

ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to prepare plant inventory for exploration of the ethnobotanical importance of plants of graveyard and to understand the effectiveness of graveyards in conserving plant diversity. Plants were collected in different seasons of the year and were dried, pressed and identified with the help of flora of Pakistan. Ethnobotanical study was carried out by interviewing the herbal drug dealers, timber dealers, fuel wood sellers, local elderly people residing in the adjacent areas of Miani Sahib and local hakims through a questionnaire. Community analysis was carried out for the importance value of plants sampled. Importance value was calculated from relative frequency, relative density and relative cover.

Results showed that graveyard is rich in plant biodiversity. A total of 99 plant species belonging to 2 monocot and 37 dicot plant families were recorded. *Prosopis juliflora* (5.35) showed highest IVI value. Poaceae with 13 species was noticed as the largest plant family. They use them in fever, flue, cough, asthma, digestive troubles, piles, diabetes, urinary diseases, male sexual diseases, gynecological diseases, joints pain/rheumatic pains and inflammation, ear diseases, tooth problems, cuts and wounds, dermal problems, cooling agents and miscellaneous uses. There is lack of ethnobotanical knowledge in the future generation and the knowledge is limited to certain traders and elderly people.

It is recommended to prohibit the cementation of graves for the conservation of plant biodiversity. Anthropogenic activities within the graveyard must be kept in check to stop habitat destruction. Funds should be provided by the local government for the rehabilitation and construction of boundary wall. With a little support, the cultivation and conservation of such natural resources, may result in sustainable maintenance and utilization of this plant wealth and uplift the socio-economic status of the people.