

'S & T Interventions in Traditional Crafts'

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Tamilnadu State Council For Science And Technology

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Center for Applied Research in Indic Technologies [CARIT]

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Objectives

- Digitising of Indic literature in various languages and using ICT based methodologies including context-sensitive concept based digital library searches to cull out the engineering and technological solutions embedded in these works.
- Exploring the 'psychoacoustics' of speech and music as detailed in Indic literature and thereby furthering research in the frontier areas such as Cognitive Sciences, Artificial Intelligence and Computational Neurosciences.
- Deploying multiple grammatical systems in every Indian language including Sanskrit to facilitate new interpretations of Indic literature which could provide fresh directions in the areas of metallurgy, space sciences, mathematical sciences, nano- and bio-technologies.
- To collaborate with resource centres in several Indian languages to further the above objectives.



Craft



- Skill in doing or making something, as in the arts; proficiency.
 - An occupation or trade requiring manual dexterity or skilled artistry.
 - Mental Skill or Quickness
 - Readiness and Grace in Physical Activity
- “Human Ability and Practice is the Focus”**

Crafts in Tamilnadu

[\[http://www.craftscouncilindia.org/crafts/crafts-tn.html\]](http://www.craftscouncilindia.org/crafts/crafts-tn.html)

- Stone Sculptures
- Celestial figures in Bronze (**Panchaloha**)
- Brass lamps
- Rosewood Carvings
- Sandalwood Carvings
- Country Wood Carvings
- Tanjore Art Plates
- Tanjore Picture Paintings
- Pattamadai (reed) mats
- Kanchipuram Saris
- Palm Leaf Crafts

Items for Temples

- Wooden, Silver and Golden chariots
- Wooden ornamental doors
- Gold / Silver Kavachams
- Vahanams
- Bells
- Idols
- Dwajasthambhams
- Silver sheeting work
- Gold Cladding Work on copper sheeting

Traditions of the Indian Craftsman

- The craftsman is the vital link between the divine principle and the worshiper or patron.
- If he infringes on Tradition, the craftsman shows himself not as a poor artist but he becomes, thereby, an unholy person
- What is really needed is an ambience for ‘Tapas’ for fostering Traditional Crafts !!!
- I am working on some pragmatic models at CARIT.



Thiru Iyyaswami Velar with the figure of Aiyanaar made by him
Photo - Sagarnoy Paul

Craft Artists

- Craft artists who excel at their skill and knowledge of their craft
- They are usually acknowledged as such by the members of the communities in which they practice their work
- The work has meaning for the members of the Community
- Many need help with the “nonperformance aspects of presentation” such as business [marketing in particular], financial, and legal matters.

Artefacts

- A pair of pillowcases edged with handmade tatting
- A wooden fish decoy carved and painted
- A palm frond braided
- A rag rug is woven to cover the dressing room floor
- A quilt is made as a gift for a new baby
- A miniature boat made
- A bent hickory rocker
- A stone wall
- A sculpture made out of workplace paint chips
- A dance shawl
- A NAMES panel.....

Most makers of these items do not call their work art or craft; they simply "just make things."

Key Problems

- Metrics for Success need to be defined very carefully.
- Community-building is sometimes a requisite pre-condition
- No Formal Process and Documentation for Transfer of Know-how **[CARIT]**
- Match up in ways that support productive partnerships
- Many Artists many not be Market Ready
- Personal and Professional Ethics.
Tamilnadu State Cooperative Handicraft Corporation is an apex body to fulfill the need of handicraft community.

Role of CARIT

Exploring India's achievements in

- Metallurgy [**Example : Panchaloha**]
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Architecture
- Physics
- Manuals for rituals are the earliest documents for many crafts in India.

Can help in formalizing some aspects of Crafts to facilitate transfer of know-how

Role of Technology - Internet

1. Marketing
2. E – Learning
3. E – Business
4. Collaboration
5. Building Communities

FUNREDES – A Case Study

[<http://funredes.org/>]

- **FUNREDES** (acronym in Spanish for *Fundación-Redes-y-Desarrollo*, or *Networks-and-Development-Foundation*) is a non-governmental organization based in the Dominican Republic and dedicated to the dissemination of New Information and Communication Technologies (NICT) in the developing countries, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Daniel Pimienta's highly successful community building and information networking project.

Ten Big Questions - 1

1. What is the Traditional Craft Sector ?
2. How and Where do the Artists Work ?
3. Do they make a living from the Art ?
4. Where do they get the services and supplies from ?
5. Does their work attract tourism ?
6. How does their work relate to the heritage of India ?
7. What ethnic, occupational, and religious influences ?

Ten Big Questions - 2

8. Are there foreign markets ?
9. What are the needs and issues facing craft sector artists, marketers, presenters, suppliers, and educators?
10. What role can foundations, government, higher education, and other organizations play in helping to strengthen traditional craft sector?

"Mama, I've finished with the washing and I've downloaded my English and Maths.

May I have my lessons under the tree?"

Thank You

Contact

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