

Upcoming Role of Medicinal Plants in Modern Medicine

Jyothi Sethi*

Department of Physiology, Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India

***Corresponding Author:** Jyothi Sethi, Department of Physiology, Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India.

Received: January 17, 2018; **Published:** February 23, 2018

Despite the great advances observed in modern medicine in recent decades, medicinal plants continue to make an important contribution to health care. A rich heritage of knowledge on preventive and curative medicines is available in ancient scholastic works like Atharvaveda, Charak Samhita, Sushruta Samhita etc. India is often referred to as a subcontinent for 'Emporium of Medicinal Plants' due to the presence of several thousand medicinal plants in different bioclimatic zones. Ayurveda and Siddha, traditional Indian system of medicine, mainly uses plant based drugs or formulations to treat various human ailments because they contain the components of therapeutic value.

World Health Organization (WHO) endorses the evaluation of the potential of plants as effective therapeutic agents, especially in areas where there is a lack of safe modern drug. Plant based drugs remain an important source of therapeutic agents because of the easy availability, relatively cheaper cost and non-toxic nature when compared to modern medicine.

The growing importance of medicinal plants can be appreciated from the fact that global trade in herbs is over USD 100 Billion per annum. It is also reported that in the modern times 41% prescriptions in U.S.A. and 90% in Europe for treating various ailments contain constituents from natural products. This reflects an increasing trend of using natural products. Moreover, natural products have also served as lead molecules for the development of novel synthetic drugs. For example atropine for tropicamide, quinine for chloroquine, cocaine for procaine and tetracaine etc.

The development of the science of phyto pharmaceuticals and the hope for cure for chronic diseases has generated new enthusiasm among researchers to develop herbal medicines. Modern science has accepted the plant kingdom as a source of new bio dynamic constituents for treatment of chronic non-communicable diseases. However, there is a need to scientifically validate the effectiveness, efficacy and rational use of medicinal plants, in tackling the diseases of public health importance, with special focus on the disease prevention.

Volume 2 Issue 3 March 2018

© All rights are reserved by Jyothi Sethi.