

Ethnobotany: The Boon for Mankind

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Case Study

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ABSTRACT

India being one of the 12 mega biodiversity countries of the world has plants that are rich in medicinal values which has a major impact on healthcare field. The study of traditional knowledge of plants in a local region is called ethnobotany. It has various fields such as ethnomedicine, ethnoarchaeology, ethnobotany, ethnoecology, ethnoagriculture, ethnonarcotics, ethnopharmacology etc in which ethnomedicine has always excited mankind. The role of ethnobotany in pharmaceutical applications and drug discovery is of great importance. The ethnobotanical survey on the paliyar tribe of Tamil Nadu has done major revelations of how herbal plants are helpful to cure diseases. Thus, it can be stated that ethnobotany helps us to preserve our traditional knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Our country India has been a paradise of unprecedented surprises and has rightly earned the title of "Golden Bird". Since time immemorial it has captivated people around the world for its culture, wealth, handlooms, spices and most importantly the structural unit of every ecosystem plants. Being the backbone of our ecosystem we humans are dependent on them for our existence and primary needs.

From generation to generation because it's sophisticated knowledge and usefulness they have always allured humans and played an important role in historical and current day cultures as well as proved an important area of research notably medical and pharmaceutical knowledge. (U.S Forest Service Caring for the land and serving people, United States Department of Agriculture) [1].

