

B. THE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WOMEN

This study is mainly confined or focussed on the status of women in Hrangkhoh society.

1. Women in Social Life

Ever since Hrangkhoh society has rigidity with regard to the status of women, women are bound, kept very low and wretched in the pre-Christian era. Traditionally women should stay aloof from active participation in religious affairs as well as social activities. The system or discipline of Hrangkhoh society is somewhat identical with ancient Jewish society. Women are dominated in many ways and are expected to solely humbly submit to and depend upon the male domination. This notion of male dominated

Since Hrangkhoh society is a patriarchal society, inheritance of family property is also restricted to male members only.

In dress and ornaments Hrangkhoh women are fond of colourful dress and ornaments. They are also expert in weaving, embroidery and brewing rice beer. They decorate their ears with various kinds of ornaments such as 'toia kuardoi' meaning, earring, banhrial, meaning, bracelet etc. They keep their hair long, and tie in a knot at the back in which a hair pin called samkil is usually fastened.³³

With regard to social gatherings like annual feast and festivals, women are allowed to take active participation in such auspicious occasions. The common features of social gathering was dancing, singing, performed with music and drinking for entertainment. For festivals and feasting, women can take part and fully participate in such auspicious occasions because without womenfolk social gathering and dancing

³² Ibid.,

³³ C.A. Soppitt, "A Short Account of the Kuki-Lushai Tribes on the North East Frontier with an outline grammar of the Hrangkhoh-Lushai Language and a comparison of Lushai with other Dialects", Aizawl: Tribal research Institute, 1893 reprinted 1976, p. 6