

## **Apprenticeship Technical Training for Craftspeople**

### **Vision**

Craft as a sought after livelihood option for GenerationNext.

### **Background**

CCI believes that complementing traditional learning with further training in a contemporary context is essential for today's craftsperson to understand contemporary market needs. A successful pilot project with two stone craftspeople sent to the City and Guilds London Art School, UK, has led CCI to consider making it a regular activity with the concept of apprenticeship training within India and abroad.

### **Objective**

To make the craftsperson think and work in a contemporary manner using their traditional skills and strengths.

### **The plan**

To identify and provide promising young craftspeople the opportunity of advanced and contemporary apprenticeship training in India and abroad, thereby enabling them to take their vocation to the next level.

### **The process**

At the end of every project each year, the committee in charge of the project will decide on the names of the craftspeople to benefit from further training.

At the end of the financial year, a sub-committee in charge of the apprenticeship training programme will contact all craftspersons listed, discuss with them the most appropriate training, find the relevant ideal location, studio or designer they can apprentice with, and make the corresponding tie-up within the following year.

Training could range from a few weeks to a year or more based on the type of craft and intensity of training. Specific fund requirements will be generated at the end of each financial year along with the list of craftspeople selected for such training.

### **How the candidates are chosen**

With the main intention of such a programme being that the craftspersons scale up their specific skills, many varying basic skills and aptitudes are a prerequisite to such training. The criteria for

selecting candidates will be their skill levels in their craft, design ability, communication and leadership.

### **Monitoring progress of craftsperson**

The sub-committee of CCI will keep in touch with the candidate and the teacher or training institution, and monitor progress during the training period. After the training programme CCI will continue to monitor the work of the craftsperson for another two years.

### **Invitation**

We invite individuals and organisations like you to help further the training opportunities for young talented craftpersons, who can carry our rich craft tradition forward. CCI intends to increase the number of trainees to 10 per year by 2011. We need your support in reaching our first milestone.

As the scheme gathers momentum, we hope that an increasing number of craftspeople will be touched by your support in different craft pockets in India.

For more information, contact us at...

### **Story for Box**

Rajasekaran, a stone carver from Bangalore graduated at the Government College of Architecture and Sculpture at Mamallapuram. He worked in export firms and apprenticed under some eminent sculptors for seven years. He attended CCI's first stone workshop in 2004 and was selected by CCI for training at the City and Guilds of London Art School, UK. His work was noticed and he was selected to be part of the team for restoration work at the Windsor Castle. Today his yali is installed on the walls at St. George's Chapel in the Windsor Castle.

Of his experiences, he says "I realized that it was my responsibility toward other craftsmen to share what I had learnt. I have since then offered services during all workshops of the Crafts Council of India. This has further helped me grow and improve my artistic life as well. I have realized the importance of working with interest, making a product that looks good and is of use to the buyer."