

An Analysis of Indigenous Knowledge Collection at Botanical Survey of India, Shillong

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INTRODUCTION

- Indigenous knowledge is basically the information that an indigenous community has gathered over many generations within a particular geographic area. IK encompasses a variety of topics, including language, culture, healthcare, agriculture, and climate detection etc. Indigenous knowledge has immense potential in contributing to the well-being and sustainability of humanity in various ways.

OBJECTIVE

- i) To find out the resources available at BSI, Shillong regarding indigenous knowledge.
- ii) To learn more about the methodology used for the collection of indigenous knowledge gathering.
- iii) To determine the obstacles the library faces in gathering Indigenous Knowledge resources.

METHODOLOGY

- A survey was designed to gather information about the collection and conservation of indigenous knowledge in the library of BSI, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong. The data has been provided by the Library in-charge Mr. Hemanta Kumar Das, Library & Information Assistant. The collected data is analysed as per the objectives.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Table 1: Type wise number of documents		
Sl No	Document Type	Number of document
1	Print Document	Books/Project reports=163+, around 266 research papers published in various books and journals by BSI scientists.
2	Digital Document	1. One online database of medicinal plants 2. Textile Design: 1082 sample of Indian Textiles in silk, cotton, muslin and wool. 3. Natural Dyes: 3000 samples of dye patterns, extracted from 64 plants, depicting Indian dying traditions.
3	Manuscripts	nil
4	Audio/Visual Material	nil

- **State Wise Collection**: Among the twenty eight states and eight union territories of India the main concentration of tribal communities is in the central India and in the north eastern states. BSI Shillong has been collecting indigenous knowledge related information from various parts of India. Among the states Meghalaya (5), Bihar (4), Assam (3) and Maharashtra (3) are on top as per number of documents collected.
- **Tribe and region wise collection**: Through proper communication, field visit and various awareness programs; BSI scientists are successful in collecting various information from different tribes from Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Field wise collection of IK :From the data provided by BSI it is found that indigenous knowledge has been used by the tribes in various fields such as medicine (60), agriculture (01), art & culture (18), traditional conservation practices (04) etc. Among them, the highest number of documents is related to the field of medicine.

- BSI Shillong uses survey method to collect information related to IK. Different projects are allotted to the scientific staff for documentation of traditional and herbal medicinal practices and published in form of reports/books/databases and it is indexed and kept in libraries and names of the medicinal plants and usages are made available in the medicinal plant database of BSI.
- It is found that the main problem faced by the library during collection or maintenance of indigenous knowledge is lack of awareness among the people.

Conclusion

- Through the study, we have found that BSI, Shillong have been collecting various important data through field visits, research projects etc. from various parts of the country. They have collections on different fields like medicine, art & culture, local drinks, agriculture etc. These documents have been systematically arranged and made available for other research scholars, scientists and students with the aim of distributing the information so that new inventions could be made and it became effective for the general public.

THANK YOU

Table 2: State Wise Collection

Sl No.	Name of the State	Number of documents
1	Meghalaya	5
2	Bihar	4
3	Assam	3
4	Maharashtra	3
5	Orissa	2
6	Kerala	2
7	Andhra Pradesh	2
8	Arunachal Pradesh	1
9	Tamil Nadu	1
10	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1
11	Mizoram	1
12	Manipur	1
13	Sikkim	1
14	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman	1

Table 3: Tribe and region wise collection

Sl. No	Tribe	Region
1	Agaria, Baiga, Bhuinya, Bhoxa, Gond, Kharwar, Kol, Korwa, Oraon, Panika, Parahia, Patharia, Tharu, Jaunsari etc.	Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
2	Monpas, Adi, Khamti, Mizu, Chlikatta, Nocte, Sinpohs, Wanchos etc.	Arunachal Pradesh
3	Mishings (Miris), Karbis (Mikirs)	Assam
4	Khasi, Jaintia, Garo	Meghalaya
5	Munda, Asurs	Bihar
6	Todas, the Kotas and the Irulas	Tamil Nadu
7	Jarawa, Sentinelse, Onge, Andamanese Nicobarese, Shompen, Burman	Andaman & Nicobar Island

Table 4: Field wise collection of IK

Sl No	Field	Number of documents
1	Medicine	60
2	Art & Culture	18
3	Traditional conservation practices	04
4	Agriculture	01
5	Ritual	01
6	Local drinks	03
7	Food habits	Nil
8	Veterinary	Nil
9	Season indicator	Nil
10	Other	05