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Title : A stitch in time: New design tool for embroidery artisans

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Developed By NID-IIT Duo

From geometric kharek to intricate suf, the identity of every Kutchhi woman is woven in the vibrant stitches of types of embroidery. However, several women are forced to switch to making applique handicrafts after when they cross 35 years of age due to their failing eyesight.

Thanks to a new design tool, sewing complicated and detailed patterns on fabric will no longer be a stress-ridden task for such women.

The tool has been developed at a four-week intensive design anthropology workshop at National Institute of Design (NID). Led by professor Elizabeth Tunstall from Swinburne University of Technology , two students Agam Arora of NID and Seemant Chaurney of IITHyderabad, worked to enhance the creativity and marketability of these artisans.

The team came up with a portable design tool that comes with a six-inch magnifying glass. Artisans can simply place the tool above the fabric and work in ease. The tool is also fitted with LED lights to enable artisans to work in areas with no electricity . They can also make ergonomic changes in the tool according to their height.

Students Abraham Zacob and Kanchan Gohil also developed a QR code to help these artisans grow with new techniques. Once you scan the code, it will take you to sufhub.com that has portfolios and other details of suf craft.

The workshop was part of a larger 'Living Blue' project, an international collaboration between NID, Swinburne University of Technology and China Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, to focus on the role of designers in natural indigo dyeing.

This month, Indian designers and researchers Subrata Bhowmick, Saktivel Vivapathy , and Dr Shilpa Das will go to Australia for a one-day international symposium on natural dyeing and sustainability as well as attend a two-week workshop on indigenous Australian bush dyeing. The project will continue with Chinese indigo dyeing research in October this year.

