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Indigenous Knowledge and Practices Related to the Reproductive Mother-Child Health Issues of the Karbis in Karbi Anglong, Assam

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ABSTRACT Any culture has its own practices to heal different health disorders and diseases. Any culture has evolved certain system of medicine to treat diseases in its own way. This is well variable across groups. It can be noted that disease and ailment, particularly in the simple societies is not an isolated phenomenon, rather they are interwoven with the environment, particularly the forest ecology. Their traditional healing are based on deep observation of ethno-ecology. The present study has been done on the Karbi tribal group of Karbi Anglong, Assam. The district is rich in biodiversity. Such resources are interwoven to their livelihood. The Karbi people had a strong belief that different malevolent supernatural agencies can create tremendous harm and allied misfortune to the reproductive mother as well as to the new born. The concerned people are very much psychologically dependent on the traditional healers and ethno-gynaecologists for the treatment related to such cases. The concerned healers use several locally available plant resources for such treatment. Meanwhile, particularly in the cases of reproductive mother-child health, a number of floral and faunal resources are also used by them, as a part of their ethnic diet. The present study has the prime objective to reveal the relationship between ethno-ecology and indigenous knowledge of the health care system of the Karbis, particularly related to reproductive mother-child health issues. The study has been primarily conducted through intensive fieldwork. Several anthropological methods are used in this regard to collect primary data.