CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION:-

Mother nature has created a plethora of plants that are being used over the centuries as medicines for cures to many ailments without any deleterious effect. The Atharva Veda authored by early Aryans nearly five years ago detailed the practice of natural cures and medicines for various disease. Research over thousands of years and experiments by generation of Ayurveda Achaarya led to perfecting this treatments. Unfortunately, with the innovation of modern health care and remarkable advances in this system. But the medicines and herbs which substantiated their efficacy over centuries have definitely been improved upon to thank to latest technique and invention to facilitate and check the purity and efficiency of these medicines. The herbal medicines are probably one of the oldest healing tool and has undergone a revolutionary change in the very concept of its use.

India may be origin point of it, some such type of clues are available in the ancient books, Veds and scriptures. It is now being maintained across the sea and throughout the world. At one time, it was presumed that herbal medicines are useful to alleviate the sporadic ailments but now it has been confirmed that several type of disease can be treated by the use of herbal plants. It has now been researched that herbal plants have beet effect to control the diseases of human being as well as of animals. It has also been found very effective in helping the livestock raisers and peasants to control the disease which generally occurs in the animals. India and our natural treatment experts have host of treatment, a wealth of herbs and natural remedies for several type of ailments. Chronic ailments which do not find respite through intake of strong and prolonged allopathic, respond to natural treatment and since this treatment is based on herbal plants, traditional techniques and some drugs with minimal side effect.
In amalgamation with Chinese, Korean, and Japanese natural treatment, it is resulting beyond the expectations. This is the reason, that the natural treatment for human as well as animals is become precise. The non-availability and inaccessibility of modern health care are also the reason for becoming it popular and comprehensive in rural areas specially. It is also generally perceived that allopathic medicine exercise the more side influence rather than herbal medicines. Practitioners of modern health care are agreed that the certain chronic ailments of the animal herbal medicines are solution.

Man is depending upon the nature for the survival on the earth; he has the ambient and beneficial flora surrounding him. The physical and biological environment in which he lives has had direct bearing on evolution of his culture and has also taken care of his spiritual and emotional needs. The evolution of agriculture as accidental phenomena when some discarded portions of fruits and seeds, plants arose his abodies. The edible part of plants was gradually incorporated in his diet. Certain plants not normally edible and others having harmful effects came to be used during the special circumstances such as famine or scarcity employing various techniques to render them edible.

Likewise, some selected plants were also incorporated in routine to cure the various diseases of human as well as animal. In numerous region within some inaccessible or forest, desert and hilly area man still live in primitive culture maintaining the ancient tradition. He is still unaware to change. Some communities of man, which are known as rural and aboriginal. They still depend extremely on nature to fulfill their requirements. They have been bestowed with knowledge of good medicinal plants about their properties. It was passed from one generation to another generation same process is continued now. They acquired the expertise in this regard through a process of trial and screened in their own way the plants as medicine and food. This valuable knowledge about the medicinal properties of plants earlier was confined to upto rural precinct. But now it has been taking place across it.
Study of vegetation with sequence creates many confusing problems. Morphological characters appeared to be insufficient for their classification and identification.

Evidences were collected from other branches of Botany, especially ethnobotany which is the science for the study of rural peoples to know about their steeped knowledge about the properties of plants. Ethno botanical surveys and filed work in rural and human societies and culture is an important and critical area of research. In very initiation human would live in the jungle and degree of his association with vegetation determine his status. In numerous pockets, with in some inaccessible or partially inaccessible, forest, hills, desert and semi deserts man still live in the primitive style cloistered environment and totally isolated from the modern civilization adopting the ancient tradition of ancestors. These pockets are also available in the Rajasthan.

The recently innovated multidisciplinary ethnobotany an offshoot of science of experienced a mushrooming growth over the world, aims investigating the fast plummeting traditional techniques and knowledge.

Ethnobotany is known as imperative part of research and development. Quite a good number of examples may be cited where plants products used by the present civilized world have been developed through indigenous knowledge. The great potential of broader usage of plants used by these societies especially mankind’s problem like hunger and health has been fully realized by the result of studies carried out so far for example, maize, cocoa, rubber, cassava, potato, yam, taro, sweet potato, plantain etc. have evolved from their wild relatives. Several drugs i.e. reserpine, guanine, digoxin, ephedrine, cocaine, emetin, khellin, colchicines, D-tubocurarine, artemissine, gugulipid etc. have been discovered from plants which play important ethnobotanical role in rural societies.

*Podophyllum peltatum* formerly used by the rural people to remove skin wart, is now used in treating uterine warts in modern system in medicine. The tranquillizers rescinnaminee and resperine, which have been obtained from roots of *Rauvolfia serpentiana*, are being used for more than thousand years in folk medicines for snake
bite, insanity, epilepsy and high blood pressure. Moreover 74 percent have positive correlation between their modern therapeutic use and traditional use of the plant incorporated in the organized systems of medicines and some more miraculous medicines known to the rural are still secrets of certain families.

Ethnobotanical research on wild plants as food and fodder are of great importance in a state like Rajasthan where famines due to drought occur rather frequently. An incident of famine which was occurred in the 1899 to 1901 is known as most destructive and its outbreak was mainly in Shekhawati region. It reminds that people resorted to nuts, berries, bulbs, of certain wild plants to quench their hunger.

Since the start domestication of animals some, rural communities have been experimenting with and developing their own veterinary theories and techniques. The veterinary text was originated in Egypt, India and china documented as early as 269 B.C. Until the early 1900 most veterinary practices could be considered traditional in the sense that they derived from long experience and put through little fundamental change as various types technique and methods were introduced. With the discovery of modern chemo-therapeutics in the twentieth century, however, the first world began to relinquish much of its own medical and veterinary tradition in favor what is now viewed as conventional or modern medicines. These traditional animal healthcare practices cheaper than western system of medicine and veterinary services are not available. These practices have been developed by practiced through trial and error methods and several experimentation and is therefore, less documented and not universally recognized and for these reasons. It can be included in mainstream veterinary medicine to make it more effective and reliable.

The discovery of uses of ethno veterinary medicinal plants must have occurred in a number of ways, not only by the using the trial plants product and research but also through other ways which include; watching animals treating themselves by eating with special plants when ill and subsequent.

Adoption of the same remedies, communication and interacting with other traditional ethnovegetrinary medical practitioners. Shekhawati region which covers partly
Churu and completely the Districts of Sikar and Jhunjhunu was studied for some scattered certain localities by botanists. Some important plants of arid and semi arid region of Rajasthan were listed out by the Tewari (1979). A significant, very authentic taxonomic work was contributed in the field of Botany, the publication of a book flora of Indian desert Bhandari (1990).

It is well known fact that plants are the most precious wealth from bioclimatic consideration point of view as well as the most basic resource on this planet on which ultimately each and every life-form’s activity is based, including activity of human beings or human resources also.