

RATIONALE & HYPOTHESIS

Studies on ethnobotanical knowledge and practices in India are done, with a few focused-on women health. As discussed in Introduction chapter, the documentation of the ethnobotanical knowledge is an elementary step, but its scientific validation is largely lacking. Further, urban new mothers staying in nuclear families are less likely having traditional knowledge and belief in one. Even if the knowledge exists, its right application, efficacy, and side effects if any would be largely questionable. Hence, this creates an area of research, very important to health and wellness of not only new mothers but their neonates as well.

With an objective of discovering the knowledge, attitude, and practices of the herbal traditional medicines during maternity period in urban mothers, the present study was proposed. Further, taking a few selected ethnical practices in question, its prospective study in new mothers were proposed for efficacy in collaboration with maternity clinic. To test the herbal drugs in parturient would not be possible as many confounding factors might affect a case-control study design. Hence, an animal study was proposed to evaluate the effect of herbal drugs in rat model. Physical, hematological, and serological parameters in rats were proposed after appropriate dosing of the herbal product.