



Study The Livelihood Of Broom Makers Belonging To Bilah Block Of Bilaspur District Of Chhattisgarh With Special Reference To Broom Preparation From Leaves Of *Phoenix Acaulis* Roxb And *Phoenix Sylvestris* (L.) Roxb

Sagar Bawane & Chirau Dolas

Dept of Botany, Dharampeth M P Deo Memorial Science College, Nagpur

ABSTRACT

Broom making and selling is the occupation of villagers who belonging to Bilah block of Bilaspur district of C.G. Their livelihood is depends on this work. They used leaves of *Phoenix acaulis* and *Phoenix sylvestris* for broom preparation. They travelled and stay various places of big cities of the state. In Nagpur about 40 families are involved in this work. We can see them at places such as Ambazati T Point, Jaitala, Raju Nagar, Wad- Dhamna, Ittabhatti, Naka No. 5 and Dighori. These people live as nomadic life.

KEY WORDS: Broom preparation, Bilah, Bilaspur, C. G., *Phoenix Acaulis*, *Phoenix Sylvestris*.

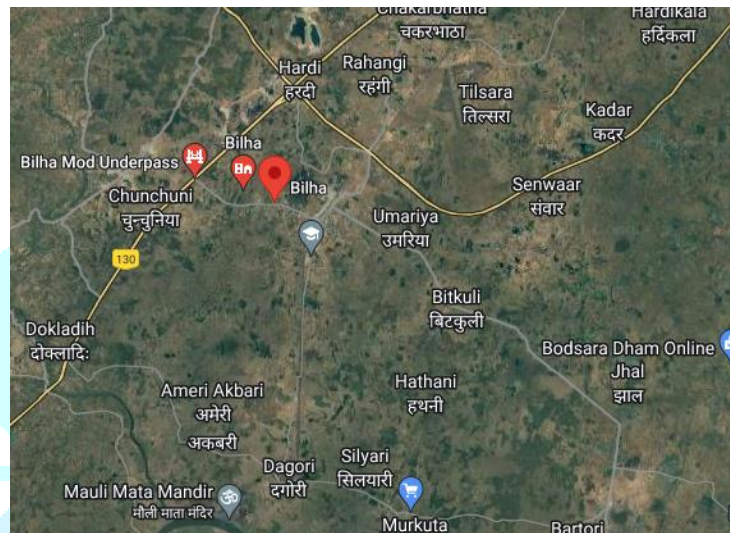
INTRODUCTION

We know that the broom is a clearing tool which is used for sweeping the floor. The traditional Indian brooms are prepared from kinds of grasses and leaves of some trees. Traditionally Indian tribes are involved in such type of occupation. Broom makers prepared brooms from grasses and leaves of plants species. In the present investigation, survey was conducted at various places of Nagpur city and attempt to study the livelihood of broom makers temporarily living there and involved in the occupation of broom making and selling door to door. Originally, these people are belonging to Bilah Block of Bilaspur district of Chhatisgrah State.

Bilah is the town and tahsil place of Bilaspur district of Chhatisgarh. The block is covered by 364 km² area including rural area 339.15 km² and 24.54 km² urban areas. The people of Bilah tahsil for their livelihood, depends on the occupation of broom making and selling in various places of Maharashtra. Villages of Bilah tahsil

such as Deori, Jenjardi, Salkha, Matiyari, Dhangaon, Maro, Ameri, Sata, Amsena, Jokhi, Peri, Kota etc are villages are involved in the occupation of broom preparation and selling in different places of Maharashtra.

These people live as nomadic life with their families. They wander place to place throughout the year. They sell broom in big cities such as Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Nasik. For the broom preparation, these people used leaves of *Phoenix acaulis* Roxb. and *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb. Both the species are belonging to family Arecaceae. The fruits of both the species are edible¹⁻².



MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study was conducted and information collected from the people (Broom makers) who temporarily living in Nagpur at various places such as Ambazari T point, Jaitala, Rajunagar, Waddhamna, Ittabhati, Naka No. 5, Tolanaka and Dighori. Data was collected from them frequent visits and discussion occurred with them. Plant material was identified with the help of published literature and Flora. Audio and video recording took place at the time of data collection.



OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Broom preparation and selling door to door is the occupation of broom makers who belonging to Bilah block of Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh State. At Nagpur region several families living at different places such as Ambazari T point, Jaitala, Rajunagar, wad-dhamna, Ittabhatti, Naka No. 5, Tolanakka, Dighori etc. Table 1 shows no. family and family member living in temporarily prepared huts.



Temporary Hut and work place of Broom Makers

Table 1. Distribution of families at different places of Nagpur region.

Sr No.	Place	No. of family	No. of individuals
1.	Ambazari T Point	4	22
2	Jaitala	5	28
3	Raju Nagar	3	10
4	Wad- Dhamna	5	34
5	Ittabhati	15	60
6	Naka No. 5	2	12
7	Dighori	3	14

At present about 40 families are working this work for their livelihood. These people prepared brooms from leaves of *Phoenix Acaulis* Roxb. and *Phoenix Sylvestris* (L.) Roxb. Both the plant species are coming under the family *Arecaceae*. Raw material for the preparation of broom (leaves of *Phoenix acaulis* from Dongargarh and Balaghat area and leaves of *Phoenix sylvestris* from Shindhi railway region) arranged from original sources of the plant species. There are two types of brooms available. First type of broom is prepared from *Phoenix acaulis* Roxb and second type from *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb.

*Phoenix acaulis* Roxb*Phoenix Sylvestris* (L.) Roxb.A. Leaves of *Phoenix sylvestris* B. Broom (*P. sylvestris*), C. Broom (*P. acaulis*)

CONCLUSION

About twenty five villages of Bilah block of Bilaspur district of Chhatisgarh State involved the occupation of broom making from the leaves of *Phoenix acaulis* and *Phoenix Sylvestris*. They got skill, techniques and knowledge concern broom making form their parents. Generation to generation they are doing this work. Due to nomadic life and wandering life, they cannot pay attention to children education. Only few children are taking education in government schools of Nagpur city.

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