



## TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION BY BAMBOO HANDICRAFT IN MODERN MARKET AMONG DHURWA TRIBE IN BASTAR DIVISION

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**ABSTRACT:** Handicrafts have always been an important and integral part of the Indian cultural and more, so in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, where the handicraft are not very different from the culture and tradition of the people. Amazing wood carving, bamboo work/furniture, bell metal handicraft, figures of terracotta, tribal jewellery, painting and clay pieces are some of the specialties where bamboo art and craft is very mesmerizing because of its easily availability, less laborious work and low cost of raw material. So it is easy to develop tribal economy by their traditional art and craft through skill development programme with the help of Government and non-government institution. It is not beneficial only among literate but also amongst illiterate people in Bastar areas of Chhattisgarh. The main objective of this research paper is to livelihood promotion of Dhurwa tribe by their traditional occupation in modern market trend of Bamboo and to intervene strategy for developing and helping small and medium sized enterprises for folk artists of bamboo to solve their common operational and management problems to compete successfully for self economy growth as well as the national level economy. With above background and objectives method of data collection is based on secondary literature and field work. The findings of the study depicted that there is rising demand for products from foreign countries as well as from various regions of India, but despite the market boom, poverty is worsening day by day in tribals areas. Rising poverty is killing the Bastar artisans despite some Government support. The artisans are unable to make money from their products as the middlemen or traders who supply the markets purchase the finished items from them at low cost and sell it in the market at a price twenty times higher. Market driven changes in the bamboo sector have encouraged communities but not involved with the resource to enter a bamboo based economy by including specific tribal community with their art and craft as traditional heritage. So there is a need of traditional occupation preservation and innovation of new ideas to develop traditional art in modern era.

**Key Words:** *Handicrafts, Tribal economy, Traditional art and craft, Livelihood, Enterprise, Artisans.*

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Chhattisgarh is a habitat of many tribes and three forth of the tribals' communities depend on forest for their needs. Economics of people living in forest finger has traditionally been dominated by forest products also. However, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) play vital role among the tribal people and provide a source of income and substance living (Peters, et al. 1989; Hegde, et al., 1996). NTFPs like fuel-wood, medicinal plants, wild edible vegetables; house building materials and artifacts etc. are an integral part of day-to-day livelihood activities, especially for tribal people (Sarmah, et al., 2006). Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) or non-wood forest products (NWFPs) have been considered as minor forest products in many countries and bamboo is one important NTFP of them which is present abundantly in

forest of Chhattisgarh.

In this regard Chhattisgarh has a rich tradition of bamboo and cane crafts. Items like, mats, baskets, hunting and fishing tools, agricultural implements etc are made from bamboo. The tribal belt of Chhattisgarh and Bastar are main centers for production of items made from bamboo. Bamboo thickets are common sight in the State and tribal of Chhattisgarh have been putting their craftsmanship to work. Craftsmanship of Chhattisgarh tribal can be seen from varying articles of craft produce they make out of bamboo. Articles for daily as well as decorative use are produced by these artisans. Some of the well known Bamboo produce include agricultural implements, fishing traps, hunting tools and baskets. Inspite of great cultural diversity, it is stated by Singh (2007) and Turner (2001) that many tribal communities are inclined to believe that centuries tested technology skills are integral part of their cultural