2. SELECTION OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Diabetes mellitus is caused due to deficiency in production of insulin. It is a global problem and number of those affected is increasing day by day. Oral hypoglycemic agents use is restricted by their pharmacokinetic properties, secondary failure rates, and accompanying side effects and the world health organization expert committee on diabetes has listed as one of its recommendations that traditional methods of treatment for diabetes should be further investigated. On the other hand, in the traditional medicinal practice number of anti-diabetic herbal drug(s) and their formulations are popular and reputed. They are prescribed from time to time to the patients according to patient’s need. Many of the traditional medical practice formulations are not well established in their scientific parameters. One such traditional anti-diabetic formulation in Siddha system of medicine is “choornam” formulation, which is highly prescribed but as on date has not been standardized by scientific methods. Development of scientific evidence for these formulations may pave a pathway to use and or export of this potential formulation globally\textsuperscript{27-28}.

For the current research “Neerizhivu choornam\textsuperscript{29}” is selected based on survey among the Siddha physicians in and around Puducherry. The literature review revealed that is no scientific work has been carried out on this formulation. Hence it was thought worth to carryout advanced phyto-pharmaceutical studies on this traditional anti-diabetic herbal formulation.

Neerizhivu chooranam is the traditional, official, popular, scientifically underexplored anti diabetics Siddha Poly herbel formulation.

Thus the current study aims at modernizing the selected tried, time tested and trusted Siddha anti-diabetic formulation, “Neerizhivu choornam”.