

PROSPECTS OF ETHNO-BOTANICAL LORES IN BIRTH CONTROL*

K.V. Billore¹, K.C. Audichya², R. Mishra & T.G. Joseph

(Received on 18-9-98)

The fast increase in world population has become a global problem particularly for the South-Asian countries. The State of World Population Report (1990) also sounds warning on the seriousness of the problem. The increase in birth rate is faster than the pace of the enormous birth control measures being sincerely adopted by the respective Governments of these countries. Recent biological studies, particularly in the field of Ethno-medicine have brought to light some interesting medicinal lores on birth control practised traditionally by the tribals of Rajasthan in Western India. In the present paper, an account of ten such interesting hitherto unrecorded or less known medicinal lores for birth control have been presented, besides other data. Some of the herbs used in birth control includes species of

Mangifera, Alangium, Musa, Citrullus, Zizyphus, Abrus etc. either singly or in combination. The use of Jaggery (sugar candy) is also there. Since these methods are simple, effectively used and already in practice, it provides interesting material for the study of birth control measures. They can play a vital role in the prospective National Birth Control Programme of the country.

* Paper presented in the 2nd International Congress on Ethno-biology at Kunming (China) 22-26th October, 1990 by the Senior author (KVB).
Regional Research Institute (Ay.), Amer Road, Jaipur-302002.
1 & 2. Present address : CCRAS, No. 61-65, Institutional Area, Opp, 'D' Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.