



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ETHNOBOTANICAL STUDY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY VILLAGERS IN AVIDANALLAVIJAYAPURAM (PAPPANADU) VILLAGE OF ORATHANADU (TK), THANJAVUR (DT), TAMILNADU, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

An ethnobotanical survey was carried out in the Avidanallavijayapuram (Pappanadu) village of, Orathanadu (tk), Thanjavur (dt), Tamilnadu, India. Interviews and detailed personal discussions were conducted with the herbalist and local people to identify plants and collect the medicinal information for 12 months (from January 2015 to December 2015). The medicinally important plants were botanically identified. Totally 137 species of 125 genera belonging to 57 families were reported with ethno medicinal values. Leaves are the mostly used part to prepare medicine. Generally fresh parts are used. The medicinal plants used by villagers were arranged alphabetically followed by botanical name, family name, local name part used, and medicinal uses.

INTRODUCTION

Plants are the basis of life on earth and are central to people's livelihoods. The value of medicinal plants to the mankind is very well proven. It is estimated that 70% to 80% of people worldwide rely chiefly on traditional health care system and largely on herbal medicines (Shanley, Luz 2003). Traditional medicinal practices are an important part of the primary health care system in the developing world. (Sheldon, Balick, and Laird, 1997). Herbal medicine are comparatively safer than synthetic drug. Plant-based traditional knowledge has become a recognized tool in search for new source of drugs and nutraceuticals (Sharma and Mujundar, 2003). The ethnobotanical survey can bring out many different clues for the development of drugs to treat human diseases. Herbal medicines are assumed to be great importance in the primary healthcare of individuals and communities in many developing countries (Ghosh, 2003). Scientific investigations of medicinal plants have been initiated in many

parts of our country because of their contributions to health care. The tribal and rural people of various parts of India are highly depending on medicinal plant therapy for meeting their health care needs. This is attracting the attention of several botanists and plant scientists who directing vigorous researches towards the discovery or rediscovery of several medicinal plants along with their medicinal remedies for various diseases. In such a way, the present work was carried out to explore the medical remedies of some medicinal plants used by the rural people living in Avidanallavijayapuram (Pappanadu) village, South India. In this paper, we report on the information gathered from Avidanallavijayapuram (Pappanadu) village people on the plants used for treatment of various diseases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Systematic survey of medicinal plants were conducted in the Avidanallavijayapuram (Pappanadu) village in the orathanadu taluk of Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu, India. Geographically the area of Avidanallavijayapuram (Pappanadu) is lies between 10° 47'N latitude and 79° 10'E longitude.

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Table 1. The list of medicinally important plants used by villagers of Avidanallavijapuram (pappanadu) village, with their botanical name, family name, Local name, habit, and medicinal uses

S.no	Botanical name	Family	Local name	Habit	Medicinal uses
1.	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.)Moench	Malvaceae	Vendai	Herb	Increasing memory power.
2.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.)Sweet	Malvaceae	Thuthi	herb	Piles, ulcer, cough, leprosy and jaundice
3.	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.)Delile	Mimosaceae	Velamaram	Tree	wound ulcers, leprosy, leucoderma, small pox, skin diseases, biliousness, burning sensation, toothache, leucoderma, dysentery and seminal weakness. The trunk bark is used for cold, bronchitis, diarrhoea, dysentery, biliousness, bleeding piles and leucoder
4.	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Kuppaimeni	herb	Worm infection, burns, piles, cough, skin eruptions and urinary diseases.
5.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L	Amaranthaceae	Nayuruvi	herb	Diarrhea, piles, ear diseases and anaemia.
6.	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees	Acanthaceae	Adhahoda	shrub	Cough, fever, tuberculosis, vomiting and leprosy.
7.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> L.	Rutaceae	Vilvam	Tree	Venereal, piles, diseases, digestive and abdominal disorders.
8.	<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss.exSchult.	Amaranthaceae	Poolapoo	herb	Wounds, polyuria, piles, dysuria, cardiac diseases and abdominal disorder.
9.	<i>Albizia lebbbeck</i> (L) Benth	Mimosaceae	Vagai	Tree	cough, to treat the eye, flu, gingivitis, lung problems, pectoral problems, is used as a tonic, and is used to treat abdominal tumors
10.	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Teliaceae	Sothu katrazhai	shrub	Leprosy, piles, stomach, eye and mental disorders.
11.	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.)R.Br.exDc.	Amaranthaceae	Ponnankannikeerai	herb	Leprosy, night blindness and fever.
12.	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L	Amaranthaceae	kuppaikeerai	herb	stop dysentery and inflammation
13.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f) Wallich ex Nees	Acanthaceae	Siriyangai	herb	Liver disorder, malaria fever, worm infestation and skin diseases.
14.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Annonaceae	Seetha	Tree	Diarrhea, dysentery, cardiac diseases and fever.
15.	<i>Arachis hypogae</i> L.	Fabaceae	veer kadlai	herb	Infantile paralysis.
16.	<i>Areca catechu</i> L.	Arecaceae	Kamugu	Tree	Parasitic diseases, digestive function disorders, and depression
17.	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> .lam	Moraceae	Pala	Tree	Liver diseases, indigestion, stomachache and cough.
18.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> .Juss	Meliaceae	Veepamaram	Tree	Worm infestation, digestive disorder, fever, pox, skin eruption, vomiting and abdominal disorder.
19.	<i>Azima tetracantha</i> .lam	Salvadoraceae	sanguillai	Shrub	Cough,cold,bleedinggums,earache,toothache,venerealdiseases,andsnake bites
20.	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> (Retx.) rexb.	Poaceae	mulmoogil	Tree	Leprosy, wounds, cough, fever, jaundice and anaemia.
21.	<i>Bsella alba</i> L.	Basellaceae	kodikeerai	herb	Ulser, abscesses, skin ailments, insect bites, snake bites.
22.	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Padarmookirattai	herb	Nasal disorders, jaundice, cardiac diseases and piles.
23.	<i>Boerhavia erecta</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	mookirattai	herb	Asthma.
24.	<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> willd.	Nyctaginaceae	Kakithapoo	Shrub	Diabetes.
25.	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L.	Arecaceae	Panai	Tree	Bleeding, thirst, burning sensation, fever, general debility and cardiac diseases.
26.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> R.Br	Asclepiadaceae	erukku	Shrub	Nervous disorders, cough, piles, abdominal disorders, and worm infestation.
27.	<i>Canna indica</i> L	Cannabaceae	Kalvalai	Herb	Diuretic, diaphoretic, stimulant and demulcent; decoction is used in fevers, dropsy and dyspepsia, cordial and vulnerary. earache.
28.	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Milagai	Herb	Relief of oral discomfort or toothache, external analgesia, as a digestive aid, in menstrual conditions.
29.	<i>Cardiospermum helicacabum</i> L.	Sapindaceae	Mudakkathan	Climber	Tumors, dermal disorders and piles
30.	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	Caricaceae	Pappali	Tree	Worm infestation, skin diseases, fever and piles.
31.	<i>Cassia auriculata</i> L	Caesalpiniaceae	avarai	Tree	Malaria fever, chronic wounds, burns and ulcers
32.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Sarakonndrai	Tree	Reduced mutagenicity, insect bites, swelling, rheumatism
33.	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G.Don	Apocynaceae	Nithyakalyani	Shrub	Diabetes, malaria, numerous diseases.
34.	<i>Centalla asiatica</i> (L) Urban	Apiaceae	Vallarai	Herb	Digestive disorder, urinary diseases, cough, fever and mental retardation.
35.	<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Kozhipoo	Herb	Ornamental uses.
36.	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Perandikodi	Climber	Piles, abdominal disorders, diarrhea and dysentery.
37.	<i>Citrus limon</i> Burm.f.	Rutaceae	Elumichai	Tree	Vomiting, eye diseases, dysentery, cough and worm infection.
38.	<i>Citrus aurantium</i> L.	Rutaceae	Narthy	Tree	Regulating fat level.
39.	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L	Fabaceae	Sangupoo	Climber	Piles, skin diseases, abdominal disorder and fever.
40.	<i>Cleome visoca</i> Linn	Cleomaceae	Naikaduku	Herb	Indigestion, ear diseases, skin eruption, fever and abdominal diseases,
41.	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> (L.) J.Voigt	cucurbitaceae	Kovai	Climber shrub	Cures fever.

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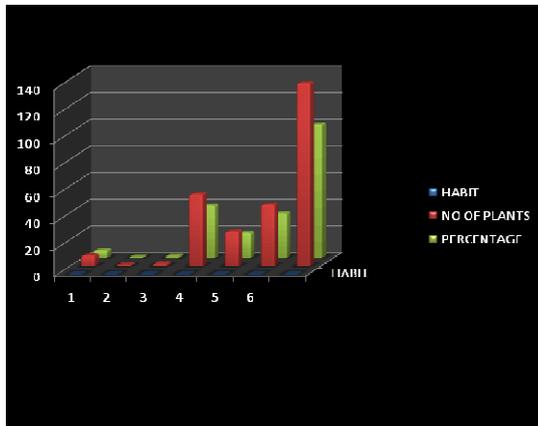
42.	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.	Arecaceae	Thennai	Tree	Urinary disorders, fever, head ache and eye diseases.
43.	<i>Cordia allamanda</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Crotans	Herb	Ornamental uses.
44.	<i>Crossandra nilotica</i> Oliv.	Acanthaceae	Kanakambaram	Herb	Ornamental uses.
45.	<i>Crotalaria juncea</i> L.	Fabaceae	Kilukiluppai	Shrub	Anemia, hair grow, and purify the blood.
46.	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duchesne	cucurbitaceae	poosanikodi	creeper	Antidiabetic (hypoglycaemic) and lowering of blood pressure, anti tumour.
47.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers	Poaceae	Arukampullu	Herb	Thirst, skin diseases, distaste and vomiting.
48.	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Cyperaceae	Koraipul	Herb	Fevers, digestive system disorders, dysmenorrhea and other maladies
49.	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Solanaceae	ummathai	Herb	Eye diseases, wounds, ulcer, cough, eczema and diarrhea.
50.	<i>Dolichos lablab</i> L.	Fabaceae	Avarai	Climber	Chronic dysentery, cholera, ulcer and head ache.
51.	<i>Delonix elata</i> (L.) Gamble	Fabaceae	Vathamadakki	Tree	Wounds and glandular swellings
52.	<i>Duranta erecta</i> L.	Verbenaceae	skyflower	Shrub	Toxic plant.
53.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> L.	Asteraceae	Karisalankanny	Herb	Hair falling, leprosy, eye diseases, cold, dental diseases and asthma.
54.	<i>Erythrina indica</i> (suberosa Roxb)	Fabaceae	Mulmurunkai	Tree	liver ailments, fever and rheumatism.
55.	<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> Hk.	Myrtaceae	yukkalyaram	Tree	pain reliver
56.	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> Linn	Euphorbiaceae	Thirukkali	Shrub	Asthma, cough, ear ach, toothache.
57.	<i>Evolvulus alcinodes</i> L.	Convolvulaceae	Vishnukarandhi	Climber	Fever.
58.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Moraceae	Aallamaram	Tree	Polyuria, diarrhea, uterine disorder and vomiting.
59.	<i>Ficus resimoses</i> L.	Moraceae	Athimaram	Tree	Diabetes, piles
60.	<i>Gymnena sylvestre</i> (Retz)	Asclepiadaceae	Cirukurunjan	Herb	Cures Diabetes
61.	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> L.	Boraginaceae	Thelkodiki	Herb	Ulcer, eczema, digestive disorder and fever.
62.	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> L.R.Br.	Apocynaceae	Nannari	Climber	Blood purification
63.	<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i> L.	Malvaceae	Pulichaikeerai	Herb	diuretic, and mild laxative
64.	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Malvaceae	Chemparuthi	Shrub	Cough piles, diarrhea, hair falling and polyuria.
65.	<i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i> (L.) Muell.	Violaceae	Orithalthamarai	Herb	Hair care and skin care.
66.	<i>Ipomea carnea</i> Jace	Convolvulaceae	Neivellikatamanaku	Shrub	Poisonous.
67.	<i>Ixora coccinea</i> L.	Rubiaceae	Itlypoo	Shrub	Venereal diseases, fever, thirst, dysentery and ulcer.
68.	<i>Jasminum sambac</i> (L.) Aiton	Oleaceae	Kundumalli	Shrub	ornamental uses.
69.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> Linn	Euphorbiaceae	Siriya ammanakku	Shrub	
70.	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Molina)	Cucurbitaceae	Sorakai	Climbing shrub	stomach acidity, indigestion and ulcers ,head ach.
71.	<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Verbenaceae	unnichedi	Shrub	Diarrhea and kapha diseases.
72.	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.	Lythraceae	Maruthani	Tree	Diarrhea, leprosy, fever, headache, cardiac diseases and blood disorders.
73.	<i>Leucas aspera</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Thumbai	Herb	Fever, eye disease, thirst, snake-bite poisoning, nasal disorders, cough .
74.	<i>Luffa cylindrica</i> (L) M.J. Roem	Cucurbitaceae	Peerkangai	Climber	stomach ach, swelling and tumour.
75.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	Ma	tree	Urinary disorders, leucorrhoea, thirst, diarrhea, ulcer and intermittent fever.
76.	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz.	Euphorbiaceae	Maravallikilangu	Shrub	abscesses, boils, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, dysentery, flu, hernia, inflammation, marasmus, prostatitis, snakebite, sore, spasm, swellings, and testicles
77.	<i>Manihot zapota</i> (L.) P.Royen	Sapotaceae	Sappota	tree	diarrhea, pulmonary complaints
78.	<i>Melia azedarach</i> Linn.	Meliaceae	Malavembu	Tree	Malaria fever, eyeach, headach, swelling, piles, wounds, purify blood.
79.	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Fabaceae	Thottachinugi	Herb	Diabetes, sinus wound, eye diseases and leprosy.
80.	<i>Mimusops elengi</i> Linn	Sapotaceae	Magilampoo	Tree	dental ailments such as bleeding gums, pyorrhea, dental caries, and loose teeth.
81.	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Anthimantharai	Herb	Piles, abscess, boils and ulcer.
82.	<i>Mollugo nudicaulis</i> Lam.	Molluginaceae	Kottukolunchi	Herb	Cold and skin diseases.
83.	<i>Momordica charantia</i> Descourt.	Cucurbitaceae	Pakarkai	Herb	Leprosy, rheumatism, liver disorder, piles and diabetes.
84.	<i>Morinda pubescens</i> J.E.Smith	Rubiaceae	Nuna	Tree	Eczema, fever, ulcer, digestive disorder and wounds.
85.	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lamk	Moringaceae	Murungai	Tree	Eye diseases, fever and skin diseases.
86.	<i>Mukia maderaspatana</i> L.	Rutaceae	Mosumosukai	Tree	Fever, abdominal disorder, cough and vomiting.
87.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Sprengel	Rutaceae	Karuvepillai	Tree	Dropsy, dysentery and diarrhea
88.	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> L.	Musaceae	Vazhai	Tree	Diarrhea, eye diseases, polyuria, thirst and burning sensation.
89.	<i>Nerium oleander</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Sevvarali	Herb	Leprosy, wounds and skin diseases.
90.	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Thirinootrupalalai	Herb	Diuretic, dysentery, earache, stomach disorder and nasal disorders.

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91.	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Thulasi	Herb	Fever, mental disorder, digestive disorders, cough and ulcer.
92.	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	Poaceae	Nel	Herb	breast cancers, stomach indurations, other tumors, and warts, cough, fever, piles.
93.	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> Haw.	Cactaceae	Chappathikalli	Shrub	Gonorrhoeas, whooping cough, antidote to snake venom, spasmodic cough and expectoration.
94.	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Passifloraceae	Mupparisavalli	Shrub	Skin diseases.
95.	<i>Pedaliium murex</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	Yanainerungil	Herb	Cough, diabetes fistula, jaundice, male fertility disorders, snake bite, tooth ache, wound healing
96.	<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i> DC	Fabaceae	perungondrai	Tree	Relieve intestinal disorders after pain at childbirth, sprains, bruises and swelling or as a lotion for eye troubles, muscular pains and sores
97.	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (L.) Roxb	Arecaceae	Inthupanai	Tree	Toothache and in nervous debility
98.	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i> Skeel	Phyllanthaceae	Araneli	Tree	Reumatisam, blood purification.
99.	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Keelanelli	Tree	Jaundice, diabetes, urinary disorders, skin diseases and vomiting.
100.	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Nelli	Tree	Blood purification
101.	<i>Physalis minima</i> L.	Solanaceae	Sodakuthakali	Herb	Relieve pain (analgesic action).
102.	<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (Roxb.) Benth.	Fabaceae	kodukkappuli	Tree	Dysentery, diarrhea, toothache and ulcers.
103.	<i>Plumeria obtusa</i>	Apocynaceae	Perungkalli	Tree	Oedemas
104.	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> Sonn	Annonaceae	Nettulingamaram	Tree	Fever
105.	<i>Polycarpha corymbosa</i> Lam.	Caryophyllaceae	koolamanikeerai	Herb	Antibiotic, ailment
106.	<i>Pongamia glabra</i> Vent.	Fabaceae	Pungai	Tree	Colds, coughs, diarrhea, dyspepsia, flatulence, gonorrhoea, and leprosy. cleaning gums, teeth, and ulcers.
107.	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i> (Hook) Geesing	Portulacaceae	Tablerose	Herb	Externally as a lotion to snake and insect bites, burns, scalds and eczema
108.	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	Myrtaceae	Koyya	Tree	Vomiting and urinary disorders.
109.	<i>Punica granatum</i> L.	Punicaceae	Madulam	Tree	Stomach ulcer, increase hemoglobin level and protect cancer.
110.	<i>Quisqualis indica</i> Linn.	Combretaceae	Ilangaramalligai	Creepier	Diarrhoea and fever, abdominalpain, skindiseases
111.	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Ammanaku	Shrub	Abdominal disorders, piles, worm infection, chest pain, cough and fever.
112.	<i>Rosa alba</i> L.	Rosaceae	Roja	Shrub	Asthma
113.	<i>Ruellia tuberosa</i> L.	Acanthaceae	Vedikkai	Herb	Diuretic, anti-pyretic, analgesic, anti-hypertensive, anthelmintic, abortifacient, emetic, in bladder disease, kidney disorder, bronchitis, gonorrhoea and syphilis.
114.	<i>Saccarum officinarum</i>	Poaceae	Karumbu	Herb	strengthens stomach, kidneys, heart, eyes, brain and sex organs.
115.	<i>Sansevieria roxburghiana</i> Schult.	Asparagaceae	Marul	Herb	Cough, reumatisum.
116.	<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	Ellu	Herb	Wound healing, stomach pain.
117.	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> (L.) Poiret	Fabaceae	Agathi	Tree	fever, pain, bronchitis, anemia, tumors, ^[8] colic, jaundice, poisoning. <i>Root</i> used in Rheumatism, Expectoant, Painful swelling, Catarrh. ^[9]
118.	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f.	Malvaceae	palambasi	Herb	Fever, ear diseases, diarrhea, skin diseases and worm infection.
119.	<i>Solanum surattense</i> (Burm)	Solanaceae	Kandankathiri	Herb	Worm infection, blood disorders, skin diseases, urinary disorders and dysuria.
120.	<i>Solanum melongena</i> L.	Solanaceae	Kathirikai	Herb	Cough vatam and fever.
121.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Manathakkali	Herb	Leprosy, piles, fever, cardiac diseases and vomiting.
122.	<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw.	Solanaceae	Sundakkai	Shrub	Worm infestation and diarrhea.
123.	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Thuthuvalai	Shrub	Respiratory disorders.
124.	<i>Sphaeranthus indicus</i> L	Asteraceae	Kottaikaranthai	Herb	Jaundice, diabetes, mental illness, fever, cough, skin diseases
125.	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Asteraceae	Mookuthipoo	Herb	infections, indigestion and to treat hepatitis
126.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> L.	Myrtaceae	Naval	Tree	diabetes
127.	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Nanthiyarvattam	Shrub	Toothache.
128.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	Puliyamaram	Tree	Hypertension, wound healing, abdominal pains, diarrhea, fever and malaria.
129.	<i>Tecoma stans</i> (L.) Kunth	Bignoniaceae	Sonnappatti	Shrub	Antidiabetic (hypoglycaemic) and lowering of blood pressure.
130.	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.f.	Lamiaceae	Thekku	Tree	Leprosy, polyuria, skin diseases, ulcers and worm infestation.
131.	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) Pers	Fabaceae	Kollukkaivelai	Herb	Leprosy, ulcers, asthma, and tumors, as well as diseases of the liver, spleen, heart, and blood. A decoction of the roots is given in dyspepsia, diarrhea, rheumatism, Asthma and urinary disorders.
132.	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.)	Malvaceae	Poovarasu	Tree	Cure Ulcer
133.	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Zygophyllaceae	Nerungil	Herb	Leprosy, polyuria, skin diseases, ulcers and worm infestation.
134.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	Muriyampachalai	Herb	Dysentery, diarrhea and wounds.
135.	<i>Vigna mungo</i> (L.) Hepper	Fabaceae	Ulundu	Herb	Rheumatism and nervous disorders.
136.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Nochi	Shrub	Intermittent fever, worm infestation, ear diseases and cough.
137.	<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> Mill	Rhamnaceae	Elanthai	Shrub	Anxiety and insomnia, and as an appetite stimulant or digestive aid.

Table 2. Habit wise distribution of plants in the Avidanallavijayapuram (Pappanadu) village

S No	Habit	No of plants	Percentage
1	Climber	8	5.8%
2	Climbing shrub	1	0.7%
3	creeper	2	1.4%
4	Herb	54	39.4%
5	Shrub	26	18.97%
6	Tree	46	33.57%
TOTAL		137	100



The elevation/ altitude of the study area is about 49 meters above sea level. The annual temperature of Orathanadu taluk is 37.63°C. The maximum temperature is 38.50°C during the summer month of April to May. The minimum temperature of 29.72°C recorded during the winter month of January and February. The maximum amount of rainfall received by the block is 321.2mm. Avidanallavijayapuram is surrounded by Thiruvonam Taluk towards west, Pattukkottai Taluk towards South, Madukkur Taluk towards East, Karambakudi Taluk towards west. Pattukkottai, Peravurani, Nanjikottai, Thanjavur are the nearby Cities to Avidanallavijayapuram. The major soil types are 4. Cauvery is the major river flowing in the region. The major crops grown in the village are paddy, groundnut, sugarcane, pulses, banana and coconut.

Data Collection

The field survey was conducted in different localities of Avidanallavijayapuram (pappanadu) village for 12 months from January 2015 to December 2015. The information was collected through interviews and discussion among the herbalist and villagers in their local language (Tamil). The questions regarding medicinal plant, parts used, habit, and local name were recorded from the villagers through oral interview. All the plant specimens available in the study areas were collected for authenticity and the herbarium specimens were prepared by using the methodology of Jain and Rao (1976). The herbarium specimens were identified with the help of the Flora of the Presidency of Madras (Gamble and Fischer, 1915 -1936). The herbarium specimens were prepared for all the plants and deposited at A.V.V.M.SriPushpam college (Autonomous) Poodi, Thanjavur for reference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The peoples of Avidanallavijayapuram (pappanadu) possess a very rich ethno botanical knowledge. Even to this data, they have been making use of a large number of plants species for

various purposes such as medicine, fodder, firewood, timber, food etc. A total of 137 plant species representing 57 families have been reported to be in use among the villager of the study area (Table 1).

Table 3. List of Plants family and No of species

S.no	Family name	No of species
1.	Malvaceae	6
2.	Mimosaceae	2
3.	Moraceae	3
4.	Meliaceae	2
5.	Myrtaceae	3
6.	Molluginaceae	1
7.	Moringaceae	1
8.	Muntingiaceae	1
9.	Musaceae	1
10.	Fabaceae	13
11.	Euphorbiaceae	8
12.	Asteraceae	4
13.	Amaranthaceae	5
14.	Acanthaceae	4
15.	Apocynaceae	5
16.	Anacardiaceae	1
17.	Annonaceae	2
18.	Arecaceae	4
19.	Asclepiadaceae	2
20.	Apiaceae	1
21.	Sapotaceae	2
22.	Salvadoraceae	1
23.	Solanaceae	8
24.	Sapindaceae	1
25.	Rutaceae	6
26.	Rubiaceae	2
27.	Rhamnaceae	1
28.	Poaceae	4
29.	Pedaliaceae	2
30.	Phyllanthaceae	1
31.	Portulacaceae	1
32.	Punicaceae	1
33.	Lamiaceae	4
34.	Teliaceae	1
35.	Basellaceae	1
36.	Bignoniaceae	1
37.	Balsaminaceae	2
38.	Caesalpinaceae	2
39.	Cannaceae	1
40.	Cactaceae	1
41.	Caryophyllaceae	1
42.	Caricaceae	1
43.	Convolvulaceae	3
44.	Cyperaceae	2
45.	Combretaceae	1
46.	Nyctaginaceae	4
47.	Vitaceae	1
48.	Verbenaceae	2
49.	Violaceae	1
50.	Zygophyllaceae	1
51.	Asparagaceae	1
52.	Cleomaceae	1
53.	Lythraceae	1
54.	Cucurbitaceae	5
55.	Rosaceae	1
56.	Passifloraceae	1
57.	Boraginaceae	1

Among 137 plant species, 130 plants are wild, 5 plants are cultivated and 4 plants are ornamental. Wild plant species have adapted to very large areas. These plants are highly dominant in the study area. They occur in both disturbed and undisturbed areas such as sacred groves, around the well, road side, temple and cultivated areas. *Delonix regia* is an ornamentally cultivated plant species and highly distributed in all areas. In the present study, 8 cultivated plants were recorded. They are *Arachis hypogaea*, *Sesamum indicum* L., *Saccarum officinarum*,

Oryza sativa L., *Musa paradisiaca* L. *Vigna mungo*, *Zea mays* These plants possess high medicinal and economical value. In addition to that, ornamental plants are also recorded. They are, *Ixora coccinea*, *Celosia argentea* L. *Jasminum sambac*, *Crossandra nilotica* and *Rosa indica*. These plants are grown for decorative purpose in garden and houses. Among these ornamental species, *Rosa indica* and *Ixora coccinea* are economically valuable plant species. In habit wise distribution were tree-46 species, shrubs-27, herbs-54 and climbing shrub-1, Creeper-2, Climber - 8 (Table 2). Similar to the present findings, Muthu *et al.* (2006) reported that herbs were found to be the most used plants followed by trees, shrubs and climbers. In the present study, Family wise distribution of the medicinal plants shows Fabaceae was the most dominant family, followed by Solanaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Malvaceae, Amaranthaceae, Apocynaceae, Lamiaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Rubiaceae, Asteraceae, Moraceae, Rutaceae, Acanthaceae, Poaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Boraginaceae, Arecaceae, Verbenaceae, Liliaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Sapindaceae, Apiaceae, Myrtaceae, Meliaceae, Caesalpinaceae, Vitaceae, Capparaceae, Annonaceae, Caricaceae, Lythraceae, Mimosaceae, Moringaceae, Musaceae, Zygophyllaceae, Rosaceae and Anacardiaceae were recorded. (Table 3) Fabaceae (13species) is the dominant family in this study area followed by Solanaceae, Euphorbiaceae (8species each) and Malvaceae (6 species), Cucurbitaceae, Apocynaceae, and Amaranthaceae (5species each).

Among the different plant parts used for the preparation of medicine, leaves and whole plants were predominantly used, followed by fruits, root, flower, rhizome, stem, bark and latex. They were using this plants to cure diseases like fever, bone fracture, hair fall, diabetes, cold cough, jaundice, wounds, poisonous bites (snake, scorpion and insect), dental carries, burns, diarrhea, small pox, ulcer, stomach disorders, Blood purification etc., Plants like *Azima tetracantha* and *Boerhavia erecta*, and *Cardiospermum helicacabum*, *Delonix elata*, *Mukia maderaspatana*, *Leucas aspera*, *Ocimum tenuiflorum*, *Ocimum basilicum* are mostly used to cure cough and fever diseases. From the discussion with traditional healers of the study area, large number of ailments was found to be treated using plant species. A single plant or groups of plants are used as ingredients to cure a single disease sometimes the healer may use single plant to cure various diseases. For example *Azima tetracantha* cures Cough, cold, bleeding gums earache, toothache, venereal diseases and snake bites. The ethnomedicinal studies evidently pointed out that, instead of trying to identify the active components and pharmacological actions of plants through massive collection of plants from

natural sources, it is better to start investigating the efficacy of the plant based on their use in folk medicine, since most of the commercially proven drugs used in modern medicine were initially tried in crude form in traditional or folk healing practices (Fabricant and Farnsworth, 2001).

Conclusion

The present study revealed that medicinal plants still play a vital role in the primary health care of people. The number of valuable plant species are found in the Avidanallavijayapuram (pappanadu). Some important medicinal plants needs immediate conservation and their cultivation should be encouraged through which their extinction can be prevented and tribal people may also get low-cost medicine to cure their diseases. If conservation measures are not introduced in the near future there may be a great loss of plant diversity.

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