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Ethnobotanical Study of Siddha Medicine in *Kokkavil*, Sri Lanka**Sharsaayini, T. *, Gumuthagini, V., Navaluxmy, N.***Department of Gunapadam, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka***saayini19@gmail.com***Abstract**

Traditional systems of medicine, such as Siddha, rely heavily on medicinal plants as core therapeutic resources. Shaped by ecological availability, cultural beliefs and centuries of empirical knowledge, these practices link biodiversity with human health. In regions like the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, documenting ethnobotanical knowledge is essential for preserving traditional practices and evaluating ecological sustainability and pharmacological potential. This study explored the ethnobotanical characteristics, therapeutic applications and ecological implications of medicinal plants used in Siddha Medicine in *Kokkavil*, *Kilinochchi* District. Data were collected through belt transect sampling (five 500 m×10 m plots) and semi-structured interviews with local healers and knowledgeable community members. Plant specimens were identified and information recorded on local names, morphology, life span, plant parts used, therapeutic actions and targeted physiological systems. A total of 79 species from over 30 families were documented. Fabaceae (15.19%) and Euphorbiaceae (11.39%) were the most represented among the 30 reminded families. Herbs (34.18) were the dominant life form and perennials (71.79%) indicated ecological stability. Leaves (22.36%) were the most frequently used part, suggesting sustainable harvesting, while roots (17.39%) and whole plants (12.42%) raised ecological concerns. Common therapeutic actions included diuretic (8.23%), astringent (7.82%) and tonic (7.41%) mainly targeting the gastrointestinal (21.17%), cardiovascular (16.99%) and nervous (13.65%) systems. The findings highlight a rich Siddha knowledge system that integrates biodiversity and pharmacological insight. Whereas most practices are sustainable, some destructive harvesting practices do occur, underlining the need for conservation. This calls for ethnobotanical research for health, medicine, and environmental stewardship.

Keywords: *Kokkavil, Sri Lanka, Medicinal plants, Siddha medicine, Sustainable harvesting*