

prefer their women to deliver in the houses rather than in the hospitals. Delivery is attended by the traditional Male Dai with the assistance of a Female Dai. There are no initiation ceremony when the boys or girls attain the age of maturity.

Baptism

The Karen boys and girls when they attain the adulthood are taught the Baptist Christian tradition. The boys and girls are called to church and are imparted the religious teachings for a few weeks before they are baptised. Generally, a group of boys or girls in a village are baptised on a convenient Sunday appointed by the parents in consultation with the Pastor. On the day of baptism the boys and girls along with other Karens go to a stream near the Church. The boy or the girl who is to be baptised stands in the stream water and the Pastor performs the prayer by chanting the hymns. The person to be baptised is pushed into the water so that he or she remains immersed in the water for few seconds.

Marriage

The majority of the cases are love marriages. The boy and the girl may develop liking to each other and this affair is formalised through the institution of marriage. At 13 The boy's whose parents approach the girl's parents with the marriage