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**WOMEN LITERACY AND FERTILITY RATE: THE CASE OF
NORTH EAST INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Various research studies conducted in India and abroad revealed the fact the women's education level and fertility rate is closely related. Higher female literacy rate will definitely help in reducing the Fertility Rate in India and also check of rapid population growth. Although in the last decade women literacy in India considerably increased and fertility rate is in declining trend, still we need more efforts to enhance the education level of women. The case is also true in the North Eastern States which is educationally and economically backward. This paper is an attempt to discuss the relation between women literacy and fertility rate with special reference to the North Eastern states of India. The data have been collected from Census of India Reports, NFHS-3, and Economic survey of Assam 2010-11. Higher female literacy rate will definitely help in reducing the Fertility Rate in India and also check of rapid population growth. As such it is suggested that female literacy should be a prime agenda of the government policy on education.

KEY WORDS: *Literacy, Fertility Rate, Infant Mortality Rate*
