



Course Name: Woven products with Banana Fibre and Water Hyacinth

Artisan Name: Varalaxmi & Rajeeya Bibi

Campus: Bengaluru



शिल्प संगम



About Craft

The Banana fibre craft involves the usage of the banana fibre to create various products of daily utility, and have evolved mostly by organizations to support local livelihoods and create eco-friendly products. The artisans in this workshop are from The Kishkinda Trust in Anegundi, Karnataka. The trust teaches women to make various products like bags, baskets, and hats from banana fiber, with proceeds reinvested to empower the artisans and the community. These handcrafted goods are sold through their own outlets and the money earned supports the women's independent income and the trust's sustainability goals.

The women collect banana stems, separate the fiber, and twist it into yarn to hand-weave products. The craft includes a variety of items such as eco-friendly handbags, baskets, mats, hats, ornamental boxes, and more. The initiative has grown from a small group to supporting around 150-200 women, with units for rope making, domestic market crafts, and exports under the name 'TIKAU'.

Course Objectives

- Through hands-on engagement, the students will learn the simple technique of weaving with banana fibre and water hyacinth strips - first the basic weave and then with variations (braiding, twill weave, etc) to create different patterns of the flat mat, and then to build three dimensional forms. They will discover the individual characteristics, possibilities and challenges of each of these materials.
- Through reflective dialogues and conversations, participants will explore the multifaceted nature of this craft—its rituals, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance.
- Through collaborative projects with the artisans and fellow students, they will be able to create various decorative and utilitarian objects showcasing and celebrating the unique aspects of these two materials - individually and also combining them and finishing them to develop a range of products.
- The students can explore outcomes that celebrate diversity in thought and contemporary themes in a traditional setting and yet bring their individual ideas.
- Exploring the possibility of intercraft collaborations with other crafts on the campus to create complex product/s can also be encouraged to develop collections after developing individual products

Course Methodology

- Demonstration by Master Craftsperson
- Learning the basics of the craft,
- explorations of traditional forms
- Developing contemporary themes for contemporary narratives and new possibilities
- Making prototypes
- Finishing and displaying new outcomes to encourage

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18



About Artisan

Rajeeya Bibi hails from Muddapura, in Bellary, Karnataka while Varalaxmi hails from Anegundi Gangavathi Taluq in Koppal district of Karnataka. Both of them have over 28 years of experience working with Banana fibre and water hyacinth fibre. These are traditional crafts and they have learnt the basic weaving techniques from their respective elder generations in their family and then continued to learn more through the workshops, training and practice.

