

Culture of the *Hajongs* of Assam- An Overview

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Abstract

Hajong is an ethnic tribe living in India as well as Bangladesh. The people belong to this tribe are also called Hajong. Although physical features resemble the Hajongs to some mongoloid tribes like 'Bodo', 'Kachari', 'Rabha' etc. their culture is different from others that tends to give them a different identity in respect of culture. There are controversies regarding the identity- culture, language etc. of the Hajong. Some tries to classify them as one of the section of the 'greater Bodo' tribe while some others try to enlist them with the 'Kacharis'. The purpose of the paper is to introduce the Hajong people and to present a sketch of their culture with reference to the *Hajongs* of Assam.

Key words: *Hajong, culture, Hajongs of Assam.*

Introduction:

The Hajongs are one of the ethnic tribes who live in different regions of India and some districts of Bangladesh. In North East India this tribe play a vital role in the structure of tribal population since they are found living in Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. In Assam, the Hajong people are found to live in different districts like Goalpara, North Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Sonitpur, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao (earlier North Cacher Hills). Although the number of population in Assam is comparatively less than other tribes their total population taking together all places is not negligible at all. "Taking together all the Hajong population of Assam, Meghalaya, Bangladesh and Arunachal it may be (.60+.60+.10+.05)= 135,000 only up to the end of 2000 year." (Hajong, B. 2002: 9).....

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