SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Man has always tried to decorate his clothes. The earliest use of colour for decoration of clothes was limited to natural dyes. With the advent of synthetic dyes the use of natural dyes was discontinued but now because of environment pollution problems natural dyes are being promoted.

For the study cotton fabric was used. Three dyes majeetha, turmeric and onion peels with six mordants, aluminium potassium sulphate salt, aluminium acetate, cupric sulphate, lead acetate, stannous chloride and tannic acid were used. Two conditions namely mordanting for 30 minute, mordanting for 8 hours and mordanting and dyeing together were used. Block printing as an application of the dyes was also tried out.

The dyes were evaluated for their colourfastness through washing fastness, ironing fastness and crocking fastness.

By the visual examination of all the dyed samples it is very clear that with the use of various mordants different colours can be obtained by the same dye.
The colourfastness results of unmordanted fabric given in table no. 3 and graphs 1 to 3 when compared with the colourfastness results of mordanted fabric given in table no. 4 to 8 and graphs 4 to 18 show that mordanted fabrics are more colourfast.

Majeetha has shown excellent to good result when mordanted with aluminium potassium sulphate salt, cupric sulphate and tannic acid. The use of stannous chloride as a mordant when dyeing with majeetha gives fair result.

When turmeric is used as a dye, mordanting for 8 hours with aluminium potassium sulphate salt, aluminium acetate, cupric sulphate, tannic acid gave better result as compared to mordanting for 30 minutes and mordanting and dyeing together.

Onion peels do not exhibit good washing fastness property when the six mordants studied were used. Crocking fastness is comparatively better when aluminium potassium sulphate salt and tannic acid were used as mordant.

Ironing fastness have shown excellent result in both unmordanted and mordanted fabric. Block printing have shown excellent result in all the dyes majeetha, turmeric and onion peels.
Ecological damage has caused the resurgence of natural dyes. These days naturally dyed clothes are becoming commercially variable as foreigners are keen on buying such type of "eco-friendly" products.

The use of natural dyes is still very limited as complete knowledge about their extraction and application process is lacking. Although these dyes are popular for their non-hazardous nature, yet their most poisonous contents are the metallic mordants that are used to achieve fastness. Hence there is a need for research and consequent replacement of metallic mordants with other alternatives.