



Incorporation of homoeopathic *Calendula officinalis* Q in suppurative diseases among tribal population

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Abstract

Background: Most of the Tribal population in India had been known to depend on traditional tribal medicines for long to cure their ailments. Homoeopathic medical system of medicine could be a good alternative mode of health care facility. No big infrastructure is required for establishing this health care system.

Objective: To assess the level of homoeopathic awareness and the reasons for their preference to homoeopathic system.

Methods: A cross sectional survey conducted through homoeopathic health camps in the interval of every fifteen days from "February 2022 to August 2022" in general tribal population using a thorough case taking method.

Results: The survey performed on tribal patients reflected the level of homoeopathic awareness, prevalence of disease mainly respiratory, throat and skin complaints, injury and health status of the tribal population with the treatment of homoeopathic medicine *Calendula officinalis* Mother tincture. The positive effect with homoeopathic treatment also became evident in the study.

Conclusion: A favorable attitude toward homoeopathy among the tribal population was observed. In this respect, there should be more arrangement of homoeopathic health camps and distribution of homoeopathic awareness materials in local language to improve the scenario.

Keywords: *Calendula officinalis* Mother tincture, Suppurative diseases, Homoeopathic treatment, Homoeopathic awareness

1. Introduction

Tribal people mostly suffer from some specific health problems like nutritional deficiency diseases, injury tendency to suppuration, respiratory, repeated throat infection, skin complaints, malaria, poor health status, STDs, genetic abnormalities such as sickle cell anaemia and Glucose-6 Phosphate Enzyme Deficiency (G-6-PD). Tribal people face wide spread poverty, non-utilization of available resources, illiteracy, malnutrition (low immunity to resist infection, leads to chronic illness) and poor maternal and child health services.

They discuss numerous causes of a single illness. The majority of illnesses, in their opinion, are brought on by supernatural forces. Although they have their own way of treating and managing diseases but it is neither scientifically validated nor skill is certified. Their multi-causal theories about the occurrence of physical and mental discomfort, as well as their beliefs in God and other socio-cultural factors, guide them in deciding which system to employ as and when it is appropriate. Their choice for treatment is based on careful observation and knowledge of nature¹.

Homoeopathy is an important branch of alternative medicine that is utilised for wellness, prevention, and treatment of many diseases and ailments that cannot be cured by conventional medicine. The application of homoeopathy in tribal population is extensive. Due to Cost effective medicines Homoeopathy may prove boon for tribal population.

As tribal live in fact in undeveloped and uneducation, they face wounds and inflammation. Moreover, females suffer from anaemia, menstrual and hormonal disorders.



Fig 1

Calendula officinalis, a member of the Asteraceae family, is a well-known medicinal herb. It is also known as English marigold and pot marigold. *Calendula officinalis* contains a variety of biologically active compounds, including carotenoids, flavonoids, saponins, sterols, phenolic acids, lipids, and others. Plant components such as leaves and flowers have been claimed to have medicinal properties. The flowers are extracted then tinctured, balm, ointments were created from them and applied directly to the skin to help cure wounds and calm inflamed and injured skin. Advanced analytical techniques were employed to identify unique chemical compounds such as isorhamnetin, rutin, and quercetin glucoside, which are physiologically active and used in the food and cosmetic industries. *Calendula officinalis* has traditionally been used as an anti-inflammatory, diaphoretic, analgesic, antimicrobial, and in the treatment of jaundice. Internally, it is used to treat mucous membrane inflammations, peptic and duodenal ulcers, GI tract spasms, duodenal and intestinal mucosa spasms, painful menstruation, particularly in anxious or anaemic women, as well as splenic and hepatic inflammations. In most situations, it is used externally to treat skin inflammations, open wounds, and laceration wounds with bleeding. It is also used to cure minor ailments such as razor burns and wind burns. It is often used following tooth extractions as a mouthwash².

Aim of study

To evaluate the effectiveness of homoeopathic medicine *Calendula officinalis* Mother tincture in Injury tendency to suppuration, Respiratory infection, Repeated throat infection, Skin complaints like Scabies, boils, ringworm, dermatitis, etc.

Objective of study

To assess the level of homoeopathic awareness and the reasons for their preference to homoeopathic system with the treatment by *Calendula officinalis* Mother tincture among tribal population.

Homoeopathic Literature on *Calendula officinalis*

There are many literatures of use of *Calendula officinalis*

mother tincture both external and internal applications to treat many diseases. Few literatures are mentioned below:

- **John Henry Clarke:** The special kind of wounds indicating its use are lacerated wounds and suppurating wounds. It is the homeopathic antiseptic-it restores the vitality of an injured part, making it impregnable against the forces of putrefaction. Unlike Arnica it has no irritating property capable of producing erysipelas. It is therefore suitable to all cases of injury where the skin is broken. Jahr, who was in Paris during the Coup d'Etat of 1849, treated a number of cases of gun-shot wounds with comminuted bones, and saved several limbs by means of *Calendula*. It prevented suppuration and pyæmia. In some cases of carbuncle it acts with great promptitude, subduing pain and fever. In obstetric practice it is invaluable. The application of a sponge saturated with a hot solution of *Calendula* after delivery gives the greatest comfort to the patient. Hot *Calendula* lotions are generally preferable to cold, as they conserve the vitality of the injured parts. Hot *Calendula* fomentations, intermittently applied, are far better than poultices as applications to forming abscesses. If they do not abort the process they favour the maturation and ultimate healing. C. R. Crosby (H. R., xii, 370) gives it internally (in the 3x) as well as externally. He has also had excellent results from its use as a hot compress (an ounce to the pint) in pneumonia and other internal inflammations. It is an excellent hæmostatic in tooth-extractions. *Calendula* has not been largely proved, but very definite fever symptoms have been elicited, and cases of jaundice have been treated with it successfully. Some of the symptoms are: Irritability; easily Frightened; great tendency to start, nervousness; hearing very acute³.
- **C. Hering:** Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation. Ruptures of cervix and perineum during childbirth. Profuse, offensive, watery discharge from vagina, with great exhaustion, second and third day after instrumental delivery. Gangrene of uterus. Excoriated and cracked nipples. Jaundice. Soft warts. Stinging pain in wound during fever heat; surroundings look very red. A wound is painful, in morning, as if bruised and smarting, with picking in it and threatening to suppurate. Wound raw and inflamed; painful, as if beaten; parts around wound become red, with stinging in wound during febrile heat; constitutional tendency to erysipelas. In charring of skin, after separation of slough. Old, neglected wounds, maggoty and offensive. Ulcers: weak, indolent, irritable inflamed, sloughing, varicose, or hemorrhagic; excessive secretion of pus; painful, as if beaten; surrounding parts are red; stinging during fever; < at night. Abscesses; when induration occurs after surgical operations, followed by suppuration; wound becomes raw and inflamed, is painful in morning as if beaten, with stinging, followed by throbbing, as if it would suppurate. Hinders or prevents gangrene⁴.
- **H.C. Allen:** Traumatic affections: To secure union by first intention and prevent suppuration. In all cases of loss of soft parts when union cannot be effected by means of adhesive plaster. External wounds with or without loss of substance; torn and jagged looking wounds; post-surgical operations; to promote healthy granulation and prevent excessive suppuration and disfiguring scars. Traumatic and idiopathic neuroma;

neuritis from lacerated wounds; exhausted from loss of blood and excessive pain. Rupture of muscles of tendons; lacerations during labor; wounds penetrating articulations with loss of synovial fluids. Wounds: With sudden pain during febrile heat; constitutional tendency to erysipelas; old, neglected, offensive; threatening gangrene. *Calendula* is almost specific for clean, surgical cuts or lacerated wounds, to prevent excessive suppuration.

Ulcers: Irritable, inflamed, sloughing, varicose; painful as if beaten. Excessive secretion of pus. Acts as well in potency as in tincture, applied locally, and may be administered internally at the same time⁵.

Study Setting: Villages of Rajasthan - Salumber, Dungarpur, Rajsamand, Aspur

Duration of study: February 2022 to August 2022 (Seven Months)

Sample Selection: Randomized Sample selection of diseases mainly “Injury tendency to suppuration, Respiratory infection, Repeated throat infection, Skin complaints like Scabies, boils, ring worm, dermatitis, etc.” and application of *Calendula officinalis* Mother tincture with the follow up of 10 days intervals with treatment.

Inclusion Criteria and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria

- Injury tendency to suppuration
- Skin complaints
- Repeated throat infection
- Respiratory complaints
- Patient with consent

Exclusion criteria

- Complicated injuries
- Any complication with Inclusion criteria disease.
- Patient with no consent
- Lactating and Pregnant women
- Poisoning

Study Design: A cross sectional survey conducted through homoeopathic health camps in the interval of every fifteen days from “February 2022 to August 2022” in general tribal population of different villages of Rajasthan. The study was done in 120 patients on proportional basis.

Calendula officinalis Q (Mother tincture) is prescribed as external and internal application as per the condition of the disease and patient.

Observations and Results

Result is considered or decided as per the improvement of the patient's disease condition for which medicine is prescribed.

Table 1: Number of Cases and Treatment used

Name Of Disease	Nos. Of Cases	Treatment
Injury tendency to suppuration	27	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture both Externally apply directly and internally intake mix with water.
Skin complaints like Scabies, boils, ringworm, dermatitis	38	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture both Externally apply directly and internally intake mix with water.
Recurrent throat infection	25	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture internally intake mix with water.
Respiratory infection-Cough	30	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture internally intake mix with water.
Total Cases	120	

Table 2: Result of Included Cases after Treatment

Name Of Disease	No. Of Cases	Treatment	No. Of Cases Improved After Treatment	Improved In % (Remark)	P value
Injury tendency to suppuration	27	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture both Externally apply directly and internally intake mix with water.	27	100	< 0.0001
Skin complaints like Scabies, boils, ringworm, dermatitis	38	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture both Externally apply directly and internally intake mix with water.	30	78.95	< 0.0001
Recurrent throat infection	25	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture internally intake mix with water.	23	92	< 0.0001
Respiratory infection-Cough	30	<i>Calendula officinalis</i> mother tincture internally intake mix with water.	27	90	< 0.0001
Total Cases	120		107	89	< 0.0001

Result: Total cases included in the study were 120 in nos. from which 107 i.e., 89 % were responded with the treatment by *Calendula officinalis* Mother Tincture within the study period of seven months. The P value remain less then 0.0001 It shows that *Calendula officinalis* Mother Tincture proved to be beneficial for the treatment of suppurated kind of diseases from which patients were suffering.

Conclusion

A favorable attitude toward homoeopathy among the tribal population was observed.

In this respect, enhanced homoeopathic medical health camps

and sharing of homoeopathic awareness materials among tribal population in local language is recommended to improve the scenario.

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