

Design Resource

Handloom - Sikkim

Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom

by

Abhey Singh

IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/handloom-sikkim>

1. Introduction
2. Place
3. Production
4. Contact Details



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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/handloom-sikkim/introduction>

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Introduction

The Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom was founded in 1957 by Sikkim government in an effort to preserve and promote traditional arts and crafts. With time it evolved as a centre for sustainable development of the region focussing on utilising the traditional knowledge and human resources. In modern perspective the centre serves as a important tool for providing employment and self-reliance across the strata of society covering diverse region, income rang and education. The centre has now expanded to 32 training centres with 650 trainees and 13 production units. The head office is located in Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim. It provides training in carpet weaving, handloom, thanka painting, handmade paper, wood-carving, cane & bamboo craft, soft toys and multi-crafts. Training period ranges from 2-4 years depending on the craft. After that the artisans can either work in the centre's production units or work outside on their own. In order to promote the initiative the government also gives stipend to the students.

In ancient times, the Lepcha's of Sikkim were said to use yarn spun out of stinging nettle (sisnu) plant to weave clothes. Today cotton and woollen yarn are used together with vegetable dyes and synthetic colours.

Lepcha weaves or 'thara' is woven in vertical looms with a backstrap. Such looms are of small width. Traditional design with different colours are used to make tharas which are used for making bedspreads, bags, belts, curtains, cushion covers, table mats, tray clothes etc, apart from their traditional dress.



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Sikkim is 2nd smallest Indian state located in the north-east India. Sikkim chose to remain independent when India got independence in 1947. In 1975 it became the 22nd state of India after a treaty with the then Prime Minister of Sikkim. Sikkim has been very successful in protecting its cultural heritage along with embracing the modern ethos. The state has a very diverse flora and fauna and occupy a special place in India for it.



Directorate of handicrafts and handloom head office at Gangtok.



Hoarding explaining the mission of directorate of handicrafts and handloom.



Mannequins wearing traditional tribal costumes.



Bamboo exhibition at directorate of handicrafts and handloom.

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Plaque installed in corridor of directorate of handicrafts and handloom.



Sales emporium which sell all the items produced at DHH, Gangtok.

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Inside the sales emporium at DHH, Gangtok.



Sales emporium selling wood and bamboo products.

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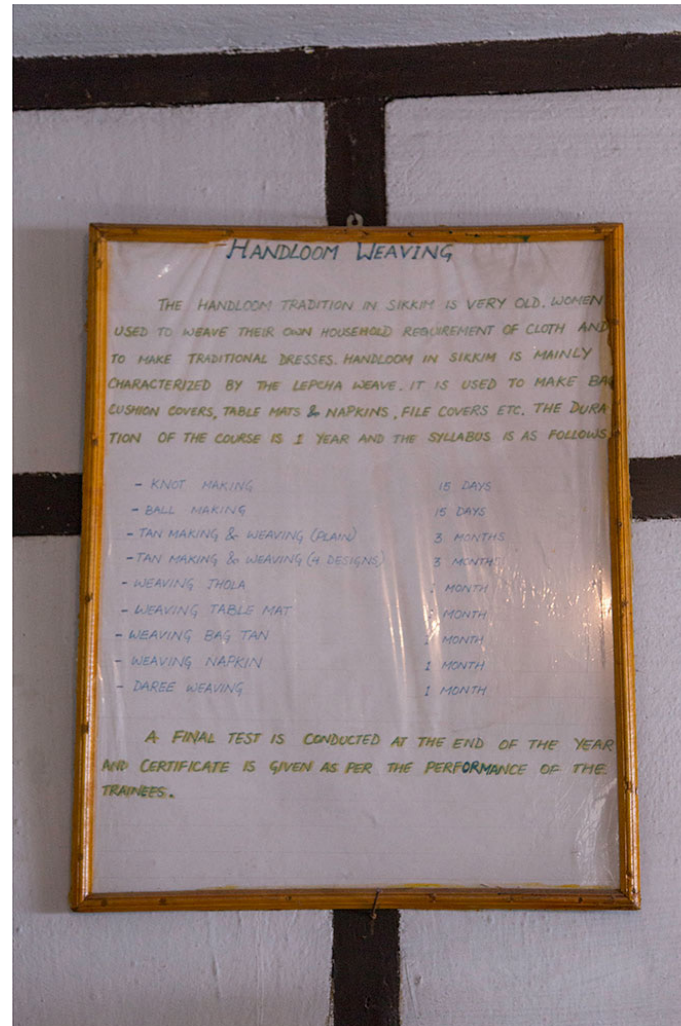
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Poster explaining the process of handloom weaving at DHH, Sikkim.



Lepcha weave, thara on a vertical loom.

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Artisans taking a break from work at DHH, Gangtok.



An artisan working on a weave.



An artisan working on a weave.



Handbags sold at sales emporium at DHH, Gangtok.

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Handbags, lens bag and flowers at sales emporium.

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You could write to the following address regarding
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