



SUCCESS STORY OF **BIBHUTI BHUSAN MUND**

- a Traditional Healer, Conservationist and Promoter of
Medicinal plants from the foothills of Gandhamardan Parvat, Odisha.

Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Mund was born on 3rd April, 1970 in the village - Georgegarh, Post & Block - Paikmal, Subdivision - Padampur, District - Bargarh, Odisha. He is a resident of the foothills of famous Gandhamardan parbat of Odisha. His maternal grandfather was a Raj Vaidya of the then "Khariar" state which now comes under the District Nuapada of Odisha. Mr. Mund was a dedicated apostle of his grandfather for his outstanding works in traditional healing system. Being energetic and enthusiastic, he wanted to learn about the traditional healing system from his grandfather since childhood. After completion of Intermediate in 1988, he joined his grandfather's practice of traditional healing and ultimately became the torchbearer of a magnificently rich traditional healing system based on knowledge resources accumulated over generations. Gandhamardan parbat has been an epicenter of various medicinal plants from the mythological times, and the family of Mr. Mund is still a repository of the knowledge of their application in traditional



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Mr. Mund started his career as 2nd generation traditional healer at a very young age and earned his fame for his competence after a few years of practice. In his career spanning over 34 years, he acquired knowledge of more than 500 medicinal plants and developed skills of treating several types of disease and ailments by using different medicinal plants based formulations developed by him.

He is very successful in fusion of modern scientific processing technology and ancient ethno-medicine. He uses both traditional formulation process and modern equipment in his own production unit and he is successful in developing more than 67 unique formulations for different indications. Among all the formulations developed by him, “Madhuharini Churna” and “Bhasmanala Churna” deserve special mention. The former can be used in diabetes and the later can be used as a medicine for indigestion and constipation.

According to him, he is proficient to treat 50 types of disease and ailments successfully. His competence earned him a widespread fame – which brings 80 to 100 patients to him daily. He treats all the patients without charging any professional fees and accepts only a nominal price for the medicines.

Apart from healing, he is also interested about the ethno-botany of local medicinal plants, correct identification of their varieties, habitat and natural distribution and their therapeutic spectrum, and efficacy. His eagerness to acquire knowledge on medicinal plants inspired him to travel across India and to interact with traditional healers of different communities. He also attended several district level and state level workshops and training programs conducted by several institutions and departments, as Resource person.



Realizing the necessity for conservation and to meet his requirement, he devoted his paternal land of 3 acres along with home garden area for cultivation and ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants, where he raised more than 500 medicinal plants species like Sarpagandha, Amla, Vach, Ashok, Shatavari, Brahmi, Gudmar, Anantmul, Pipli etc. amongst them more than 60 species marked as RET species. He raises seedlings of various medicinal plant species and also collects seeds for his own use and supply to various organizations.

Mr. Mund is a reputed supplier of seedlings and seeds of medicinal plant, and he supplies to RCFC – ER network, State Medicinal Plants Board and various departments in Odisha like Dept. of Horticulture, Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS), Forest Dept. and several Ayurvedic Colleges.



Mr. Mund is also known as an aggregator and supplier of genuine raw materials of several Medicinal plants that he generally supplies to the SSN Ayurvedic College Pharmacy of Paikmal, Bargarh, Bolangir Ayurvedic College pharmacy and to the traditional healers and private Ayurvedic pharmacies around Odisha as well as outside of Odisha.

Mr. Mund is also supplying Sarpagandha Powder and Giloy Powder to a company named “DR. RECKEWEG & CO” in Germany from 2018. Mr. Mund possesses the knowledge of good agricultural practices (GAP), good collection practices (GCP) and good manufacturing practices (GMP) of more than 500 species of plants including Medicinal Plants besides the knowledge of their identification and use. His exemplary knowledge resources has earned him recognition as a state level resource person for several organizations like State Medicinal Plants Board, Forest department, ORMAS, NABARD, Dept. of Horticulture and Dept. of Agriculture. He imparts training to SHG members, Vana Samrakshana Samithi (VSS) members, students and traditional healers as well as farmers on cultivation, scientific and sustainable collection, value addition and conservation of medicinal plants and protection of forests and wildlife. He accompanies the students of SSN Ayurvedic College in their field excursion in forest and Gandhamardan hill for identification of medicinal plants. Moreover, he also teaches the students of nearby school and Vindyabasini Govt. College in Paikmal Block on Environmental studies and protection of forests and wildlife. He has created 4 (four) medicinal plants gardens in Paikmal Govt. ME School, Paikmal Govt. High School, Government SC & ST Development High School , Paikmal and in Vindyabasini Govt. College on his own effort for building awareness on importance of medicinal plants among students from an early stage. He is involved in in-situ and ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants in the district under the control of Forest department. He is also one of the resource person of RCFC-ER who imparts training on sustainable collection of medicinal plants from forest. Mr. Mund also imparts training on sustainable collection of honey and cultivation to the locals and beneficiaries of several departments.

To acknowledge his commendable works for conservation and promotion of medicinal plants and successful healing of diseases and ailments, the District Forest Officer granted him some amount of money to meet the cost of maintenance of Gandhamardan medicinal plants nursery for several years. Apart from this, he has facilitated by an infrastructure of one house with one godown, constructed near foot area of Gandhamardan hill by the Forest department in 2008. He is using the house for office purposes and godown for processing and storage of raw materials of medicinal plants.

Mr. Mund is also the secretary of Gandhamadan Vanaspati Vana Society (GVVS), who actively leads 15 Vana Samrakshana Samithi (VSS), each VSS having 100 members, for protection of forests and wildlife, conservation of resources including medicinal plants and promotion of livelihood of VSS members. He emphasizes for scientific and sustainable collection practices for sustainable supply of medicinal plants or their parts and other NTFPs from forest including value addition. Now, more than 100 tribal families are getting their income by collecting NTFPs and several other medicinal and forest products for GVVS. Moreover, they are earning almost double with the guidance of scientific collection and value addition and avoiding the spurious middle men who exploited them in many ways.

Mr. Mund also leads the society for helping the poor tribal peoples in getting better medical treatment and better educational facilities for their children with the revenue generated through selling of value added NTFPs including medicinal plants raw materials and medicinal plant products.

People of the Pikmal Block praises him for his one unique charity as he presents plants to them on every occasion he has been invited to, be it the birthday or marriage or death rites of someone in the locality.

Mr. Mund has been awarded for his commendable medicinal plants related activities from several departments of district level to state level like Biju Pattnaik Award for Wild Life protection in 2013, Biju Pattnaik Award for Forest Conservation in 2015, Prakruti Bandhu in 2012, Prakruti Mitra in 2006 & 2009, Best Plant Lover Award by SMPB on 2021 and many more.

Mr. Mund deserves to be known as a medicinal plants lover, conservationist and promoter of medicinal plants that utmost needed for survival and wellbeing of mankind. He is playing significant role for proper identification, scientific and sustainable collection of medicinal plants from forest apart from healing practice with medicines of his own formulation and preparation, protection of forests and wildlife and socio economic upliftment of poor tribal people.



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