

## **A Brief Appraisal of Cultural Heritage of Ao Nagas in Nagaland**

**Pranjal Boruah**

**Department of Anthropology, Dibru College, India**

*anthroboruah@yahoo.co.in*

Cultural heritage encompasses the qualities and attributes of places that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural heritage is also described as ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values. Cultural heritage is often expressed as either intangible or tangible cultural heritage. Cultural heritage are those aspects that are unique to a particular culture (e.g. ingredients, preparation methods, dishes or services of foods). Thus cultural heritage is those aspects which have significance for the existing social history.

Considering the above facts, in the present paper an attempt has been made to describe certain aspects of socio-cultural life – e.g. religious beliefs, values, attitudes, food habits and dress pattern – of the Ao Nagas of Nagaland. The empirical data presented in this paper has been generated through field investigation in three homogeneous Ao Naga villages namely *Lirmen*, *Yajang-A* and *Yajang-B* under Japokong range in Mokokchung district. Standard anthropological tools were used in the collection of field data.

The Ao Nagas have embraced Christianity, yet they are still maintaining some of their traditional activities. They are still continuing their traditional festivals. The paper also reveals the prevalent traditional age group system among these Ao Nagas. All these behaviour reflect their ethnic identity.

***Key words:*** *Heritage, Ao Naga, Nagaland, Age group*