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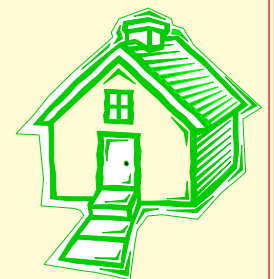
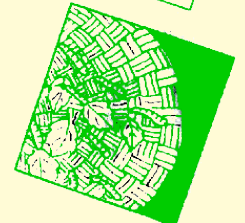
EDITORIAL

The writer of this article Smt. Pavithra G. M is an Research worker at Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru tried her best to bring out a survey report on Medar Community and Bamboo bazaar and marketing in Mysore. More than 4.00 lakh medar community workers are in Karnataka State alone but they find it a tough task to procure Bamboos either from government or private to lead their life.

In the past, Forest Department use to supply the required bamboo to medar community monthly at a very nominal cost. At present due to flowering of Bamboo and other biotic interferences, bamboo is not available even in the forest areas to supply.

Hence medar community people have slowly diverted their activities from Bamboo to earn their living from other sources. The article narrates the socio-economic factors of these communities at large.

Wishing the writer all the best



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A case study of Medar's Community Bamboo Bazar or bamboo market in Mysuru, Karnataka

Introduction

The bamboo market is commonly known as Bamboo Bazar where solely bamboo products are sold like canes, furniture, baskets ladders, bamboo strips, and slivers, etc. Mysuru's present population is 1 million. Mysuru is an all-time season for market hub because here rural-urban dwellers ratio is best suitable for the exchange of commodities. A rich supply of bamboo resources glued well with the artisans and craftsmen. It is found that the bamboo marketing area at three major locations. First is at the heart of the city bamboo Bazar, Medar block, Yadavgiri, second is at Nanjugalige, Lakshmipuram, and on the highways of Nanjangud and Hunsur at RMC Market, near APMC, Bandipalya, Hosahundi, Mysuru, Karnataka 571311.

Purpose of the study

- This is a survey-based study, deals with understanding the bamboo-based community background and marketing bamboo hub in Mysuru, Karnataka
- To know Medar's social, financial, cultural and literacy status had an open interaction with the cluster of bamboo workers in and around Mysuru.
- To bring the present situation to governmental and non-governmental organization's attention for the upliftment of suitable markets for their products also help them to provide better residential facilities, education, and employment

A survey on Medar's Community and Bamboo bazar/ bamboo market in Mysuru

SI No.	Name and Details	
1.	Bukkamma w/o Paapanna (Aged about 65) Door no. 2688 Medarageri, Nanju malige, Lakshmipuram, Mysuru, Karnataka 570004	A Medhar's family dependeng on making bamboo products for livelihood since generations. Her son completed SSLC and Diploma certified, based on that somehow he managed to find a job in a garage. Bukkamma have an open stall measures up to 10X10, they had four baskets approximately fifty ladders, twenty poles of 7 to 8 feet, and 20 poles of 2 feet length. People buy them for domestic purposes like to keep and carry flowers fruits vegetables and for other daily needs. (Fig. 8)
2.	Guru s/o chaaya and Devesha (Aged about 22-year) Door no. 2667 Medarageri, Nanju malige, Lakshmipuram, Mysuru, Karnataka 570004. 9611443026	He is a bachelor, education from the Medar community. His family got settled there for about 40 years, the only son to earn bread and butter to his family. He is waiting for suitable employment opportunity to earn better. He has an open stall measures up to 10X10. They had six baskets around 30 ladders, twenty poles of 7 to 8 feet, and 20 poles of 2 feet length. People buy them for domestic purposes like to keep and carry flowers fruits vegetables and for other daily requirements (Fig. 6).
3.	Gowamma, RMC Market, near APMC, Bandipalya, Hosahundi, Mysuru, Karnataka 571311	Around 46-year Middle-age women, involved in making bamboo strip for nursery and farm - plant supporting material. She has two married daughters and two unmarried sons. Her children are not continuing any bamboo related work. She displayed some bamboo trays and baskets (Fig. 5 and Fig. 7).
4.	Ratnamma, RMC Market, near APMC, Bandipalya, Hosahundi, Mysuru	She is a widow of 39-year-old, who has a son and a daughter about to marry, they completed SSLC. She shared her experience in financial situations and difficulties money liquidation in needs. She displayed some bamboo stalking material and baskets (Fig. 13)
5.	Basamma, RMC Market, near APMC, Bandipalya, Hosahundi, Mysuru	42-year old, her education discontinued primary school level, married at the age of 15 years. Her husband is not sharing any family responsibility. She has a daughter and a son aged about 18 years and 22 years now. She works in a team helping in the splitting of bamboo, slivering, removing knots, such bamboo splints made for supporting plants and creepers in nurseries. She displayed some bamboo stalking material and baskets (Fig. 10 and Fig. 11)

SI No.	Name and Details	
6.	Shiva APMC, Bandipalya, Mysuru	He is a bachelor aged about 24 years old, from the Medar community. Education is Diploma discontinued supporting family in financial crises who is good at academics and interested in studies. Usually he brings bamboo poles and stores nearby bamboo hut (Fig. 12)
7.	Ravi Lives in Mysuru (Chamaraja nagar), 861830405	A married young man of 33-year-old, who is SSLC discontinued. Regular Raw material supply from Chamarajanagar to Mysuru bamboo markets on demand. They involved in this as their part-time job rather than the main occupation.
8.	Siddaraju (Chamaraja nagar) 8105912435, Lives in Mysuru	37-year aged person High school discontinued. Bamboo marketing as a part-time job rather than the main occupation. He is a regular Bamboo supplier from Chamarajanagar to Mysuru -bamboo markets on demand.

This article throws some light on socio-economic factors and their prospects at Mysuru Bamboo markets. Source of Bamboo from 70% rural areas adjoining to forests 30% plantations or the gardens or nearby agricultural fields. Harvesting bamboo is not allowed inside the forest area. Wages paid for the harvesting of each culm costs about 0.22\$ per culm measures upto 35 to 40 feet. Transportation charges vary from the point of raw-material collection to the destination. Approximately 150 poles loaded per transportation in a medium-size vehicle (ape auto rickshaw). In bulk, if the total cost of the raw material is 39.41\$ to 65.68\$ ranges between unloading charges up to 3.94\$ to 5.25\$. The bamboo article normally has a pre-determined scale to fix the cost price of any bamboo article. Generally, most of them were under-educated and discontinued because of family, parental in general, most of them were under-educated and unable to pursue because of family, parental responsibilities. People identify the bamboo resource availability, collection of bamboos, transporting them to the processing unit. Men earn better wages than women. Many were addicted to alcohol and smoking. It is hard to run a family of 3 to 4 members by one's earning and managing everything under one roof depending only on daily wages. Among women, they have made small self-help groups. They involved in curriculum activities to earn some supplementary funds to support financial status like poultry farming. Most of them were members of Mahila Sangha, Grameena Sangha, etc., which also assist them in financial need. There is no other support for them at the corporation level neither through local panchayat/Taluk/ district levels. They are unaware of the ways to obtain proper channel on how to make a move accomplish their needs to achieve better situations in society. Few among them have taken bamboo marketing as their part-time job rather than the main occupation earning better when compared to people solely depend upon bamboos. Now no Medhaar parents/ families want their next generation to learn and continue their ancestral skills because of non-profitable occupations.

Challenges faced by Mysore Medar's Community Bamboo Bazar/ bamboo market

1. No better infrastructure facilitates storage and displays bamboo in all sorts of bamboo products.
2. Hard to maintain retainership as it is a non-profitable business, lack of facility ensures a quality. Less platform where artisans and craftsperson securing rewards for their performance.
3. As an occupational health hazard, they have a tendency to develop lungs and skin related diseases.

Some antique pieces specially weaved handicrafts are made only on demand it needs intensive care periodical maintenance and adequate air circulation to avoid fungus attacks due to moisture absorption or getting dried of high-temperature exposure for a long time. It may lose its durability, in turn, may ruin the aesthetic value of the article.

Bamboo Waste generated during the bamboo cutting and splitting stripping Bamboo knots, Slivers, twigs are burnt periodically (Fig. 13). The survey reveals that the use of bamboo products in various possible ways can be made mandatory instead of plastic-based products. As an illustration, they explained a story- During, 1995-2010 people endlessly fascinated towards the use of plastic may be the colors, shapes, and size also user-friendly such innumerable properties. Gradually corporation levels also started using plastic buckets ten times more than the cost of the bamboo baskets were efficiently used regularly and skilfully to maintain durability. Especially women replaced by plastic utilities to their home brought a drastic change mainly affected by many local community people who were survived only on their ancestor skills of occupation through family hierarchy because of no buyers. Later on, common-people focused on literacy ignoring skills. This situation had created unemployment and poverty exponentially. Tribal people sulked in a great depression. Lost their voices to ask for help from rehabilitation.

Conclusions

- Mysore bamboo market development needs strategic planning also a dedicated Medhaar's community teamwork to take initiate and the implementation of an action plan with constant support from the experts and government / non-governmental organization. Hence merchants and vendors' linkages could be strengthened.
- Recording and reporting these observations on recent developments may help in bringing out such a scenario to the relevant department's government and public notice, which creates awareness about the socio-political and religious thoughts. hence there will be more Provisions of wages, ration, statutory dues, healthcare, etc., to bamboo-based Artisans/Workers/ Growers uninterruptedly

Bamboo market at BAMBOO BAZAR, Medar block, Yadavgi, Mysuru, Karnataka 570001



Figure 1: cluster of bamboo poles, Bamboo curtain, Bamboo mats weaving for interior home décor, Flower baskets etc.,



Figure 2: Galleried bamboo Dustpan – mora, Pani puri bamboo stand/shelf. Flower baskets hanged on the pole – Hoovina butti used for temples.



Figure 3: Gallery of Ladders High quality, lightweight measures 5 feet, 10 feet and 15 feet height just varnished and arranged exposed to open environmental conditions



Figure 4: Ladders, bamboo baskets (Bin) – Kukke, Hamper/ crate – Hedige, Flower baskets, Rolls of Bamboo mats, bamboo broomsticks, Bamboo woven tray / plates/ dishes

Bamboo market at at NANJUMALIGE, Lakshmiapuram, Mysuru, Karnataka 570004



Figure 5 : Bamboo woven tray / plates-shaped locally called as "Mettakki tatte"



Figure 6: freshly woven baskets-crop shaped - used as bins used to for air-drying soaked rice and other grains. Also, in cleaning leafy vegetables.



Figure 7: Bamboo baskets – Panjara butti used in poultry farming



Figure 8: Bukkamma self-employed woman engaged in weaving baskets. She teaches to other youth who are interested to teach this art

Bamboo Market at RMC on Nanjangud Highways at APMC, Bandipalya, Hosahundi, Mysuru, Karnataka 571311



Figure 10: Harvested bamboo culms brought and stored in shaded area for air drying,



Figure 11: Women working in team, splitting of bamboo making strips – staking material



Figure 12: Front view of bamboo hut, a miniature grabs public attention.



Figure 13: Feet bamboo poles, Bamboo slivers splints, Bamboo knots, Bamboo twigs and shavings

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