

**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

KEYWORDS Medical Pluralism. Medical Option. Ritual and Healing Medicine

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.