Medical Pluralism and Pattern of Acceptance of the Different Medical Options among the Dimasa Kacharis of North Cachar Hills in Assam¹

Babul Roy and A.N.M. Irshad Ali

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ABSTRACT Medical and magico-religious intervention seeking attitude against illness is one of the dimensions covered in illness behavior studies. Such studies are significant particularly in the case of communities living in medical pluralism —— a situation where different medical systems are coexisting. These days the Dimasa Kacharis have the opportunity to avail a number of medical options: allopathic, homeopathic, traditional herbal medicine, traditional magico-religious options, etc. The people often consider more than one option during the course of a single illness episode on trial basis. Consideration of medical options in such a case is generally sequential. The general trend is that initially rational medicines (example, doctor’s prescription, herbal medicine, etc.) are preferred but if the illness continues then magico-religious practices become the ultimate choice.