



**Akancha Bhushan Barla**

Beneficiary TEDP

Tribal Artist

**Sohrai Painter**

**My father is my biggest inspiration to take up Sohrai-paintings,  
says artist Akancha Bhushan Barla**

Akancha Bhushan Barla, 20, is an artist and student of Gumla district, Jharkhand. The artist, who makes *Sohrai* paintings on paper, belongs to the Mahli tribe.

The student-artist participated in the Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program (TEDP) workshop recently, where she learned how to do business online through various platforms like *WhatsApp*, *Facebook*, and other e-commerce sites. The TEDP workshop is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), which provides a platform for tribal artisans to make the transition to digital business and learn online selling.

Currently, she is residing in Ranchi to complete her fashion designing course from IFFT. She makes *Sohrai* paintings when she is not busy with her studies. Talking about how she got interested in paintings, she said, “My father is my biggest inspiration. He is a *Sohrai* painter. I have seen him making those paintings as a child and whatever artwork I make today is because of him. I have learned so many things from him and the art of *Sohrai* painting is one of them.”

As a *Sohrai* artist, her father has participated in various exhibitions in Delhi, Gujarat, and Haryana. She had sent her artwork to one of the exhibitions with her father, where her painting was sold for Rs 2,000. As a student who’s also an artist, she makes sure to give at least an hour of her time to her paintings everyday.

Akancha is yet to explore the digital opportunities as she is completing her graduation, but she plans to launch her Facebook page soon after her exams.

