

Vol 5 Issue 12 September 2016

ISSN No : 2249-894X

*Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal*

*Review Of
Research Journal*

Chief Editors

Ashok Yakkaldevi
A R Burla College, India

Ecaterina Patrascu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

Kamani Perera
Regional Centre For Strategic Studies,
Sri Lanka

Review Of Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

Regional Editor

Dr. T. Manichander

Advisory Board

Kamani Perera Regional Centre For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Mabel Miao Center for China and Globalization, China
Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Xiaohua Yang University of San Francisco, San Francisco	Ruth Wolf University Walla, Israel
Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Karina Xavier Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA	Jie Hao University of Sydney, Australia
Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania	May Hongmei Gao Kennesaw State University, USA	Pei-Shan Kao Andrea University of Essex, United Kingdom
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Marc Fetscherin Rollins College, USA	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania
	Liu Chen Beijing Foreign Studies University, China	Ilie Pinteau Spiru Haret University, Romania
Mahdi Moharrampour Islamic Azad University buinzahra Branch, Qazvin, Iran	Nimita Khanna Director, Isara Institute of Management, New Delhi	Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai
Titus Pop PhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania	Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain
J. K. VIJAYAKUMAR King Abdullah University of Science & Technology, Saudi Arabia.	P. Malyadri Government Degree College, Tandur, A.P.	Jayashree Patil-Dake MBA Department of Badruka College Commerce and Arts Post Graduate Centre (BCCAPGC), Kachiguda, Hyderabad
George - Calin SERITAN Postdoctoral Researcher Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi	S. D. Sindkhedkar PSGVP Mandal's Arts, Science and Commerce College, Shahada [M.S.]	Maj. Dr. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director, Hyderabad AP India.
REZA KAFIPOUR Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Shiraz, Iran	Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	AR. SARAVANAKUMARALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY, KARAIKUDI, TN
Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur	C. D. Balaji Panimalar Engineering College, Chennai	V.MAHALAKSHMI Dean, Panimalar Engineering College
	Bhavana vivek patole PhD, Elphinstone college mumbai-32	S.KANNAN Ph.D , Annamalai University
	Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play (Trust), Meerut (U.P.)	Kanwar Dinesh Singh Dept.English, Government Postgraduate College , solan

More.....



THE ROLE OF MEIRA PAIBIS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY OF MANIPUR STATE - A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Koni Potsangbam¹ and Dr. B. T. Lawani²

¹Ph.D Scholar (UGC NET-JRF), Social Science Centre, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune.

²Director, YCISSR, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune.

ABSTRACT

The 20th century witnessed a number of significant instances of participation by women in socio-economic and political uprisings. The basic objectives of most of the women's organizations was for the attainment of social empowerment and as well as the upliftment of their status in the society. They fought against the existing social laws and demanded political rights and for the eradication of social evils which have negative impact on women's lives. But in Manipur, the struggle of the most prominent organization (Meira Paibis) is against the oppressive forces of the State and those people who try to disharmonise and shake the edifice of the society. They have been looking beyond individual and they hold themselves responsible to maintain the order in the society. Since the women's group wield enormous influence in their communities, almost all the organization, political parties including the underground organizations try to get their support. They in turn give their support and sympathy

unhesitatingly whenever they feel injustice have been done to any members of the society.

Given this background, the present study has made an attempt to know and understand the profile of these women organisations that have undeniably changes people's lives for the betterment. The study also attempted to explore the complex role that Meira Paibis have played in Manipur society.

KEYWORDS: Meira Paibis; Women Organization; Substance Abuse ; Anti-Social Activities.

INTRODUCTION

The Meira Paibis meaning "Women with the Torch in their Hand" or 'Women Torch Bearers' has been in active since 1980s. These women organizations (Meira Paibis) have always raised their voices for a free Manipur where there will be no such miseries and sufferings of the people. Though its initial efforts were mainly against the injustice meted out by the state authority, against accesses committed by the security personnel, against violation of human rights etc., its scope later expanded to include a host of others issues such as domestic violence, drug abuse, alcoholism etc. They are playing significant role in protecting and upholding the rights of the people of Manipur. They keep a watch on any unwanted behaviour in the society, be it related to drug abuse, they have also resisted the excessive acts of the security forces. They dare to get lathi charge, sit for hunger strike and even go to jail for a right cause.

These women association are very strong and powerful bodies. Everybody tries to get them involved even for petty



personal problems so are the political parties and many other organizations sometimes for their own selfish political purpose. They are the fearless watchdog of the society. They have the whole society in mind. They aspire for prosperity of the whole society. Their complete involvement and their genuine interest in the welfare of the whole society is a known fact in the State of Manipur

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study were to understand the Women Organization (Meira Paibis) and explore their role of the in the society of Manipur.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the State of Manipur. The data was collected in the month of February, 2015. With guidance and list of the organizations available with the main head office of Meira Paibi under the aegis of Nupi Samaj, the key executive members of the organization were selected with the help of systematic random sampling method. Thus the sample of the study comprise of twenty respondents.

Both primary and secondary source of data was obtained from various sources. A Structured Interview Schedule was prepared as the formal tool of data collection. The methods of data collection included the personal interview, observation method and focus group discussion method. The collected data was processed through the computer with the help of SPSS package.

The findings and conclusions have been drawn on the basis of the primary data collected for the study.

RESULTS:

The Results and discussions are based on the primary data especially collected for the study. These are the major findings and conclusions of the study and not exhaustive themselves. Following are the results of the study of the Women Organization (Meira Paibis):

- + 40 percent of the respondents were aged between 46 - 55 years. About 60 percent of the respondents were found to be more than 55 years.
- + 40 percent of the respondents expressed that their organization were 10-20 years old.
- + 50 percent of the respondents joined the organization by their own choice and another 50 percent joined by compulsion as many unwanted issues and problems were affecting the lives of the citizens.
- + It is found that more 90 percent of the respondents faced problems working at night.
- + 80 percent of the respondents working hours were not fixed and small percent (10%) respondents were of the opinion that they worked almost 24 hours.
- + Only 10 percent of the respondents offered professional services to their clients like counselling, vocational training and medical assistance to their clients. And 80 percentages of the respondents did not offered any professional services while 10 percent of the respondents referred their clients to other professional bodies.
- + 90 percent of the respondents expressed that they deal with alcohol abuse problem quite frequent followed by drug abuse and family feuds. The respondents also informed the mode of dealing of such offenders. Some respondents referred to police (30%), some dealt with organization rules (30%) and 40 respondents either referred to police or dealt with organization rules.
- + The study found that the funds of more than 60 percent of the respondents' organization were managed by members' fees and contribution. And 80 percent of the respondents also admitted that they did not have any funds at present.
- + 80 percent respondents' organization did not organize any fund raising programme.
- + All the respondents expressed that there were no professional trained workers in the organization.
- + Half of the respondent did not receive any help/assistance from the police department when they approached. A small percent of the respondents received help from the police.
- + 70 percent of the respondents were found to organized hunger strike, rally and sit and protest as their

means of demonstration.

- + A majority of the percent of the respondents did not approach the government officials.
- + 70 percent of the respondents informed that lack of support from the government was the main difficulties they faced in carrying out their activities. And 30 percent mentioned shortage of funds as their main difficulty.
- + About 50 percent of the respondents expressed that they planned to make their organization more formal and organised. And 10 percent of the respondents wanted to expand their network of the organization to national level. About 40 percent respondent replied that they did not have any future plans for the organization at present

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The study revealed that a majority of the respondents under study belonged to the age group of 46 years to 55 years and above. This primary data reflects on the large concentration of married women of late middle aged and older people in the organization. More than one third of the organizations were more than 10 years old and had a good experience. Half of the respondents who joined the organization by their own choice and another joined the organization through compulsion. According to these women, they felt it was their duty to safeguard their family and society from any dangers they faced. The study also revealed that a majority of the respondents faced problems working at night as they were women and their families were worried about their safety. So, they are constantly exposed to various threat from armies, substances abusers etc. Most of the respondents also expressed that they worked day and night and their working hours were not fixed. They were of the opinion that if situation demands, they are ready to come out from the four walls of their houses in order to protect the society.

The issues of oppression by military forces have come down but it's still prevalent in the State. So, at present, the organization handled the problems of alcohol and substance abuse in their locality quite frequently. And a significant percent of the respondents preferred to deal such offenders according to their rules as they don't trust the law enforcers of the state. They would punished them by making them pay heavy penalty to the victims' family, beating up them by shoes/sticks, scorn them in public etc. Most of the organization's funds were managed through members' fees and contribution but still they faced shortage of funds and did not have any funds at present. And the government also do not heed their needs. Much of their expenses were spent on travelling/visiting victims' homes, organizing rallies and helping the beneficiaries. And another important thing is that these organizations did not organize any fund raising programs even though most of the organizations were shortage of funds. They strongly believed that such fund raising programs were purely commercial and they depend solely on donation and members' contribution for running the organizations.

The networking level with other organization was mostly at state level. They also expressed that they were trying their best to expand their networking to national level. Regarding the assistances from the government side, half of them expressed that they did not receive any help from the police and also did not approach the government officials as their attitude were unpredictable and could not be trusted. The difficulties they faced at present are lack of support from the government and shortage of funds.

Indeed, it is a matter of great concern that the organizations which are working selflessly for the society have to undergo so many obstacles to sustain their organizations. The governments have become apathetic to their needs and demands. So, it is high time on the part of the government to realise that it is not the sole responsibility of the women's organizations to protect and safeguard the society but also it is their responsibilities as well. So, there should be a constructive effort on the part of the state government agents to bridge the gaps between them and the efforts and various endeavours of these women's organisations in making a better society.

SUGGESTIONS

- + Based on the findings and conclusions, the study attempted to make some suggestions.
- + Even though the organization planned to expand their activities to national level, still they needed to work first from state level only. There was no doubt that these organization worked in a narrow geographical area. So, they first need to bring together the entire scattered organization properly under one roof and worked together. For that, these organizations need a centralised body which can look at the many small congregations of women in the state of Manipur.
- + One of the important immediate requirements of the organization is office building which they don't have at present. So, they should first focus on establishing a proper office where the common people can reach them easily. The government should allot them appropriate space for such organizations which are doing selfless services for the society.
- + The organization should understand the law and regulations of the society and should not try to take law in their hand because nobody is above law.
- + The organization should try to adapt and work closely with the police as this collaboration could yield fruitful result in combating undesirable activities in the society.
- + The organization should employed and involved professional workers who can guide and planned their strategies carefully. The members of the organization should also go for professional trainings like attending workshops, seminars, skill development etc. in order to understand the present scenario especially while dealing with youths who are involve in anti social activities.
- + Since the society has bestowed their trust upon these organizations, they need to go beyond counselling services and add more facilities. They need to plan and arranged settlement for destitute women, domestic violence/land dispute victims etc.
- + The organization should arrange more fund raising programmes otherwise they would not be able to execute their activities due to shortage of funds. There is an urgent need for a thought-through, co-ordinated, long-term funding policy for such organizations on the part of the governments and donor NGOs. The public should also not hesitate to donate money to such organization as they exist for the sole purpose of protecting the society.
- + The government also should provide protective measures for these women organizations especially when they work at night.
- + Transparent and stable government is needed to combat the problems anti social activities in the State. Government should take more effective measures to stop alcoholic/substance abuse and other crimes in the State so as to maintain peace in the society. They can work in collaboration with these women organizations who are experienced in handling such unwanted problems of the society.

REFERENCES:

- 1.Yenning (2014) : Is the Meira Paibi Movement Facing Extinction?, 30th November, The Sangai Express
- 2.TOI Social Impact Awards: Lifetime contribution — Meira Paibi, (2013), Times of India
- 3.Kumar, S. (2007) : Manipuri women , Bishnupriya Manipuri
- 4.Shreema Ningombam (2011) : Manipur: Women's Rights In A Traditional And Militarized Society Ethics In Action , Vol. 5 No. 6 – pp 21-30
- 5.Seram Neken (2012) : "The voiceless speaks" , Hueiyen Lanpao (English Edition) September 20.
- 6.Lucy .T.V Zehol (1998) : Women S Movement In Manipur: Some Observation In Social Movements In North East India, Edited By Mahendra Narain Karna, Indus Publishing, 1998 – N.Delhi India, pp. 68-69
- 7.T.K Oommen (1977) : Charisma, Stability And Change : An Analysis Of Bhoodhan Gramdan Movement In India, Thompson Press, New Delhi, pp. 35.
- 8.Mukherji, S (2010) : Meira Paibis: Women Torch-bearers on the March in Manipur, Mainstream, Vol XLIX, No 1,
- 9.She Stoops To Conquer, 2004, The Archives, The Telegraph

10. Genesis Of Meira Paibi Movement Recalled, (2011), The Sangai Express
11. (Lalzo.S, : (2013). Role of Meira Paibi in bringing about Social Change in the Manipuri Society: an Analysis, Journal of Social Welfare and Mangement Volume 5, pp 25
12. Thokchom, Nandini _____ : Women's Movement in Meitei society, Seeds of Hope, Lokayan
13. Bimola. M (1998) : Social Movement In Manipur, in Social Movements In North East India, Edited By Mahendra Narain Karna, Indus Publishing, 1998 – N. Delhi India, pp. 70
14. Chandra, R (2004) : Social Development In India, Volume 5, Gyan Publishing House, pp 25
15. Richard, Kamei (2014) : Prohibition in Manipur, Deliberations over its 'Dry State' Status ,Vol - XLIX No. 52, EPW publication
16. The Great June 18 Uprising And The 18 Great Souls, June, 2015, The Sangai Express
17. Roy, Esha (2015) The Indian Express Inner Line Permit: Why Manipur Is On The Boil Again
18. 'Indian Army, Rape Us' Anubha Bhonsle, Outlook 10 Feb. 2016.
19. Tingneichong G. Kipgen, (2010) : Women's Role in the 20th Century Manipur: A Historical Study, Gyan Publishing House



Koni Potsangbam

Ph.D Scholar (UGC NET-JRF), Social Science Centre, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune.

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Books Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ Directory Of Research Journal Indexing
- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium Scientific
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- DOAJ
- EBSCO
- Crossref DOI
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database

Review Of Research Journal
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-
413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435

E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com