



REVIEW ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF TRIBES OF JHABUA DISTRICT, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT: Jhabua, a tribal district in the western part of Madhya Pradesh, is Bhil dominated area with centuries old treasure of traditional knowledge. In this review paper, researches of past two decades have been reviewed from 2000 to 2023. This traditional knowledge is manifested in the form of ethnomedicines (40 species), herbal insecticides (15 species), ethno-veterinary medicines (20 species), beliefs, taboos and sacred groves (27 species). Although there are several remedies practiced by tribal people for the treatment of various ailments but further pharmacological studies need to be carried to determine the efficacy of this traditional knowledge. Sacred groves are an important tool of *in-situ* conservation of ethnobotanically keystone species.

Keywords: *Ethnobotany, Jhabua tribes, traditional knowledge, sacred groves*

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INTRODUCTION

Madhya Pradesh is the humble abode of ancient tribes of central India. The district of Jhabua lies in the western part of Madhya Pradesh and is situated at 22°47' N latitude and 71°35' E longitude at an altitude of 428 m (msl) with the total area of 3,782 km². The terrain is hilly and undulating with an average annual rainfall of about 800 mm. The normal annual mean maximum temperature is 32.8 degree Celsius and normal annual mean minimum temperature is 19.10 degree Celsius (District survey report, Jhabua, 2011).

The Population of Jhabua district, as per the census of 2011, it is predominantly tribal district

with around 90% of the population from scheduled tribes. Major tribes of the district comprise of Bhil, Bhilala and Pateliya. Out of these tribes Bhil stand high in strength, and living in almost all the villages of the district. The Bhil tribe is one of the most important tribes and the third largest tribe in India. Bhilli is the main language of the district. The average literacy rate is 43.30 (2011 census).

According to the Indian State of Forest Report, 2021, Jhabua has a total forest cover of 221.67 km² (6.16 % of the district area). The district has predominantly mixed forest, and teak is the dominant species in some areas. Most of the forest is open forest in this district.