

Kenbah Kenmynsaw Handicraft and Multipurpose Cooperative Society



The Kenbah Kenmynsaw Handicraft and Multipurpose Cooperative Society, whose area of operation comprises Kenbah and Kenmynsaw villages under Mawsynram Development Block, 62Kms from Shillong, was registered in 2007. The main activity of the co-operative is in the production of handicraft, marketing these at emporiums, other sale outlets, and exhibitions in the state and other parts of the country. The co-operative also markets handicraft products from other artisans in its area of operation.

What is unique about the cooperative is the skill in crafting products without using any modern machinery or technology. Members use simple tools like knives and traditional blades to split bamboo and cane. The split bamboo and cane are then woven into various well finished handicraft products like baskets, flower pots, and a number of household decorating items. The people of Kenbah Kenmynsaw have traditionally been associated with handicraft making. Earlier, handicraft was a leisure activity, but today it is seen as a sustainable livelihood alternative. The promotion of handicraft increased their earnings and of the community in the co-operative's area of operation; handicraft generates income throughout the year, whereas forest and horticulture produce is seasonal.

Members also get to attend different exhibitions held within the state and throughout the country which broadens their outlook and skills through learning about other types and techniques of handicraft making; through interaction with artisans from other parts of the state or the country who also participate in these exhibitions.



Since most of the people of Kenbah and Kenmynsaw are well versed in the art of handicraft making, this has served well for the community at large. The co-operative encourages local artisans and the handicrafts made are bought and marketed by the co-operative. As a result, local artisans get to earn additional incomes from their craft. All the twenty one members are employees of the society since they are all well versed in the art of handicraft making. The land where the Showroom cum Workshop of the society stands at Mawsynram belongs to the society as it had bought the land a few years back.

PROFILE

Name : Kenbah Kenmynsaw Handicraft and Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.
Kenbah, Mawsynram, East Khasi Hills

Year of Formation: 2007

Membership :	Male	Female	Total
	06	15	21

Chairman : Smt. S. Kynter

Secretary : Smt. D. Pdahkasiej

Total Share Capital: ` 4,25,870

Business Turnover: ` 1,96,721

Working Result: ` 67,771