3.1 FIELD WORK

The present investigation was carried out from May 2012 to Sept 2013. During the field study specimens were collected in whatever the available form at that time, with their local names. Specimens of very common and well known plants like *Neem, Amali* etc., were not collected. Using the *Botanical knowledge*, with the help of *Gujarat flora* and authentically identified specimens available at Prof. G.L. Shah Herbarium the botanical identity was provisionally determined and further confirmed in the laboratory and the guide of the investigation. Photographs of the available plants were taken during field trips. Frequent visits were made to confirm identification of the plants to the local names. Some plants are having 2-5 local names. The local name which is referred for a particular plant at a particular area differs from the other area within the Dangs district. For instance *Mucuna pruriens* is known as Kuali, Kuila, Kavicha; *Syzygium cumini* referred by Jamboo, Jamla, Jabuda etc. in different villages of Dangs district. Similarly the same local name is applied for various plants. To say, ‘Dangar’ is referred in some villages where Gujarati language is commonly spoken to rice plant, where as in remote villages wherein Gujarati is not commonly spoken and Dangi is predominant language, the same name (Dangar) is referred to pumpkin fruit.

The people of Dangs have developed their own traditional method of treatment using a wide variety of plants. The individuals involved in such kind of treatments are known as Bhagats. Normally these people derive this kind of traditional knowledge from their ancestors and pass it on from one generation to another. Some who had possessed rich herbal knowledge were vanished without revealing to anybody. Some claim to have herbal knowledge through dreams where *Dungar Devi* revealed the uses of the plants. Some of the persons encountered in the present investigation also shared similar information. The medicine men of Dangs possess rich knowledge of medicinal use of various parts of plants such as root, rhizome, flower, leaf, latex, bark etc. These plants are used in a variety of forms like, paste, powder, decoction, extracted oil etc.
With the help of reliable and known personals the investigator met 42 well known medicine persons from 25 villages scattered in different parts of Dangs (See Figure 1). Though initially they were reluctant to share their knowledge, slowly and gradually they shared their Ethnic knowledge on gaining trust and confidence. They have shared their knowledge and informed the name of the plants and their parts used for a particular sickness.

The Bio data of the healers, together with their photographs and address are numbered and recorded in the forgoing pages in order with an opinion that they can be contacted if need arises. The particular number given will be referred again in the result of the thesis with * number. Information regarding treatment with different plant parts is given with Botanical name, local name and the parts used. The preparation and dosage or application for each treatment was enquired from the individual healers and systematically documented.

3.2 LAB WORK

This work does not need any lab work except for the identification of plants.

3.2.1 HERBARIUM WORK

All collected specimens were properly processed for herbarium by dry method as per the standard herbarium methods recommended by Santapau (1955) and Jain & Rao (1976).

3.2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF SAMPLES

As mentioned earlier identification of the samples collected during the survey was provisionally done by using botanical knowledge, by matching with the help of authentic herbarium specimen available at Prof. G.L. Shah Herbarium, with the help of Gujarat Flora, and finally confirmed by the expert botanists. After the identification and confirmations all the labelled herbarium sheets were arranged according to alphabetical order of the botanical names.

3.2.3 DATA PRESENTATION.
The gathered data regarding the herbal therapeutic practices are shown in chapter V as the result of the research. The sicknesses are grouped into 21 different categories and numbered. Each group is again divided into its sub groups. In case for a particular sickness many practices are recorded, they are numbered in Roman letters and at the end of the information a star is put with a number to indicate the source of the information i.e. name addresses of informators. Photographs of 96 plants with their Botanical names and local names are attached at the end of chapter three in Plates 1-12. Diseases dealt in the thesis are arranged in alphabetical order along with their corresponding page numbers are provided in Table 2. The 195 identified plants with a synoptic view of botanical names and their uses investigated in the study are presented in Table 1. The list of plant families and their corresponding number of species for which medicinal uses are recorded are in APPENDIX I. Index to local names and their botanical names and family in APPENDIX II, Index to the botanical names corresponding to the plant family and Local names APPENDIX III. For the convenience of readers of the thesis and the end-users of the work, by and large, the names of ailments are expressed in the text in English language. Adequate care was taken while translating the names of ailments from local language (Dangi/Gujarati/Marathi) to English. Wherever there was confusion or overlapping, the names are recorded ‘in toto’ as they were pronounced by the informators. List of the traditional healers who contributed to the study is provided in APPENDIX IV. Some basic information and the introduction about the informators are given below.
3.2.4: DETAILS OF INFORMATORS

1. Somabhai Vatya Moris

*Village: Zari; Age: 50 years*

He has no formal education at all. He speaks mainly Dangi. He learned use of herbal medicines from his friend Kajrav Pandya of Natyahanavath village. He treats people of close by villages on the border of Maharashtra and Gujarat. He treats about 2-3 patients per day. He claims to treat for all kinds of sicknesses. He cures common sicknesses within 15 days but says that about a month is needed to cure serious sicknesses. Somabhai goes three to four days in a year at the end of monsoon to the forest and collects and keeps the required medicinal plant parts. According to him all types of plants will be available during that season. Nobody has yet learned this knowledge from him. He expresses that the present generation especially the youth do not like to take the trouble of going to the forest to search and collect medicinal plant, as it demands a lot of time and hampers their agriculture and other works.

2. Shukarbahi

*Village: Sathbabla; Age: 60 years*

As a child he attended the night school in his village for three - four years. He works as a Bhagat for last 35 years. He is specially qualified for performing Pooja during festivals like Holi, storing the grains and for any special functions in the village. Many patients come to him for treatment. He treats human beings as well as animals. Most of the people in his village go to him for treatments. He has a stock of medicine gathered from the forest.

3. Punyabhai Jivaliyabahi Gavit
Village: Dhuda; Age: 55 years

He is a farmer and has no formal education. He began his medicine practice already as a teen-age boy. He is a well known medicine man. Much of his knowledge of the medicines has been learnt by him from his father and through daily experiments and practices. Many people from the close by villages come to him for treatment.

4. Rameshbahi Lahanubhai Bhyoe.

Village: Dhuda; Age: 40 years

He is an illiterate. He speaks mainly Dangi. His father taught him the use of medicinal plants. He is practicing this since his childhood.

5. Ranjubahi Vajirambahi Powar

Village: Gaygotten; Age: 50 years

He has not gone to school but he knows to read and write. He learned this practice from his father, but began practicing only at a later age. His wife also knows most of the uses of medicinal plants. He has not formally initiated anybody to this practice. However his son has learned most of the medicines by seeing him practicing and by helping him preparing various medicines. He is a specialist in curing sterility and impotency.

6. Sureshbahi Ranjubahi Powar
Village: Gaygotten; Age: 35 years

He is the son of Ranjubahi Vajirambahi Powar mentioned above. He has completed his school education. He learned about the use of medicinal plants from his father and mother; however he does not practice medicine regularly like his father.

7. Ratanubahi Bahvadubahi Chavaria.

Village: Gaygotten; Age: 52 years

He studied up to 6th standard and speaks Dangi. His father taught him the use of medicinal plants.

8. Devanji Manaji Gayakwad.

Village: Vankan; Age 80 years.

He understands and speaks only Dangi. He has been practicing medicine for over six decades. His brother in law, Mahunabhai taught him medicine. Most people from his village take medicine from him and have great faith in his ability to cure them of their sickness. He is ready to share his knowledge of medicinal plants with other people in the village. But says that most people do not want take the trouble to collect the plants and use them.

9. Maganbhai Gulabbhai Gavit
Village: Pimpri; Age: 75 years

Mganbahi learned this Vidya from his guru Kadidas Kavi from Deesa–Palanpur in North Gujarat where he was for about ten years. He also worked also in Ahmedabad. Many patients, even from far away places like Surat and Bombay used to come to him. Now he has almost given up practice as he finds it difficult to go and collect medicinal plants from the forest because of his old age.

10. Sukliyabhai Zuliabhai Marali

Village: Dungarada; Age: 55 years

He had Primary school education. He was working in the government-owned medicinal plants plot in his own village, Dhuagarada. He began learning about medicinal plant from his father Zuliabhai, but Zuliabhai dies all of a sudden before his son could gain proficiency in his profession. According to Zukliyabhai more things about medicinal plants and their uses he learned through a dream. What he learned in the dream he confirmed with his mother who knew whatever her husband practiced. He is not willing to share his knowledge with others because he believes that if he tells to anybody the effect of the medicine will decrease. Now he is teaching his vidhya to his son. He doesn’t collect and store the plants because according to him the stored plants will lose its medicinal power. When the patients come to him, he goes to the forest and performs certain rituals to the plants and then collect them. However he has many plant samples like, Sakhalia (Bendvel), Dhorsidi, Biyogum etc. at home. He has cured many patients in Vansda – Bheskhatari area.

_Village: Vati – Koba phaliyu; Age: 55 years_

He has no formal education and according to him nobody has taught the medicine practice. He claims to have leaned it through a dream where he saw a few medicinal plants for certain sicknesses. He tried many people and found them very effective. By hearing this many people came to him and still many people are coming to him. He has shared his knowledge to many people.

12. Babubhai Soniyabhau Chaudhari

_Village: Vati – Bajari phaliyu. Age: 70 years_

13. Ramubhai Kalubhai Raut

_Village: Vati – Borigoutan; Age:50 years_

He is educated and is a community leader in his village. He got this knowledge about medicinal plants from different people.

14. Gamjibahi Pandubhai Bahtt

_Village: Pimpri; Age: 65 years_

He has no formal education, knows to speak Gujarati. He was taught Herbal medicine by His father, however he has not taught this to any anybody so far. He is practising herbal medicine nearly 20 years. He is a specialist in performing Dungaar Pooja and conducts about 45 Dungar Poojas a year. People from Bombay, Nandurbar, Nasik, Surat etc invite him to perform Dungar Pooja and also for treatment.

15. Chambarbahi Vashavasrao Powar.
Village Pimpr; Age: 75 years

He is no school education, speaks only Dangi. His father taught him use of medicinal plants. Normally one or two patients come to him per day for treatment. He was not very ready to reveal much about his medicinal practices.

16. Pratapbhai Chambarbahi Powar

Village Pimpri; Age: 40 years

He has no formal education, does majuri for his livelihood. He learned Herbal medicine from his father. He considers rats meet as medicinal because rat eats all kinds of roots, rhizome, grains, etc.

17. Ramubhai Chimnabhai Powar

Village: Thunduniya; Age: 50 years

He has no school education and speaks only Dangi. He has learned Herbal medicine from his father and has taught this practise to his son.

18. Ratenbhai Jinabhai Mokasi

Village: Chichinagautta; Age: 55 years

He works as a Forest guard in Chichinagautta. He began to practise herbal medicine already as a youngster. Nanyabhai Pandubhai Bagarya, the village Bhagat taught him the use of different kinds of medicinal plants. He has not shared his knowledge with any one else so far.

Village: Halmudi; Age: 65 years

He has studied up to 4th standard in Marathi medium and is fluent in Kokani also. He learned herbal medicine from his father, but has not taught this to anyone as his children have no interest in this field. Depending upon the season an average of two to three persons come to him for treatment everyday. Patients from Vyara, Unai and Vansda also come to him for treatment.

20. Mangubhai Lahanubhai Powar:

Village: Thunduniya; Age: 50 years

He has studied up to 3rd standard. Mangubhai’s father, before his death passed his knowledge of herbal medicine on to his son, Mangubhai. He has kept Sundays for his medical practise as on other days he is busy in his fields. Many patients, also from Surat, Vyara, Songad, etc. come to him for treatment. He is famous for treating sterility and impotency.


Village: Bapkal; Age: 70 years

He is a farmer and has no formal education. According to his story, when he was about 14 or 15 years old, in his dream he saw a man with beard and long hair and a staff in his hand. He woke him up from his sleep and showed him five plants and told him to use them to cure people. He claims to have dreams every now and then through which he comes to know more and more plants to cure many sicknesses. He is well known in the whole of Shamgahan area. He is specialized in curing sterility and impotency. Many women seem to have got children because of his treatment. He and his son together collect medicinal plants, prepare the medicines and store them.

22. Saliben Arjunbhai Dhule.
Village: Burapani; Age: 40 years

She is an illiterate housewife. She learned herbal treatment from her grand father. She is a specialist in treating for Dog bite (rabies). Her husband helps her in her medicine-work.

23. Iktyabahi Jivlyabahi Powar.

Village: Chirapada ; Age: 75 years

His father taught him the medical practices. He already began giving medicines as a young man. Many people from his own village and from the near by villages come to him for treatment.

24. Ramdasbhai Pandyabhai Gangoda

Village: Chirapada; Age: 40 years

He is a farmer and also goes for construction work. He learned herbal medicine from his father-in-law and is practising since 20-25 years. Many patients come to him for various kinds of treatments.

25. Aavjabhai Ramubhai Chavhan

Village: Shamghahan; Age: 50 years

He works as a chokidar for PWD at Shamghahan. He is very famous for treating fractures, both in humans and in animals. His father taught him how to do it and he is doing this since about fifteen years. He gets at least two to three cases everyday to attend to.

26. Devaji Ramjubahi Deshmukh
Village: Gundvahal; Age: 65 years

He is a farmer and has learned herbal cures from his father. Many patients from near by villages come to him for treatment.

27. Gangabhai Natyabhai Vagmar.

Village: Gundvahal; Age: 75 years

Besides his father, who initiated him to herbal medicine, he has had six gurus also. He began practising herbal cures at an early age of 14-15 years.

28. Mohanbhai Bennai Thakare:

Village: Gundvahal; Age: 40 years

He learned about herbal medicines by seeing others practising it and through his own practice.

29. Vasantbhai Ranjibhai Powar

Village: Nalagchod; Age: 70 years

His father taught him many of the medical practices.

He also learned through dreams.

Many people come to him for the treatment.
30. Jainaben Gangabhai Chudhari

Village: Nalagchod; Age: 40 years

She is an illiterate. Her husband taught her how to use the medicinal plants. Many people come to her for treatment.

31. Kasiya Arjunbhai Deshmukh

Village: Soupdahad; Age: 60 years

His father taught him how to use various medicinal plants for different kinds of ailments. Already as boy he started treating patients. He is well known for treating patients for snake bites. Many People from far and near by villages call on him for the treatment.

32. Abaji Julpia Valevi

Village: Bapkal; Age: 75 years

He had many gurus who taught him how to use the medicinal plants and also to perform different types of rituals. He learned about medicinal plants also from his father. Many people come to him for treatment.

33. Sakliram Khandubhai Deshmukh

Village: Ranpada; Age: 75 years

He is a farmer with no formal education. His father–in-law taught him the herbal cures. He is well known for treating animals. People from Maharashtra, and other parts of Gujarat come to him for the treatment.

34. Sukriyabhai Janiyabhai Chaudhari.
Village: Dhumkal; Age: 45 years

He learned herbal cures from many different medicine men. Since past 15-20 years he is giving medicines and patients from the close by villages and district come to him for treatment.

35. Thukarambhai Ramubhai Chauhan

Village: Shamghahan; Age: 50 years

He learned herbal cures from a gruru and started practising it at a very young age.

36. Suliyabhai Ukardabhai Bhoye.

Village: Kotba; Age: 45 years

He has studied up to 8th standard and is a farmer. He learned herbal medicine from his brother and stared practising only recently.


Village: Gana; Age: 40 years

He is a farmer and has studied up to 6th standard. His grand father taught him herbal medicines.

38. Bapubhai Janubhai Chavariya

Village: Gaygotten; Age: 50 years He has no formal education and is a farmer. His uncle taught him the medical practices.

39. Ashokbhai Krushnabhai Galvi

Village: Subir; Age: 54 years
He has studied up to 7th std and works in Public Work Department (PWD). His father taught him how to use medicinal pants for curing diseases.

40. Sitaben Lasebahi Gayakwad

**Village: Savardakasad; Age: 60 years**

![Sitaben Lasebahi Gayakwad](image)

Her elder brother, Kanjaru Bhedu Powar taught her the practice of herbal medicine. She treats many patients for various sicknesses and is a well known medicine woman. People from far away places like Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Surat, etc. and also from Maharashtra come to her for treatment.

41. Ramubhai Somabhai Chauharia

**Village: Dhuda; Age: 45 years**

![Ramubhai Somabhai Chauharia](image)

He has studied up to 4th standard. His father taught him how to use medicinal plants for the treatment. Many patients come to him for treatment. He is specialist in treating epilepsy patients.

42. Mainuben Jayantibhai Galvi

**Village: Subir; Age: 35 years**

![Mainuben Jayantibhai Galvi](image)

Mainuben is a housewife and claims to have learned about herbal medicine through a dream. She is a specialist in treating Eczema patients. Her husband assists her in her medicine work.

Hope that the Contribution of these healers’ medical practises brought light to both therapeutic and ethnobotanical documentation of Dangs. The result of the work carried out is in the following chapter.