



Renu Rose Bilung
Beneficiary TEDP
Tribal Artist
Kohvar Painter

How TEDP helped Renu generate money from her artwork

Renu Rose Bilung, 32, resident of Hazaribagh, which is a city in the Indian state of Jharkhand. Renu, who belongs to the Oraon tribe, is a teacher by profession, who teaches students – from Class 6 to Class 8 - of a private school. Her deep interest in handicrafts has made her adept at making *Kohvar* paintings.



The teacher and handicraft artist participated in the Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program (TEDP), where she learned to conduct business online as well as sell her products there. The workshop is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)

and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); it provides a platform for tribal artisans to make the transition to digital business and learn online selling. She says, “I haven’t attended any exhibition, competition or seen many artists together, but that day I was so happy to see them from different parts of our country. I was inspired that there are artists, like me, who work so hard. I got to see so many different artworks, learned so many things, and even shared our problems”.

Renu creates *Kohvar* paintings on cloth, paper, bedsheets, and saree among others. Talking about how she got interested in painting, Renu explains, “As a child, I used to see my mother painting walls of our mud house before any festival. After my marriage when I shifted to Hazaribagh, I got associated with the Sohrai Samiti group, headed by Alka ma’am. She taught us how to paint with a brush. It was difficult to get a grip of the brush in the beginning, but now it’s quite convenient.”

She makes sure to give at least two hours a day to her painting. The artist



believes that the COVID-19 period provided an opportunity for her as she began dedicating her time to practicing the art form. With the help of the Sohrai Samiti group,

she is going for a national level camp in Odisha, where 200 artists from all around India are coming to participate. She said, “I am very happy that I will get national-level exposure and will meet so many artists.”



Apart from this, her great grandfather-in-law owns huge farmland where they cultivate potatoes, onion, and vegetables for the family, while they cultivate gladiolus (sword lily) and *jhingri* mushroom for selling.

Renu Bilung hopes that after the TEDP program, she will be able to earn from her painting as well.