

VAIDYA SHUKHLALJI

- A Jharkhandi on a mission to propagate medicinal plants



Regional-cum-Facilitation Centre,
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Vaidya Shukhlal Pansari is a familiar face in promotional programs for medicinal plants including World Ayurveda Congress and he is always dedicated to his mission of enlightening the audience about the use of at least two medicinal plants in tribal medicine of Jharkhand. He is also a committed crusader for the formal recognition of tribal healers.

Vaidya Shukhlal Ji is now 67 (born on 23rd March, 1955) and his long illustrious career of fighting for good cause started from his tender age of ten through different students' movements, movements of national importance, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan etc. At present, he is an active exponent of the movement - Swadeshi Sasthya Banoushadhi Ke Vikash, promulgating tribal medicine and knowledge of medicinal plants.



Vaidya Shukhlal Ji possesses the knowledge of more than 300 medicinal plants including trees, rhizomes, aquatic plants, parasitic plants, climbers etc. He is also growing more than 220 species of medicinal plants (both endemic and exotic) on the rooftop of his residence and nearby community land of Agrawal community hall premise since 2012. The medicinal plants species includes – Peeli Kaner (*Thevetia peruviana*), Chandni (*Tabernaemontana divaricata*), Tulsi (*Ocimum basilicum*), Noni (*Morinda citrifolia*), Arni (*Clerodendrum multiflorum*), Katsareya (*Barleria prionitis*), Daruhaldi (*Berberis aristata*), Bharangi (*Rotheca serrata*), Kalihari (*Gloriosa superba*), Sharphunka (*Tephrosia purpurea*), Guda sharkara (*Grewia hirsuta*), Sahastramuli (*Elytraria acaulis*), Safed Musli (*Chlorophytum borivilianum*), Sonapata (*Oroxylum indicum*) etc.

His present mission encompasses identification of traditional healers and compilation of their profiles; collection of medicinal plant species used in local tribal healing systems; organizing programs for dissemination of tribal healing knowledge resources, undertaking programs for increasing income of the major stakeholders in this field and awareness building about the importance of conservation of endangered medicinal plant species in government and public level.



Sukhlalji has provided seed or planting material and technical assistance to create herbal garden in 10 (ten) Schools, Colleges and Institutions for wide dissemination of knowledge in Jharkhand and also at the Regional Institute of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CPDMI) in Nagpur. He has sent 105 medicinal plants with related technical expertise to establish an herbal garden in CMPDI, Nagpur.

He was engaged as executive member of CAPART during 2000-2003 and channelized fund for rural health improvement. As a mentor, he has guided one PhD scholar who has completed his thesis on Bidhara (*Argyreia nervosa*) from Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

The dedicated movement on medicinal plants usage, cultivation in homestead and farmland, conservation in nature and his resolute mission of propagation of tribal medicine is praiseworthy and would be helpful for common masses to remain healthy with a medicinal system based on ancient and traditional wisdom and in unison with nature.

He is also practicing the traditional healing system after acquiring knowledge from tribal healers or traditional practitioners from Jharkhand. He uses his own formulations freshly prepared from medicinal plants collected from his own rooftop repository.

He has the credit of curing a 28 years old wound by treating with the leaves of a climber called Bidhara (*Argyreia nervosa*). He became an ardent advocate of tribal medicine after his own miraculous experience. He testified the incident of his full recovery from multiple bone fracture in only 14 days under treatment of Vaidya Sitaram Oraon; while a competent orthopedic surgeon stipulated four month long therapy through surgery and medicine.

Sukhlalji has started his relentless medicinal plants related journey from June 2000 by organizing Swadeshi Sasthya Workshop in which nearby traditional healers, experts and other stakeholders participated. He had conducted training programme for villagers in Dhanbad and surrounding districts with Banaushodhi Lagao Abhiyan where he organized 12 programmes in 12 days at 12 villages to create awareness among rural masses and to promote medicinal plants cultivation.



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