

# Community Engagement Program Report

## Empowering Bamboo Artisans of Khopi Village, Pune

### Introduction

As part of our Community Engagement Program, our college initiated a project to empower the traditional bamboo artisans of Khopi village, Pune. This community has preserved bamboo craftsmanship for generations. Our project develops an e-commerce platform to help artisans showcase and sell handmade bamboo products, improving livelihoods and preserving heritage.

### Community Background

- Village:** Khopi, Pune, Maharashtra  
The artisan community is small but rich in cultural heritage, crafting eco-friendly, sustainable, and functional bamboo items passed down through generations.

### Traditional Craftsmanship

Products include baskets, mats, trays, lamps, sculptures, furniture, bamboo straws, toothbrushes, and more. Each product is handmade using traditional harvesting, curing, cutting, and weaving techniques, making every item unique.

### Challenges

Artisans face limited market access, low income, lack of online presence, middlemen exploitation, and little recognition, threatening the sustainability of their craft.

### College Initiative

We are creating a digital platform to:

- Promote craftsmanship and sell products directly.
- Share artisan stories and profiles.
- Provide e-commerce features: catalog, cart, payment, order tracking.
- Ensure mobile-friendly and multilingual accessibility.

**Progress:** Domain/hosting completed, UI/UX designed with artisan input, photography in progress, launch planned at the upcoming exhibition.

### Impact & Future Plans

**Expected Impact:** Increased income, wider recognition, youth engagement, preservation of traditional knowledge.

**Future Steps:** Train artisans in website management, partner with logistics providers and expand to other rural artisans.

## Conclusion

This initiative bridges traditional skills with modern technology, empowering Khopi's bamboo artisans while promoting sustainable living and cultural heritage. It reflects our college's commitment to community development and ensures that this legacy thrives in the future.



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