COLLECTION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN TRADITIONAL AND MODERN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: In the recent past surveys of medicinal plants and plant products all over the globe is increased. Use of medicinal plants and its products is going on since the beginning of human civilization. Traditional knowledge is very important for sustainability of natural wealth including medicinal plants. Medicinal plants form the major natural resources base of the Indian indigenous health care tradition. Conservation of these plants can be learnt from specific local knowledge and transmission of facts, skills and strategies, concern for well-being of future generations. Due to global popularity of Ayurveda there is enhanced demand of herbal drugs which is exerting enormous pressure on natural assets. Healing plants form the major natural resources base of the Indian indigenous health care system. In the medicinal plants, the secondary metabolites or active principle are made available through biosynthetic pathway and proper harvesting techniques. The science behind ancient Ayurvedic harvesting techniques was narrated in various earlier treaties and commentaries. To achieve good therapeutic result it is mandatory to collect the drug plants in a modern collection procedure and is also proven by modern scientific methods. In Ayurvedic literature, drug collection has been mentioned according to different parts of the plant in respective seasons and basis of therapeutic uses. According to modern botanical and pharmaceutical science, drugs possess highest prospects during its collection period. The soil condition, climatic factors, temperature, rain fall, duration of light exposure, altitude, collection from wild area, and methods of collection, processing and storage have impact on the secondary metabolites of the plant ultimately which affect the therapeutic efficiency of the drug. General guidelines for drug plants, plant parts as per botanical field collection, safety issues and recommendations for collection practices, and future scope of procedure has been given.

Keywords: Ayurvedic, Medicinal plants, Modern, Traditional

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