2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The world population explosion has rightly pointed out the need for new effective contraceptive agents or methods having less side effects and reversibility when stopped using. Till date, most effective and widely used contraceptives are of steroidal molecules. But, they have adverse effects such as nausea, vomiting, headache, weight gain, chloasma, carbohydrate intolerance, menstrual irregularities, acne, painful erection, oligozoospermia, edema etc. Practically all major researches involve the search for new oral contraceptives of synthetic origin. Little attention has been directed towards the plant kingdom. Hence, there is an urgent need for searching of suitable plant materials from indigenous system of medicine with scientific validation which could be effectively used as contraceptive drugs, so as:

(1) To provide a scientific validation of traditional claim for the antifertility activity of *Sida acuta* Burm.f.

(2) To standardize the validated claim pharmacognostically, phytochemically and pharmacologically.

(3) To pass on information to the pharmaceutical industries for the formulation and marketing of antifertility drug from herbal source.