This paper describes the significant role of indigenous people who are utilizing the angiospermic plants for treatment of various fevers and conserving their natural habitat in Ambaji forest area. The present study revealed that 8 species of angiospermic plants belonging to 8 families and 8 genera are traditionally used in Ambaji forest Banaskantha district. Banaskantha is one of the tribal district of the Gujarat state. Total forest area of Ambaji forest is 788.39 sq. Km. Ambaji forest , is located between 23°6’.07’ N and 74°9’ to 74.46° E in the district Banaskantha, Gujarat state. During this study a number of group discussions were also conducted during the period of investigation. The collection of data for the purpose of documenting the information prevailing amongst tribes and the rural tribal communities. In the following enumeration, plant botanical names; have been arranged alphabetically in disease wise vernacular names, family, the locality of occurrence, their habit and habitats.

**KEY WORDS:** Ethnomedicinal, Fever, Ambaji forest , traditional uses, tribals.
Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mehsana and Patan are the four districts of North Gujarat, among them in Banaskantha district the Danta and Ambaji range forests are the part of Danta taluka having the part of Aravalli hills. Ambaji range forest is a part of Danta taluka situated on eastern part of the Banaskantha district in North Gujarat. Ambaji range forest is a part of Danta taluka situated on eastern part of the Banaskantha district in North Gujarat. Ambaji town is located at 24.33°N 72.85°E.

STUDY AREA MAP

It is at altitude of 480 metres (1,570 ft) surrounded by Aravalli hills. Ambaji range forest is a part of Danta taluka of 300 sq. km. geographical area of the range. North Gujarat is following under *Boswellia* forest type (Champion & Seth 1968), the following are the three main forests upon which the local people depending for various purposes. These forests are inhabited by a variety of ethnic groups including the tribes like Bubadiya, Parghi, Taral, Bhemiyat, Dhrangi, Khair, Laur, Makwana, Dabhi, Solanki, Chauhan, Gamar, Parmar, Rohisa, Rathod, Mansi, Damor, Khermal, Kodarvi etc. These tribes cover 48 per cent of the total population. Out of 300 sq. km. geographical area of the range, about 542 sq. km is notified as Ambaji-Balaram wildlife sanctuary. The two main rivers Banas and Sabarmati and their tributaries are contributing to the enrichment of floral components. The average annual rainfall is about 725mm. Ambaji range forest is representing 434 angiosperm species (20% of the Gujarat flora) belonging to 85 families. The forest type is dry deciduous and scrub (Champion and Seth, 1968) harbors about 400 tracheophyte plant species, including pteridophytes, gymnosperms and angiosperms. These forest areas are inhabited by around 20 tribes. The present investigation was carried out in Ambaji range forest of Banaskantha district of North Gujarat. Tribal people of Ambaji forest range directly depend upon forest resources for their daily needs. The aim of Ethnobotany is to study how and why people use and conceptualize plants in their local environments. Plants have been used in the traditional healthcare from time immemorial, particularly among tribal communities. Protection of a large number of medicinal plants in sacred forests of different parts of India is some of the well documented by earlier studies. It is also observed that more than 35,000 plant species are being used around the world for medicinal purposes. The communities residing in these rich biodiversity areas have rich traditional wisdom of herbal medicines. Almost every village has a Bhuva (tantric/cosmic healers), a Bhagat (religios healers) or a Vaida (herbal healers) who are carriers of the traditional Knowledge. This is much evident from various studies and
documentation undertaken in the past in the areas of ethno-botany, ethno-medicine, tribal culture, livelihood, veterinary medicine etc.


The present study was carried out to study the ethnobotany of the Ambaji forest range in Danta taluka. A survey on resource management and economy of some tribal communities of Danta taluka was made by Desai (1992). Patel (2000) and Ant (2000) studied the ethnobotany of the taluka. But much emphasis was not given on information regarding the dose and duration of a treatment. In the present study efforts were made to document the information regarding methods of using medicinal plants by consulting people who practice the medicine as a profession or as a social service. The main occupation of the adivasis live in this taluka is agriculture and also they work as laborers in mines near Ambaji town. These people hardly inherited the traditional knowledge of use of plants. These people exploit forest for fodder and fuel. The forest resource is fast depleting. Fortunately there are few people still have the knowledge of medicinal plants and its importance. During the present works I had gone in the various villages and forests area including hill and hillocks for collection of angiosperm plants taxa. Good number of the trips where arrange in connection of the season. During monsoon and end the frequency was more because of good number of plant taxa were available in collection. The collected plants were brought to the laboratory, identified up to species level with the help of local flora, wherever it is possible and then dried with customary method which was mounted on herbarium sheet and label. The field study centered on villages in Ambaji forest. Informants were asked about the ritual importance of the plant, why it is respected, which parts are used, and for what purposes. The informants were mainly chosen according to their knowledge of common traditions and/or religious status.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In view of the importance of traditional medicine which provides health services to 75-80% of the world population, increased demand of herbal drugs by the pharmaceuticals and depleting natural plant resources, it is high time to document the medicinal utility of less known plants available in remote areas of country (Zaidi and Crow 2005). Total 8 plant species belonging 8 families observed. The present paper enumerates the use of several medicinal plants from in the treatment of fever disorders. The symptoms, and plant organs utilized and methods of preparation of remedies are provided. Tribes associated with specific remedial preparation have been mentioned.

LIST OF PLANTS USED FOR FEVER

Botanical name :- Madhuca indica J.F.Gmel.
Local name :- MHOVA, MAHUDO
Family :- Sapotaceae

Uses and preparation:- About 50g boiled flowers are taken to cure fever in women before delivery

Informatory :- Anabhai

Botanical name :- Cassia occidentalis L.
Local name :- KASUNDRO
Family :- Caesalpiniaceae

Uses and preparation:- About 50 gm. root is crushed with water and filtrate is taken twice a day to cure fever
Informatory :- Raysanbhai

Botanical name :- *Lannea coromandelica* (Houtt). Merrill.

Local name :- GOLADO

Family :- Anacardiaceae

Uses and preparation:- Leaves or stem bark is crushed in one liter of water and taken to cure fever

Informatory :- Jivabhai

Botanical name :- *Sapindus laurifolius* Vahl.

Local name :- ARITHU

Family :- Sapindaceae

Uses and preparation:- About 50ml of fresh leaf juice is taken regularly to cure fever after delivery

Informatory :- Somabhai

Botanical name :- *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.

Local name :- NEEM, LIMDO

Family :- Meliaceae
Uses and preparation:- Inner bark is mixed with blackpepper, salt and water. The mixture is taken thrice a day to cure fever.

Informatory :- Arjanbhai

Botanical name :- *Tecomella undulata* (Sm.) Seem

Local name :- RAGAT ROHIDO

Family :- Bignoniaceae

Uses and preparation:- A teaspoonful of leaf juice is taken thrice a day to cure fever

Informatory :- Somabhai

Botanical name :- *Anisomeles indica* (L.) O.Ktze.

Local name :- CHODHARO

Family :- Lamiaceae

Uses and preparation:- Leaf juice mixed with bathing water to cure fever and vomiting [Somabhai]. Leaf vapour is inhaled to cure fever [Nopabhai]. Fresh leaves are used as bed in case of fever in children

Informatory :- Somabhai

Botanical name :- *Leucas aspera* (Willd.) Spr.

Local name :- KUBI, KUBO

Family :- Lamiaceae
Uses and preparation:- A teaspoonful of boiled leaf juice is taken thrice a day to cure fever.

Informatory :- Somabhai

**CONCLUSION**

Ethnomedicine is the mother of all other systems of medicine. The study revealed that whatever knowledge on plants exists with the people of Ambaji forest, areas, they are on fast declining because lack of interest of local youth to learn the traditional knowledge from the old herbal healer. The highly interesting findings for Fever disorder require further research, while the efficacy of the various indigenous practices will need to be subjected to pharmacological validation. This paper also highlights some light on the aspect of utilization of local plants as medicine in fever diseases and ailments by the tribal they dependence on various medicinal plants and shows how their life is interwoven with them.

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