

Title of the Project: Study of Present Status of Domestic use of Local Medicinal Plants in Jaynagar, Lakshmikantapur and its adjoining area

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The concept of Modern Drug implemented in the 19th Century. Numerous bioactive compounds have been separated as active component to work on target tissue from natural sources and then synthesized chemically at industrial scale. Development of synthetic drugs significantly reduces the importance of natural products. Indian Traditional Knowledge (ITK) provides a great deal of information for ailments of several diseases and to improve the gross health and wellbeing of human race. But we have gradually ignored and lost this valuable knowledge in due course of time though we have had our gigantic resource of Ayurveda. A project was undertaken by the 3rd semester students of Botany Honours (2023-24) to understand the present status of domestic use of medicinal herbs by rural people of villages of South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal. The aim of this study is to generate the real picture about the general awareness, present knowledge, availability and use of medicinal plants in daily life as medicine or as first aid in some specific blocks of this district.

Project Outcome: The data was collected taking interview of people of three age group like A (18-35), B (36-55) and C (56 and above) with the help of semi structured and open-ended questionnaire. Questions were framed on the basis of parameters mentioned above to satisfy the aim of the study. An interesting result was exposed in this study that Participants of group A i.e. the young people of this area are more interested in taking herbs for as preventive measure of different diseases than the older persons. This is a very good indication towards positive public health awareness among the educated young minds of this area through respect and reintroduction of Local Traditional Knowledge.



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