



Helam Wangnaw
Beneficiary TEDP
Tribal Artist
Bamboo Artwork

How Helam Wangnaw learnt to make money out of his art

Helam Wangnaw (38) is a member of the Wancho tribe, which is known for its vibrant culture and specializes in the art of tattooing. The artist, who resides in Nianu village in Arunachal Pradesh, carves statues out of bamboo. He has participated in different exhibitions in Delhi, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya. He makes 10 statues in a month, through which he earns Rs 15,000- Rs 20,000.



Helam picked the craft from his *Guruji*, a government officer who made statues when he had free time. The artist followed in his footsteps and started making statues, too. Seeing his interest in the art, his *Guruji* sent him to an NGO, where he trained for two years. After the training, he started making statues professionally and started taking orders. He underwent another six months of advanced training to enhance his skill, now he is a professional statue maker. He takes orders from the local and different local companies and delivers accordingly. For a 15-inch statue, he charges Rs 3000 and the price keeps changing according



to the size.



Helam also helps his family in farming, where they cultivate paddy fields according to *jhum* cultivation (also known as shifting cultivation or slash-and-burn agriculture). He wants to learn about online marketing so he can move towards a digital business.