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Review Article

PERSPECTIVE IMPORTANCE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN MCH AND RCH CARE IN PRESENT SCENARIO – A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Debashree Priyadarshini¹, Binodini Tripathy², Gopal C.Nanda^{3*}

¹Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, ISM & SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

²Professor & HOD, Dept. of Svasthavrita cum Principal, I.G.M.A.M.C & Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

*3Professor & HOD, Dept. of Kayachikitsa cum Director (R&D), PAMC & Hospital, Lucknow, U.P, India.

ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants are emerging issue in global scenario now. The plants are used for various disease conditions from time immemorial before upcoming of modern medicine. Though today modern medicine is capable to control major issues in medical emergencies but leaves certain lacunae due to its post management hazardous situations. Several fields are still unattended completely by modern medicines. Interestingly, traditional system of medicine like Ayurveda, Siddha etc., plays a vital role till today in remote areas for managing several medical issues exclusively by using medicinal herbs as a tradition of Ayurveda and Siddha. Both the systems advocate, numerous medicinal plants for various disease conditions. It was the interest to document the medicinal plants used for Reproductive Child Health (RCH) along with Mother and Child Health (MCH) as a small component of great Ayurvedic and Siddha Ocean. Usually these medicinal plants have important role in the management of RCH & MCH issues. Such claims are advocating its perspective importance possibly to meet the need by extensive research in future. We do not claim its positive assessment but such prevailing claim are only documented here for future research. Medicinal plants have been presented here with scientific preview in every RCH & MCH issues.

KEYWORDS: Medicinal Plants, Reproductive Child Health (RCH) Along With Mother and Child Health (MCH).

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is famous for the herbal kingdom without which no medicine or management could be possible^[3]. Every plant has got its own curing potency for selected disease conditions. Moreover, though the different parts of a single plant are also used for different conditions but the documentation of administration in such cases of much importance. Practically it is seen in folklore practices where the knowledge is still in force and similarly also scattered in classical texts the human civilization has always remained dependent on plant kingdom for their food and medicines. India is famous in the world for its variety of flowers and medicinal herbs for which it is called a medicinal garden of the World and at present in use of 5000 species approximately. In Ayurvedic texts, almost 1500 verities of herbs and plants have been utilized for various ailments[5]. In recent years there has been a demand and necessity of changing the policy of the Government of India for an approach to primary healthcare particularly focusing to family welfare, not only to solve the problems of population

inflation rather a safe guard policy for child and women through intervention of herbal drugs. Recently, Govt. has launched national Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme taking together with the potentialities of herbal components Ayurveda is very systemic and scientific. Equally promising herbs and dietetic therapy have been kept parallel while the management was focused on pregnancy care, childcare, labor, cord care, and post natal care etc. Ayurveda has centuries old rich heritage but has always been suppressed by the dominance of system of modern medicine during preindependence rule but little bit explored in the last 2/3 decades. However the real essence is buried under the prevalence of modern medicines at present which needs to be unmasked urgently. According to Ayurveda, special attention should be given to the physical and mental wellbeing of a mother when conceives and delivers the child. The present scenario of our govt. on RCH is also similarly focused with a high intention to revitalize the health system through unmasking the hidden potentialities. The time has taken the pulse of integration of ISM in national RCH programme on the known clinical, documented and folklore applications available throughout India. Till today approximately 60% of the rural areas are dependent on traditional medicines varying in may be in culture and customaries in India. Keeping this view, the policy makers of national population policy 2000, has suggested the optimum utilization of village tribal practices in RCH & MCH programmes in future looking its practical abilities. Acceptability and strength, specific categorization has been made to enable free launching of herbal use.

Mostly three important classifications are in RCH along with MCH.

- A. Garvini Carya or antenatal care.
- B. Sisu /Bala / Kumara charya or child health.
- C. *Matru/ Prasuta charya* or post natal care and management of mother's health.

A child is the most valuable and cherished possession of parents. It is therefore the paramount duty of the parents to bring up a healthy and good child. During its growth, the child gets diseases due to natural and artificial causes. It cannot, in fact, be avoided. The parents are supposed to have basic knowledge of the art of healing, besides the medicinal aspects of diet. We have a rich tradition in medicine, passed down over thousands of years. It is best equipped intellectually to show the world its strengths. The most fundamental Indian System of Medicine is that it is a divine art. This assumption has the capacity of producing unshakable faith not only in the treatment but also in the physician who is seen as conduit of divine grace. Today we have lost the culture of the past and run to the doctors for minor ailments.

We spend not only time in queues but also our hard earned money. About two million children worldwide either die or suffer permanent brain damage from birth complications every year, According to Nigeria's Health Minister Mr.Olikovo Ransomekuti, The Minister, who was chairman of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), spoken at the Royal Society of Arts in London. "Little or no attention is being given to the baby at childbirth, he observed. "The glare of the whole world is on maternal health. Because of this, every 30 seconds a child dies or gets mentally handicapped because childbirth is supervised in villages, homes and churches by attendants untrained to perform simple resuscitative procedures on the baby immediately after birth. "Breast-fed infants, who have not started on any other form of food, are prone to suffer from

diarrhoea and it can become severe. It is not unusual for such infants to have 6-12 bowel movements in a day. When the diarrhoea becomes uncontrollable or alarming the infants are sometimes hospitalized in most of these cases, the mother's breast milk is discontinued on the advice of child specialists. Strong drugs and antibiotics are administered for subsequent days to arrest the diarrhoea.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

According to Ayurveda & Siddha, the health of the new-born is completely dependent on that of the mother, and health problems of the new-born are passed on from the mother through her breast milk^[1,4]. For any ailment of infants who are fed solely on the mother's breast milk, the main treatment is aimed at the mother; medicines are administered to the mother depending on the disease of the infant. In most cases, there is no need to give any medicines to the infant. Pediatric in Indian medicine describes diseases according to age. Starting from early infancy to take childhood, treatment varies with each disease. Many herbs, minerals and animal products are commonly used for the preparation of medicine. At present the information to the context of the subject matter has been short listed for the use of physicians, workers, volunteers, students, teachers, researchers, paramedical staff and mothers and for layman in general. Almost all the conditions are submerged under the above categories. According to present socio-economic scenario in India; more emphasis is being given on contraceptive without sliding down the hope for infertility. However, though not practical so textual references are mostly available, still various formulae are in folk/clinical practices and the results are also encouraging and limited to special types of community like Dongoras kind of tribes of Koraput districts of Odisha etc. However, efforts are also taken to make them documented as for as possible and presentable. In recent years or so to say from the last decade, so many infertility clinics are run in metros of India with a high expectation values in practical also. Similarly in Ayurveda some method of sexual activities, drugs, diets and rituals have been described. In fact unexpected results are also documented. In this context, efforts have been taken to make them documented here as could be possible and practicable after identifying the herbs in general. The important aspect also lies with the various clinical/sub-clinical conditions faced practitioners and traditional healers which are all categorically presented according to RCH and MCH classification along with the herbs meant for, certain attempt has been taken to explore the classical manuscripts and books along with documenting the folklore claims on different aspects of RCH and MCH. Different types of signs and symptoms are met in clinical practice for management of mother. Generally a lot of cases are met in our daily practices like mother related, child related including gynecological problems, acute natal problems, post natal problems, neo natal problems, pediatric problems etc. So far in mother related problems, the problems include puberty related menstrual problems, menstrual disorders like dysmenorrheal are important. Similarly reproductive tract infections like vaginitis, cervicitis, endometrits, leucorrhoea, D.U.B. backache, protozoal, mucosal, RIT's piles, fistulae, Anaemia, habitual abortion, contraceptive problems, morning sickness, constipation etc. Out of which several issues are met well by herbal derivatives apart from such MC issues specific ante natal problems like problems like oedema feet, hypertension, albiminorrhoea, anaemia, morning sickness are very common. Similarly post natal problems are also of emergent issues like use of antibiotics, post partum

haemorrhoge, blood transfusion/fluid supplements physiotherapy and use of galactogogues etc are highly medical issues which are to be managed tactfully. After delivery the child's neo-natal problems like conjuetilitis, excess crying, neo-natal jaundice, tetanus and immunization comes with mortality threats a par from pediatric problems like diarrhoea, upper respiratory worms, nocturnal emesis, constipation, Though all above conditions are important issues for medical emergencies to fatalities still in certain areas management through Avurveda and Siddha preparation keep its role apart from reserved modern applications[3,6]. These above mentioned conditioned are managed with some specific herbs/ plants individually according to the conditions as per documented claims there on.

Several drugs have been identified for various disease conditions which are enumerated here as under.^[7]

A. Herbs used in different conditions of Garvini paricarya or Antenatal care

Sanskrit Name	Botanical Name	Parts used	
Apasmara (Fits/Epilepsy)			
Aparajita	Achyranthes aspera	Root, fruit	
Vaca	Acorus calamus	Tuber	
Amla	Phyllant <mark>hus emblica</mark>	Fruit	
Vrahmi	Bacopa monieri	Whole plant	
Manduka prani	Centella asitica	Whole plant	
Jatamansi	Nardostachys jatamansi	Fibrous rhizomes	
Krumi (Worms/helminthiaiasis			
Yavani	Carum roxburghianum	Seed	
Dadima	Punica granatum	Leaf	
Dronapuspi	Lucas aspera	Fruit, flower	
Ghreeta kumari	Aloe vera	Leaf, pulp	
Tulsi	Ocinum sanctum	Leaf	
Kostavadhata (Constipation)			
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit	
Brahmi	Bacopa monieri	Leaf	
Haritaki	Terminalia chebula	Fruit	
Sunthi	Zingiber officinale	Tuber	
Rajasrava/Garvasrava (Abortion/Miscarriage)			
Vata	Ficus bengalensis	Bark	
Bala	Sida rotula	Whole plant	
Aparajita	Achyranthes aspera	Root, flower	
Asvagandha	Withania somnifera	Root	
Kamala	Nelumbiyam spicicsum	Petal	

J	r		
Vidari	Ipomea digitata	Tuber	
Bhumi amla	Phyllanthus niruri	Whole plants	
Satavari	Asparagus recemosus	Root tuber	
Durva	Cynodon dactylon	Whole plant	
Kasa (Cough, Cold and Coryza)			
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit	
Katuki	Picrorrhyza kurroa	Root	
Kantakari	Solanum xanthocarupm	Fruit, leaf	
Kamala (Jaundice)			
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit	
Chireita	Swertia chirata	Whole plant	
Bhumi amla	Phyuanthus niruri	Whole plant	
Mutrakrichra (Dysuria)			
Gokhura	Tribulus terrestris	Seed	
Bhadra	Erua lanata	Seed	
Ela	Eletaria cardamom	Seed	
Dhanyaka	Coriandrum sativum	Seed	
Citodvega (Psychological offsetting	ng) CAyurved		
Sankhapuspi	Cunvul <mark>vus pl</mark> uricaulis	Whole plant	
Vaca	Acorus <mark>cala</mark> mus	Tuber	
Vrahmi	Centella asiatica	Whole plant	
Vilambita prasava (Delayed labo	ur)		
Bhadra	Elataria carda <mark>m</mark> om	Dried fruit, Seed	
Sunthi	Zingiber officinale	Tuber	
Punarnava	Boerrhavia diffusa	Whole plant	
Garvakalina Visamayata (Pre eclamsic toxemia)			
Anantamula	Hemidesmus Indicus	Leaf	
Vansalocan	Bamboos bamboi	Stem pulp	
Tulsi	Ocinum sanctum	Leaf	
Dourvalaya (Weakness)			
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit	
Asvagandha	Whithania somnifera	Root	
Vidarikanda	Pureria tuberosa	Whole plant	
Satavari	Asparagus recemosus	Root tuber	
Musali	Curculigo orchioides	Root tuber	
Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem	

Jwara (Fever)		
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit
Yavani	Carum roxyburgianum	Seed
Kantakari	Solanum xanthocarpum	Fruit

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Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem
Chireita	Swertia chirata	Whole plant
Tulsi	Ocinum sanctum	Leaf
Bala	Sida rotula	Whole plant
Vamana/Utklesa (Vomiting/	Nausea)	
Dadima	Punica granatum	Fruit, twig
Ela	Eleteria cardamom	Fruit, seek
Dhanyaka	Coriandrum sativum	Fruit
Vata	Ficus bengalensis	Bark, twig
Bilva	Eagle marmelous	Fruit, pulp, leaf
Sotha (Oedema)		
Guduchi	Tinospora cardifolia	Stem
Gokhura	Tribulus terrestris	Fruit
Punarnava	Boerhavia diffusa	Whole plant
Sunthi	Zingiber officinale	Tuber
Dourvalaya (Weakness)		
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit
Asvagandha	Whithania somnifera	Root
Amla	Phyllanthus emblica	Fruit
Kantakari	Soln <mark>um</mark> xant <mark>hoca</mark> rpum	Fruit, Flower
Patha	Ciss <mark>am</mark> plelos pareira	Whole plant
Bala	Sida <mark>ro</mark> tula	Whole plant
Musali	Curcu <mark>ligo orchioides</mark>	Root, Tuber
Prusniparni	Uraria picta JAPR	Whole plant
Atisara (Diarrhoea)		
Dadima	Punica granatum	Fruit
Bilva	Eagle marmelous	Fruit, pulp
Tvak Roga (Skin diseases)		
Ananta moola	Hemidesmus indicus	Root
Ela	Eletaria cardamom	Fruit
Asvattha	Ficus religiosa	Bark
Haldi	Curcuma longa	Tuber
Yasthimadhu	Glycerrhiza glabra	Stem
Kamala (Jaundice)		
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit
Dronapuspi	Lucus aspera	Leaf
Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem
Chiraeta	Swerita chirata	Whole plants
Parpata	Fumeria perviflora	Whole plants
Sunthi	Zingiber officinale	Tuber
Punarnava	Boerhavia diffusa	Whole plant

B. Herbs used in different conditions of Sisu/Bala/Kumara charya or Child health

Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Parts used for medicine
Apasmara (Fits)		
Vaca	Acorus calamus	Tuber
Jeera	Sygigium cumini	Seed
Bharangi	Clerodendron serratum	Leaf
Karna, Nasa, Galavikara (E	I.N.T) problems	
Asvagandha	Withania somnifera	Root
Bilva	Eagle marmelous	Fruit
Vaca	Acorus calamus	Tuber
Tulasi	Ocinum sanctum	Leaf
Pratisaya (Coryza)		
Tulasi	Ocinum sanctum	Leaf
Harasingara	Nictanthes arbortristris	Leaf
Bharangi	Clerodendron serratum	Leaf
Atisara (Dehydration)		
Yavani	Carum roxyburghianum	Seed
Ativisha	Aconitum heterophyllum	Root
Dadima	Punica granatum	Fruit bark
Jaiphala	Myrist <mark>ica</mark> frag <mark>rans</mark>	Fruit
Jiraka	Syzig <mark>iu</mark> m cum <mark>ini</mark>	Seed
Dhanayka	Chori <mark>and</mark> rum <mark>sati</mark> vum	seed
Sunthi	Zingibe <mark>r offic</mark> inale	Tuber
Dhatri	Phyllanthus emblicus	Fruit
Vaca	Acorus calamus	Tuber
Bilva	Eagle marmelous	Fruit pulp
Mutha	Cyperus rotondus	Tuber
Amara	Mangifera Indica	Fruit sheath
Krimi (Worm infestation)		
Yavani	Carum roxyburghianum	Seed
Dadima	Punica granatum	Bark fruit
Dronapuspi	Lucus aspera	Leaf
Tulasi	Ocinum sanctum	Leaf
Vaca	Acorus calamus	Tuber
Jvara (Fever)		
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit
Yavani	Carum roxyburghianum	Seed
Dadima	Punica granatum	Bark fruit
Dronapuspi	Lucus aspera	Leaf
Katuki	Picrorrhyza kurroa	Root
Kantakari	Solnum xanthocarpum	Whole plant

Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem
Chiraita	Swertia chirata	Whole plant
Tulsi	Ocinum sanctum	Leaf
Parpataka	Fumeria perviflora	Whole plant
Asvattha	Ficus religiosa	Stem bark
Vaca	Acorus calamus	Tuber
Bharangi	Clerodendron serratum	Leaf
Pippali	Piper longum	Fruit
Mutha	Cyperus rotondus	Tuber
Sankhapuspi	Cunvulvus pluricaulis	Flower, plant
Vrahmi	Centella asiatica	Leaf
Agnimandhya (Indigestion)	
Yavani	Carum roxyburghianum	Seed
Dadima	Punica granatum	Seed
Jatiphala	Myristica fragrance	Fruit
Dhanayka	Coriandrum sativum	seed
Bharangi	Clerodendron serratum	Leaf
Vamana (Vomiting)	cAvurved	
Yavani	Carum roxbu <mark>rghin</mark> um	Seed
Ativisha	Aconit <mark>u</mark> m het <mark>erop</mark> hyllum	Root
Katuki	Picro <mark>rr</mark> hyza kurroa	Stem
Tulsi	Ocinu <mark>m s</mark> anctum	Leaf
Pippali	Piper longum	Fruit
Ela	Eleteria cardamom	Whole plant
Sunthi	Zingiber officinale	Tuber
Punarnava	Boerhavia diffusa	Whole plant
Vaca	Acorus calamus	Tuber
Yasthimadhu	Glycerrhiza glabra	Stem book

Apasmara (epileptic/ fits)		
Sankhapuspi	Cunvulvus pluricaulis	Whole plant
Bala	Sida rotula	Whole plant
Brahmi	Centella asiatica	Leaf
Tvak Roga (Skin Diseases)		
Anantamula	Hemidesmus indicus	Leaf
Sankhapuspi	Cunvulvus pluricaulis	Leaf
Asoka	Saraca asoka	Bark, Flower
Asvatha	Ficus religiosa	Bark, Flower
Durva	Cynodon dactylon	Whole plant

C. Herbs used in different conditions of *Matru/Prasuta charya* or post natal care and management or mother's health

Jvara (fever)		
Katuki	Picrorrhyza kurroa	Stem
Chiraeta	Swerita chirata	Whole plants
Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem
Udavarta (flatulence)		
Jeeraka	Syzigium cumini	Seed
Bharangi	Clerodendran serratum	Leaf
Lata Karanja	Cessalpinia Bonducella	Seed
Mutravaha Sankrama	ına (U.T.I)	·
Goksura	Tribulus terrestris	Seed
Bhumi amla	Phyllanthus niruri	Whole plants
Bhadra	Erua lanata	Seed
<i>Udara sula</i> (Abdomin	al pain)	
Jeeraka	Syzigium cumini	Seed
Bhargi	Clerodendran serratum	Leaf
Methi	Trigonum phenugraecum	Seed
Sunthi	Zingiber officinale	Tuber
Yavani	Carum rox <mark>burgh</mark> ianum	Seed
Anga madra (Body pa	nin)	
Guduchi	Tin <mark>os</mark> pora c <mark>ordi</mark> folia	Stem
Asvagandha	Whi <mark>thania som</mark> nife <mark>ra</mark>	Root
Lata Karanja	Cessalpinia Bonducella	Seed
Atyartava/Kastartava	a (Metrorrhagia/Menorrhagia)	
Usira	Vertiberia zizinoids	Root
Aparajita	Achyranthes aspera	Root
Asoka	Saraca asoka	Flower, bark
Dhataki	Woodfordia fruticosa	Flower
Asvatha	Ficus religiosa	Bark and leaf
Bala	Sida rotula	Whole plant
Musali	Curculigo orchoides	Root tuber
Satavari	Asparagus recemosus	Root tuber

Trisna (Thirst/Dehydration)		
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit
Usheera	Vertiveria zizinoids	Root
Satavari	Asparagus recemosus	Root tuber
Lodhra	Symplocus recemosa	Bark
Gokhura	Tribulus terrestris	Seed
Salmali	Malberia salmalika	Stem bark

Pradara (White discharg	ge P/V)	
Anantamula	Hemidesmus Indicus	Leaf
Ashoka	Saraca asoka	Bark
Dhatri	Phyllanthus emblica	Fruit
Asvatha	Ficus religiosa	Bark
Mandukaprani	Centela asiatica	Leaf
Musali	Curculigo orchioides	Tuber
Durva	Cynodon dactylon	Whole plant
Satavari	Asparagus recemosus	Tuber
Dourvala (Weakness)		<u> </u>
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit
Asvagandha	Withania somnifera	Root
Bidarikanda	Pureria tuberosa	Tuber
Mudga	Phaseolus mungo	Seed
Satavari	Asparagus recemosus	Tuber
Stanya Hrasa (Poor lacta	tion)	
Asvagandha	Withania somnifera	Root
Bhadra	Erua lanata	Seed
Jeerka	Syzigium cumini	Seed
Patha	Cissampelos pareira	Bark
Bidarikanda	Pur <mark>er</mark> ia tuberosa	Tuber
Mutha	Cyperus rotondus	Root
Satavari	Aspar <mark>agus recemosus</mark>	Tuber
Hridroga (Cardiac Diseas	ses) DAPR	
Patha	Cissampelos pareira	Bark
Yasthimadhu	Glycerrhiza glabra	Stem bark
Apatyamarga sankramai	na (RTI)	
Asvagandha	Withania somnifera	Root
Haridra	Curcuma longa	Tuber
Amlaki	Phyllanthus emblica	Fruit
Bibhitaki	Terminalia belerica	Fruit
Haritaki	Terminalia chebula	Fruit
Sigru	Moringa olefera	Fruit
Gugglu	Balsomodendron mukul	Gum
Vasa	Adhatoda vasica	Leaf
Rasna	Pluchea lansolata	Leaf
Guduchi	Tinospora cordifolia	Stem
Valya (Tonic)		
Drakhya	Vitis vinifera	Fruit
Asvagandha	Withania somnifera	Root
Vidarikanda	Pureria tuberosa	Tuber

Musali	Curculigo orchioides	Tuber
Satavari	Asparagus recemosus	Tuber
Rutu/Artava/Visamata (Menstrual Disorder)		
Vasa	Adhatoda vasica	Leaf
Rasna	Plucea lansolata	Leaf

CONCLUSION

Till today 60% people of the village areas depends on the various traditional systems of medicines like Ayurveda. Unani, Sidha etc., for almost all sorts of problems until otherwise serious conditions can occur. Though specific scientific studies have not been established on each issue the folk preparations which have brought the attention of modern medical sciences today to find out the possibilities of their efficacy as being claimed so. Today the hunt for traditional cures/herbals is prime concern for which different steps like collection, documentation, standardization, and implementation are essential to explore the possibilities of a better alternative in progress. Moreover, the time has come to save the plant kingdom from destruction and as much as possible to help in growing more medicinal plants to encourage observational studies on the plants so described for various disease conditions and it is expected, in near future a lot of such outcomes and derivation of herbal products would save a lot of lives.

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*Address for correspondence Dr Gopal C.Nanda

Professor & HOD
Dept. of Kayachikitsa and
Director (R&D), PAMC & Hospital,
Lucknow, U.P., India.
Email: vdgnanda@gmail.com
Ph - 9437278511

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