

Women's Group and Handicraft Multipurpose Cooperative Society

The Women's Group and Handicraft Multipurpose Cooperative Society started as a self help group with the



purpose of fighting poverty and unemployment, a common enemy in rural Meghalaya. In 1999, the women of Madankynsaw, Mowkyndeng under the leadership of Isabella Pakma formed a self help group called Women's Group Madankynsaw SHG. In 2002, the group registered as a cooperative society under the name The Women Group and Handicraft Multipurpose Cooperative Society, at Mookyndeng. The co-operative is a group of unemployed rural women who organized themselves to cooperatively improve their economic condition and social status.

The co-operative's objective is to empower women, facilitate their independence and self reliance, generate employment opportunities, promote the indigenous skills in arts and crafts, and preserve their identity.

Their activities include different types of organic vegetable cultivation throughout the year. This produce is then sold locally and at other local markets where they are in demand. The vegetable patches are fertilized with their own vermi-compost, which they also sell. The co-operative supplies this to the Horticulture Department. Trainings in vermi-composting are also organized for the people of neighbouring Raliang, Mulieh, Mulum, Niawkmai, Sahnsniang villages by the society.



The co-operative makes cane and bamboo handicraft, woodcraft, and decorative pieces. These are supplied to agents, sold at markets, at exhibitions, and in the co-operative's showroom. They also own a consumer shop where different consumer goods are made accessible to villagers. Apart from these, they also run a beauty salon, where women can be trained in different aspects of this business.

Health camps are organized annually; necessities like rice, clothing, school books, school uniforms, stationery and others are provided for deprived children and families. Programs on self employment for educated unemployed youth and motivational campaign programs for artisans are regular features.

<u>PROFILE</u>			
Name	:	Women's Group & Handicraft Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Mookyndeng, West Jaintia Hills	
Year of Formation:	:	2002	
Membership	:		
		Male	Female
		0	366
		Total	366
Chairman	:	Smt. V. Chympha	
Secretary	:	Smt. I. Pakma	
Total Share Capital:	:	₹ 8,92,000	
Business Turnover:	:	₹ 24,21,357	
Working Result:	:	₹ 3,06,192	