

ABSTRACT & INTRODUCTION	
The ethnobiological knowledge of tribal communities in Odisha embodies a profound understanding of nature’s pharmacopoeia, reflecting centuries of experiential wisdom rooted in the Indian Knowledge System (IKS). This study explores the indigenous medicinal plant use among major tribal groups of Odisha—such as the Kondh, Santal, Saora, and Juang—highlighting their traditional health practices, cultural beliefs, and ecological stewardship. These communities possess intricate knowledge of plant taxonomy, habitat ecology, and therapeutic formulations, passed orally through generations. Medicinal flora such as <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>, <i>Terminalia chebula</i>, <i>Withania somnifera</i>, and <i>Curcuma longa</i> are extensively used to treat ailments ranging from fever, wounds, and digestive disorders to chronic illnesses. The IKS framework provides a holistic perspective that integrates spiritual, environmental, and health dimensions, emphasizing balance and sustainability. Documentation and validation of this ethnobiological wisdom are vital for developing bio-conservation strategies and novel drug discovery. Moreover, integrating traditional practices with contemporary pharmacological research can bridge knowledge systems and foster equitable benefit-sharing with tribal custodians. The study underscores the urgency of preserving this living heritage amid modernization pressures and ecological degradation. By recognizing the tribal medicinal practices of Odisha as a vital component of India’s intangible cultural heritage, the research advocates for their inclusion in national biodiversity conservation and health policy frameworks, ensuring that indigenous voices remain central to the evolving discourse on sustainable health and biodiversity management. By investigating the ethnomedicinal practices of these tribes, we can uncover novel therapeutic agents, promote sustainable use of natural resources, and ensure the preservation of indigenous knowledge for future generations.	
OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY	
•To identify and document the indigenous plants used by tribes of Odisha for medicinal purposes. •To investigate the traditional healing practices adopted by them along with scientific validation through identification & characterization of bioactive compounds.	
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
➤ Plant Collection & Identification: Indigenous medicinal plants used by Gond and Munda tribes were collected from their natural habitats of different districts of Odisha & identified through deposition of voucher specimen and Flora of Odisha Book. ➤ Traditional Knowledge Documentation: Interviews and surveys conducted with the tribal communities would facilitate the documentation of traditional knowledge related to the therapeutic uses. ➤ Ethnobotanical Survey: All the plants have been validated for their therapeutic properties through available documentations ➤ Pharmacological studies: The different plant parts have been used for identification and characterization of different bioactive compounds with validation of phytopharmaceutical potency study.	
INFOGRAPHICA & ANALYSIS	
Ayurveda Siddha Homeopathy Unani Yoga Naturopathy IKS System Validation through Identification, documentation, characterization & validation	

RESULTS & DISCUSSION						
TABLE1: LIST OF MEDICINAL PLANT SPECIES AND THEIR USES						
SL No	Plant Name	Common Name	Pictures	Family	Plant parts used	Therapeutic Applications
1	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet	Pedi-Pedika		Malvaceae	Root, Leaves, Seeds	Piles, Dysuria, Toothache
2	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	Khokhali		Euphorbiaceae	Wholeplant	Cough, Scabies, Bronchitis
3	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.) R.Br.	Chatiana		Apocynaceae	Bark,Leaves,Fruit	Diarrhoea,Asthma,Cardiac troubles
4	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L	Kanchana		Caesalpiniaceae	Bark, Root, Bud	Skin diseases, Cough, Leprosy, Diabetes
5	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.	Simuli		Bombacaceae	Root, seed, young fruit, gum, leaves and flower	Menorrhagia, urinary disorder, fever, abdominal disorder
6	<i>Ludwigia prostrata</i> Roxb	Latkera		Onagraceae	Plant	Dyspepsia, Dropsy, Cough, Cervical adenitis, Fever
7	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.f	Saguan		Verbenaceae	Whole plant	Arthritis, Leukoderma, Leprosy, Dysentery, Piles, Eczema, Ring worm
8	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L.	Kantikapali		Capparaceae	Root,Bark,Leaves	Skin troubles
9	<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	Bathua		Chenopodiaceae	Entireplant	Pepticulcer, Helminthiasis, Eye disorders, Seminal weakness
10	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L.	Bana sorisa		Capparaceae	Leaves and seeds	Fever, Diarrhoea, Worm infestation, Dyspepsia, Cardiac disorders
11	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) Pers	Soroponkha		Fabaceae	Root, Leaves	Dysmenorrhoea, Chronic fever, Anaemia, Gingivitis, Pimples, Elephantasis, Boils
12	<i>Costus speciosus</i> (Koenig) Sm.	Kudha		Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	Erache, Bile disorders, Urinary disorders
13	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L. var. <i>rotundus</i> Kern.	Mutha		Cyperaceae	Tuber	Leprosy, Malaria fever, Diarrhoea, Wounds, Ulcers
14	<i>Gmelina arborea</i> Roxb.	Gambari		Verbenaceae	Root, Leaves, fruit, and bark	Stomach ache, Galactogogue, Laxative, Anthelmintic
15	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (L.) L.	Keshadura		Asteraceae	Root,Leaves	Promote hair growth, Leucorrhoea, Eruption, Graying of hair
16	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> L.	Hatisundha		Boraginaceae	Leaves	Ringworm, Rheumatism, Ulcer Wound, Gonorrhoea
17	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R.Br.	AantaMul		Asclepiadaceae	Roots, leaves, stem and latex	Rheumatism, Urinary trouble, Skin disease, Diabetes Dysurea
18	<i>Nerium oleander</i> L.	Karabira		Apocynaceae	Leaves, Root	Ophthalmia, Ring worm, Scabies, Copius Lacrimation, Leprosy
19	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L.	Bisiripi		Malvaceae	Root, Leaves, Bark, seeds	Urinary troubles, Sciatica, Dysentery, Facial paralysis
20	<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i> (L.) Nash.	Bena		Poaceae	Root	Burning sensation, Ulcers, Vomiting, Cough, Asthma, Gout, Lumbago

CONCLUSIONS
➤ The study provide scientific validation of the therapeutic properties of indigenous plants used by tribes of Odisha ➤ The study would contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources.
REFERENCES
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