

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51707

Date: 21-05-2025

Title: Beliefs and Practices of Pre-Natal and Post Natal Rituals of the Meiteis in Manipur

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....**YES**.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity		√		
Significance		√		

Reviewer's Name: Shafiya Akhter

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

The abstract and introduction of the paper titled "**Beliefs and Practices of Pre-Natal and Post-Natal Rituals of the Meiteis in Manipur**" provide a culturally rich and contextually grounded exploration of birth-related rituals practiced by the Meitei Hindu community. The topic is significant as it contributes to the understanding of how religious beliefs and cultural practices intersect during key stages of the human life cycle.

The **abstract** is clear and informative, effectively distinguishing between pre-natal and post-natal rituals while emphasizing their intended purposes—namely, ensuring the health and well-being of both mother and child. It establishes the cultural and spiritual rationale for these practices, highlighting the belief in divine blessings for health, intelligence, and longevity. The scope is appropriately delineated, covering the period from conception to the ritual of Yum Sengba (sanctification of the house), which provides a comprehensive framework for the discussion.

The **introduction** provides a solid theoretical foundation by referencing Durkheim's definition of religion, framing rituals as both cultural and spiritual expressions. It sets the context by identifying life cycle rituals as universal human phenomena and positions birth rituals as particularly sacred and symbolically important across cultures. The significance of the child as a divine gift is effectively articulated, and the discussion is well-rooted in anthropological and sociological perspectives.

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The explanation of the dual influence on Meitei Hindu practices—classical Hinduism and indigenous Meitei traditions—adds a valuable dimension to the study, suggesting a syncretic religious culture unique to Manipur. This layered religious identity enhances the cultural specificity of the research.

Overall, the paper exhibits a coherent structure, relevant focus, and strong cultural contextualization. The content is scholarly and contributes meaningfully to ethnographic and sociocultural discourse, especially within the fields of anthropology, sociology of religion, and South Asian studies.