

KHETI VIRASAT MISSION

PROJECT TRINJAN

"REVIVE THE TRADITION"



Rural Livelihood through Traditional Skills

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ABOUT: KHETI VIRASAT MISSION



Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM) was formed in March 2005 with headquarters at Jaitu town in Faridkot district of Punjab. KVM mainly works on Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental health (particularly the health impacts of intensive agriculture), Water and Ecological Crisis, Rural livelihood, issues related to food security, seed diversity and foodsafety.

TRINJAN: PROJECT DESCRIPTION



TRINJAN is the symbol of caring and sharing in Punjabi community. Under this umbrella, women used to spin, weave, knit, sing, celebrate, appreciate and create different kinds of artistic products. It used to be a platform of collective teaching and learning with a close association of nature and culture. The type of development model which is being adopted in last 5-6 decades didn't allow women to enhance the collective working and its spread to the next generation.

Younger generation is getting school and college education where these traditional creative skills are not considered worthy. That's why the spinning wheel which is a symbol of life is being burnt by people in chullah as fuel wood. Same has happened with the handlooms and other material used for handicrafts and textile items. With this background and zeal to prevent this great traditional art from being vanished, KVM started working for its revival. In order to preserve this heritage, Organic Desi Cotton is being grown by the farmers, procured by KVM, hand spun, naturally dyed and hand woven by the rural artisans. Along with this there are artisans who do hand embroidery, crochet, Knitting, make different grass crafts and other decorative products. All these skills have been promoted and developed under TRINJAN.

Here are some of "the stories of change " where women artisans are sharing their experiences on how TRINJAN has changed their life and benefitted them in many ways.



"WEAVING A LIVELIHOOD"

Gurjit Kaur is 40 years old, lives in Kotli, Muktsar. She learned how to weave when she was 15 years old, being taught by her cousin, and has continued doing it ever since. Her economic stress is compounded by her husband developing a stomach disease. She worries about him and now has more of the burden of the house expenses and more expenses to pay. She both worries about her husband's health and also their finances. Weaving helps with this. she is able to help pay for her house expenses from the money that she earns from weaving.

"THE VALUE OF TRADITION AND CULTURE"

Mahinder Kaur is 60 years old and She lives in Kotli, Muktsar. Her aunt taught her to weave when she was 15 years old and she has Been doing it ever since.



She says that in the past, everyone did work like this and that if younger generations are going to continue, the work needs to be done in front of them, so they can see it. she is continuing on a cultural tradition and taking responsibility for making it seen by the younger generations, who in her family, have continued with craftwork.



"WEAVING PAST AND FUTURE"

Malkeet Kaur, when she was in 5th Grade, she learned how to spin; in 8th grade, she learned to weave. She stopped weaving 15 years ago due to her eyesight becoming bad and now she teaches young girls how to sew. As a young woman, she learned these traditional skills and now is taking concrete steps to continue them forward, passing them on to the next generation even if there are challenges to it. What stands out most is that Malkeet acts as a crucial bridge between the generation before her and the one to come after. She takes this role seriously and sees it as a responsibility.



""THE HEALTH BENEFITS"

Baljinder Kaur has 7 people in her family. Her husband passed away 3 years ago. She is a knitter. knitting is not only helpful for her income but she thinks that the act of it is good for her health. She says that it is as helpful as meditation. Baljinder understands the importance of knitting, of working with her hands, of keeping her mind focused, and holding purpose in her life. It is in this work that she finds her health improved and keeps herself out of depressive behaviors that she sees in others.



"EXPLORING THE NATURAL COLORS"

Rimpy kaur took to natural dying; and she has developed a quick passion for it. She began practicing natural dying few months ago Learning from a KVM training given by Rajesh. She wanted to learn how to do this because she likes the ide of using natural dyes.

She says it is better for the skin and to reduce skin irritations and infections. She also has developed this work into a source of income. She uses marigold flowers, carrots, onion skin, babul tree bark , eucalyptus bark and leaves to make her dyes for the thread.