

Ethnomedical Practice in Manipur: A Case of Evil Eye

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KEY WORDS Evil Eye. Spirit. Hingchabi. Maiba. Ritual. Langthrei. Ngakra. Dakshina. Symptoms

ABSTRACT The Meiteis of Manipur believe in evil eye (evil spirit) which is locally known as Hingchabi Changba. It is a kind of supernatural phenomena in which the Hingchabi's (Possessor) spirit enters into another person who suffers both mentally and physically and the spirit takes full control over the victim's body. It happens when the spirit wants to eat something or possess an object which it really desires to acquire. Most of its victims are women. When a person is possessed by the spirit then the victim shows abnormal behaviour such as shivering, crying, laughing, frothing, difficulty in breathing, etc. A *Maiba* (medicine man) is called upon for the treatment, who performs certain rituals to ward off the evil spirit by offering the specific materials which the spirit wanted to have. Certain precautions are taken up by the people to protect themselves from evil eye. Here, it is worth mentioning that it cannot be cured with modern medicines or any other else except the traditional method of treatment performed by Maiba.

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