

PRESERVING PRECIOUS SKILLS – PASSING ON THE TRADITIONS

In June, July and August of this year, ITRHD organized two intensive workshops in Dhanau village (80 km from Barmer), as part of ITRHD's focus on ensuring the sustainable survival of endangered craft forms. The Dhanau workshops concentrated on embroidery and applique, and involved young women. Senior master craftswomen worked with the students over 45 days, training them in the basic skills of each craft as well as providing market knowledge. The both workshops included 30 women from 9 to 30 years in age for embroidery, and from 12 to 30 years for applique. In addition to the full-time teachers, a senior master artisan visited for input and observation.



The workshops were ably organised and managed by our Barmer-based Consultant, Shri Yashovardhan Shandilya, under direction of Trustee Amrita Singh. ITRHD project staff member Arvind Yadav visited Barmer to help facilitate and document.



In addition to providing a new source of livelihood, the workshops are striving to preserve unique arts for which Barmer was famous, and to encourage their sustainability in the younger generation. Continuation of these programs and further increasing the skills will remain a priority for the future.