

Unit 2

MAKING OF PAPER MACHE CRAFTS WITH THE HELP OF PAPER PULP

The objective of this unit is to enable students to learn how to make and prepare the base material for making Paper Mache

This Unit focuses on:

1. The process of making paper pulp (Sakhta)
2. The process of making rice glue (Atiz)
3. Understanding appropriate measures needed in drying and readying the Sakhta

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Location	Learning Outcome	Knowledge Evaluation	Performance Evaluation	Teaching and Training Method
Activity Room	Preparation of paper pulp/Sakhta	Enumerate the steps in making pulp/Sakhta	Examination of the consistency and suitability of the pulp when made	Interactive Audio Visual Lecture: Step by step guidance to pulp making
	Preparation of rice glue	Enumerate the steps in making rice glue	Examination of the consistency and suitability of the glue when made	Activity: Practise making pulp till the right consistency is achieved
	Drying tips for the pulp	Enumerate the Do's and Don'ts in preparing pulp/Sakhta		Visualise and list five objects that can be created with pulp/Sakhta



Paper Mache Box

Image credit | 7H Studios

Making of Paper Pulp

The most important material in Paper Mache is paper pulp. Making of paper pulp is known as Sakhtasazi in Kashmir. Kashmir is the pioneer State of India in Paper Mache. Though, there are different ways of making Paper Mache, which can be both professional and amateur, in this handbook we will focus on using paper pulp or Sakhta for creating Paper Mache items.

The simplest process of making pulp is to put recycled paper strips in water and leave them soaked for 1 - 4 days. The soaked and softened paper strips are then pounded to pulp in a stone mortar with the help of a wooden pestle. Then, the pulp is left in the sun to dry partially. After that, the pulp is sifted by hand to remove any impurities or lumps. The pulp is then mixed with a glue made from rice flour which is called Atiz in Kashmir. This makes the pulp into a smooth paste. A mould made of clay or wood or metal (box, ball, cube, cylinder etc) is used as per the shape of the object to be created. The mould is covered with pulp and semi-dried. The covering of pulp is separated from the mould after that and allowed to dry completely. Now the base object is ready to create designs on and get painted after the process of rubbing and smoothening.



Paper Mache Products

Step by step making of Sakhta

1. Tear recyclable paper into small pieces and soak them in a tub overnight



2. Move the soaked paper into a mortar and use a wooden pestle to pound it till it has taken a consistent pulp form

3. Leave the pulp outdoors till it is dry



4. Sift the dry pulp with hands to remove any impurities or lumps

5. Boil water in a vessel. Add rice flour to the boiling water and stir till the mixture is smooth, slightly sticky and without lumps



6. Mix the rice glue with the pulp. Knead the pulp to a consistency which is not too soft or too hard



This pulp will now be used for making the Paper Mache objects — shown in this handbook

INTEXT QUESTIONS

1. What is Sakhta?
2. What are the recycled materials one can use to make Sakhta?
3. How to make rice glue?
4. What precautions to take while making Sakhta and rice glue?