

CHAPTER 13

Traditional animal based remedies: a social belief of tribals

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ABSTRACT

Traditional practices using animal products are very old and effective. The modern life style bringing away from the traditional therapeutic systems. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been to gather information from literature and bring attention towards the traditional animal based remedies. The present works highlights the importance of the same.

Keywords: *Traditional therapeutic systems, animal products, tribal communities, Odisha*

13.1 INTRODUCTION

Since ancient times animals in human society play a crucial role in the life of human beings with regard to culture, economy and religion. Although plants and plant-derived materials constitute the principal sources of components for traditional healing methods, identification of the animal resources began less than 20 years ago in Brazil (Alves and Rosa 2005), and a few years later in India (Mahawar and Jaroli 2006). In India nearly 14–20% of the Ayurvedic medicine is based on animal-derived substances and products involving 41 mammalian, 41 avian 21, piscine, 16 reptilian and 24 insect species. Healing of human ailments by using therapeutics based on medicines obtained from animals or derived from them is a practice since time immemorial among the tribal people of Odisha. The products of wild and domesticated animals (e.g. skin, bones, blood, meat, feathers, faeces, etc.) are used in protective, preventive and curative contexts as part of decoctions and potions to treat patients suffering from a wide range of health conditions (Holennavarand 2015). Since ancient times human beings are utilizing animals and plants to meet their demands of necessities like food, cloth, medicines etc. Animal derived products have always a greater influence on the life of human beings and the animal derived products are used to treat several medical ailments which is also called as Zootherapy. ‘Zootherapy’ is the term which involves utilization of animal biproducts in