

Society and Culture in the Performative Tradition of *Geet* in Meghalaya: A Feminist Reading

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Abstract

In the folklore traditions, women's narratives hold an important position. As home-makers, women traditionally deal with a lot of affairs in their domestic sphere. Their inner expressions and imaginations often result in creative representations that have enriched the folklore cultures. The *Geet* tradition is primarily practiced among the Muslim communities and some marginal Hindu communities of Assam and Meghalaya states, particularly in the plain-belt areas where non-tribal people live. The tradition of *Geet* is a dying one though in the social spheres, they still continue to resonate with the expressions of women and their inner desires and feelings. This article is a descriptive study based on field-work in the Mahendraganj area of South-West Garo Hills where women perform the *Geet* during marriages. It attempts to explore the themes and socio-cultural representations in the *Geet* songs.

Keywords: *Geet*- Wedding song, Performance, Folklore, Socio-cultural Expressions, Cultural Representations