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ROLE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS AND PHARMACOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Modern searches for bioactive molecules especially make use of sophisticated bioassay-guided fractionation of medicinal plants used by traditional healers. This has led to the isolated of several new therapeutically important compounds. A good number of potent drugs and a large number of therapeutic leads and may new pharmacologically active constituents have been developed from herbal drugs due to the dedicated efforts of researchers.

INTRODUCTION:

Medicinal plants have been playing an essential role in the development of human culture. As a source of medicine, medicinal plants have always been at forefront virtually all cultures of civilizations. Medicinal plants are regarded as rich resources of traditional medicines and from these plants many of the modern medicines are produced. For thousands of years medicinal plants have been used to treat health disorders to all flavor and conserve food and to prevent diseases epidemics. The secondary metabolites produced by the plants are usually responsible for the biological characteristics of plant species used throughout the world.

Even today, plants are not only indispensable in health care, but from the best hope of source for safe future medicines. In spite of the fact that now we have at our command a member of modern drugs, it is still genuinely urgent to discover and develop new therapeutic agents. It has been estimated that the acceptable therapy is available only for one third of the known human ailments. Therefore, the fight against diseases must be carried on relentlessly. Traditional plant medicines still enjoy significant position in the modern day drug industries due to the minor side effects as well as the synergistic action of the combination of compounds.

Plants in traditional medicine:

Four thousand years ago, the medical knowledge of the Indian subcontinent was termed as Ayurveda. Ayurveda remains an important system of medicine and drug therapy in India plant alkaloids are the primary active ingredients of Ayurvedic drugs. Today the pharmacologically active ingredients of many Ayurvedic medicines are being identified and their usefulness in drug therapy being determined. As mentioned in a certain percentage of plants are used in traditional medicines. It is rough estimated that the discovered 17,000 species, nearly 3,000 species are used in medicinal field. The therapeutic action of important medicinal plants and its parts used.

Role of Pharmacology:

A traditional pharmacology health are proactive of indigenous people pertaining to human health is termed as Ethnomedicine. The knowledge of certain herbs, animals and minerals that have curative and palliative effects were transmitted from one generation to another it is the outcome of bold experimentation through trial and error method of over hundreds of years. Ethnomedicine is the other of all other systems of medicine such as Ayurvedha, siddha, unani, nature cure and even modern medicine.

The traditional herbalists are part and parcel of the community and are often familiar with the deals of each family and its environmental, so that they are in a better position to deal with their day to day problems. In fact the native healers take care of the common ailments of the fold in their home setting.

Scope of Traditional medicines:

The traditional medicinal knowledge is thought to be within every one's reach and does not require any study or training to practice it. In some families almost all the members are acquainted with some part or other of herbal remedies. The traditional healers specialize in particular areas of their profession. Thus we find some medical practitioners are expert in bone setting, wound healing, poisonous bite, neurological disorders etc. and some others in spiritual healing, especially the use of incantations while others combine both in their treatment. It is important to note that there is no doubt about the efficiency of herbal medicine among its users. Rural and urban poor people in India rely on herbal remedies since these are within their reach. In fact in remote areas this is the only source of health care available.

CONCLUSION:

The traditional knowledge with its holistic and systems approach supported by experimental base can serve as an innovative and powerful discovery engine for newer, safer and affordable medicines. Considerable research on Pharmacology, Pharmacogenetics, Biochemistry and clinical and clinical studies have examined cytoprotective immunomodulatory and immunoadjuvant potential for medicinal plants. The development of these traditional system of medicines with the perspectives of safety, efficacy and quality will help not only to preserve this traditional heritage but also to rationalize the use of natural products in the health care.

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