India has rich diversity of medicinal plants. The supply base of 90% herbal raw drugs used in the manufacture of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy systems of medicine is largely from the wild. This wild source is speedily shrinking day-by-day. Therefore, there is a need for conservation to sustain use of medicinal plants. Cultivation is clearly an alternative to maintain the present collection of medicinal plants from the wild.

From prehistoric days, plants are being used for shelter, food and medicine. The use of plants for medicinal purposes is as old as our civilization. Herbs have been used from time immemorial for various purposes like healing the sick and infirm. Most of the people still continue to use herbs to benefit their bodies. People thought that herbs keep the body in tune with nature as it maintains proper balance. Many scientific studies are still continuing with modern research following the lead of old folklore and herbal uses to help develop new western medicines. Man has also been aware of the effects of herbs on the body, mind and emotion. For example flowers were utilized to attract love, food and protection. Fragrant plants were worn to heal the body and give a sense of well being. The most costly flowers are offered to gods and goddesses and the use of aromatic incense is recorded from the earliest of times.

Herbalists today, believe they can help people build good health with the help of natural sources. Herbs are considered to be food rather than medicine because they’re complete, all-natural and pure, as nature intended. When herbs are taken, the body starts getting cleansed, it gets purified. Unlike chemically synthesized high dosage drugs which may produce many side effects, herbs can effectively realign the body’s defenses. Herbs may not be used for instant cures, but rather offer a way to put the body in proper tune with nature.
The use of herbs to treat disease is almost universal among non-industrialized societies. A number of traditions came to dominate the practice of herbal medicine at the end of the twentieth century. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 80 percent of the world’s population presently uses herbal medicine for some aspect of primary health care.

The use and search for, drugs and dietary supplements derived from plants have accelerated in recent years. Pharmacologists, microbiologists, botanists, and natural-products chemists are combing the earth for phytochemicals that could be developed for treatment of various diseases. In fact, according to the World Health Organization, approximately 25% of modern drugs used in the United States have been derived from plants.

Herbs prevent or cure the damage which is caused to the heart due to certain chemicals, viruses, toxic substances and drugs. These herbs provide strength and serve as a stimulant for the functioning of the heart. Based on their traditional use, herbs are selected and combined for their ability to promote balance within the body and to nourish the heart. Cardio toxicity can be induced experimentally in animals also by the administration of Doxorubicin and then treating them with folklore medicinal plants.

To study the efficacy of folklore medicinal plants for their cardioprotective and antioxidant activity, a few plants were selected and screened. The most potent extracts of two screened plants viz Grewia umbellifera and Gmelina arborea revealed the restoration of cellular permeability and reduction in the toxic effect of Doxorubicin induced cardio toxicity.

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