

Design Resource

Bamboo Crafts - Sagara

Eco Friendly Bamboo Products

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Mr. Srikant and

Mr. Mahesh

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-crafts-sagara>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making of Holder
4. Sieve making
5. Products
6. Contact Details



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Introduction

Place:

Sagara is in Shimoga district situated in Malnad region. Sagara is fully surrounded by dense forest. The place is a good resource for bamboo due to maximum rainfall and abundant water source from Sharavathi River. Bamboo is one of the tallest grasses which grow very fast. Due to its rich fibrous quality, the products made of bamboo are long lasting and durable.

People:

The artisans of Sagara make eco-friendly bamboo products. The artisan makes both traditional as well as modern products. Procured bamboo is treated with water to make it soft as it is easy for weaving. Splits of bamboo are beautifully weaved in different patterns to make variety of baskets and trays. The products which are made of whole bamboo pole are coated with wood polish to avoid insect attacks and to stay strong against varying climatic conditions. Bamboo products are creatively painted with vibrant colors depicting themes of tribal painting to enhance the beauty and to meet the market demands. In Sagara, men artisans are engaged in product making, wherein women in the household help in painting and basket weaving processes.



Wall decorators in vibrant colors



Bangles made of bamboo are innovative products for the market

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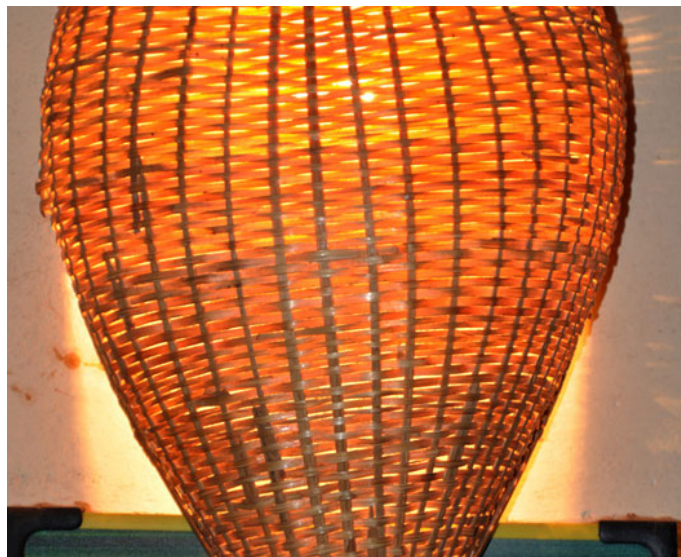
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Artisan engaged in smoothening process



Women mainly are involved in painting/colouring process.d



Lampshade in unique pattern.



Art piece with intricate tribal art.

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Artisan with his family.



Women engaged in bamboo weaving process in their leisure time.

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Bamboo key chains are also interesting items

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools:

Types of tools used in traditional basket making are different from the tools used in decorative product making.

List of Tools used are:

- Thick metal blade used to cut or split the bamboo.
- Sand paper.
- Buffing machine.
- Wood polish.
- Indian red, green, and black colors used in painting process.
- Painting brushes of different sizes used while painting.

Raw Materials:

Bamboo - Biduru (in local language) is procured locally which is grown abundantly in the local farms. Dried bamboo is split and used to make traditional baskets and other household items. Wherein whole bamboo pole is cut and used to make modern life style/home-utility products.



Bamboo poles are kept for drying.

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Thin wooden sheet used to cover the base of bamboo product



Polishing machine used in bamboo smoothing process.



Cutting plier.



Hacksaw blade helps to remove excess wooden sheet.

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Drilling tool to make holes.



Sand paper used to smoothen the surface manually.



Wood polish is applied on product using cotton cloth.



Different size of paint brushes used in painting process

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Making of Holder

Natural bamboo is creatively utilized to make many different life style products. Artisan produces many possible forms using bamboo by applying innovative techniques. Making process of pen holder starts by cutting the bamboo pole as per the required length. After cutting, the surface of the bamboo is buffed to obtain smooth texture. Bamboo is cut and split into two halves with the help of bamboo cutting machine. The base and the side parts of pen holder are added by fixing a flat thin wooden/plywood sheet. Excess sheet is removed by cutting. The finished product is polished to obtain glossy look. After polishing, the product is painted colorfully with themes influenced by Worli or any other tribal art.



The outer skin of bamboo is peeled.



Surface of bamboo is being smoothened.

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The sharp edges are buffed to make even.



Base of the product is being fixed by nailing.



Excess wooden base is removed by cutting.



The product is allowed to dry before polishing process.

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Buffing machine



The cavity is again smoothed with sand paper.



Rough surface is manually smoothed.



Product is coated with wood polish before painting.

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Artisan sketching initial outlines



The marked design is being filled with vibrant red color



Intricate tribal theme is being painted on product.



Painted product allowed to dry.

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Sieve making

Sieve is the common household kitchen product useful for daily life. Lengthy bamboo pole is split into small thin pieces. Splits are soaked in water for few minutes to make them soft. Bamboo splits of 1 inch width are used to weave sieve. Weaving process is done by arranging the bamboo strips in criss-cross manner. A rectangular shaped sieve has a side wall at one end which helps to hold it. Once weaving is completed, the excess bamboo strips are removed. Finally, rim is fixed at the edge using thick bamboo strips which provide better grip for the user. The product may be painted if required for longer life and durability and also aesthetic purpose.



Bamboo is treated with water to make it soft.



Artisan arranging bamboo splits to start weaving.

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Weaving is done in criss cross manner.



Horizontal bamboo strips are overlapped with vertical strips.



Artisan weaving the base of sieve.



The extra bamboo strips are left to make handle of sieve.

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The side wall of sieve is being weaved.



Extra edges are removed after weaving.



Final adjustments are made to tighten the weaving.



Traditional sieve with rim.

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Products

Traditional bamboo products are Koli muchodhu- big basket, Annapaseedu- basket and lid, batti- lid, Mettege chebla- sieve. Innovative products like art figures, photo frames, key hangers, spoons, pen stands, pen holders, key chains, flower vase and fruit boxes are also made by artisans. Colorfully decorated jewelry includes ear rings, pendants, necklaces, bangles etc. created with innovative ideas. Stylized products are marketed to the major cities of Karnataka and all over India. The finished traditional products marketed locally which are essential used in daily life.



Holders of different shapes with tribal painting.



Traditional Koli muchodhu- big basket.

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Collection of wall hangings.



Tea coasters and candle stands.

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Photo frames made using bamboo splits.



Mobile and card holders.

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Corporate gift items are made based on order.



Woven mats and baskets of bamboo.

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This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral, Mr. Srikanth and Mr. Mahesh at NID R&D campus, Bengaluru

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