has to remove them one by one without touching the underlying stick. If the player happens to move the lower stick while picking up the other one, he is disqualified. The turn goes to the opponent player, but the first player keeps all the sticks he had picked up in the first round. A new game starts all over again by the second player by releasing the sticks repeating the process. At the end of the game, the players count the number of sticks to see who has collected the most.

2.2.16. Sling Shot

Sling shot or *wur dho* is a kind of weapon used mostly by cow herders to hurl stones at wild animals. Sometimes farmers also use slings to drive off monkeys and other pests in the farms. A sling is a relatively flat rope of about one fathom long and has two straps in the middle which can hold a pebble. With the pebble held in the strap, both ends of the rope are held in hand. One end is thicker and has a loop enough to put a finger while the other side tapers towards the end. The loop is locked in the fingers so that it does not slip off the hand. The slinging rope with a pebble in the middle is then swung round and round until it picks up enough speed. When the holder gains enough speed, he releases the narrow end of the sling so that the stone is hurled at the target. Apart from the throw, it also makes a crackling sound that resonates through the area. In order to use a sling, one must stand at a vantage point and free of any obstruction for a radius of three metres. As a game, the players test how far they can throw the pebble or hit a target at a distance.

2.2.17. Darts

The traditional darts game, *khuru* which is played on special events like local festivals used to be a gender-specific game, played only by men in Bhutan, but nowadays it is also played by women. It is the next most popular game after archery played generally all over Bhutan. It involves throwing a dart at a target at either end of a field of about 20-25 metres in length. The targets are made from wood which should be around 10 cm thick. The cylindrically shaped wooden darts are around 20 cm long and carved from hardwood. Earlier, two feathers of a bird were fixed at one end while a strong stick fixed at the other end. The dart is hand-carved in order to give a tapering shape. Two teams consisting of any convenient number can each throw a pair of darts alternately from each team at the target. Each hit right on the target fetches 2 points while the one nearest to the target as measured by the length of the khuru, fetches one point. Khuru is played in competition between teams from different places. Most often friends play among themselves on special occasions like New Year celebrations for fun and for the love of the game.

2.2.18. Pocket Pebble Game

The pocket pebble game *dus za lay* is a simple game played by teenagers and children outside their homes. Seven small pockets are dug out in the ground in a strategic manner so that there are two rows of three pockets facing each other. A main pocket called *Apa Gutoh* is centred at the top away from the rest of the pockets. All the pockets are filled with 5 pebbles each except the main one is kept empty. Two players are involved in the game. The first player can pick a bunch of pebbles from any pocket and drop each pebble in the consecutive holes in a clockwise direction. The player keeps filling the pockets until a point where he or she drops the last pebble in one pocket. If the next one is empty, he/she makes a swiping gesture at the empty pocket and whatever number of pebbles collected inside the following pocket is won. A player cannot make the run if the last pebble is dropped just before the apa gutoh pocket (provided the apa gutoh is filled). Each of the players can start by choosing any pocket (except the main one) filled with pebbles during their turn. A good tip would be that you pick the pocket that is most filled after the initial round. The ultimate winner is the one who collects the greatest number of pebbles. Getting a chance to empty the main pocket earns a lot of pebbles since that pocket is the toughest one to empty.