

Bijoya (Handicraft)



Bijoya's Souvenir gift to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh in the occasion of a jute products fair in Dhaka, on March 6, 2016.

Introduction

Dalit introduced its handicraft section as an I.G.A program component since 2004. Dalit realized the economic condition of the target community for whom Dalit has been working. 90% of the family of dalit community has been living below the line of poverty. The handicraft activity is an alternative source of income for dalit women, who wished to change their life or to support their families. Dalit took initiative for empowering women by relating them with income sources. Handicraft activity is a little step for women's development and empowerment. Dalit organized women from dalit community, trained them up and involved in handicraft activities such as embroidery, sewing, tailoring, making goods with wheat straw and jute materials. The official name of this initiative is **Bijoya**.

At present, there are 300 poor and vulnerable women who have been working in this program. The monthly income of a regular and skilled worker is about Tk. 4,500.00 – 5,000.00 (per head) per month and the lowest is Tk. 2,500.00 – 3,000.00 based on the nature of work and efficiency.

Products

Bijoya basically makes products with 3 types of ingredients/ materials, which are as follows:

Ingredients/ materials	Types of products
Jute	Rope, Wall-mat, Natural sights, Animals, Prominent pictures, Invitation cards, Folder, Jute-bags, School bags, Shopping bags, Money bags, Table-mat.
Cloth	Sarees with color, embroideries, Panjabi, Fatua, Shirt, Cushion-covers, Sofa-mat, Table-mat, Bed sheets, Pillow cover, Poet-bag, Ladies-purse, Handkerchief, Nakshi Kantha (embroidered quilt), scarf etc.
Wheat straw	Natural sights, Animals, Prominent pictures, Invitation cards.



Training

Bijoya is promised to create employment opportunities for the destitute, disadvantaged, abandoned and disabled women in the society. Bijoya wants to make their hands productive and for this purpose, training has always been found to unlock the potential. Bijoya provides training on:

- Nakshi Kantha (embroidered quilt), Bed sheet, *fatua*, *panjabi* and *saree* designing
- Wall-mats, portrait production
- Rope manufacturing, Bag production and designing
- Wheat straw based show piece designing and production
- Quality control and marketing etc.



Bijoya also trying to rehabilitate socially the sex workers of Banishanta Brothel, Dacope, Khulna by providing training and creating an alternative job for them. A number of 20 sex workers are now working under the supervision of Bijoya program. They are making ropes and jute-based products with the raw materials support, served by Bijoya.



Sex workers are making handicraft goods at Banishanta Brothel, Dacope, Khulna.

Participation to Fair and Exhibition

With the view to expand market, Bijoya participates to local/ national level fairs and exhibitions.



Liaison office/show room in Dhaka

With the purpose of expanding present market coverage, a liaison office in Dhaka has already been initiated. Our Dhaka showroom maintains to receive orders from our clients and supplies our quality products. Bijoya welcomes all conscious people so that the most deprived and disadvantaged dalit people get more employment opportunities with handicraft production. In the coming years, we are expecting to spread up our coverage on a large scale.

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