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**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
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# UNDER NUTRITION AND CHILDHOOD MORBIDITIES AMONG THE RABHA CHILDREN OF UDALGURI DISTRICT, ASSAM

*Nabajit Kr. Das<sup>1</sup>*

*Mahananda Das<sup>2</sup>*

*Lima Hazarika<sup>3</sup>*

## **Introduction**

Nutritional status plays a very important role in deciding the health status particularly in children. Nutritional deficiencies give rise to various morbidities, which in turn, may lead to increased mortality. Under nutrition is considered as major public health problem that is closely associated with child mortality rates. The survivors of under nutrition have its pervasive effects that include acute morbidity as well as long-term impairment of cognitive & social development, physical work capacity, productivity, and economic growth (Debasis, 2008).

In India, 20% children of under five years children are suffer from wasting due to acute under nutrition. More than one third of the world's children who are wasted live in India. Forty three per cent of Indian children under five years are underweight and 48 per cent are stunted due to chronic under nutrition, India accounts for more than 3 out of every 10 stunted children in the world (UNICEF, 2017).

Despite rapid economic development along with increase in food production in recent decades and several nutritional intervention programmes in operation since the last three decades, childhood under nutrition remains an important public health problem in India (Somawar & Phuljhale, 2015).

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<sup>1</sup> ICMR - Regional Medical Research Centre, N.E Region, Dibrugarh, Assam.

<sup>2</sup> J N College, Boko, Assam.

<sup>3</sup> Assam Don Bosco University, Sonapur, Assam.