



## Popular Metal Handicrafts Of Pemberthy Village A Historical Study

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	<p>India, the cradle of culture and civilization has a rich source and origin of traditional arts and crafts that have endured for centuries, remaining authentic, innovative and ever creative, prized for their exquisite mastery and precious antiquity. The industry of metal sculpture has become very popular in Indian society and it has a great history of about five thousand years. The sculptures located in every temple are the obvious evidences for the heritage of the handicrafts in south India. Pemberthy village in Telangana state has a such history of superb workmanship of its metal workers or Vishwakarmas, which can be traced back to the grandeur and glory of Kakatiya Kingdom. Metal craft attained the pinnacle of perfection in the high degree of skill displayed by the master craftsmen. Pemberthy is said to have more than 600 craftsmen and artisans were renowned and recognized for their talented workmanship in Metal craft. The skill survived the ups and downs of the political and natural set-backs and the post-independence era witnessed resurgence of the art, which had oriented itself to meet the changed demand pattern that emphasized on the utilitarian rather than the exotic sincere efforts of Sri Ayla Achary in approaching the government for financial assistance enabled the art to flourish in its present glory in pemberthy. The transition from silver and gold to brass metal ware was initiated by this master-craftsman with Pemberthy being the pioneer in introducing brass crafts. Even though there are some challenges in terms of proper wages for the welfare of artisans and craftsmen, the patronage of the Pemberthy village popular metal craft is reassuringly encouraging.</p> <p><b>Key words:</b> Metal sculpture, Brass crafts, Vishwakarmas and Kakatiya kingdom.</p>

### INTRODUCTION:

The present study is dealt with the importance of metal handicrafts and art waves of the Pemberthy village. The main theme is that to study the “History of the handicrafts work” of the village, how the people have depended on the profession and how they are enriching their art and skill from generation to generation its significance and present condition.

Many of regions in India are popular for the art ware handicrafts and the extraordinary skill of the Indians recognized by the world. The Industry of metal sculpture become very popular in Indian society and it has a great history about five thousand years. The present Pemberthy village has a special role it. The people of Pemberthy village as they naturally selected the special role it. The profession of making “Art ware pieces” with metals became the professionals of metal sculpture. All sorts of things from a small idol to the great modern decorative items are being moulded in the hands of the village people.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states are also famous for the metal industry. There is a great progress in this area for the handicrafts in general, particularly for “Nakashi Art ware”. Especially, Telugu people are historically having the heritage of sculpture. The sculptures located in every temple are the obvious evidences for the heritage of handicrafts in south India. The Kakatiyas of Warangal also encouraged the culture of constructing the temples. And thus, many professional artists were originated in the many villages. In such way Pemberthy village of Telangana is a significant symbol for the “Art and Sculpture” with metals. The artifacts and decorative items made have been distributing all over India from “Lepakshi and Golconda” as the centres, which are under control of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana handicrafts development corporation.

### **PEMBARHTY VILLAGE – A BRIEF HISTORY:**

Pembarthy village is located on the national highway of Hyderabad-Warangal. It is about 5km far from the Jangaon district's head quarter.

According to "Jaina pilgrims", "Stala purana" and the senior citizens of the village opinions on the name of "Pembarthy village", they are believing them as they have been told by the earlier generations. One of them is Pembarthy word is the combination of two words Prem and Bharthy, once upon a time it was the area of full forest. The Jains came there from north many people filled in the little area. Jains main theme is prem means love and affection, Bharthy means filled. So, Pembarthy means love and affection filled. And other opinion on Pembarthy is derived from "Pem and Bhakthi" mean vast devotion. There also one another story that Pembarthy means: "Pem means Pedda or vast and Bathi means light" So, Pembarthi means vast light. These are only opinions not proved by any historical evidences. According to the census report of 2011, the total population of the village 5200. In that male population 2550 and female population 2650. Male percent 45% and female percent 55%. Total voters of the village 3400. And the total land 2000 acres approximately.

The people of village are working with the great skill of the metal sculpture. Their work and art ware-artifacts are internationally popular. The wonderful items like, Kakatiya thoranam, Charminar, Lepakshi Nandi. Mayuri, Ajanta, Ellora, Konark, Nagarjuna Konda, Silvership, Sun etc., are some of the symbols for their skill. The idols of lords or Gods like, Sri Rama, Sri Krishna, Balaji, Ganesha, Buddha etc., and the Shields, Panjas, Plies, Medals and the figures of national leaders, Mementos etc., have been making regularly from the last 100 years in this village we can see the number of families which depends upon this profession there. It is not the surprising thing that each threshold of the village has at least an artist of art ware and handicrafts.

### **A RICH HERITAGE:**

India, the cradle of culture and civilization has been the rich source and origin of traditional arts and crafts that have endured for centuries, remaining authentic, innovative and ever creative, prized for their exquisite mastery and precious antiquity. Along with the extraordinary wealth and diversity of styles in the form of artistic expressions, each area or region in India has specialized crafts depending on the availability of natural materials such as wood and metal. Traditional crafts have along history because of their inherent value, perfection of design and the distinctive style that is unique to each particular region. In such ancient art is the metal art of Pembarthy a picturesque village in the Jangaon district of Telangana State.

### **METAL ARTWARE – THE PRIDE OF PEMBARHTY:**

Metal craft is not only among the finest, but as also one of India's most ancient craft's, dating back to more than 5000 years Metals and Alloys like Bronze and Brass were used in ancient societies to make vessels for storage or decorative-ware that cover a whole range of objects from the commonest utensils to the most intricate by crafted master pieces covered by connoisseurs of Art all over the world. Pembarthy village in Telangana state has a such history of superb workmanship of its metal workers or Vishwakarmas, which can be traced back to the grandeur and glory of Kakatiya Kingdom. Metal craft attained the pinnacle of perfection in the high degree of skill displayed by the master craftsmen. The vishwakarmas of Pembarthy village were renowned for their rare skill, both in stone and metal sculpture and were patronized by the rulers for building temples, Creating Vigrahas, Vahanas and other artistic accessories of temple sculpture. The brilliance of their artistry is evident in the magnificent Vigrahas which are examples of moulded crafts and 1351 eerthi Mukha. Prabha (Pinnacles) which adorn many famous temple of South India.

### **ARTISTIC CREATIVITY-ADDING MORE VALUE:**

The Splendour of the Kakatiya period gradually gave way to Nizam supremacy, ushering a change in the art-ware of Pembarthy. The Vishwakarmas in the Nizam period designed and crafted articles of domestic decorations and home use like. pandans, Nagardans, Itar pots, shangaridans, custom made in Silver and Gold. During this magnificent period the number of artisans families at Pembarthy is said to have gone up more than 600 craftsmen and artisans were renowned and recognized for their talented workmanship in Metal craft. The skill survived the ups and downs of the political and natural set-backs and the post-independence era witnessed resurgence of the art, which had oriented itself to meet the changed demand pattern that emphasized on the utilitarian rather than the exotic.

**Note:** In the earlier days of Nizams rule, the families of Vishwakarma of the village used to make the cooking vessels like. Binde, Gangalam, Koppera, Adda, Kagu, Mara chembu, Kadem chembu, Pedda chembu, Thapala, Sarva, Besan, Gundu ginnele, Kola ginnele, Dekshalu, Bucket etc., had been made for so many years for the people of the surrounded villages and even for the far areas. That was the basic live-hood work for the villagers particularly for the above said Vishwakarma families in Pembarthy village, then gradually, the well developed work and skill turned into field of handicrafts artware by giving the birth to number of varieties of art facts.

## **FORMATION OF VISHWAKARMA BRASS, COPPER AND SILVER INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY-LIMITED:**

In 1956, under the All India Handicrafts Board, New Delhi, Ministry of Industries, Government of India has permitted an Handicrafts society in Pembarthy village in 1958. The Society was registered on the name of Vishwakarma Brass, Copper and Silver Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd., 1958/488. And society building was completed in 1978 with central government funding under supervision of Ayla Aachari, the famous artware artist of this village. In between 1961-75 years, All India Handicrafts Board had arranged the training programme with Rs.40 stipend per month for the 7 members batch of artisans. Afterwards many batches went on the support of Ayla Aachary. In those days only men were used to work in the handicrafts. But, after 1975 there was occurred a radical change, then slowly women were entered into profession by the conditions. In 1978-80 Ragi Eshwaramma daughter of Ayla Parameshwara chary has completed her training with the central training certificate and she joined the profession as first women in the village after death her father. In this way the 13 members batch entered in the profession.

### **Those women were in between period 1990-2000:-**

Ragi Eshwaramma	Ayla Nirmala
Bejjenki Hymavathi	Girija
Upendra	Shobha
Parvathi	Kavitha
Kaluri Maheshwari	Anna Purna
Ragi Anitha	Lakshmi
Lavanya and others.	

Above mentioned about 15 women, who trained and have been working in the making of metal artifacts. It remained as the basic employment to them. Many women artisans are doing the same to support their husbands in the financial needs. Poverty and necessity made them to enter into the work and sincerely in the field. It lead the origin of wonderful and skillfulness artists in Pembarthy village.

### **THE NATURE OF WORK:**

The nature of work is divided into two types,

1. Self working at Home:
2. Working at society building for piece wise remuneration

Some people used to work at their home. They pick up the needed material from the market and they made some sample items like., shields, cups, name plates, decorative items and other types of artifacts-artware products etc.,. They get some orders from the institutions and individuals on the various occasions. The level best business depends upon their relationship and popularity. Here there is no limit of time to work. In the season, the workers have to work for more time in a day. Some times they work day and night. Almost 100 families are working in this manner. They can get Rs.5,000-20,000 per month in average.

1. Some other people are working under the management of the shop owners and society industry building. They are getting piecewise remuneration for their work. The shop owners and society management are get orders from the institutions and individuals from the out of the states. So, they take the orders and they appoint some workers for the work. The appointed workers will get piece wise remuneration.

### **A UNITED ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SOCIETY:**

The formation of a single co-operative society and establishment of a common facility centre and a splendid showroom for display of exquisite Pembarthy artware is a significant milestone. It is the sincere efforts of Sri Ayla Aachary, in approaching the government for financial assistance that enabled the art to flourish in its present glory. The transition from silver and gold to brass metalware was initiated by this master-craftsman with Pembarthy being the pioneer in introducing brass crafts for decorative domestic and utilitarian purposes. In this way recent back the government of India provided financial assistance Rs.1.80 crore for the development of textiles and Handicrafts in rural areas. The Telangana state handicrafts development corporation also supported for handicrafts and textiles in the rural areas. In this way the second generation master-craftsman and state awardee, Ayla Soma Narsimha chary is conducting Training programmes for interesting village people with the government founding as a salary based supervisor under the supervision of co-operative society of Pembarthy.



### SKILL BASED TRAINING PROGRAMMES – I-Phase:

The society has selected nearly 40 members for the skill development programme with Rs.7200 stipend per month from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017 as the 4 months term. The 40 members are divided into two groups for the Training under designer Anand Babu Manohar and training masters Ayla Soma Narsimha chary and Ayla Venkateshwarlu.

### TRAINEES:

1	Ettaboina Nagaraju	- 30years	11	Nidigonda Ravinder	30years
2	Edu Venkatesh	- 44 years	12	Medaboina Narsimhulu	35years
3	Baika Satyanarayana	- 44years	13	Tupakula Shyam Sundar	52years
4	Yata Srinivasa	- 42years	14	Tupakula Ganga Raju	40years
5	Neermala Ram Mallaiah	- 45 years	15	Balagani Prabhakar	35years
6	Gangaram Krishnam Raju	- 38years	16	Meniganti Ravindrachary	35years
7	Keshapuram Nagaiah	- 35years	17	Banda Sathaiah	35years
8	Medari Yellaiah	- 50years	18	Gonela Sudhakar	30years
9	Kamatam Harishankar	- 35years	19	Devaraboina Madhu	35years
10	Nidigonda Raju	- 35years			

### TRAINEES – II phase: From: 17 October 2017 to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018

1	Kathula Manga	-30years	11	Atmakuri Yashaswini	-20years
2	Keshapuram Jyothi	- 28years	12	Atmakuri Jyothi	-30years
3	Atmakuri Srilatha	-30years	13	Sankati Kanthamma	-35years
4	Sankati Bhavani	-28years	14	Pillitla Neeladri	-28years
5	Sankati Parvathamma	-40years	15	Kathula Yellaswamy	-30years
6	Sankati Renuka	-30years	16	Mekala Babu	-30years
7	Neermala Menaka	-25years	17	Atmakuri Sunil	-20years
8	Burgula Saritha	-20years	18	Sankati Ramamurthy	-35years
9	Cheripelli Kalyani	-20years	19	Sankati Ashok	-35years
10	Atmakuri Rani	-20years	20	Atmakuri Prabhakar	-35years



**THE MEMBERS OF VISHWAKARMA CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY: 2017-2018**

1	Malyala Vedantha Chary(President)	42 years	11	Maheshwaram Madana Chary	55 years
2	Rudroju Sreenivasa Chary(Secretary)	44 years	12	Ayla Chinna Ananda Chary	55 years
3	Peddoju Sambeshwara Chary	55 years	13	Rangu Narsimha Chary	46 years
4	Ayla Sadananda Chary	55 years	14	Kuroju Srinivasa Chary	35 years
5	Ayla Rambrahma Chary	55 years	15	Malyala Janardhana Chary	47 years
6	Ayla Sreenivasa Chary	45 years	16	Tangallapelli Nagabhushanam	55 years
7	Kaluri Veeranna	32 years	17	Tangallapalli Kalidasu	52 years
8	Tangellapalli Veerabrahma Chary	50 years	18	Rangu Laxmana Chary	55 years
9	Maktala Narsimha Chary	43 years	19	Syed Khaliq	50 years
10	Poloju Madhu Sudhana Chary	35 years	20	Medari Ramachandram	55 years

Above mentioned all types of handicrafts artisans are working with different metals and alloys like., Copper, Aluminium, Silver, Gold, Bronze, Brass, (pancha lohas) etc.. And experts in the making of artware wood and so on.

**IMPORTANT MATERIAL:**

**METALS:** Brass, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Aluminium, Copper, Iron and Others.

**MATERIALS:** Brass sheets, Copper sheets, Aluminium sheets, Ply-wood, Wood, Polishing material-Soaps, Brushes etc.,

**CHEMICALS:** Nitric Acid, Sulphur, Cyanide, Navasaram, Yeligaram (for melting and weilding)

**GENERAL MATERIAL:** Tamarind pulp, Soapnut extract, Sea sand, Molding section carbon, Calcium Powder, Soft soil, Sarachch Castrol oil, Fat, Wood tools and etc.

**PANCHA LOHAS:** Brass, Copper, Silver, Bronze and Gold.

**MACHINES:** Buffing polish machine, Zigsa (Wood cutting machine), grinding machine etc.,

**TOOLS:** Attem Lakka(Lac) = Guggilam+Red soil + Oil (Castrol oil)+Attem tools+General tools+General Hails+etc. Gunsutte, Patragannu, Adda Gannu, Koram Dockely, Malkigannu, Pattakaru, Cutters,(4 types), Files(3 types), Hand drill machine, Pogarlu, Kanumolalu,(Finishing), Scales, Compass, Paper, Pencil, Black Powder, Fevicol, (Gum), Memento wood (plywood), Brosoliquid polish, kaivaram, Axeblades, Blores, and etc.,

**HAILS:** Kanumolalu, Batta molalu, Gatra molalu, Chakkatalu molalu, Vampu molalu, Side sukki, Kairu molalu, Netva molalu, Diamond molalu, etc.

The combined strength of artisans and the co-operative Society have been able to provide ideal working conditions to more than 200 families of craftsmen contributing considerably to their economic uplift and further flourishing of the art.

Today, emerging as a creative and richly innovative art, moulding itself to modern trends and preferences, the vast variety of vishwakarma artcrafts encompass a wide range of articles which include Mayur lamp shades, Hanging lamp shades, Decorative plant pots, Dashavatara panels, Navagraha and Astalaxmi panels, in oblong and round shapes, intricately carved illustrated panels, depicting the Geethopodesha Scenes from the Mahabharatha and Ramayana created with highly embossed nakshi work. Icons, Utsava Vighras, Vahanas and temple decorative ornamental articles are also crafted in intricate moulds of solid brass. The pambarthi handicrafts and Metal art-ware are marketed through the Lepakshi Handicrafts Emporiums and Golconda Handicrafts Emporiums all over Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States and Handicrafts Development Corporations all over the country also.

**PROMINENT CRAFTSMEN:**

**Ayla Aachary:** He was the founder father of Metal handicrafts and artware of Pambarthi village, Who would for the extension of the handicrafts industry at Pambarthi. He worked hard in the establishment of vishwakarma Brass, Copper and Silver, Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd in 1958. Regd No-488; for the professionals. He had trained at Bangalore in metal handicrafts. He tried his level best to extend the work in the village. He had honoured with national award. Finally, he known as a master handicrafts may in the state. Two years back he was passed away.

**Bejjenki Hymavathi and Ragi Eshwaramma:** Their families have been continuing the field from the last 60years. They said “our fore-fathers used to make Khujas, Bindes, Pandans, Chembu and Cooking Vessels then, our fathers used to make Thoranas to the temples, Dhvajasthambas, Cinematroplies and Mementos, We have been working in the field from the last 30 years. Now we are making the online designs giving the importance to the taste of the customers.

**Mohd-Farooq:** His fore fathers also involved in the metal artware. He has settled in the work of handicrafts respecting the hereditary profession. He said, I have been working in the industry from the least 10years. Particularly, the traditional items, mementos, vases have been making in our hands. Most of the “Panjas” of the Peerila Panduga(moharram) in Telangana State have been distributing from this village.

**Ayla Soma Narsimha Chary:** He is working in the field from the last 25years. He is the president of Pambarthi Hastha kalakarula Samkshema Sangham, Regd No- 376/2012 and Abhivandana Social Service

Society. He is taking interest in bringing the awareness among the professionals to use the Schemes government concerned. He has received many awards. He also got state award for his artifact with caption with "Ham Sab Ek hai" We are all one. He said, it will be useful and helpfulto the craftsmen. He is also known as a master craftsmen and trainer.

**Tupakula Shyam Sunder:** He is working in the field from the last 37years, the completion of his training in 1981-82. He used to work at home. He works on the orders of the institutions an individuals. He said, "we are getting the nominal wages. We are able to give the food and cloth to our families. But, we are not able to develop than the situation. We need the support from the government through some Financial Securities".

**Malyala Janardhana Chary:** He has completed his training in 1982, by his masters Laxminarayana and Bucchaiah. He joined in the field of Handicrafts making from 1982 to present day with 35years experience. And he has studied in degree in 1991. He said, "Now a days, for the growth of handicrafts depends on government support and market demand are very needful". He got best craftman award in 2014.

**Rudroju Srinivasa Chary:** He was joined the profession in 1988. His master craftsman Ayla Achary. He got state award in 2001 for best artifact is dashavatara wall panel. Usually, he earn the per month wages Rs.20,000 only, by the hardwork.

**Medari Ramachandram:** He was joined the handicrafts field in 1979. He also completed training by Ayla Achary. He is one of the member of society and also ex-sarpanch of this village.

**Malyala Vedantha Chary:** He has working in the Handicraft field from last 25years, completion of his training in 1993. State Telangana Bhavan total work is done by him. He has the present President of Vishwakarma society of village.

### CONCLUSION:

In the beginning the handicrafts and artware profession is taken by limited people called Vishwakarmas in the village. After wards, it extended to the other families by the formation of vishwakarma society. Now, this profession is the only livelihood for almost 200 families in the village. Men and women are commonly taking an part in the work.

There is a sad thing among this great extent of this history that even though people are the part of wonderful sculptural skill, have been suffering from the poverty. Many families are below the poverty line. They are giving birth to the world famous artifacts, artware and handicrafts. But, they are notable to satisfy the pain of hunger. It is because, they are being paid only the nominal remuneration and it is like labour charges. The mediators, merchants are giving the orders for the objects and they are developing by the business. But, the artisans of the village remaining in same position. Although, the skill is still uprising, many of artisans are suffering from the unemployment and low wages. In exact words, the hardwork and blood of the artisans has been robbed by the brokers and corporate businessmen.

Whatever it may be the patronage and promotion of the metal handicrafts and artware has revitalised the creative imagination and skill of the craftsmen, many of whom have been honoured by national authorities as master craftsmen. Talent and expertise has been rewarded with Awardsand recognition and the popular metal handicrafts today are attracting a nation wide demand and even international appreciation. Much sought after for their traditional exotic and ethnic attraction, vishwa karma metal handicrafts are the perfect and most appealing show pieces available anywhere in India. Consequently, the patronage of the Pembarthi village popular metal craft is reassuringly encouraging and the favourable preference and the future prospects of the art are promisingly bright.





**Pictures of metal Handicrafts**



#### **IMPORTANT POINTS :**

1. Vishwakarma Brass, Copper and Silver Industrial Co-operative Society limited (Reg. No.488) 1958 Pembarthy 506201 was established.
2. Building foundation laid by : Smt. Nanditha sien, member, Government Handicrafts Emporium. Andhra Pradesh, on Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1971.
  - a. Building opened on 24<sup>th</sup> march 1978.
  - b. Sales emporium opened on 28<sup>th</sup> june 1978.
3. Vishwakarmas or vishwabrahmans:
  1. Manu – Kammari-Black smith – Iron workers
  2. Maya – Wadrangi-carpenter – Woodworkers
  3. Thwasta – Kanchari-Brass workers (utensils)
  4. Vishwagna – Kamsali-Goldsmith – Gold workers
  5. Shilpi – Kashe-Rock cutting workers (Sculpture)

**Interviews:** From: 18-02-2018 to 25-03-2018

1. Balde Vijaya – 35 years (ZPTC)
2. Balde Siddilingam – 45 years (Village Sarpanch)
3. Mothkuri Kavya sri – 38 years (MPTC)



4. Neermala Ratnam – 48 years (Social Activise)
5. Golusula Yellaiah – 48 years (Private Teacher)
6. K. Mahadev – 70 years (Retired Teacher)
7. Devarakonda Anjamma – 50 years (Villager)
8. Kola Sathemma – 60 years (Villager)
9. Banda Sathemma – 60 years (Villager)
10. Medari Lakshmi – 50 years (Villager)

#### **Handicrafts – Artisans:**

11. Malyala Vedantha Chary – 43 years (Society President)
12. Rudroju Srinivasa Chary – 44 years (Society Secretary)
13. Ayla Soma Narsimha Chary – 44 years (Master-Craftsman)
14. Ayla Keerthana Chary – 60 years (Crafts man)
15. Erroju Satyanarayana – 60 years (Senior Craftsman)
16. Maktala Durga Chary – 50 years (Senior Craftsman)
17. Malyala Janardhana Chary – 47 years (Craftsman)
18. Maheshwaram Srinivasa Chary – 25 years (Craftsman)
19. Ragi Eshwaramma – 55 years (Senior Craftswoman)
20. Bejjenki Hymavathi – 52 years (Senior Craftswoman)
21. Tupakula Shyam Sunder – 52 years (Senior Craftsman)
22. Nidigonda Ravinder – 30 years (Trainee)
23. Gonela Sudhakar – 30 years (Trainee)
24. Banda Sathaiah – 35 years (Trainee)
25. Kattula Manga – 30 years (Trainee)
26. Neermala Menaka – 25 years (Trainee)
27. Burgula Saritha – 20 years (Trainee)
28. Mekala Babu – 30 years (Trainee)
29. Kattula Yellaswamy – 30 years (Trainee)
30. Sankati Rammurthy – 35 years (Trainee)

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