

Indigenous Knowledge Management in ebony fruits dyeing at Bann Hau Sapan Group, Phutthaisong district, Buriram.

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Abstract

The Bann Hau Sapan group, Phutthaisong district, Buriram is a hand weaving community enterprise in the northeast of Thailand, which has inherited local wisdom in ebony fruits dyeing from their ancestors. Ebony or Makrua (in Thai) is one of Thai traditional natural dyeing. It creates elegant natural color ranged from light grey up to variety of brown shades and finally becoming in black. However this indigenous knowledge is rapidly being lost as increasingly less of it is being passed on to succeeding generations. This research seeks to explore the current knowledge management (KM) practice in ebony fruits dyeing concerning a community enterprise (CE) at Bann Hau Sapan group Phutthaisong district, Buriram. This research used a qualitative method. Data were collected through narrative inquiry, participant observation and document analysis. The 18 participants were Bann Hau Sapan (CE) members, the key informants were the leader of committee members, an advisory committee member and office staff members. The data were analyzed through theme analysis.

The current KM practice in ebony fruits dyeing of Bann Hau Sapan group entails three processes: basic skill development, competence building and new knowledge creation through creation, capture, sharing, transferring, verification, utilization and codification. Significantly for this study focuses on organizational knowledge creation and indigenous knowledge systems. The current KM practice in ebony fruits dyeing of Bann Hau Sapan group also has four other components. Its knowledge resources come from members, other villagers, other hand weaving groups, support organizations and markets. Most of the knowledge is tacit and indigenous. The operation and management systems determine the knowledge processes and provide supportive and incentive systems.

Keywords: Indigenous Knowledge Management, ebony fruits dyeing, a community enterprise

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