The present study is intended mainly to document and analyze the traditional Ethno-medico-botanical knowledge of Sugali Tribes of Yerramalais of Kumool district. It also brought out valuable information of medicinal plants to light. Information about plants and their medicinal value in treating various ailments used by the Sugali tribes was gathered and also the method of preparation of crude drugs. The present work is carried out with two main objectives viz. The documentation of plants of ethno-medico-botanical and their importance and the quantitative approach for ethnobotanical studies.

Extensive exploration studies yielded a good number of medicinal plants used by different tribes via. Sugalis, Yandis and Yerukalas etc., in Yerramalais of Kumool district. The original or first hand information with regard to tribal or folklore medicine was recorded digitally and recorded field note book. 150 species of medicinal plants belonging to 135 genera of 65 families were collected. All the representative plant species were identified with the help of standard floras and comparison studies with these authentical specimens in Madras Herbarium (MH, Coimbatore). The nomenclature was updated in the light of latest code of nomenclature (Greuter et al 1988). All the specimens were deposited in S.V.University, Herbarium (SVU), Tirupati.

The medicinal properties of 25 per cent of plant species enumerated were found to be new. To mention a few which they included, poisonous bites, rheumation, diarrhoea, dysentery, cold, cough, fevers, jaundice, sexual diseases etc., are reported and discussed. Thus the use and acceptability of these preparations is quite high among the rural folk. These observations are form special record and significance for the rich medicinal herbal flora of India and suggest ample need for their critical scientific evaluation and practical utility. Efforts were made to substantiate the folk-lore claims by evaluating the phytochemical constituents and their antimicrobial activities. Most of the folk-lore claims, were correlated with the results of phytochemical and antimicrobial screening.

The finding of the present study envisages that the herbal medicines have great potentiality to cure different kinds of human and veterinary diseases. The phytomedicinal therapy is cheaper and easy to procure and administer. The medicinal wealth of this
region is not yet explored adequately. There is an ample scope of such kind of studies to gather the information on medicinal plants of Yerramalais. In addition to this, the ecologist should also pay much attention towards research studies on conservation status. Undoubtedly this will help in developing an appropriate strategy for conservation of important plant species of this region, and also to preserve genetic diversity.

The majority of the objectives were fulfilled with sufficient data, which was sustained by the experimental evidence. The present work which is first of its kind emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary approach to ethnobotanical studies. It helped to bring out as many as 150 plant species of ethno-medico-botanical value. The ethno-medico-botanical studies and the knowledge on the indigenous plants provided valuable data for assessment of plant resources. The extensive and intensive ethno-medico-botanical studies of Yerramalais have provided planning strategies on conservation and sustainable utilization of available plant resources for the welfare of local tribes.

The phytochemical screening is of paramount importance in identifying new sources of therapeutically and industrially important compounds of medicinal importance like alkaloids, flavonoids, phenols, triterpinoids etc. Screening studies provide valuable clues for pharmacological evaluation of plants which in turn opens new vistas for the discovery of new drugs from vegetable origin. The above studies have provided scientific parameters, which help in laying down pharmacopoeial standards.

The present investigations of several medicinal plants with an established ethnobotanical relevance for their phytochemical and biological studies might perhaps pave the way for further scientific and clinical studies. On the basis of results obtained, the following four plants are recommended for further isolation, characterisation and biological studies of active principles involved.

a) The formulas that are tested for various human diseases are not expressive.

b) The Indian traditional medicine system is badly neglected on account of lack of proper scientific methods.

c) The formulations of Sugali tribes are unable to withstand the competition of allopathy.

d) In my documentation certain rare plants and their various uses have been recorded for the first time.
e) All the herbal formulations should be used only under strict supervision of vaidyas.

The significant contributions of this investigation are

1. Good number of rare and endemic and endangered plants were recorded which may be useful for phytochemist, pharmacologist and conservation biologists.
2. 30 percent of the folklore claims recorded during the study were found to be new.
3. New methods of treating human ailments are observed.

Thus there is need to create awareness of the importance of these plants among masses and to provide them guidance in preserving this green wealth for the future. There is a need for careful conservation of the plants resources of different regions, otherwise many plants may be lost forever and become extinct. Many of the important medicinal plants are vulnerable and will be threatened in near future, if the measures are not taken for its preservation. It is proved through (PBR) that local people can successfully document local biodiversity and its uses. The more people that are involved in the effort the more accurate the document turns out to be. In any documentation there tends to be a bias and this bias reflects the interests of those who are involved in the efforts. This PBR reflects the interests of field team. Though a lot of effort was made to get the viewpoints of all sections and all the communities from the village this was not practically possible in all cases. Hence certain sections of this PBR may tend to be from one particular viewpoint.

Much of the destruction of the forests that happens in the region has a direct connection with local people's well being. The major hurdle is lack of any infrastructure and basic facilities such as an approach road, primary health clinic, sanitary facilities, clean drinking water etc. The village does not offer much in terms of economic opportunities. Therefore almost one person from each household leaves the village to work in nearby urban and suburban areas and industrial centers. People of Gummitnam thanda are well aware of the situation and conditions that exists in the outside world. These factors are a constant feature in their thoughts and aspirations. These are also important driving forces, as villagers from Gummitnam thanda would like to have what they see in areas near them. Despite having excellent natural resource wealth in their own village they are unable to appreciate its value in a sustainable and long-term sense. It is probably because of these and
other factors related to land ownership and rights that their attachment to their own area is limited.

The PBR exercise will have to be an enterprise bringing together knowledge of the local people with scientific knowledge. This knowledge base would undoubtedly enhance our abilities to conserve, sustainably use and equitably share the benefits from our rich heritage of biodiversity resources and associated knowledge, at all levels from individual villages to districts, states and the country as a whole. This study provides a treasure of information useful in primary health care of common man and paved the way for the scientific community to investigate and isolate the active principles or biomolecules present in the above selected plants. It is seen from the entire study that the data generated through ethnobotanical survey, identification of plants and their extraction for biological activity has led to important contribution in search of potent herbal medicines for the relief of human sufferings.