

Indigenous Medical Practices Among Tribes: A Sociological Study in Bankura District of West Bengal.

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Abstract:

Bankura is inhabited by a number of ethnic communities with various cultural backgrounds. In our investigations, it was found that a number of plants are used by the tribal people against various disorders and the folkloric knowledge is verbally inherited From their ancestors .This time tested wealth of indigenous phytotherapy is vanishing quickly due to several factors such as rapid urbanization , indifference of younger generations to inherit and practice the traditional medicinal knowledge and disappearance of medicinal vegetation due to pollution, lack of conservation strategy and ignorance. The inhabitants of these remote hills, forests and villages suffer from a number of disease due to poor health and hygiene, lack of medical infrastructure, bacterial contamination from water and food etc. The people depend on their ethno medicinal resource for primary health care. Most of the plants reported in this investigation are used to cure or to decrease the severity of the disease. This way, the age old indigenous knowledge would be verified, exploited and conserved as an aid to reduce human morbidity. So, religion base traditional methods of treatment are facing a great challenge in the present day. Although some educated tribal's believe in modern practices, but they do not have enough money to avail modern medical treatment. This study will discuss primarily the traditional values related to health practices among tribal's, in future it will also explore the changes undergoing tribal medical and health practices due to the influence of increasing education and access to modern medical treatments among them.

Keywords : Ancestor, Phyto-Therapy, Morbidity, Folkloric, Inhabitants.