

# Traditional Uses of Medicinal Plants in Sacred Groves of Alwar District in Rajasthan

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**Abstract:** Prominent rich of traditional religious and faith in Alwar district of Rajasthan. Traditional knowledge of medicinal value collected by local people as vaidh and other knowledge people who work in sacred groves. Most of uses in cough, common cold, fever and asthma in sacred groves, conserved as traditional view than scientific as involved taboos, rituals and other religious faith. The studies areas of Alwar district such as Thanagangi, Behrore, Bansoor, Narayanpur road, Rajgarh and Kathumar etc, observed 84 sacred groves with different deities in varied form, prominent rich medicinal plants. Sacred groves conserved endemic, threats, endangered plants and genetic diversity.

**Keywords:** Tradition knowledge, Ethno medicinal, Sacred groves, conservation, Alwar

## 1. Introduction

Medicinal plants play a vital role in providing health care to human being. The demand for medicinal plants is increasing in both developing and developed countries. Indigenous traditional medicine has played a vital role in the discovery of newly products from plants (Katewa 2009). The forest of India are estimated to contain about 5,00,000 of the 10 to 30 million species on earth (Gadgil, 1996). Fragmentation of Sacred groves has led to habitat disturbance and poor regeneration of many economically important species (Kushalappa and Bhagwat, 2001). This study was conducted to assess the genetic diversity of Floral species.

Sacred groves are seen throughout Alwar district, having varied form, cultural practices and belief system. The vegetation in groves highly varied and deities, worshipped in these groves are also highly varied. Some sacred groves are dedicated to Lord Shiva, Ram, Radhe Krishna, Hanuman, Lok deities and many goddess also. The study are focused on Thanagangi, Behrore, Bansoor, Narayanpur road, Rajgarh and Kathumar. Beside Kathumar all areas are touch Aravali hill and Sariska tiger reserve forest. Aravali hill pass away in Alwar district that retains many medicinal plants and conserve site for diversity, not only Aravali hill but also Sariska reserve forest is wealth of rich diversity. Sacred groves studies in India so far can be categorized into three time period based on the aspects researchers and interested people. First is prior to 1970 studies were on social, anthropogenic aspects, and forest reports. Second is inventory, documentation, biodiversity assessment, conservation aspects are predominant in this period along with social issues. Third is on ecosystem functioning,

ecological services conservation important. However compares to biodiversity and documentation literatures, ecosystem function and services etc. The important of sacred groves in nature conservation has been increased in recent time especially after the declaration of Convention on Biological Diversity. The important of sacred groves in socio-religious life as well as live hood. Sacred groves are known different names to different areas specially in Rajasthan such as Oran's, Kenkris and jogmaya. Most of the people of Alwar district have been conserving the sacred groves as their tradition and cultural. Purpose of the field survey of this study because the direct contact can be established authentic information of the uses of plants. These plants are used for purpose of food, fodder, medicine, drugs, gums and dye etc.

## 2. Methods and Materials

Alwar district is situated 27°20'N 76°23' E and 27°34'N 76°38'E latitude and eastern part of Rajasthan. This area topological prominent natural rich because Aravali hill lies here. Sariska is a not only National Park but also a Tiger Reserve. This area covered by mainly scrub-thorn arid forest and dry deciduous forest. Collection of information is based on direct interview to local people, groves owner, priest, and socio interested people. Direct method- Field survey. Indirect method-Collection information from literature. Data collected of sacred groves and ethno medicinal plants from some area of Alwar district such as Thanagangi, Behrore, Narayanpur road alwar, Bansoor Rajgarh and Kathumar. In this area 84 sacred groves observed

Table 1

S.N.	Name of Sacred groves	Name of Dieties associated	Village	Years
1	Devnarayan	Loard of gurger society	Hinshala	appx. 150years
2	Hinglata mata	Hinglata goddess	kolawas	100years
3	Garubaji	Guru ji, Loard krishana, shiv	Nagalehai	70-80years
4	kailash bani	loard Shiv	Doongri	200years
5	Dogariya	Shiv, hanumanji, Kappor ji ashram	Narayanpur	100-125years
6	Garvaji kund	Garvaji mahaaraj samadhi	Vijaipura	80-100years
7	Hanumanji ki bani	hanumanji, Shiv	Garhi	150years
8	Devnarayan ki vani	Dev ji maharaj	Amaka	200years

9	Girdhari ashram	Girdhari samadhi, Krishana	Bhojpur	80-90years
10	Ashramsati badami	Sati mata	Narayanpur	150-200year
11	Padak chhapali kund	Shiv, hanumanji,	padak chhapali	150years
12	Shiv tila	Shivalya, hanumanji	Jodhavas	100-125years
13	Guga ki bani	Guga maharaj	Hinshala	80-100years
14	Sanjanath ji ki bani	Sanjanath maharaj ki samadhi	Pratapgarh	appx. 70years
15	Badaji ki rundh	Babaji ki samadhi, shiv, hanumanji	Seelibari	appx.100years
16	Mojnath ki bani	Mojnath samadhi,Shiv, hanumanji	Dwarapur	appx.2500years
17	Kappor sa bada	Shiv, hanumanji, kapporji ashram	Ajabgarh	150-200years
18	Garhi mamed kund	shiv,hanumanji	Mamed kharkdi	Appx.100years
19	udainath dham	udainath maharaj ,shiv,hanumanji	Toda jodhavas	1000years
20	Bharathari ji ki devbani	Bharathari samadhi, shiv	Bharathari	300-350years
21	Talabraksha dham	Devi temple,	Mundawara	450-500years
22	Sahwali mata ki bani	Sawali mata	Nagalbani	appx.200years
23	Bhomiya ji ki bani	Bhomiya ji	Agar	appx.100years
24	Agar ki bani	shiv, bhomiya, hanuman ji	agae	80-90years
25	Lakkad das ki bani	lakkad maharaj ki samadhi	Suretarh	60-70years
26	Dev ki bani	krishana, shiv, hanumanji	Kabaligarh	80-90years
27	Baba garib das	garib das samadhi	Dholagarh	100-125years
28	santoshi mata	Santoshi mata	Datwar	200-250years
29	Hanumanji ki bani	hanumanji, Shiv	Banokar	80-100years
30	Dholagarh ki dev bani	Dhola garg mata, shiv, hanumanji	Behoot kalan	appx.300years
31	Sedmari ki bani	sed mata	bhaanvar	150years
32	Mojnath ji dham	Mojnath samadhi,Shiv, hanumanji	Tarunda	appx.100years
33	Shkrani bhru baba	baba ki samadhi	haripur	70-80years
34	Dholagarh ki dev bani	mata temple	Dholagarh	400-500years
35	Agarnath ki bani	agarnath samadhi	Sundiyana	250-300years
36	Ramdyal baba	Ramdyal baba samadhi	Kathumar	appx.200years
37	Ghatokar bani	Ghatokar, Rada krishana, hanumanj	bada goan	Ancient
38	Uppala mandir	Radha krishan	Badagoan	400-500years
39	Bhoumiya baba	Bhoumiya temple	Holabas	60-70years
40	Janarai	mata temple	Bansoor	100-125years
41	Dhoota johad ki bani	Radha krishan, shiv,hanumanji	Kheewahari	80-90years
42	Kalka ki bani	kalka mata	madeeja basai	400-450years
43	Badal nath ki devbani	badal baba samadhhi. Shiv		Appx.100years
44	Saiyad baba	saiyad	Jatpur	appx.150years
45	kakajhasa sagarnand	Saga baba ki samadhi	kakarjhasa	50-60years
46	Bhaskarnand ji	bhaskar baba samadhi, shiv,	Behror	200-250years
47	Hanumanji ki bani	Hanumanji,	Pandupole	ancient
48	Shivalaya	shiv	Pandupole	ancient

**Table 2: Ethno medicine plants use in different areas of Alwar district of Rajasthan**

SN.	Botanical name	Local name	family	Habit	Use of parts	Uses
1	Acacia nilotica Linn	Desi babool	Mimosaceae	Tree	fruit	Dysentery
2	Aloe vera Mill	Aloe vera	Rutaceae	Herbs		Skin disease
3	Azardirachta indica A.juss	Neem	Meliaceae	Tree	Seed, Bark	Birth control and diabetes
4	Adatoda vasica Linn	Aduska	Acantheceae	Herbs	Root	Comman cold, cough and fever
5	Bauhinia purpuria Linn	Kaniyar	Caeselpiniaceae	Tree	Flower bud	Constipation
6	Capparis decidua Forssk	kair	Caeselpiniaceae	Shrubs	Root and Leaf	Digestive disorder and asthma
7	Caasia fistula Linn	Amltas	Caeselpiniaceae	Tree	fruit	Cosnstipation, comman cold,fever
8	calotropis procera R.Br.	Aok	Asclepiaceae	Herbs	Flower	antivemon against snake bite
9	Datura innoxia mill	Datura	Solanaceae	Herbs	Seed, leaf	Asthma
10	Ficus bengalensis Linn	Bargad	Moraceae	Tree	Leaf and Latex	Diarrhoea,Sexual impotency
11	Euphorbia caducifolia Haines	Thor	Euphorbiaceae	Shrubs	Latex	Ulcer, Rheumatic, painful joint and piles
12	Dichrostachy cineria Wight et Arn	Birbira	Mimosaceae	Shrubs	Bark and Root	Headache, toothache and cough
13	Nerium indicum Mill	Kaner	Apocynaceae	Shrubs	Leaf	Jaw ache
14	Ocimum sanctum Linn	Tulsi	lamiaceae	Herbs	Inflorescence and leaf	Fever, comman cold and cough
15	Ricinus communis Linn	Arandi	Euphorbiaceae	Shrubs	Seed,Leaf	Reduce mensence pain
16	Solanum nigram Linn	Makoi	Solanaceae	Herbs	leaf	wooping cough
17	Adiantum incisum Forsk	Mayursikha	Adiantaceae	Herbs	leaf	Skin disease, cough,fever and cough
18	Abutilon indicum L.	Tarakanchi,kanghi	malvaceae	Herbs	Whole plant	laxative,diuretic,astringent,ulcer and headche
19	Abutilon ramosum	Pithiria	malvaceae	Herbs	Root	Stomach ailments

	(Cav.)Guill&Peor					
20	Sida cordata (Burm F.) Borss Waalk		malvaceae	Shrubs	Root,leaf	Pimples, cuts and wound
21	Sida ovata Forsk	Khariti, Dabi	malvaceae	Herbs	Whole plant	Pulmonary trouble, oedema, cutaneous
22	Momordica dioica Roxb. Exwild	jangli karela	Cucubitaceae	climber	Fruit and Root	Bleeding piles and urinary complaint
23	Mukia moderaspatana (L.) M.Roem	Ankh butni bell, Bilabi	Cucubitaceae	climber	Leaf	Constipation and gas troubles
24	Coculus hirsutus (L.)Diel	Cherata	Menispermaceae	climber	Leaf and Root	Migraine, anorexia and intestinal warm
25	Tinospora cordifolia (Thunb.) Miers	Giloy	Menispermaceae	climber	Whole plant	diebetes, high cholesterol, hay fever and boost immune system
26	Cissampelos pareira L.	Pahad bel	Menispermaceae	climber	Whole plant	Fever,vaginal discharge,piles and uterine aitement
27	Maerua arenaria Forssk.(A.rich)	Orpa	Capparidaceae	climber	Root	Snake bite and scorpiian sting
28	cayratia trifolia (L.) Domin	Bush grape	Vitaceae	climber	Leaf root	Poulticing ulcer of mouth, high fever,itch and dandruf
29	Cardiospermum halicabum L.	Heartseed	Sapindaceae	climber	Leaf	nervous disorder, rheumatism and itch skin
30	Phyllanthus emblica L.	Ambla	Phyllanthuaceae	Tree	Fruit	it.C source,constipation and enhance digestive
31	Tribulus terrestris L.	Gokharu	Zygophylaceae	Herbs	Fruit	Increasing power, and enhance reproduction capacity
32	Nyctanthes arbor tristis Linn.	Har shrangar	Verbenaceae	climber	Leaf	Fever, Relief pain and feet
33	Moringa oleifera Linn.	Sehnjana	Moringaceae	Tree	Pod	Use for kidney stone
34	Asperagus recemosus Willd	Satavari	Lilliaceae	Herbs	Root	For weakness
35	Tephrosia purpurea (L.) Pers.	Jojhru	Fabaceae	Herbs	Root	Cough, stomach and headche
36	Lepidagathis trinervis M.R.Almeida	Pattar fod buti	Acantheceae	Herbs	Leaf	Rheumatic
37	Abrus precatorius L.	Chirmi/ Rati	Papilionaceae	climber	seed	Nervous disorder
38	Capparis sepiaria L.		Capparidaceae	Shrubs	Root	Decay of tooth and jaw
39	Commiphora wightii (Arn.) Bhandari	Guggal	Burseraceae	Shrubs	Letax	Fragrance and perfume
40	Balannites aegyptiaca	Hingota	Balanites	Tree	fruit	Digestive disorder
41	Argemone maxicana L.	Peeli kateli	Papaveraceae	Herbs	Root	Chronic skin disease

### 3. Discussion and Conclusion

As mentioned earlier sacred groves are a repository of the original vegetation. While deforestation has been proceeding at an alarming rate. Most of accessible areas have been heavily connected for various purposes like agriculture plantations, irrigation, roads, railways. The general structure of sacred groves of Alwar district extremely complex. Analysis of information on total number of species 84 observed in sacred groves that are used for various diseases.

Aravali hill is known for very valuable plants and animals species. The local people and Ayurvedic doctors have been using plants products as leaves, seeds, bark, and fruits also in a crude manner. There is ample scope of researches in the field of photochemistry, biochemistry and biotechnology. Analysis of interview schedule revealed that there are 84 plants species occurring in study areas. Their indigenous diversity on meticulous, aesthetic or knowledge based groves which is Devine gift to cradle for future endeavor. Significance of sacred groves as conservation of biodiversity, Recharge of aquifers, soil conservation, biological significance and ideal centre for conserving of medicinal biodiversity. But sacred groves are threats by many reason such as disappearance of the traditional belief,

rapid urbanization & development and invasion by exotic weeds.

### 4. Acknowledgement

Documentation helping for students who are in research thankful owner of groves, local people and family members of these areas who shared their knowledge about cultural and traditional deities of groves. Thankful people who sharing worship ways and organized fair to awareness to sacred groves and maintained to helping tradition belief and conservation. Thankful to forest officers and local people who are saved and preserved from lost of groves and biodiversity.

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