



# TEXTILE TOURISM PROJECT

Dak **PROJECT** Craft Shilong  
Training

Report : NATIONAL HANDLOOM  
DAY



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# 1. NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY



National Handloom Day 2024 was celebrated in Shillong with a vibrant array of events aimed to promoting the rich tradition of handloom weaving in the region. The celebration emphasized the significance of handloom in preserving culture identity and supporting local artisans.

The event at State Central Library, Shillong included Chief guest Bah Paul Lyngdoh, Textiles Minister and Special Guest, Dr. Anna Louise Meynell, international textile expert from Scotland, Commissioner & Secretary, Arts & Culture Shri. FR Kharkongor, Padmashree Smt. Patricia Mukhim and government officials.

## 2. DAKTI



Dakti is a social enterprise based in Shillong, established in the year 2012.

Dakti is a design led organisation working towards design intervention through the preservation of traditional art by bringing local craftsmen and artisans together with creative professionals to build about innovation in design and craftsmanship.

Dakti's model is based on collaboration, with the idea of coexisting in harmony with nature. It is a platform for various artisans and master craftsmen across the state to innovate and to showcase their skills while making a livelihood.



### 3.

# Project Aims & Objectives

The project aims to innovate and advance product development across the weavers community. It focuses on training artisans in techniques that utilize locally sourced raw materials, readily available tools and the use of non-electrical machinery. This strategy promotes sustainability by reducing energy dependency and also empowers artisans to diversify their product range.

It enables them to explore new design possibilities and create products that is a blend of traditional craftsmanship and modernity that appeals well in the contemporary market.

Ultimately, this initiative fosters economic growth by enabling artisans to produce marketable products through creativity and resourcefulness contributing to the community's socio-economic development.

## 3.1 DAKTI'S ROLE



Dakti through the integrated capacity building initiative organized by the Department of Sericulture and Weaving, Government of Meghalaya aims to foster new innovation and new product development across different clusters.

The project focused on design-related services that was provided to the weavers working in the cluster, which included the **Introduction to new product designs, Introduction to new tools and techniques, Products diversification and innovation, Development of Samples and Product Prototypes** and other design related service. Other activities such as revival of heritage designs and designs for the 'Premium-Luxury' segment had also been initiated.

<p><b>3.2 Purpose</b></p>	<p>The project aims to foster new innovation and new product development across 10 clusters. This involves training in new techniques and products through the following stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Induction of trainees - to understand the skill level, availability of raw materials, tools and machineries.</li> <li>b. On-site training - conducting training programs directly at the cluster sites for better skill enhancement.</li> <li>c. Assessment - conducted upon once training program is complete</li> <li>d. Certification - completion certificate will be handed over to each trainee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.3 Clusters involved</b></p>	<p>Umdohkha   Mawlong   Pla Sha   Rongjari  </p>	
<p><b>3.4 Training Methodology</b></p>	<p>Induction will be held for 1 day for a formal interaction with the artisans. Identifying, raw materials available, skill level of artisans, training work area, lodging for trainers, understanding modules How we are going to go about the training, modules involved, days,</p>	
<p><b>3.5 Training Duration</b></p>	<p>1 Day: Induction 12 Days: Training 1 Day: Assessment 1 Day: Certification</p>	
<p><b>3.6 Modules</b></p>	<p><b>A. Yarn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Twisting</li> <li>2. Macrame</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. Surface Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eco Print</li> <li>2. Block Print</li> <li>3. Embroidery</li> <li>4. Shibori</li> </ul>

## 3.6 MODULES

**MODULE A.1**  
Twisting

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**MODULE A.2**  
Macrame

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**MODULE B.1**  
Eco-Printing on Eri silk

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**MODULE B.2**  
Block Print on Eri silk

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**MODULE B.3**  
Embroidery

**MODULE B.4**  
Shibori





## MODULE : A.1. TWISTING

Twisting is the technique of interlacing individual fibers or yarn to form a continuous strand or ply. Plying involves twisting two or more strands to create a thicker more robust yarn.

The technique was introduced using specialized hand tools to create diverse ranges of yarn from delicate to thick ropes.





## MODULE : A.2. MACRAME

Macrame is a versatile crafting technique that uses yarn or rope to create intricate decorations through a series of knots.

Eri yarn is dyed with natural local ingredients and twisted into specific ply and sizes before a series of knots is executed to create different products.







## MODULE : B.1. ECO-PRINT

Eco print is a process where the colours and shapes of leaves or flower and other plants are transferred onto fabric through pounding & steaming.

The result is a beautiful range of eco-printed textiles that showcase the intricate beauty of the local flora.





## MODULE : B.2 BLOCK PRINT

Block printing is the process of printing patterns by means of engraved wooden blocks are hand stamped onto fabric using color dyes.

Weavers used natural mordants and organic pigments, providing an eco-friendly alternative to synthetic dyes.





## MODULE : B.3. EMBROIDERY

Embroidery is the art of decorating fabric or other materials using a needle to stitch thread or yarn. The basic techniques include crewel work, needlepoint, cross-stitch embroidery, and quilting, as well as quillwork and featherwork.





## MODULE : B.4. SHIBORI

Shibori is a manual dyeing technique that involves intricate folding, twisting or bunching fabric with thread before dyeing.

This dyeing method is combined with the local natural dyes blending tradition with diversity.



# 3.7 TRAINING FINDINGS AND OUTCOMES

## OVERVIEW

<b>CLUSTERS</b>	<b>Umdohkha</b>	<b>Mawlong</b>
<b>MODULES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shibori</li> <li>2. Twisting</li> <li>3. Macrame</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eco Print</li> <li>2. Block Print</li> <li>3. Embroidery</li> </ol>

<b>CLUSTERS</b>	<b>Plasha</b>	<b>Rongjari</b>
<b>MODULES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yarn Dyeing</li> <li>2. Twisting</li> <li>3. Macrame</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fabric/yarn Dyeing</li> <li>2. Block Print</li> <li>3. Embroidery</li> </ol>

## Finished Products - Macrame

Product	Material	Size
Green bag with handle	Eri	30 in
Pink bag with handle	Eri	15 in
Yellow tie with tassels	Eri	18.5 in
White tie	Eri	14.5 in
Red tie	Eri	19 in
Black tie with tassels	Eri	13.5 in
Pink tie w/tassels	Eri	9.5 in
Yellow tie w/tassels	Eri	15.5 in
White tie with tassels	Eri	10.5 in
Green tie	Eri	8 in
Yellow tie w/tassels	Eri	15.5 in
Black tie	Eri	16.5 in

Product	Material	Size
Green shawl	Eri	55L x 38H
Necklace green	Eri	11 in
Necklace yellow	Eri	20 in
Necklace black w/tassels	Eri	10 in
Necklace	Eri	14 in
Red belt	Eri	39 in
Yellow belt	Eri	46 in
Black belt	Eri	32.5 in

## Finished Products - Shibori

<b>Product</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Size</b>
Shibori samples	Cotton	20 x 20 in
Shibori samples	Cotton	36 x 36 in
Shibori samples	Eri	36 x 36 in
Shibori samples	Eri	10 x 10 in
Finished samples	Eri	20 x 23 in
Finished samples	Eri	24 x 24 in

# Finished Products - Eco Print

<b>Product</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Size</b>
Finished samples	Cotton	36 x 36 in
Finished samples	Cotton	20 x 20 in
Finished samples	Eri	36 x 36 in
Finished samples	Eri	20 x 20 in
Shawl	Eri	

Embroidery samples	Cotton	20 x 20 in
Embroidery samples	Eri	20 x 20 in

# Finished Products - Block Print

<b>Product</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Size</b>
Finished samples	Cotton	20 x 20 in
Finished samples	Cotton	36 x 36 in
Finished samples	Eri	20 x 20 in
Shawl	Eri	

## Finished Products - Macrame

Product	Material	Size
Tea bag	Eri	8.5W x 5.5H
Orange bag	Eri	5.5W x 8H
Green bag	Eri	9W x 9H
Black belt	Eri	50 in
Green belt	Eri	66 in
Yellow belt	Eri	23 in
Necklace green	Eri	9 in
Necklace tea	Eri	12 in
Necklace orange	Eri	8 in
Necklace red	Eri	16 in
Tie green	Eri	15 in
Tie orange	Eri	14 in
Shawl	Eri	42W x 20H

# Finished Products - Block Print

<b>Product</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Size</b>
Finished samples	Cotton	20 x 20 in
Finished samples	Eri	20 x 20 in
Training samples	Cotton	20 x 20 in
Bags	Eri	7W x 9H
Shawl	Eri	12W x 69H
Shawl (only dyeing)	Eri	12W x 69H

## 4. ARTISANS DEMONSTRATION

Artisans/weavers of the clusters who were involved in the textile training had the opportunity to demonstrate to a live audience on the techniques used during the training conducted, allowing visitors to witness the intricate processes involved in creating versatile products.

The demonstration aids in giving importance to sustainable practices and the economic impact of supporting local artisans.

The live demonstration was graced by our Honourable Chief Guest Bah Paul Lyngdoh, Special guest, Dr Anna Maynell along with Shri. FR Kharkongor, Padmashree Smt. Patricia Mukhim and government officials

Students and visitors were actively engaged in hands-on experiences, immersing themselves in the craft and learning the techniques firsthand.

## 4. DEMONSTRATION



At the live demonstration, on the left Bah Duh from Umdohkha Cluster is demonstrating on the technique of macrame presenting his new skill on the knotting method.

On the right, Kong Rosami Bey from the cluster of Rongjari is demonstrating on the technique of block print on Ryndia.

## BLOCK PRINT



## MACRAME



# 5.INTERACTION DURING DEMONSTRATION





# CLUSTER: UMDOHKHA



# CLUSTER: MAWLONG



# CLUSTER: PLASHA



# CLUSTER: RONGJARI



# 6. CONCLUSION

National Handloom Day 2024 in Shillong successfully celebrated the rich heritage of handloom, promoting local craftsmanship and cultural pride. The event served as a reminder of the importance of supporting local artisans and preserving traditional practices for future generations.

Through exhibitions, demonstrations and cultural performances, importance was given to support sustainable practices and appreciate the artistry. This event honored the past and also encourages future involvement to embrace and promote handloom as a vital part of Meghalaya's identity and economy.