

**ETHNOBOTANICAL DOCUMENTATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS
USED IN MANAGING CHILDREN DISEASES IN DUJIS SUB-COUNTY
IN GARISSA COUNTY**

BY

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BPHARM111P00954

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED FOR PARTIAL FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF
BACHELOR IN PHARMACY AT MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOGNOSY

JUNE, 2014

ABSTRACT

Traditional medicine refers to health practices approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant animal and mineral based medicines, spiritual therapies, manual techniques and exercises, applied singularly or in combination to treat, diagnose and prevent illness or maintain well being. The study was guided by three objectives which includes: to investigate the prevailing childhood diseases in Dujis Sub-County Garissa County, to find out the level of management of the prevailing childhood diseases by traditional herbal practitioners in Dujis Sub-county Garissa County, Kenya and to determine and document the medicinal plants used by traditional herbal practitioners in management of childhood conditions in Dujis Sub- county, Garissa County, Kenya. The study utilized descriptive survey design. The study population consist of the registered traditional herbal practitioners of Dujis Sub-county, Garissa County and the sample size of the selected traditional medical practitioners comprise all the registered herbalists in Dujis Sub-county. The sampling was done randomly from the sub county headquarters within the county to select the traditional medical practitioners' respondents for interviewing. The data collected was processed, presented graphically and was analyzed by using Statistical Package Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. One- Way ANOVA was also used to show the mean differences between all samples. A total of 21 plants were collected for documentation. Most of the species were collected from non-cultivated areas and 50 traditional healers were interviewed for the study. The highest medicinal plant was mimosaceae (14.3%) and the most commonly used part of the plant was the bark(38.1%)Prevalence of children diseases that is commonly treated with medicinal plants was studied and it was found out that diarrhea was the commonest about (24.2%).