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### DECLARATION

I, **Alfina Khatun Talukdar** bearing Registration No. Ph.D/2008/12, dated: 27.09.2012, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled *“Health Status and Demand for Health Care of the Rural Muslim Married Women in Cachar District”* is the record of work done by me and that the contents of this thesis did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or to anybody else to the best of my knowledge. The thesis has not been submitted in any other University/ Institute.

**Place:**

**Candidate’s Signature**

**Date:**

## **PREFACE**

Women are the wheels of a nation; they can be very effectual agents of change for a better home, society and ultimately a better economy. Health of a nation depends on the state of health of women. Health of families and communities are tied to the health of women. The content of the study is mainly based on the health aspects of the rural Muslim women. Muslims are generally described as an economically and educationally backward community. They suffer grave deprivation in social opportunity because of lack of education, health care and other public services and employment. Researchers have reported higher morbidity rates among Muslim community. Though higher morbidity rates are reported from Muslim community, no exhaustive study has been undertaken to analyze the health status of Muslim women. Low level of understanding about the determinants of malnutrition is one of the challenges faced in addressing the problem of women malnutrition. The study is an attempt to understand the health status and nutritional status and its determinants of Muslim married women in the study area and also to find out the traditional preventive cares, which they used for health problems. The study also focuses on the availability and accessibility of rural health infrastructure and the demand for getting health care services of the rural stakeholder.

It is a pleasure and great opportunity to express my profound sense of gratitude to all those who helped me in the completion of my thesis. Successful completion of any thesis depends upon expert guidance, able supervision, willing co-operation, active support, valuable suggestions, and personal involvement of the concerned people. This thesis is the outcome of accumulated effort of such guidance, supervision, co-operation, support and involvement of many.

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## ABBREVIATION

AH	Area of house
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante Natal Care
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ASHAs	Accredited Social Health Activists
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey.
BF	Body Fat.
BMI	Body Mass Index.
BMR	Basic Metabolic Rate.
BMS	Basic Minimum Services.
BPHC	Block Primary Health Centre.
BPL	Below Poverty Line.
BRGF	Backwards Regions Grant Fund Programme.
CBR	Crude Birth Rate.
CDR	Crude Death rate.
CED	Chronic Energy Deficiencies.
CHC	Community Health Centre.
CME	Continuing Medical Education.
DH	District Hospital.
DLHS	District level Household Survey.
DS	Distance of the health centre from the respondent home.

EDLR	Education level completed by the respondent in years at the time of survey.
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization.
FE	Monthly food expenditure of the family.
FFM	Fat Free Mass.
FMM	Finite Mixture Model.
GOI	Government of India.
HC	Housing condition.
HDI	Human Development Indicator.
HE	Education level completed by the respondent's husband in years at the time of survey.
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
HS	Household size of the respondent.
ICD	International classification of Diseases.
ID	Institutional delivery.
IFR	Infant Mortality Rate.
IPHS	Indian Public Health Standard.
JSSK	Janani Sishu Suraksha Karyakram.
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana.
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey.
LHV	Lady Health Visitor.
MA	Marital age of the respondent.
MCH	Maternal and Child Health.

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals.
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio.
MNP	Minimum Needs Programme.
MPHC	Mini Primary Health Centre.
MPW	Multi Purpose Worker.
MUAC	Mid Upper Arm Circumference.
NFHS	National Family Health Survey.
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations.
NHSRC	National Health System Resource Centre.
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission.
NSS	National Sample Survey.
PCME	Per capita monthly medical expenditure of the family.
PCY	Per capita monthly income of the family.
PHC	Primary Health Centre.
PP	Primary Physician.
RE	Education level completed by the respondent in years at the time of survey.
RMME	Monthly medical expenditure of the family.
SD	State Dispensary.
SHC	Sub Health Centre.
SHC	Subsidiary Health Centre.
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.
TBF	Total Body Fat.

TFR	Total Fertility Rate.
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
UNU	United Nations University.
WHO	World Health Organization.
WTP	Willingness To Pay.