



**CREATIVE DIGNITY**

SIKKI CRAFT

VOICES FROM

BIHAR



## INTRODUCTION

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#CreativeDignity is an unprecedented national movement of India's leading artisan skill-based development organisations and master artisans in response to the devastating effects of the Covid 19 pandemic on millions of rural artisan manufacturers across India.



(Apindra Swain's art shows mythological figures wearing face masks)

RELIEF  
REHABILITATION  
REJUVENATION

# SIKKI CRAFT

## The Golden grass of Northern Bihar

Using Sikki grass was an integral part of the living heritage of the women of the part of Northern Bihar, which is known as Mithila. The Sikki grass craft has thus been existing for hundreds of years, and it is difficult to ascertain exactly how old this craft is. This craft being used for commercial use has been a more recent phenomenon, over the last couple of decades. Earlier it was crafted for household usage and even for bridal trousseau.

The sikki is characterized by its wonderful beautiful golden colour, so it is also called as Golden Grass elsewhere. In Orissa for example products are made purely in this grass (it is called Golden Grass in

Orissa), without the use of munj grass as a core forming material like in Bihar. With the digitisation of life itself to such a high degree, women in Bihar have diverted their attention from this traditional craft. This has decreased the popularity of forms such as Sikki. Another reason for this decline is the abundance of industries in the surrounding areas. Industrial environments are unsuitable for the growth of Sikki grass. Even though the form is on a decline, it is practised in certain areas such as Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi. In order to revive the form, one needs to look at a compromise between traditional and contemporary implementations of it.

Although Maithil women have been making beautiful utility products for centuries, now they are aware of the choice of the customers and are trying to make different products according to the demand of the market with respect to the design and shapes. They make different types of containers with caps to store grains and food, small boxes (Pauti) to keep jewellery and dry fruits and other costly items, trays (Mauni) for fresh fruits and flowers etc. The variety of products ranges from the traditional masks of Deities to modern mobile cases. Some craftsmen are now experimenting to make sikki products without using munj for coiling purposes.

# THE TECHNIQUE OF WEAVING SIKKI:

Sikki grass is grown in the wet and marshy area around the rivers and ponds in North Bihar. It is grown in the area of heavy rainfall. This golden grass is usually collected by Harijans in the rainy season. The dry grass is then sold by them at the Haat or local market by the foot. The munj (another grass) and khar are other important raw materials for the making of sikki grass products. Munj is much cheaper and more abundant, so it is used to give basic shape and strength in sikki products. At first munj is coiled and then it is covered with sikki grass. Other raw materials are colours for dyeing of sikki grass. These colours are easily available in the local market. The last and most valuable raw material is water,

which is used to soak the sikki grass and make it more pliable as it is coiled around the munj.

To make the sikki grass usable, it is first cut from its base and then dried for some days. Since the flowering part of the stem of sikki is not used for crafts making, it is discarded and the remaining portion of the sikki is sliced and shaved with the help of a knife or by teeth. The sikki is characterized by its wonderful beautiful golden colour, so it is also called Golden Grass. It is also colored into different shades of colours e.g. red, yellow, green, deep blue, purple, and pink, etc. with the natural golden colour to make the final product more attractive. Before use, sikki is soaked

in water to make it more pliable as it is coiled around the munj. The colouring is achieved by boiling sikki in different colours. Now the main form is shaped with munj or khar (another type of grass) to provide the basic shape and additional strength to the sikki product. Due to its abundance, generally munj is used for coiling purposes in Mithila region of Bihar.



## SELECT

Pick the products you're interested in using this catalogue. Make note of the quantity, size and colours.

## PLACE ORDER

Once your selection is confirmed, please share your selected product code with the artisan along with quantity of chosen products. Also share your billing & delivery address for your invoice.

## PAY

Pay using bank transfer, NEFT, Google pay or even Paytm. You're directly paying to the artisan you're buying from, therefore the method depends on them.

## RECIEVE

Once the payment is received by the artisan, your product will be packed and dispatched by the artisan. Cost of packing and dispatch will be at actuals.

# SHOP & SUPPORT

**WHATSAPP:**

**+91-8051877106**

**PAYTM:**

**+91-7488162829**

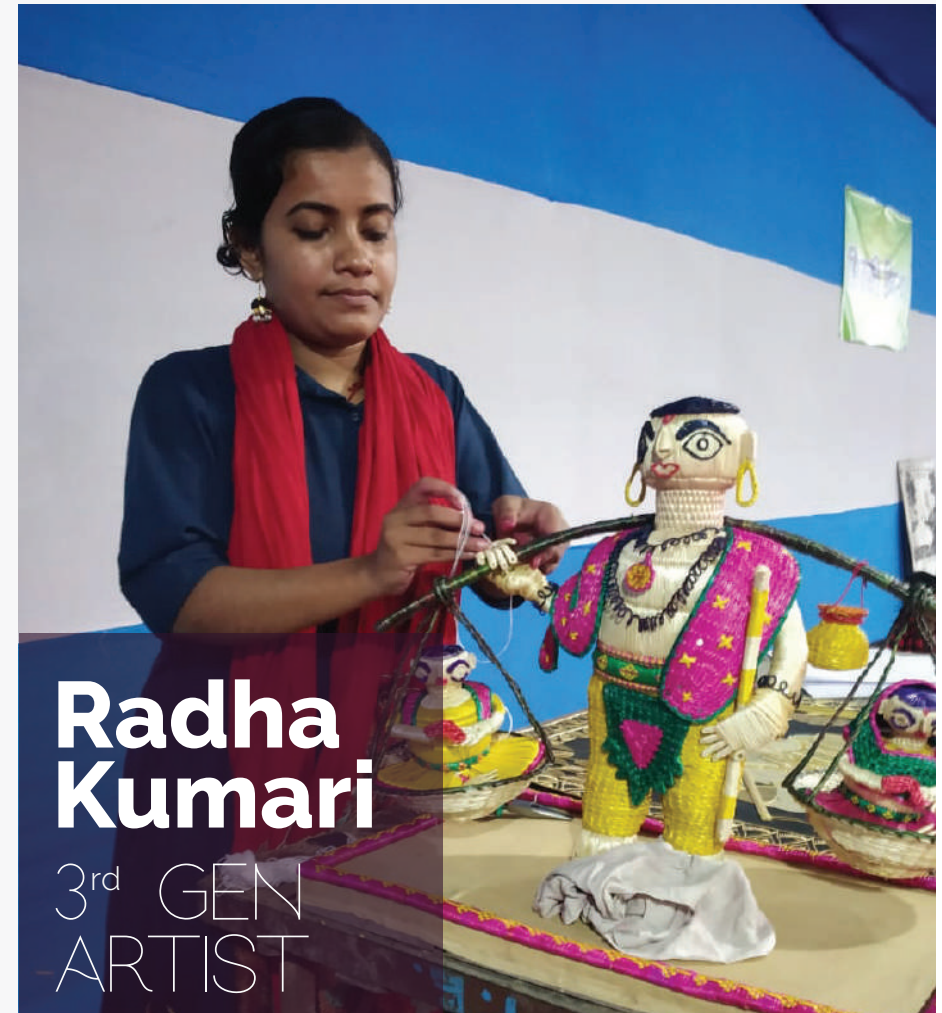
**RADHA KUMARI, STATE BANK OF INDIA  
BRANCH: SARISAB-PAHI  
(VILLAGE & P.O. : RAIYAM  
BLOCK : JHANJHARPUR,  
MADHUBANI DIST.  
BIHAR 847404)**

**A/C NO. 32101401127**

**CIF NO. 86222244742**

## ARTISAN PROFILE

**Radha Kumari** an extremely skilled sikki weaver, 22 is a third generation artisan of her family. She was born and brought up in a village called Raiyam in Madhubani, in the heart of Mithilanchal. It is quite uncanny for girls her age of the current generation taking up the craft as there's very limited scope to it, at least in the minds of the artisans who have been practicing it for generations. Commercial usage of sikki is a recent phenomenon. Radha learnt the craft from her grandmother and her parents, all of whom are state awardees for Sikki Craft. Her mother, Sudhira Devi also won a national award alongside a state honor. It is interesting to know that despite being from marginal backgrounds and skilled in this craft, Radha and her two sisters never abandoned their formal education. Radha is in fact, an English Literature Graduate. Through her hardwork and dedication, she hopes to show people the lost value in traditional crafts. Radha is also very open to new product explorations and strongly advocates the idea of replacing plastic with sikki products wherever possible.





Radha working with Sikki Grass





# SIKKI WEAVE CRAFTS OF NORTHERN BIHAR



ARTWORK



POTS, PLATES &  
BOXES



DECORATIVES  
PIECES



ACCESSORIES

# FAQ

## Regarding Bulk Orders & Design intervention

### How much stock is available with him?

-she currently has approximately 15-20 of each product ; looks forward to repeat orders for all her products and more.

### Is he willing to work with designers / stores and to change and adjust their designs to outside specifications?

-Very eager to learn and develop new designs and colourways even for smaller order quantities.

### What's his MOQ and how much time would it take for him to prepare fresh orders?

-His MOQ is 20 pieces each in the sizes. The Lead time to complete products will be determined completely by the product as each piece is different. On an average, two weeks to a month for around 50 pcs. 75% advance payment is a must with balance 25% at the time of delivery.

### What are the specifications of the pricing provided in the catalogue?

-Rates mentioned in the catalogue are valid till stock lasts. For newer designs please enquire prior to placing your order. Rates are exclusive of packing and transport and remain same for bulk orders.

## POTS, PLATES & BOXES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04P01  
SIZE: 6X3"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 250/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04P02  
SIZE: 2X6"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 750/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04P03  
SIZE: 3X8"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 750/-

## POTS, PLATES & BOXES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04C01  
SIZE: 3X2"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 400/- per set

PRODUCT CODE: BH04B01  
SIZE: 4X3"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 200/- per pc.

PRODUCT CODE: BH04C02  
SIZE: 6"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 100/-

## POTS, PLATES & BOXES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04P04  
SIZE: 8X4"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 500/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04PL01  
SIZE: 14"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 500/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04BG01  
SIZE: 3X2X11"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 750/-

## POTS, PLATES & BOXES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04B02

SIZE: various

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 60/- to 250/-

depending on the size

PRODUCT CODE: BH04B03

SIZE: 2x2"

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 60/- per pc

PRODUCT CODE: BH04B04

SIZE: 2x6"

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 200/- per pc

## DECORATIVE PIECES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04FP01  
SIZE: 5x10"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 850/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04FP02  
SIZE: 2x10"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 500/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04FP03  
SIZE: 2x10"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 500/-



## DECORATIVE PIECES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AL01  
SIZE: 12"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 750/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AL02  
SIZE: 10"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 1000/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AL03  
SIZE: 12"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 1000/-

## DECORATIVE PIECES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AL04  
SIZE: 4"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 500/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04AL05  
SIZE: 4"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 1000/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04AL06  
SIZE: 12"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 1000/-

## DECORATIVE PIECES



PRODUCT CODE:: BH04AL01

SIZE: 12"

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 400/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04LS01

SIZE: 9X11"

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 1500/-

## ARTWORK



PRODUCT CODE: BH04WA01  
SIZE: 20x15"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 4000/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04WA02  
SIZE: 9x12"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 2500/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04WA03  
SIZE: 19x6"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 1000/-

## ARTWORK



PRODUCT CODE: BH04WA04  
SIZE: 9x12"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 4000/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04WA05  
SIZE: 12x14"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 4000/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04WA06  
SIZE: 9x12"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 3000/-

## ARTWORK



PRODUCT CODE:  
BH04WA07  
SIZE: 9x22"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 3000/-

PRODUCT CODE:  
BH04WA08  
SIZE: "9x22"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 3000/-

PRODUCT CODE:  
BH04WA09  
SIZE: 12x18"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 3000/-

## ACCESSORIES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS01  
SIZE: 8"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 500/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS02  
SIZE: 8x3"  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 3000/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS03  
SIZE:-  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 350/-

## ACCESSORIES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS04  
SIZE: -  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 200/-



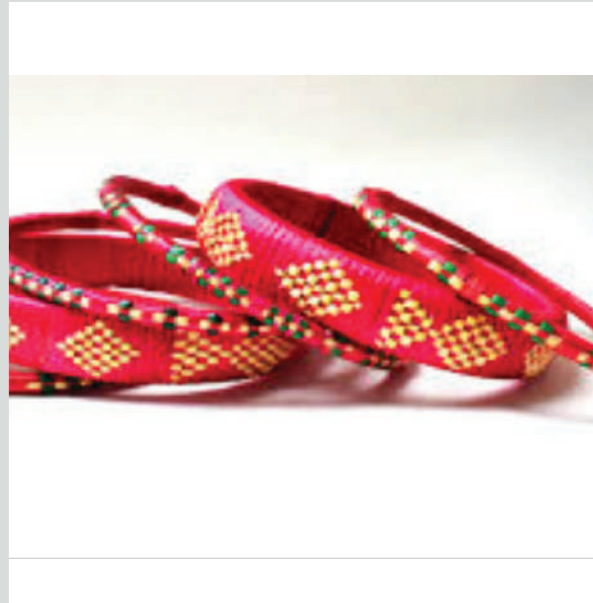
PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS05  
SIZE: -  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 200/-



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS06  
SIZE: -  
MATERIAL: Sikki Grass  
PRICE: 150/-



## ACCESSORIES



PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS07

SIZE: -

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 100/- set of 2

PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS08

SIZE: -

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 350/-

PRODUCT CODE: BH04AS09

SIZE: 9x7"

MATERIAL: Sikki Grass

PRICE: 1000/-





**SIKKI CRAFT**  
(Mrs. SUDHIRA DEVI NATIONAL AWAEDEE)

All the product photos have been taken by the artisans themselves. Kindly look beyond the pixels to appreciate their craft & effort towards a digital future.

# VOICES FROM BIHAR

SUPPORTED BY:

**Veena Upadhyay**

Founder Secretary Srijani Foundation  
Bihar State Anchor for Creative Dignity  
+91-91625 34610

**Swati Jain**

Associate Professor, IICD  
Project Mentor, Creative Dignity

Publication Design by **Vasu Vasudha Jha**  
supported by **Athang Samant**





## CREATIVE DIGNITY

This movement has been endorsed by (in alphabetical order):

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CONTACT:

Helpline: +91 97416 54931

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