

Karen Houses

Karens build their traditional houses on stilts. The space below the raised hut is used for the storage of paddy in the specially built bins. It is also used as a shed for keeping the implements etc. Most of the houses have bamboo mat walls while few houses have the wooden plank walls. Most of the houses have slanting tin roofs. A stair-case is provided to climb to the living portion of the house.

The unique feature of the Karen houses is that they do not have the doors and locks. The practice of closing/locking the doors is not familiar to the Karens. It appears that theft among the Karens was unknown. However, due to the arrival of people from other communities in the areas, Karens of late ensure that some or the other person remain in the house all the time to prevent exploitation and theft by such people. Nonetheless, Karens still do not go for doors and locks for their houses.

Domestic Articles

Karens have their own distinct set of domestic articles. These articles are different in design and purpose in comparison to those of other communities. The list of such articles with brief description is given in Appendix ' '.

Language

The Karens have their own distinct language - 'Karen'. It has the Burmese script

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