

Ethnomedical Practices Among the Karbis of Gorla Ghuli of Sonapur, Assam, with Special Reference to the Female Health Problems

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ABSTRACT The beliefs and practices concerning diseases, their treatment and perceptions of health vary from group to group depending on the nature of culture. The need for undertaking specific studies dealing with tribal health, disease, medicine and treatment cannot be over-emphasized. The tribals occupy a distinctive position in India due to various socio-political, cultural, historical and demographic factors. In today's context, it has become imperative to explore the socio-cultural dimensions of tribal health, to understand the efficacy of their treatment, disease causation, religious performances connected with the treatment of diseases and so on. Moreover, the health status of tribal women is an area which has so far not received adequate attention. Though studies dealing with tribal health, disease, medicine and treatment have been undertaken by a number of scholars, yet information on the health problems of women continues to be scanty. The present paper envisages to describe the native concepts of health and illness among the Karbis of Gorla Ghuli of Sonapur area, in the district of Kamrup, Assam. An attempt is being made to describe the medical beliefs and practices prevalent among the Karbis particularly those concerning female health problems.

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