Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-20.22.2023.00054

Section-1: Identification of the element

Heritage Location

Division

Chattogram

District

Cox's Bazar

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

Geolocation(Longitude)

Community Category

Small Ethnic Groups

Community

Marma

Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)

Marma Religion - Buddhism

Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)

Religion and rituals followed by Marma people (in Bangladesh) which is Budhism (while many of them are getting converted to other religions)

Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)

Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced

Chittagong Hill Tracts : Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati Hill Districts. Some Marmas live in Bangladesh's coastal districts of Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali.

Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)

The Marmas are mostly Buddhists in faith, yet animism is also in practice. They participate in important Buddhist religious festivals, as well as perform various rites and rituals to satisfy different gods. The Marmas speak an Arakanese dialect, with their written language making use of intricate Burmese script. Marmas mostly depend on agriculture, traditionally practicing slash-and-burn cultivation on the hills. Their belief in Theravada Buddhism, with an emphasis on

ritual practices in deities. Marmas follow the Burmese calendar. They celebrate the New Year, called Sangrain, which begins on the first day of Bohag. They make sangraimu, which is a form of traditional cakes. They have established the Bohmong and Mong Circles. The Marmas are subdivided into 12 clans, named after the place from where they migrated. They celebrate the New Year, called Sangrain. Other major religious festivals include, Buddha Purnima, Parbana Purnima, Pushpa puja, Pradip puja, paniyo puja, They have adong soaing as breakfast and moindiye soaing as lunch during the festival days. In temples they have liquids foods after 12pm. After death, Marma elderlies are cremated, while younger deceased Marmas are buried

Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- [ ] Oral Traditions and Expressions
- [ ] Performing Arts
- [x] Social Customs and Traditions
- [ ] Knowledge and Practices related to Nature and Universe
- [ ] Traditional Craftsmanship
- [ ] Food

Section-2: Characteristics of the element

Practitioners(s)/performer(s) directly involved in the representation or practice of the Heritage (including roles, name, age, gender, social status, and/or professional category etc.)

Almost anyone can practice the rituals and everyone can play every role of the rituals. Usually, women tend to play greater role, as they usually organize everything. Marma people do not have the cast system and they do not divide themselves depending on social status during any ritual. They also do not divide themselves based on gender or age or any external fact.

Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles))

Usually tradition bearers are the people who practice the religion and the language from their temples, which is known as "Bihar" or "buddha bihar". They gather knowledge from the senior religious practitioners about mythologies, the language and also the rituals and practices, by spending a greater amount of time at the temples everyday; and sometimes staying there for religious cause and following the rules and regulations of the temple.

Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved

Marma is a member of the Lolo-Burmese branch of the Tibeto-Burman language family. It is considered one of the dialects of Arakanese, along with Ramree and Sandowa. Marma is written with a version the Burmese alphabet.

Associated tangible elements used (if any)

Lifestyle of Marma people. Their clothing and the traditional weaving technology. Their usage of natural utensils. Use of bamboo, wild grass and straw, wood to build house and also the architecture.

How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage?

This ICH element is for everyone. hence, everyone including women and other genders play same role, equally.

Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage

Although, women tend to organise everything and cook for everyone. But there is no division of labour hence everyone can play every role.

Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any)

Practices done by other Buddhist communities and communities living in the same region.

Modes of transmission to others in the community

The "Buddha Bihar" or the buddhist temples situated in the places where Marma people are living, i.e. Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati Hill Districts. Some living in Bangladesh's coastal districts of Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali.

Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

Can not find any local NGO concerned and general Marma people are not aware of any such NGO.

Section-3: State of the element (viability)

Threats to the enactment

Enactment Threats Description

Other religious extremists that are situated in Bangladesh who tries to convert Marma people to their religion.

Threats to the transmission (if any)

No threats.

Threat to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)

No Threats.

Viability of associated intangible elements (if any)

Have been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)

No safeguarding measures taken yet. (not known to the general people).

Section-4: Data gathering/documentation, Consent and preparation of inventory entries

Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Concent form is attached.

Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any)

Not known yet.

Section-5: Resource Person

Data provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)

Kongchai Mogh Marma

Date of data collection

26-05-2020

Place(s) of data collection

Over Telephone call.

Section-6: Safeguarding techniques

Existing safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage

Practicing the religion and the language from their temples, which is known as "Bihar" or "buddha bihar". Gathering knowledge from the senior religious practitioners about mythologies, the language and also the rituals and practices, by spending a greater amount of time at the temples everyday; and sometimes staying there for religious cause and following the rules and regulations of the temple.

Suggestions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community

Create books with the basic knowledge on the language and the stories behind the rituals which will influence young people to know about the culture and practices. Conduct seminars where the importance of the practices and lifestyle will be discussed and influence young generation to learn and maintain their own practices and hence proudly carry their identity. Advertisements promoting their culture and practises which can be streamed through television and internet or social media.

Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives

References to/in literature

Proper Books about rituals and practices can be found in their temples. "Study of Vaikalyakara Marma with special reference to Kurpara Marma" "Concept of Vitapa Marma" - A Conceptual Review Article

Audiovisual materials or archives

Proper audionvisual materials or archives about rituals and practices can be found in the temples for marma people.

Discography or archives

Can be found in the temples for marma people.

Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry

Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)

Kongchai Mogh Marma

Date of Community Consent

Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Attached

Present Condition of Heritage

Becoming less

Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)

Becoming less

Section-9: Community suggestions

Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/holders, (if any)

Creating books for kids, and conducting seminars.

Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).

Not known yet.

Section-10: Upload Document

Consent Document

Heritage Details Document

Heritage Images

