

name, but rather he should address her by saying 'uai'²⁹, and vice versa. Since the family belongs to patrilineal type called 'patung', the geneological lineage goes through the line of male descendant only.

Right of inheritance is mainly based on the primogenitor to the male line, while no female had a right to claim property. In case of having no sons, the property should pass to the nearest male relative of a deceased.

2. Village administration or, democratic life:

The Hrangkhols are very careful in matters of selection of a new village site by using *tasan* (omen) by split bamboo called 'rua in puam'.³⁰ Traditionally, houses are built on *chung in* (Machhang ghar), made of wood and bamboos, covering with thatch grass. Generally, houses were built close to one another. Being migratory tribes, it was impossible to build a strong fortified villages. There was a tradition which said that the Hrangkhols settled in a village consisting of 300 houses where people reformed the customary laws that passed through generation to generation. Its location is unknown.³¹

They have democratic traditions, S. Barkataki wrote as follows:-

*The Rangkhols have democratic traditions. Their villages are administered by a group of village officials, the Kalim or headman, the Kabur or assistant headman and their subordinates, Chapia-Kalim and Chapia-Kabur. These offices are not hereditary and an aspirant for the headmanship has to start at the bottom of the official hierarchy.*³²

²⁹ The word 'uai' is a kind of respect which mainly used for couple-made (wife and husband). When a son or daughter born to them, they address to each other in their children's name presumably eldest or daughter.

³⁰ Interview with Joithanglian of Zion, on 21st May, 1997.

³¹ Interview with Hakthangthoi of Zion, on 20th May, 1997.

³² S. Barkataki, *Tribes of Assam*, Revised edition, New Delhi, 1984, p.67; Cf. B.N. Bordoloi & G. C. Sharmah Thakur, *op. cit.*, p.51.