

Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Healing Practices among the Sonowal Kacharis of Assam, India

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Abstract

The Sonowal Kachari, one of the indigenous tribes of Assam possess strong beliefs about magic and try to treat certain diseases by appeasing supernatural beings. In addition, they treat illnesses with a variety of locally accessible medicinal herbs. The purpose of this study is to ascertain the ethnic group's indigenous or traditional knowledge and healthcare system by documenting some of the therapeutic plants grown in the kitchen gardens of the knowledge holders and the corresponding magico-religious rituals that are integrated into their belief systems to treat and heal a variety of ailments. The relevant data for the present research were collected from Barpathar, Tinsukia district of Assam in March, 2023. The primary data was collected mainly from the elderly people of the community as they have the ground knowledge regarding the value and application of the natural medicines and associated rituals.

Keywords: Indigenous Knowledge, Superstitious Beliefs, Incantations.