

Society of Pharmacognosy- Gujarat Chapter

Third Nature Education Camp

Saputara hills, Dang District, Gujarat

(September 24 - 26, 2011)

Report

Shree S. K. Patel College of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Ganpat University, Kherva and Society of Pharmacognosy, Gujarat chapter have jointly organized the 3rd Nature Education Camp at Saputara hills in Dang district of South Gujarat to keep informed the knowledge of plant habit in natural environment to the participants under the leadership of Dr. Rakesh. K. Patel, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, Ganpat University. Total 91 including 59 post graduate students and 32 teachers from fourteen pharmacy colleges of the Gujarat state were participated. All the participants from different places were assembled as per instruction at *Gurukul Ashram* at Bhadarpada, Dang at 08:30 to 10.00 am on September 24, 2011. *Gurukul Ashram* at Bhadarpada, Dang is place without network coverage of mobile and irregular electricity supply. Girls and Boys were provided accommodation in wooden houses. Dr. Rakesh K. Patel, in introductory speech, had explained the purpose and importance behind organizing such camp to the participants and also conveyed the message from Dr. N. M. Patel (Modasa), National coordinator, Gujarat state, Society of Pharmacognosy. Dr. Rakesh K. Patel had introduced, Mr. Kishorbhai Patel, the planner of the *Gurukul Ashram* for uplifting socioeconomic and educational status of the tribal children. After lunch, the participants had enjoyed tracking in the forest nearer to *Ashram* in total 10 Km periphery under the guidance of Mr. Somabhai Patel. He had acquired the wonderful knowledge on the medicinal value of the plants growing in the Dang forest. Camp fire and cultural performance were organized after dinner from 9:00 pm to 11:30 pm. Participants as well as the tribal students of the *Gurukul Ashram* were performed different events like special folk dance by students of first and second standard, Prayer song, local songs, tribal folk dance of Dang, Garba, special song by the local tribal rock band. All the participants enjoyed the experience of real life.

Next day on September 25, 2011, after breakfast, all participants had visited the *Kudarati Bhagat Mandal*, at Dhangadi and Sakarpatal villages and interacted with Shri Sonyabhai Bhagat. He introduced various plants having medicinal values. He had shared his divine knowledge and clinical experience of treating the local patients very effectively. Some of the treatment he is offering was like a magic remedies for disorders like kidney stone (Urolithiasis), rheumatoid arthritis and snake bites. He demonstrated steam bath, a classical therapy, using self designed apparatus.

Tour progressed and reaches Saputara hills. The participants had observed the production of Honey by local residents and had enjoyed the experience of boating and shopping.

In the Valedictory function certificates were distributed on September 26, 2011. On behalf of the Society of Pharmacognosy, Gujarat state branch, Dr. Rakesh K. Patel had expressed many thanks to Mr. Kishorbhai Patel for providing facilities for accommodation during stay to all the participants. Mr. Kishorbhai had also reciprocated by expressing vote of thanks for hosting 3rd Nature Education Camp in their premises and presenting “Chandan” plant to Dr. R. K. Patel and other faculties. Group photos of all the participants were taken.

At last, in the return journey, everybody had visited Gira fall and “National Botanical Garden” at Vaghai with kind permission of forest officer Mr. Kshatriya. National Botanical Garden is spread over 70 acres of land. Mr. Kshatriya had introduced the medicinal garden in two groups. There were more than 2300 species of medicinal plants systematically grown in the garden and some of them were rare and endangered species. Participants had enlisted and studied medicinal plants of the Dang district grown in the garden.

Dr. R. K. Patel had express vote of thanks to all the participants for showing their interest and making success of 3rd Nature Education Camp.

