

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Pirannigika parik dai: Piranni Gika = washing clothes and Parik Dai = to go

This is the ritual of washing clothes of females who reach the age of menstruation at streams and rivers carried out by the Kalasha women.

Brief Description: The ritual of washing clothes is practice by the women of the Kalasha community. The clothes are washed when the need arises to wash them. Clothes of male members and small children are washed in the house but the woman who reach age of menstruation; their clothes are washed in the river water. These women use either soaps or surf to wash clothes. After menopause the women can start washing their clothes in the house. Male members can wash clothes however, out of respect women do not allow the male members to wash. It is a very interesting practice as women get a chance to meet friends and other family members and gather at the river side. While washing clothes, they talk their hearts out and enjoy each other's company. The washed clothes are spread on either rocks or fences at riverside and are left in the sun to dry. The women return the next day to take back the clothes.