2. AIMS AND OBJECTS

Herbal medicine involves the use of plants for medicinal purposes. There can be little doubt that the use of plants for healing purposes is the most ancient form of medicine known. Although modern medicine may exist side-by-side with such traditional practice, herbal medicines have often maintained their popularity for historical and cultural reasons. Such products have become more widely available commercially, especially in developed countries.\(^{255-258}\)

The present work was undertaken with following objectives:

- To study the medicinal plants of Indian origin.
- To select the plants for possible studies.
- To evaluate the macroscopic characteristics of the selected plants.
- To evaluate the physico-chemical parameters of selected plants.
- To carry out the phytochemical and pharmacological profile of selected plants to ascertain their folklore uses.

**BENEFITS OF THIS RESEARCH WORK**\(^{259-263}\)

The synthetic drugs have major side effects like gastritis, gastric ulcer, kidney disorders and cardiac disorders. The proposed research work intends to study the efficacy of the herbal medicines mentioned above. Medicinal plants are of great importance to the health of individuals and communities. The medicinal value of these plants lies in some chemical substances that produce a definite physiological action on the human body. The most important of these bioactive constituents of plants are alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids...
and phenolic compounds. Many of these indigenous medicinal plants are used as spices and food plants. Plant products are used very well in the treatment of inflammation and pain with satisfactory results, in Ayurveda.

Hence the Author select to screen the following mention five plants for their various phytochemical evaluation and beneficial pharmacological activities.

1. *Abutilon muticum*
2. *Celosia argentia*
3. *Crotalaria burhia*
4. *Salvadora oleoides*
5. *Salvadora persica*