

Stories and Demands of HBW members of SABAH BHUTAN



Sangay Lhamo
Weaver

I am Sangay Lhamo from Kheng Gondu village of Mongar, a district located in the eastern part of Bhutan. It is one of the remotest parts of Bhutan and I remember the days when we used to struggle in the valleys that were rarely visited by outsiders. I have four Children, one who recently gave birth to a child. And, my youngest one goes to the school.

I would like to mention that SABAH-Bhutan has been blessing to me. I earn a fixed monthly wage for my service in weaving and rendering support to Weaving Unit.

Project Management Team of SABAH-Bhutan often asked me how I use my income to which I say I always use them to support my children's educational need. I send small amount of my income to my college-going son in one of the Technical College in Bhutan. I also pay utility bills of the household. On top of the fixed earning I get for my service, I take weaving work home occasionally and get some extra income.

However, the most significant impact SABAH-Bhutan brought in me is being able to learn and practice organic dying. I have trained more than 70 members across Thimphu, Paro and Gelephu. I have also learnt that dyes can be derived from anything that includes the grasses, barks, leaves and flowers we see. Most trainees find it amusing and fun to be part of this fading tradition. Each of these natural resources gives their own distinctive color to the yarn. I would like to keep continuing to expand organic dying program of Bhutan and reach it to more members.



“I am Pema Chezom and I am 30 year old. I left school after completing my Class 2. Currently I work as a member at TFC working as a weaver. I am involved in sampling and creating new weaves in SABAH-Bhutan. I joined SABAH in 2012 and was one of the earliest beneficiaries. I support my children’s education with my income. I would be very happy to be a player in making SABAH-Bhutan sustainable as soon as possible and support for creating Provident Fund Scheme for SABAH-Bhutan. It will greatly enable SABAH-Bhutan to bring more members if we have such schemes that will help members with small income.”

Pema Chenzom

30 years

Weaver



Yezar Lhamo
Weaver

“I am Yezar Lhamo and reside in Thimphu. I have been often praised for my neat weave due to which I am called very often to TFC to weave various items that include gho, kira, muffler, mat, rachu etc. Income is an incentive for continuing the weaving work. Though I also believe that it is an art form not many can master. It is a legacy that we need to continue. I have many friends in my community who learn from me and I teach them on my own volition.

I am also one of the most active member and visit TFC for work, training, kit-making and sharing design knowledge with Production and Design team. I believe that I am one of the highest earning members of SABAH-Bhutan as I weave almost all kind of items asked.

I am increasingly feeling that SABAH-Bhutan should continue expanding by building more weaving centers for members to congregate, share and do production activities. I also support for more fairer wages for weaving work we do with SABAH-Bhutan which I hope to raise in the next Annual General Meeting.”