

Project Update: November 2010

The Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT) conducted a 2-day training on Development and Finishing for Local Handicrafts at Tangyar village on 13th and 14th November 2010. The training was facilitated by Mr Jigmet Dadul, Ms Rigzin Chorol and Mrs Phuntsok Angmo (resource person). The objectives were to promote income generate for the women of Tangyar and to give knowledge about natural dye processes. On the 1st day there were around 20 women and on the 2nd day there were around 34 women.

On Day 1, the SLC team and resources person went to Tangyar. The team conducted a meeting with the participants. After lunch the women were asked to get wool and other materials and gather at community hall. Ms. Rigzin Chorol undertook the registration for all the participants. Later, Mr. Jigmet Dadul introduced the programme:

- The project is under the Rufford Small Grants.
- The period of project is 1 year.
- The aims and objectives are generating income for the women, especially in high snow leopard habitats and making the local livestock more valuable and to conserve biodiversity in this area.

Subsequently, Mrs. Phuntsok Angmo took over and explained the importance of natural dyeing and its potential in the market and in tourism. She also gave them a check list of requirements for dyeing process. Participating initiated making woollen spools and some of them mashed and mixed the dyeing materials under the supervision of the resource person. The meeting ended late evening and the participants were briefed for the next day.

On Day 2, all the women were very eager to know how to use natural dye. Firstly, they collect the dry woods and cow dung to boil the water for dye and washing the wools, etc. They then boil all the dye material in a separate pot for a half an hour. Local material like, arnebia (Demok), Rubab's root (Lachu patak), walnut shell (stargay chanchil), Carax (Churtsa) pul, (local soda,) ash (Kokthal), Artemisia (Burnak) are used. In the meantime, the women weighed the wool and made spools of wool. Once the water boiled was, Mrs. Phuntsok Angmo started the dyeing process. Later, she taught the participants on how to use dye and make different shades of one colour.

All the women were very enthusiastic and were keenly watching and listening to the resource person. Some of the women are very interested and they said they wanted to learn more about this natural dyeing process. She made more than five colours only from the natural and organic ingredients. Mrs. Phuntsok Angmo strongly recommended that one shouldn't buy dyes from the market since there are locally available. Once you make this you can earn more money. She also taught them how to make different designs on cloth.

Some of the local women were also responsible for making lunch for all the participants using the environmental friendly solar parabolic heater. After the completion of the dyeing process, a lunch break was taken. During lunch the participants were very inquisitive and were querying about natural dyeing to the resource person.

After lunch, Jigmet Dadul concluded the training programme. The team and the resource person were offered white scarves as appreciation for the programme.

Output

- Around 35 women were trained in the natural dyeing process.
- They were also trained in making design on cloth.
- This programme is very useful for the future in preserving the traditional skills and knowledge of making handicrafts.

Feedback

- The training was very fruitful for the women's group.
- They are very happy to have a resources person. They wanted to learn more and more about natural dyeing and they wanted to keep it for future.
- Beside that they wanted to use a weaving machine for more income. They wanted to weave a local carpet for their use and also for sale.
- They promised that they will practice on dyeing and at the end of the winter they will have a lots of handicraft products for sale to tourists in summer.
- SLC-IT Team will prepare conditions of agreement that would entail conservation and traditional handicraft practices.
- The final agreement will be developed in consultation with the local community.