Plants Used as Source of Dyes by Tribals of Sakoli Taluka, District Bhandara (MS)

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Abstract:

Sakoli taluka Dist- Bhandara is situated in eastern region of Maharashtra. This region comprises many tribal communites having indigenous knowledge about plant wealth. In the world of fast growth, peoples are not getting herbal dyes for their various uses because synthetic dyes have dominated the market. Some peoples are misuing the synthetic dyes for colouring food materials and thus creating mischief. On the other hand the knowledge about herbal dyes or the dyes obtained from natural sources is scanty. Moreover, what ever herbal dyes are available in the market are costly and lesser in number. In the present work, the information about natural dyes obtained from tribal peoples has been documented. The total of 19 plants belonging to 15 families have been enumerated along with their parts used and the colour of dye extracted form their sources.

Keywords: Plant source, dyes, tribals, sakoli.

Introduction:

In the eastern part of Maharashtra (Vidarbha region) Bhandara district is situated. In this district Sakoli is very old tahsil place. This region is surrounded by dense forest area covering about 1517 Sq. km. Many tribal communites like Halba, Gond, Pradhan and Madia are inhabitants of the region. Being the tribal and naxalite affected region no more modern facilites could reach to peoples residing in remote areas therefore peoples must rely on their own for some or other things.

India is having rich plant diversity; amongst this richness about 450 plants are used as dyes (Siva, 2007). In the ancient times also dyes from vegetable and wild plants were being extracted and this knowledge of natural dyes was inherited through generations very secretly. On the other hand usage of synthetic dyes has become more polular and has replaced the natural dyes. Moreover, some peoples have started missuse of synthetic dyes in the foods for colouring which are potentially hazardous.

We have the knowledge of natural dyes developed be tribal peoples which is going to be vanished due lack of documentation. In the present work dye yielding plants were selected for study. Information was gathered from tribal villages.

Methodology:

An ethnobotanical survey was conducted in different tribal localities in the district during the years 2013 - 2014. Different tribal communities were interviewed along with senior men and women using questionnaires. These people have been using various plants for the extraction of dyes especially in the remote rural areas. The information regarding mode of use, parts used, and local name was collected from them. On the basis of local names and specimens collected the plants were identified from available standard flora. The collected specimens were processed into mounted herbarium sheets following the conventional methodology (Jain and Rao 1977) and were deposited at the Departmental Herbarium (Table 1).

Result and Discussion:

Total of 19 plants from 15 families alone or in combination have been used by tribals. For the dying of fabrics *Terminalia chebula* is used as mordant. Dhawda gum, along with alum and tamarind seed poder is used to make printing paste for fabric dying (Satya, 2012).

For making orage coloured jalebi (sweet dish) *Bixa orlanata* seed powder is used. During festival of colours 'Holi and Dhulendi' natural colours from *Butea*, *Kirganelia*, *Curcuma*, *Indigofera* and *Woodfordia* are being used extensively by the tribal villagers.

The bark of *Acasia catechu* is used in obtaining red dye and also used in making Pan for chewing. *Lawsonia, Comellia, Sinnamomum* are used to make mehandi and for decorating hands of bride during the marriages. Similarly, the The *Lawsonia* leaf powder is also used for colouring hairs (Gokhale et al., 2004).

Table. 1-Enumeration of Plants sources used as dyes:

Sr. No.	Name of the plants, Family, local names	Plant parts used	Dye Obtained
1	*Acasia catechu,* Faboidae, Khair	Bark	Red
2	*Anogeissus latifolia*(DC), Combretaceae, Dhawda.	Leaves	Khaki brown.
3	*Azadirachta indica*, A. Juss., Meliaceae, Neem.	Leaves	Yellow
4	*Bixa orellanata* L., Bixaceae, Sendri	Seeds	Orange
5	*Butea monosperma* Lam, Faboidae, Palas	Flowers	Oragne red
6	*Curcuma longa* L., Zingiberaceae, Halad	Rhizome	Yellow
7	*Camellia sinensis* L., Theaceae, Chaha patti	Leaves	Light brown.
8	*Cinnamomum tamala* T. Nees, Lauraceae, Tejpan	Leaves	Yellow
9	*Indigofera tinctoria* L., Fabaoidae, Neel	Leaves	Blue
10	*Lawsonia inermis* L., Lythraceae, Mehandi	Leaves	Yellow
11	*Kirganelia reticulata,* Euphorbiaceae, Pitondi	Fruits	Blue
12	*Mangifera indica* L., Anacardiaceae, Amba.	Roots, bark	Green, brown
13	*Morinda tinctoria* Roxb., Rubiaceae,	Roots	Red & black
14	*Morinda tinctoria* Roxb., Rubiaceae+ *Woodfordia fruticosa* L., Lythraceae, Gilbuli	Roots + flowers	Purple
15	*Musa paradisiaca* L., Musaceae, Kel	Leaf sheath	Red brown
	Punica granatum L. Punicaceae, Anar	Fruit rind	Orange green
16	*Tectona grandis* Verbenaceae	Leaves	Red
17	*Tagates errecta* L., Asteraceae, Zendu	Flower	Different shades of yellow
18	*Terminalia chebula,* Retz., Combretaceae, Hirda	Fruits	Yellow
19	*Woodfordia fruticosa,* L., Lythraceae, Gilbuli	Flowers	Red & black

Conclusion:

Tribal peoples are using many plants as a dye and or for dye extraction. The standard protocols are needed to be formulated for large scale production of herbal dyes and these can be made available in the market for the use of other peoples.

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