

## ABSTRACT

The subject of research entitled 'Folksongs of the Angami Nagas: Transmission and Preservation of Culture and Tradition' is a study of folksongs in orality and their preservation in this changed socio-cultural environment. The study is based on the tradition of folksongs belonging to the Angami Nagas with special reference to the process of their transmission through extensive field survey for the collection of material in the absence of any documented written material concerning the folksongs in particular. Moreover, the present generation of youth is not much conversant with the traditional folksongs which are stored in the memory and custody of aging exponents spread over different areas. The advent of Christianity played a bigger role in wiping out most of the practices of animism and allied practices connected with it including folksongs. Among the different genres of folklore, folksongs form an important part in preserving the culture and tradition of a community. The Angamis and their love for singing folksongs relying on memory has helped in preserving their identity as well as enhancing solidarity among them.

With the advent of Christianity, education was introduced and with it, modernism followed. The advent of Christianity transformed not only the belief of the community or its religion but also changed the social structure of the community. These changes brought a halt to the old rituals and practices which were conducted during the olden days during the celebration of any festival or the hosting of any event. Most of the festivals were abandoned and the western gospel hymns replaced the traditional folksongs. Nevertheless, it cannot be said that Christianity has completely wiped out every trace of culture and tradition as we can still witness the performances of folksongs during the celebration of any event. Some of the folksongs are also being preserved in oral text which are transmitted through memory. In the absence of any written text or documented evidence, the problem arises in the community on the lack or the inability to sing and interpret the lyrics of the folksong due to the use of archaic words.

The present research aims to study different categories of folksongs of the Angami Naga community and explore the process of its transmission and preservation through the perspective of cultural memory, performance, and heritage.

Keywords: oral transmission, memory, performance, folksongs, heritage, myths, and legends.