INTRODUCTION
The Man has dependent on nature, particularly on the plants for its substances and survival since his existence on earth. In ancient times, he knew how to relieve his suffering by using the plants growing around him. The civilizations records show that a number of drugs used today were already in use during ancient times. It's credit goes to Indian Rishies and Physicians who were acquainted with a large number of medicinal plants compared to other countries in the world. In recent years, efforts to record ethnomedicinal uses of plants from amongst the native of various countries have received close attention of scientists (Jain, 1981, Singh et. al. 1984, Singh 1986, Brahman and Saxena 1989, Singh and Khan 1989, Malkhuri et. al. 1998, Yadav and Patel 2001 Kathikeyani 2003, Yadav et.al. 2003, Khare 2007). There are numerous medicinal plants in the vegetation of district Gonda (U.P.) which are used in curing various ailments. The people of this district have deep belief in their native folkore medicine for remedies and they rely on their own herbal cure in contrast to the modern medicine. Since the beginning of civilization, people have used plants as medicine. Perhaps as early as Neanderthal man, plants were believed to have healing powers. A discussion of human on this planet would not be complete without a look at the role of plants. Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a particular culture and region make of use of indigenous plants. Ethnobotanists explore how plants are used for such things as food, shelter, medicine, clothing, hunting and religious ceremonies. Ethnobotany has its roots in botany, the study of plants. Botany in turn originated in part from an interest in finding plants to help fight illness. In fact, medicines and botany have always had close ties. Ethnobotanists are usually botanists or biologists with additional graduate training in such areas as archeology, chemistry, ecology, anthropology, linguistics, history, pharmacology, sociology, religion and mythology. First of all researchers collect detailed knowledge about the local indigenous people and prepare a research paper. This paper is the focus of much attention. The interviewing process is conducted very carefully. A translator for the local language is usually necessary to conduct this phase. Ethnobotany as a field is on the rise. Ethnobotany issues are the focus of much public attention. The future looks promising for these dedicated scientists in a fascinating and vital field of research. Traditional knowledge of the medicinal plants that are used by native peoples, Hakims, Vaidhyas in rural area of Gonda district (U.P.), India.

The present work deals with the traditional use of plants as medicines for treatment of respiratory diseases in rural communities of Gonda district (U.P.), India.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in rural area of Gonda district. Gonda district lies between 26°47' and 27°20' north latitude and 81°30' and 82°46' east longitude. Gonda district is bound by Shravasti district to the north, Balrampur and Siddharthnagar district to the north east, Basti district to the east, Ayodhya (Faizabad) to the south, Barabanki to the south west and Bahraich district to the north west. Gonda district occupies an area of approximately 4003 square Kilometers. This district belongs to hindi belt of (U.P.), India. It is situated 120 Km. north east of the state capital Lucknow. Gonda district population is 3433919 and divided in to 16 blocks, 4 Tehsils and 1678 Villages (Map-1, 2 & 3).

The work was undertaken through field study carried out throughout the seasons of August 2018 to July 2019 in various rural areas of Gonda district. First hand information about the folk medicinal uses of plants was collected from the traditional healers, Vaidhyas, Hakims, Tribes and old rural peoples. The age of the respondents ranges between 40 to 75 years and the number of male respondents was higher 75% as compared to the female respondents 25%. Most of the informants were reluctant to reveal any information but a few consented for collection from the forest and for the interviews. The plant sample were collected and processed following the routine method of plants collection and herbarium technique (Jain and Rao, 1977).

Plants have been identified in Plant Pathology Lab M.L.K.P.G.College Balrampur (U.P.), India and the specimens have been identified using relevant floras and standard literatures (Kanjilal et. al 1982, Hooker 1989, Gaur 1999 and Singh and Singh 2009). The respondent were selected randomly and prior informed consent was obtained from each respondent to get traditional knowledge of the plants. A detail of plants are mentioned in Table -1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Local Name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Plant part used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Acacia nilotica</td>
<td>Babul</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td>Barks of babul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Adhatoda vasica</td>
<td>Adosa</td>
<td>Acanthaceae</td>
<td>Leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bacopa monnieri</td>
<td>Brahmi</td>
<td>Scrophulariaceae</td>
<td>Boiled plant is placed on chest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Boerhavia diffusa</td>
<td>Punarnava</td>
<td>Nyctaginaceae</td>
<td>Whole plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Calotropis gigantia</td>
<td>Madar</td>
<td>Apocynaceae</td>
<td>Flowers of madar powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Leucas aspera</td>
<td>Guima</td>
<td>Lamiaceae</td>
<td>Whole plant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The increase demand of medicinal plants has resulted in the dwelling of the natural resources mainly for the deforestation and other anthropogenic influence. The local uses of plants as a cure are common particularly in those areas, which have little or modern access to modern health services. The indigenous traditional knowledge of medicinal plants of various ethnic communities, where it has been transmitted orally for centuries is fast disappearing due to the advent of modern technology and transformation of traditional culture. Therefore, the collection of information about natural flora, classification, management and use of plants by the people holds importance among the ethnobotanists. The present study has resulted in the documentation of medicinal plant species belonging to the 7 families, which have been presented in the table: 1. Botanical names of medicinal taxa, enumerated alphabetically, followed by Botanical name, local names, family and plant parts uses.

Asthma, bronchitis, whooping cough and common cough are very common respiratory ailments. A decoction prepared by Acacia nilotica, Adhatoda vasica, Bacopa monnieri, Boerhavia diffusa, Calotropis gigantea flowers, Leucas aspera, Ocimum sanctum, Solanum surratense, Tylophora indica and Zingiber officinale is prescribed in the treatment of respiratory diseases. Similar works have also been obtained by researchers Chopra et al. (1956), Jain (1991), Bhat (2002), Mukherjee and Wahil (2006) and Singh and Tripathi (2019).

References


How to cite this article:

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