

**MARBLE MOSAIC TRAINING  
FOR RURAL WOMEN,  
DISTRICT MARDAN**

Sponsored by:

**AHAN**



Implemented  
by:

**SEED**



## **Marble Mosaic Training Sample Development Phase - Completion Report**

### **Introduction**

AHAN is focused on providing much needed help in non-traditional work opportunities in the rural areas by adopting and indigenizing the One Village One Product concept. To achieve the said objectives AHAN intervenes through capacity building of artisans in terms of providing them technical help, build marketing linkages & enhanced marketing, building financial linkages, and provide design related input through engaging top designers of the country. AHAN initiatives are mostly carried out in collaboration with partner organizations including government agencies, donors and other NGOs.

SEED/AHAN collaboration was therefore agreed upon to ensure an effective and sustainable intervention to develop of skilled people who will be able to earn a respectable income for themselves utilizing their skills. It was for this purpose that SEED/AHAN launched Marble Mosaic Making project.

The Marble Mosaic Project carried out under SEED/AHAN collaboration focused on the development of income earning mechanisms for the selected community groups through skill enhancement trainings and capacity building initiatives. The training of marble mosaic capacity building project was designed by SEED/AHAN in District Mardan village of Sohbat Abad.

### **Objective of the Project**

The objective of the project was to build the capacity of the artisans to produce quality handmade products and thus provide them with a source of earning their livelihood. The trainings on marble mosaic making were developed by AHAN in a comprehensive manner so as to build the capacity of the trainees to an optimum level for this purpose.



**The history of mosaic art - Mosaics in the ancient world**

The history of mosaic goes back some 4,000 years or more, with the use of terracotta cones pushed point-first into a background to give decoration. By the eighth century BC, there were pebble pavements, using different colored stones to create patterns, although these tended to be unstructured decoration. It was the Greeks, in the four centuries BC, who raised the pebble technique to an art form, with precise geometric patterns and detailed scenes of people and animals.

By 200 BC, specially manufactured pieces ("tesserae") were being used to give extra detail and range of color to the work. Using small tesserae, sometimes only a few millimeters in size, meant that mosaics could imitate paintings. Many of the mosaics preserved at, for example, Pompeii were the work of Greek artists.

**Number of Trainings:**

Marble mosaic training was conducted under the project benefitting 50 person including 47 women and 3 men at village Sohbatobod.

**Duration of Training:**

The training was planned to be started in December, 2010 but it was actually started in first week of March, 2011 due to delay in transfer of funds. The total duration of the training was six months which provided ample time to build the capacities of the artisans to produce quality mosaic having market potential. The couple of first two months was sample development phase, during which the artisans were trained to adopt the skill of marble mosaic and to be able to produce the marble products. The last two months will be the production phase as per project detail.

**Training Components:**

During the training, the trainee passed the following phases successfully:

- Drawing and sketching.
- Cutting and gluing marbles.
- Design framing.



**Various Products made by trainees**

- Combination of colors
- Geometrical forms
- Mosaic medallions
- Flower mosaic
- Mosaic landscape
- Mosaic portrait

### Group dynamics:

**Number:** A total of 50 participants were selected after conducting baseline survey through the facilitation of SEED/AHAN team.

**Skill Level:** The skill level of the selected beneficiaries in terms of marble mosaic art was assessed by SEED/AHAN designing team and the trainer. However it was found that all the artisans were beginners in terms of marble mosaic and had never been involved in any training process involving marble mosaic products before.

**Marital Status:** Among the group of 50 selected for marble mosaic training, 5% were married while the remaining 95% were unmarried.

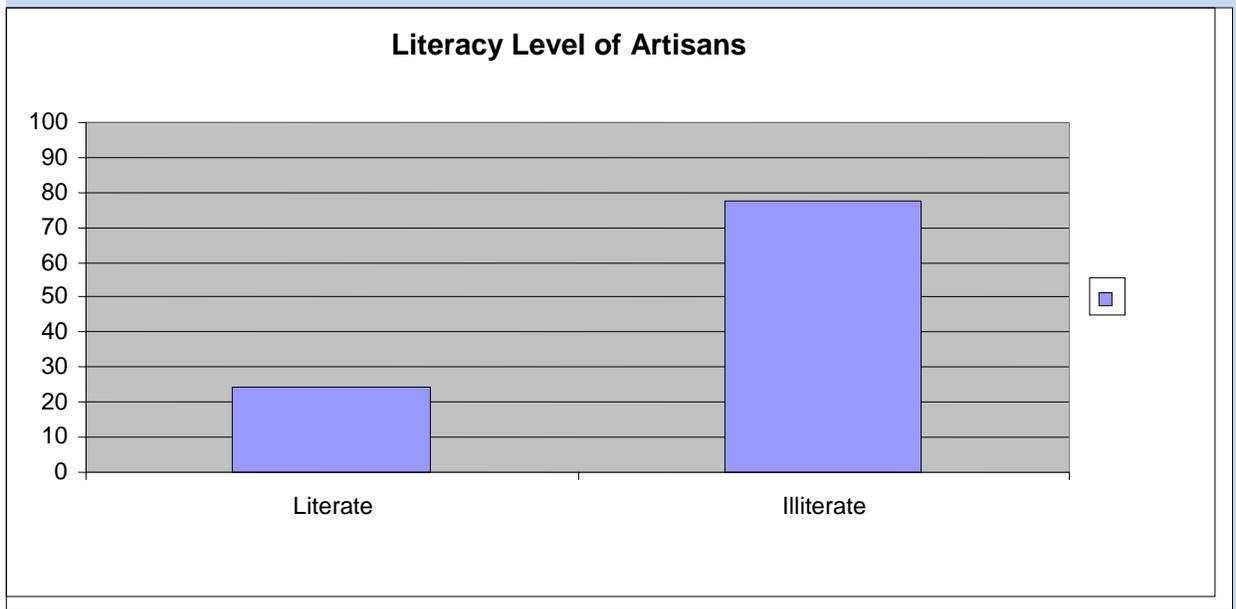
**Income Level:** All the female participants of the training were never involved in any income generating activity before the project and were only involved with household chores.

**Age Classification:** The participants chosen for the trainings were of different age groups. However a majority of them i-e 90% percent of the trainees were in the age bracket of 18-24, 30 percent in the range 25-31 and the remaining 10%percent of ages 32 and older.

**Education Level:** The literacy rate of the people of the area in general and females in particular is very low. However in order to develop successful role models, a mix of literate and illiterate females were chosen for the training. 25 percent artisans of the chosen trainees were literate while the rest of the 77 percent were illiterate. Out of the literate females those who attained education to the level of primary is 85 percent and only 15 percent of the beneficiaries attained education up to matriculation level.



Some more products by trainees



**Location:** The marble mosaic training was conducted at village sohatabad in district Mardan. Proper arrangement was made for the training of the participants. Training venue was selected from within that community where those communities reside. There were two main reasons behind that:

- The trainees particularly females feel safe in getting training at locations within their communities
- Substantial travelling costs of the trainees are saved by providing them training at locations within their communities.

It was keeping in line with the above mentioned objectives training venue was selected. The training venue was accessible and the communities identified were willing to come to these locations for training. The training venue was presentable as well for any dignitary/official visit.

**Trainer:** AHAN tends to design skill trainings in such a manner that the trainees are able to produce marketable goods. Thus not only design input is provided by AHAN product development team through its regional designer but master trainers are also hired for each training who can monitor day to day training sessions and guide the trainees to produce quality products.



Mr. Azhar Durrani was selected as master trainer for the sample development phase. The trainer was having best experience of marble mosaic art.

**Trainees Stipend:** The trainees need to be motivated and facilitated to participate in training sessions regularly. It was for this purpose that they were given a stipend of Rs.1,500 per month for the training. All the trainees being the poor people appreciated payment of monthly stipends.

### Training Detail:

The following topics have been covered for sample development phase.

- **Introduction , Orientation & Group formation:**  
A general introduction of trainer and artisans was conducted. Artisans were oriented about AHAN and training. They were told that the training was being imparted to them to learn the skill of marble mosaic and use it as an income generation source. Artisans were given an introduction of different types of marbles and its discovery. After this briefing groups were formed.
- **A lesson on tools and machines:**  
Trainees learnt about different types of marble cutting tools. Trainer explained the different parts of machines and taught the trainees how to fit machines to work, precaution measures were taught
- **A lesson on sketching over marbles:**  
Trainees learnt about the sketching and drawing on marbles. Trainer practically showed them different drawing on marbles which has taken 2 weeks.
- **Cutting procedures of marbles into different shapes:**  
Trainer showed practically how to cut marble into shapes according the sketch on it. To cut a marble according to a sketch is very tough task and it has taken 3 weeks on practicing.



Craftsmanship exhibited by beginners

- **A lesson on smoothing the hard and straight edges according the sketch:**  
Trainees were taught properly how to fine the edges of marble by using the spinning wheel to give the curved edges to marble piece. The trainees learnt how to give round and curved edges to marble.
- **How to glue and paste:**  
Trainees practiced how to apply glue on the surface of marble to join the cuttings of marbles to transform a design into mosaic.
- **Flower making for floor piece:**  
The trainees were taught how to make center of a flower and its petals to develop a floor piece of marble.
- **Color Combination:**  
The conception of the combination of colors were made clear to the trainees by showing them different paintings.
- **Geometrical designs:**  
The procedure of geometrical designs for floor piece was taught to the trainees practically.
- **Making centers for geometrical designs:**  
The trainees were taught properly how to make center for making a floor piece.
- **Sample development:**  
At the end of the sample development phase the trainees were able to produce the samples of marble mosaic the detail of products is given below:
  - Floor pieces
  - Vases
  - Flower pots
  - Wall decor
  - Home décor
  - Mosaic running borders
  - Table lamps

### Role of activist

The active and appreciable role of activist Mr. Shams-ul-Alam is the reason of the success of this training, Mr. Shams-ul-Alam is landlord of this village having an influential role in the community, his support the best step for the betterment of this village and he demanded for more skill centers for women in this village. Mr. Shams-ul-Alam is a helping hand for this success of this project.

One of our trainee Mr. Alamzeb have adopted the skill at best level as he has been hired as mosaic supervisor by SEED for production phase. The performance of Mr. Alamzeb is outstanding he is a primary school teacher having best experience in drawing. Mr. Alamzeb has planned to run a mosaic vocational center by the end of the project. He will hire the expert trainees of this center to produce the marketable goods for his center in this way the trainees would be able to earn their livelihood and the project will be remained sustainable.

**Completion of sample development phase**

Sample development phase of marble mosaic training has been ended and the samples have been developed as per detail.

S. No	Samples	Quantity	AHAN requirement for sample development phase
01	Floor piece	12	04
02	Wall décor	04	04
03	Home décor	08	08
04	Vases	08	08
05	Running borders	20	15
06	Table lamps	04	04

