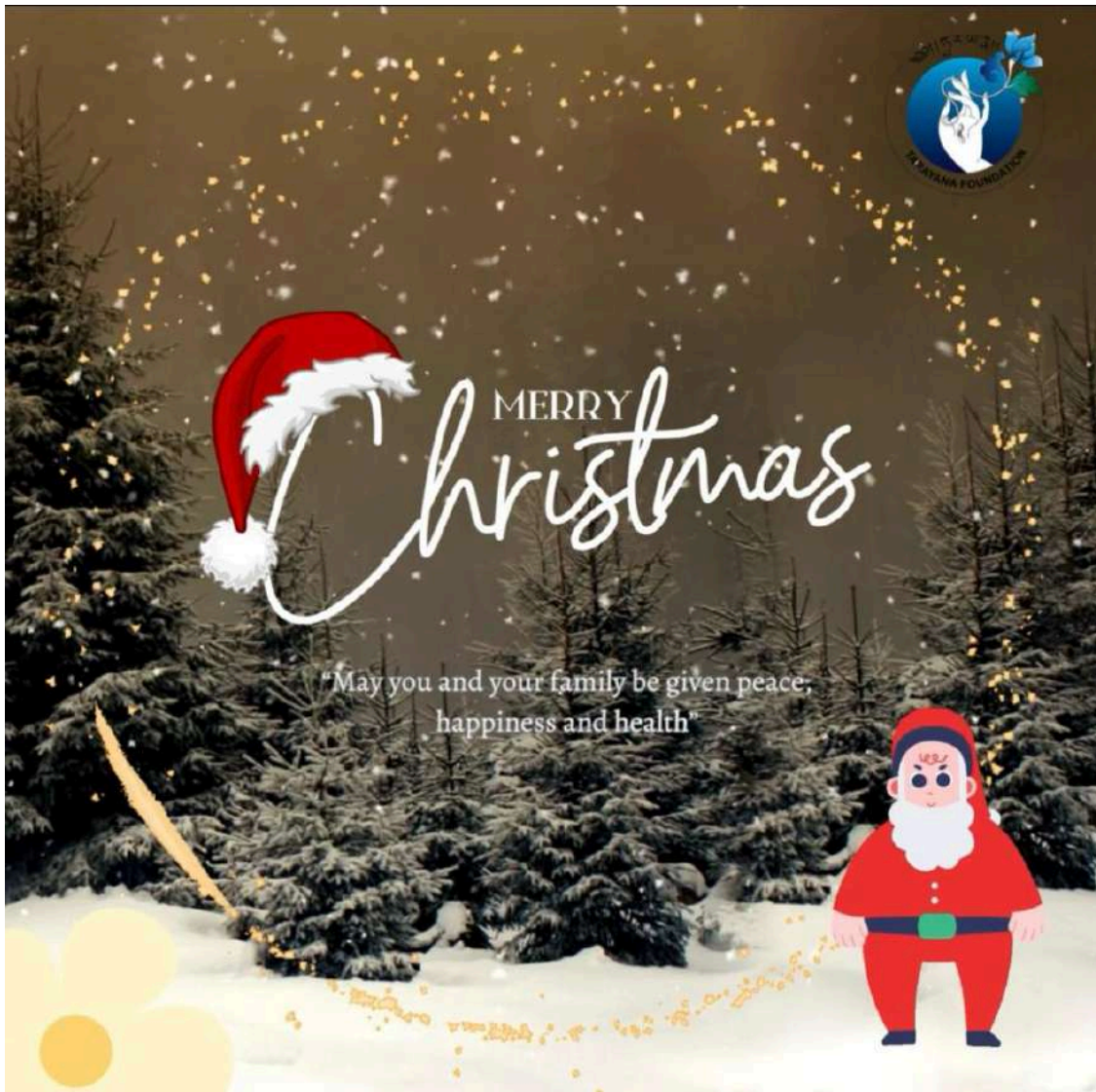


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As the festive spirit envelops us in warmth and joy, the Tarayana Foundation extends heartfelt Christmas wishes to all our cherished well-wishers and supporters. May this Christmas be adorned with laughter, love, and moments of happiness for you and your loved ones.

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Dear Friends of Tarayana,

In our latest newsletter, we shine a spotlight on Tashi Choden, a remarkable individual who embarked on a journey to revive cotton cultivation and found herself amidst the vibrant world of fashion.

In addition to Tashi's story, we bring you a personal testimony from a Tarayana Club member at Paro College of Teaching who rendered her hand to Zuri Lhakhang at Paro on the descending day of Lord Buddha. This firsthand account sheds light on the power of collective action and the positive change that can blossom from small initiatives.

As we navigate through these stories, we invite you to reflect on the power of community, the resilience of tradition, and the endless possibilities that arise when passion meets opportunity. We hope that these narratives inspire and uplift you as much as they have inspired us. Thank you for being a valued part of creating such beautiful stories. Your support is instrumental in nurturing these stories and fostering positive change.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our monthly newsletter.

NEWS IN BRIEF



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Teaching the ART



TRAINING
AT BHUTAN TSHAR
INSTITUTE



EMPOWERS RURAL COMMUNITIES IN SUSTAINABLE CRAFTSMANSHIP

The first batch of trainees of Bhutan TSHAR Institute in Kalapang completed Bamboo Furniture Production Training which was held from 28th September to 28th October, 2023. A total of 11 participants (9M & 2F) from Tading block, under Samtse district underwent the month-long training.

Instructor Karma Dorji, a 50-year-old resident of Yangbari in the Gongdue block of Mongar, expressed his deep gratitude for the privilege of teaching the art. Having previously worked as a wood carpenter, he developed an interest in bamboo weaving after learning from individuals who had undergone training in India.

"I am a farmer and I was previously unfamiliar with the art of bamboo weaving. When the opportunity arose for me to undergo training in this craft, I was thrilled. Taking into account the abundant raw materials available in our village and the fact that

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takes a considerably longer time to be ready for use as a raw material," commented Sonam Doya, one of the trainees.

"I believe that Tsharzo skills are well-suited for women, as they don't necessarily require masculine energy for handling raw materials. Moreover, we have the flexibility to create these products at our own pace," shares Deki Yangzom Doya (36), one of the two female trainees. She emphasises her readiness to undergo further training and enhance her expertise in this field, and in the future to fully take over these skills for her livelihood.

Deki Yangzom Doya along with others underwent a month-long training at Kalapang. The Tsharzo training consists of eight modules on various aspects of bamboo from nursery raising to plantation, management and production of various products. The institute offers seven different types of training courses by combining relevant modules.

BHUTAN TSHAR INSTITUTE

FROM DORMANCY TO FLOURISHING THREADS:

Tashi Choden's Resilient Journey in Cotton Cultivation



In the serene landscapes of the Pemagatshel district, nestled within the picturesque Dungmin block Bangyul, the indomitable spirit of Tashi Choden radiates through her remarkable journey as a 36-year-old single mother and dedicated cultivator of cotton. A resilient tale unfolds, as her dormant cotton cultivation of 32 years finds renewed life after a prolonged hiatus of 33 years, courtesy of the Tarayana Foundation.

The pivotal role played by the foundation in revitalising Tashi's business cannot be overstated. Providing her with a cutting-edge machine capable of producing an impressive array of 32 different colours, the foundation not only simplified the arduous process but also broadened the creative horizons of her cotton cultivation venture. Beyond mere machinery provision, the foundation assumed the role of mentor, imparting crucial training and offering unwavering support.

While Tashi openly acknowledges the inherent challenges in cotton cultivation, recent developments have propelled her enterprise forward. A significant turning point emerged when she seized the opportunity to participate in a prestigious fashion show. This platform not only showcased her talents but also injected a substantial financial boost into her venture.

The fashion show acted as a gateway for Tashi to unveil her skills to a wider

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The exposure garnered translated into tangible business growth, with customers expressing keen interest in her intricately crafted cotton products.

Beyond the immediate gains, the visibility achieved through the fashion show opened doors for Tashi Choden to connect with a discerning customer. Not only did this individual appreciate her work, but the organiser also pledged to facilitate a training program. This commitment signifies a ripple effect of support, ensuring the continuous enhancement of her products and fostering sustainable growth for her business.

Tashi's narrative embodies the transformative power of support and opportunity, turning a once-dormant venture into a flourishing testament to resilience and creativity in the heart of Pemagatshel district.



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