

---

## **NEGOTIATING WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ENQUIRY OF THE BELIEF SYSTEM OF THE INPUI TRIBE, MANIPUR**

**Rangya Gachui\***

\*Assistant Professor,

Ph.D

Dept. of Anthropology,

Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan,

West Bengal, INDIA

Email id: rangyagachui@yahoo.co.in

**DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2025.00034.1**

---

### **ABSTRACT**

*Being religious is usually taken to mean living in spontaneous awareness of, an encounter with, acknowledgment of, and obedience to the active reality of the presence of a Supreme Being. Thus, religion permeates all aspects of life. In the traditional tribal society, there were no irreligious people. Tribal belief systems are based on the oral and expressed in everyday language – both verbally and in their lived every day. Tribal rituals are often performed collectively and are intended to address everyday problems. The study is concentrated on the Inpui tribe of Manipur, India. According to the 2011 census, the Inpui tribe has a population of 4762, of which 2398 are male and 2364 female. This paper studies the belief system and practice of the Inpui tribe with special reference to the controlling of the spirit and the spirit world. They worship gods for prosperity and release from sickness, disease, and suffering.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Supernatural Power, Rituals, Religious Belief, Suffering, And Prosperity.*

---

### **REFERENCES**

1. Brown A.R. Radcliff. (1959). *Structure and function in primitive society*. Foreward by E.E. Evans- Pritchard and Fred Eggan. The Free Press Glencoe, Illinois.
2. Downs, F.S. (1983). *Christianity in North-East India: Historical Perspective*, Delhi: Indian society for promoting Christian knowledge.
3. Huber, J.D. (2005). *Religious belief, religious participation, and social policy attitude across countries*. Working paper, Columbia University.
4. Johnstone, R. (1975). *Religion and society: The Society of Religion*. Englewood bros. N.J. Prentice-Hall.
5. Nembiaakim Rose. (2008). *Reproductive Health awareness among the tribal women in Manipur*, New Delhi: Concept Publication Company.
6. Sinha, R. (1977). *Religion and culture of North-east India*, Abhinav Publication, New Delhi.
7. Srivastava, VK 1997, *Religious renunciation of a pastoral people*. Oxford University Press., New Delhi.

8. Wati, A Longchar, 2000. The tribal religious traditions in North East India, Eastern Theological College, Jorhat, Assam.
9. Personal Interview with Mr Bakuzinga Inka, age 61, Haochong village. 2/7/2011
10. Personal Interview with Mr Kadibangba Inka, age 85, Haochong village. 3/7/2011