

# PROMOTION OF TRIBAL CULTURE DURING THE YEAR 2017-18

## SUBMITTED TO

Govt. of Assam  
Directorate Of Welfare Of Plains Tribes and  
Backward Classes, Assam, ST Girls Hostel  
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## IMPLEMENTED BY

**ISDi**

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# **PROMOTION OF TRIBAL CULTURE**

## **INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR PROMOTION OF CULTURE**

Culture has been defined generally as the totality of the way of life evolved by people in their attempts to meet the challenges of living in their environment which gives order and meaning to their social, political, economic, aesthetic and religious norms and modes of organization. It is an indisputable fact that no society can exist without a culture, knowing that culture is the way of life of a people. Therefore, every society, no matter of its size or population must exist with certain cultural values and norms. Traditions represent a critical piece of our culture. They remind us that we are part of a history that defines our past, shapes who we are today and who we are likely to become. It brings families together and enables people to reconnect with friends and functions to strengthen a sense of community.

Culture, as a force, has both its own economic and political consequences in the life of any state. Without culture, a nation is as good as extinct, erased from the surface of the earth, blotted out and, an existence without dignity or recognition. The only way to wipe out a people from the face of the earth is to take away their culture. The blending of one culture with another also has the potential of killing off cultures. We must make an effort to sustain our cultures. The challenge is to preserve our cultures by practicing and making them part of our lives.

## **PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT IN HANDICRAFT SECTOR**

Handicrafts are manual skills for making usable products graced with intentional visual appeal. These are not simply some articles of utility or decor created by deft hands with the help of tools or without. Handicraft is one of the most important cottage industry as well as small scale industry in the state of Assam. Handicraft were originally based in home production for home needs but further the surplus items were traded and more elaborate production and distribution process influenced the goods made. In Assam 80% of the population live in villages and depends mainly on agriculture. In agriculture people cannot get employment throughout the year. Percentage of landless labourer and marginal formers are very high in the state. Hence in the rural sector, development of handicrafts can be a major step in solving the problems of unemployment and under employment. To sustain the livelihood of artisan's family the organization started working with the approach of cluster development and initiated to provide exhibition, mela for artisans by collaborating with various Government organisations including the Ministry of Textile, Government of India.

### **AREA OF INTERVENTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL**

ISDI has been working to revive and preserve the traditions and ethos of many communities living in the region of North East. The society's efforts take in the conservation of tribal cultural traditions in the field handicrafts including their cultural bio-diversity and improve artisan's participation through income generation. In conservation, ISDI has been providing support in reviving the diminishing **Bodo traditional Handloom Craft** as practiced by the Bodo artisans. The existing Bodo tribal patterns and designs are a continuation from their past. Every girl in the family knows the craft tribal patterns and designs have been

passed from generation to generation. Their concept of colour combination is very superior and their textiles always have an exclusive impact on the eyes of the beholder. The people devote many hrs. a day in making the products. Most of the females are involved in Tribal textile craft products produce regularly, various types of products they are made in their production. They generally use traditional tools in making products.

Only the folks are involved in this profession they are doing both production and marketing. They generally sell these products in the local market because their knowledge about the national market or export business very less. The demand of the products in the local market is very low. They earn very little in this profession so, it is very hard on their part to run the family. These areas need special attention for further development and skill building. The artisans of the cluster are highly skilled in their craft. However, there is scope for further improvement and development. Their capabilities do not commensurate with their economic status. There is need for them to transform their designs and patterns, not only in their local dresses like Dokhona, Arnai etc. but in other areas like home furnishing designer clothes and other accessories. However this can only be achieved if more training is imparted focusing on diversifying into other garments. Home furnishing items, inlay work on salwars, sarees, etc. with Bodo tribals designs should have a good demand in the domestic markets primarily the cosmopolitan/metro cities in the country.

ISDI identified **20 Bodo** artisans of **Uparpara village, Gossaigaon, Mirza in Kamrup district** who are capable of producing diversified products using Bodo motifs to bring alive once again the exquisite skill of Bodo handloom. A Training On Tribal Textile Weaving was conducted for 20 ST artisans at Uparpara village,

Gossaigaon, Mirza, District-kamrup(R), Assam from 25.08.17 to 26.09.17 (for 1 month). The training program was carried out under the guidance of a master trainer.

The basic objective of the training programme was to –

- Revive and preserve the diminishing Bodo traditional craft.
- Empowering rural women by adding to their income
- Encouraging future generations to take pride in their culture

The training was aimed to remove the hurdles of the artisans of the adopted area in the production of the quality items to give a boost in the Marketing of the handicrafts products in the world market. The programme has also given a chance for encouragement of group activities by meeting artisans from different area of village to work together under the umbrella of the society. It benefitted the participating artisans as well as developed more group activities after the programme in the real success for organizing such programme. It was also hope that the crafts persons of the area can stand their own foot in respect of marketing of their product increasing quality of their items. In this connection the outlook and the concept of the participation artisan member have been totally changed after the programme.

### **METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR IMPARTING TRAINING**

A Drawboy Attachment is used for extra weft designing since this is best suited to handloom. Extra weft is used for designing cross border and spat figures and for space designing. In extra weft designs, different type of colored yarns can be managed for different portions using just one additional pick. Different attachments are also used for designs involving extra thread-. for extra warp design , doobby or

jacquard looms are used. The use of dobby looms has limited scopes due to its short range of control on thread in a repeat. In the case of jacquard, there is wider scope since a large number of threads can be controlled in a repeat depending upon the size of machine. The use of extra warp provides the opportunities to weave elaborate designs conveniently.

The training programme mainly gave emphasis to the following,

- Basic knowledge to the Artisan on Textile Crafts
- Learning techniques for collective production of both utility and decorative crafts items of various sizes, shapes and colours.
- Learning Sketching & Drawing for evolving new craft items
- Knowledge of Natural dying
- Use of graph paper
- Quality Development
- Product Development
- Outlook & Marketing Knowledge Economical Progress
- Identification of good quality raw material
- Product costing

## **TOOL KITS AND ACCESSORIES USED**

The following is the list of tools and accessories that were used by the participating artisans during the Training Program:-

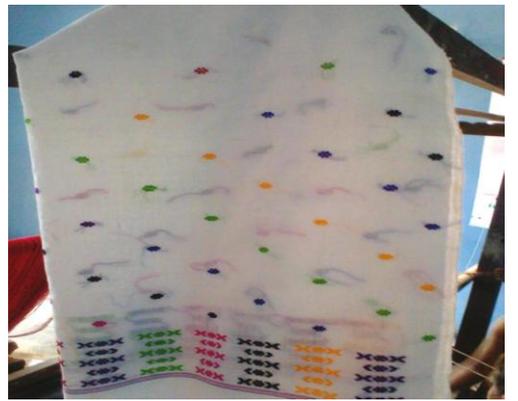
Tolutha	: One of the beams of a handloom
Tolutha loroni	: It is a narrow groove in the beams
Goroka	: The treadles of a loom
Gorokha zori	: One kind of thread use in Gorokha
Nasoni	: kind of clip use for knitting
Doorpoty	: Frame of the reed of an Assamese loom
Rash	: The reed of an Assamese loom
Rash vorua hakuta	: A hook for suspending article
Mako	: A weaver's shuttle
Choria mako	
Folia mako	
Mako shoala/Gereli kathi	: The pin on which the weavers Quill revolves in the shuttle
Bo songa	: a kind of bamboo pipe
Mohora	: Bobbin
Ugha	: A kind of reel for winding thread
Sereki	: A contrivance for winding thread or a spool
Bor sereki	
Leta	: A bamboo reel
Letai	: A chrysalis
Taat	: A warp in the loom
Taat khoota	: 4 nos. of bamboo pillar use for loom fittings
Taat bati kora	: To prepare the warp for weaving
Jotor	: reeling instrument
Tahon Foni	: a kind of brass used for brushing yarn while preparing the warp for weaving
Bo (ton) Shoota	: one kind of thread

## PHOTOGRAPHS









## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR TRAINING ON TRIBAL TEXTILE WEAVING

Sl. No.	NAME OF ARTISAN	Father/Husband Name & Address	Caste	SEX M/F
1	Rakheswari Boro	W/o Bhola Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
2	Bobita Boro	W/o Sabin Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
3	Nilima Boro	W/o. Dhaneswar Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
4	Sadika Boro	W/o. Niren Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
5	Sewali Boro	W/o Dilip Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
6	Sabita Boro	W/O Kanak Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
7	Lakhyahira Boro	W/o Paresh Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
8	Mamoni Boro	W/o Chilok Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
9	Aroti Boro	W/o Sankar Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
10	Babita Das	W/o Monesh Das, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
11	Numali Boro	W/o Prabhat Boro , Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
12	Sabita Boro	W/o Kushal Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
13	Dipali Boro	W/o Umesh Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
14	Kamini Boro	W/o Chandan Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
15	Thaneswari Boro	W/o Romesh Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
16	Mina Boro	W/o Pradip Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
17	Jomuna Boro	W/o Gajen Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
18	Sabita Boro	W/o Robi Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
19	Tarali Boro	W/o Hitler Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F
20	Romani Boro	W/o Bonapart Boro, Vill: Upper Para, P.O Mirza, Dist: Kamrup	ST	F

