

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Basikek: Kalasha folk art of paying tribute to the deceased member of the community by narrating an elegy inspired by the life and deeds of the deceased

Brief Description: Basikek is an elegy narrated by the female members of Kalasha community. It is a group activity, which is usually preceded by the close female relative or friend of the deceased.

The content of narration/elegy is impressed from the achievements, personality traits and life of the deceased hence the negative traits and shortcoming of the deceased are also seldom sketched and narrated,. The practice of Basikek therefore plays a major role in the image construction of the deceased in the community. Basikek is usually narrated in a fixed style, however because the verse of elegy are dependent on the personality of the deceased, therefore are always subjected to change.

Commonly the female members of Kalasha community lead the procession by performing Basikek and heading towards Jestak Han (Kalasha temple) or Mocrataiken (Kalasha funeral space) where the body of the deceased is placed. The act of applause generated by the female as well as male members of the procession facilitates the narration of Basikek. Basikek is not practice if any female Kalasha member died due to pregnancy complication.