

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52995

Title: The Saraniya (Sarania?Kachari): History, Identity Crisis, and Path Ahead

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Syed Mohammed

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The section titled "*The Saraniya (Sarania Kachari): History, Identity Crisis, and Path Ahead*" presents a well-documented and contextually grounded exploration of the historical and ethnographic roots of the Saraniya Kachari community. The discussion is scholarly, with clear references to colonial-era ethnographic records and recent anthropological work that lend credibility and depth to the narrative.

The segment on *Colonial Documentation* is especially valuable in tracing the genealogy and classification of the Saranias within the broader Kachari family. The citation of Sidney Endle's *The Kacharis (1911)* is both precise and insightful, demonstrating the Saranias' inclusion as a distinct branch within the Kachari ethnolinguistic framework. The quoted material from Endle is pertinent and reinforces the shared origin of various Kachari subgroups despite cultural and dialectal divergence. The reference to W.W. Hunter's *Statistical Account of Assam* provides additional regional specificity and geographical context, particularly in relation to areas currently inhabited by the Saraniya community.

The section on *Social Organization & Culture* presents a nuanced portrayal of the Saraniya Kacharis' spiritual and ritual life. The description of their animistic belief system, life-cycle rituals, and adaptation to elements of Assamese Vaishnavism is both detailed and ethnographically rich. The observation that they do not adhere to Bathouism, unlike other Bodo groups, highlights an important cultural divergence and adds to the understanding of their unique identity within the Bodo-Kachari continuum. The reference to their settlement patterns across river-valley regions further reinforces the historical continuity noted in colonial records.

Overall, this segment effectively combines historical documentation with contemporary anthropological perspectives, providing a comprehensive account of the Saraniya Kachari community's origins, cultural distinctiveness, and geographical spread. The use of primary and secondary sources is judicious and adds academic rigor to the narrative.