CHAPTER - 7
7. CONCLUSION:

Having been deprived of the blessings of modern civilization, the study reveals, the Reangs still maintain a very rich heritage of medicinal plantlore. Although superstition exists, gradual urbanization is wiping out the knowledge of herbal medicine. However, the village elders still have a good faith and trust on plants. Moreover, though they are not very much acquainted with the complex diseases of present day, the Reangs have utilized plants for curing a critical disease like leprosy using the leaf-extract of *Scindapsus officinalis* for giving bath to leprosy patient as a cure. Significant measures may therefore be taken for insitu preservation of the medicinal plantlore of the Reang tribe. Simultaneously attempts should also be made to improve the socio-economic status of the neglected tribe.

Biological screening with regard to the antimicrobial activity of some of the reported species like *Alpinia nigra* (Gaertn.) Burtt. (rhizome), *Curculigo capitulata* Lour. (tuberous root), *Oroxyllum indicum* (L) Vent. (bark) and *Tournefortia montana* Lour. var. *griffithii* (Cl) Johnston (leaves) invariably confirms the authenticity of the ethnomedicinal claims. Phytochemical screening of these plants may lead to the discovery of new antiseptics or antibiotics. Moreover, pharmacological investigations of new ethnomedicinal claims of about 48 species and claims for additional uses of about 100 species may enrich the traditional system of medicine and bring new hope for the people particularly those below the poverty line.