

Navigating Change: Assessing The Socio-Cultural Impact Of Garo Literary Contributions

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Abstract

This study seeks the socio-cultural impact of Garo literary accomplishments in diverse cultural environment. The Garo, an ethnic group have coexisted peacefully with the society for decades, preserving their cultural identity despite continuous contact. The research aims to evaluate the transforming processes of Garo society, specifically in relation to evolving family structures and cultural customs, as impacted by their literary manifestations. Also, to analyze the evolution of Garo's traditional family structures and cultural practices, considering the impact of regular encounters with the mainstream population and the influence on the Garo family and cultural life. However, the significance of literature in documenting and mirroring socio-cultural changes within excluded populations. The study argues that while Garo society is experiencing slow changes, traditional norms and practices continue to have a significant impact on family structures and cultural life. The study highlights the importance of Garo literary accomplishments in understanding the socio-cultural influence of external contacts and cultural changes.

Keywords: Cultural practices, Socio-cultural impact, Garo literary achievements, Cultural identity, Literature and culture

Introduction

The Garo people, which is a substantial ethnic minority in Bangladesh, is divided into two separate groups: the A. chick Hill Garos who live in wooded regions, and the Lamdani or plain Garos who are located in the foothills of Garo Hill in greater Mymensingh (Sattar 1971, quoted in Das & Islam 2005). Although the Garo population is substantial, obtaining

accurate information about their exact numbers remains challenging. Global estimates indicate that the Garo population is roughly 500,000, with nearly one-fifth living in Bangladesh (Chowdhury 2007, quoted in Ahmed et al. 2010:133), which amounts to over 10 million inhabitants. the Garo tribal group in Sunamganj, Bangladesh, with a specific emphasis on analyzing the socio-cultural influence of Garo literary accomplishments.

The Garo community, despite living in close proximity to patriarchal family systems, has successfully preserved their matriarchal family pattern. This research focuses on the unique characteristics of the Garo people, such as family dynamics, marriage customs, inheritance traditions, social norms, values, social organization, dietary preferences, housing styles, clothing choices, language, and cultural and religious celebrations. These aspects set them apart from both the dominant Bengali culture and other tribal communities (Milton 2002). The Garo community is known for its unique cultural legacy, characterized by a matriarchal family structure, which has attracted the interest of academics, scholars, and anthropologists. The research examines the roles and responsibilities of the matriarchal family system in the Garo society, highlighting its efficacy and exploring the views of Garo individuals towards their traditional family structure. It also provides information on the active involvement of women in decision-making processes within the family and society, and offers insights into the socio-cultural influence of Garo literary accomplishments on their community.

Objectives

1. To investigate the impact of literary accomplishments on the transformation of Garo society.
2. To explore the influence of mainstream on the evolution of Garo's literature in reflecting socio-cultural changes within marginalized communities.

Literature review

Socio-cultural impact

The socio-cultural influence of Garo literary contributions in English literature is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive understanding of the interaction between literature, culture, and society. Garo et al. (2018) Studies have shown that African Americans often experience traumatic events due to inequality in their environment and society

(Balkin et al., 2021), emphasizing the importance of understanding the socio-cultural backdrop in creative works. Literature professors often prioritize the examination of socio-cultural, economic, and religious connotations found within literary works (Ihejirika, 2014), making the socio-cultural influence of literature a crucial element of literary interpretation. Participatory action research is essential for developing inclusive identity narratives, as it highlights the importance of analyzing social criticism within the context of ethnic conflict and the lack of opportunities to question established policies and practices (Dutta, 2017). Singh & Marsani (2018) highlighted the absence of cultural elements in the English literature section of the national curriculum, highlighting the need for incorporating cultural elements into literary studies.

Lo et al. (2015) emphasized the influence of culture on the slow evolution of societal values, beliefs, and cultural practices, with tourism often contributing to these elements. This highlights the ever-changing nature of socio-cultural influences and the impact of external variables like tourism on the formation of cultural practices. Communities play a significant role in the revival of traditions and the exchange of their culture, with particular attention paid to the socio-cultural consequences of external factors like tourism. Evaluating the socio-cultural influence of Garo literary works is challenging due to the unique socio-cultural dynamics within the Garo community. For instance, Karim et al. (2020) highlighted the socio-cultural disparities between ethnic minority groups like the Garo community and the dominant Bengali population in Bangladesh, emphasizing the importance of considering the distinct socio-cultural background of the Garo group while evaluating their literary achievements (Marques et al., 2020). Nongrum et al. (2021) found notable variations in dietary diversity across indigenous populations, with the Garo community achieving a greater minimum dietary diversity for women. Chowdhury (2023) underscored the significant influence of local culture and customs on the Garo indigenous people, emphasizing the unique sociocultural customs of the Garo community.

Sarma & Devi (2017) stressed the importance of investigating and recording the robust ethnomedicinal traditional knowledge of the Garo community for societal advantage, underscoring the socio-cultural importance of indigenous knowledge and practices within the Garo community. In conclusion, the socio-cultural influence of Garo literary works

is intricately connected to the distinct socio-cultural environment, gender norms, native customs, and community-specific rituals within the Garo group.

Research Gap

The research gap in this study is the lack of research on the complex connections and interactions between literary achievements, societal transformation, and cultural evolution within marginalized communities, specifically the Garo community. It is needed to examine the precise methods by which literary achievements stimulate social transformation within the Garo community. Additionally, a comprehensive examination of how external factors, particularly mainstream cultural aspects, impact the development of Garo literature in portraying wider socio-cultural transformations within disadvantaged populations is necessary.

Discussion

The socio-cultural influence of Garo literary contributions in English literature is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive understanding. Literature serves as a mirror of socio-cultural circumstances, reflecting the psychological and socio-cultural consequences within it. It is crucial to understand the psychological and socio-cultural implications of literary works, as they form a reciprocal relationship with the author. However, the focus on socio-cultural, economic, and religious aspects often overlooks the linguistic aspects of the texts during instruction. Literature can effectively improve students' language abilities, particularly in reading and writing, enhancing their total language competence. The creative activity of producing literature plays a vital role in transmitting socio-cultural circumstances between generations. When teaching English literature, the choice of literary works is influenced by factors such as the length of the text, linguistic difficulty, canonical status, and the author's cultural background. The absence of cultural aspects in the English literature curriculum presents challenges in developing intercultural competency among students. The study of diasporic works through a literary lens reveals socio-cultural trends, where language plays a prominent role as a discourse tool. The examination of literature is connected to its historical and critical aspects, particularly in the diverse linguistic landscape of South Asia. Understanding the interconnectedness between literary works and socio-cultural circumstances, as well as the significance of literature in

improving language abilities and intercultural proficiency, is essential for a thorough examination.

Conclusion

The socio-cultural impact of Garo literary contributions on English literature is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive understanding of the interaction between literature, language, and culture. Literature reflects socio-cultural situations and forms dialectical links with creators. However, instruction often prioritizes narratives and socio-cultural ramifications, neglecting linguistic elements. Language students may struggle to understand and analyze psychological and socio-cultural meanings in literary works. Official communication strategies and evaluation systems have reduced focus on understanding and enjoyment of literature and cultural knowledge.

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