

## ***ABSTRACT***

### **Becoming Dangaria: A Psycho-cultural Study of Female Traditional Healers of Kumoun**

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**Abstract:** The dangaria as the possessor of local gods and goddesses has an important role in Kumaoni culture. The present study aims to find out the process of becoming a dangaria. The area of the study is the central Himalayan town of Pithoragarh and surrounding villages. Case history was taken as the main technique of collecting data. The sample includes seven female dangaria selected on availability basis. Based on these case histories, it was found that one does not choose to become a dangaria but it is rather chosen by the spirit she represents. The selected person goes through an initiatory crisis like widowhood, judiciary problems or a defaming situation. However, these signs in themselves are not evidence of becoming a dangaria. Only after consulting with different dangaria and/or having the spirit tells by herself to the person that she was chosen she can be declared a dangaria. After declaration she has to offer jagar to the spirit, where she gets the first social contact as a dangaria. The dangaria doesn't go through any training. She only has to follow some rules and restrictions. A psycho-cultural analysis of data has been discussed in the perspective of sublimating the psychosomatic symptoms and gaining social power. The concept is also discussed from the perspective of experiential approach, that is, how dangaria analyse the process of becoming dangaria.