

**MARRIAGE CUSTOMS AND
BELIEFS OF SHAN NI NATIONAL**

MRes (THESIS)

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ABSTRSCT

Marriage plays an important role in every society. As men and women must be accepted as husbands and wives by other people in the society, a particular society may have very simple tradition of marriage according to their customs and beliefs. The purpose of this study is to describe the marriage customs and beliefs of Shan Ni nation in the format of narrative from the investigator's experiences, a thorough review of the existing literature written about the anthropological perspective of marriage, relationship between marriage and customs and the influences of belief towards traditional practices. This study emphasizes on a general overview of the Shan Ni national's marriage customs and beliefs as they exist one of the ethnic people in the Pin Le Bu Township currently. Therefore, it will not cover all the details and variations regarding the whole life course transition of Shan Ni National such as childhood, adolescence, adulthood, late adulthood or the aging process or life core issues. This study is divided into three major parts: overview of study areas in Pin Le Bu Township including geographical and historical background: the role of Shan Ni maiden and bachelor and marriage customs of Shan Ni nation. The interviews with the local families from different generations are to gain new perspectives of both what has changed, and what has remained the same in their beliefs and practices of the traditional marriage, family systems and beliefs of Shan Ni national. As the Shan Ni families, in general, continue to accumulate more and more into the local society, the findings from this research will be provided to suggest not only for conserving the practices of the traditional marriage, customs and beliefs but also for preventing the trends of changes of Shan Ni national in the future. To explore the relationship between traditional marriage system and socio cultural system of Shan Ni ethnic group and identify the elements of marriage customs and related contemporary use of cultural heritage. In order to achieve the objectives and to support this study, the qualitative in which, key informant interview (KII) and focus group interview (FGI) and direct observation (DO) were applied to find out the socio cultural system of Shan Ni national, and it could be a detailed research enquiry into their marriage customs and beliefs.

Key Words: Shan Ni national, marriage, customs and beliefs.