

---

---

## Livelihood & Entrepreneurship – Hayden Hall Institute, Darjeeling

### Message from HOD - Mary Jamuna Gurung

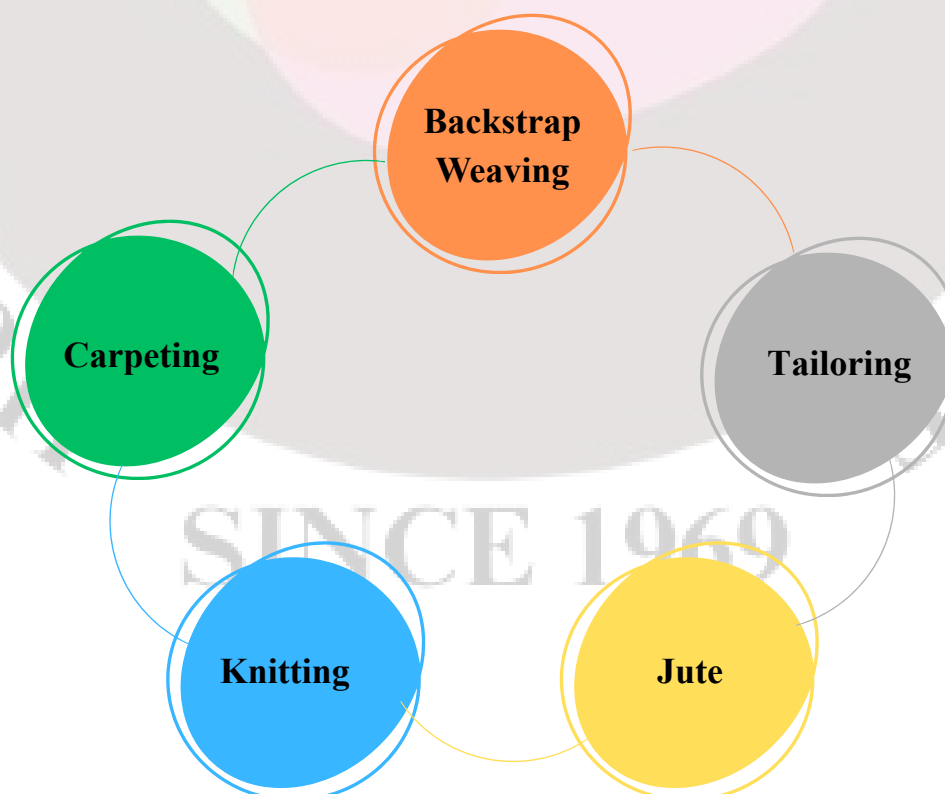
#### Overview

Livelihood refers to the means and activities through which individuals or households secure the necessities of life, such as food, shelter, income, and overall well-being. It encompasses not only employment and income generation but also the skills, resources, and opportunities that enable people to sustain themselves in a dignified manner. A sustainable livelihood is one that can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks while maintaining or enhancing its capabilities and assets over time. In the context of social work and development, livelihood programmes focus on empowering individuals especially those from marginalized and vulnerable communities by enhancing their skills, access to resources, and economic opportunities, thereby promoting self-reliance and improving their quality of life.

#### How does Hayden Hall Contribute ?

The Livelihood Programme of Hayden Hall is a key initiative aimed at promoting economic empowerment and self-reliance among marginalized communities, particularly women and economically weaker sections. The programme focuses on providing skill development, vocational training, and income-generating opportunities through activities such as weaving, tailoring, and handicrafts. By integrating traditional skills with market-oriented approaches, the programme enables beneficiaries to enhance their productivity and earn sustainable livelihoods. It not only contributes to improving the economic conditions of individuals but also strengthens their confidence, decision-making abilities, and overall social well-being, thereby supporting holistic community development.

The Livelihood Department comprises five major functional areas.



---

---

These areas form the core components of the livelihood initiative, providing skill development and income-generating opportunities to beneficiaries. Each unit focuses on enhancing specific vocational skills, thereby enabling individuals to engage in productive work and achieve economic self-reliance. The employees are provided with the necessary training across all sections for a duration of four months and provide the certificate for the same. The beneficiaries are well-trained and equipped with the necessary skills to effectively contribute to the programme. This initiative not only supports the achievement of organizational goals but also empowers individuals by enhancing their skills and knowledge, thereby enabling them to become self-reliant and economically independent.

### **BACKSTRAP WEAVING**

The backstrap weaving unit focuses on traditional weaving techniques that are deeply rooted in local culture and heritage. Beneficiaries are trained to create a variety of handwoven products using simple yet effective tools. This activity not only helps in preserving indigenous craftsmanship but also provides a sustainable source of income. Through continuous practice and skill enhancement, individuals are able to produce high-quality woven items that can be marketed, thereby promoting both cultural preservation and economic empowerment.

### **CARPETING**

The carpeting unit involves the production of handwoven carpets using specialized techniques and designs. Beneficiaries are trained in various stages of carpet making, including designing, weaving, and finishing. This unit requires precision, patience, and creativity, allowing individuals to develop specialized skills. The carpets produced are often of high quality and have market demand, which contributes significantly to income generation. The process of carpet making requires considerable effort and time while maintaining high standards of craftsmanship.

### **TAILORING**

The tailoring unit focuses on garment making and stitching activities. Beneficiaries are engaged in processes such as cutting, designing, and sewing different types of garments according to required patterns and specifications. The unit involves working with various fabrics and producing items based on orders and production needs. It requires attention to detail, accuracy, and consistency in order to maintain quality standards in the finished products. Tailoring not only serves as a reliable source of income but also empowers beneficiaries to take up independent work or small-scale entrepreneurship, thereby promoting self-reliance.

### **KNITTING**

The knitting unit operates through an outreach-based approach rather than in-house production. The organization extends this opportunity to women outside the agency, by providing them with the necessary resources such as quality wool, designs, and orientation on the required patterns. The beneficiaries carry out the knitting work from their homes, producing items such as sweaters, scarves, and caps based on the given specifications.

This initiative enables women to utilize their free time productively while remaining engaged in income-generating activities. It also promotes empowerment by providing them with an opportunity to develop skills and, over time, start small-scale work of their own. By facilitating flexible working conditions, the programme supports both economic independence and personal growth among women in the community.

---

---

---

---

## **JUTE TRAINING**

The jute training unit is implemented as part of a government initiative adopted by Hayden Hall. The organization incorporates various programmes formulated by the government of India, among which the jute training course is a significant component. Under this initiative, beneficiaries are provided with the necessary skills and training to work with jute material and produce a range of products such as bags, decorative items, and utility goods.

The unit focuses on promoting eco-friendly practices through the use of biodegradable materials while also enhancing the skill set of the beneficiaries. By adopting such initiatives, the organization ensures that individuals are equipped with relevant and market-oriented skills, thereby creating opportunities for sustainable livelihood and long-term engagement.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Livelihood Programme of Hayden Hall plays a significant role in promoting economic empowerment, skill development, and self-reliance among marginalized and vulnerable communities. Through its various functional units such as backstrap weaving, carpeting, tailoring, knitting, and jute training, the programme provides individuals with practical vocational skills and sustainable income-generating opportunities. By combining traditional craftsmanship with market-oriented training, Hayden Hall not only helps preserve cultural heritage but also enables beneficiaries to improve their socio-economic conditions. The programme further contributes to enhancing confidence, independence, and overall well-being among participants, especially women, thereby fostering holistic community development and creating pathways towards a more secure and dignified livelihood.

**H.O.D of Livelihood &  
Entrepreneurship**

*Mary Jamuna Gurung*

**Mary Jamuna Gurung  
Hayden Hall Institute  
42, Ladenla Road Darjeeling - 734101,  
West Bengal, India**

**SINCE 1969**

---

---