

animals like pig called 'satha'.<sup>40</sup> A woman offender was made naked publicly by the women folk, which is called 'nuzuar irek'. So divorce and adultery was not prevailing in early society.

#### 4. Status of women in early society:

Like Jewish society, the status of Hrangkhol women were low and wretched both in family and society. Women have no right to attend the **devan** (village council), and could not go to a sacred place named 'Boijol' where sacrificial ceremonies were conducted. They were forbidden to play any role of priesthood. Every male is expected to obtain the 'puanpu' for the privilege membership in religious affairs, while women secluded. A person who obtained puanpu are eligible to assist priests and get sacrificial meats.<sup>41</sup> The duty of women is entirely confined to household care. Since the Hrangkhol society is a patriarchal society, women's position is more or less the same with children.

#### 5. Music and dances:

Right from the early period, the common feature of Hrangkhol social life was dancing, singing with musics and drinking zu (rice-beer) for amusement. They have different kinds of musical instruments and dances. The popular musics are dar (gongs) and khuang (drum). A set of three gongs called dar irbu can produce a beautiful tunes if played by skilled players. With these gongs they performed a folk dance called **darlam** (dance of gongs). Besides these, there are indigenous musical instruments such as - (a) rosem. It is mouth organ, made out of gourd fit with 7 (seven) small bamboos. (b) seranda (violin). (c) theihle (flute), belem (mouth organ), etc. Folk songs used to be sung with the accompaniment of these instruments. The tune of folk-song was very

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<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> Interview Lalningtong of Kalimabong, date 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1997.