

A Qualitative Study on the Knowledge and Perceptions of Irular Healers Regarding Poisonous Bites and Their Treatments in Walajabad Taluk, Kanchipuram District

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Plants have been used as a source of medicine by Indigenous people of different ethnic groups inhabiting various terrains for various ailments afflicting humans. An Ethnomedicinal study was undertaken to collect the information from Irulars about the usage of Medicinal Plants for the treatment of Poisonous bites.

AIM: The aim of the study is to document the traditional medical practices for poisonous bites followed by Irular People in Kanchipuram District.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The Ethnomedicinal study was done among the Irular community of Kanchipuram District (Walajabad Panchayat). The data were collected using Questionnaire, Interviews and Discussion with tribal people. A total number of 20 respondents of Walajabad Panchayat were selected by purposive random sampling with 65% Male and 35% Female. Irulars have treated these poisonous bites using various Internal and External Medication.

DISCUSSION: The Poisonous bites that are discussed in this study are Snake bite, Dog bite, Scorpion Stings and Unknown bites. In addition to they were in practice treating Infertility, Skin disease and some Gynaecological disorders etc.,

RESULTS: The result of this ethnomedicinal study has revealed that plant species belonging to 68 Families were practiced by Irulars in treating Poisonous bites. The medicinal plants belong to Fabaceae and Asclepiadaceae families were predominantly used by them. They mainly use Roots and Whole Plants for treatment.

CONCLUSION: The Present study has concluded that they only use herbs for treating poisonous bites. This hereditary transfer of medicinal knowledge should be documented systematically and should be scientifically validated.

KEY WORDS: Irulars, Poisonous bites, Tribal People, Traditional Medical Practices, Vidakadi.

INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization has estimated that about 80% of the global population depend on traditional medicine to meet their Primary Health care needs. Plants have been used in traditional medicine for several thousand years. The knowledge of medicinal plants has been accumulated in the course of many centuries. In India, it is reported that about 2500 plant species serve as regular sources of medicine. The Ethnic Tribal people live in harmony with nature with wide knowledge of medicinal plants. Among 550 tribal communities in India, 75 were recognized as primitive and vulnerable tribal groups by the Government of India. Irulas constitute a small community of tribes who inhabit in various places of India. This ethnic Irula group nurtures profuse erudition about Medicinal plants. The term Irular is derived from the word 'Irul', meaning black or dark. From an exhaustive ethnobotanical survey, it is observed that Irulas avail about 70 wild valuable plant species belonging to 42 families. Irulas serve as Kings guard and has been moved onto specializing in catching venomous snakes and rodents. They are also well known for treating various diseases. Their traditional treasure of knowledge hoarded for centuries largely by trial and error methods have been passed to subsequent generation orally. This study aims to record the data on medicinal plants used by Irulas of Kanchipuram District (Walajabad Panchayat), in the ailment of poisonous bites. Traditional Indian Medicinal Plants are effectively used for poisonous bites but still lot of clinical and preclinical researches are essential. The way of management of poisonous bites through herbals are by treating with single herbal drugs or in combination applications. This is designed to control infection, stop pain, improve symptoms, correct imbalance, adjust immune system and boost energy for better health and quality of life. Poisonous bites that are discussed in the paper are Snake bite, Dog

bite, Scorpion sting and Urticaria. Irulas have treated these poisonous bites using various internal and external medications. With reflection to that area, an attempt is being made to collect available information about some medicinal plant advancement against poisonous bites and to present in the form of a comprehensive article.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

STUDY TYPE:

Descriptive study

STUDY AREA:

The exact study area is Kanchipuram District (Walajabad panchayat). It lies between 11 00' to 12 00' North latitudes and 77 28' to 78 50' East longitudes. Kanchipuram district is situated on the Northern East Coast of Tamil Nadu and is adjacent by Bay of Bengal and Chennai City and is bounded in the west by Vellore and Thiruvanamalai district in the north by Thiruvallur district and Chennai District in the South by Villupuram district in the East by Bay of Bengal. Kanchipuram district is situated on the Northern East Coast of Tamilnadu with a total Geographical area of 1704.79 sq kms. It holds about 12,103 tribes with 23, 586 hectares forest area.

STUDY PERIOD:

Four Months

STUDY DESIGN:

Cross sectional Study

METHOD OF APPROACH:

Data collected by depth interview in face to face manner.

DATA MANAGEMENT:

The collected data were documented by M.S word and M.S Excel.

DATA COLLECTION:

The Ethnomedical data were collected using questionnaire, interviews and discussion in their local tribal people. A total number of 20 respondent of Walajabad Panchayat were

selected by purposive random sampling with 65% Male and 35% Female. Selected elders were used as key informants that could provide information on how the knowledge and practice of medicinal plant collection had changed over time.

The traditional practitioners trivial took part in the health state of country. Therefore, they have their own individual speciality of traditional knowledge of medicine. Exclusively Vidakadi is treated by many traditional practitioners in Kanchipuram Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu from which I chosen them for qualitative descriptive study.

PLANT COLLECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

Plant samples were collected by walking in the forest. Some of the plants were identified in the field itself. Photographs were taken. During collection the taxa were classified according to their habit, herb, shrub, tree, liana and climber.

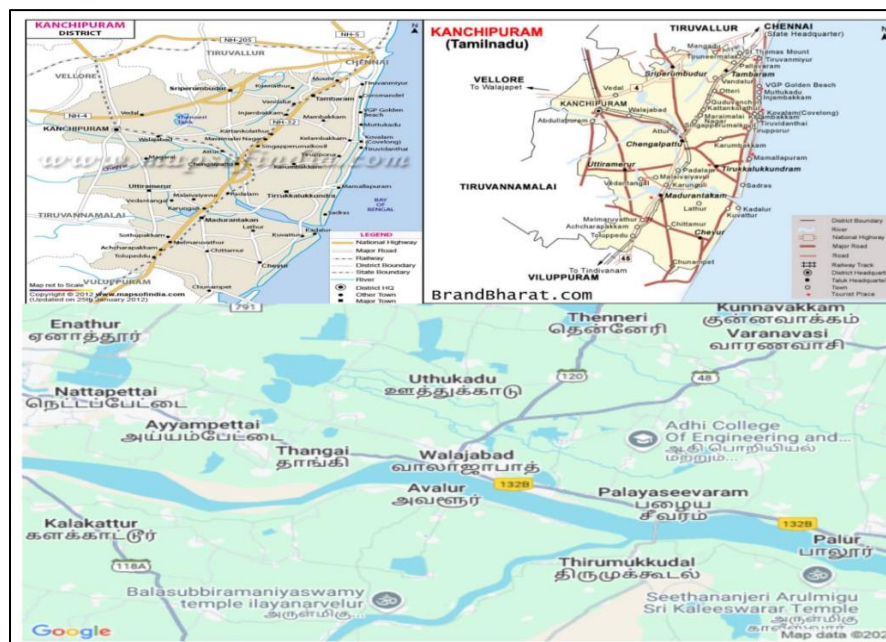
RESULT

The result of this study has revealed the plant species belonging to 68 families were used by Irulas for the treatment of Poisonous bites

(Vidakadi). All of the 68 Families belongs to angiosperms. The medicinal plants belong to Euphorbiaceae (40%) and Cucurbitaceae (23%) families were predominantly used by them. Among the Plant parts used, Roots (42%) and Leaves (30%) are mainly utilized. Seed (1%) and Unripen Fruit (1%) were recorded as the least used plant parts. The Methods of preparation fall into four categories. The Plant parts are applied as a Paste (Karkam) (53%), Powder (29%), Decoction (13%) and Juice (5%). Based on Taste, Herb with Bitter taste takes a major role in treatment of Vidakadi. Karkam is the main method of preparation either for oral or for external administration.

Family abundance:

The abundance of families includes Asclepiadaceae, Sapindaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Apocynaceae, Amaranthaceae, Fabaceae, Borangianaceae, Malvaceae, Polygalaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Rubiaceae, Plumbaginaceae, Acoraceae, Moraceae, Lamiaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Cornaceae, Verbenaceae, Burseraceae, Solanaceae, Mimosaceae, Arecaceae, Acanthaceae, Loganiaceae, Anacardiaceae, Pontederiaceae, Asteraceae.



Treatment of Poisonous Bites (Vidakadi):

Internal Medicine:

SI NO	BOTANICAL NAM	FAMILY	VERNACULAR NAME	PARTS USED	TASTE	MODE OF PREPARATION/ DOSAGE/ ADJUVANT
Treatment of Snake Bite						
1	<i>Corallocarpus epigaeus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Aagasakarudan Kilangu	Root	Kaippu	All the dried roots are powdered and this powder is given orally. Dosage: Palm Jaggery, Adjuvant: Water, Diet: Day 1: Salt free Porridge Day 2: Porridge made with addition of Roasted salt, Red Chilli, Split Gram Lentil, Tamarind.
	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Acanthaceae	Aadathodai	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Nayuruvi	Root	Kaippu Thubarppu Kaarppu	
	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Araceae	Kuchikilangu, Saeppekilangu	Tuberous Root	Karakarppu, Inippu	
	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Nannaari	Root	Inippu, Siru Kaippu	
2	<i>Pergularia daemia</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Veliparuthi	Leaf	Kaippu	Equal ratio of all drugs is dried and powdered. Dosage: Nellikkaai Alavu (15 grams) 3 to 5 days
	<i>Ferula asafoetida</i>	Apiaceae	Perungayam	Gum	Kaippu Karakarppu	
	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Fabaceae	Neeli	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i>	Aizoaceae	Saaranai	Root and Leaf	Kaippu (Kumatal)	
3	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Perukilangu	Root	Kaippu	All the drugs are dried and powdered Adjuvant: Water, Diet: 1: Salt free Diet Day 2: Porridge made with addition of Roasted salt and Tamarind. Avoid Tempering Spices (Thaalitham).
	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Fruit	Kaippu Kaarppu	
	<i>Leucas aspera</i>	Lamiaceae	Thumbai	Flower	Inippu, Kaarppu	
	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Verbenaceae	Notchi	Leaf	Kaippu Thubarppu Kaarppu	
	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Liliaceae	Vellulli	Bulb	Kaarppu	
4	<i>Pavetta Indica</i>	Rubiaceae	Pavettai	Whole Plant	Kaippu, Kaarppu	All the drugs are dried and Powdered Dosage: 5 - 10 grams
	<i>Strychnus potatorum</i>	Loganiaceae	Etti	Bark	Kaippu	
	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Poaceae	Arugan	Root	Inippu	
	<i>Oldenladia umbellata</i>	Rubiaceae	Impooral	Whole Plant	Inippu	

5	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Nannaari	Root	Inippu, Sirukaippu	All the drugs are dried and powdered. Dosage: Kaasedai (10 grams), 6 times for 3 days Adjuvant: Water Diet: Salt free diet
	<i>Brassica alba</i>	Brassicaceae	Venkadugu	Seed	Kaarppu	
	<i>Piper cubeba</i>	Piperaceae	Vaalmilagu	Unripened Fruit	Kaarppu Viruviruppu	
	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Zingiberaceae	Sukku	Rhizome	Kaarppu	
	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Fruit	Kaippu Kaarppu	
6	<i>Streblus asper</i>	Moraceae	Pirai	Stem Bark	Thubarppu	Equal Ratio of dried Pirai Stem bark and Naatpatta varagarasi are powdered. This powder is steamed with Goat's Milk and given orally. Dosage: 3 days, once in a day, Early Morning Adjuvant: Goat Milk, Diet: Diet with exclusion of Salt and Tamarind
7	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Aatruthumatti	Root	Kaippu	All the drugs are dried and powdered and the powder is stored in the hard shell of bottle gourd. Dosage: 15 Gram Adjuvant: Water. Diet: Exclusion of Salt and Tamarind
8	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Fabaceae	Avuri	Root	Kaippu	All the drugs are dried and powdered. Dosage: 5 Grams, Adjuvant: Boiled Rice Diet: Exclusion of Salt and Tamarind
	<i>Solanum torvum</i>	Solanaceae	Sundai	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i>	Poaceae	Vettiver	Root	Inippu	
	<i>Triagia involucrata</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Senthatti	Leaf	Kaippu	
	<i>Piper betle</i>	Piperaceae	Vettilai	Leaf	Viruviruppu Kaarppu	
	<i>Luffa acutangula</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Peipeerkku	Root	Inippu Thubarppu	
	<i>Manilkara hexandra</i>	Sapotaceae	Paalai	Bark	Inippu	
	<i>Datura metal</i>	Solanaceae	Oomathai	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	zygophyllaceae	Nerunjil	Whole Plant	Thubarppu Inippu	
	<i>Trianthema decandra</i>	Aizoaceae	Vensaanai	Root	Kaippu (Umattal)	
	<i>Tacca pinnatifida</i>	Dioscoreaceae	Kaatukarunai	Tuber	Kaarppu Karakarppu	
	<i>Momordica dioiceae</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Pazhupaagal	Root	Kaippu	
<i>Tinospora cardifolia</i>	Menispermaceae	Seenthil	Root	Kaippu		

	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Kovai	Root	Kaippu	Equal ratio of all the three drugs grounded to paste. This paste is given internally and applied topically as well. Dosage: Nellikkaai Alavu (15 grams)
9	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Acoraceae	Vasambu	Rhizome	Kaarppu	
	<i>Ferula asafoetida</i>	Apiaceae	Perungayam	Gum	Kaippu Karakarppu	
	<i>Acalypha fruticosa</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Sirusenni	Leaf	Kaippu	
10	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Keezhanelli	Whole Plant	Thuvarppu Kaippu Pulippu Inippu	Both Keezhanelli and Pepper are ground into paste (karkam). Dosage: Kalarchikaa Alavu (2.7 grams), Diet: Exclusion of Salt and Tamarind
		<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Fruit	
11	<i>Polygala glabra</i>	Polygalaceae	Siriyangai	Leaf	Kaippu	Fresh leaves of Siriyangai are ground with pepper and made into paste (Karkam). Diet: Avoid meat and meat products.
		<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Fruit	
12	<i>Prosopis spicigera</i>	Fabaceae	vanni	Leaf	Kaippu	Fresh leaves of Vanni are pestled with cow's butter and made into paste (Karkam). Dosage: Kottaipakalavu (6 grams)
13	<i>Plumbago indica</i>	Plumbaginaceae	Kodiveli	Root	Kaarppu	Root is made into paste (Karkam) Dosage: Kottaipakalavu (6 grams) Adjuvant: Cow's Milk
14	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Peisurai	Root	Siru Inippu	Root is made into paste. Dosage: Kottaipakalavu (6 grams)
15	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>	Fabaceae	Kozhungi	Leaf	Kaippu	Leaf is ground and given orally. Dosage: Half Elumichangaayalavu Adjuvant: Water
16	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Verbenaceae	Karunochi	Leaf	Kaippu, Thuvarppu, Kaarppu	Both drugs are ground together and given orally. Dosage: Nellikkaai Alavu 3 to 5 days
		<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Malvaceae	Poovarasu	Bark	
17	<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	Fabaceae	Vaagai	Flower	Kaarppu, Kaippu	Fresh flowers of Vaagai are kneaded with Cow's milk and filtered.
18	<i>Ocimum album</i>	Lamiaceae	kanjaankorai	Leaf	Kaarppu	Juice extracted from Fresh leaves of Kanjaankorai. Dosage: 100 ml
19	<i>Polygala elongata</i>	Polygalaceae	Periyangai	Root	Kaippu	Equal ratio of all the drugs is made into decoction. Dosage: 60ml, 3 to 7 Days, BD
			Thakkai Poondur	Root		
		<i>Polygala glabra</i>	Polygalaceae	Siriyangai	Leaf	

	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Malvaceae	Poovarasu	Bark	Kaippu Thubarppu	All the drugs are crushed and made into decoction form. Dosage: 100 ml
	<i>Strychnus potatorum</i>	Loganiaceae	Etti	Bark	Kaippu	
20	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i>	Cornaceae	Azhinjil	Leaf	Kaippu	
	<i>Sida montana</i>	Malvaceae	Kodi Thuthi	Root	Inippu	
	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Acanthaceae	Aadathodai	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Kovai	Leaf	Kaippu	
Treatment of Scorpion Sting						
21	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Asclepidaceae	Nannari	Root	Inippu, Siru Kaippu	Roots are dried and powdered. Dosage: Nellialavu, Adjuvant: Cow's Milk
22	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>	Apocynaceae	Sirukurinjan	Root	Kaippu	All the drugs are dried and powdered. Adjuvant: Water
	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Nayuruvi	Root	Kaippu Thubarppu Kaarppu	
	<i>Glinus lotoides</i>	Molluginaceae	Siruserupadai	Whole Plant	Kaarppu	
23	<i>Achyranthus aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Naaiyuruvi	Root	Kaippu, Thubarppu Kaarppu	Dried roots are powdered. Dosage: Kottaipakalavu (6 gram), 3 days, twice in a day Adjuvant: Hot Water
24	<i>Pentatropis capensis</i>	Asclepidaceae	Uppilankodi	Leaf	Sirukaarppu	Leaf is ground and made into paste (Karkam). Dosage: Kalarchialavu (2.7 grams) Adjuvant: Water
25	<i>Sarcostemma brevistigma</i>	Asclepidaceae	Kodikalli	Whole Plant	Kaippu, Kaarppu	Kodikalli and beetle leaf are taken together orally.
	<i>Piper betle</i>	Piperaceae	Vetrilai,	Leaf	Viruviruppu Kaarppu	
26	<i>Sapindus laurifolius</i>	Sapindaceae	Poovanthimaram	Whole Plant (Leaf, Flower, Stem bark, Root)	Kaippu	All the drugs are Pestled. Dosage: Kottaipakalavu (6 gram), 3 days, twice in a day. Adjuvant: Hot Water
27	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	Amaranthaceae	Sennaayuruvi	Root	Kaippu Thubarppu Kaarppu	Root is pestled and given orally. Dosage: Kottaipakalavu Adjuvant: Hot water
28	<i>Corallocarpus epigaeus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Karudan Kilangu	Root	Kaippu	All the Drugs are dried and made into decoction.
	<i>Millingtonia hortensis</i>	Bignoniaceae	Maramalli	Bark	Kaippu	

	<i>Tragia involucratea</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Kaanjorie	Leaf	Kaippu	
Treatment of Emperor Scorpion Sting						
29	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Fabaceae	Avuri	Root	Kaippu	Equal Ratio of both drugs are dried and powdered.
	<i>Tragia involucrata</i>	Euphorbiaceae	kaanjori	Root	Kaippu	
30	<i>Coldenia procumbens</i>	Boraginaceae	Perum Seruppadai	Leaf	Kaarppu	All the drugs are ground as paste.
	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Fruit	Kaippu Kaarppu	
	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Liliaceae	Vellulli	Bulb	Kaarppu	
31	<i>Sida acuta</i>	Malvaceae	Ponmusuttai	Root	Kaippu	All the Roots are dried and Powdered
	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i>	Cactaceae	Naagathali	Root	Inippu	
	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Acanthaceae	Nilavembu	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Pergularia daemia</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Utthamani	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Aadutheendapala i	Root	Kaippu	
Treatment of Dog Bite						
32	<i>Commiphora caudata</i>	Burseraceae	Kiluvai	Kaippu	Leaf	Leaf is ground into paste (Karkam) Dosage: Kottipakalavu 3 days Adjuvant: Water
33	<i>Datura metal</i>	Solanaceae	Oomathai	Kaippu	Leaf	All the drugs are dried and powdered. Dosage: 2 - 4 gram Twice Daily Adjuvant: Hot Water
	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Nayuruvai	Kaippu Thuvarppu Kaarppu	Leaf	
	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Vattasurli	Kaippu	Leaf	
	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Fabaceae	Pungan	Kaippu Thuvarppu	Bark	
34	<i>Erythrina variegata</i>	Fabaceae	Mulmurungai	Kaippu Kaarppu	Seed	All the drugs are dried and made into decoction. Dosage: 100 ml twice a day for 6 days
	<i>Ziziphus nummularia</i>	Rhamnaceae	Nari Ilanthai	Thuvarppu Inippu	Root bark	
	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Fabaceae	Avuri	Kaippu	Root	
	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Poaceae	Arugan	Inippu	Root	
	<i>Piper betle</i>	Piperaceae	Vettilai,	Viruviruppu Kaarppu	Leaf	
	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Kaippu Kaarppu	Ripen Fruit	
35	<i>Corallocarpus epigaeus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Kollan Kovai	Kaippu	Tuberous Root	The Roots are dried and made into paste Dosage: Kottaipakalavu (3 days)

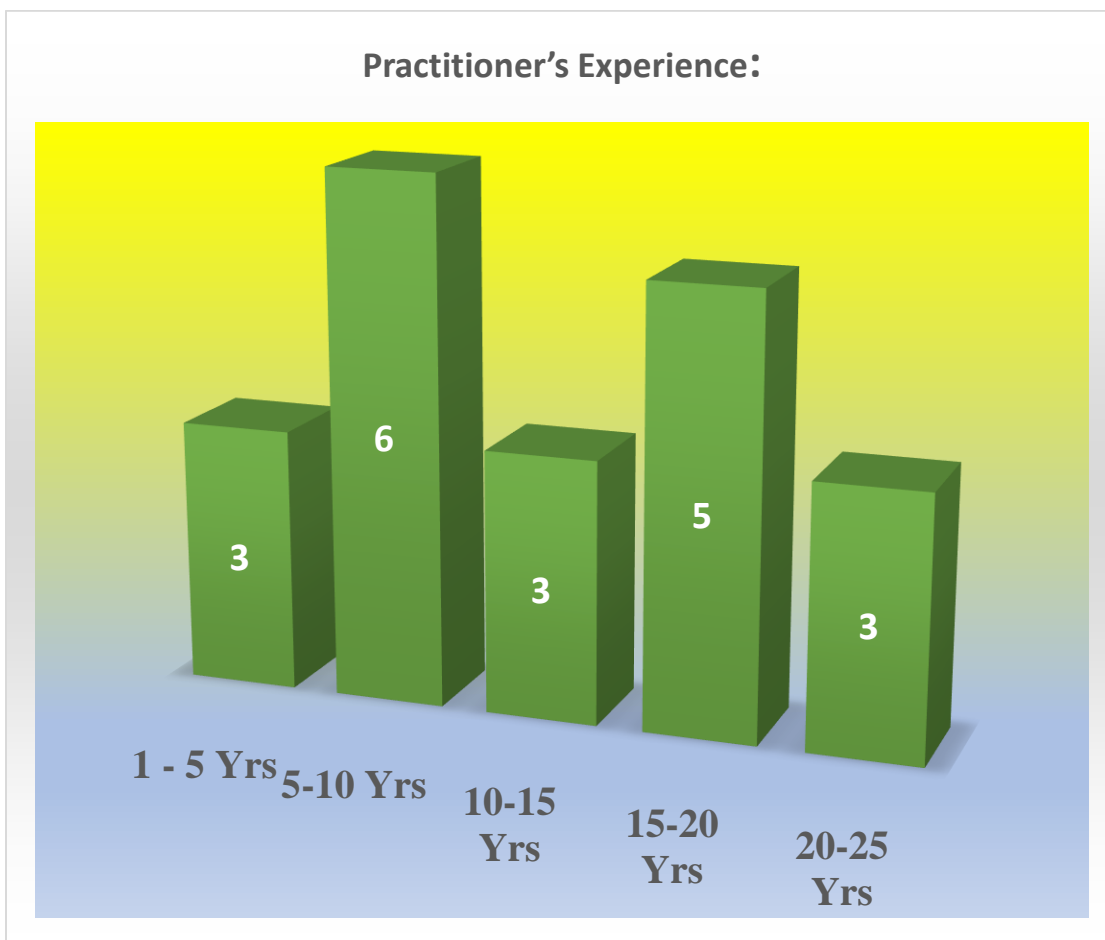
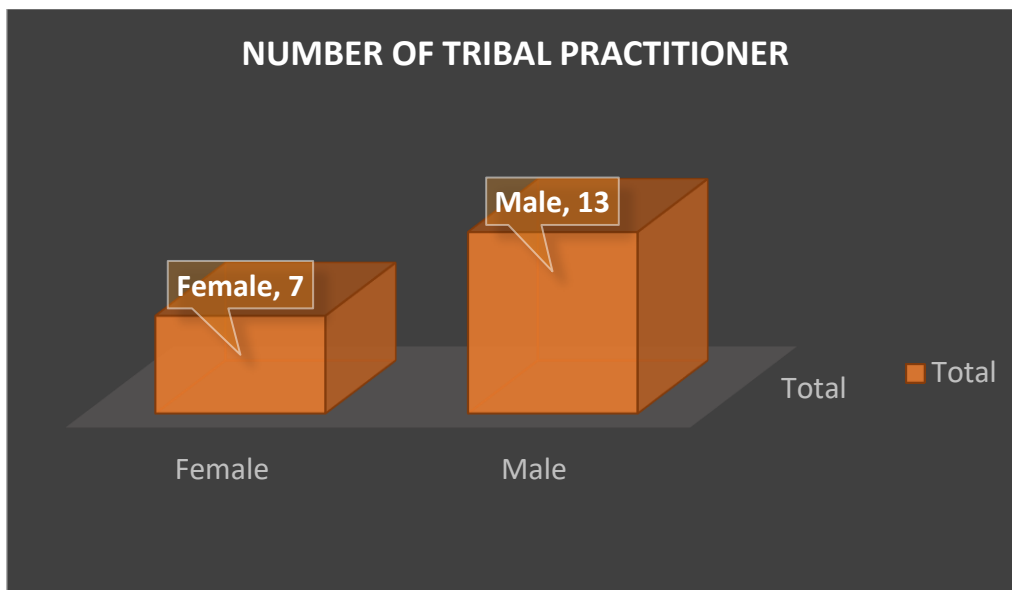
						Adjuvant: Water
Treatment of Spider Bite						
36	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Aadutheendapala i	Root	Kaippu (Kumattal)	Root is pestled with Cow's milk Dosage: Nellialavu Adjuvant: Cow's Milk
37	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Fabaceae	Avuri	Root	Kaippu	Equal ratio of both drugs is pestled with Cow's milk. Dosage: 30 ml for 3 days (Once daily) Adjuvant: Cow's Milk
	<i>Streblus asper</i>	Moraceae	Pirai	Root	Inippu	
38	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Fabaceae	Avuri	Root	Kaippu	All the drugs are pestled into paste. Dosage: Kottaipakalavu (7 days) Adjuvant: Cow's Butter milk
	<i>Acalypha indica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Kuppaimeni	Root	Kaippu Kaarppu	
	<i>Pergularia daemia</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Utthamani	Root	Kaippu	
39	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Sirukurinjaan	Root	Kaippu	Both drugs are pestled and given orally. Dosage: 3 days (BD)
	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Root	Kaippu Kaarppu	
40	<i>Acalypha fruticosa</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Sirusenni	Root	Kaippu	Leaf juice is given orally Dosage: Thekarandi 7 days (BD)
Treatment of Unknown bite						
41	<i>Adathoda vasica</i>	Acanthaceae	Aadathodai	Leaf	Kaippu	All drugs are dried and powdered. Dosage: 10 Gram (7 Days) Adjuvant: Sesamum Oil
	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	Caesalpinaceae	Kazharchi	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Keezhanelli	Leaf	Thuvarppu, Kaippu, Pulippu, Inippu	
42	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Keezhanelli	Whole Plant	Thuvarppu, Kaippu, Pulippu, Inippu	Whole plant is ground and made into Powder. Dosage: 5 - 10 grams, BD
43	<i>Neptunia oleraceae</i>	Mimosaceae	Aatrunetti	Root	Inippu, Thuvarppu	Root is dried and made into decoction. Dosage: 100 ml, 1Week (BD)
44	<i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i>	Lamiaceae	Karpooravalli	Leaf	Karppu	Leaf is ground and made into paste. Dosage: 50 ml thrice Vinegar
45	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Nannaari	Root	Inippu, Siru Kaippu	Both drugs are pestled and given orally
	<i>Acalypha indica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Kuppaimeni	Leaf	Kaippu, Kaarpu	
46	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Aadutheendapala i	Leaf	Kaippu (Kumattal)	Leaf is ground and made into paste. Dosage: Nellialavu 3 Days (Once Daily) Adjuvant: Sugar

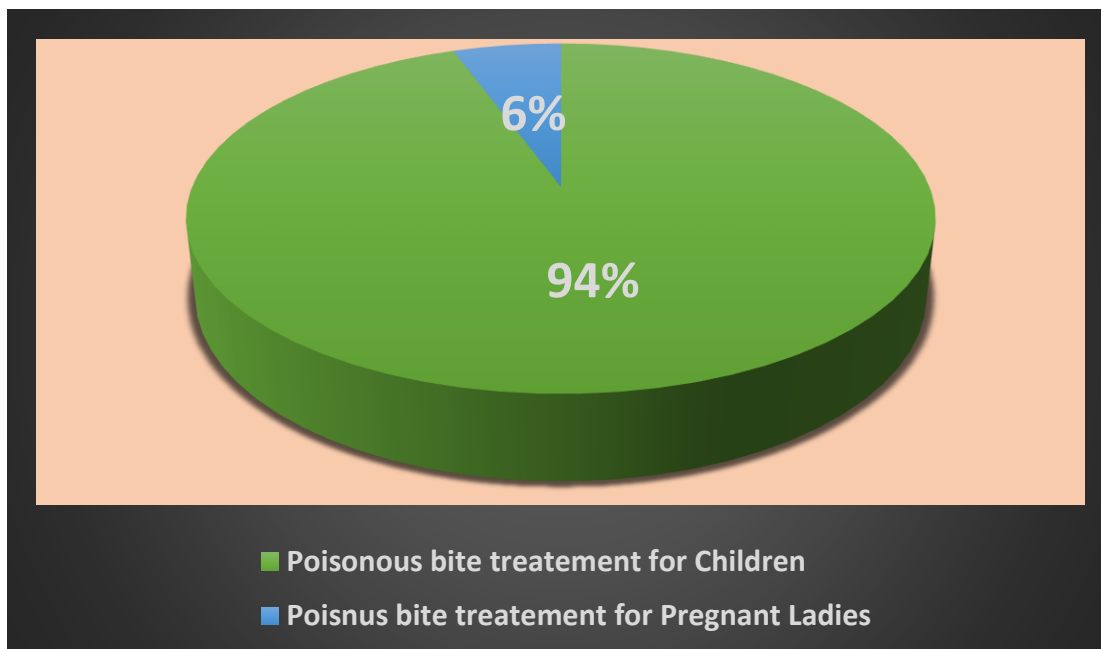
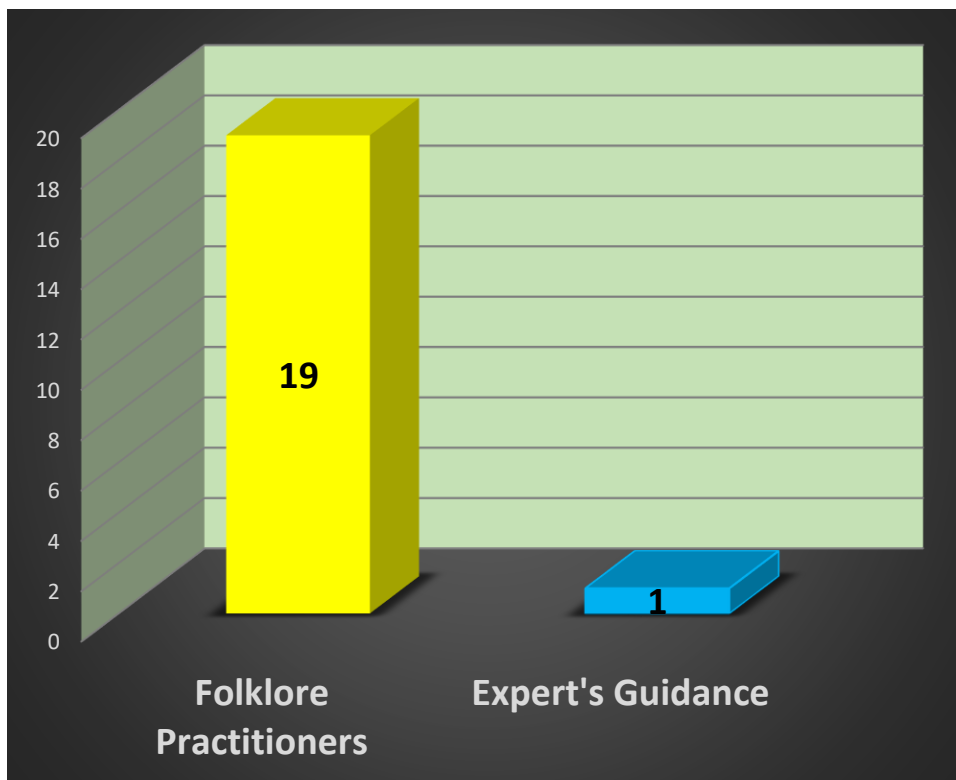
47	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>	Areaceae	Panai	Root	Thuvorppu, Inippu	Palm and Palm Jaggery are pestled together. Dosage: 5 - 10 grams, BD
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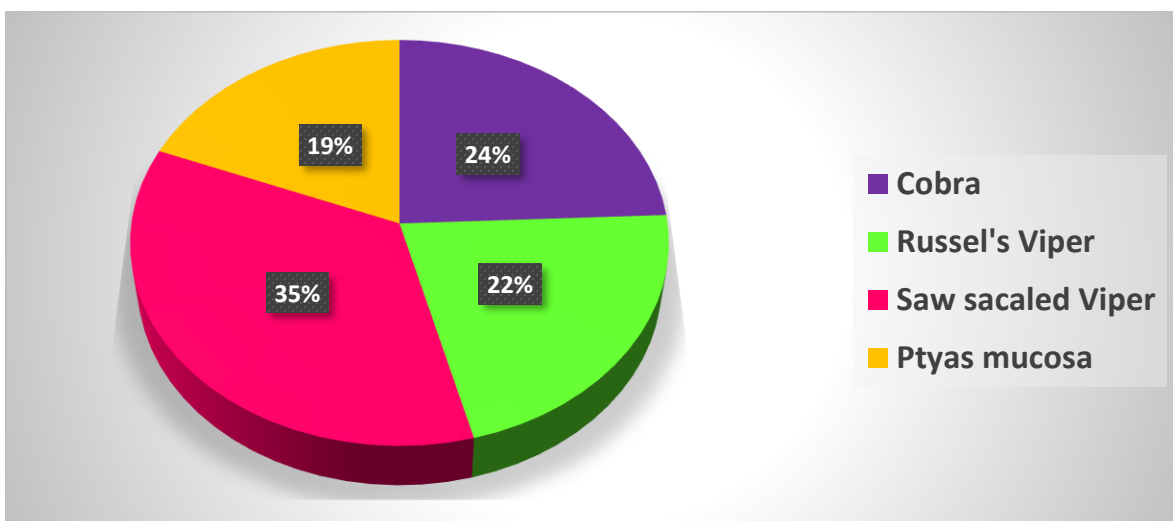
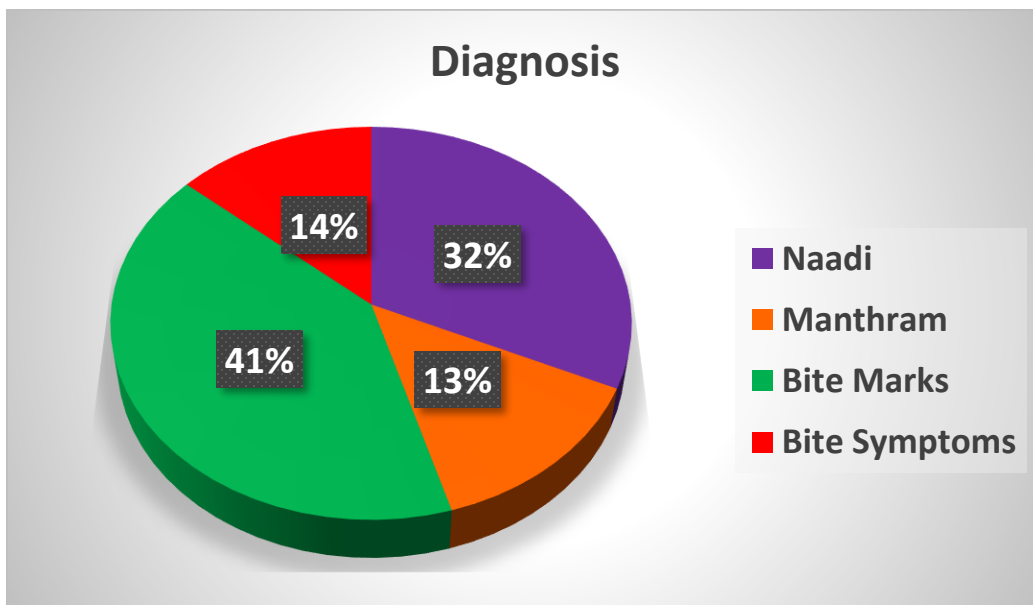
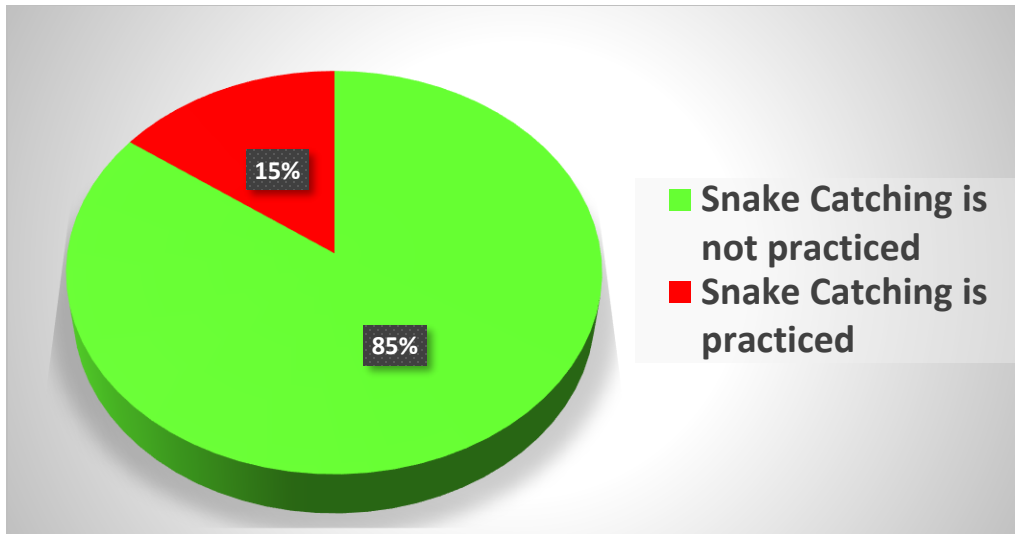
External Medicines:

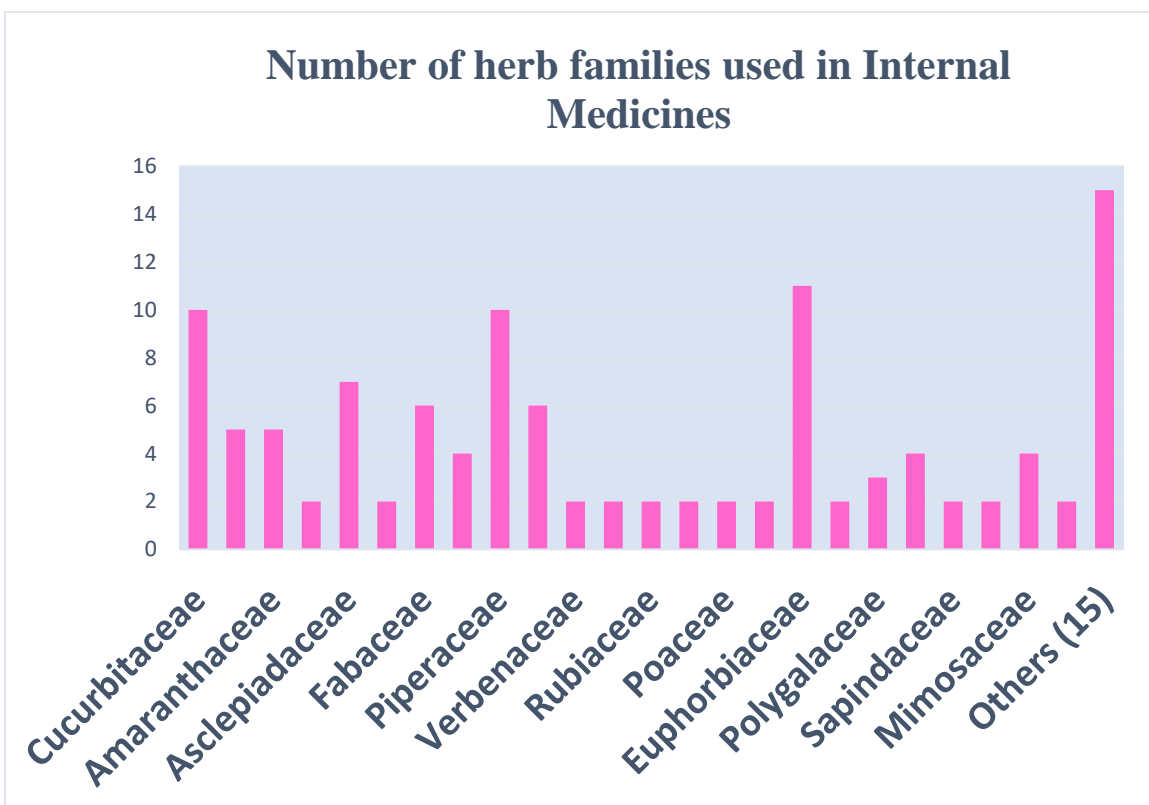
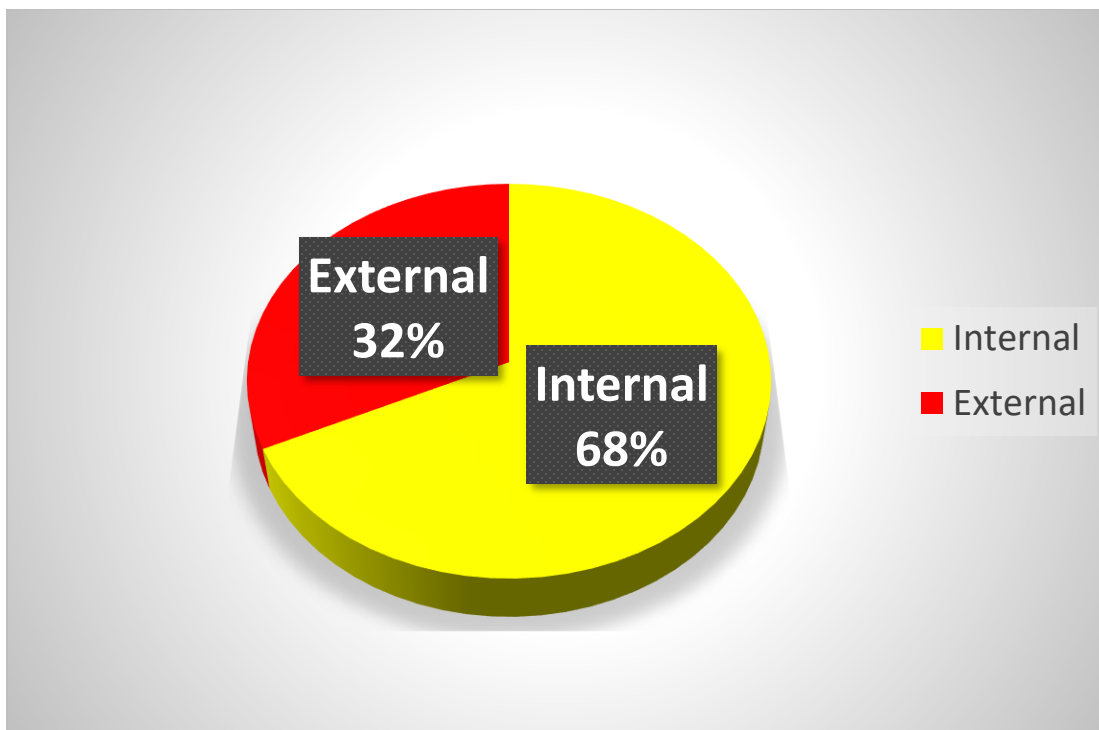
SI. NO	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY	TAMIL NAME	PARTS USED	TASTE	MODE OF PREPARATION
External Application of Snake Bite						
1.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Ammaanpacharisi	Leaf	Thuvorppu Inippu	Leaf is made into poultice.
2.	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i>	Aristolchiaceae	Aadutheendapalai	Root	Kaippu	All drugs are pestled together and this paste is applied topically.
	<i>Catunaregum spinosa</i>	Rubiaceae	Marukkarai	Root	Thuvorppu Siru – Kaippu	
	<i>Trichodesma indicum</i>	Boraginaceae	kavilthumbai	Root	Kaarppu	
	<i>Enicostemma axillare</i>	Gentianaceae	Vellarugu	Root	Kaippu	
3.	<i>Pavetta indica</i>	Rubiaceae	Paavettai	Leaf	Kaippu, Kaarppu	Leaf decoction is topically washed over the site of bite.
4.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Acanthaceae	Nilavembu	Whole plant	Kaippu	All drugs are dried and powdered. This powder is mixed with coconut oil for topical application.
	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Acanthaceae	Adathodai	Leaf	Kaippu	
	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Perunkilangu	Kaippu	Root	
	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i>	Solanaceae	Thoothuvalai	Sirukaippu Kaarpu	Fruit	
5.	<i>Corollocarpus epigaeus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Aagasakarudan	Tuberous Root	Kaippu	All these drugs are dried and powdered. The powder is chewed and blown into ears.
	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Acanthaceae	Aadathodai	Root	Kaippu	
	<i>Polygala glabra</i>	Polygalaceae	Siriyangai	Leaf	Kaippu	
	<i>Leucas aspera</i>	Lamiaceae	Thumbai	Flower	Inippu, Kaarppu	
	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Piperaceae	Milagu	Ripen Fruit	Kaippu Kaarppu	
	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Liliaceae	Vellulli	Bulb	Kaarppu	
6.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Fabaceae	Tamarind	Fruit	Pulippu	Poultice of Tamarind fruit and lime stone is applied topically over the bite site.
7.	<i>Rauvolfia tetraphylla</i>	Apocynaceae	Paambukala	Leaf	Kaippu	Leaf is pestled and applied topically.
External Application of Scorpion Sting						
8.	<i>Strychnus nux vomica</i>	Loganiaceae	Etti	Seed	Kaippu	Seed is mixed with Breast milk and applied topically

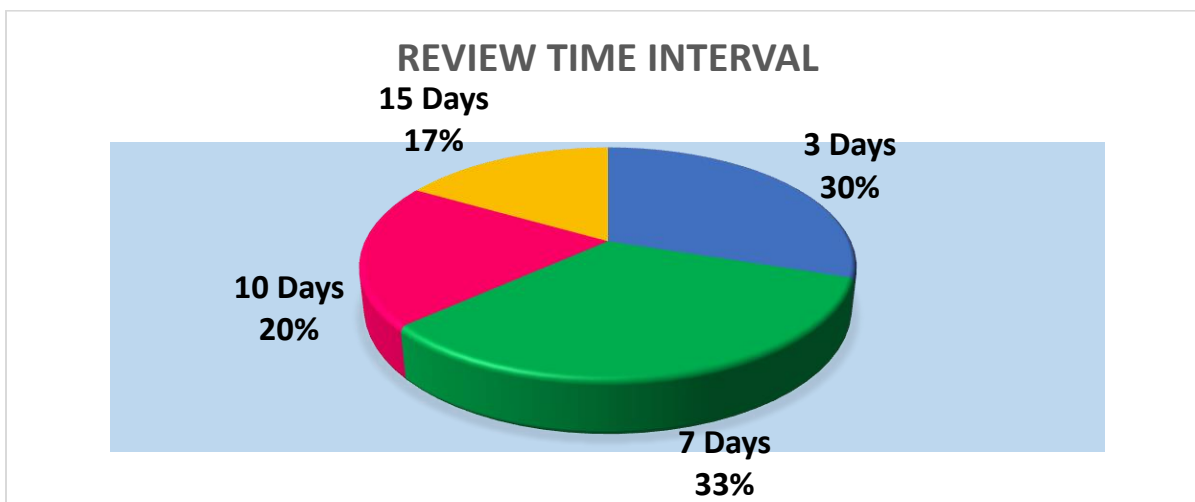
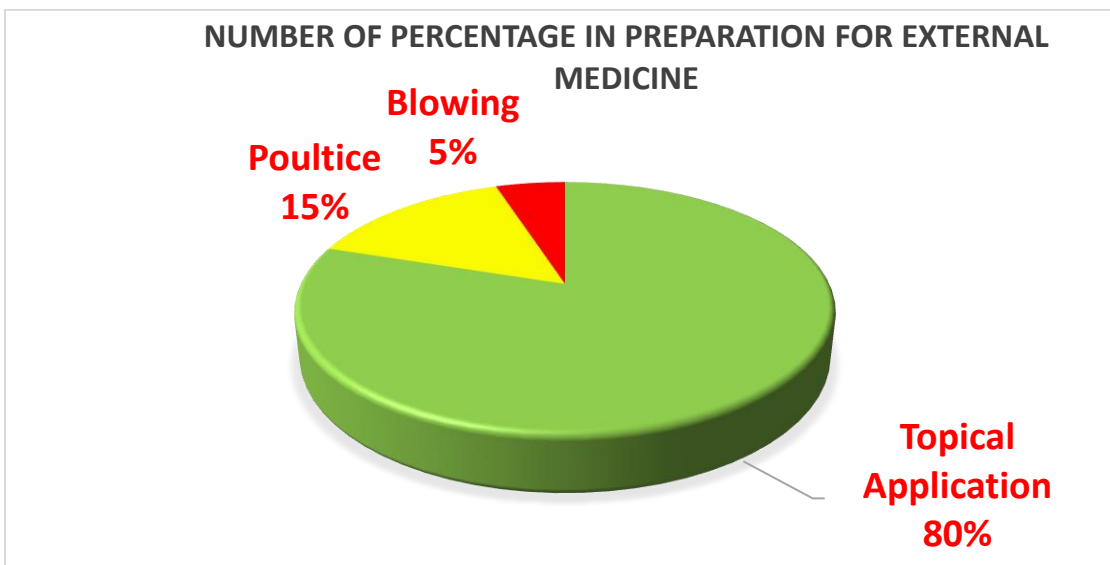
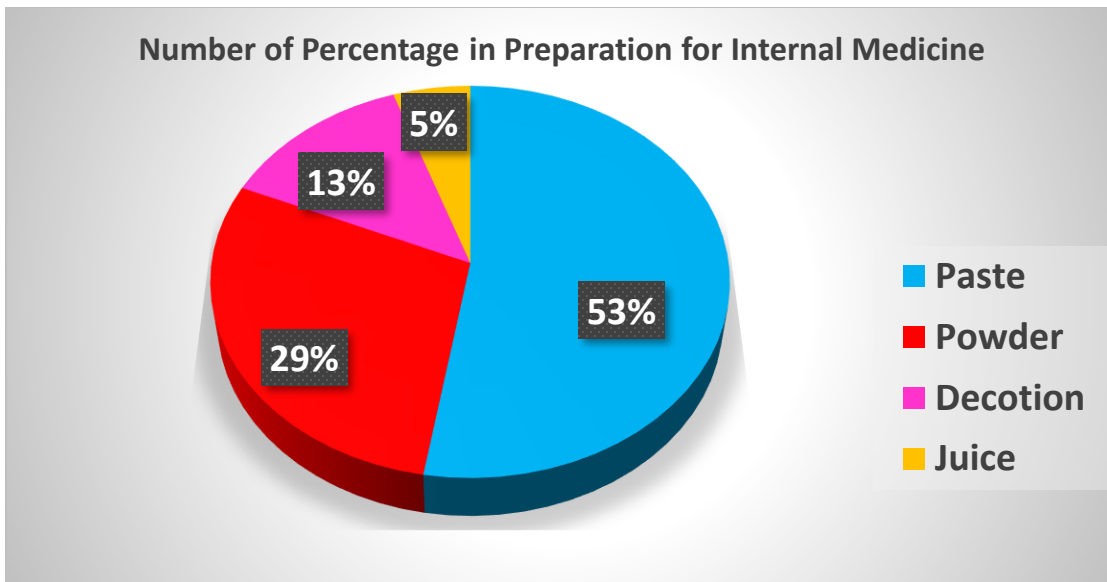
9.	<i>Strychnos potatrum</i>	Loganiaceae	Thetraan	Seed	Kaippu	Seed is mixed with Breast milk and applied topically.
10.	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Perunkilangu	Root	Kaippu	Root is pestled and applied topically
11.	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Acanthaceae	Aadaathodai	Root	Kaippu	Root is charred and applied topically.
12.	<i>Achyranthus aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Naayuruvi	Leaf	Kaippu Thuvvarppu Kaarppu	Naayuruvi Leaf juice is topically applied as a thick layer.
13.	<i>Artemisia pallens</i>	Asteraceae	Marikolunthu	Leaf	Kaippu, Kaarppu	Crushed Leaf is applied externally over the site of bite.
14.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Fabaceae	Tamarind seed	Fruit	Pulippu	Tortoise Bile Juice. Both drugs are pestled together for topical application. (Emperor Scorpion Stings).
External Application of Dog Bite						
15.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Erukku	Root	Kaippu, Kaaram, Mathuram	Root is pestled as poultice for topical application.
16.	<i>Bombax malabaricum</i>	Malvaceae	Ilvavu	Gum	Inippu, Thuvvarppu	Equal ratio of Gum and Lime stone is pestled and applied as poultice externally.
17.	<i>Anisomeles malabarica</i>	Lamiaceae	Pei Thumbai	Leaf	Kaippu	Both drugs are pestled together for topical application.
	<i>Allium cepa</i>	Lilliaceae	Onion	Bulb	Kaippu	
External Application of Spider Bite						
18.	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Pontederiaceae	Aagayathaamarai	Leaf	Kaippu	Both drugs are pestled together for topical application.
	<i>Curcuma indica</i>	Zingiberaceae	Kasturi Manjal	Tuberous Root	Kaippu	
External Application of Unknown Bite						
19.	<i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i>	Amaranthaceae	Sennayuruvi	Whole plant	Kaippu, Thuvvarppu Kaarppu	Whole plant and Kanthagam are pestled together for topical application.
20.	<i>Phyllanthus niruri</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Keezhanelli	Leaf	Thuvvarppu, Kaippu, Pulippu, Inippu	Leaf paste is applied topically.
21.	<i>Leucas aspera</i>	Lamiaceae	Thumbai	Leaf	Inippu, Kaarppu	Leaf is pestled and applied topically

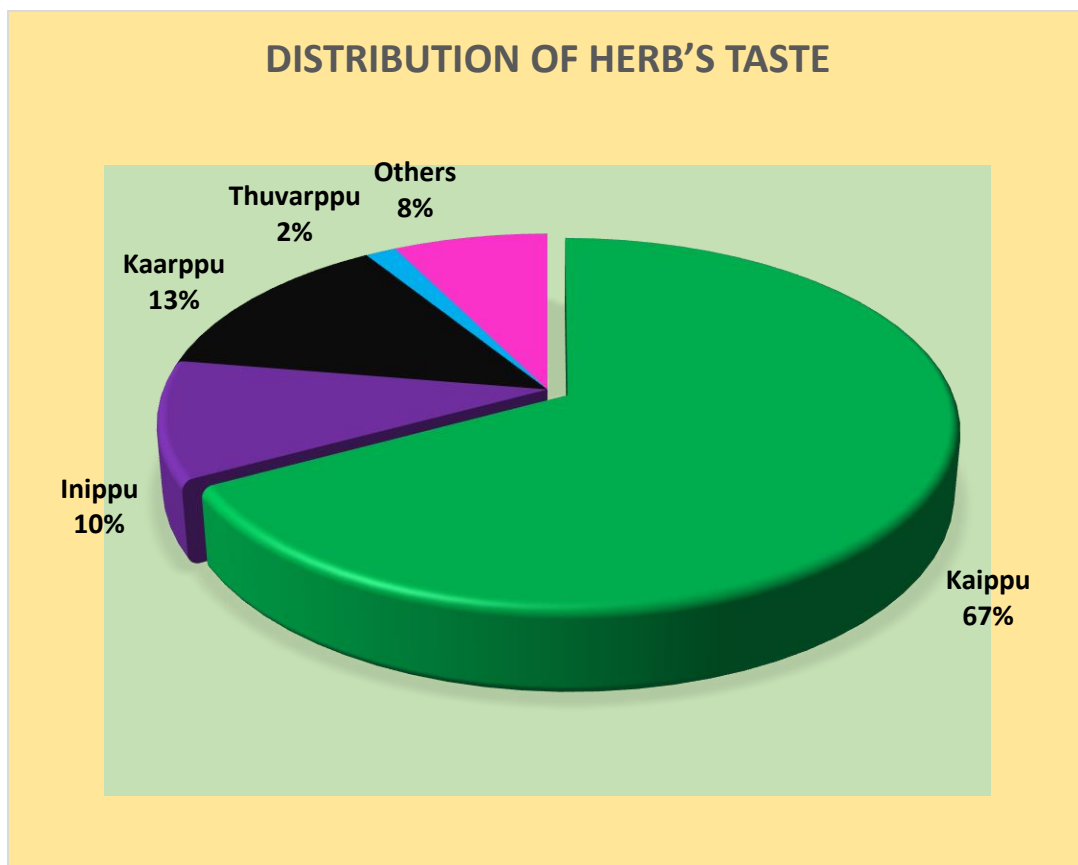
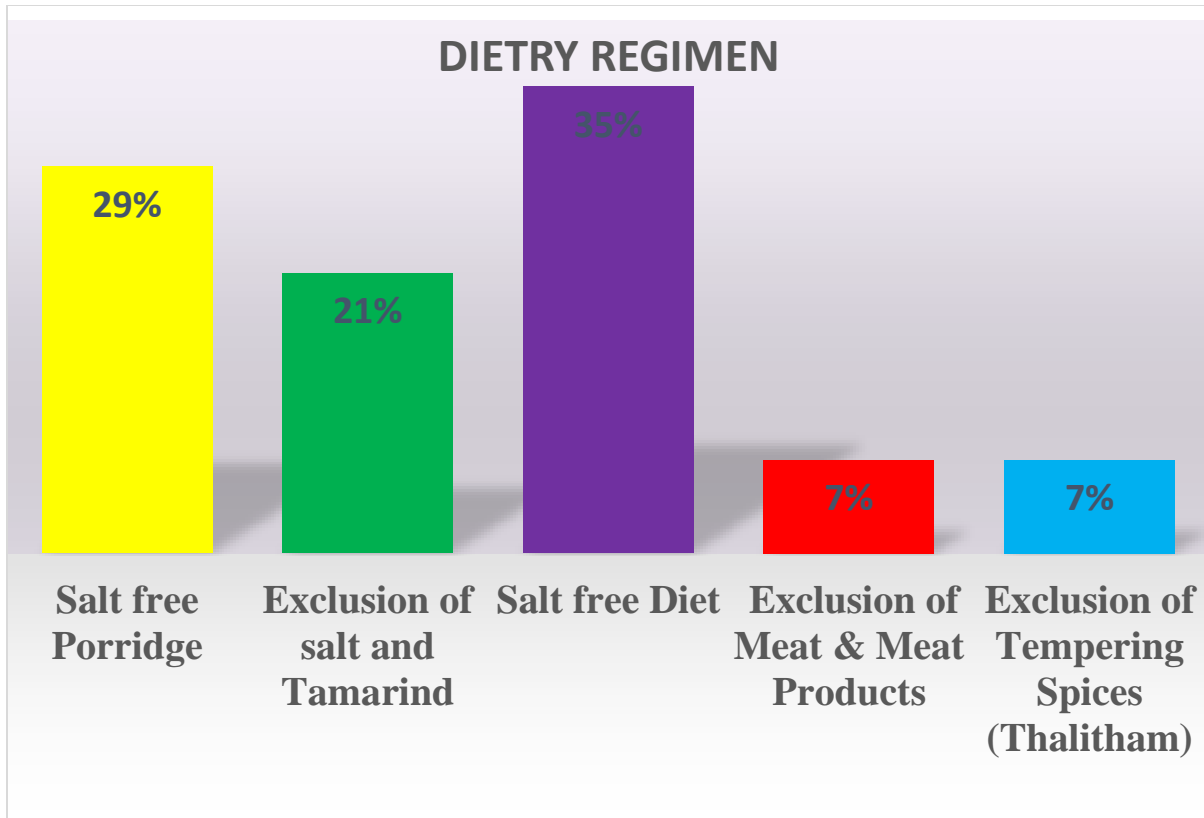












DISCUSSION

Herbal remedies are considered as the oldest form of health care known to mankind on this earth. Prior to the development of modern medicine, the traditional systems of medicine that have evolved over the centuries within various communities, are still maintained as a great traditional knowledge base in herbal medicines. Traditionally, this treasure of knowledge has been passed on orally from generation to generation without any written document and is still retained by various indigenous groups around the world. Tribes use either single herb or compound herbal mixture for treatment purpose. They mix several plants as ingredients to cure diseases immediately. Generally, fresh herb is used for the medicine preparation.

Some tribal people of Kanchipuram district, who enter the forest for catching snakes carry the root powder of Echooramooli (*Aristolochia indica*) as antidotes along with them for precautionary measure. Irulas boasts high standard Medicinal plants garden in each of their own home. They usually provide medicine to patients only before the sunset time. They collect some of the unavailable raw drugs from Andhra Pradesh region. Irulas have enriched knowledge in assessing Naadi, through which they can tell the type of poisonous bite and to the extent of spread. They also employ Manthiram to treat poisonous bites. In case of swelling at bite site, black thread webbing or twisting is used to expel the poisonous blood. In addition, they use a glass piece for blood-letting from the bite site to slow the spread of poison (Vidam). Some people use cock's blood for external application over scalp to minimize the spread of poison in body. Besides sincere field work, we could gather only half-truth revealed by the tribes. So further in- depth researches are essential to divulge the ethnic medicinal wisdom. We could gather a lot of information if we attain their trust as early as possible.

The Medicinal Plants used to treat Poisonous Bites in the study area show recurrent use by multiple healers of irulas and also corresponds to ethnomedicinal studies is carried out by different researches across the country. However, even the most commonly used herbs have not been fully investigated yet. The Part of the herb used for medicinal purposes are leaves, root, stem, fruits, whole plant, barks and flowers. However, roots were found most frequently used part.

The Enormous data of this study proclaims on the traditional practice for treating snake bites, disclosing major distribution among other poisonous bite's ailments. Other Poisonous bites treated by Irulars include Scorpion bite, Spider bite, Dog bite and Unknown bite. Collectively, this ethnomedicinal study illuminates therapeutic practices for various poisonous bites by Irular Community.

CONCLUSION

The present study has concluded that they majorly use herbs for treating poisonous bites. Various medicinal plants are used by Irula tribes for treating Poisonous bites in Kanchipuram District. This hereditary transfer of Medicinal Knowledge should be documented systematically and should be scientifically validated. This is a humble attempt to make a comprehensive study on Traditional practices of Irulas in the treatment of Poisonous bites. In spite of having enormous data on the subject, certain aspect of it still needs a further probe. Substantial amount of clinical researcher on this topic are essential. This study possibly will open an opportunity for further research which will guide to discovery of new bioactive compounds.

Declaration by Authors

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