



OUR MENTOR
Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India



SAMRADDHI FOUNDATION

PRESERVING RURAL LIVELIHOODS



OUR PARTNERS

Rangotri
Zilla Parishad, Jaisalmer
DIC, Jaisalmer

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It is straight out of an Arabian Nights fable. The name Jaisalmer induces a dramatic picture of utter magic and brilliance of desert. The hostile terrain notwithstanding, the warmth and colour of people is simply overwhelming. Jaisalmer is a marvel of beautiful culture and harsh climatic conditions, together amounting to a memorable experience.

Situated in the westernmost part of Rajasthan, bordering Pakistan, Jaisalmer is almost entirely a sandy waste, forming a part of the Great Indian Desert. The area is an interminable sea of sand hills, of all shapes and sizes, some rising to a height of 150 feet. Water is scarce and generally brackish. There are no perennial streams. The rainfall is scant and irrigation almost unknown.

Jaisalmer is an integral part of any tourist's itinerary. Rural Craft of Jaisalmer, an important aspect of tourism, often escapes the tourist's attention. The craft of 'Pattu' weaving forms a significant handicraft activity in the entire Western Rajasthan providing livelihood to rural masses. 'Pattu', as it is locally called, is a woollen shawl woven in Western Rajasthan for generations now. The term

loom. The extra weft is wound on a small stick that is passed between a minimum of two and a maximum of twelve picks. The weaver lifts the warp yarns and hands it to insert the extra weft yarn. The local Meghwal community is specialist in creating a multiplicity of beautiful 'Pattus' like the 'Hiravali Pattu', 'Baladi Check' and 'Kashida Pattu'. The two other famous designs from this region are the 'Bhojasari' and 'Malani'. The motifs have a particular geometric course and are inspired from house. Different kinds of articles and the wall and floor paintings called 'Mandana' also have similar motifs.

In the good old days, the tiny hamlets in the vast stretches of Jaisalmer and Barmer districts, locally termed as 'Dhanis' were dotted with looms of 'Pattu' weaving. Small mud and thatched roof houses in these 'Dhanis' invariably had a loom for 'Pattu' weaving besides the other bare essentials. With the passage of time due to lack of patronage, this craft is facing a threat to its existence.

Samraddhi Foundation, an NGO registered in Jodhpur, with the financial support of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, under the Rural Business Hub (RBH) scheme, has undertak-



'Pattu' is derived from the word 'patti' meaning a narrow strip. To escape the inhospitable weather conditions in the winters, the local folks invented the art of Pattu weaving from the local sheep and camel wool. Camel and sheep wool available in natural colours of cream, brown and black are extensively used to weave the Pattu. Of late, however, the introduction of synthetic dyes and cotton fibre has added colours like bright red, saffron, blue, green, pink and orange to this time-honoured palette. The fabric is worked upon in a twill weave on a pit loom and countless patterns are created through the methods of interlocking and extra weft ornamentation. In the warping, vertical wrap bands in complementary colours are placed on the either sides of the loom and the interlocking technique is used to get a pure colour on these bands. A bobbin carries a weft in the same colour as the distinct band, is used to weave the restricted sections of the bands.

Extra weft figuring brings about embroidery-like effect on the

en a pilot project for the integrated development of this craft. RBH Scheme is a unique concept which provides for convergence of the grass root level democratic institutions, i.e. the local panchayats, voluntary organizations, private entrepreneurs as well as individuals on one platform for undertaking various projects for the rural development.

An important mission of Samraddhi Foundation is to revive the craft of 'Pattu' weaving and preserve its distinct identity through development of contemporary products for the market. Several new products like cushion covers, table mats, curtains, bed covers, stoles, dress material for both women and men, etc, are being developed through this intervention.

When you buy this fine hand woven 'Pattu', you help and support the cause of preserving this exquisite craft.

One Pattu, One Livelihood

