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Project Title: *Analytical Study of Christianity from the Indigenous Perspective in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century Manipur*

Project Abstract: My work wants to look at missionary history from different perspective. Many research work has been done on Christianity in North-east India, yet the narratives are mainly influenced by missionary viewpoints. Regional history on Christianity lauded the works of the missionaries and their sacrifices. The voice and consciousness of the indigenous converts are hardly given any agency. Colonial archive is an anecdote with no given 'voice and consciousness' in their narratives to the indigenous particularly those converted to Christianity in colonial Manipur. Indigenous accounts are simply residuum of disremembered past. This study focuses on the history of conversion from the indigenous perspective by rereading the colonial archives "along" and "against" their grain in order to unearth the silences, politics of documentation, classification and the rhetoric of the ruling agents – the missionary and the administrator. Relocating Christianity and its practices within the context of the indigenous people at the margins would add new perspectives to the academic debates on conversion in colonial India. The voice and consciousness of the indigenous converts needs to be sufficiently emphasized given the amount of conversion that took place in North-east India. Moreover, the academic paradigm of regional history on Christianity needs to re-think in order to give new representation of 'self' in the indigenous discourse.