

Statement of Case for Ghazipur Jute Wall-hanging Craft

Historical Prospectives and Origin of the Craft:

The Wall Hanging holds a prominent position in the decentralized handicraft cluster. It provides direct and indirect employment to approx 5000 artisans. Today wall hanging is famous throughout India and other foreign countries for their exquisite design, variety and craftsmanship. The major strength of this region in wall hanging are unique in there weaving and availability of cheap labor which makes the product of this region more and more price competitive.

This valuable product is being manufactured in District Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh since last 50 years, in about 60 villages, providing bread and & butter to approx. 4000 poor craftsmen. Constant efforts are being made by District Rural Development Agency, Ghazipur, U.P. with the help of self help groups of Sawaran Jayanti Gram Sawa Rojgar Yojna & NGOs to create some thing new every time to meet the demand of ever changing domestic & export market. This jute product is not only good but is utilitarian & affordable to common man with products in price-range of Rs.250.00 to Rs. 1000.00.

Craftsmen engaged in this job are being trained for skill up-gradation by organizing design & technology development work shops. Our approach is to create awareness in domestic and export markets for the products of these craftsmen, avoiding intermediaries & their exploitations, facilitating them to manufacture and market this competitive product for new generation, by adopting modern techniques.

The District Magistrate of Ghazipur Mrs Ritu Maheshwari, I.A.S. has done great efforts to highlight this work of poor craftsmen by providing them name, fame & also enhancing sale of their products.

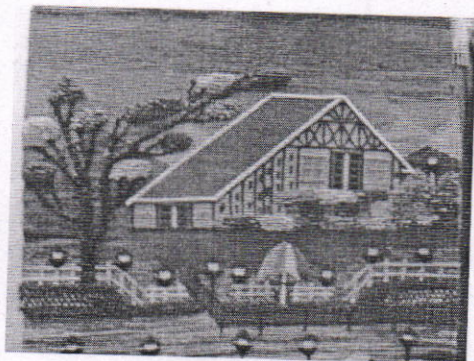
Ghazipur, a district of eastern Uttar Pradesh, was constituted as a separate district in 1818. The city of Ghazipur is the district headquarters. Ghazipur is famous for production of unique Rose Scented Spray called 'Gulab Jal' and for the tomb of famous Viceroy of British India **Lord Cornwallis** who died here and his tomb is being conserved by Archeological Survey of India. The "Government Opium and Alkaloid works" situated in Ghazipur city is the biggest opium factory of Asia.

The tradition of the Wall Hanging of Ghazipur District is also famous with the Wall Hanging and other Handicraft of Varanasi. There is no proper shop or organization in the area to provide Jute Yarn and Fabrics to the artisans on reasonable rates. Therefore with the objective of making Jute and Jute Blended Yarn and Fabric available at the reasonable price to the weavers and artisans at this location of Ghazipur district. Jute raw material bank is necessary in the area nearby Saidpur. Almost one family having average 4 members consumes 60 kg. of Jute Yarn in a month and thus the requirement of Jute Yarn calculated for 600 families x 60 kgs = 36000 kgs per month. Assessing the requirement of Jute Yarn of 36 tones in one month.



Description and Present Status of the Handicraft Industries:-

The artisans of Jute Wall Hanging Cluster is situated in the villages i.e Saidpur, Paharpurkala, Bishunpurkala, Ishunpur Bhitri, Rasoolpur Kolwar, Sauri Sadiyabad, Imilia, Samanpur, Pachra, Sawram and Dhuarjun in the radius of 10-15 km in Saidpur tehsil of district. The cluster is at the distance of 40km. from district headquarter of Ghazipur on Ghazipur Gorakhpur National Highway. It is also at approx 40 km from Varanasi head quarter and 600 families of these villages having approx 2500 to 3000 families member and artisans engaged in this cluster of Jute Wall Hanging. At present they are producing wall hanging of approx Rs. 150 lacs per annum and approx export of the product is around Rs.



50 lacs per annum. World is changing but design and weaving pattern available with artisans are old, there is no mechanism ensuring updating of internal trends, color combination, dyes used and designs patterns. Artisans adopt old dying technology, Processing and finishing is also not modernized. The main raw material is Jute Yarn. The weavers are depended for availability of Jute Yarn from local market or from Varanasi.

1- **Community involved:** Artisans from Muslim, Schedule Caste, OBC and others are involved since generations in this craft in and around Ghazipur district. The craft has spread in Varanasi, Chandauli, Mirzapur and Bhadohi districts also. The major production area is Devkali block and Saidpur of Ghazipur district nearly 5000 artisans are working in this craft in the 5 district. the important thing is noted here that nearly 30% women are also involved in this craft as their family entrepreneurship.

2- **Raw Material:** Raw Jute, silk-kela yarn, velvet paper and beads

Making process:

a. Bleaching of the yarn:

Raw jute of original jute colour is treated by chemicals (hydrogen and silicates) to get white and soft de-coloured yarn. The chemicals used for bleaching is then washed out by dropping the yarn four times in different tanks of water to remove the chemicals completely.

b. Dyeing and colouring of the yarn:

Dyeing of the yarn is being done by old and traditional methods, the quality of dyeing is not consistent because of unscientific method of preparing colour composition.

c. Weaving:

Weaving is done by old pit-loom of 5 feet. Most of the looms are based on old age designs and long working on these looms causes fatigue and productivity is decreased and thus this needs a qualitative improvement.

d.Clipping and cutting:

After weaving, clipping and cutting of extra waste yarn is done by scissors to get finished result.

e.Patching and decoration:

Finally patching of silk-kela yarn, velvet paper and beads is done to make the design or to decorate the hanging to give beautiful look.

f.Packing: Thus the finished wall hanging is packed using polythene and other packing material.

Tools: loom of 5 feet, scissors, polythene for packing, tank for coloring

Uniqueness And Traditional Trends:

The figure of Hindu God and Goddess made by the Muslim artisans with exclusive human skills in a dedicated manner is the most important thing in this craft.

There is no Jacquard technique, but there making the exact designs to see the simple sketch of drawing and weaving the exclusive product with the use of nearly 10 – 20 colours in the one wall hanging.

The absorbing capacity of the artisans is tremendous and without any Patta, Nakasa, Jacquard, they are making exclusive product and this is a very old technique of Banaras weaving which has called Naka-Jala-Taka technique. Now in the Banaras Saree weaving this technique has removed after coming Jacquard in their looms, but the artisans in Jute wall hanging are still using the same technique.

The landscape design, of houses, lawns, forest, traditional curtains, birds, animal are also crafted by these artisans.

They are experts in the making from low end to high end products for the Indian and domestic market for all consumers.

These products are eco-friendly products and artisans are using natural Jutes, Dying in traditional manner and not using any form of electricity in the product making process. 100% handmade product with the natural fibre.

The cluster is at the distance of 40km. from district headquarter of Ghazipur on Ghazipur - Gorakhpur National Highway. It is also at approx 40 km from Varanasi head quarter and in these villages having approx 2500 to 3000 families member and artisans engaged in this cluster of Jute Wall Hanging. The rest 2000 artisans are working in other 4 districts around the Ghazipur. At present they are producing wall hanging of approx Rs. 150 lacs per annum and approx export of the product is around Rs. 50 lacs per annum.

World is changing but design and weaving pattern available with artisans are old , there is no mechanism ensuring updating of internal trends, color combination, dyes used and designs patterns. Artisans adopt old dying technology, processing and finishing is also not modernized. The main raw material is Jute Yarn. The weavers are depended for availability of Jute Yarn from local market or from Varanasi.

The pattern used for motif is traditional and modern both motifs of flower, plants, nature, god and goddess etc are weaved by hand. The modern trend like dancing girl, moods etc are also commonly used.

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