

## **KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Name of the Element: Goshnik:** Rite of passage used to initiate young children into the Kalasha religion

Goshnik is divided into two events. The first event has two ceremonies and the second has one. There is only one event for girls, whereas there are two for the boys.

**1. Chailaksambaik:** For Boys and girls from the ages of 7-8 The event takes place during Chawmus on the morning of 18th December. On the said day the maternal uncles and aunts of the child come and dress them in their traditional clothes. They also bring animals, out of which the sacrificial animals are chosen. Walnut bread is cooked and distributed amongst the family and the Shiraya or the midwife of the child in question. The head of the child in question is also shaved. In the evening the men depart for the Gosh and animal sacrifices are made there. The male child is purified with blood for the first time there. No animal sacrifices are made for girls at Gosh and neither are they taken there. However general sacrifices at the house are made for the blessing of the entire household.

**2. Butsambaik:** Only for Boys aged 9 - 11 or 12 - 13, and those who have already had a Chailaksambaik "But" means trousers and "Sambaik" means to put on. On the said day, the head of the child is shaved and adorned with "Distaar" or the traditional turban and the "Paashakbut" or the "laced trousers". More sacrifices are made and the child is welcomed into the religion.

**3. Pushawmarat:** For Boys aged 7-8 Takes place when the moon which comes after the Chawmus moon has also complete waned and before the new moon begins to wane. This usually falls between January and February. More animal sacrifices are made atop of Gosh.