

Name of the Element: Pathin (পাথিন) Weaving of Hajong: Process and Technique

Name of Inventory: Test Inventory 1

Serial No: D5-0004

Brief Description

Hajong are one of the distinct indigenous communities living in Bangladesh. They have their own cultural heritage. Hajong women wear their traditional dress 'pathin'. The 'pathin' worn by Hajong women is a thick cloth woven in a combination of yarns of different colors, three and a half cubits long and two and a half cubits wide. Hajong women wear 'pathin' as a garment wrapped around their chest. In winter, Hajong women wear a kind of belt called 'banang' when they plant saplings in aman rice fields.

Yarn, weaving machine, khatni are used as raw materials for making 'pathin'. Hajong weavers buy white yarn from the market and soak it in water for two days. Then, they clean the yarn with chemicals. Next, two weavers put yarn on the bamboo and squeeze out the water. Now, water and paint are boiled together in a large pot. Starch is added to the yarn. Then, the yarn is dried in the sun and is cut with the help of a spinning wheel and finally it is used in the 'waist-loom'. They make songs and dances in Hajong language while weaving 'pathin'.

Women in the upper class wear a long 'pathin' which falls down to the floor while women in the lower class wear a shorter 'pathin' reaches only upto the ankle. The pathin is a horizontally striped, colourful, rectangular piece of cloth with alternate layers of different colours between red stripes and thick horizontal borders called chapa. The stripes of the Pathin are similar to skirts of other Himalayan tribes like Bodos, Tamangs and Bhutanese. The 'pathin' may be the primitive form of the Tibetan Pangden. Many scholars consider Hajongs to be primitive kacharies, who inhabited Hajo in ancient times. 'Pathins' are woven in traditional looms known as 'Sipni Bana' and 'Sal Bana'. It is operated with hands and does not require the use of feet.

Region: Hajong are one of the indigenous communities living in Bangladesh. There is a very limited number of Hajong who have continued weaving 'pathin' in Haluaghat, Netrokona, Kalmakanda, Durgapur and Sunamganj areas of Bangladesh. At present, though, the rate of Pathin weaving is continuously declining. Most Bangladeshi Hajong do not weave 'pathin' now. They purchase 'pathin' from India.

Photographs: Video: Consent:

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