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Ph.D Thesis: Rise and Growth of the Muslim Community in Manipur C.

1600-1900 A.D

Abstract

Manipur, located in the easternmost part of the India which is a small state with different types of culture and ethnicity are inhabited. Here we found a group of family forming a community under the titled Pangal or Meitei-Pangal. They professed the Islamic religion. The main focus of my thesis is to understand the rise and growth of the Muslims community in Manipur. To trace back the history of the Pangal or the Muslims of Manipur, many scholars had gone through many difficulties due to the lack of sources.

The thesis has discussed the origin of the Manipuri Muslims. The history of the Muslims in Manipur based on the primary sources and after critically examining it one can observed that the Manipuri Muslims began from the 17th century during the reign of King Khagemba. An event which became a big issue that took place in the 17th century led to the entry of the Muslims in the history of Manipur.

Some of the scholars had pointed out that the Manipuri Muslims were captured during a war event, so most of the people believed Muslims as the 'Prisoner of War'. This thesis tries to give the accurate picture whether the Manipuri Muslims were prisoner of war. After thoroughly

observed, it is unkind to state that they were war prisoners. The detailed of study had been pen down in the chapters of the thesis.

It also discussed that how the Muslims were known as Pangal or Meitei-Pangal. Many scholars had given different point of view which has been minutely discussed in the thesis. Some of the important point which has been sought by many scholars like the social-stratification, position in the state, administration, position of the women, and its economy has been minutely understood and discussed in the thesis.

After thoroughly observing and critically examining one can find that the Muslims in Manipur came into existence in the 16th century. The whole Muslims in Manipur were not 'Prisoners of War'. Many of them were migrated from different places during different kings reign, though it was not a mass migration. They enjoyed high privileges and positions. They had their own administrative system run by the Muslims only. They help in extending the kingdom and prosperous in the field of economy also.