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**INNOVATION RESEARCH PROJECT, RAMJAS COLLEGE,  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, DELHI.**

The University of Delhi has awarded an innovation project entitled-

**Project Title:** *In vitro* effect of medicinal plant extracts against human fungal pathogen *Candida albicans*.

**Project Duration:** 12 months (15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 till 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013)

**Project Coordinators:** Dr. R. R. Goyal (Associate Prof., Dept. of Chemistry, Ramjas College), Dr. Hardeep Kaur (Assistant Prof., Dept. of Zoology, Ramjas College) and Dr. Amit Bhattacharya (Assistant Prof., Dept. of Zoology, Ramjas College).

**Project Mentor / Advisor:** Dr. Tulika Prasad, Assistant Professor, Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Project Students (10):**

Mr. Nirmalendu Kuanr (B. Sc(H) Chemistry Part-I), Ms. Megha Balha (B. Sc (H) Chemistry Part-II), Ms. Garima Sharma (B. Sc Life Sciences Part-II), Ms. Bharti Arora (B. Sc (H) Zoology Part-II), Mr. Ranamjay Bharadwaj (B. Sc. (H) Chemistry Part- II), Mr. Agneesh Barua (B. Sc. (H) Zoology Part-II), Ms Diksha Dhawan (B. Sc (H) Chemistry Part-I), Ms. Sabahat Jahan (B. Sc. (H) Zoology Part-II), Ms. Reena Yadav (B. Sc. (H) Zoology Part-II) and Ms. Nidhi Chahal (B. Sc. (H) Life Sciences Part-II)

**Project Abstract:** Candidiasis is one of the most common forms of mycoses caused by opportunistic pathogens, *Candida* spp. Pathogenicity among yeasts is extremely variable- the most virulent being *Candida albicans*. Limitations of therapeutic options and availability of fewer broad spectrum antifungals with minimum side effects poses a serious medical issue to be addressed in the treatment of systemic fungal infections. Furthermore, emergence of drug resistant is becoming significant and increasing threat to antifungal therapies.

Plants generally produce many secondary metabolites which have antimicrobial activity, pharmaceutical value and may be used as pesticide. They still remain the principal source of pharmaceutical agents used in traditional medicine. In this project, the potent effect of plant extracts on *Candida* would be evaluated. The potential of various natural extracts or compounds using *in vitro* model system would be assessed and furthermore how these natural products can be used either singly or in combination with drugs to develop novel therapeutic strategies.