

**GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE – KOLLAPUR  
NAGARKURNOOL DISTRICT**

**Affiliated to Palamuru University  
(Re-Accredited by NAAC with 'C' Grade)**

**DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY**

**JIGNASA- STUDENT STUDY PROJECT**

**NAME OF THE TITLE**

**ETHNOMEDICINE**

Academic Year – 2023-24

**STUDENT STUDY PROJECT**

# JIGNASA STUDENT STUDY PROJECT

## ETHNOMEDICINE

BY

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# Ethnomedicine

# Introduction

- ▶ **Definition** : Ethnomedicine, the study of traditional healing practices within cultural contexts, is a repository of centuries-old wisdom that reflects the diversity of human cultures.
- ▶ **Significance** : Ethnomedicine preserves cultural heritage, providing insights into holistic health practices and community well-being.

# Objectives

- ▶ **Identification of Medicinal Plants and Remedies:**
  - ▶ To identify and document the medicinal properties of plants and natural remedies used in ethnomedicine.
  - ▶ To contribute to the development of sustainable and culturally sensitive herbal medicine practices.





- ▶ **Promotion of Community Well-being:**
  - ▶ To enhance community well-being by recognizing and respecting local healing traditions.
  - ▶ To empower communities to actively participate in their own healthcare through traditional practices.
- ▶ **Integration with Modern Healthcare:**
  - ▶ To explore opportunities for integrating ethnomedicine with modern healthcare systems.
  - ▶ To bridge the gap between traditional healing practices and conventional medical approaches for comprehensive patient care.



# Challenges and Impacts

## Cultural Erosion:

- **Challenge:** Rapid modernization and globalization may lead to the erosion of ethnomedicine.
- **Impact:** Loss of traditional knowledge and practices, diminishing the cultural diversity embedded in ethnomedicine.

## Loss of Biodiversity:

- **Challenge:** Exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, and climate change threaten the biodiversity of medicinal plants used in ethnomedicine.
- **Impact:** Reduction in the availability of key ingredients for traditional remedies, affecting the effectiveness of ethnomedicine.

## Limited Scientific Validation:

- **Challenge:** Traditional healing methods often lack scientific validation, making it challenging to integrate them into mainstream healthcare.
- **Impact:** Skepticism among modern healthcare practitioners and policymakers, hindering the acceptance of ethnomedicine.

# Case Studies

- ▶ **Traditional Medicine in Ayurveda (India):**
  - ▶ **Background:** Ayurveda, one of the world's oldest systems of medicine, has been practiced in India for over 3,000 years.
  - ▶ **Case Study:** The use of turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) for its anti-inflammatory properties in Ayurvedic medicine. Modern studies confirm the efficacy of curcumin, the active compound in turmeric, for treating various health conditions.
- ▶ **Maori Rongoā (New Zealand):**
  - ▶ **Background:** The Maori people of New Zealand practice Rongoā, a traditional system of medicine that utilizes native plants.
  - ▶ **Case Study:** Kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*), a native plant, is used for its medicinal properties, including treating skin conditions. Research shows its antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory effects.





# Conclusion

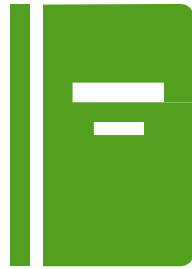
- ▶ **Cultural Preservation and Diversity:**

- ▶ Ethnomedicine plays a pivotal role in preserving cultural heritage, acting as a living testament to the wisdom passed down through generations.
- ▶ The diversity in healing practices across cultures reflects the unique ways in which communities have adapted to their environments.

- ▶ **Holistic Approaches to Health:**

- ▶ The principles of ethnomedicine underscore holistic approaches to health, recognizing the interplay between physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.
- ▶ This holistic perspective offers a complementary lens through which to understand health and healing, emphasizing the importance of balance and harmony.

# References



## Academic Journals:

Explore articles in academic journals such as the "Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine"



## Books on Ethnomedicine:

"Ethnopharmacology" by Michael J. Balick and Paul Alan Cox