



### **Shanti Devi Meena**

Beneficiary TEDP

Tribal Artist

**Gota Patti**

### **TEDP helps gota patti maker to earn with dignity**

Shanti Devi (30) started working with her husband Gajanand, tucking or stitching cut metallic pieces of *gota patti* on a fabric. Educated up to the fifth standard, this shy homemaker was empowered when introduced to online marketing training under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTa) as a part of its Tribal Entrepreneur Development Program.

Her day starts at five in the morning, and after finishing the household chores, she sits down to complete this unique embroidery with utmost dexterity. Most of her work is done at

home, along with other women from her sparsely populated village of Booj, near Jaipur; it is predominantly inhabited by the people from the Meena tribe.



Most of the work includes *aari* and *zardozi* on *lehenga* and *saree*, crafted mainly on the *lehariya* and *bandhani* prints, and deftly embroidered on delicate fabrics of georgette, chiffon, cotton and *kota doria*.

First, they make a *khaka* (wooden framework) and then stick cut pieces of designed *gota* leaves or *patti* on them. Next, the women stick and embellish, if required, with pearl, *kundan* and *meenakari* to add value to the handicraft.

Shanti informs that this metallic *gota* work, also known as *Lappe Ka Kaam*, is done using a particular needle. From simple to elaborate patterns such as paisley, flowers, peacock, elephants and other animals are formed using the cut figures of *gota*.

Usually, a single artisan takes a day to finish a simple *kurta*-work for which she earns about Rs 300. One simple saree work earns Shanti around Rs 400. But, if heavy *gota* setting and embellishments are required, then the cost goes up to Rs 3000. It takes around 3–4 days to complete such a work. A *lehenga* cost is Rs 5000 for artisans with only *varaqa* (filigree) work and takes 7–8 hours for a handful of artisans to finish across 3–4 days.



Digital marketing training has opened a world of opportunities for artisans. Post her online training, Shanti feels confident that she can showcase and sell her handicrafts to more people now, and while working from her own home, earn with dignity.