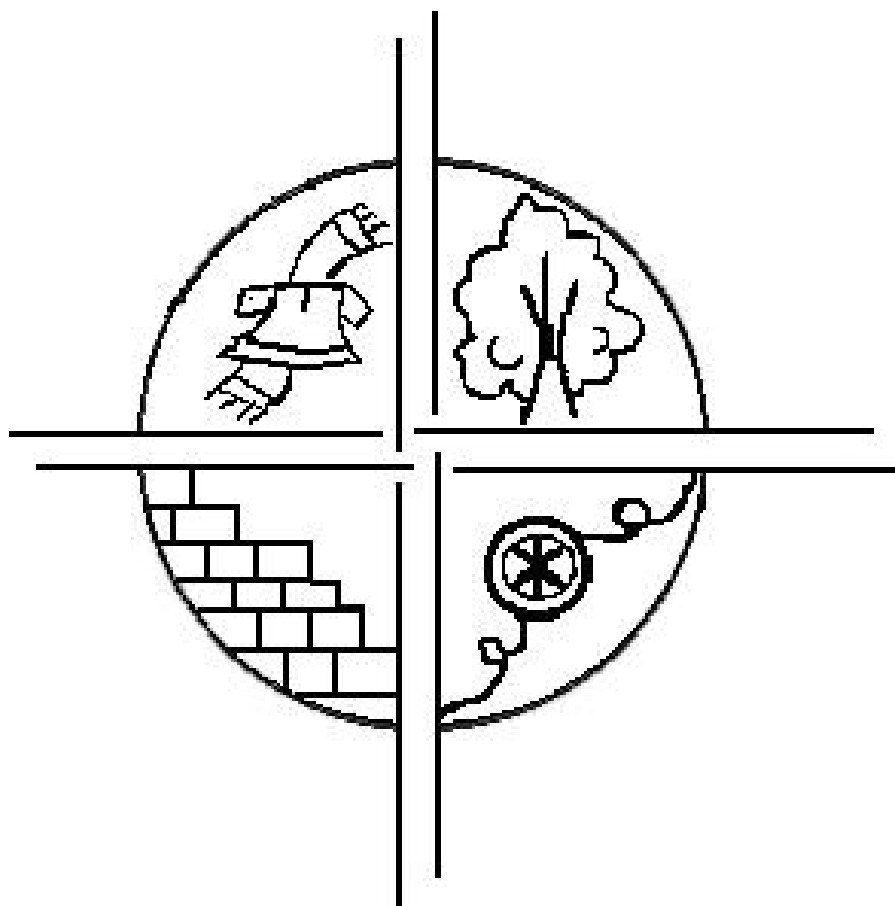


K.K.M. HANDWEAVING KURU KSHETR MANDAL



ANNUAL REPORT: - 2012-2013

K.K.M. HANDWEAVING
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Dear Friends,

Namaste and greetings from the KKM family!

All of us, the workers of KKM Handweaving are happy to give you our news, our progress and problems, our life and work during the past year. We continued with our handweaving activities as usual. Cotton yarn spinning on Ambar and Kisan Charkhas (spinning wheels), yarn dyeing in numerous colours and shades, filling dyed yarns into bobbins for warp making, fixing the warp onto the handloom, filling the weft yarns over the spools and then the actual handweaving, followed by finishing, knot making etc. Our weavers make Durries (mats) in different sizes, fabric of many kinds, table cloths, table mats and runners, napkins, towels, bed covers and baby carriers in numerous colour combinations and designs. Our tailors make a variety of bags, ruck sacs, aprons, purses, ladies and gents kurtas and many other tailored articles. Our export team makes parcel packets and bales as well as prepares all the export papers for dispatch by air mail and sea mail. Our two carpenters do the repairs and maintenance to keep our looms, wheels, tools and implements in good working condition.

All of us working in KKM are affected by Leprosy, treated and cured but left with permanent physical handicaps of varied degree and nature. Rejected by villagers and families due to the prevalent social stigma, each one of us, men and women, rendered homeless, were in search of food, shelter and medical care. While a majority of them have ended up as leprosy beggars, we were fortunate to have found our future in the Leprosy Rehabilitation Centres of KKM. We were provided with work in the workshops to earn our living with human dignity and at the same time an opportunity to learn and develop different skills while doing our jobs. Handweaving is the safest occupation in our particular physical state. With its long chain of process, handweaving, at all its many stages provides jobs to people with different levels of physical and mental abilities.

Our Founder late Miss Agnes Kunze Mataji from Munich, Germany had made a humble beginning with a few patients in the year 1962. Mr. Klaus Becker, a volunteer from Germany had greatly contributed in our beginning. He improvised a few spinning wheels and introduced spinning and then built our first loom and accessories and our very first handweaving had taken a start. The small unit had grown up and developed under the guidance of Mataji with her dedication and determination for Leprosy Rehabilitation. Our first workshop, built with our own labour, started functioning by 1967. In the same year, Mr. Pierre Reyniers, from Paris, France, had joined to assist in the mission of Mataji. He remained with us all along the decades with the sole aim of supporting us in our efforts. In the year 1971 a Federative Society was formed with all the workers as members and was registered in the name of K.K.M. Handweaving. From then on we were able to export our textile products to a few countries.

More and more needy have joined us. Other Leprosy settlements in Dehra Dun and Rishikesh have approached us, eager to follow our way of life. In the course of time, four producer groups have grown up along with us. By the year 1980 our total population reached a peak of 350 and then a gradual decline has set in as our aged and sick have passed away one after another. Unfortunately, some men and women have opted to join the groups of Leprosy beggars for better money. Health education and effective treatment has reduced the number of patients with handicaps and dependence on sheltered employment. Our present number is 147. Out of them 133 are working people and 14 are old and retired.

We almost entirely depend on exports to many countries: Europe, England, Australia, New Zealand etc. Many thanks to all our Trade Partners, World Shops, Friends Groups and Individuals who make all efforts to promote the sales of our textiles and give us valuable orders throughout the year that we always have enough work at hand. With the aim of producing on time, maintaining our quality levels, both our young and old, put in their hard work.

Agnes Mataji had left us for her heavenly abode in 1998. Her hard work of a lifetime for the cause of Rehabilitation of Leprosy patients will always remain an inspiration for us. Pierre Bhai has ever since taken up the burden of responsibility of running the activities of KKM, assisted by our seniors with long experience: Madan Singh, Rajender Singh, Noel, Madho Singh and Gopal Singh. Our concern remains as ever about who will carry on the work of Pierre Bhai.

We have 16 youngsters among us, from 4 to 22 years of age. 13 of them are doing well at school and at home. 3 older girls have joined a three year training course of General Nursing. Our children, active and lively, are a delight of our communities. Medical care has an important role in providing us relief from chronic and acute health problems and keeping us reasonably fit to go ahead with work. We have small dispensaries in our groups, with medical supplies and medical workers. For treatment of major problems we seek the services of Government hospitals.

Although our aim is to achieve self-sufficiency through work, it was not always possible in practice. We had to depend on financial assistance from various sources to fill our deficits. Beside the physical disabilities, our age has its effect, our once young and active workers, most of them now in their old age, are still at their respective jobs, but their productivity is comparatively low. Lower production means for us a lesser income and an increased dependence on donations and subsidies to sustain our basic needs. Many good and kind friends, well-wishers and organizations are always in our aid with their moral and material support, love and friendship, consistently throughout the years. Our deep gratitude to each and everyone of them. We look up to Mataji's blessings for our future with hope and faith.

Rumal Singh
(President)

K.Bangaraiah
(Co-Founder)

KRIPAON KI MATA LEPROSY COLONY (20012 – 2013)

Total number of persons: 74 (Men: 30, Women: 44, Children: 4, Retired 5)

Greetings from the people of Kripaon ki Mata (Lady of Graces) Colony. In the year 1962, Late Agnes Kunze Mataji, supported by Late Archbishop Joseph B. Evangelisti, O.F.M. Cap., had started this place providing food, shelter and medical care to a group of 26 leprosy patients. In the ensuing years, Mataji had introduced cotton yarn spinning, followed by handweaving and related activities, under the technical guidance of Mr. Klaus Becker, a German volunteer, assisted by Mr. Parman Singh, experienced in many trades.

After a few years, Mataji's initiative of earning our livelihood by productive work was followed by many other people living in Leprosy settlements around Dehra Dun and Rishikesh towns. Last year we have celebrated the 50 years' existence of our Colony, Golden Jubilee, remembering the great efforts of our pioneers invested for our future.

Throughout the year we have worked in good pace to complete and supply our ready production on time, in good quality. We were sad to have lost two of our inmates - Lok Singh, a good weaver, and Gulam Rasul who worked as a dispensary assistant, both have worked for 40 years. May God grant eternal peace to their souls. A man and a woman from our neighbouring State Uttar Pradesh have joined in our group. Both are middle aged and handicapped. But they are quick to learn the art of spinning and handweaving in our workshops.

We are thankful to Kurukshetr Mandal for providing us enough textile orders and also for assisting us in our various needs. We welcomed and enjoyed the visits of friends from many countries who have seen our work and our life closely.

Gopal Singh

Santosh Ram

KRIPAON KI MATA LEPROSY COLONY- PRODUCTION REPORT (2012- 2013)

Weaving:

Cotton Handloom:	
Fabric-Natural/Colour	3133 m
Dish Towel Cloth	1615 m
Loom Nivar (Tape)	641 m

Spinning:

Cotton: Count	kg
Ambar yarn	18. 300
No. 5	140. 100
No. 3	34. 450
No. 2	106. 650
No. 1	18. 375
Total spinners 10	317. 875

Made up Products:

Scarf	863 pcs
Bedcover/Tablecloth	279 pcs
Tablemat/Runner,Napkin, Dish Towel,Cushion cover, Bag, Towel	1974 pcs
Inkle woven Braid	850 pcs

Dyeing:	467. 000
Tailoring:	2425 pcs

Number of workers	69
Disabled	5
Total population	74

Shipping Report-Kurukshtr Mandal	
Parcel/Package/Bale	155
Shipment: Post & Freight	50

NAV JIVAN GRAM (2012 -2013)

Total number of persons : 20 (Men: 8, Women: 12, Children: 3, Retired: 2)

Namaste from the workers of our group. The year has been good for us without problems. We have been able to devote our time and energy to handweaving work and concentrate on quality and productivity. Four of our men are weaving on handlooms. Budhi Lal, besides weaving, does tailoring whenever required. Eight of the ladies are spinning cotton yarns on four Ambar Charkhas (special spinning wheels) with attached cotton processors. Ambar yarns are used by our other groups to weave fabric, stoles and table cloth.

We are sad to have lost our senior most and oldest worker Lata Ram who had worked since our beginning in the year 1976. He took retirement three years ago, along with his wife and lived in the care his grandson and family until his death due to old age. A middle aged woman Madhuli Devi from Tehri Garhwal District of our State Uttarakhand has joined in our group. She was deserted by her husband in spite of complete treatment for Leprosy and no visible deformity. Man Bahadur, a worker in our group had lost his wife three years ago. They got married with the consent and blessings of the community and KKM.

Our two little boys Deepak and Sohan are going to primary school. Our older girl Lakshmi, after completion of Intermediate has been fortunate to get selected for a three year training in General Nursing. We are thankful to KKM and Pierre Bhai for their assistance and encouragement in our children's education. Thanks for all the other aids we receive year after year.

Lakhi Ram

Kishan Lal

NAV JIVAN GRAM TEXTILE PRODUCTION REPORT (2012 – 2013)

Cotton Spinning:

Yarn on Kisan Charkha (count2)	165.700	kg
On Ambar Charkha	235.850	kg
Total Cotton Spun	401.550	kg

Tailored:	
Bed Cover	48 pcs
Bags	88 pcs

Cotton Weaving:

Table mat/Table runner	958 pcs
HB Bag Cloth	117 pcs
Fabric	1540 m

Number of workers	18
Disabled	2
Total population	20

BRAHMAPURI LEPROSY REHABILITATION CENTRE

Total number of persons: 37 (Men: 21, Women: 16, Children 8, Retired 7)

Greetings from the people of Brahmapuri. All along the past year our 30 working men and women continued with spinning, dyeing, weaving and tailoring. Our weaving on nine looms is mostly cotton and wool Durries (mats) with thick yarns and stoles (baby carriers). We are doing yarn dyeing in the same level as before to supply to our groups for weaving. Four people are doing tailoring, three are making Inkle loom tapes and Card woven designed tapes. Others are doing cotton and wool spinning and jobs related to weaving.

This year, one man and two women in their old age were taken back by their families to be looked after at home, in the village. We welcomed the gesture of concern. We were very sad to have lost Umeshanand, in spite of physical handicaps, he was a good weaver and also rendered his services as a priest and care taker of our Shiva temple. May his soul rest in peace. On top of his other jobs young Sushil is entrusted with the priesthood, he is learning to perform. As always, we celebrated our festivals Janmashtami, Shiva Ratri and Dipawali. Also the anniversary of our Centre on the 15 th August, which is also the Independence Day of India.

Lakshmi and Jai Ram are doing medical work in the same spirit as they have started in the year 2000. Daily health care is very essential, especially in our particular situation where our majority is very old and we are 8 km. away from town, without an easy transport. We are grateful to Dharmakshetra Society for providing us the couple to our service. Pratima is provided with artificial leg, she is happily walking and doing her cooking and washing. Thanks to the two solar water heating systems recently installed, we enjoy a hot water bath. Thanks to the good will of a local gentleman who gave us a water cooler-dispenser, it is very soothing in the hot summer months.

Our six children are going to school, studying in class 1st upto class 9th. Two older girls have joined a three year training in General Nursing. We give thanks to K.K.M. Handweaving for everything they are doing for us, providing work, paying for our production and giving us different aids and subsidies. Our thanks are always to Pierre Bhai for his love and concern. We remember our good friends, old and new for all their support through all these years.

-Rajender Singh (Raju)

BRAHMAPURI L.R.C. PRODUCTION REPORT (2012 – 2013)

Cotton Spinning:	1285 kg	Wool:	
Woven:		Spun:	29.300 kg
Handspun Durries 4 sizes	552 pcs	Woven	
Stoles (Fabrics)	495 m	Handspun Durries	50 pcs
Dish towel/Bag material/ Cushion Covers etc.	925 m		
Fabrics for home use	295 m		
Designed Tape	300 m		
Inkle Ribbon & Card woven	332 pcs		
Dyed yarns	870 kg		
Delivered to KKM	310 kg		
Tailored:			
Ruck-sacs, Shoulder bags, Super market bags	308 pcs	Looms operating	9
Press & Zip bags, Pen purses	225 pcs	Number of workers	30
Cushion Covers	696 pcs	Total population	37
Aprons	10 pcs		

TARA PARBAT LEPROSY PROJECT (2012 – 2013)

Total number of persons : 16 (Men: 8, Women: 8, Children: 2)

With Namaste and greetings from Tara Parbat (Star Mountain), we wish to report that the year went normal for us, with our work in the same pace as in the last year. Our weavers produced Durries (mats) in 4 sizes, fabric with Ambar yarn and bed covers, on four looms. Our spinners produced fine yarns on 2 Ambar Charkhas and course yarns on 5 Kisan Charkhas. As a whole, our textile production was not better than in the previous year, we were in deficit and had to spend from our savings.

This year too, we have lost many working hours, a number of our men and women had health problems and had to go to hospitals 13 km away, for consultation and out-patient treatment. A lot of time is consumed in these trips, thanks to KKM for the car given to us, it helps save time and effort. We are sad for the death of our very old worker Jaimal Singh Dhami of old age, he worked with us for more than 20 years.

Thanks to the high capacity water tanks installed two years ago, financed by KKM, for storage of water from our small source, we have sufficient water for ourselves throughout the year but no water for dyeing purpose. We could not afford to do the flooring repairs we intended to do this year, we hope to do next year. We were pleased to have a number of friends visiting us, they saw our work and our living conditions and appreciated the scenic beauty of our mountain.

It is heartening that 7 children of our group brought up and educated here, are living a decent life working in different professions, some got married. Our thanks to KKM for all the assistance and encouragement for them in the 27 years ever since Tara Parbat came into being in 1986. At present, Suraj is doing college studies and Ravina is going to secondary school, in class 6. We wish them success.

Hukum Singh

Madho Singh

TARA PARBAT TEXTILE PRODUCTION REPORT (2012 -2013)

Cotton Spinning:

		Bed covers	5 pcs
Durrie yarn	1188.000 kg	Fabric	878 m
Kisan Charkha yarn No.5	17.300 kg		
Ambar yarn	102.300 kg		
		Looms operating	4
		Ambar Charkha	2
Woven:		Number of workers	16
Handspun Durries (4 sizes)	697 pcs	Total population	16

Treasurer's note:

Treasurer's note on the financial year 1.4.2012 to 31.3.2013

Thanks to the textile orders from staunch Trade Partners and a couple of renewed ones, and the local god-sent ardent purchasers of our famous Ambar yarn fabrics, we ended the year with a minimum deficit in spite of market prices of daily food items and necessities increasing quarter after quarter.

Health care of our senior members in their old age is always a heavy responsibility we need to carry, although expensive and time consuming. Services of local Government hospitals are no longer free. In some cases we have no alternative but to be treated in private hospitals, costly but reliable. Our most valid members do their extra duty of looking after their elders with due respect.

During the year, four of our very senior members chose to retire from their active work, they are well looked after by their spouses, children and neighbours, two of our cured patients chose, under their own family's offer to go back to their original home villages. This trend is very encouraging, after decades of dwindling new admissions, though this year two new, handicapped, half cured middle aged patients were admitted into the Kripaon ki Mata Community. So, little by little, the fruits of 50 years of work appear after budding and flowering, life circle unfolding in a wonderful way.

Again, thanks to all the past and present actors!

- Pierre Reyniers



1962 to 2012