



Traditional Medicinal Plants Associated Knowledge and Practiced by Tribal Communities of Kolli Hills, Namakkal, District of Tamil Nadu, India

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ABSTRACT:

Kolli Hills in Tamil Nadu, India, is known for its traditional healing techniques from the time immemorial with its rich surrounding forest. But in the recent past as elsewhere on the Globe these tribal communities were also losing interest on this traditional healing technique due to advent of modern medicine. However the needs of document is important for the existing medicinal plants and associated knowledge. Hence the present study is aimed to enlist the available medicinal plants, present status of its knowledge and use across Kolli Hills. It is observed that 203 medicinal plants representing 81 families in which Fabaceae, Malvaceae, Rubiaceae and Rutaceae were dominated used by tribal Malayali communities in Kolli Hills. The interviews was conducted above 50 and > 25 years old people with filed knowledge for use of medicinal plants. However, among fourteen panchayats such change among the people was minimal Alathurnadu, Chithurnadu, Dundaninadu and Peraikkarinadu, Moderate in Devanurnadu, Edapulnadu, Thinnanurnadu and Thiruppulinadu panchayats and Maximum in Ariyurnadu, Bailnadu, Dundurnadu, Selurnadu, Valappurnadu and Valavanthinadu panchayats. Hence there is an urgent need to know the value of medicinal plant and their importance for medicinal propertied.

1. Introduction

India is a mega diverse country rich in biodiversity and associated with traditional knowledge. The Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats are rich in biodiversity. In Eastern coast of India Eastern Ghats are the discontinuous range of mountains between the states of West Bengal in the north and Tamil Nadu in the south where Kolli Hills exists. Livelihoods of millions of people in India depend on biodiversity. Conservation of biodiversity is therefore a national priority. India is also a vast repository of traditional knowledge associated with biological resources. The total numbers of plant species estimated are about more than 45,000 whereas more than 35% of plants are recorded as medicinal

plants, 6000-7000 plants have therapeutic properties (IBEF, 2020) and 3000 plants are recognized for its value in India[1]. About 80% of the world population depends on the medicines derived from medicinal plants[2]. In Indian population about 8.6% are tribal people from the Census 2011. For their livelihood they mostly depend on the forest for all their needs to lead day today life which includes the primary health care [3]. The Indigenous Traditional Knowledge is a part of the tribal people who know the use of the medicinal plants.

Kolli Hills is located in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu with rich in diversity of medicinal plants and it has approximately 37, 000 inhabitants living in 274 hamlets[4]. It is one of the ancient hills in India inhabited



by tribal people commonly known as Malayali. The total geographical area of Kolli Hills is about 28,293 ha which comprised 51% of agricultural land and 44% of forestland [5]. The tribal peoples of Kolli Hills have the knowledge of utilization and conservation of medicinal plants. The knowledge has been passed orally from generation to generation which helps to save and protect the medicinal plants. About 780 tribal families in the Kolli Hills depend on forest for their food, fodder, herbal medicines, fire wood and timber resources [6].

There are many researchers working in the documentation of the different medicinal plants located in the regions of Kolli Hills. This may help the researchers and others to acquire knowledge in the medicinal plants. In 2011 a study by Xavier et al. [7] evidences, to know about only 100 medicinal plants available in Kolli Hills used for treatment of various ailments. Few ethnobotanical surveys have been carried out in this region in last few decades [8,7,9,10,3,2]. The people of Kolli hills not only used the plant materials as medicinal plants but also in the agricultural practices.

2. Materials and Methods

The present research was conducted in Kolli Hills which contain dense forests in the hill tops, steep slopes and fertile valleys. Kolli Hills block located at a 1200 m altitude in the Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu with a cover area of approximately 280 sq. km. This block is divided into fourteen panchayats Alathurnadu, Riyurnadu, Bailnadu, Chithurnadu, Devanurnadu, Edappulinadu, Gundandinadu, Gundurnadu, Peraikkarinadu, Selurnadu, Thinnanurnadu, Thiruppulinadu, Valappurnadu, Valavanthinadu where most of the tribal people Known as Malayali. As elsewhere on the globe these tribal communities use plant species in their surrounding forest for most of their ailments. The number of plant species and their different medicinal uses were traced through initial reconnaissance visit followed by targeted field visits to all panchayats and conducted formal and informal discussion. Noted plant species were collected along with the local name and identified with the help of a taxonomist. Based on data collection it was found that thirty medicinal plants were commonly available, known and used across fourteen panchayats of Kolli Hills by the tribal communities. Structured questionnaire was prepared based on these plants. The past and present used

of medicinal plants were studied based on structured questionnaire among the tribes above 50 age with 25 years of filed experience. The interview was conducted among male and female in each panchayat and only ten (Total 140) reliable questionnaires were picked for data analysis. The processed data were statistically analysed using Instat statistical software.

3. Result

The study indicates that the medicinal plants used for different ailments in the knowledge of tribal people of Kolli hills in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, India. The tribal people of Kolli hills have the traditional knowledge of use of medicinal plants which has been derived from their ancestors. From our study we have identified 203 different varieties of medicinal plants which belong to 81 different families which used for various ailments as medicine from ancient days (Table 1). Highest number of species with family Fabaceae which has 14 (6.90%) different plants, Malvaceae, Rubiaceae and Rutaceae - 9 (4.43%) different plants, Acanthaceae - 8 (3.94%) different plants, Euphorbiaceae, Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae - 6 (2.96%) different plants. The families Moraceae, Apocynaceae, Sapindaceae, and Lamiaceae with each - 5 (2.46%) different plants. The families Rhamnaceae, Myrtaceae, Liliaceae, Verbenaceae, Astraceae, Sapotaceae and Poaceae each has 4 (1.97%) different plants. The family Dioscoreaceae, Oleaceae, Arecaceae, Araceae and Meliaceae each has 3 (1.48%) different plants. The families Annonaceae, Marseliaceae, Phyllanthaceae, Lythraceae, Ebenaceae, Musaceae, Mimosoideae, Lythraceae, Zingiberaceae, Anacardiaceae, Asphodelaceae, Mimosaceae, Burseraceae, Lythraceae, Tiliaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Menispermaceae and Melastomataceae each has 2 (0.99%) different plants. The families Boraginaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Convolvulaceae, Linaceae, Polypodiaceae, Lycopodiaceae, Loganiaceae, Myristicaceae, Combretaceae, Polygalaceae, Balsaminaceae, Asphodelaceae, Punicaceae, Proteaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Asparagaceae, Violaceae, Caricaceae Molluginaceae, Basellaceae, Callophyllaceae, Flacourtiaceae, Lauraceae, Bixaceae, Apiaceae, Acoraceae, Symplocaceae, Marrattiaceae, Papaveraceae, Pteridaceae, Nymphaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Styraceae, Vitaceae, Amaranthaceae, Caoaraduaceae and Erythroxyllaceae has single plants (0.49%) (Table 1).



The existing knowledge and use of different medicinal plants among Kolli Hills tribal communities showed 30 different plant varieties were effectively used. The interview revealed that these medicinal plants were known and used by the 74.38% of tribal communities, **>50 years old and 51% above the age 25 years.** However though there was significant difference among the 50 and 25 years old tribal communities on knowledge and use of different medicinal plant species; there was no significant difference among different medicinal plant species within the age groups (Table 2).

Comparison of knowledge and use of different medicinal plants amongst different panchayats showed that highest in Gundanimadu 87.33% followed by Chithuradu 86.67%, Perakaramadu 86.00% and Alathuradu 85.67% among the tribal communities of above 50 years old (Table 3.). Amongst the age group of 25 years old the same was highest in Alathuradu 63.33% followed by Chithuradu, Gundanimadu, Perakaramadu 62.00% (Table 3). The Panchayats with median knowledge and use of medicinal plants was Thirupulinadu 78.67% followed by Edapulinadu 77.67%, Thinnanuradu 78.00% and Devanuradu 75.67% and among the tribal communities of above 50 years age (Table 3). Amongst the age group of 25 years old the same was high in Thinnanuradu 56.33% followed by Devanuradu 55.00%, Edapulinadu 54.33% and Thirupulinadu 50.67%. Panchayats with low Knowledge (Table 3). The Panchayats with low knowledge and use of medicinal plants was Seluradu 60.67% followed by Valavantinadu 61.33%, Valapuradu 61.33% Ariyuradu 63.11%, and Gunduradu 62.00%, among the tribal communities of above 50 years old (Table 3). Amongst the age group of 25 years old the same was low in Ariyuradu 38.00% followed by Bailnadu 40.00%, Gunduradu 41.00% and Valapuradu 42.33% Panchayats with low Knowledge (Table 3).

4. Discussion

Increase in the population on the other hand reduced man to bio resource ration leading to unsustain utilization of biological resources. However, Medicinal use of their surrounding bio resources has been in separable in most of the tribal communities across the globe in spite of quick remedy of modern allopathic medicine. But in the recent past even tribal communities in the last few

decade's younger generations not realizing the importance of their knowledge and benefits losing interest on the invaluable empirical knowledge acquired through their ancestors though the present scenario is to search for safer compounds from the plant species by the present modern medicine. Both at International and National levels legal efforts have been made through Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992) and Biological Diversity (BD Act 2002) to protect such enormous knowledge. Kolli Hills is one such tribal zone where both medicinal plant species and associated knowledge exists but with reducing importance and use.

The present study was able to identify more than 203 medicinal plant species of shrubs, herbs and trees belonging to 81 different families. Earlier reports on the medicinal plants in Kolli Hills showed only 75 plant species belonging to 44 families [2] and 102 Plant species belonging to 58 families [1]. In the present study among the different families medicinal plant species of Kolli Hills Fabaceae (14 species; 6.90%) is predominantly used for many ailments. Followed by Malvaceae, Rubiaceae and Rutaceae (9 species; 4.43%), Acanthaceae (8 species; 3.94%), Euphorbiaceae, Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae (6 species; 2.96%) and Moraceae, Apocynaceae, Sapindaceae, and Lamiaceae (5 species; 2.46%). Earlier reports of Anjalam et al. [2] and Sri et al. [1] showed that Fabaceae is the dominant family amongst the medicinal plants of Kolli Hills followed by families Malvaceae, Rubiaceae, Rutaceae and Acanthaceae.

Fabaceae is the largest flowering plant family with leguminous plants of herbs, shrubs and trees [11]. Plant species of this family is rich in Polyphenols especially Flavonoids such as Kaempferol, Quercetin, Myricetin and Ellagic acid which essential therapeutic compounds [12]. Malvaceae are flowering plants includes herbs, shrubs and trees which contain economically important agriculture and ornamental crops [13]. Plant species of this family rich in wide variety of flavonoids, polyphenols, terpenes and tannins [13]. Plant species of Rubiaceae family are flowering plants with herbs, shrubs and trees generally known as coffee family [14]. Plant species of this family is rich in alkaloids and quinine[14]. Rutaceae is also flowering plants generally known as citrus plants with herbs, shrubs and trees[15]. Plant species of this family are rich in flavonoids especially



Nobiletin, tangeretin hesperidin, neohesperidin, rutin, narirutin, etc., [15]. Acanthaceae is mostly tropical herb, shrub and vines. The plant species in this family are rich in flavonoids, phenolic compounds, Napthoquinone and triterpenoids. From the above it is evident why these families are dominant in the medicinal plants of Kolli Hills.

Similarly, Mullu Kuruman tribes from Kerala 111 plant species across 85 genera and 42 botanical families among the plants for food (66.66 %), while 26.13 % were used for medicinal purposes[16]. Raj et al.[17] stated that above 70 years old woman from hilly region practiced plants as medicine. In the present context traditional tribal communities traditional healers and use of traditional medicinal practice are gradually reducing due to their hectic in maintenance of medicinal plants, collection, preparation and slow remedy and also associated food restrictions. Since, tribal regions like Kolli Hills medicinal plants are available naturally in forest people of these regions continue to use medicinal plants. However, impact of modern medicine with its quick remedy and easier to use without realizing the side effects gradually altering these regions and reducing interest amongst the younger generations without realizing that modern medicines are now in search of unique compounds from medicinal plants. Kolli Hills with its hilly terrain difficult or poor transportation facility and poor economy modern medicines were not been able to reach these regions rapidly. However, in the recent past gradual increase in transportation facility and in turn economy of the region gradually increasing the use of modern medicine and gradually reducing the use and interest on traditional medicines. However, still most of them rely on traditional medicinal plants common diseases like could cough, fever, diarrhea, dysentery, skin diseases, bone fracture, wound healing, pain etc. Only on specific diseases like typhoid, Malayaria, Cancer, Jaundice, Operation therapy, etce depend on modern medicines.

In the present study survey across the fourteen panchayats revealed that similar trend where observed among tribal people > 50 year old were having better knowledge of medicinal plants and their remedy and but >25 year old were having lesser knowledge using the plants. Among the different panchayats tribal communities in Alathurnadu, Chithurnadu, Gundurnadu

and Peraikkarainadu elder 85% from >50 years old people still practicing use of traditional medicinal plants for ailments. Youngsters 60% from >25 years old still more than of them have knowledge and use these medicinal plants showed that these regions still retain their traditional healing practices. Geographically these regions are with poor transportation facility and poor economy. In Devanurnadu, Edappulinadu, Thinnanurnadu and Thirupulinadu panchayats 75% from > 50 years old people practicing use of traditional medicinal plants as remedy of many diseases. More than 50 from > 25 years old, haveing knowledge and use these medicinal plants showed that these regions are in transition from traditional healing practices. In panchayats Ariyurnadu, Bailnadu, Gundurnadu, Selurnadu, Valapurnadu and Valavanthinadu, more than 60% people form >50 years old still continuing traditional medicinal plans for medicinal use. Youngsters >25 years old (around 40%) of them only have knowledge of medicinal plants and their use traditional healing practices. These panchanyats are well connected with roads and have better transport facilities and economy improved along with population.

5. Conclusion

The present study was able to identify 203 medicinal plants belonging to 81 different families used for traditional healing of different ailments in Kolli Hills. Among the different families Fabaceae family is predominant since it contains many useful secondary metabolites. In the present development in the advent of science and technology knowledge on such medicinal plants were restricted to remote traditional communities like Kolli Hills Malayali. However , these regions there is a gradual loss of interest on such empirical knowledge and use of traditional medicinal plants amongst the youngsters. Out of fourteen panchayats in Kolli Hills only four panchayats Alathurnadu, Chithurnadu, Dundaninadu and Peraikkarinadu were still retaining their traditional healing using surrounding medicinal plants. Devanurnadu, Edapulinadu, Thinnanurnadu and Thirupulinadu panchayats traditional communities are in the transition phase. Ariyurnadu, Bailnadu, Dundurnadu, Selurnadu, Valappurnadu and Valavanthinadu panchayats most of the people in this region lost interest on medicinal plants and transformed to modern medicine. Though CBD at international level



and BD act at National level are in place for more than a few decades its threatening to see the changes in Kolli Hills leading to loss of Medicinal plants, its associated knowledge and use. Hence it is essential to ensure People's Biodiversity Register is effectively used.

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Table 1. Identified existing medicinal plants and associated traditional knowledge in Kolli Hills

S. No.	Vernacular name	Scientific name	Family	Common name	Uses
1	Aaduthinnapalai	<i>Aristolachia bracteolata</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Worm killer	Intestinal worms and insect bites
2	Aaduthoda	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>	Acanthaceae	Malabar nut	Heart and Blood problems
3	Aamanakku	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Castor oil plant	Eye infection
4	Aarai	<i>Marselia minuta</i>	Marseliaceae	Dwarf water clover	Bronchitis
5	Aarai keerai	<i>Marselia quadrifolia</i>	Marseliaceae	Four leaf clover	Cold, cough
6	Aavaram	<i>Senna auriculata</i>	Fabaceae	Matura tree	Reduce blood sugar level
7	Agathi	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i>	Fabaceae	Vegetable hummingbird	Rheumatism, Itching and sprains
8	Akasha karuden	<i>Corallocarpus epigaeus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Red fruit creeper	Immune Development
9	Alamaram	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Moraceae	Banyan	Vaginal wash and Diarrhea
10	Alli	<i>Nymphae nouchali</i>	Nymphaeaceae	Blue water lily	Urinary problems
11	Alukanni	<i>Drosera burmannii</i>	Droseraceae	Burmese sundew	Dysentery with blood
12	Amanakku	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Castor oil	Antimicrobial and Anti inflammatory
13	Arasamaram	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Moraceae	Bodhi tree	Skin diseases and Anti inflammatory



14	Arugampul	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Poaceae	Bermuda grass	Gastro enteritis and blood clotting
15	Aruvatham patchai	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Rutaceae	Rue	Dysentery and Antidote
16	Asoka	<i>Monoon longifolium</i>	Annonaceae	Polyalthia	Antioxidant and antimicrobial
17	Athimaram	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Moraceae	Cluster fig	Wound healing
18	Chempondu	<i>Waltheria indica</i>	Malvaceae	Sleepy morning	Cough
19	Chinna palai	<i>Alstonia venenata</i>	Apocynaceae	Deil tree	Worms and syphilis
20	Citramutti	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i>	Plumbaginaceae	White lead wort	Purgative and Expel worms
21	Dahlia kizhangu	<i>Dahlia coccinea</i> Cav.	Asteraceae	Red dhalia	Post-delivery issue and tumour
22	Devadaru	<i>Erythroxylon monogynum</i>	Erythroxylaceae	Red cedar	Antiapetide
23	Easwaran	<i>Huperzia phlegmaria</i>	Lycopodiaceae	Tassel fern	Wound healing
24	Eerugamaram	<i>Psydrax dicoccos</i>	Rubiaceae	Ceylon box wood	For easy delivery
25	Elum poondu	<i>Blepharis manderaspatensis</i>	Acanthaceae	Creeping blepharis	Nervous disorder
26	Eluthanaipoondu	<i>Stachytarpheta urticifolia</i>	Verbanaceae	Nettleleaf velvetberry	Malaria
27	Ettipattai	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i>	Loganiaceae	Poison fruit	Poisonous bite
28	Goyya	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	Guava	Diabatic and Stomach problems
29	Illandhai	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Turkey Berry	Women mensural cycle problem
30	Irumpilli	<i>Diospyros ferrea</i>	Ebenaceae	Black ebony	Antiseptic and Anti venom
31	Janni maram	<i>Filicium decipiens</i>	Sapindaceae	Japanese fern tree	Fits and paralysis
32	Jathi poo maram	<i>Jasminum grandiflorum</i>	Oleaceae	Spanish jasmine	Helps in weight loss



33	Jathikkai	<i>Myristica fragrans</i>	Myristicaceae	Nutmeg	Ulcer
34	Kadugu	<i>Brassica juncea</i>	Cruciferaeae	Brown mustard	Ear wound
35	Kadukkai	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Combretaceae	Chebolic myrobalan	Constipation, diabetes and toothache
36	Kakurthothi	<i>Polygala chinensis</i>	Polygalaceae	Senega	Expectorant, stimulant
37	Kallathi	<i>Ficus tinctoria</i>	Moraceae	Dye fig	Immune development
38	Kalvalai	<i>Ensete superbum Roxb.</i>	Musaceae	Rock Banana	Sexual enhancement and cough
39	Kalyana murangai	<i>Erythrina indica</i>	Fabaceae	Indian coral tree	Rheumatism
40	Kandankathiri	<i>Solanum virginianum</i>	Solanaceae	Yellow- fruit nightshade	Antioxidant, Bronchial asthma, chest pain, coughs.
41	Karai	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb</i>	Ebenaceae	Ebony	Anti Malariyal
42	Karisalanganni	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i>	Asteraceae	False daisy	Skin disease, Jaundice and fever
43	Karunai kizhangu	<i>Amorphophallus paeoniifolius</i>	Araceae	Elephant foot yam	Obesity
44	Karung kodi velli	<i>Plumbago capensis</i>	Plumbaginaceae	Blue plumbago	Rheumatism
45	Karuoomathai	<i>Datura metel</i>	Solanaceae	Indian thornapple	skin disease, diarrhea and fever
46	Karuvepamaram	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Rutacea	Curry leaves	Itching, piles, hair oil and dysentery
47	Kasi thumbai	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>	Balsaminaceae	Busy lizzie	Snake bite
48	Kasthuri velan	<i>Acasia farnesiana</i>	Mimosoideae	Sponge wattle	Astringent
49	Kasthuri vendai	<i>Hibiscus abelmoschus</i>	Malvaceae	Musk mallow	Skin diseases
50	Kathalai	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Asphodelaceae	Aloe	Burns, wound, skin disease and constipation



51	Kattamanakku	<i>Jatropha curcus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Purging nut	Antimicrobial, Jaundice, bleeding gums and toothache
52	Kattathi	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	Lythraceae	Fire flame bush	Diabetics
53	Kattu elumichai	<i>Atlantia monophylla</i>	Rutaceae	Wild orange	Chronic rheumatism
54	Kattu illanthai	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	Rhamnaceae	Indian plum	Fever and ulcer
55	Kattu karunai	<i>Amorphophallus campanulatus</i>	Araceae	Elephant foot yam	Leprosy
56	Kattu malli	<i>Jasminum angustifolium</i>	Oleaceae		Leprosy and wound healing
57	Kattu manjal	<i>Curcuma neilgherrensis</i>	Zingiberaceae	Nilgiri turmeric	Wounds
58	Kattu Marikalam	<i>Gardenia gummifera</i>	Rubiaceae	Gummy cape jasmine	Mensural cycle, Stomach problems and skin problems
59	Kattu thambatan	<i>Canavalia virosa</i>	Fabaceae	Jack bean	Asthma
60	Kattu vengayam	<i>Scilla indica</i>	Liliaceae	Indian squill	Cardio tonic and Scabies
61	Kaya	<i>Eugenia bracteata</i>	Tachinidae	Jamun	Anti microbial, Antidiabetic and Antidiarrheal
62	Keelanelli	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	Phyllanthaceae	Gale of the wind	Kidney stone, jaundice, stomach wounds
63	Kincam	<i>Spondias pinnata</i>	Anacardiaceae	Hog plum	Joint pain and Gonorrhoea
64	Kirambu	<i>Eugenia caryophyllata</i>	Myrtaceae	Cloves	Antiseptic and tooth ache
65	Kodukkaapuli	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i>	Mimosaceae	Madras thron	Dental problems
66	Kolinji	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>	Fabaceae	Common tephrosia	Ulcer, leprosy and stomach ache.
67	Koonthapanaimaram	<i>Caryota urens</i>	Arecaceae	Solitary Fishtail palm	Tooth ache, gastric problems and ulcers



68	Kovaikodi	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Cucurbitaceae	scarlet gourd	cough, asthma and skin disease
69	Koyya	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae	Guava	diarrhea, dysentery and indigestion
70	Kugamathi	<i>Lepisanthes tetraphylla</i>	Sapindaceae	Kurpa	Fever, dysentery and Wound healing
71	Kumil	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Lamiaceae	Beech wood	Nervous problem, piles and applied for dandruff
72	Kundumani	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Fabaceae	Jequirity pea	tetanus, rabies and poisonous bite
73	Kungilium	<i>Boswellia serrata</i>	Burseraceae	Indian frankincense	Skin disease.
74	Kuppaimeni	<i>Acalypha indica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Indian acalypha	Anti-cancer, Anti-diabetic and Hemorrhoids
75	Kuruthu pillu	<i>Chloris barbata</i>	Poaceae	Swollen finger grass	Skin diseases Fever, diabetics
76	Linga kovai	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Lollipop climber	Uterus problem
77	Ma Maram	<i>Mangifera Indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Mango	Piles, anaemia and hypertension
78	Madulai	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Punicaceae	Pomegranate	Ulcer, Diarrhoea and Male infertility
79	Magilam Palam	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	Sapotaceae	Spanish cherry	Astringent, tonic and febrifuge
80	Maha vilvam	<i>Naringi crenulata</i>	Rutaceae	Elephant apple	Vomiting
81	Mahua tree	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>	Sapotaceae	Madhuka	Constipation, Rheumatic pain and lactation
82	Malai eecham	<i>Phoenix loureirii kunth</i>	Arecaceae	Mountaun date	Intestinal disease
83	Malai vembu	<i>Melia dibia</i>	Meliaceae	Presian lilac	Small pox and skin diseases



84	Malaichavukku	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Proteaceae	silver oak	Sore throat and tooth ache
85	Malaiyan kizhangu	<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia L.</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Chinese Yam]Anti-inflammation
86	Manjal	<i>Curcuma longa L.</i>	Zingiberaceae	Turmeric	Wound healing
87	Mantharai	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Butterfly tree	Sore and Boils
88	Marikollunthu	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Asteraceae	Calendula	Stomach ache
89	Marul	<i>Sansevieria roxburghiana</i>	Asparagaceae	Indian Bowstring Hemp	Treat itching
90	Masipattari	<i>Artemisia nilagirica</i>	Asteraceae	Indian worm wood	Antileprotic
91	Mathulai	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Lythraceae	Pomegranate	Ulcer, Male infertility and diarrhea
92	Mayil manicum	<i>Quamoclit pinnata</i>	Convolvulaceae	Cypress vine	Piles
93	Mayiladi	<i>Vitex altissima</i>	Verbenaceae	Peacock chaste tree	Allergy and inflammation
94	Milakaranai	<i>Toddalia asiatica</i>	Rutaceae	Orange climber	Fever, diarrhea wound
95	Moongil	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i>	Poaceae	Giant Thorny bamboo	Constipation, inflammation and kidney stone
96	Mosumosukka	<i>Mukia maderaspatana</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Madras pea pumkin	Asthma
97	Mothirakanni	<i>Hugonia mystax L.</i>	Linaceae	Climbing flax	Antidode, fever and Interstinal worms
98	Mudakathan	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	Sapindaceae	Balloon vine	Nervous disorder, tetanus and joint pain.
99	Mudavattukizhangu	<i>Drynaria quercifolia</i>	Polypodiaceae	Oak leaf fern	Jaundice and cough
100	Mulli kizhangu	<i>Dioscorea esculenta Burk.</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Lesser Yam	Urinary problems
101	Mulmurungai	<i>Erythrina orientalis</i>	Fabaceae	Variegated Coral tree	Inflammations and stomach pain



102	Murikootti	<i>Hemigraphis colorata</i>	Acanthaceae	Cemetery plant	Diarrhea and kidney stones
103	Naai thulasi	<i>Ocimum canum</i>	Lamiaceae	Basil	Cold and cough
104	Naarthangai	<i>Citrus medica</i>	Rutaceae	Fingered Citron	Antimicrobial and head ache
105	Nannari	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Apocynaceae	Indian sarsaparilla	Antimicrobial, Impotency and pimples
106	Nari ilanthai	<i>Ziziphus oenophila</i>	Rhamnaceae	Jackal jujube	Wound healing
107	Nari miratti	<i>Crotalaria verucosa</i>	Fabaceae	Warted crotalaria	Skin allergies
108	Naruvili	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	Boraginaceae	Clammy Cherry	Fever, Headache and Joint pain
109	Nathai suri	<i>Spermacoce hispida</i>	Rubiaceae	Shaggy button weed	Diarrhoea
110	Naval	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Myrtaceae	Black plum	Diabetes, period cramps, stomach pain and Ulcer.
111	Neerpoosani	<i>Benincasa hispida</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Winter melon	Epilepsy, fever and menstrual disorders
112	Nega suthi kizhangu	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum L.</i>	Liliaceae	Star of Bethlehem	Laxation
113	Nelli	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Phyllanthaceae	Indian gooseberry	inflammation, Jaundice and Pressure
114	Nettilingam	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>	Malvaceae	Ashok	Sore In foot
115	Nila thuthi	<i>Sida cordifolia</i>	Malvaceae	Country mallow	Fever, facial paralysis
116	Nilavembu	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Acanthaceae	Bitter weed	Strengthen Immunity, antioxidant and blood sugar.
117	Nithya Kalyani	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Apocynaceae	Madagascar Periwinkle	Anticancer, Kidney disorder and Liver problem



118	Nuna	<i>Morinda tinctoria</i>	Rubiaceae	Indian mulberry	Ulcer
119	Nuna maram	<i>Morinda pubescens J.E. Smith</i>	Rubiaceae	Morinda tree	Painkiller and Astringent
120	Orange	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Rutaceae	Mandarin Orange	Ringworm infection and Blood Pressure
121	Orithal thamarai	<i>Hybanthus ennaspermus</i>	Violaceae	Spade flower	Fever
122	Pachambaram	<i>Justicia betonica</i>	Acanthaceae	White shrimp plant	Relieve pain and swellings
123	Pal perukki	<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Fiddlers spurge	Lactation in mothers and toothache.
124	Pala maram	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	Moraceae	Jack fruit	Antimicrobial and Anticancer
125	Palai Palam	<i>Manilkara hexandra</i>	Sapotaceae	Ceylon Wood	Gastroenritis and fever
126	Panam kizhangu	<i>Borassus flabellifer L.</i>	Arecaceae	Palmyra Palm	Worm kill
127	Papali	<i>Carica papaya L.</i>	Caricaceae	Papaya	Antimicrobial and Stomach pain
128	Parpadagam	<i>Mollugo pentaphylla</i>	Molluginaceae	Green carpet weed	Anticancer
129	Pasalai kodi	<i>Basella alba</i>	Basellaceae	Indian spinach	Male fertility and cholesterol reduction
130	Pavala malli	<i>Nyctanthus arbortritis</i>	Oleaceae	Night jasmine	Periodic fever
131	Pei pudal	<i>Trichosanthes cucumerina</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Snake gourd	fever, skin disease and inflammation
132	Penamaram	<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>	Callophyllaceae	Indian laurel	anticancer and anti-inflammatory
133	Peramutti	<i>Pavonia odorata</i>	Malvaceae	Fragrant swamp mallow	Dysentery
134	Periyanangai	<i>Andrographis lineata</i>	Acanthaceae	Water willow	Poisonous bite and Malaria



135	Perukala	<i>Carissa carandas L.</i>	Apocynaceae	Karandang	Constipation, skin diseases and stomach problems
136	Perukarai	<i>Catunaregam spinosa (Thumb.)</i>	Rubiaceae	Mountaun Pomegranate	Gastroenritis and antimicrobial
137	Perukurunchan	<i>Wattakaka volubilis</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Sneeze wort	Snake bite
138	Perun kattu kodi	<i>Tiliacora acuminata</i>	Menispermaceae	Giant swallow wort	Antidote
139	Poduthalaikerai	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Verbenaceae	Turkey tangle fog fruit	Inflammation and ulcer
140	Ponnaganni	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Amaranthaceae	Sessile joyweed	Dandruff, asthma and hepatitis.
141	Poovarasu	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Malvaceae	Portia tree	Itching, soreasis
142	Pramma thandu	<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Papaveraceae	Mexican prickly poppy	Scorpion bite
143	Pulli	<i>Tamarindus indica L.</i>	Fabaceae	Tamarind tree	Stomach inflammation and Rheumatism
144	Pullipan chedi	<i>Cipadessa baccifera</i>	Meliaceae	Ranabili	Diarrhoea
145	Pungai	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Fabaceae	Indian beech tree	Chest pain, burns
146	Pungam	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Fabaceae	Indian beech	Leprosy, skin diseases and piles.
147	Rasa valli kizhangu	<i>Dioscorea alata L.</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Water Yam	Urinary problems
148	Rose mulli or Semmulli	<i>Barleria buxifolia</i>	Acan	Box-leaved	Cough and Bronchitis
149	Saavasedi	<i>Actiniopteris radiata</i>	Pteridaceae	Ray fern	Diarrhoea and fever
150	Sambranimaram	<i>Styrax benzoin</i>	Styracaceae	Gum benjamin tree	Ulcer, Bed sore and cracked skin
151	Sapota	<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	Sapotaceae	Sapota	Antimicrobial, Anticancer and Hepatoprotective



152	Sarakonnai	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Fabaceae	Golden shower tree	Constipation and pain killer
153	Sarkarai vilvam	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i>	Melastomataceae	Iron wood tree	Pimples disappear
154	Seenthil kodi	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Menispermaceae	Guduchi	Gas trouble
155	Seethapalam	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Annonaceae	Custard apple	Thyroid, diabetes and cancer
156	Sembaruthi	<i>Hibiscus rosa sinensis</i>	Malvaceae	China hibiscus	hyper tension, hair oil and cancer
157	Senbagamaram	<i>Michelia champaca</i>	Magnoliaceae	Champaca	Fever, leprosy and hyper tension
158	Sengottai	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	Solanaceae	Bhilwa	Antimicrobial, Anticancer and Anti reproductive.
159	Sepang kizhangu	<i>Amorphophallus sylvaticus</i>	Araceae	Forest Yam	Stomach problems
160	Sernthadum pavai	<i>Azanza lampas</i>	Malvaceae	Ban kapas	Eye sight
161	Sevalai kodi	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	Rubiaceae	Indian madder	Bitter tonic
162	Siriyanangai	<i>Andrographis alata</i>	Acanthaceae	King of bitter	Snake bite, Jaundice and cancer
163	Siru karai	<i>Canthium coromandelicum</i>	Rubiaceae	Carray cheddie Wild jessamine	Antimicrobial, Wound healing and gastroprotective
164	Siru thekku	<i>Clerodendrum serratum</i>	Verbenaceae		Stimulant
165	Sirukurunjan	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>	Apocynaceae	Australian cow plant	Anticancer, diabetes and antimicrobial
166	Siyakkai	<i>Acacia concinna</i>	Fabaceae	Shikakai	Anti-inflammatory, dandruff and skin diseases
167	Sodukku thakkali	<i>Physalis peruviana</i>	Solanaceae	Cape goose berry	Skin diseases
168	Soorai Mullu	<i>Zizyphus oenoplia (L) Mill.</i>	Rhamnaceae	Jackal Jujube	Antidiabetic, Anticancer and antidiarrheal



169	Sothai Kala	<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	Flacourtiaceae	Indian plum	Anti-venom, antimicrobial and diarrhoea
170	Sundaikai	<i>Solanum tarvum</i>	Solanaceae	Turkey berry	Splenomegaly
171	Thaguri	<i>Neolitsea zeylanica</i>	Lauraceae	Shore laurel	Skin disease
172	Thaluthalai	<i>Clerodendrum phlomidis</i>	Lamiaceae	Glorybower	Urinary infection, swelling and inflammation
173	Thamuka	<i>Cochlospermum religiosum</i>	Bixaceae	Yellow silk cotton tree	Gonorrhea, syphilis and bone fracture.
174	Thannivittankilangu	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Liliaceae	Indian asparagus	Antimicrobial, anti aging, immunity and lactation
175	Thavasi Keerai	<i>Sauropus androgynus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Star goose berry	Urinary infection
176	Then kallai	<i>Grewia hirsuta</i>	Tiliaceae	Kundu Charkara	Nervous problem, abortifaciant and cardiac problem
177	Therani	<i>Tarenna asiatica (L.)</i>	Rubiaceae	Asiatic tarenna	Boils and Ulcers
178	Theruneerpachai	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Lamiaceae	Common basil	Kidney malfunction and diarrhoea
179	Thirachai	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Vitaceae	Grapes	Anticancer, Smallpos and Eye Infections
180	Thoothuvalai	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i>	Solanaceae	Purple fruit Pea Eggplant	Asthma and tuberculosis
181	Thumbai	<i>Leucas aspera</i>	Lamiaceae	Thumba	Skin disease and antimicrobial
182	Thuthi	<i>Abutilon indicum</i>	Malvaceae	Monkey brush	Piles, Jaundice and urinary disorder.
183	Tottasurungi	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Mimosaceae	Sensitive plant	Urogenital problems, piles and dysentery
184	Tulipa flower	<i>Tulipa albanica</i>	Liliaceae	Garden tulip	Gonorrhoea



185	Unnu	<i>Grewia tiliifolia</i>	Tiliaceae	Phalsa	Skin diseases, Diarrhea and Fertility
186	Vaaganarayanan	<i>Delonix elata</i>	Fabaceae	yellow gulmohur	Anti venom and Jaundice.
187	Valichamaram	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i>	Melastomataceae	Ironwood	Eye disease
188	Vallarai	<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Apiaceae	Indian pennywort	Increase memory power, skin and Urinary diseases
189	Vasambu	<i>Acorus calamus L.</i>	Acoraceae	Sweet Flag	Ear problems
190	Vasappamaram	<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i>	Symplocaceae	Chunga	Mouthwash, giddiness and phlegm
191	Vazhi	<i>Musa accuminata</i>	Musaceae	Banana	Fever, dysentery and allergy
192	Velam	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i>	Mimosoideae	White bark Acasia	Fever, stomach
193	Veli moonky	<i>Crinum asiaticum L.</i>	Amaryllidaceae	Seashore Lilly	Fever
194	Veliparuthi	<i>Pergularia daemia</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Trellis vine	Rheumatism arthritis
195	Vellai kunkilium	<i>Boswellia serrata</i>	Burseraceae	Indian olibanum	Skin diseases
196	Veppamaram	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	Neem	Poison treatment, Leprosy and Mental disorder
197	Vettiver	<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i>	Poaceae	Khus khus grass	Blood pressure, stomach ache
198	Vila	<i>Limonia acidissima</i>	Rutaceae	Wood apple	Sore throat and tooth ache
199	Vilvam	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Rutaceae	Indian bael	Vomiting and dysentery
200	Virali	<i>Dodonea angustifolia</i>	Sapindaceae	Sand olive	Malaria
201	Virali	<i>Ptelea viscosa</i>	Sapindaceae	Florida hopbush	Rheumatism
202	Vizhuthi	<i>Cadaba fruticosa</i>	Capparadiaceae	Indian cadaba	Bone fracture



203	Yanai vanangi	<i>Angiopteris evecta</i>	Marrattiaceae	Giant fern	Ulcer, stomach ache
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Table 2. Existing knowledge and use of different medicinal plants among Kolli Hills tribal communities (%)

Scientific name	Age		P Value	F Value
	Above 50	Above 25		
<i>Drosera burmannii</i>	75.71 ± 12.22	50.00±11.77	< 0.0001	1.078
<i>Ruta graveolans</i>	75.00±11.60	54.29±9.38	< 0.0001	1.529
<i>Waltheria indica</i>	74.29±15.05	49.29±9.97	< 0.0001	2.279
<i>Psydrax dicoccos</i>	75.71±12.22	52.14±11.88	< 0.0001	1.058
<i>Blepharis maderaspatensis</i>	72.86±13.83	55.00±7.60	0.0003	3.311
<i>Stachytarpheta urticifolia</i>	73.57±10.82	56.43±10.08	0.0002	1.152
<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i>	74.29±10.89	53.57±12.16	< 0.0001	1.247
<i>Ficus tinctoria</i>	72.86±10.69	50.71±9.97	< 0.0001	1.150
<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	72.1±9.75	49.29±14.92	< 0.0001	2.342
<i>Boswellia serrata</i>	76.43±15.50	50.71±14.92	< 0.0001	1.079
<i>Drynaria quercifolia</i>	75.71±13.42	49.29±11.41	< 0.0001	1.383
<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i>	76.43±13.93	51.43±12.31	< 0.0001	1.281
<i>Mollugo pentaphylla</i>	72.14±14.77	50.00±7.84	< 0.0001	3.549
<i>Basella alba</i>	75.71±15.05	51.43±11.67	< 0.0001	1.663
<i>Trichosanthes cucumerina</i>	74.29±11.58	52.14±10.51	< 0.0001	1.214
<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i>	73.57±11.51	46.43±14.99	< 0.0001	1.696
<i>Wattakaka volubalis</i>	75.71±16.04	52.14±9.75	< 0.0001	2.706
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	76.43±12.16	50.00±13.59	< 0.0001	1.249
<i>Michelia champaca</i>	72.14±14.24	50.71±15.42	0.0007	1.173



<i>Neolitsea zeylanica</i>	75.00±6.50	47.14±13.26	< 0.0001	4.162
<i>Clerodendrum phlomidis</i>	75.00±14.01	52.14±12.51	0.0001	1.254
<i>Cochlospermum religiosum</i>	75.00±15.57	48.57±11.67	< 0.0001	1.780
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	72.14±13.11	51.43±14.60	0.0005	1.240
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	75.00±12.86	48.57±12.92	< 0.0001	1009
<i>Delonix elata</i>	75.00±15.06	49.29±13.28	< 0.0001	1.286
<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i>	73.57±14.47	53.57±12.77	0.0006	1.284
<i>Symplocos cochinchinensis</i>	71.43±12.92	51.43±14.06	0.0006	1.184
<i>Pergularia daemia</i>	75.00±15.57	50.00±12.40	< 0.0001	1.577
<i>Limonia acidissima</i>	77.14±14.37	53.57±11.51	< 0.0001	1.559
<i>Dodonea angustifolia</i>	72.14±14.24	49.29±13.85	0.0002	1.057

Table 3. Existing knowledge and use of selective medicinal plants among different panchayats in Kolli Hills tribal communities (%)

Panchayats	Age		P Value	F Value
	Above 50	Above 25		
Alathurnadu	85.67 ± 8.98	63.33 ± 6.61	< 0.0001	1.846
Ariyurnadu	63.11 ± 8.60	38.00 ± 8.47	< 0.0001	1.031
Bailnadu	77.00 ± 8.87	40.00 ± 8.71	< 0.0001	1.037
Chithurnadu	86.67 ± 7.58	62.00±7.61	< 0.0001	1.008
Devanurnadu	75.67 ± 5.68	55.00 ±5.72	< 0.0001	1.014
Edappulinadu	77.67 ±5.68	54.33±5.04	< 0.0001	1.270
Gundaninadu	87.33 ± 7.85	62.00±8.05	< 0.0001	1.052
Gundurnadu	62.00 ± 8.87	41.00±8.03	< 0.0001	1.220
Peraikkarinadu	86.00 ± 8.55	62.00±8.47	< 0.0001	1.019



Selurnadu	60.67 ± 8.28	43.67±9.28	< 0.0001	1.256
Thinnanurnadu	78.00 ± 7.02	56.33±7.18	< 0.0001	1.046
Thiruppulinadu	78.67 ± 8.60	50.67±7.40	< 0.0001	1.351
Valappurnadu	63.33 ± 9.59	42.33±10.06	< 0.0001	1.100
Valavanthinadu	61.33 ± 8.60	43.33±10.28	< 0.0001	1.429