

# Traditional weaving by Yeshi





Some projects do not have field visits. Instead, they have experts visit the children to share their knowledge with them. This project encouraged the mothers to share their weaving skills.

The teachers documented the progress of the project through photos and narrative so that they can use the documentation as ongoing and formative assessment of children's work. This is a much more authentic and child friendly way to assess children's progress than testing.

The documentation also facilitates reflective practice where teachers share and discuss their work with colleagues. Documentation can be used for future planning.

This project is told in the words of the teacher, Yeshi Peday.



*I have observed that the children love to explore with different colors of paper. So the children were provided an opportunity to explore different ways of weaving.*

*Children had to concentrate while weaving over and under, over and under and then back again the opposite way for the following row.*

*From the time they started until they finished, their mind was focused on following each step in order to produce a beautiful piece of weaving.*

*The results of paper weaving are so aesthetic to look at and lots of fun trying to come up with new weaving patterns to create new and interesting designs. This went for several days.*





*I encourage the exploration of natural materials so this activity was extended to nature weaving. We went out around the campus to find materials we might use for weaving. Long leaves, grasses, sticks and petals are perfect for weaving.*



*I taught them how to make simple looms out of willow branches and how to wind the warp on.*





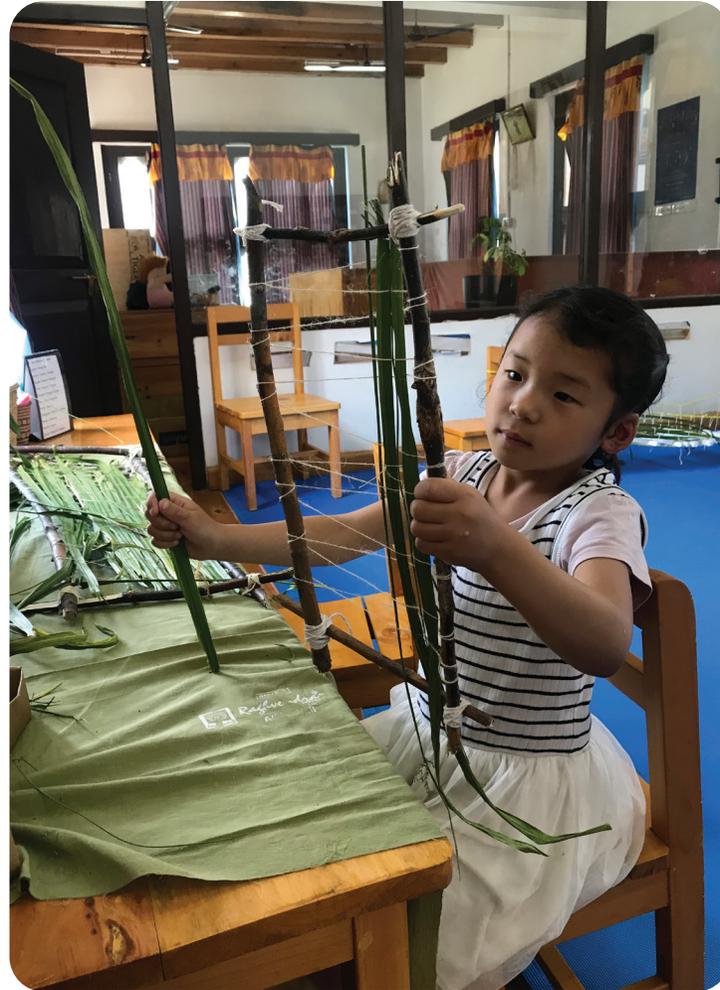
*Some children liked the large long pieces of leaf.*

*Some children preferred to use card looms with fine grasses.*



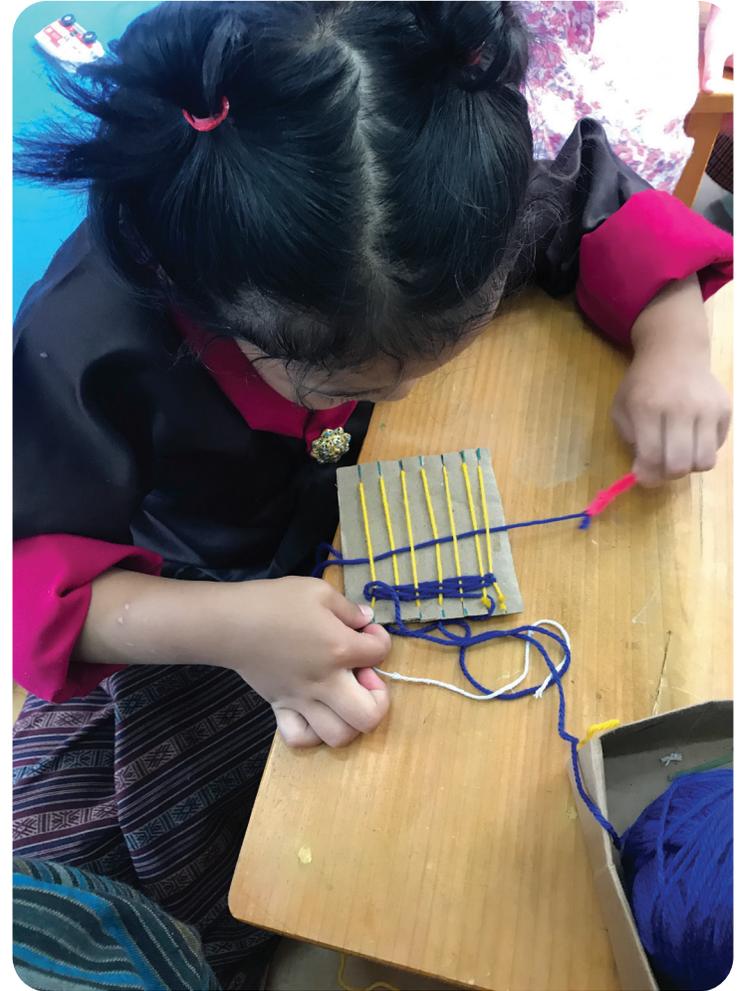
Children naturally gravitate toward natural materials to build, connect, design, create and play. "Aren't these beautiful, mam?"

"I want to make bigger one," said one of the girls, showing her weaving to me.



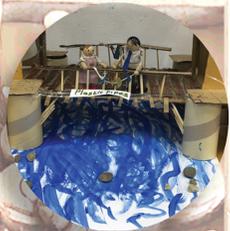


*Some children asked for yarn to weave with because they said this is what my mom uses. Notice how agile their fingers are. Small hands can do very detailed and fine work.*



*'What are we going to weave, socks, gloves or a scarf?', asked Kuenzang. I told her that she can weave whatever she wants. She decided to weave a blanket for the small dolls. The children showed great persistence. They did weaving every day for just a portion and continued next day until they were complete.*





Children were surprised to see the piece of woven cloth after completion. I can see the pride, satisfaction and feelings of contentment from them.

Pema remembers that they were supposed to use a mini blanket for their small dolls. They discuss placing the woven blanket on the dolls. They have decided to make a small doll room so that they can make partition such as kitchen, bed room, living room and so on. In the bed room, they have used their special mini blanket for their small doll family. They have such satisfaction to have woven it with their own hands. It fits the bed perfectly.



We displayed their weaving so their parents could see.





The children had been exploring weaving with different materials for several weeks. This enabled them to become a little bit expert in weaving. Now it was right time to introduce the traditional way of weaving .

Hand loom weaving is one of the Bhutanese cultural heritage items in the thirteen traditional art and crafts that have been practiced from time immemorial. Through this Project we can preserve and promote traditional textiles and sustain hand loomed weaving.

Today weavers are mostly a women, but there are a few men who were master weavers as well. There is a believe that when a textile is woven by a man, it becomes an amulet (Sungma/Sungkay).

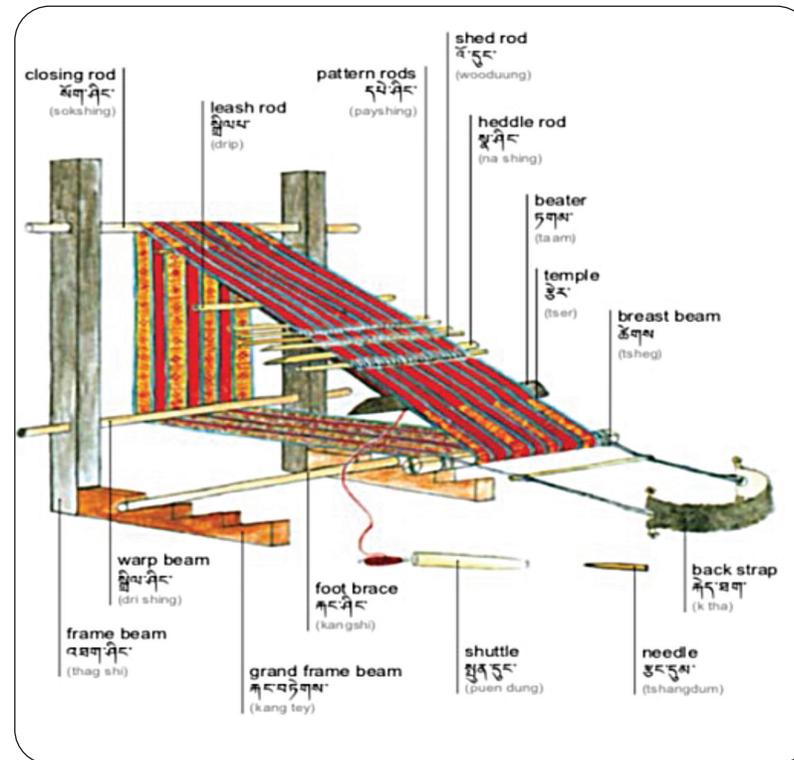
We are very fortunate to have one of the parents who is expert in loom weaving. She came to the class and showed the children how to set up a traditional loom for weaving. Then she demonstrated how to weave. Children were eagerly waiting for their turn to weave. One of them asked, 'where did you learn weaving aunty?'. She answered that she learned from her mom. At home, Eukar asked her mom, "do you know how to weave?". Her mother was surprised but also so happy that her daughter is learning how to weave at centre.





## Steps for traditional hand loom

1. Collecting raw materials
2. Spinning(kheyney)
3. Dyeing(Tshog)
4. Rolling into balls(Gongni)
5. Arranging weft(Zemni)
6. Fixing the starting of weft(mam shamni)
7. Weaving(Thagni)
8. Incorporating patterns(Meto thuni)
9. Ending the edges of weave(Mhag juduni)
10. Cutting the weave of the loom(Thag tog ni)





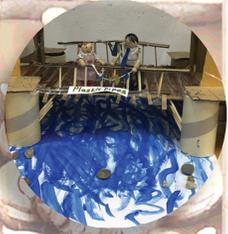
In order to provoke their curiosity about traditional looms we looked at some pictures of weaving. Some of them were already familiar with the weaving since their mother would weave at home. But some were not.

The children who didn't know much about weaving asked questions of the group that did.

Here are some of the questions:

1. Why do we use that plank? ( Pointed in the picture)
2. How do we set up like this? (loom)
3. How do we weave it?
4. Can we weave shoes?





I was also able to demonstrate for the children. Most women know how to weave.



In order to investigate more about weaving I told them a traditional story about weaving a Rainbow. Children did enjoy the story. 'Why is the Rainbow woven instead of kira (lady cloths)?' said Kelden. In order to answer some questions we let them watch, 'A Bhutanese woman weaves a kira'.





Slowly one by one many children tried to do weaving.  
Weaving is an activity that is always available.

