OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
The medicinal properties of plants have been investigated in the light of recent scientific developments throughout the world, due to their potent pharmacological activities, low toxicity and economy. The liver is the second largest organ in the vertebrate body, and is the major site of xenobiotic metabolism. Therefore, injury to liver caused by toxic chemicals, drugs and virus infiltration from ingestion or infection (Ghosh M. N. 1996) may be harmful and can lead to various complications. According to WHO, many people die every year due to hepatic diseases. Among them, most common ailments/diseases of liver are cirrhosis, cholestasis, hepatitis, portal hypertention, hepatic encephalopathy, hepatic failure and certain tumors like hepatoma.
As one of the aspects of the body’s natural ecosystem, it is increasingly being realized now that a majority of the diseases/disorders are mainly due to the hyper physiological burden of free radicals causes imbalance in homeostatic phenomena between oxidants and antioxidants in the body. Alternative medicines like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani provide a holistic approach to treat hepatic disorders with success. In view of above understanding, it is the need of hour to find the new hepatoprotective and antioxidant drugs from indigenous / natural origin which are more potent and nontoxic. Therefore, the present study is undertaken to explore and validate the pharmacognostical, phytochemical, pharmacological and toxicological properties of fruits of Piper cubeba with special reference to hepatoprotective, and antioxidant activity. Thus, the purpose of the present study is to find new herbal drug / active compounds from indigenous plant which are potent, nontoxic and having better acceptability in the therapeutics.
In view of literature review carried out of the selected plant, there are plenty of reports suggesting the preliminary screening in respect of pharmacognostic, phytochemical and pharmacological on Piper cubeba plant.
Therefore, present study is undertaken to explore and validate the pharmacognostic study, phytochemical study, pharmacological action and toxicological effects of fruits of Piper cubeba with special reference to its hepatoprotective and antioxidant property for the therapeutic management.