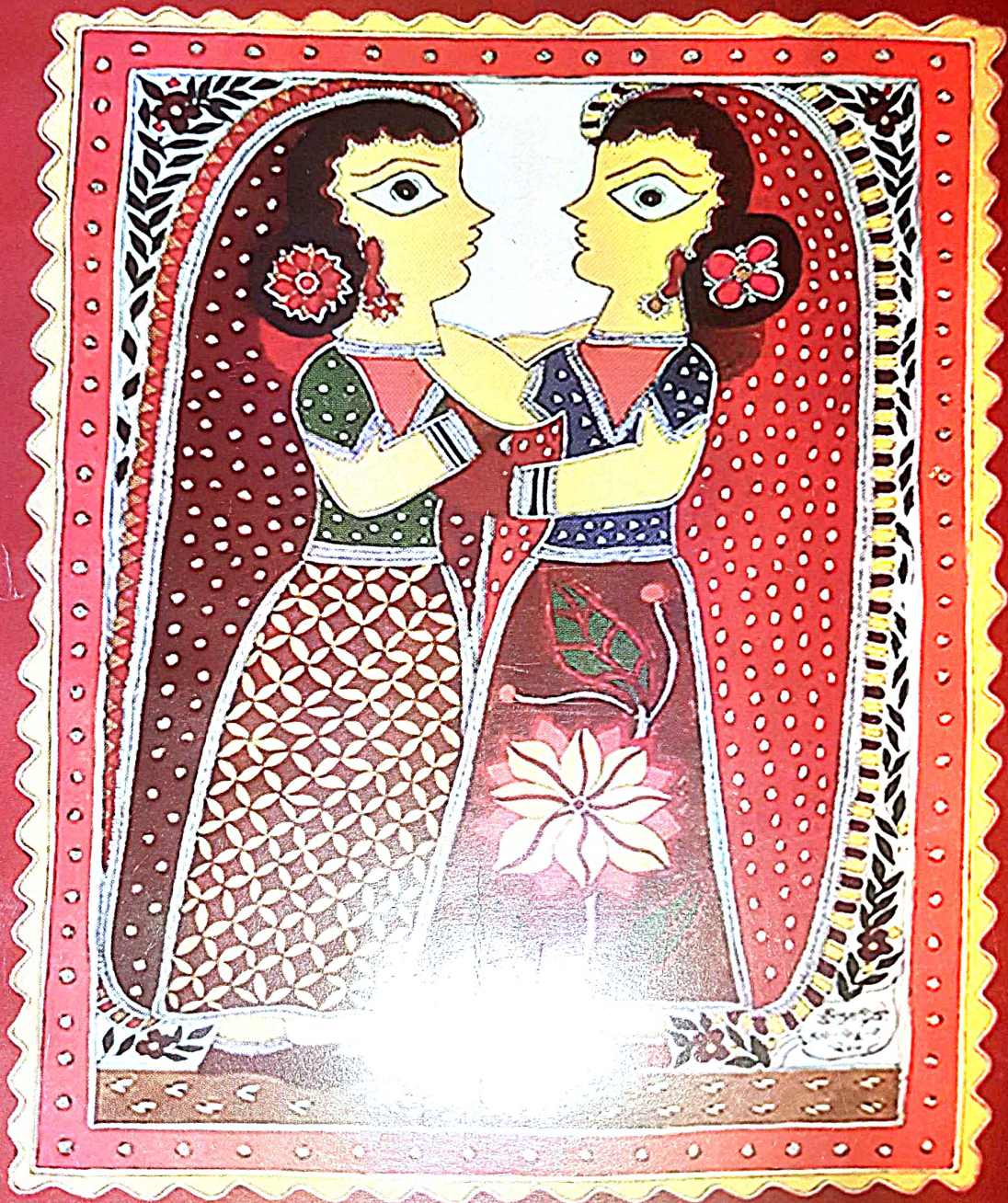


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The Concept of Marriage and its Practices among Boro-Kacharis and Mishing Tribes in North East Assam : A Study

Shyamal Chandra Sarkar

Akhtarul Islam

Marriage is one of the important events of both male and female. They begin conjugal life through marriage. Marriage gives protection to a woman. It is found since ancient period. A family becomes identified as a consequence of marriage. Marriage normally precedes the establishment of a family. It is a spiritual bond of a man and a woman. It is not only a moral institution but also a religious contract among many communities. There are various stages of marriage according to Morgan, viz. consanguineous marriage, Group marriage, Syndesmian marriage, Patriarchal marriage, Monogamy marriage. Marriage is divided into the forms of polyandry, polygyny, group marriage and monogamy. But, later on, group marriage was eliminated from this list.

The Boro-Kacharis are one of the major indigenous tribe of North East India. They strictly followed clan exogamy in their marriage system. Boro-Kacharis contract marriage by negotiation (Hathachuni), widow remarriage is also found in their society. Bride-price also prevails among Boro-Kacharis marriage system.

There are other major tribes in the plains of Assam who are known as Mishing. Clan exogamy and tribal endogamy are followed in their marriage system. Marriage within the same clan is strictly prohibited in their society and same sub-clan marriage is also prohibited in their society. They are monogamous. The Mishing practise two types of marriage, namely, Midang (arranged marriage) and dugla-lanam (gandharba vivaha). Bride-price is allowed in their marriage system.

Keywords: *Marriage, evolution, forms, practices, of Boro-Kachari and Mishing tribe.*

Introduction:

Marriage is a very important event in the life of a woman. Matrimony in course of time is followed by maternity, and its recurrence makes the women periodically helpless and absolutely dependent on her husband. Marriage, therefore, determines the fate of a