

## **CCI Scholarships**

### **Vision**

Craft as a sought after livelihood option for GenerationNext.

### **Background**

CCI is concerned about the future of traditional Indian craft. The children of craftspersons, vital to the perpetuation of the craft, are often forced into the pressures of modern life. Economic constraints compel them to become breadwinners at a tender age, and they seek alternate livelihoods to the family tradition of the craft. This is done with parental guidance because the market for crafts is unorganised, elusive and non-lucrative.

Crafts Council of India wishes to step in and change this detrimental trend. In keeping with its long-term goals of assisting the crafts and the crafts communities in India, CCI proposes a unique scheme to benefit the next generation of craftspersons. The attached flowchart provides an overview of the CCI organization and processes.

### **Objectives**

CCI's scholarship scheme for the children of traditional craftspeople aims:

- To provide opportunities in both formal education and training in craft skills.
- To provide a value-added link between formal education and future enterprise/employment.

### **The plan**

The scheme has been initiated on a modest scale, with 30 children aged 8 to 18. Each child is allocated Rs.5,000 a year to cover schooling expenses and an annual camp. Support continues for a minimum of three years, at the end of which the child's performance is evaluated in both academics and craft skills.

Further support is given to the child who shows the right aptitude. Support continues till the child finds viable employment.

### **Mentoring**

CCI intends each child to be mentored by a CCI member. The mentor closely monitors the child's progress.

### **Annual camp**

Every year, a seven-day camp is to be held in Chennai. This is value-added time when child and mentor build on their interactions, even as specific craft skills are developed.

The exposure at the camp will be carefully planned .The curriculum is to be planned with experienced educationist, Amukta Appa Rao. There will be regular half-day sessions with spoken English, Montessori math, history and drawing. The drawing session will be with renowned Kalamkari artist J. Gurappa Chetty.

A wide range of disciplines like appreciation of colour, design, systematic planning and teamwork are also to be made available to the children.

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

CCI uses its network of NGOs and craftspeople nationwide and calls for names of children to be nominated. The names are suggested by organisations, usually with the economic criterion in mind.

A selection committee of CCI chooses the candidates on the basis of the region, the crafts, the gender and school grades.

### **Monitoring progress of children**

Bi-annual assessment is made by mentors through contact with the children state-wise. Samples of their craftwork are seen and school records checked. Efforts are made to meet the parents. Decision on further support is taken by the subcommittee in charge, based on the mentors' report.

### **Invitation**

We invite individuals and organisations like you to help educate a child for three years. CCI intends to increase the number of scholarships to 100 by 2009 and 500 by 2012. We need your support in reaching our first milestone.

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

For more information, contact us at...

### **Story in a box - Bhagban Subuddhi**

One of the first scholars chosen by the Delhi Crafts Council for their scholarship award in 1986, this exceptional wood carver (today 42 years old) is one of the few craftspeople who ensures that the benefits he derives from recognition is shared by others in the community. In his workshop in his village, he trains youth in the craft. He has incorporated the training he has received at CCI's wood workshop in orders received from other clients. He advises craftspeople to recognize and take seriously the opportunities that come their way. In his own words – "To me the Crafts Council is not just an organization or client. It has opened to me a larger family and I am happy to be part of this larger family." About the scholarship he says, "it has helped me see that not only should a product be good but one should also be open to understanding the needs of the buyer. There is no point in being rigid about what we make."