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## Brief Introspection of Hmar Tribe with special reference to Growth and Development of Culture and Literature: A Study

Margaret L. Khawbung\*

### Introduction:

The general description of the Hmars' physique is recorded by Rochunga Pudaiko. 'In general, the Hmars have cultural and physical resemblance to the rest of the mountain peoples of northeast India and Burma. They are generally a short and sturdy race of men with good muscular body. Their faces are broad and round and their cheek bones are high, broad and prominent. Their eyes are small and their nose flat and short. Though they are of the Mongolian race, their skin is not yellow. It is rather a dark yellowish-brown'. The Hmars are one of the indigenous ethnic tribes with distinct culture belonging to the Chin-Kuki-Mizo ethnic group of the Sino-Tibeto-Burman family of the Mongolian race. Forming one of the many hill tribes of India, the Hmars are found in North Cachar Hills district (Now Dima Hasao District) and Barak Valley of Assam and "the adjoining States of Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura in India and Bangladesh and Myanmar" (Dona 2008). The Hmars believe Manmasi to be their progenitor. They call themselves as *Manmasi Nru* (descendants of Manmasi). Manmasi could be a corrupted form of Manasse, elder son of Joseph in the Old Testament. Being diasporic in different nations and many different States of North East India, the Hmars are outnumbered by the neighbouring tribes to a negligible minority in every State.

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