

Design Resource

Jute Craft - Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Craft of Natural Fibre

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Ranjitha M. C.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/jute-craft-bhopal-madhya-pradesh>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
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Introduction

Fibres are hair-like materials that occur as continuous filaments which is similar to pieces of thread. Fibres are classified into two types: natural fibres and synthetic fibres. India has a large resource of natural fibres and classified into three types such as plant fibres, animal fibres and mineral sources. Plant fibres can be extracted from the bark(jute, hemp, banana, ramie), stem(palm, banana, bamboo), leaf(screw pine, palm, sisal, agave), husk(coir), seeds(cotton) and grass(sikki, munj, benakati and madhurkati) are very useful raw material for the handicraft industry. Apart from crafting eco-friendly utility and decorative products they provide an alternative employment opportunity.

Nowadays the situation has changed especially due to the environmental concerns in favor of natural fibres as eco-friendly, sustainable material. Whereas 1960s and 70s brought an international revolution in fibre art. Other than weaving, fibre structures were created through knotting, twining, plaiting, coiling, pleating, lashing and interlacing. The rural artisans convert these fibres into value added finished products such as bags, table mats, cushion covers, hats, floor coverings and decorative items etc. during the Mughal era, poor rural people of India were using coarse jute for clothing.

Jute is a natural fibre, generally known as golden fibre. Jute is an annual crop grown mainly in India, Bangladesh, china and Thailand. Jute fibres are long (1 to 4 metres) silky, lustrous and golden brown in colour. Jute yields four times more fibre per acre than flax. Jute is an environmentally friendly fibre that is good for the air, biodegradable, feeds the soil and all parts of the plant can be used. Jute plants absorb three times more CO2 than the average tree and improve the soil fertility.

Mrs. Meena Tiwari is a well-known artisan, who has a 23 years of experience in making jute craft. She started her carrier in 1993 and in 2001 she started to work with Sri Navodaya Kala Vikas Kendra, Bhopal. Mr. P S Takur, who is a president of the organization explained that the organization was founded in the year 1998 and there were only 7 members at the beginning. The motto of the organization is to create work opportunity to the needy. Organization implemented 110 Jute Craft Training programs and Jute Design development workshop program, or different welfare activity, all project sanction by govt. of India and State govt.

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Artisan who works in making of jute craft.



Workshop of the artisans where jute craft articles are made.



Tea coasters of jute, which are generally kept on the dining table.



Floor mats made of jute.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools that are required for the Jute Craft:

- **Jute fibre** - Jute fibres are the basic material for the craft which is available in local market.
- **Needle and Thread** - Used to sew the article for stiffness and durability.
- **Natural colours** - Used for dyeing the jute fibres.
- **Scissor** - To remove extra fibres to obtain a neat finish.



Dyed jute threads that are later used while making bags.

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Raw jute plaiting is rolled and used when making needed products.



A roll of thread that is used for tying.



A pair scissors used for cutting the threads.

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Making Process

Jute fibre comes from the stem and ribbon (outer skin) of the jute plant and first extracted by retting. The retting process involves bundling jute stems together and immersing in low, running water for few days. The tissues of the stems are then decomposed under bacterial action. The resulting soggy mass consisting of strands of overlapping fibres are then stripped off manually, washed in water and dried under the sun. Then the fibres are spun in to threads or strands. Whereas jute fibres are easily available, artisans buy the basic material from the local market itself.

Initially the jute fibres are braided to make strands. Then the braided strand is stitched by looping in with the help of needle and thread to obtain a required shape for the base of the placemat holder. Similarly the other sides of the holder is stitched with the base using same technique to obtain cube shape and joined together to make a placemat holder. Once done with the stitching, artisan start to decorate the holder by sewing the dyed fibre strand, which is dyed by using natural colours. After finishing the placemat holder, artisan start to make placemats. Once again the braided strand is stitched by coiling in. While stitching the outer layer of the placemat, artisan prefers a colored fibre strand. Then the outer layer is designed by folding in the dyed strand so that the folding gives a flower attire and stitched along with the coiled strand for the stiffness and durability. The unwanted extra fibres are removed with the help of scissor to get a fine finish.

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Flow Chart:

MAKING PROCESS

1. Braiding the jute fibres.
2. Braided strand is stitched by coiling in to get required shape.
3. Similarly the other sides of the placemat holder are joined together with the base.
4. Decorating the placemat holder by sewing the dyed fibre strand.

MAKING PROCESS OF PLACEMAT

1. Jute fibres are braided to make a strand.
2. The strand is sewed by looping in, to get a round shape.
3. The outer layer is designed and stitched by folding in, using needle and thread.
4. Extra fibres are removed with the help of scissor.

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The twine threads are tied to begin with the making of jute bags.



Artisan makes knots to start with the jute bag.

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Colored threads are being added.



The knots are tied to make a pattern.

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Color threads brings attractive pattern to the bag.



The handle of the bag is being made.



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Flower patterns are made to make the jute bags more attractive.



One side of the bag is being completed by patterns that are creatively knotted.



The bag is being completed with more knots.



The final outlook of the jute bag that has been creatively made.

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Products

Jute is one of the major textile fibre that is used extensively in the manufacture of different types of traditional packaging fabrics, carpet backing, mats, trendy bags, tarpaulins, lampshades, ropes, twines, decorative items, footwear, greetings cards, molded door panels, table placemats and other innumerable useful consumer products. Navodaya Kala Vikas Kendra, supported rural artisans by training them and creates work opportunity to the needy. The price for the article starts from INR 50 and depends on the size and design.



Coasters along with the holder done from jute threads.



Form of birds that are creatively done.



The jute threads are dyed to get different colors, these colored create eminent patterns on the handbags.

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Jute handbag with alternate design patterns.



Stationery holder that beautifully made from the jute threads with a highlight of pink colored thread.

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Video



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Contact Details

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