

6. Dug out wooden bucket :-

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The wooden bucket called the 'ookoo' may be as big as 40 cm in diameter and 60 cm in length. But the common size of an ookoo varies from 30 to 40 cm in length and 20 to 25 cm in diameter. A log of a suitable size of soft and light wood is selected for the bucket. First, a small cavity is made right at the centre of the surface selected for the mouth of the bucket. The wooden chips are first taken out carefully with the help of an adze till the cavity becomes big enough for use of the chisel. With the chisel the craftsman goes on slowly chiseling out of wooden chips from the centre towards the periphery of the log. While doing so he holds the log either between the thighs with the base on the ground. The 'digging' is simultaneous done horizontally as well as longitudinally, in a circular fashion, so that the log gets hollowed out in depth and breadth. The next phase of digging starts from the place where the previous phase had ended, following the same direction. the peripheral wall is reduced to about 0.5 cm. The thickness at the bottom of the bucket remains slightly more than that of the wall. A thin layer of wax is applied all over the inner surface. This is done by putting pieces of wax inside and rotating the bucket against a fire. The coating of wax makes the insides of the bucket smooth and at the same time helps fill up the small cracks that may have appeared on the body of the bucket. Two strips of bark are tied around the outer surface of the bucket, one a few inches below the upper rim and the other a few inches above the rim of the base. Both the rings of bark strip are joined longitudinally at several places, at a distance of a few inches from one another. This is done all over the outer wall of the basket. The ring of bark strip above the base is joined transversely by bark strips at two or four points by passing them under the bottom of the basket firmly. The two ends of a long strip of bark are tied to the ring of bark strip near the upper rim to serve as the handle while carrying honey.

7. Cane basket :-

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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.

Submitted please.

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The existence of primitive tribes in these islands is a unique feature, hence the culture