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HEALING ROOTS OF KHANDESH: TRADITIONAL MEDICINAL PLANTS AND THEIR ETHNOBOTANICAL SIGNIFICANCE

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Medicinal plants have played a crucial role in human societies for centuries, especially in traditional healing systems. The Khandesh region of Maharashtra, India, boasts rich ethnobotanical diversity, with many plant species used by tribal and rural communities to treat various ailments. This study aims to document and analyse the medicinal plants in this area, helping to preserve traditional knowledge for future use. **Methodology**: An extensive ethnobotanical survey was carried out to identify and categorize medicinal plants in Jalgaon, Dhule, and Nandurbar districts. Multiple sources, including literature reviews and field studies, were used to record plant species, their botanical families, medicinal uses, and parts used. Data analysis involved statistical and graphical methods. **Results:** The study identified 192 medicinal plants across 73 plant families, with Euphorbiaceae (13 species) being the most common, followed by Caesalpiniaceae (11), Cucurbitaceae (8), and Acanthaceae (8). The primary medicinal uses included wound healing (13 species), jaundice (5), dysentery (5), and body pain (4). The most frequently used plant parts were whole plants (8 species), leaf decoctions (6), and fruits (5). **Discussion:** These findings highlight the vital role of indigenous knowledge in plant-based medicine. Combining traditional healing practices with modern scientific validation can improve the credibility and conservation of these plants for future medicinal use. **Conclusion:** The study emphasizes the ethnobotanical richness of Khandesh and the importance of conservation efforts to integrate traditional medicinal knowledge with modern healthcare systems.

KEYWORDS: Ethnobotany, Medicinal Plants, Khandesh Region, Traditional Medicine, Indigenous Knowledge, Conservation.

INTRODUCTION

Plants have played an integral role in human societies worldwide for centuries, serving not only as a source of sustenance but also as vital components in rituals, traditions, and medicinal practices. The ancient texts of India, including the Puranas and Upanishads, recognize the sacred origins of certain plants, often associating them with deities and religious customs. Our ancestors possessed an extensive understanding of the healing properties of plants, passing their knowledge orally from generation to generation. Even today, when well-structured medical systems dominate the world, these traditional healing practices continue to be prevalent. The present study catalogues plants in the Khandesh region, highlighting their ethnobotanical significance.[1,2] Traditional medicine remains an essential component of India's healthcare system, particularly among rural and tribal populations. More than 1,000 medicinal plants are utilized to treat various ailments, including diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and wound healing. The Indian traditional system of medicine has evolved over millennia, relying on plant-based treatments for several documented diseases. Scientific studies have corroborated the efficacy of several plants used in

traditional medicine. The therapeutic use of plants is well-documented, with various plant parts such as roots, leaves, fruits, seeds, and flowers being incorporated into various formulations, including powders, tinctures, and ointments. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of herbal remedies in diversified medical conditions.[3-5] The present study aims to document the medicinal uses of plants traditionally revered, used in day-to-day life by tribal and rural communities in Jalgaon, Dhule, and Nandurbar districts. The Khandesh region, located in the northwestern part of Maharashtra, encompasses the districts of Jalgaon, Dhule, and Nandurbar. It is bordered by the Satpura mountain range to the northwest and the extended ranges of the Western Ghats to the southwest. The region is characterized by dry deciduous forests, making it a rich repository of diverse plant species. The primary occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture, with tribal communities such as the Bhil, Pawara, Kokani, Banjara, Mavachi, Tadwi and Vanjari relying on wild plant resources for spiritual, medicinal, and everyday needs.[6-8] The Khandesh region, with its rich ethnobotanical heritage, presents an untapped resource for studying plant-based medicine. While earlier botanical surveys focused on taxonomic classifications, the present study aims to document the medicinal uses of indigenous plants. This research seeks to preserve and validate traditional knowledge, ensuring its continued relevance in modern medicinal practices.[9] Jalgaon district has the Satpura/ Satpuda range extending into the northern part of the district, while offshoots of the Western Ghats influence its south-eastern areas. The soil composition varies from alluvial along riverbanks to black and saline soils in cultivated regions. The climate is predominantly dry, except during the monsoon season. Traditional medicinal practices remain deeply rooted in Jalgaon, with people still relying on plant-based remedies to treat various ailments.[10-13] Dhule district, situated along the northern border of Maharashtra, has also been subject to ethnobotanical studies, yet its sacred plant traditions remain largely unexplored. Similarly, Nandurbar district is home to a wealth of indigenous plant knowledge among tribal communities.[14-15]

METHODOLOGY

This review compiles information on medicinal plants grown and used in Khandesh, including their local names. Various databases were consulted for relevant literature.[16-17] Since covering all medicinal plant uses is impractical, we focused on accessible information for researchers. While tribal communities have documented traditional knowledge, much of it remains unavailable to the modern world. A list of medicinal plants was created, detailing biological sources, families, local names, and parts used. Preparation methods vary based on plant availability and urgency, often involving crushing to make juice or paste for topical or oral use. Recognizing, documenting, and preserving ethnomedicinal knowledge is essential for future generations. Comprehensive studies of plants used by local tribes are crucial to assessing their value for conservation and human welfare.[18-19]

RESULT

The study documented the ethnobotanical significance of medicinal plants in the Khandesh region, categorizing them by botanical family, medicinal use, and plant parts utilized. A total of 73 plant families were identified, with Euphorbiaceae (13 species) being the most dominant, followed by Caesalpiniaceae (11), Cucurbitaceae (8), and Acanthaceae (8). All the data is tabulated in **Table no. 01**. Further information can be visualised through **Figure No. 01, 02** and **03** as follows- The top 15 families accounted for a majority of recorded species, reflecting the diversity of plant-based traditional medicine. A pie chart analysis of medicinal uses revealed that wound healing (13 species) was the most common application, followed by jaundice (5), dysentery (5), body pain (4), and cold & cough (3). These findings indicate the widespread use of plants for gastrointestinal, dermatological, and respiratory ailments. Plant part usage analysis showed that whole plants (8 species), leaf decoctions (6), and fruits (5) were the most frequently utilized. Various preparations, including pastes, powders, and decoctions, were employed in treatments, highlighting the adaptability of traditional medicine. The results underscore the rich medicinal plant heritage of Khandesh, reinforcing the need for conservation and scientific validation to integrate traditional practices into modern healthcare.

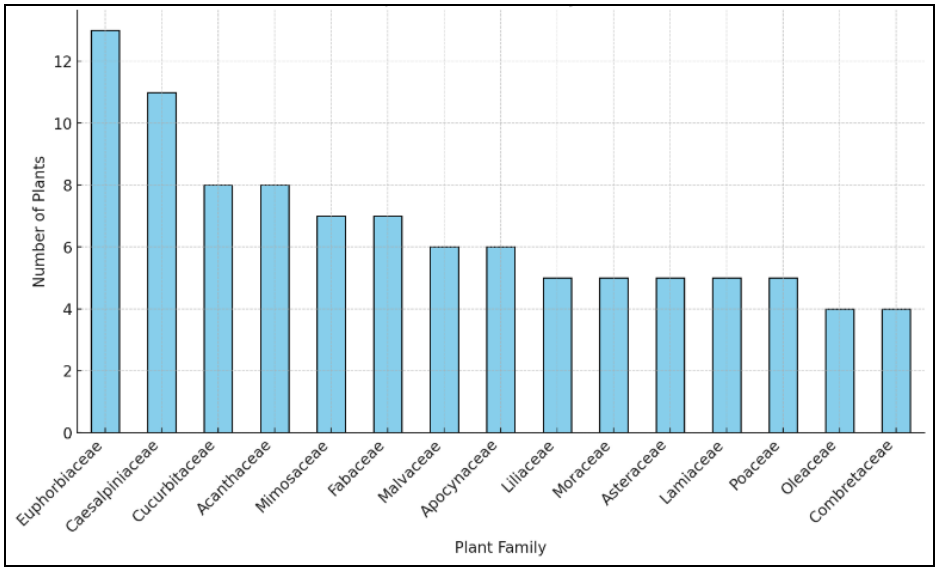

Figure 01 – Top Fifteen Plant Families by Count.

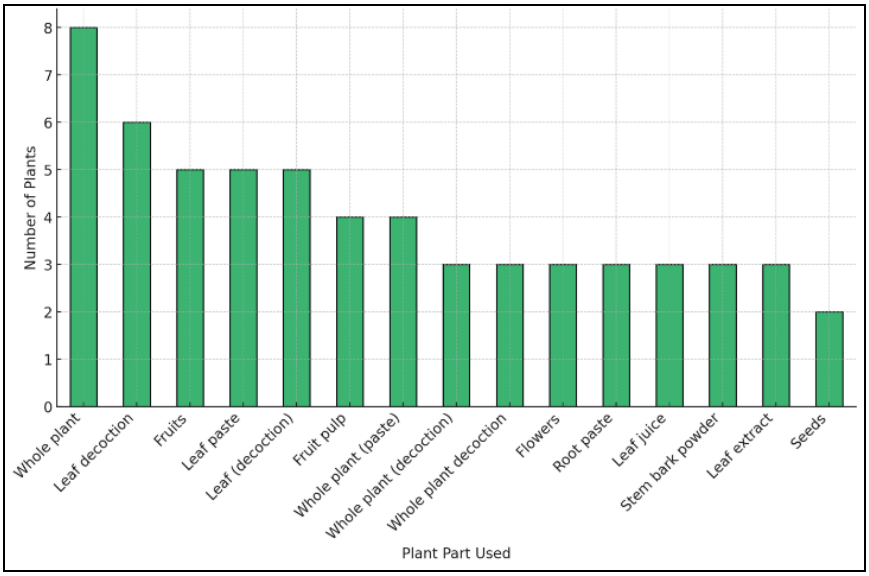

Figure 02 – Top Fifteen Plant Parts Used by Count.

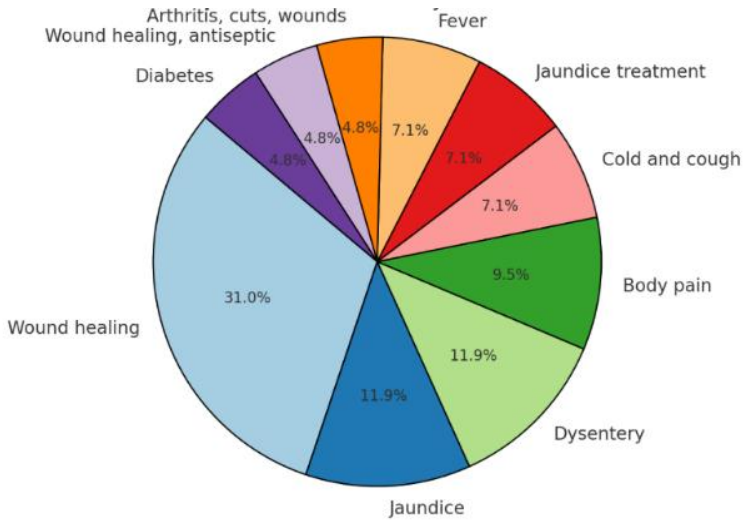

Figure 03 – Top Ten Medicinal Uses by Plant Count.

Table no. 01 – Ethnobotanical data of medicinal Plants in Khandesh Region.

1.	Plant Name	Biological Source	Family	Medicinal Use	Plant Part Used
2.	*Abelmoschus esculentus*	Bhendi	Malvaceae	Used as an offering to Goddess Mahalakshmi	Fruits
3.	*Abelmoschus manihot*	Kasturi bhendi, Ran bhendi	Malvaceae	Antiseptic for cuts and wounds, rheumatism, swellings	Bark (paste, powder)
4.	*Abelmoschus moschatus*	Kasturi bhendi	Malvaceae	Indigestion	Seed powder
5.	*Abrus precatorius*	Gunj, Ratti	Papilionaceae	Promotes hair growth, Cough, gum swelling, antiseptic for wounds, Blood purification, protection from evil spirits	Seeds, Leaves, Root,
6.	*Acacia arabica*	Babul	Mimosaceae	Wound healing, antiseptic	Stem, Leaves, Fruit, Seeds
7.	*Acacia chundra*	Khair	Mimosaceae	Toothache, boils, ulcer treatment	Bark (powder, paste)
8.	*Acacia concinna*	Shikekai	Mimosaceae	Malaria	Leaf extract
9.	*Acacia farnesiana*	Irimeda	Leguminosae	Wound healing	Stem
10.	*Acacia ferruginea*	Devbhabul	Mimosaceae	Throat infection, malaria, Headache relief	Root decoction, Bark decoction
11.	*Acacia leucophloea*	Hirar	Mimosaceae	Body pain	Bark (paste)
12.	*Acacia nilotica*	Vedi Babhul	Mimosaceae	Remedy for hiccups, Eye problems	Decoction of thorns, Leaf paste
13.	*Acalypha indica*	Kokali	Euphorbiaceae	Cough, snake and insect bites, skin diseases	Whole plant decoction, Leaf paste
14.	*Achyranthes aspera*	Apamarga	Amaranthaceae	Wound healing	Whole plant
15.	*Acorus calamus*	Vekhand, Yekhand, Bacha	Araceae	Abdominal pain, scabies, malaria,Wound healing	Bark decoction, Stem paste, Rhizome
16.	*Adansonia digitata*	Gorakh chinch	Bombacaceae	Believed to fulfill wishes (Kalpavruksh)	Whole plant
17.	*Adhatoda vasica*	Adulasa, Basak	Acanthaceae	Indigestion,Wound healing	Leaf decoction
18.	*Aegle marmelos*	Bilwa	Rutaceae	Wound healing, Stomach ache, Diabetes, dysentery, Jaundice treatment, Body coolant	Leaves, Stem, Fruit (decoction)
19.	*Agave vera-cruz*	Ketaki, Kektad	Agavaceae	Constipation relief	Leaf juice
20.	*Ailanthus excelsa*	Maharuk	Simarubaceae	Abdominal pain, post-delivery bleeding	Stem and bark decoction
21.	*Albizia lebbeck*	Shirish	Mimosaceae	Wound healing, Inflorescence used for worship of Gramdevta by Bhil tribe	Stem, Flowers
22.	*Allium cepa*	Kanda	Liliaceae	Swollen joints, Epileptic fits, Sunstroke relief, Fits, Preventive for evil eyes, avoided in religious fasting	Bulb paste
23.	*Allium sativum*	Lasun	Liliaceae	Sciatica, Used in black magic, avoided in sacred months	Bulblets
24.	*Aloe vera*	Korphad	Liliaceae	Body pain, Boils, Habitual constipation, drops, Hung on house roofs for prosperity	Whole plant
25.	*Alstonia scholaris*	Saptaparn	Apocynaceae	Antiseptic for cuts, wounds, malaria	Latex, Root extract, Leaves, Stem
26.	*Amaranthus spinosus*	Kate-math	Amaranthaceae	Regulates urination, Grains used in Rhishipanchami worship	Leaf decoction, Seeds
27.	*Andrographis echioides*	Kalmegh	Acanthaceae	Blood purification, fever, malaria, scorpion sting	Leaf decoction, Stem paste
28.	*Annona reticulata*	Ramphal	Annonaceae	Offered to Goddess Laxmi on Laxmipujan	Fruits
29.	*Annona squamosa*	Sitaphal	Annonaceae	Wound healing, Dysentery	Root, Leaves, Fruit, Seeds

30.	*Anogeissus latifolia*	Dhavda	Combretaceae	Body swellings, diabetes, scorpion sting	Bark paste, Powder
31.	*Arachis hypogaea*	Bhuimug	Fabaceae	Ear problems	Seed oil
32.	*Argemone mexicana*	Pivla Dhotra	Papaveraceae	Cough, Stomach ache, Wound healing, Fruits used for the worship of God Mahadev	Leaf extract, Fruits, Root, Latex
33.	*Argyreia nervosa*	Samudrashok	Convolvulaceae	Ulcers, dog bites, wound healing	Leaf extract, Root paste
34.	*Aristolochia bracteolata*	Kidamar	Aristolochiaceae	Snake and scorpion stings, skin infections	Root paste
35.	*Aristolochia indica*	Sapsun, Ishwari mul	Aristolochiaceae	Fever	Leaf extract
36.	*Asparagus racemosus*	Shatavari	Liliaceae	Hair growth, female fertility, immunity, Wound healing, Eye treatment, Bleeding nose	Stem powder, Root powder, Whole plant (paste)
37.	*Azadirachta indica*	Kadu neem	Meliaceae	Blood purification, antiseptic for wounds, scabies, Wound healing, Stomuch ache,	Leaf juice, Twig decoction, Leaf paste, bark
38.	*Bacopa monnieri*	Brahmi	Scrophulariaceae	Cooling effect, cough, memory loss, headache	Whole plant decoction, Leaf extract
39.	*Balanites aegyptiaca*	Hinganbet	Balanitaceae	Insect bites, Pimples, burns, and boils	Root paste, Fruit pulp, Seed oil
40.	*Balanites roxburghii*	Hingana	Simaroubaceae	Wound healing	Stem
41.	*Baliospermum raziana*	Dati	Euphorbiaceae	Oral hygiene, Prevents tooth decay	Fresh stem pieces
42.	*Bambusa arundinacea*	Kalak, Bambu	Poaceae	Skin problems, Injuries	Root paste
43.	*Barleria prionitis*	Kate koranti	Acanthaceae	Skin fairness	Flower paste
44.	*Bauhinia purpurea*	Kanchan, Kachnar	Caesalpiniaceae	Lymph gland treatment, Wound healing	Fruit wall pulp, Stem bark, Flowers, Fruit
45.	*Bauhinia racemosa*	Apta, Sone	Caesalpiniaceae	Urinary health, Cold and cough	Leaf extract, Bark (infusion)
46.	*Bauhinia variegata*	Kanchan	Caesalpiniaceae	Cuts, wounds, swellings	Root extract
47.	*Benincasa hispida*	Kohla	Cucurbitaceae	Cough and fever, Symbolic of the Devil in Navratri rituals	Fruits
48.	*Biophytum sensitivum*	Lajalu, Sharmi	Oxalidaceae	Treats rheumatism, Wound healing	Leaf paste, Seed
49.	*Blepharis repens*	Hadsan	Acanthaceae	Bone fracture healing	Leaf paste
50.	*Boerhaavia diffusa*	Punarnava	Nyctaginaceae	Wound healing, Jaundice treatment	Whole plant decoction
51.	*Bombusa arundinacea*	Vansha lochan	Poaceae	Wound healing	Stem, Shoots
52.	*Boswellia serrata*	Salayi	Burseraceae	Wounds, snake and scorpion stings, Used as toothpaste	Flower paste, Seed powder, Leaf, Bark,
53.	*Bougainvillea spectabilis*	Boganvel	Nyctaginaceae	Planted near temples for decoration	Whole plant
54.	*Brassica juncea*	Mohri	Brassicaceae	Dysentery	Whole plant (decoction)
55.	*Bridelia airy-shawii*	Asana	Euphorbiaceae	Diabetes management	Stem bark powder
56.	*Bridelia retusa*	Asana	Euphorbiaceae	Arthritis, cuts, wounds	Bark powder, bark paste
57.	*Buchanania cochinchinensis*	Charoli	Anacardiaceae	Skin problems	Seed oil
58.	*Buchanania lanzan*	Charoli	Anacardiaceae	Skin smoothening, tonic	Seed paste, Seed oil
59.	*Butea monosperma*	Palas, Dhak	Fabaceae	Rheumatism, Sunstroke, menorrhagia, Eye treatment, Intestinal worms, urinary complaints, Treats biliousness and allergies	Stem bark paste, Flower, Leaf, Seed, Root
60.	*Caesalpinia bonducella*	Karanja	Leguminosae	Wound healing	Seeds

61.	*Cajanus cajan*	Tur, Tor	Fabaceae	Used in marriage rituals for warding off evil	Dried stems
62.	*Calendula officinalis*	Marigold	Asteraceae	Wound healing	Flowers
63.	*Calotropis gigantea*	Rajarka	Asclepiadaceae	Wound healing, Stomuch ache	Latex, Root
64.	*Calotropis procera*	Aak, Rui, Mhatari	Asclepiadaceae	Body pain, Wounds healing, Miagrain, Scorpion sting treatment	Latex (paste)
65.	*Carica papaya*	Papai	Caricaceae	Used in worship during engagement ceremonies	Fruits
66.	*Carissa congesta*	Karvand	Apocynaceae	Dysentery	Unripe fruits
67.	*Cassia absus*	Tarhotana-mama	Caesalpiniaceae	Pimples removal	Flower paste
68.	*Cassia auriculata*	Aawali	Caesalpiniaceae	Fever, jaundice, Wound healing, Diabetes	Root decoction, whole plant powder
69.	*Cassia fistula*	Amaltas	Caesalpiniaceae	Fever	Fruit (decoction)
70.	*Cassia tora*	Takla, Tarota	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves worshipped before sowing as a tribute to Nagdevta	Leaves
71.	*Cassia tora*	Tarota, Takala	Caesalpiniaceae	Rheumatism, Wound healing	Seeds, Root powder
72.	*Catharanthus pusillus*	Sadafuli	Apocynaceae	Diabetes	Flower (decoction)
73.	*Catunaregam spinosa*	Tirvengadum	Rubiaceae	Poison vomiting treatment	Fruit pulp
74.	*Cayratia trifolia*	Bailmal	Vitaceae	Muscular pain relief	Root paste
75.	*Celastrus paniculatus*	Jyotishmati, Malkangani	Celastraceae	Digestion problems, brain tonic, fever	Seed powder, Seed oil, Seed extract
76.	*Centella asiatica*	Bramhi	Apiaceae	Dysentery treatment	Whole plant decoction
77.	*Cissus quadrangularis*	Kandvel	Vitaceae	Cuts, wounds, dysentery, stomachache, bone fracture	Root paste, stem decoction, stem extract
78.	*Cleome viscosa*	Bhera, Piwali Tilwan	Capparidaceae	Boils, Malarial fever treatment	Leaf paste
79.	*Coccinia grandis*	Tondli	Cucurbitaceae	Cough and cold, Acidity relief	Fruit juice, Leaf extract
80.	*Cocculus hirsutus*	Vasan, Vasanwel	Menispermaceae	Piles treatment	Leaf powder with ghee
81.	*Cocos nucifera*	Naral	Arecaceae	Used in almost all Hindu rituals, symbol of prosperity	Fruits
82.	*Cordia dichotoma*	Bhokar	Boraginaceae	Lung complaints, chest infections, scabies, Wounds, Fever, dysentery	Bark decoction, Fruit, Seed, Bark
83.	*Costus speciosus*	Pev	Zingiberaceae	Body pain	Root (decoction)
84.	*Crataeva adansonii*	Waiwarna, Varuna	Capparidaceae	Stomachache, wound healing, fever	Bark decoction, bark paste
85.	*Croton bonplandianus*	Croton	Euphorbiaceae	Dysentery	Bark and root (decoction)
86.	*Cucumis melo var. melo*	Kharbuj	Cucurbitaceae	Sunstroke prevention, skin glow	Fruit pulp
87.	*Cucumis sativus*	Kakdi	Cucurbitaceae	Cooling effect on eyes	Fresh fruit slices
88.	*Curcuma longa*	Haldi	Zingiberaceae	Wound healing, antiseptic	Rhizome
89.	*Cuscuta chinensis*	Amarwel	Cuscutaceae	Dandruff removal, Vitiligo treatment	Stem paste, Powder mixture
90.	*Cymbopogon martini*	Dubadi, Durva	Poaceae	Smallpox treatment	Infusion in bath water
91.	*Cynodon dactylon*	Durva	Poaceae	Wound healing, Fever	Leaf juice, Whole plant (paste)
92.	*Dalbergia paniculata*	Satpudi	Fabaceae	Boil treatment	Leaf paste
93.	*Datura metel*	Kala Dhotra	Solanaceae	Tumor, Wound healing, Flowers and thorny fruits used in Mahadev worship	Seed oil, Flowers, Fruits, leaves

94.	*Delonix elata*	Sansada	Caesalpiniaceae	Muscular pain relief	Warmed leaves
95.	*Dendrocalamus strictus*	Valy	Poaceae	Menorrhagia	Leaves (decoction)
96.	*Dendrophthoe falcata*	Bandgul	Loranthaceae	Fetus settlement in pregnancy	Ripe fruits
97.	*Desmodium gangeticum*	Salvan, Shalaparni	Fabaceae	Ulcer, Wound healing	Root powder (with honey), Whole plant
98.	*Dichrostachys cinerea*	Yellatur	Mimosaceae	Dysentery, Purgative, Diuretic	Stem bark, Roots
99.	*Dioscorea oppositifolia*	Kand	Dioscoreaceae	Dysentery	Tubers (powder)
100	*Diospyros melanoxylon*	Temburni	Ebenaceae	Dysentery, snake bite antidote	Fruit pulp
101	*Diospyros montana*	Pali	Ebenaceae	Ringworm, insect bites	Floral paste
102	*Diospyros peregrina*	Temburni	Ebenaceae	Dysentery and diarrhea	Fruit pulp
103	*Dolichandron falcata*	Medhshingi	Bignoniaceae	Swelling reduction	Leaf paste
104	*Eclipta prostrata*	Maka	Asteraceae	Toothache	Whole plant (paste)
105	*Emblica officinalis*	Avla	Euphorbiaceae	Digestion, gum problems, hair growth, Wound healing	Dried fruit powder, Fruit, Leaves
106	*Enicostema axillare*	Chota-karait, Nai	Gentianaceae	Blood purification	Whole plant powder
107	*Ensete superbum*	Devkela, Rankel	Musaceae	Dog bite antidote	Seeds
108	*Erythrina variegata*	Pangara	Fabaceae	Fever treatment, Joint pain relief	Stem bark decoction, Leaf paste
109	*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*	Nilgiri	Myrtaceae	Body pain	Leaf (paste)
110	*Euphorbia hirta*	Dudhi	Euphorbiaceae	Found in many sacred places	Whole plant
111	*Euphorbia hirta*	Chotti Dudhi	Euphorbiaceae	Cold and cough	Whole plant (decoction)
112	*Euphorbia nerifolia*	Sabar	Euphorbiaceae	Jaundice	Latex
113	*Evolvulus alsinoides*	Vishnu Kanti	Convolvulaceae	Dysentery	Whole plant (paste)
114	*Ficus arnottiana*	Amsa	Moraceae	Ringworm treatment	Stem bark decoction
115	*Ficus benghalensis*	Vad	Moraceae	Treats ringworm, antiseptic for cuts & wounds, Wound healing, Rheumatism, Abscess healing	Leaf paste, latex, Stem
116	*Ficus glomerata*	Gular	Moraceae	Wound healing	Whole plant, Root
117	*Ficus racemosa*	Umbar, Audumbar	Moraceae	Diarrhea, Stomach pain, diabetes, Nosebleed treatment	Latex (with honey), Fruit decoction, Fruit extract, Stem bark paste
118	*Ficus religiosa*	Pipal	Moraceae	Wound healing, Stomach pain, Bone fracture healing, Scabies treatment	Stem, Shoot, Leaves, bark
119	*Flacourtia indica*	Atrun	Flacourtiaceae	Jaundice treatment	Fruit consumption
120	*Gloriosa superba*	Kal-lawi, Langloli	Liliaceae	Asthma, Wound healing	Leaf paste, Root
121	*Glossocardia bosvallea*	Khadk-shepu, Mirgi	Asteraceae	Earache relief, Leucorrhoea treatment	Leaf decoction
122	*Gossypium herbaceum*	Kapus	Malvaceae	Leucorrhoea treatment	Root powder
123	*Gymnema sylvestre*	Gudhmar	Asclepiadaceae	Eye infection, Wound healing	Leaf decoction
124	*Helicteres isora*	Murudsheng	Sterculiaceae	Cold relief, earache	Fruit extract, Crushed fruit with oil
125	*Hemidesmus indicus*	Anantamul	Asclepiadaceae	Health tonic, Wound healing	Root extract (with honey)
126	*Hibiscus cannabinus*	Ambadi	Malvaceae	Body pain	Whole plant (paste)
127	*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*	Jaswand	Malvaceae	Cough remedy, regulates menstrual cycle, Flowers offered to Lord Ganesha	Flowers

128	*Holarrhena antidysenterica*	Kutaj	Apocynaceae	Wound healing	Root, Stem, Seeds
129	*Holarrhena pubescens*	Dahikudi	Apocynaceae	Digestion improvement	Seed powder
130	*Holoptelea integrifolia*	Papda	Ulmaceae	Boils	Leaves (powder)
131	*Hygrophila auriculata*	Talimkhana	Acanthaceae	Stomach complaints	Leaf decoction
132	*Hygrophila schulii*	Talimkhana	Acanthaceae	Stomach pain relief	Leaf decoction
133	*Indigofera linnaei*	Nil	Fabaceae	Mouth ulcer treatment	Root chew
134	*Ipomoea pes-tigridis*	Borvel	Convolvulaceae	Bronchial spasm relief	Leaf powder (smoked)
135	*Ixora coccinea*	Bokadi	Rubiaceae	Used in temple decorations	Flowers
136	*Jasminum grandiflorum*	Chameli	Oleaceae	Wound healing	Whole plant
137	*Jasminum officinale*	Chameli	Oleaceae	Fever	Flower decoction
138	*Jasminum sambac*	Mogra	Oleaceae	Indigestion	Flower decoction
139	*Justicia adhatoda*	Adulasa	Acanthaceae	Cough, fever, indigestion	Leaf decoction
140	*Lagenaria siceraria*	Dudhi	Cucurbitaceae	Sole cracks	Fruit paste
141	*Lantana camara*	Ghaneri	Verbenaceae	Stomach pain	Leaf (decoction)
142	*Lavandula bipinnata*	Gunmahar	Lamiaceae	Toothache relief	Leaf paste
143	*Lawsonia inermis*	Mendi	Lythraceae	Allergic dermatitis treatment, Boils, Burns, Sore throat	Leaf extract
144	*Leonotis nepetifolia*	Dipmala	Lamiaceae	Swelling of body	Whole plant (paste)
145	*Limonia acidissima*	Kavath	Rutaceae	Dysentery, digestion improvement, Treats body pain & dysentery	Fruit / Root decoction
146	*Luffa cylindrical*	Gilke	Cucurbitaceae	Body swelling treatment	Leaf juice
147	*Madhuca indica*	Moha	Sapotaceae	Wound healing	Whole plant
148	*Madhuca longifolia*	Moha	Sapotaceae	Skin problems, Chest pain, rheumatism, wound healing, Dysentery, Hysteria relief	Leaf ash (with coconut oil), Seed oil, Bark
149	*Mallotus philippensis*	Shendri	Euphorbiaceae	Dysentery, rheumatism, snake bite	Fruit extract, Seed paste
150	*Mangifera indica*	Amba	Anacardiaceae	Toothache, Weight loss	Gum (powder form), Leaf extract
151	*Merremia emarginata*	Undir-kani	Convolvulaceae	Nasal bleeding prevention	Root powder
152	*Michelia champaca*	Sonchapha	Magnoliaceae	Rheumatic joint pain relief	Flower oil
153	*Mirabilis jalapa*	Gulbakshi	Nyctaginaceae	Disinfectant, Wound healing, Used for decoration during rituals	Flowers, Leaf, Fruit paste
154	*Momordica dioica*	Kartoli, Katurle	Cucurbitaceae	Swelling relief	Fruit paste
155	*Moringa concanensis*	Kadushewga	Moringaceae	Vertigo relief	Stem bark extract
156	*Moringa oleifera*	Sajina	Moringaceae	Wound healing	Root
157	*Musa paradisiaca*	Kel	Musaceae	Dysentery, religious use, Boil treatment	Fruit, Leaf paste
158	*Nelumbo nucifera*	Kamal	Nymphaeaceae	Health tonic, decoration	Seed decoction, Flower stalks
159	*Nicotiana tabacum*	Tambakhu	Solanaceae	Scabies	Young leaves (powder)
160	*Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*	Parijat, Shiradi	Oleaceae	Burns, skin redness, Asthma relief	Flower paste, Stem bark decoction
161	*Ocimum basilicum*	Sabja	Lamiaceae	Cold and cough	Leaf (decoction)
162	*Ocimum gratissimum*	Tulsi	Lamiaceae	Cold and cough	Leaf (decoction)
163	*Ocimum tenuiflorum*	Tulasi	Lamiaceae	Ear problems, headache relief	Leaf decoction, Leaf paste
164	*Pedalium murex*	Motha Gokharu	Bignoniaceae	Paralysis of legs	Fruits (powder)

165	*Peristrophe paniculata*	Kakjangha	Acanthaceae	Insomnia	Root (poultice)
166	*Phyllanthus amarus*	Bhui-awala	Euphorbiaceae	Jaundice treatment	Whole plant decoction
167	*Pongamia pinnata*	Karanj	Fabaceae	Cough, scabies, ear infections, Treats scabies, Wound healing	Fruit decoction, Seed oil, Bark, Leaf
168	*Psidium guajava*	Jamphal	Myrtaceae	Cold and cough, Wound healing	Leaf (decoction)
169	*Pterocarpus marsupium*	Bibla, Bija	Fabaceae	Joint pain relief, Wound healing	Wood decoction (with honey), Leaves
170	*Ricinus communis*	Erandi	Euphorbiaceae	Jaundice	Leaf (decoction)
171	*Rotala serpyllifolia*	-	Lythraceae	Mammary gland pain relief	Whole plant application
172	*Salvadora persica*	Pilu	Salvadoraceae	Toothache, foul mouth odor	Stem pieces (used as toothbrush)
173	*Sesamum orientale*	Til	Pedaliaceae	Worms in ear	Seeds (crushed in water)
174	*Solanum virginianum*	Piludi, Bhui-ringani	Solanaceae	Fever, Tumor treatment	Whole plant (decoction), Fruit powder
175	*Sorghum bicolor*	Jowar	Cyperaceae	Asthma	Stalks (ash, with honey)
176	*Striga gesnerioides*	Chikas	Scrophulariaceae	Injuries on fingers	Root stock (paste)
177	*Syzygium cumini*	Jamun	Myrtaceae	Diabetes	Fruit (decoction)
178	*Tacca leontopetaloides*	Diva	Taccaceae	Eczema	Leaves (paste)
179	*Tamarindus indica*	Chinch	Caesalpiniaceae	Acidity	Pods (ash, in water)
180	*Tectona grandis*	Saag	Verbenaceae	Rheumatism, swelling, hair tonic, Stomach pain, Dysentery	Wood paste, Seed oil, Leaf
181	*Terminalia arjuna*	Arjun	Combretaceae	Wound healing, Jaundice, Body pain relief	Bark, Stem
182	*Terminalia bellirica*	Behda	Combretaceae	Jaundice	Bark (decoction)
183	*Terminalia chebula*	Hirda, Haritaki	Combretaceae	Adenitis treatment, Wound healing	Fruit powder
184	*Tinospora cordifolia*	Gulvel	Menispermaceae	Jaundice	Root (decoction)
185	*Trichosanthes tricuspidata*	Gavlan	Cucurbitaceae	Asthma relief	Seeds, Betel leaf mix
186	*Tridax procumbens*	Ekdandi	Asteraceae	Wound healing, Hemorrhage treatment	Leaf juice
187	*Typha domingensis*	Deodanda	Typhaceae	Leucorrhoea	Root (extract)
188	*Vigna radiata*	Adadvel	Fabaceae	Jaundice	Whole plant (decoction)
189	*Vitex negundo*	Nirgudi	Verbenaceae	Wound healing, Swelling reduction, Easy childbirth	Root paste, leaf
190	*Wrightia arborea*	Dahikudi	Apocynaceae	Urinary stone treatment	Stem bark powder
191	*Xanthium strumarium*	Landga	Asteraceae	Tumor treatment	Fruit powder
192	*Zingiber officinale*	Sunthi	Zingiberaceae	Wound healing	Rhizome

DISCUSSION

The present study underscores the profound significance of indigenous knowledge in the conservation of biodiversity and traditional medicine. These wild plant species play an integral role in indigenous healing systems, demonstrating the coexistence of cultural and ecological traditions. The therapeutic applications of these plants, ranging from extracts and decoctions to pastes and oils, highlight their diverse medicinal potential in treating ailments such as diabetes, asthma, fevers, digestive disorders, and other such ailments. However, scientific validation of these ethnomedicinal claims is crucial to integrating traditional wisdom with contemporary medicine. Indigenous communities, particularly in rural and tribal regions like Jalgaon district, possess a wealth of botanical knowledge, often passed down through generations. Traditional healers, including Vaidu, Buvas, and Bhagats, rely on an extensive repertoire of medicinal plants to treat various illnesses. If one remedy proves ineffective, alternative plant-based solutions are employed. Furthermore, cultural beliefs and rituals are deeply intertwined with their healing practices, with certain ailments perceived as being caused by supernatural forces. Such practices, while seemingly archaic, offer valuable insights into holistic approaches to healing that prioritize harmony between humans and nature. The interconnection between biocultural and biodiversity is evident in the reverence for sacred groves and temple courtyards. These religious sites serve as reservoirs of ethnobotanical knowledge, preserving plant species that have both spiritual and medicinal significance. The findings from similar studies across India, including sacred groves in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh, further corroborate the role of faith-based conservation in maintaining plant diversity. The association of plants with myths, legends, and religious customs has inadvertently contributed to their protection, ensuring the continuity of traditional knowledge despite the pressures of modernization. The study of plants in the Khandesh region of Maharashtra sheds light on the crucial role of divine botany in sustaining traditional healthcare practices. Indigenous plant lore, developed through centuries of observation and experimentation, underscores the deep-rooted relationship between native communities and their environment. The resurgence of interest in green medicine, amidst growing concerns over synthetic pharmaceuticals, highlights the need to preserve and validate indigenous knowledge. The therapeutic efficacy of medicinal plants such as Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*) demonstrates their continued relevance in modern healthcare. However, with the encroachment of urbanization and the erosion of cultural practices, many sacred groves and traditional healing methods face the risk of extinction. This necessitates an urgent call for conservation initiatives that integrate ethnobotanical research with sustainable development strategies.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study highlights the valuable contributions of indigenous knowledge to biodiversity conservation and healthcare. The reliance of tribal and rural populations on wild and cultivated plants for medicinal, religious, and economic purposes reflects a sustainable way of living those balances cultural traditions with ecological stewardship. Future research should focus on scientifically validating ethnomedicinal practices to ensure their integration into mainstream medicine while respecting the cultural heritage of indigenous communities. As globalization speeds up, it is crucial to protect traditional wisdom, recognizing its role in promoting a holistic approach to human well-being and the environment conservation.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

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