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RELIGIOUS ADAPTATION: A CASE OF TIWA IN THE RURAL CONTEXT OF ASSAM

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Introduction

Culture, a uniquely human attribute, is something which man interposes between himself and his environment in order to ensure his security and survival. As such culture is adaptive. On the other hand, adaptation may be defined as the process, in which changes in an organism, system of organization, personality of an individual and group or culture occur to become suitable to the new conditions or needs. The adaptive process of man is largely cultural not only genetic. Human group adapt to the environment by means of culture. Culture is adaptive both to its physical and social environment, which may change due to changes in the demographic pattern, change of habitat, etc. Human being adapt to their environment by means of technological, organizational, and ideational adaptation. In this paper an attempt has been made by the investigator to study the adaptation that has been observed in the field religion among the Tiwas of Bargaon village of Kamrup district, Assam. The objectives of the paper is to examine how the people of the study village adapt to their culture, specially in the fields of their religious life, how some beliefs and customs become integral part of their life. Here an attempt has also been made to study the forces and causes responsible for these changes and adaptation.

Human groups adapt to their environment by means of their culture. Environment means both social and natural environment (Swaminathan, 1960). Man's social and cultural adaptability refers to the objectivity or goal for which a man works and the mechanism through which adaptation through the situation are acquired (Mahanta, 1987:44-45). Adaptation makes possible ones survival in the new environment. Some individuals or groups may acculturate or assimilate to the new culture. When the individuals go through the assimilation process, they adopt the new culture as their own, replacing the old cultural beliefs, attitude and behaviours. But sometimes they may even begin to make identity with both cultures.

The Tiwa

The Tiwas are one of the prominent scheduled tribe of Assam. They are chiefly residing in the district of Nagaon although some of them are scattered in the hills and the plains of Karbi Anglong, Kamrup, Darrang, Dhemaji and Lakhimpur district of Asam (Baruah, 1989:1). The Tiwas are popularly known as Lalungs but at present they prefer to call themselves as Tiwa. The name Lalung, they opine

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Author guidelines

General

All submitted manuscripts should contain original work neither published previously nor under consideration for publication elsewhere. Articles shall be accepted from any states of India provided submitted in English language only. There is no page limitation for articles; however authors must strive to present their results as clearly and concisely as possible. Authors, in their cover note to Editor, shall have to clearly mention whether the manuscript is to be considered as a Research article, Short communications or a Review article.

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Manuscripts shall go through a peer review process to adjudge their suitability and authenticity, for publication in the journal.

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Authors should submit the articles only in MS-word 2003 or 2007 format, no other format is accepted. If equations were used it should be converted by using MS Office equation editor and pasted as image at proper place.

Preparation of manuscripts:

Manuscripts should be submitted as per order: Title Page, name of author (s), Abstract, Key words, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements (if necessary) and References. If the Result and Discussion sections are combined, then a Conclusion section should be added.

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