Renal failure is an important cause of human morbidity and mortality. It is one of the leading causes of death in diabetes. The management of renal failure often leads to renal replacement therapy. It involves ideally kidney transplantation, which unfortunately, is severely limited by several factors like availability of donors, expenses and requires life-long expenditure. It necessitates continued therapy for preventing rejection of the transplanted graft kidney. The other alternative is dialysis, but this too is expensive. The prescribed chemotherapeutic agents or herbs can only counteract the side effects of the processes of kidney transplantation and so far, no exclusive drug has been reported as such to completely cure renal failure. Thus, the economic burden and suffering of patients and their families clearly indicate the need of new alternatives for the cure of renal failure.

Everyone, involved in the delivery of health-care is now aware of the increased interest in complementary and alternative medicine, especially herbal or botanical medicine. For centuries, in many different cultures worldwide herbs have been recommended for treating various health conditions. While these remedies carry with them the authority of folk wisdom, only recently have herbs been tested using conventional scientific methods to assess their efficacy in treating illness and promoting good health. The plant kingdom is a vast repertoire of chemicals and constitutes a promising area of current research in Phytochemical Prevention. Indian medicinal herbs represent a rich source from which novel chemotherapeutic agents have been derived. So far, more than half of the flora has been documented for pharmacological importance; the vast majority has not yet been scientifically evaluated.

Therefore, it is timely and logical to explore the possibility of native plants for their bio-efficacy against renal failure (acute and chronic) in a validated animal model followed by chemical characterization of their active principle(s).