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CONCLUSIONS
A historical perspective on the use of ethnomedicine and health care practices for the cure of various ailments indicates that traditional medicinal practices have been associated with humanity time immemorial. In view of ethnic segregation over several years, these practices are unique to each community and group, which have survived. However knowledge of traditional practices is now limited to a few closed communities, especially the remote tribal or marginalized population for whom it becomes a part of their cultural practices. It is of paramount importance that the traditional knowledge must be documented and accredited to the indigenous communities thus ensuring that the intellectual property of the traditional practitioners is protected. To that end, present study accomplishes the documentation in the form of CBDRs of traditional practices being followed by the Nicobarese TKPs in the Nicobar district. It is pertinent to mention that according to the provisions of Indian Patent Act no traditional knowledge can be patented by anybody but remains to be the exclusive knowledge of the tribal healers. Thus development of CBDRs for the Nicobarese would protect the Intellectual Property Rights of the Nicobarese TKPs. Besides, these CBDRs would serve as a compendium of traditional knowledge for the younger generation of the Nicobarese community to carry forward the time tested remedies.

Another significant observation of the current study, is that of the scientific verification of the use of some medicinal plants which were used to treat common fevers, diarrhoeal diseases and urinary tract infections through systematic laboratory testing for their antimicrobial potentials. Six purified active compounds were obtained from an indigenous medicinal plant, viz., Glyptopetalum calocarpum. Three of the six compounds showed inhibitory effect at initial screening, augurs well as candidate compounds for undertaking future studies.

A conservatory mechanism in the form of maintenance of herbal garden is in place for the indigenous plants with medicinal values and some of them being endangered. This herbal garden provides scope for further addition of plants to the existing ones. It is envisaged that the present conservatory mechanism would serve as a repository and also carry forward further investigations to identify pharmacological moieties.