

### Weighing Scale

*Sang* and *Goe* are the standard weighing scales used in olden days. They are used even to this day in villages.

*Sang*: It is a weighing scale used for weighing small amount of substance like butter, meat, vegetable, wool and yarn. Its unit is roughly equivalent to 333 grams.

3 Sang = 1 kilogram (3:1).

*Goe*: This is another scale used for weighing larger amounts of grain, meat, butter, and cheese. One *goe* is equal to six *sang*.

1 *Goe* = 2 kilogram.

These scales are with a stick with notches cut into it to indicate the amount of measurement. A stone or a piece of metal is stitched into leather pocket and attached a leather strap (like the hammer throw in Olympic Games) which is suspended on a metal ring which can be moved back and forth between the notches. A piece of square shaped leather has its four corners joined to four thin leather straps that are

fixed at one end of the stick. To weigh, one places the object in the square leather container and moves the ring that bears the weight of the stone back and forth till the stick holds steady in a horizontal position. The point or notch on which the ring has landed shows the weight of the object. If the ring stays between two notches, the object of measurement are either added or taken away. Today, this instrument is hardly used due to the availability of more accurate weighing instruments.

*Tiru Sangchung*: It is a traditional scale used by silversmiths for weighing gold, silver, brass, and copper. It is made of metal and comparatively smaller in size than *sang*. Locally the weight of any metal equal to 11.66 grams is called one *tiru* or one *tola*.

#### 4.7.2. Measurement of Time

In olden days, calendars, watches and clocks were hardly known or heard, yet the precision of time was an important factor to carry out auspicious activities. Thus, they solely depended on the position of the sun in the sky, and the sounds of animals and birds.



- **Timing based on the position of the sun:** if your shadow falls right on your feet when you stand, then it is considered to be noon (*gung*).
- The first crowing of the rooster is considered to be around 2-3 a.m (the time of Ox sign in the lunar calendar called *che-yoe lang* (*phyed yol glang*) while the second crowing is around 3-4 a.m at dawn (the time of Tiger sign called *thorang tag* (*tho rangs stag*), and so on. However, if the rooster crows in the middle of the night (around 12 p.m to 1 a.m), it is considered to be a bad omen. This is believed to be the time when the malevolent spirits are awake.

#### 4.7.3. Measurement of Length and Distance

In the past and even today where measuring instruments are not available, there is a very unique measuring style where people used their body part as the measuring scale. The following are the equivalent measurement:

- *Sor gang* = one width of the thumb



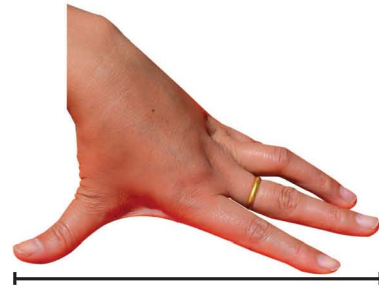
- *Gi gang* = from stretched tip of thumb to the bent end of index finger



- *Cha tho gang* = from stretched tip of thumb to the end of index finger



- *Tho gang* = from the outstretch tip of middle finger to the tip of the thumb



- *Lag gang* = the breadth of a palm



- *Chu gang* = from tip of elbow to the tip of middle finger



- *Dom gang* = from the tip of the middle finger of one hand to the tip of the middle finger of the other hand with both arms fully stretched.



- *Zhudom* = A bow length
- *Dajang* = A distance of archery range (c 140 meters)
- *Jangdrak* = A distance of about 500 zhudom.
- *Pagtshed* (yojana) = 4000 zhudom (About 4.5 miles (7.4 km)/ league