

7. Cane basket :-

The cane basket, called the 'toleh', is one of the most common possessions of the Onge, serving as a container for everything except honey and other liquids. The cane baskets of the Onge are among the finest baskets of the negritos of the Andamans. Little Andaman is famous for its many varieties of cane. A few pieces of slender cane, of double the depth required for the basket, are tied across one another, at the middle of the lengths, by cane strips. The free ends of the canes are bent and tied with a circular ring of cane, the rim forming the ribs of the basket. The gaps between the ribs are filled up by weaving them with soft and fine cane strips. The weaving starts from the bottom of the ribs and gradually proceeds upwards spirally on the outer surface of the basket. While weaving the basket, the cane strip is passed round each of the ribs and a small gap between each ring of cane strip on the outer surface of the basket is maintained uniformly all through. A strip of cane is tied at two points on the rim to form the handle of the basket. The completed basket looks some what like a half-egg.