

**Ethnobotany:**

It is a branch of botany that deals with the uses of different plants and their products by different social groups in various ways. It is also defined as a branch of botany dealing with the botanical knowledge of various social groups and its uses of locally available plants in various forms. It is an interdisciplinary science, which includes aspects of both science and humanities.

It plays an important role to collect and protect the indigenous knowledge about the use of bio-resources. Humans have utilized many plants for the treatment of various diseases since human civilization. The knowledge in the uses of plants in medicine has been transmitted from one generation to successive generations.

Plants have a great role in human welfare. The plants provide food, fuel, medicine, construction of crafts etc. The chemical and genetic constituents are increasingly explored for human benefit. The plants are essential elements of ecology also.

Ethnobotany can be applied for many practical purposes such as agriculture, forestry, conservation, development of health food and herbal medicine industries. It is applied to conservation and sustainable development.

**Importance of Ethnobotany:**

It is very important for humans since prehistoric times. Some of them are as follows

1. It helps to understand plant-human relationships and the practical knowledge of tribal people in medicine, agriculture, health and industry.
2. It provides the knowledge about the utility of many plant species which are unknown to modern society.
3. It provides the information regarding the traditional uses of plant wealth.
4. It traces the development of modern medicine.
5. It helps to know about the use of medicinal plants in the treatment against diseases.
6. It helps to explore new species for modern application in sciences.
7. It can contribute to the conservation of plants.
8. It can contribute to the preservation, recovery and diffusion of local botanical knowledge.
9. It can contribute to the discovery and development of new drugs.