

Kolhapuri chappal, Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Kolhapuri Chappal are handmade footwear made of vegetable tanned leather produced using traditional technique and tools. These chappal are skin friendly due to its tanning procedure. The Chappal is produced in Sholapur, Sangli, Kolhapur and Satara districts of Maharashtra and Dharwad, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapur districts of Karnataka.

In Kolhapuri Chappal all parts of chappal – sole, uppers and heel are from bag tanned vegetable tanned leather. Stitching of outer sole, insole and upper and heel with leather thread taken from bag tanned leather.

Problems:

1. Scarcity of leather: Imposition of ban on cattle slaughterhouse in 2015 has reduced leather production in Maharashtra. Leather is sourced from Karnataka which makes it expensive. Hence, the chappals made in Maharashtra are costlier than that made in Karnataka. Artisan have shifted to sub-standard quality leather to compete with their neighbour.

Proposed interventions:

- a. Availability of quality raw material at subsidized rate.
 - b. Establishment of raw material banks that provide quality leather on credit.
 - c. Promote the use of green sustainable leather
 - d. Implementation of fair trade
2. Declining number of the artisans: Younger population are not willing to take up the profession due to poor remunerations.

Proposed interventions:

- a. Provide entrepreneurship training and promote new entrepreneurs
 - b. create awareness about market
 - c. Skill training to develop younger generations as designers
 - d. Provide training in use of modern design tools
3. Declining production during monsoon: Chappals are not suitable to wear during monsoon. Unavailability of proper storage solutions and leather management affects the production of chappal during monsoon.

Proposed interventions:

- a. Availability of storage facility to protect the chappal from moisture.
- b. Training to use modern storage and leather management techniques.

- c. Making chappal with water resistant coating
4. Technology upgradation: Lack of awareness about modern techniques and existence of procedural inefficiencies in the traditional method of making chappal.

Proposed interventions:

- a. Educate artisans about the modern techniques and its benefits in improving the quality as well as reducing the lead time.
 - b. Implement modern technologies developed by leather institutes
5. Design upgradation: Every artisan is well versed in producing only few designs. There is need for new footwear designs

Proposed interventions:

- a. Train artisans in collaboration with NID and NIFT for newer design that blend with new fashion
6. Duplicity problem: Machine made leather chappals are sold as Kolhapuri chappal. There is lack of awareness amongst people about original product.

Proposed interventions:

- a. Emboss the Kolhapuri chappal with a hallmark of GI tag or any other authenticity mark.
 - b. Create awareness about the original product
7. Unavailability of chappal at major Government stores. Not available in Maharashtra and Karnataka Emporium in Delhi, Khadi

Proposed interventions:

- a. Make the handicraft available at all emporiums
 - b. Promote the handicrafts in national and state exhibitions
 - c. Promote the handicraft for corporate and government gifting
8. Leather standards: Presence of Kolhapuri chappal in international market is low and can be increased by ensuring quality

Proposed interventions:

- a. Ensuring that the leather and chappal are made by following the export standards set by export council
9. Improving the packaging and branding: The chappals are sold loose. They are not branded by the artisan or shopkeeper

Proposed interventions:

- a. Training artisans about elegant packaging solutions
- b. Organise training sessions in collaboration with Indian Institute of Packaging

Sr. No.	Proposed solutions	Agency
1	Establishment of leather raw material banks	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
2	Skill development training	LIDCOM (Leather Industries Development Corp. of Maharashtra), LIDKAR, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
3	Technological upgradation	CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute
4	Design Upgradation	NIFT, NID
5	Financial assistance	National Schedules Castes Finance and Development Corporation
6	Product development	CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute
7	Packaging	Indian institute of Packaging