

CHANGES IN MARRIAGE CUSTOMS, RITUALS AND BELIEFS OF THE BODOS AS REFLECTED IN ABARI

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ABSTRACT

The Bodos are the earliest inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. Bodos are the largest tribe of Assam. Racially they are Mongolian. Hence, the Bodo culture is a part of the Mongolian culture. The Bodos have six types of traditional marriage systems. Relating to marriage ceremony they have own traditional customs, rituals and beliefs. Moreover, relating to marriage ceremony they have own decoration materials, dress, ornaments, musical instruments, food items, furniture etc.

However, the traditional marriage customs, rituals and beliefs are changing gradually in course of time the. Moreover, various fields of marriage ceremony, such as- traditional dress and ornaments, traditional musical instruments, traditional furniture, traditional food items etc. have changed significantly. It is seen that some of the traditional practices performed earlier at the time of marriage ceremony are not performed nowadays. Ishan Mushahary has vividly reflected the changes on traditional marriage customs, rituals and beliefs through his short story called Abari.

Thus, this paper aims to study the changes on marriage cuistom, rituals and beliefs of the Bodos based on selected short story called Abari. This paper also aims to study the factors responsible for changing the marriage customs, rituals and beliefs. Moreover, this paper aims to highlight the factors as well as the changes.

KEYWORDS: Society, Customs, Rituals and Beliefs