

USE OF ANIMALS AS TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN CHHATTISGARH, INDIA**LATA MESHARAM^{a1} AND NISREEN HUSAIN^b**^{ab}Department of Zoology, Govt. Dr. W.W. Patankar Girls' P.G. College, Durg, Chhattisgarh, India**ABSTRACT**

From primitive time in India, use of animal in curing different diseases is a common practice. The present study aims to review the zoo-therapeutic practices of the different ethnic communities of Chhattisgarh. The present ethnology work which have been studied from different published research papers of various authors of zoo-therapeutic studies in Chhattisgarh, India from 2014 to 2016, have been taken into consideration. It was known that many types of diseases, where cured by animals and their products. About 31 animals and their uses are reported in traditional medicines in different parts of Chhattisgarh. Most of animals are used for respiratory problems, gastric troubles, rheumatic pains, skin problems, eye related problems.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal animal, Traditional medicine, Zoo-therapeutic

Mankind relationship with animals has been intimate right from the beginning of civilization. Animals have been playing an important role in human economy, culture, religion and magic religion. Human beings, especially the ancient or the ethnic people, in turn have been maintaining a healthy natural environment by making prudent use of the surrounding biological resources (Lohani, 2010).

There is evidence that human beings are familiar with use of animals and plants for food, cloth, medicine, etc. Since ancient times, ethno - zoology deals with the study of relationship between the human societies and the animal resources around them. Zoo-therapy is an important component of ethno – zoology, in healing of human ailments. By using therapeutic based medicines obtained from animals or ultimately derived from them is known as zoo therapy (Dixit, *et al.* 2010). India is gifted with immense faunal and floral biodiversity, because of the extreme variation in geographical and climatic condition prevailing in the country. There are about 45,000 species of plants and 81,000 species of animals reported (MoEF, 1994).

Ethno - zoology focuses at direct

relationship of animals to mankind. The term 'Ethno - Zoology' as a branch of science, deals with role of economically important animals in life and socio-cultural aspects of tribal or aboriginal peoples.

Chhattisgarh (Chattisgrh, literally 'Thirty-Six Forts') is a state in central India. It is the 10th largest state in India, with an area of 135,194 km² (52,199 sq mi). With a population of 28 million, Chhattisgarh is the 17th most-populated state of the nation. It is a source of electricity and steel for India, accounting for 15% of the total steel produced in the country⁴. Chhattisgarh is one of the fastest-developing states in India.

Chhattisgarh was under Maratha rule (Bhonsales of Nagpur) from 1741 to 1845 AD. It came under British rule from 1845 to 1947 as the Chhattisgarh Division of the Central Provinces. Raipur gained prominence over the capital Ratanpur with the advent of the British in 1845. In 1905, the Sambalpur district was transferred to Odisha and the estates of Surguja were transferred from Bengal to Chhattisgarh.

There are more than 13 million males and 12.9 million females in Chhattisgarh, which constitutes 2.11% of the country's population. The

sex ratio in the state is one of the most balanced in India with 991 females per 1,000 males, as is the child sex-ratio with 964 females per 1,000 males (Census 2011)

Chhattisgarh is primarily a rural state with only 20% of its population (around 5, 1 million people in 2011) residing in urban areas. According to a report by the government of India, at least 34% are Scheduled Tribes, 12% are Scheduled Castes and over 50% belong to the official list of Other Backward Classes. The plains are numerically dominated by castes such as Teli, Satnami and Kurmi; while forest areas are mainly occupied by tribes such as Gond, Halbi, Halba and Kamar/Bujia and Oraon. A large community of Bengalis has existed in major cities since the

times of the British Raj. They are associated with education, industry and services.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data were gathered from the published research papers of various author's on ethnozoology in India. We found many tribes and communities in Durg, Chhattisgarh, that have been using animals & its derivatives and their excreta as a traditional medicine. We have listed invertebrates and vertebrates, and studied their medicinal uses. All the medicinal uses of animals are classified into some categories *i.e.*, respiratory problem, bacterial and viral infection, gastric disorder, weakness and wound healing.

RESULTS

Table 1: Medicinal use of animal part in traditional therapy by Chhattisgarh tribes.

S.No.	Species	Family	Common name	Medicinal use along with made of Intake
1.	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	Leporidae	Hare	Blood of Rabbit is used in asthma
2.	<i>Equus caballus</i>	Equidae	Horse	The meat is believed to be a promote of corpulence, strength and eyesight.
3.	<i>Equus spp.</i>	Equidae	Ass	The meat is believed to be a promote of strength virility.
4.	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Felidae	Leopard	The meat is believed to be a promote of strength virility.
5.	<i>Bubalus Spp.</i>	Bovidae	Buffalo	The meat is believed to be a promote of strength virility.
6.	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Order-Rodentia	Rat	The meat is believed to be a promote of semen.
7.	<i>Macaco mulatta</i>	Cercopithecidae	Monkey	The meat is believed to use rheumatism, asthma, anemia and parasitic infection.
8.	<i>Capra falconeri</i>	Bovidae	Goat	The meat is believed to stimulate digestion and cause rhinitis. Soup of legs, bones are used to cure weakness.
9.	<i>Orycolagus quiniculus</i>	Order-lagomorpha	Hare	The meat is believed to cure menstrual disorders.
10.	<i>Canis aureus indicus</i>	Canidae	Jackal	The meat is believed to use paralysis and Arthritis, while the blood is given to the patients suffering from asthma
11.	<i>Hystrix indica</i>	Hystriidae	Porcupine	Stomach and intestine parts are dried (along with feed material) is given to children suffering from the stomach disorder. In the treatment of asthma.

12	<i>Felis domesticus</i>	Felidae	Cat	The whole animal is stripped of and boiled and the resultant juice is said to cure arthritis.
13	<i>Moschus m. moschi ferous</i>	Moschiae	Musk deer	Musk is used in the treatment of malaria, high fever and in heart ailment.
14	<i>Strix aluco nivicola</i>	Strigiformes	Owl	The meat is believed to promoter of strength and virility.
15	<i>Columba livia</i>	Columbidae	Pigeon	Patient suffering from paralysis are often given the meat of a black pigeon and fresh blood.
16	<i>Hemidactylus spp.</i>	Order Squamata	Geckos	The whole animal is boiled in sesamum oil and the oil is then used to heal eczema.
17	<i>Povo cristatus</i>		Mor	Peacock's leg is rubbed with water and this essenced water is used in ear infection. Feathers, rounded spot of feather mix with joggery used in infertility.
18	<i>Colotis versicolor</i>	Order- Squamata	Garden Lizard	The whole animal is boiled in oil and the oil is then used to heal wounds on cattle's body.
19	<i>Vipera susselli</i>	Order- Squamata	Snake	The meat is believed to promote eyesight and facilitate to elimination of urine, stool and flatus.
20	<i>Kachuga tentoria</i>		Hardshell Tutle Kachuga	Ash of carapus mixed with coconut oil and use for skin burns.
21	<i>Rana tigrina</i>		Frog	
22	<i>To putitora</i>		Fish	Blood of cut fish is used in food and mouth disease. It is applied on sore wounds in legs too.
23	<i>Labeo rohita</i>	Lebeo	Macchi	A fish cervical vertebra is rubbed with water and this essenced water in taken in urine blockage problem.
24	<i>Bivalva</i>	Mactra spp.	Seepi	Ash of shell is taken for weakness.
25	<i>Snail</i>	Pila spp.	Sankh	Ash of shell is taken for weakness and paralysis.
26	<i>Macrobachium mokolm sonil</i>		Jhinga Macchi	Dried power, taken for uses of tuberculosis.
27	<i>Pala nacus spp.</i>	Order Scorpinidae	Scorpion	The whole animal is boiled in edible oil and the oil is then applied on pile- infected areas. Ash produced after the burning of the scorpion is commonly applied on wounds.
28	<i>Paratalphusa spp.</i>		Crab	The meat is believed to be a promoter of strength and is a good remedy for the disease of the blood.
29	<i>Apis indica</i>		Mudhu mokhi	Honey used as eye drops to cure eye disease.
30	<i>Spirobolus spp.</i>	Order Myriapodae	Millipeds	Dry millipede smoke is used in the treatment of piles.
31	<i>Cimex rotundatus</i>	Order Hemiptera	Bad bugs	Bad bugs crushed in basil (<i>Occimum sanctum</i>) is applied to ring worm.

During the study of primary data's approximately 31 animals are reported in traditional medicine in different part of Chhattisgarh.

- 1 The mammal constitutes the highest number of animal used for medicinal purpose and amphibians are used in least in number.
- 2 The highest number of animal species have been used in respiratory problem like asthma, cold Cough.

CONCLUSION

Our result demonstrated that there is deep relation between nature and human. Animal can be used in medicine without harming their life and treatment of various common diseases. It is suggested that the government should integrate this health care system into the existing one to ensure proper development and harnessing ethno medicine in India.

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