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## Socio-cultural and religious life - Style of Bodo tribes of Assam

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### Abstract

The Bodo are the most historical and predominant tribal populace of the northeast India. They Bodo team contains of numerous tribal populace who are the bearers of the prosperous cultural heritage in the current era. The modern day find out about therefore objective to discover in depth mall print associated to the Bodo neighbourhood of Assam. A higher know how associated to their socio cultural and spiritual life style would permit humans to understand them higher and would additionally in section facilitate to fathom their desire and scope to decorate the fame of the Bodo humans in all respect.

**Keywords:** Bodos, Assam, religion, socio-cultural

### Introductions

The Northeast Republic of India contains of an oversized sort of group population of that the Bodos or Boros or Kacharis forms the most important ethnoses. The name Bodo that refers to the Tibeto - Burmese language family was initially given by Hodgson. Originally the Bodos were probable to inherit their culture from the Mongoloids; however, shut analysis on their cultural development has disclosed that their culture has been considerably influenced by the Aryan, the Austric and also the Dravidian cultures in several ages of Indian history. The top result of such intermixture is development of a heterogeneous cultural identity of the Bodo within the Indian landmass. In Assam, West Bengal the Bodo being the foremost outstanding group population, their Indo Mongoloid culture greatly influences the Indo-Iranian culture of not solely the state however conjointly of the entire northeast Republic of India. A second faculty of thought but still believes the Mongoloids to be the ancestors of the Bodo.

Justification for constant springs from the particular incontrovertible fact is that the Mongoloid are the inhabitants of a legendary country body or Bada that existed within the north of the Himalayas and to the west of China. Further, the similarities in physical options like sq. set face, jutting cheek-bones, amygdaliform eyes, scanty beard, virtually non-existent hair, and also the overall look among the Kacharis and also the Nepalīs or the Mongolians create variety of the anthropologists to believe this story. In spite of being culturally wealthy and various, the Bodo community has been extremely neglected and conjointly lacks an official script that gives recognition to their wealthy literature. With a predominance of eightieth of the regular population in state, they still lack comfortable measures specifically crafted to verify improvement of their socio-economic conditions and academic standing. The mainstay of the community has been agriculture and an oversized section of and concerning 45 of the Bodos are landless labourers.

Additionally, awareness related to health care has conjointly been terribly scanty among the Bodos (Singh and Basumatary, 2017; Brahma and Madapalli, 2017) <sup>[1, 3]</sup>. The current study so aims to explore in-depth details related to the Bodo community of state. a much bigger data related to their socio-cultural and spiritual life-style would permit folks to understand them higher and would conjointly partially facilitate to fathom their desires and scope for future development (Boro, 2020) <sup>[2]</sup>.

### Literature review

#### Ethnic background of the Bodos

The Bodo group forms the foremost predominant tribal population of the state Assam. The group involves several tribes who reside not only within the hills parts but reach the

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valleys starting from Dhubri to Sadiya. History has revealed that they need been the foremost ancient tribal group who existed and established the Ahoms, the Kachari, and therefore the Chutiya kingdoms. Individuals having a more or less common dialect and ones, who also shared a standard mythical ancestry, were considered under the kachari group. Many believed the Kachari to be the earliest known inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley, North Bengal and parts of Bangladesh. Entire Assam was under their rule out the 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Post this era, with the aim to evade the Ahom, they moved to the western a part of the Brahmaputra valley, North Cachar hills and therefore the plains of Cachar within the 16<sup>th</sup> century A.D. However, with time, the group got dissolved and that they got isolated and hence dispersed over a bigger area.

At present they constitute one among the foremost significant tribal populations of Assam with distinctive cultural and linguistic traits (Basumatary, 2017) [4].

However, such movements weren't results of any spontaneous demands. Post British era and with the independence in 1947, the Bodos lost their freedom, territories and sovereignty within the hands of dominant caste. No attempts are made by the Hindu Assamese also to uplift the status of the Bodo community. With no support from the govt or the Hindu community of Assam, the socio economic status of the Bodo people deteriorated and that they got deprived from majority of their social rights. Additionally, they experienced high degree of cultural and political uncertainties and have become exposed to victimization like forced assimilation, exploitation and subjugation. No development led to the individuals of the Bodo community of Assam to stay backward in every sphere of life.

The non-tribal population took advantage of the perks and benefits that really belonged to the Bodo people. The non-tribal population not only stole the rights of those tribal people but also overexploited them. Threat to the existence of the Bodo community has been also experienced from the immigrant Muslims from Bangladesh. Despite the presence of separate tribal belt and blocks, uncontrolled immigration has led to large scale encroachment of the tribal land. A pressure over land results in rise of ethnic and communal conflicts within the area which at time may cost lifetime of several innocent people.

Thus, to make sure protection of the community and preservation of their rights the Bodo community resorted to mass movements under the leadership of All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU). The group has been striving hard since 1986 with the aim to preserve their socio-cultural identity. Success has been attained partially with the allocation of separate territorial arrangement named Bodo land Territorial Area District (BTAD) in 2003. The BTAD comprised of 4 new districts. However, the individuals of the Bodo community still remain dissatisfied and now are advocating their voice for a separate state along the north bank of the Brahmaputra which might be named because the "Bodoland,,.

### Overview of Culture, Religion and Customs of Bodos

The Bodos comprise of the most important tribal indigenous group of not only Assam but also the whole North-East India. The Bodo people being one among the oldest inhabitants of the northeast a part of the country, they possess an upscale cultural background. Racially they

belong to the Mongoloid stock of the indo-Mongoloid or Indo-Tibetans. However, in terms of language, it's supposed that they need inherited an equivalent from Tibeto-Burman branch of the Tibeto - Chinese family who belong to the Mongoloid group. Although, the Bodo people are mainly concentrated within the northern bank of the Brahmaputra valley, traces of their existence have also been reported in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. The richness of their culture ensures maintenance of healthy ecological balance within the society. The names of the individuals and social institutions, feasts and festivals, signs and symbols, rites and rituals altogether reflect the cultural approach and heritage of the Bodo people.

Their socio-religious life embarks the interconnection established between man and nature. Actually agriculture being their mainstay and therefore the potent driver of economic process also exhibits intricate correlation with nature (Mochahary *et al.*, 2019) [5]. Religion among the Bodo population has been varied within the recent times. Due to the increased practice of worshipping Hindu gods has led to predominance of Hinduism within the Bodo society. The Bodos also are known to profess animism. However, some Bodo people are now taking over Christianity s their religious faith. Observations have revealed that within the initial stage they remained radical until the dominant class appropriates them.

The justification for an equivalent might be either evolutionary or natural (Mochahary, 2019) [5]. A recent study by Mochahary, (2019) [5] reported significant changes within the cultural heritage despite its inherent richness. In spite of the continual plan to preserve the community culture there has been external influence which has cause some modification of the normal cultural patterns both in terms of traditional beliefs and practices. Impact of such modification within the cultural patterns is reflected from the emergence of various sects of Hinduism within the Bodo society like Bathousm, Vaisvavism, Brahma Dharma and Christianity and Islam. Thus, on an effort to adopt new faith the Bodo people have compromised on preservation of the old traditional cultural traits leading to loss of the many valuable rites and rituals from the society.

### Discussion

The Bodos are the foremost predominant tribal population of the north Malay Archipelago. Due to their origin and ancestry, they inherit and represent an upscale cultural heritage. However, post-independence there has been little specialising in their preservation of rights and cultural heritage. They need been bereft of many basic needs and access to formal education. In spite of state attempts to reinforce the tutorial status, there has been no significant end in this regard. Further, immigration of non-tribal people from other areas has threatened the very existence of the individuals belonging to the Bodo community. Thus so as to preserve the cultural heritage and basic rights to survive, the Bodo community have now resorted to mass movements in demand of a separate "Bodoland" that might secure their future existence.

### Conclusion

The current study attempted to explore thorough the life-style, socio-cultural and socio- economic status of the Bodo Community. During this regard it's been observed that the Bodos of Assam embark an upscale cultural heritage that

reflects the traditional belief and practices of the north eastern region of India. However, lack of appropriate measures to preserve this cultural heritage has led to the loss of the many traditions. Thus, there's a big need for appropriate measures that might not only ensure preservation of the cultural heritage of the Bodo community but also would make plan to enhance the status of the Bodo people altogether respect.

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