

Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-55.85.2023.00049

Section-1: Identification of the element

Heritage Location

Division

Rangpur

District

Rangpur

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

Geolocation(Longitude)

Community Category

Artists

Community

Urban

Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)

Shatranji craftsmanship

Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)

Shatranji craftsmanship- a creative art of weaving

Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)

Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced

Rangpur, Northern Bangladesh. It is now practised throughout the year.

Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)

Shatranji is one of the present-day 's oldest knitting industries. Shatranji's art of weaving an intricate art, profoundly associated with the customs and culture of the Rangpur people, which shows the creativity, taste, tenacity, and artistry of Rangpur artists at the highest level. It also needs months of relentless dedication, diligence, and high costs. In the past, Shatranji was regarded as a symbol of the prestige of royal houses. This thick-knit carpet had been very popular in the subcontinent during Mughal days. Back then the emperors had a great admiration for it. Subsequently, in the 13th century, the craft extended to this region. The unique designs and magnificent beauty enchanted the rulers of the time.

Emperor Akbar was intrigued by the craft's exceptional artistic elegance, and used it to adorn his New Delhi palace. The colorful rug was produced in Pirpur village on the outskirts of the town during the British era. In 1830 Rangpur district collector Mr. Nishbet, fascinated by Shatranji 's beauty, arranged for the weaver to be patronized by the government. The village later named Nishbetganj after him. Nowadays, Shatranji is used to create a range of innovative items such as coin purses, handbags for ladies, and table mats.

☐ Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- ☐ Oral Traditions and Expressions
- ☒ Performing Arts
- ☐ Social Customs and Traditions
- ☐ Knowledge and Practices related to Nature and Universe
- ☒ Traditional Craftsmanship
- ☐ Food

☐ Section-2: Characteristics of the element

☐ Practitioners(s)/performer(s) directly involved in the representation or practice of the Heritage (including roles, name, age, gender, social status, and/or professional category etc.)

Mostly women are the weavers, men participate in dyeing and drying the fiber. Age group- varies Social status- economically vulnerable or poor community Profession- housewives or weavers

☐ Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles))

N/a

☐ Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved

N/a

☐ Associated tangible elements used (if any)

A comb-like machine called Panja, made of wood. Raw materials used are jute or cotton yarn

☐ How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage?

Women are the main group bearing the ICH. Men participate in the production of the fiber and sometimes dyeing and drying them.

☐ Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage

N/a

☐ Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any)

N/a

☐ Modes of transmission to others in the community

From families to their next generation, professional training.

☐ Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) Bangladesh

☐ Section-3: State of the element (viability)

☐ Threats to the enactment

☐ Enactment Threats Description

N/a

☐ Threats to the transmission (if any)

Lack of interest in the new generation, shortage of resources, lack of government support.

☐ Threat to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)

Raw materials are costly and short of supply sometimes.

☐ Viability of associated intangible elements (if any)

N/a

☐ Have been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)

Karupnnya has taken some commendable initiatives to keep the tradition alive by employing vulnerable rural women who practice this art.

☐ Section-4: Data gathering/documentation, Consent and preparation of inventory entries

☐ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

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☐ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any)

N/a

☐ Section-5: Resource Person

☐ Data provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)

Harun Or Rashid

☐ Date of data collection

26-05-2020

☐ Place(s) of data collection

Data collected from a former entrepreneur who had business in Shatranji Polli.

☐ Section-6: Safeguarding techniques

☐ Existing safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage

Karupnnya has taken some commendable initiatives to keep the tradition alive by employing vulnerable rural women who practice this art.

☐ Suggestions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community

The community wants the government's attention in safeguarding this craftsmanship through legal policies.

☐ Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives

☐ References to/in literature

Unknown Author, (1963). India: Handbook of Commercial Information. 2nd ed. India: India. Dept. of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. Sir George Watt, (1966). The Commercial Products of India: Being an Abridgment of "The Dictionary of the Economic Products of India.". 1st ed. the Authority of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India in

Council: Today & Tomorrow's Printer & Publishers. Sayed Mofidul Babu (2019). Shatranji now being produced in many areas of Rangpur. [ONLINE] Available at:
<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/country/shatranji-now-being-produced-in-many-areas-of-rangpur-1571845511>.

[Last Accessed 17th May 2020].

□ Audiovisual materials or archives

Attached below

□ Discography or archives

N/a

□ Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry

□ Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)

Rafia Amrin Mounota, IUB Email: rafiaamrin@gmail.com

□ Date of Community Consent

□ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

Attached below

□ Present Condition of Heritage

Becoming less

□ Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)

Becoming less

□ Section-9: Community suggestions

□ Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/holders, (if any)

Pending

□ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).

N/a

□ Section-10: Upload Document

Consent Document



Heritage Details Document



Heritage Images

