

<https://doi.org/10.37948/ensemble-2020-0201-r001>

BOOK REVIEW

*'REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS AMONG THE TRIBAL WOMEN IN MANIPUR' BY ROSE NEMBIAKKIM*Piali Roy¹✉**Article Ref. No.:**

200215130N1BMPY

Book details:

Title : Reproductive health awareness among the tribal women in Manipur

Author : Rose Nembiakkim

Publisher : Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, INDIA

Year : 2008

ISBN : 978-81-8069-509-4

Length Price : 118 pages

INR : INR 300

Article History:

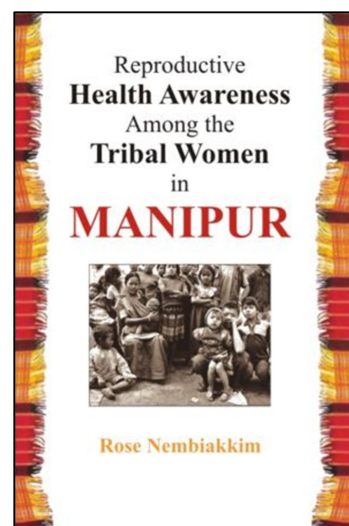
Submitted on 15 Feb 2020

Accepted on 18 Mar 2020

Published online on 20 Mar 2020

The author of this book, Rose Nembiakkim is an eminent faculty of Social Work in IGNOU and an alumnus of JNU, New Delhi. Her year-old researches in the field of women and gender issues, tribal issues, and community development have contributed to the making of this book.

This book is organized in five chapters, namely 1) Introduction, 2) Reproductive health in Family Planning Programme, 3) The Study area, 4) Discussion, 5) Summary, Findings, and Conclusion. The main objective of this book is to analyze and evaluate the socio-cultural factors that influence the reproductive health of tribal women in Manipur as well as to examine the impact of the education and health



¹ [First Author] ✉ [Corresponding Author] Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Dr. Meghnad Saha College, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal, INDIA; Email: piali.roy.ju@gmail.com



services rendered by the Christian missionaries in Manipur.

In this context, the author has analyzed the health status of tribal women based on several parameters such as social status, literacy, fertility, mortality, employment, age at marriage, eco-dependency, nutrition, income. Each of these parameters indicates the social, cultural, health profile of the community. The author also paid particular reference to the contribution of Christian missionaries in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century as embracing Christianity led to the spread of literacy among the tribes. The author hypothetically addressed literacy as a critical factor that influenced the reproductive behaviours as well as the way of life.

In order to evaluate the health-care seeking behaviour and changing pattern among the tribal women in Manipur, the author conducted a 45 days survey research in the village of Lamka and Takvom in Churachandpur district of Manipur. The author used interview and observation method for data collection among women, elders, adolescents. The respondents were asked questions about their opinion and experiences regarding the contribution of the Christian missionaries as well as various reproductive health issues such as menstrual cycle, sexually transmitted diseases, immunization, pre and post natal care, contraception methods.

The author selected the Churachandpur district as the Christian missionaries played an active role in spreading literacy, and there is also a lack of empirical study done in this area regarding the reproductive health issues of women.

The survey revealed that the respondents were much aware of reproductive health issues as well as several government health programs. The Christian missionaries played a vital role in spreading modern education in the designated area but they didn't take much initiative in creating awareness within the local communities regarding several health and reproductive issues. The respondents from both Lamka and Takvom village were more influenced by non-missionaries that are government and other private agencies regarding health care seeking patterns.

The author thoroughly evaluated several health issues and reproductive practices among tribal women. The author expressed her view on selecting two villages with different literacy levels as it will enrich the data. However, studying 30 women from one village and 70 from the other could not justify the population size. It seemed that the results are more generalized as the sample did not represent the whole population. Also though the data revealed that all the respondents were aware of reproductive health issues, but it was not explained in detail why there was a lack of utilizing the existing health care facilities among the tribal women. Hence, the results evaluated from the survey data cannot be generalized in the broader context of the tribal society.