

Research study on woodcraft and Carving Industry at Bastar in Chattisgarh and Jodhpur in Rajasthan

Investigators: Yadav, Manmohan; Vijaya Kumar, CVRS; Mishra, Manish

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The Objectives of the study were:

- To study the production-consumption system of woodcraft industry at the two places;
- To study the benefit sharing among the major stake holders;
- To establish the linkage of this industry with exports from India.
- To study the socio-economic characteristics of people/artisans and the contribution of the woodcraft sector in the income generation of people involved in the woodcraft;
- To study the demand and supply of wood species used in this industry and its impact on extraction.

The study has found that the total size of the handicrafts industry at Jodhpur is about Rs.550 crore with almost all quantity of the handicraft products is exported through the ICD (In-land Container Depot) at Jodhpur. This industry provides employment to more than 1 lakh people. The industry has grown to this size mainly in the last one decade and has now got the status of Handicrafts Mandi. The industry uses various types of raw materials such as wood, iron, glass, stones, and brass. The majority of the handicraft products made at Jodhpur make use of wood as the major raw material despite the fact that there is hardly any wood production from the forests in Rajasthan. The study has found that about 1.5 lakh cft of wood is consumed per month in the industry and the major wood species used are Shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Babool (*Acacia nilotica*), and Neem (*Azadirchta indica*).

On the other hand the woodcraft Industry at Bastar is very small scale as compared to Jodhpur despite availability of the wood raw material in plenty. The woodcraft industry at Bastar could not develop to its true potential because of the remoteness of the area and the lack of transportation and communication facilities and the initiatives from the Government. The woodcraft industry at Bastar uses Teak, Sal, Bija, Sheona etc. These species are available at Bastar itself. The wood used is sourced through both legal channels of Auctions from the forest department as well as illegal channel through the people living in and around forests including

the timber Mafia working in the area. The total wood used in the industry is estimated at about 42000 cft per year.

The woodcraft industry at Bastar is different from Jodhpur in the sense that it employs hardly a thousand or two people against hundred fifty thousand people getting employment at WCI Jodhpur. While both the places had similar conditions in terms of the art and artisans. Jodhpur WCI which consumes 25-30 lakh cft wood which is not available locally while Bastar has abundance availability of timber but the consumption by the WCI is very small quantity as the industry has not developed to its potential.