INTRODUCTION

“Many Little Things done by Many Little People in Many Little Places can Change the Face of Earth”

Diabetes Mellitus means in Greek, “passing through honey”. It is a disease which affects almost every organ of the body and is aptly titled the silent killer.

Diabetes is a long term disease with variable clinical manifestations and progressions chronic hyperglycemia, from whatever cause, leads to a number of complications like cardiovascular, renal, neurological, ocular and others such as intercurrent infections. (Park 2009)

‘The estimated diabetes prevalence for 2010 worldwide is 285 million people corresponding to 6.4% of the world’s adult population. By 2030, the number of people with diabetes is estimated to have risen to 438 million. Far the highest increases in prevalence will happen in developing countries and this only confirms that diabetes is a disease associated with poverty. The major burden of the disease is borne by the low- and middle-income countries and it disproportionately affects the lower socio-economic groups, the disadvantaged and the minorities in the richer countries.

The estimates for both 2010 and 2030 showed little gender difference in the number of people with diabetes. 2010 statistics reported that there are expected to be one million more women than men with diabetes. However, this difference is expected to increase to six million by 2030. (International Diabetic Federation-2010)

Diabetes is going to have a tremendous adverse effect of health and economy of our nation so it is essential to implement measures to treat the diabetes and decrease the incidence of Diabetic complications.

Diabetes is a chronic disease affecting around 2-3 % of the population worldwide. Unfortunately, after the introduction of sulfonylurea and metformin about 50 years back no major lead has been obtained in this direction of finding a proper drug for diabetes. Plant materials which are being used as traditional medicine for the treatment of diabetes are considered one of the good sources for a new drug or a lead to make a new drug. Plant extract or different folk plant preparations are being prescribed by the traditional practioners and also
accepted by the users for diabetes like for any other diseases in many countries especially in third world countries. Now-a-day’s more than 400 plants are being used in different forms for hypoglycaemic effects all the claims practitioners or users are neither baseless nor absolutely. Therefore, a proper scientific evaluation a screening of plant by pharmacological tests followed by chemical investigations is necessary.