

## **Dimasa Culture And Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society**

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### **Abstract**

Culture includes all that a man acquired in his social and individual life. Dimasa is one of the important communities of Assam. Majority of Damasa peoples live in Dima Hasao district. Apart from Dima Hasao district Dimasa community lives in different districts of Assam like East and West Karbi Anglong, Cachar and Hojai etc. They have their own culture. Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society (D. G. Y. S.) is a Non Government Organisation (NGO) formed on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015. D. G. Y. S. provides various social services in their locality for the welfare of the peoples. This NGO organises some activities for the preservation of Dimasa culture like teaching Dimasa traditional dance to the children, weaving and selling traditional cloths etc. This paper will focus on the role of Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society in preservation of Dimasa culture.

**Key words:** - Dimasa culture and D. G. Y. S.

### **Introduction: -**

Culture is a very broad term that includes all our walks of life, our philosophies and ethics, our modes of behaviour, our manners and traditions, our economic, political, religious and other types of activities. The non-material and material components of culture are often referred to as content of culture. Many Sociologists have classified the content of culture into large components non-material culture and material culture. Non-material culture consists of beliefs, habits, out looks, ways of thinking, acting, feeling and attitudes etc. It is something intrinsic and internally valuable which reflects the inward nature of man. Material culture consists of ornaments, cloths, house hold goods and food etc. It is concern with the mechanical, external and utilitarian objects.

According to Taylor, "Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society." Simply culture means the heritage of an individual which continues from generation to generation. Culture is a set of learned behaviour.

### **Dimasa Culture: -**

Dimasa is one of the important communities of Assam. Majority of Dimasa community live in Dima Hasao district. Apart from Dima Hasao they are found in West and

East Karbi Anglong, Cachar and Hojai districts etc. They have their own culture. The material components of Dimasa culture are like their own traditional dresses (Rigu, Riha, Risa etc.), Ornaments (Powal, Chandrahal, Jomsongma etc.), musical instruments (Muri, Kharam, Muriwathaisa etc.). The non-material components of Dimasa culture are like believing on existence of god and goddess, existence of dainis (witches). Dimasa community have their own language which is known Dimasa language.

**Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society: -**

Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society (DGYS) was form on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 at Rajbari – II village consisting of members from Diyungbra area of Dima Hasao district. This NGO consists of 15 members. This NGO formed under the president ship of Debojit Nunisa and Secretary Rupali Langthasa. At present, DGYS is run under the president ship of Surja Nunisa and Secretary Sapan Thaosen. After the formation of Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society NGO, the members of the DGYS are doing various appreciable activities like cleaning and plantation work during the world environmental day in their locality. They offered social services in the locality whenever necessary.

**Rationale of the study: -**

Non Government Organisations are playing an important role in the development of a country. They organise various programmes for welfare of the social members. Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society is also an important NGO which organise various programmes for the welfare of the Dimasa society. So, there exists significance of study on the role of Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society in preserving Dimasa Culture.

**Objective of the study: -**

Objective of the study has been presented as following: -

- To study about the role Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society in preserving Dimasa Culture.

**Operational definition of the terms: -**

Operational definitions of the terms have been presented as follows: -

**DGYS:** -In the present study DGYS indicates the Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society. It is a Non-Government Organisation formed in Rajbari – II village consisting of members from Diyungbra area of Dima Hasao District.

**Dimasa Culture:** -In the present study Dimasa Culture indicates the culture of Dimasa people which is one of the important tribal cultures of Assam.

**Delimitations of the study: -**

Delimitations of the study have been presented as following: -

- Present study was delimited to the members of Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society only.
- It was delimited to the Dimasa culture only.

**Methodology: -**

**Method:** - Descriptive method was used for the study as the study was done for finding out the fact.

**Population:** - All the members of Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society as well as all the 18+ villagers of Rajbari –II village were regarded as the population of the study.

**Sample:** - Purposive sampling technique was used for sample selection. 5 members of DGYS and 71 villagers of Rajbari – II village were selected as sample by using the same sampling technique.

**Tool:** - Interview tool was used for data collection of the study.

**Analysis and interpretation of data: -**

Qualitative data analysis and interpretation technique was used for data analysis and interpretation of collected data.

**Analysis and interpretation data: -**

Analysis and interpretation of the study have been presented as following: -

**1. Role in preserving Bishu Dima:** - Bishu Dima is an important festival of Dimasa community which is organised on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January. Local holiday is provided for Bishu Dima at dima Hasao District. All the Dimasa people during this period celebrate very much by wearing traditional dresses, ornaments and preparing traditional foods.

Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society helps in organising Bishu Dima at Rajbari – II village in the year 2016. The members of DGYS prepared the Baiko (Dancing place) for Dancing Baidima (Dance form of Dimasa people) whole night. Next day they were visited the houses where the old persons were available and took the blessings from them, which was a part of Bishu Dima festival.

**2. Role in preserving holly place Panimur:** - Panimur is a holly place for Dimasa people. There exists Ho Rao Lim Temple on the bank of Kapili River at Panimur. One ladies clan named Mairongma Daugua peoples mainly go at Panimur every year for holly bath during Maghi Purnima. Following the Mairongma Daugua peoples other Dimasa people visit the

place for holly bath. Now, the place is regarded as picnic spot. It becomes popularised from the year 2017.

Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society tries to maintain good environment at the holly place Panimur. They open shop during the months of December and January for selling the traditional foods to the picnic parties and familiarise the visitors about the Dimasa traditional foods.

**3. Role in preserving musical instrument:** - Musical instruments of Dimasa culture are kharam (Drum), Muri (the big Flute) and Muriwathaisa (small Flute) etc.

The members of Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society are preparing Muri themselves and use it properly during the period of Bishu Dima and other necessary events. All traditional musical instruments are made up of available forest resources.

**4. Role in preserving dresses:** - There are various dresses of Dimasa community like Rigu, Rijampai, Rikhausa Rimai, Risa and Bato Rimai etc. Dimasa people wear those in different festivals and at home also.

Diyungbra Goodwill Youth society popularises and tries to preserve the traditional dresses by weaving, wearing, selling and presenting those cloths in various programmes like Dimasa conference and Dimasa Youth festival etc.

**5. Role in preserving traditional food:** - There are various traditional foods like Putihon, Mogonghon and Maiju Ruyaba etc.

Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society prepared and sells above mention food items in their shop when some programmes are organise in their locality (Diyungbra area).

**6. Role in preserving ornaments:** - There are various traditional ornaments like Khadu Dima (Bangle), Chandrahal, Jomsongma, Powal (all are neck chain) and Khamautai (ear ring) etc.

The members of Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society wear above mention ornaments in various programmes. Now, they also try to prepare and sell some ornaments like Jomsongma and Powal in their locality.

**7. Role in preserving Dimasa traditional Dance:** - Dimasa Community has their own dance forms which are known as Baidima, Baimajai and Baijabha etc.

Diyungbra Goodwill Youth Society taught the school children Baidima in the year 2018 at Diyung Valley English School for the preservation of Dimasa Baidima Danmce form.

**Major findings of the study: -**

Major findings of the study were presented below: -

1. The members of DGYS prepared the Baiko (Dancing place) for Dancing Baidima (Dance form of Dimasa people) whole night in Rajbari – II village in the year 2016.
2. They open shop during the months of December and January for selling the traditional foods to the picnic parties and familiarise the visitors about the Dimasa traditional foods at Panimur.
3. The members of Diyunbra Goodwill Youth Society are preparing Muri themselves and use it properly during the period of Bishu Dima and other necessary events.
4. Diyunbra Goodwill Youth society popularises and tries to preserve the traditional dresses by weaving, wearing, selling and presenting those cloths in various programmes like Dimasa conference and Dimasa Youth festival etc.
5. Diyunbra Goodwill Youth Society prepared and sells traditional food items in their shop when some programmes are organise in their locality (Diyunbra area).
6. The members of Diyunbra Goodwill Youth Society wear traditional ornaments in various programmes. Now, they also try to prepare and sell some ornaments like Jomsongma and Powal in their locality.
7. Diyunbra Goodwill Youth Society taught the school children Baidima in the year 2018 at Diyun Valley English School for the preservation of Dimasa Baidima Danmce form.

**Conclusion: -**

From this above discussion it is clear that culture is a complex whole which is inclusive of both material and non-material components. Dimasa is one of the important tribal communities of Assam. Dimasa people have their own culture. There were various roles of Diyunbra Goodwill Youth Society for the preservation of Dimasa Culture like role in preserving traditional foods and dresses etc.

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