

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Karbis are one of the most important tribe of north east India. They are formerly known as '*Mikir*' belongs to the mongoloid group and linguistically belongs to Tibeto-Burman group. In course of time one section of Karbi hill dweller had to descend to the plains for some reasons and settled their life in plains. Karbis own a vibrant cultural life moulded by numerous cultural activities, rites and rituals and folk beliefs that are transmitted from generation to generation by good number of traditional bearer since the time immemorial. Therefore folk beliefs and rituals are community oriented and supposed to be the identification mark for a community. Rites, rituals, ethos, beliefs and practices occupy a important place in the life of Karbi community. The primary objective of the present study has been to understand the folk beliefs and rituals prevalent in plains Karbi of *Demoria* region as an identity marker. This study deals with the understanding of womanhood by the activities practiced in their daily lives and folk beliefs and rituals associated with marriage related beliefs, religious beliefs among Karbi women, healing practices, puberty rites, pregnancy, and other health issues among the Karbi women.

I express my sincere gratitude to my teacher Dr. Anil Kr. Boro, Professor and Head, Department of folklore research, Gauhati University, under whose supervision and guidance this research work has been completed. I am deeply indebted to him for his valuable guidance, support and encouragement.

I am thankful to Dr. Jayashri Devi, assistant professor at Gauhati University for the needful suggestion and encouragement towards improvement of the work.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the faculty members of the Department of folklore research, Gauhati University, Guwahati, for their needful support in completing the work.

I am thankful to Mr. Lohit Rahang, Rambha Terang, Dinesh Rahang and all the informants of Teteliya, Dimoria block for providing me all the necessary help during the field work and collecting information.


It would not have been possible without the support of my parents, sister and friends. I am thankful to them for their inspiration, encouragement, help and constant support in completing my research work.

I am thankful to all non-teaching staff members of the Department of Folklore research, Gauhati University, for their support while carrying out my research in the department.

Lastly, I am thankful to the authors of the works enlisted in the reference and bibliography sections and also offer my thankfulness to all those who have supported directly or indirectly towards the successful in completion of this research work.

Place: Guwahati

Date: 21/2/2019


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