

## **The Interface between Tradition and Modernity in Naga Society: A Critique from Gender Perspective**

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**ABSTRACT** This paper questions to what extent do modern beliefs have an impact on the traditional values concerning the status of Naga women. Nagaland entered the modern era owing to the contact with the British administrators, Christian missionaries and the attainment of statehood. It was believed that the ushering of the modern era would uplift Naga women, however the traditional values were kept much intact, which hinders the opportunities promised by modernity. The interface of tradition and modernity is examined to highlight the incorporation of traditional practices, which hinders Naga women to exploit their potentials. A detailed enquiry through the prevailing customary laws and case studies conducted on the experiences of women provides an interesting account as to why Naga women are yet to achieve a status as par with Naga man. Such constraints can be traced to the ideologies, which glorified the Naga man and thereby occupy a secondary position to males till today.