Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk	Asteraceae	Jalalpur
6.	Sindur	*Mallotus philippensis* (Lam.) Muell-Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Hathua
7.	Hurhur	*Gynandropsis pentaphylla*(Dec.)	Rutaceae	Gopalganj
8.	Kanghi	*Abutilon indicum* L. Sweet.	Malvaceae	Gopalganj
9.	Brahmi	*Bacopa monnieri* L. Punnett	Scrophulariaceae	Thawe
10.	Gokhru	*Tribulus terrestris* L.	Zygophyllaceae	Gopalganj
11.	Kawachh	*Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	Thawe
12.	Dudhia	*Euphorbia hirta* L.	Euphorbiaceae	Gopalganj
13.	Amerbel	*Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb.	Convolvulaceae	Hathua
14.	Bhatkoiya	*Solanum nigrum* Linn.	Solanaceae	Jalalpur
15.	Podina	*Mentha arvensis* Linn.	Laminaceae	Dangasi

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