

Change and Continuity in the Marriage System of the Kom Tribe of Manipur

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ABSTRACT

Marriage is a social institution that maintains the basic structure of a society. However, when this basic structure gets shaken by different knowledge systems encountered by the society during its course of history, a conflicting situation develops. This paper attempts to understand the nature of the marriage system of the Kom tribe of Manipur, who, of late, have been faced with a situation when conflicting wisdoms, namely, traditional, Christianity, and modern logico-rational scientific knowledge, come into play with almost equal emphasis. With the advent of Christianity and modern lifestyle, the Kom people have been increasingly exposed to complex and conflicting developments arising from direct encounters between custom-oriented pre-Christian (traditional) and Christian systems, and taking a liberal outlook toward marriage as an influence of modernity. This article makes an attempt to throw light on how society deals with the marriage system with all the changes revealed by it.

Keywords: Change; Continuity; Christianity; Dialogue; Kom; Marriage.