↓ Recording details of books delivered to a member

↗ Pratibha Library in the Mothakkara village
KABANI

KABANI

to me, I extended my love for reading to travelogues, travel books and books about different destinations across the globe. The confidence that I gained by interacting with members of the library helped me in my interactions with guests from around the world. That, in turn, helped me improve my English.

Some people hesitate to take membership in our library as it costs them ₹25. Those who can afford the registration fee pay for themselves. But there are also those who love to read but cannot afford the fee. I pay their registration fee from my earnings so that everyone with a passion for reading gets books to read.

Some members feel that I should be paid an additional amount for walking to their houses, but the excitement on the faces of readers when they see me with my books are my rewards. I feel very content that at 63 years of age, I am able to walk up to 4 kilometres every day, delivering books to people and being their 'walking library'. ☻

info DESK

How to get there

Mothakkara is a hilly village located in the Wayanad district in the state of Kerala. Wayanad is part of the Western Ghats.
Nearest airports are Kannur at 86 km (2.5 hours by road) and Kozhikode (Calicut) at 107 km (3 hours by road).
The nearest railway station is at Kozhikode (Calicut). The town closest to Mothakkara is Mananthavady.

How to get involved

⊠ Volunteer with Kabani to help in research, campaigns, community tourism initiatives, and technology programs.

⊠ Support Kabani's sustainable community travel efforts by visiting Wayanad and joining the activities organized by Kabani.

For more details visit *www.kabanitour.com*

Things to do

⊠ The Banasura dam and Banasura spice gardens are the main tourist attractions.

⊠ Kabani has developed and trained a cluster of homestays, storytellers, and transporters in Mothakkara to promote sustainable community tourism. The activities that Kabani organizes give you an opportunity to enjoy the local culture and nature. These include a day-long walk in Wayanad through villages and paddy fields, a hike to Banasura hills, a visit to cake-making and Ayurvedic medicine-making units, and a visit to Athikkolli hamlet of indigenous tribe.

ABOUT THE STORYTELLER

RADHAMANI K. P.

hails from the Mothakkara village in Kerala and is a frontier campaigner for sustainable community development programs in her village. She has profound knowledge of native medicinal plants and flora and is a biodiversity conservationist in her village. Radhamani also wears the cape of a 'travelling librarian', making books accessible to women and children in her village. She is also the President of the Panchayat-led women society group, Kudumbashree, and heads the organic farming group 'Pournima' which promotes organic farming in her village.

Supported by - Kabani

JAIPUR RUGS: WEAVING KNOTS OF COMPASSION

To express what is in one's heart sounds really simple, yet it is a complex pursuit. In the Hindi language, this desire of expression is defined aptly by the word — *Manchaha*. And much like the blend of simplicity and intricacy that this word represents, it is also an effort in the universe of sustainable development by the popular carpet manufacturer, Jaipur Rugs.

The *Manchaha* initiative isn't only about creating handmade rugs, it is about evincing the innocence of the rural people who make them, and the craftsmanship that hides behind each creation. Jaipur Rugs initiated this effort to tap into the endless and untamed creativity in rural India and gave the people a platform of creative expression and empowering them by telling their stories through the rugs they create.

Each of these rugs is handmade and has more than 200,000 knots — each knot telling the story of its maker one word at a time. One of the most celebrated rugs is called *Machine ki Duniya*. It is weaver-designer Sundari's depiction — through unconventional motifs — of her desire to fly, as well as her gratitude to the farming machine that yielded greater harvest. Her rug was awarded the Carpet Design Award, 2021 for its incredibly unique design and concept, beating several big design houses.

For tourists and aficionados alike, Jaipur Rugs, along with airbnb, offers day-long excursions to the villages where you can learn the craft of weaving directly from the weavers. Looking at the detailing and intricacies that go in their work, and enjoying joyful conversations full of wisdom and inspiration is going to make you feel humbled. The barriers of language and culture fade away as you become part of their simple lives for a few hours.

WEAVING KNOTS OF REDEMPTION

After the success of the Manchaha initiative in rural Rajasthan, Jaipur Rugs is now bending bars and getting the prisoners in Jaipur, Dausa and Bikaner Central Jails into its fold under the *Freedom Manchaha* program.

It is a livelihood opportunity for inmates which will encourage their creative expression, and healing. This initiative is not only about get trained in the art of carpet weaving making rugs. Through *Freedom Manchaha*, the intention is to turn disengaged inmates into creative individuals capable of making handmade works of art, thereby providing livelihood opportunities to them.

For Jaipur Rugs it is a way to give a sense of purpose to the inmates and the appreciation of their work stand proof that beauty can manifest from a place of gloom. Jaipur Rugs aims to create unique works of art by nurturing the latent creativity of the inmates, turning them into artists and creating a lasting and easily replicable solution.

Conceptualised by Kavita Chaudhary (Design Director, Jaipur Rugs), the Manchaha and Freedom Manchaha initiatives have won numerous prestigious global design awards such as the German Design Award, EDIDA (ELLE DECOR Design Award) Carpet Design Award, iF Design Award, Kyoorius Design Award and European Product Design Award, all while going up against mega design houses and billion-dollar product companies from across the globe.