

FIELD VISIT REPORT

SUBJECT

TRADITIONAL BASKET MAKING

LOCATION: THONURKARA, TRISSUR (DIST).

FIELD VISIT DURATION: 1 DAY, 15-JAN , 2024

CLASS-SECOND YEAR, SEMESTER 4, COMPUTER
ENGINEERING, 2021-2024.

This field visit report has been submitted to the fulfillment of the course:

Community Skills in Indian Knowledge System, Course Code: **4001**, Semester: **4**,

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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING
SEMESTER 4, 2022 -2025
GOVERNMENT POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE CHELAKKARA.

TITLE

TRADITIONAL BASKET MAKING



The field visiting team members.

ABSTRACT

The excursion to the Traditional Basket Production Center in Thonurkara, Thrissur proved to be a highly educational outing for our class and our esteemed lecturer, Mithun sir. Situated conveniently close to our college along the roadside, the center offered us an immersive experience in the age-old craft of basket making.

Throughout our visit, we were afforded the opportunity to witness the entire process of crafting a basket using traditional methods. Engaging with the skilled workers, we gained valuable insights into their craft, as well as the various challenges confronting the industry.

In summary, the visit left a lasting impression on the students, enriching our understanding of the traditional techniques employed in basket production and underscoring the importance of supporting local industries for both their social and economic significance.

Objective of the field visit

The primary aim of the field visit was to gain firsthand knowledge, study, and comprehend the local skills involved in basket making, as well as to understand the diverse applications of these baskets.

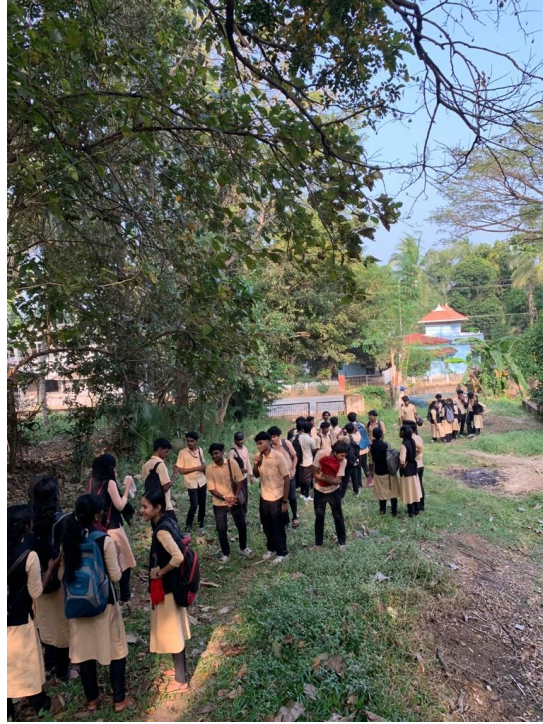
Introduction

Embark on an enthralling journey to a center where ancient craftsmanship intertwines with modern expression. Upon entering the workshop, prepare to witness skilled artisans meticulously fashioning raw materials into exquisite baskets, employing techniques handed down through generations.

This field visit transcends mere basketry; it offers a window into a profound cultural inheritance. From the careful selection of natural fibers to the rhythmic weaving process, each stage narrates a tale. Join us as we delve into the artistry, heritage, and cultural significance interwoven into every basket. Prepare to be spellbound by the hands that breathe life into history. Welcome to the enchanting realm of traditional basket making.

What is Traditional Basket Making.

The process typically commences with the meticulous selection of raw materials, ranging from natural fibers like straw, grasses, reeds, bamboo, to even animal fibers. These materials are carefully chosen, often sourced locally, for their inherent qualities such as strength, flexibility, and compatibility with the weaving process.



The actual construction of a basket involves a series of intricate weaving or plaiting techniques. Artisans deftly employ their hands, along with rudimentary tools such as needles or awls, to intricately interlace the chosen materials into a robust and often elaborate structure. The diverse patterns and styles of weaving contribute to the rich tapestry of traditional basketry.

Traditional baskets serve a myriad of purposes, ranging from practical storage and transportation to ceremonial or ornamental functions. Beyond their utilitarian uses, these baskets often carry profound cultural significance, reflecting the artistic traditions, values, and ways of life of the communities that craft them.

While traditional basket making boasts a long and storied history, many artisans remain dedicated to preserving and practicing these time-honored techniques, adeptly adapting them to contemporary tastes and needs. The enduring craft serves as a poignant testament to the ingenuity and creativity of human cultures across epochs, showcasing the remarkable beauty and functionality that can emerge from humble materials and skilled hands.



Witnessing the art of making Basket in Traditional way

Limitations

Challenges Facing Traditional Basket Making:

1. **Time-Intensive Crafting:** Artisans dedicate significant hours to create intricate designs, limiting the quantity of baskets produced within a specific timeframe.
2. **Availability of Skilled Artisans:** Mastery of traditional basket making requires years of skill development. Challenges arise in finding and training new artisans as older generations retire or pass away.
3. **Natural Material Constraints:** Availability and quality of natural materials like reeds, straw, or grass can be influenced by climate conditions, environmental changes, or agricultural practices.
4. **Competition with Modern Alternatives:** Traditional baskets face competition from modern, machine-made products, impacting economic viability and consumer preferences.
5. **Preservation of Techniques:** Globalization may risk losing traditional weaving techniques, necessitating efforts to document and preserve these methods.
6. **Limited Exposure:** Difficulty reaching a broader audience hampers market opportunities, highlighting the need to explore avenues for showcasing and selling handcrafted items.

Suggestions.

Incorporating Modern Strategies to Enhance Traditional Basket Making:

1. **Collaborative Partnerships:** Forge partnerships with businesses to develop unique products that blend traditional basket making with modern aesthetics. Such collaborations can bring fresh perspectives and expand the reach of traditional crafts.
2. **Online Presence and E-commerce:** Establish a strong online presence for traditional basket making by creating a dedicated website or leveraging e-commerce platforms. This enables artisans to showcase and sell their products to a global audience, extending beyond local markets.
3. **Promotion and Marketing:** Devise effective marketing strategies to raise awareness about traditional basket making. Participation in craft fairs, cultural events, or collaboration with tourism initiatives can help attract visitors and customers, thereby increasing exposure and demand.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our visit to the Traditional Basket Production Center in Thonnurkara filled us with a profound appreciation for the artistry, heritage, and cultural significance woven into every basket. Witnessing skilled artisans meticulously crafting these baskets using age-old techniques was a testament to the enduring beauty and craftsmanship of traditional practices. Moreover, our interaction with the workers shed light on the challenges they face and the importance of preserving this rich cultural heritage. Overall, the experience provided us with valuable insights and left an indelible impression, reinforcing the importance of supporting and promoting traditional crafts in our modern world.

Our respected guide Midhun Sir with the Team members.



References, helps to prepare the field visit report.

https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=701582f13500d0e7&rlz=1C1GCEA_enIN1059IN1059&sxs