

Reflection of Confucianism, Hinduism, and Buddhism on Gender Relations and Gender Specific Occupation in Thai Society

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Tai people have been influenced by and assimilated into different cultures since their early settlement in Siam. Initially, they believed in animism. There are influences of different religions and ideologies, where Hinduism, Confucianism and Buddhism stand prominent and among which Buddhism penetrated much deeper, which co-existed with indigenous animistic cults where women performed the main role in serving the household spirit. Though matrilocal and matrilineal system still exist in Thailand, besides Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucian ideology also have strong influence which have given rise to patriarchy. Women's contribution to the economy in the Thai society is very high, however, religion and politics have remained men's domain.