

# Rural Women Entrepreneurship

3 Days Hands-on Training Workshop for  
Women Weavers



## EVENT REPORT

Date: 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Venue: Karam Awang Leikai, Imphal West,  
Manipur

**BRTC**  
A BIRAC - KIIT-TBI Initiative

### BRTC

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# OVERVIEW

BIRAC Regional Techno-entrepreneurship Promotion Center (BRTC) established at KIITTB- Bio-NEST, vision is to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across East and North East.

## Goal

Manipur is a mosaic of ancient traditions and rich cultural patterns with the women dominating the market of the state. Skill development program was specifically designed for the rural women to promote entrepreneurship and assistance to set up enterprises.

## Training Module Highlights

Day 1: Introduction of the purpose, general awareness and information inputs.

Day 2: Hands on training on Block Printing Techniques.

Day 3: Natural dye extraction from local resources & dying techniques for different textiles.

## Guest & Experts

### Chief Guest

**Shri Karam Shyam:** *Minister of CAF & PD (Consumers Affairs Food & Public Distribution) and Revenue, Govt. of Manipur*

### Experts

- **Dr. Sriparna B Baruah:** *Head, Centre for Industrial Extension, IIE, Guwahati*
- **Pranab Kumar Sharmah:** *Consultant and Entrepreneurial Motivator Trainer*
- **Shrimati Urikhinbam Bala Devi:** *National Awardee and State Merit Awardee and Indian Handloom Brand*
- **Konjam Kumarjit Singh:** *OSD, Manipur Textiles Processing Institute*
- **Mr. Nilmani Singh Keisham:** *IIE State coordinator, Manipur*

# SESSION 1:

Session Timings- 1200h - 1530h

Participants- 70+ Local women weavers from West Imphal District

## Inauguration:

**Dr. Namrata Misra** inaugurated the event by introducing the local women to BRTC and KIIT-TBI. She explained what the program was about and the things that they will be learning in these 3 days of hands-on training. She requested the women to come forward with their problems and how our team could help them. As the local women could only understand Manipuri and Hindi, the local coordinator **Mr. Nilmani Singh Keisham** translated it for the crowd.

**Dr. Sriparna Baruah**, encouraged the crowd to come up with their own enterprise and look for ways to earn more profit out of their work. She mentioned to them about the high market demands for organic and handloom textile and how the status of natural dyes world over is enhancing every year.

Her talk was then followed by **Mr. Pranab Kumar Sarmah**, who also motivated them to work smart and grab every opportunity for a better and steady income. He also suggested ways to boost their economy. As Manipuri women conduct most of the trade in the valley, he discussed various ways to improve their skills and their business.

We talked individually to all the women weavers and enquired about their challenges and how do they deal with it. The CM also attended the inauguration ceremony and requested the local women to actively participate in the training program. He helped the women weavers by donating 2000 INR to each participant.



## SESSION 2:

**Shrimati Urikhinbam Bala Devi** is a National Award Winner in Handlooms and Block Printing Techniques. She conducted a Hands-on Training on Block Printing starting with selecting the textile for dyeing to the type of dye to be selected in a sequential manner. Mentioned below are the steps for the block printing technique.

### Step-wise Procedure for Block Printing

#### 1. Preparing the Fabric

Prewash the fabric to remove all the finish in the fabric; If the finishes remain the paint will not properly fix to the fabric.

#### 2. Stretch the fabric

Keep the fabric on a surface which you do not mind staining. You will need to keep the fabric stretched nicely, staple the fabric on to the surface nicely stretched. Ensure that there are no ripples in the fabric.

#### 3. Selection of appropriate dye and blocks

Use any kind of dyes on natural fabric but for synthetic fabrics you better use synthetic dyes; you can use fabric paints as well.

#### 4. Saturate sponge in paint

Dip a piece of sponge on to the dye/ paint; dab the wooden block with the sponge making sure that the whole block is covered. Rock the block / stamp many times so that every detail gets the paint.

#### 5. Block print the fabric

Keep the block on the fabric precisely and press evenly and uniformly. Slam it on to the fabric hard with the palm behind the block. Keep it there for 2-3 seconds and abruptly remove the block, making sure there is no drag or jerking motion. Make repeating motifs; reapply paint if you need to for other pressings.

#### 6. Final drying

Traditional way for drying is to steam the fabric and then wash; or can simply Wait for one whole day while the fabric dries in the sun.



## SESSION 3:

Day 3 training session was conducted by Mr.Konjam Kumarjit Singh and his team on extraction of dye from locally available natural resources. Application of natural dyes in today's scenario makes use of modern science and technology not only to revive the traditional technique but also to improve its rate of production, cost affectivity and consistency in shades. After dye extraction the step wise dyeing technique was demonstrated to the women weavers which is listed as follows:

### Step-wise demonstration of extraction and dyeing techniques:

#### 1. Preparation of the Dye-Bath

The desired plant part including petals and leaves were combined in a kettle with enough water to completely cover the blossoms and put to boil for an hour. It was simmered until the plant parts faded and the liquid was strained out. The dye was then ready for use

#### 2. Preparing the fibers

##### i. Washing:

The material was simmered in a solution of dish soap. This removed any oil, wax, or dirt that might interfere with the dye adhering to the fiber and then it was rinsed well.

##### ii. Mordanting:

Mordanting fibers causes the dye to be chemically trapped on the fibers, so the dyed fabric will not loose its color. To mordant the fibers the vessel was filled with water, to it alum and baking soda was added in 1:1 ratio. The textile was then boiled in this mixture for an hour.

#### 3. Dyeing

The prepared textile was boiled in the dye-bath for 1 hour and stirred occasionally. It was then taken out and excess dye was strained out and rinsed thoroughly and allowed to dry.





### UPSHOT:

The Women Weavers were very enthusiastic to implement these techniques to their regular weaved textile. They learnt more about product pricing, market scenarios and government schemes to facilitate women entrepreneurs in India. It was the first workshop ever conducted in this district and the people wanted more such awareness and training sessions.