



Traditional Equipments Of Madia Gond Of Devda Village, Gadchiroli District (Maharashtra), India.

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ABSTRACT:

The tribal are known to have rich knowledge of indigenous technology pertaining to equipments preparation and this paper comprises the findings of traditional knowledge regarding different equipments used by Madia Gond people of Devda village. They use different plants to prepare fishing and bird holding equipments and stones to prepare crushing and grinding equipments.

KEYWORDS:

Equipments, Madia gond, Devda.

INTRODUCTION:

The people living in far remote areas are always depending on bio-resources of their immediate surroundings in order to sustain their traditional livelihood system. Devda is a remote village of Gadchiroli district (Maharashtra) inhabited by Madia Gond community. Geographically it is situated between 90°40'18" to 19°39'51" N longitude and 79°58'56" E to 79°58'28" E latitude. Gond is a principal tribe of the Dravidian race and perhaps the most important of the non-Aryan or forest tribes in India. The Main occupation of Devda village people is agriculture, but they also do hunting and fishing for nutritional fulfilment. They use different traditional equipments in their daily life, prepared from plant material and stone.

Various attempts have been made by different workers to document the tribal knowledge of Vidarbha region regarding different equipments used in their daily life^{2,3}. This paper is also an attempt to focus on tribal's equipments that are not studied yet.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Various participatory research tools such as onsite observation, personal interviews and group discussions are used to obtain detailed information regarding different traditional equipments.

Please cite this Article as : B. Mallesh Reddy¹, Arun M. Chilke², S.D. Tummawar³ and Swapan S. Bacher⁴, Traditional Equipments Of Madia Gond Of Devda Village, Gadchiroli District (Maharashtra), India. : Golden Research Thoughts (Sept ; 2012)



RESULTS AND CONCLUSION:

The tribal people use various conventional methods to prepare their equipments by utilising Plants and stone. The different traditional equipments used by these tribes are documented in table-1.

TABLE-1.

Equipment	Material	Utility
Fishing and associated:		
Gimmala guda	Bambo	Fish(large) capturing
Chinna gimmala goosuru	Bambo	Fish(small) capturing
Deeni	Bambo	Fish(small) capturing
Tele	Bambo	Used along with gimmala guda
Dangera	Bambo	Fish dring
Hunting and associated:		
Ola	Paur	Animal capturing
Guntil	Bambo & Paur	Bird hunting
Baate	Bambo & Paur	Guti holding
Gulel	Wood & Rubber	Bird hunting
Guntil	Bambo	Animal hunting
Kamta	Bambo	Animal hunting
Household:		
Korguda	Bambo	Hen keeping
Topishi	Bambo	Grain storing
Dhooti	Bambo	Grain carrying
Tumba	<i>Laganaria seciararia</i> & Paur	Water bottle
Neelu tode burra	<i>Laganaria seciararia</i>	Water drawer
Banda	Stone	Crushing
Gidki	Bambo	Rain coat
Kanden gota	Bamboo	Store Castor oil

Gimmala guda (Fig.1), Chinna gimmala goosuru (Fig.2) and Deeni (Fig.4) are fish capturing equipments of different size and shape, prepared from bamboo strips. The architecture is mainly based on the principle that fish can enter in to it through specific funnels but cannot escape. Tele (Fig.5) is also made up of bamboo and fibre of Bauhinia vahli used to direct water in to capturing equipment. Dangera (Fig.3) is made up of intervened bamboo strips, used for drying fishes. It is tied on four sides and hanged on long bamboo.

Guntil is specially designed stone thrower for bird hunting. It is made up of bamboo and Bauhinia vahli fibre. Its two strings are separated by bamboo stick to provide tension. There is a fibre pad attached to strings, where the stone or Guti (pebble made up of clay) is placed and released with tension. While going for hunting the hunter keep his pebble in bag called Baate (Fig.9). Bow (Fig.8) made up of bamboo and paur is used for hunting animals. Arrow has pointed head, which is some time poisoned. Gulel (Fig.10) is used for hunting birds and small animals like rabbits, is made up of a 'V' shaped branch and rubber. Ola is made up of fibre of Bauhinia vahli or Hibiscus sadbarifa and used for capturing animals. But now-a-days it is made up of nylon.

Korguda is made up of bamboo which is split and intervened on one side is used to keep hens. A large (2m diameter X 2m height) storage container called Topishi is prepared from bamboo strips. And it is smeared with cow dung to fill gaps between bamboo strips and also protect from insects. Dhooti (Fig.13) is similar to topisi (Fig.12) but very small and used to carry grains.

Water bottle is prepared from Laganaria seciaria (generally oval shaped) and is covered with fibre of Hibiscus sabdarifa to keeps water, cool in summer for longer time. Neelu tode burra (Fig.15) is also prepared from Laganaria seciaria (elongated) used for water. Generally every home has Banda (Fig. 16), which is made up of a flat stone and a small cylindrical stone used to crush tobacco.

After centuries of being in close association with nature, they have developed for themselves the indigenous skill and technology to use these resources in various parts of their life support system.

CONCLUSION:

These tribal people fulfil their daily needs from surrounding available things in sustainable manner. Their knowledge of equipment preparation and utilisation is descending from long back. But in recent decades, rapid modernisation and acculturation process developed in traditional livelihood system of tribal community vanishing this age old heritage. Hence it is necessary to document and preserve these traditional skills and knowledge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Authors are very thankful to Madia Gond of Devda village for providing valuable information regarding their traditional knowledge.

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