THE IMPACT OF FOLKLORE ON SOCIALIZATION IN GEKHO NATIONAL, THANDAUANG TOWNSHIP, KAYIN STATE

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation studies “The Impact of Folklore on Socialization in Gekho National, Thandaung Township, Kayin State”. This study attempts to explore the role of folklore in the process of inheriting norms, customs and ideologies in Gekho community. The Gekho national is, one of the officially recognized nationals, living in Thandaung Township, Kayin State. It is located the border area of Nay-pyi-taw, Shan State and Kayin State. The study areas are two village tracts including six villages. A descriptive design is applied and ethnographic methods on qualitative approaches are used. Data are collected by doing non-participant observation, participant observation, conducting ethnographic interviews with informants, viewing records, writing field notes, taking photographs, and making maps of study site. According to the results, traditional knowledge, customs and practice have found to be playing role in pregnancy, delivery, infant care, naming, and rituals for the baby. In language socialization, children are began to teach Gekho language only. Oral literature has an enormous influence on the process of socialization in Gekho childhood. Performing on shield dance might be a part of a rite of passage by which a boy to become a man. The findings present Gekho adolescent have been socialized with regard to differential community taboos since they was young. Customary laws and traditional judicial rules are prescribed for all of the Kayan kin-groups. The results clearly show that the role of folklore has effectively played on the process of socialization in Gekho’s ways of life. The study provides informative data for further research not only for collecting certain items of folklore of other ethnic groups but also for conducting socializing process from other disciplines point of views.

Key words: folklore, socialization, norms, customs, ideologies, oral literature, traditional knowledge, practice, taboos, customary law