

**SAWAKASA WOMEN'S CRAFT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP –
2^{1ST} – 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2015- SAWAKASA VILLAGE, TAILEVU**



8/10/2015

TULIANA CIRIVAKAYAWA

SAWAKASA WOMEN 'S GROUP CRAFT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP-
SAWAKASA 1 VILLAGE – 21ST - 25th September, 2015

1.0 Introduction

2.0 The Fiji Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Heritage and Arts, had conducted a workshop for the women of the Tikina Sawakasa in the Province of Tailevu.

The Tikina Sawakasa Women's Group comprises of six villages (Sawakasa (ii), Sawakasa (i), Dakuinuku, Lodon, Wainivilimi, and Waito)

The initiative for the craft development was agreed in their Talanoa session that was held at Sawakasa No 1 on Thursday August at 2:30pm. The participants were taught 3 different skills, Basket weaving, Tye & Dye and Jewelry making.

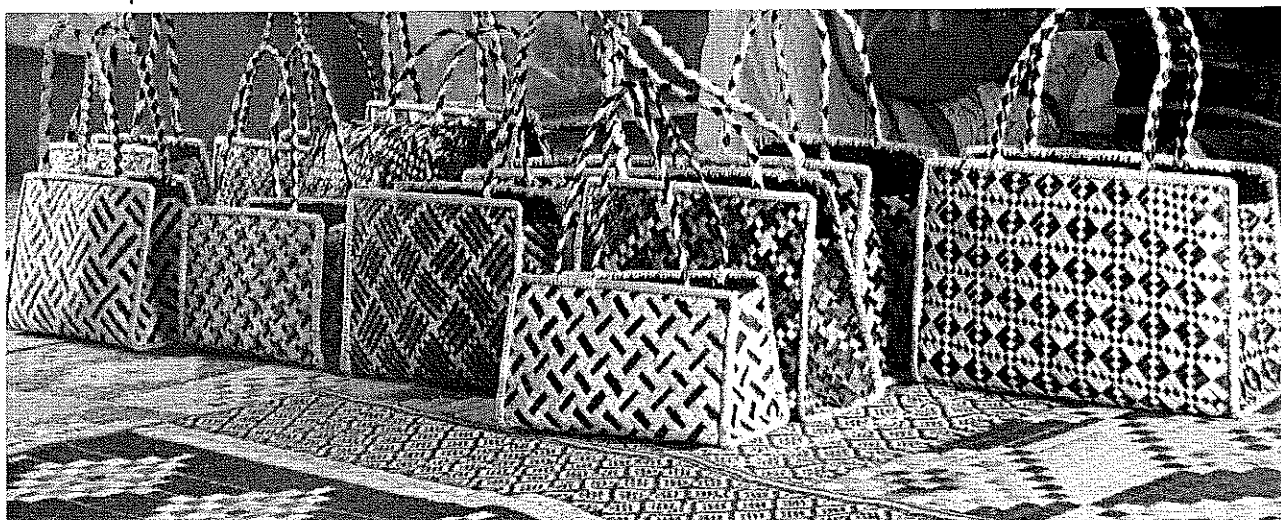
2.0 Aims and Objectives

The women of Sawakasa had expressed their interest with the views to eliminate buying of non –Fijian made handicrafts imported into the country. An alternative to this, the support and encouragement for the women to make use of abundantly local resources such as sea shells, local seeds, local strings and other local materials that are readily available at surroundings to upgrade craft skills to a better standard that will becoming source of income to their families. An opportunity of gaining new skills in handicraft development that will generate economic returns through selling their own homemade.



New Skills of Jewelry Making - earrings from local pearl shells, belts from icibi seeds and bracelets from coconut shells

A means of empowering women to remind themselves of their traditions and create opportunities to generate additional income in promoting their own natural resources within their communities to sell authentic products.



Basket weaving

In gaining the new skills and knowledge, the Women of Tikina Sawakasa will assist their families in meeting their social obligations, educational needs and contribute enormously in their everyday living.

3.0 Funding

The Fiji Arts Council had requested \$7,958.00 through the Cultural Grant Scheme as administered by the Department of Heritage Arts as contribution of the Sawakasa Women's Group towards the expenses of resource materials for Tie & Dye, Jewelry, and basket weaving, accommodation and meals for resource persons and workshop organizers.

SAWAKASA CRAFT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP BUDGET 2015

ACTIVITY	COST	TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
Fees for resource person	3 x \$200/day for 5 days	\$3,000.00	Three resource persons selected by FAC. They are all receivers of Fijian Crafted License certificate.
Raw Materials		\$2,378.00	
Basket weaving	\$576.00		Voivoi (black & white) and Pogo(brown voivoi) bought from Suva Market

Jewellery Making -	\$744.00		Jewellery making tools bought from Hardware shops
Screen Printing and Tye & Dye	\$1,058.00		Screen printing materials from Fabric Paint shops and Hardwares
Catering		\$1,500.00	Request from the Sawakasa Women's Group if they could be assisted financially in the catering of the 45 participants, 3 Resource persons, Opening and Closing ceremonies.
Ceremonial Participation		\$80.00	Sevusevu- Opening and Closing ceremony
FAC Admin Cost		\$1,000.00	Official Use- Stationeries, communication, internet charges, designing and printing of Certificates, invites, etc. Transport cost- Awareness, official opening and closing of craft workshop
TOTAL		\$7,958.00	

4.0 Logistics:

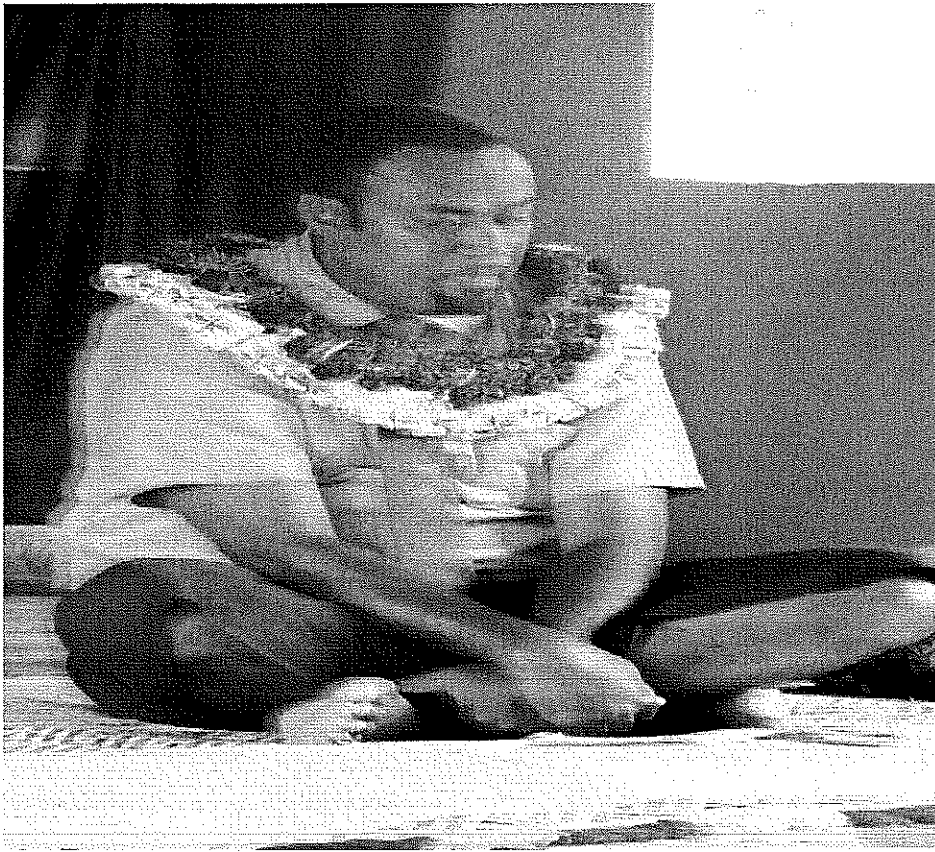
4.1 Pre- Preparation of the Workshop

The main role of the Fiji Craft Society was to identify resource persons to impart the different skills required by the Women of Tikina Sawakasa in the one week's training. A few consultations took place with their village representative in the office, indicating specific tasks and activities to be put in place before we visit the village and finally discuss with women's group and confirm on the workshop dates and the number of participants.

A meeting was then convened with the Women representatives of the 6 villages (Sawakasa One/Two, Waito, Wainivilimi, Dakuinuku, and Lodon) and representatives of FAC, whereby they had confirmed and recommended 21st -25th September, 2015 was a convenient time to hold the training. It was also agreed that the skills of jewelry making, basket weaving, screen printing and tie & dye skills were most significant for the women to learn, as this will contribute a great deal to the development in their already possess talents.

The participants were requested to prepare themselves with the various local materials such as local shells, seeds, vau strings, coconut shells, x-ray films and their own created designs before the workshop. These materials were to substitute other materials and equipment provided for by the Fiji Arts Council.

4.2 Official Opening



District Officer Tailevu Mr Lakobo Waqanidrola officiated the opening of the workshop

The first day program began with a registration program of (49) Forty-nine participants before the official opening by The District Officer, lakobo Waqanidrola was invited to grace the opening of the one week's workshop on Monday 21st September in the presence of the Rev. Etuate Lasaro of Sawakasa Methodist Church who blessed the juncture.

The District Officer, Mr lakobo Waqanidrola had highlighted the importance of such training. It was an opportunity that required their time and commitment in gaining new knowledge and skills for the betterment of their everyday living. He thanked the Fiji Arts Council in assisting them to make the workshop possible and the three resource persons in sharing the God gifted talents that they have.

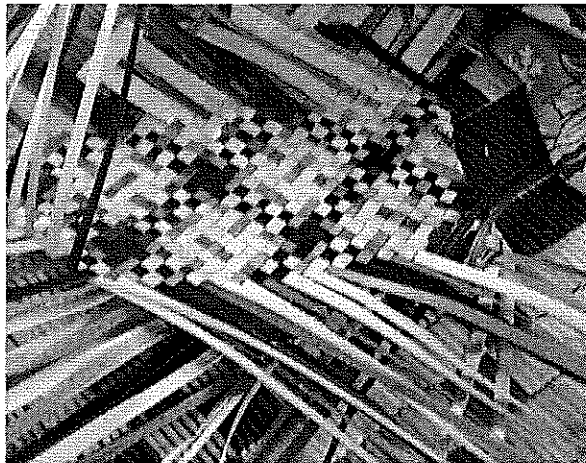
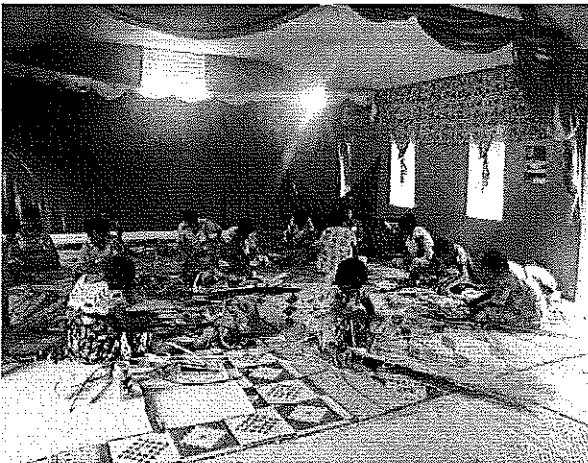
Also advise the participants to continue with the skills that they will be learning from the one week training and preserve the knowledge that will be passing down to them from the resource person.

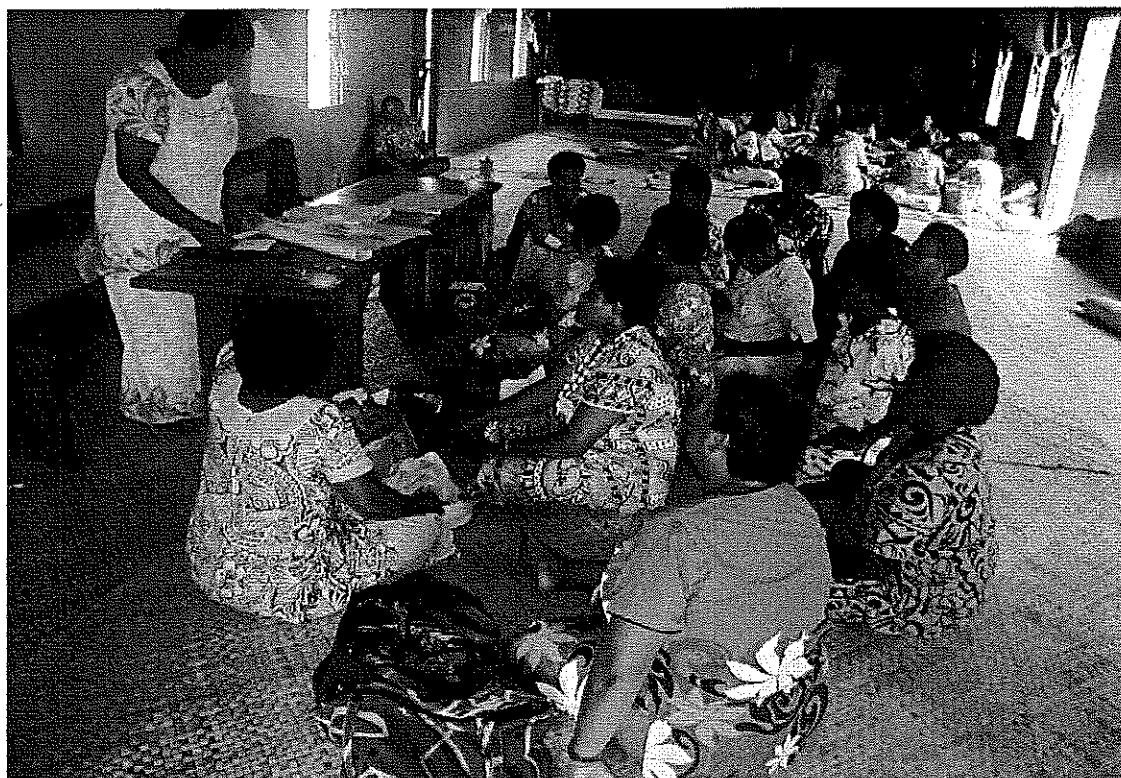
Try and grasp all what you are going to be taught in this workshop. You have to show the determination and commitment to learn these skills because it will surely pay you a higher prize in the near future.

The participants were separated into three groups led by the three Trainers. One group to learn Jewelry making and the other to learn Basket weaving, Screen printing and Tie & Dye.



Laisani Mara with her basket weaving group at the first day of the workshop.





Marica Lomasalato briefs the Screen printing Group on the first day of the Workshop

4.3 Daily Programs

Each day begun at 8.00am with morning devotion, likewise at 5.00pm closing the day's program.

DAYS	SUBJECT	TIME	DETAILS	SPEAKER
Monday 21 st	Registration Opening ceremony Introduction Workshop start	8:30am 10:30am 11:15am 11:30am	Participants Chief Guest Participants & Speaker Trainer & participants	Fiji Arts Council DO Korovou Fiji Arts Council
Tuesday 22 nd	Opening Devotion Registration Workshop continue Closing Devotion	8:00am 8:30am 9.00am 5.00pm	Lodoni Village Participants Participants Lodoni Village	Fiji Arts Council Radini Talatala Sawakasa
Wednesday 23 rd	Devotion Roll Call Workshop continue Closing Devotion	8:00am 8:30am 9.00am 5.00pm	Dakuinuku village Participants Participants Dakuinuku village	Fiji Arts Council
Thursday 24 th	Devotion Roll Call Workshop continue	8:00am 8:30am 9.00am	Wainivilimi Village Participants	Fiji Arts Council

	Closing Devotion	5.00pm		
Friday 25 th	Closing Ceremony Presentation of Certificates Preparation of exhibition Lunch & Entertainment	10:00am	Chief Guest Participants	Director FAC Participants



Samuela Cabe briefing his group at the first day of the workshop

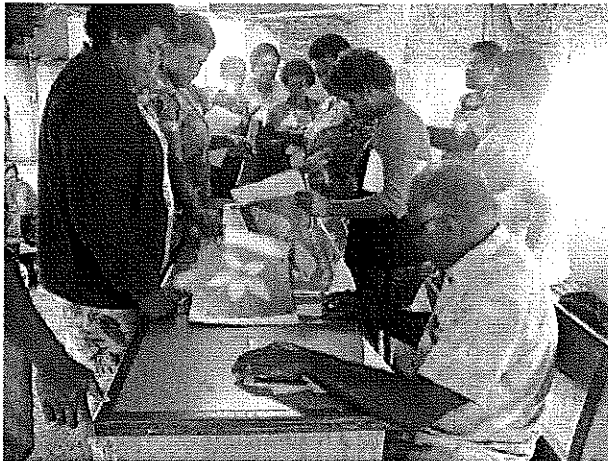
The **Jewelry making** program provided an opportunity for the participants to build their skills, explore materials and become familiar with a wide range of jewelry techniques

. Participants were also taught on the basic knowledge in using of tools and equipment –

- such as hand drills, coping saws and hacksaw
- drilling of shells, coconut shells, seeds
- to cut and shape earrings and necklaces from whole husked matured and young coconut

- sandpapering sea shells and coconut shells
- cleaning of shells, using of wood glue,
- using crepe papers for coloring vau strings
- using jewelry fittings for jewelry pieces
- making icibi belts (local seeds) woven with vau strings

In **Screen Printing**, the participants were required to draw their own designs on paper and then transferred their art work into x-ray films

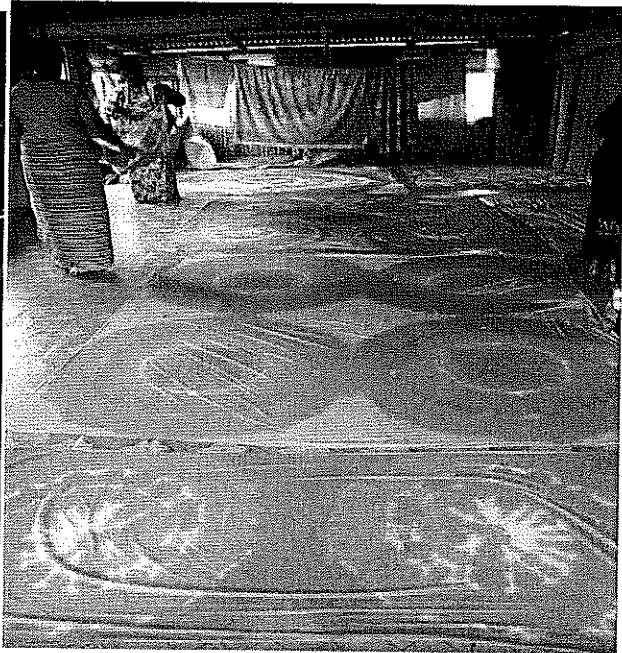
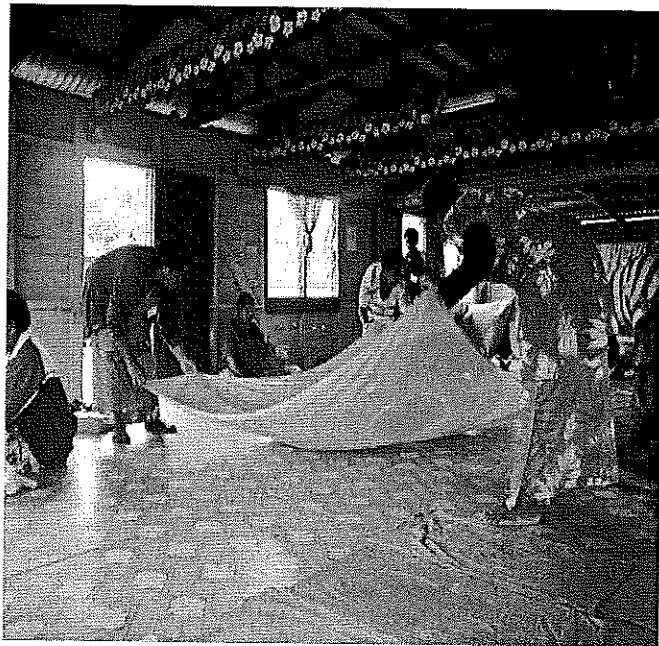


- using cutters to shape their own designs
- learning the printing techniques
- mixing of fabric paint



In **Tie and Dye Skills**, participants were introduced to fabrics and strings

- Tying of fabrics to form various shapes and designs
- Mixing of different color paints for dying of fabrics
- Coloring of fabrics



Few methods learnt in tie and Die Skills

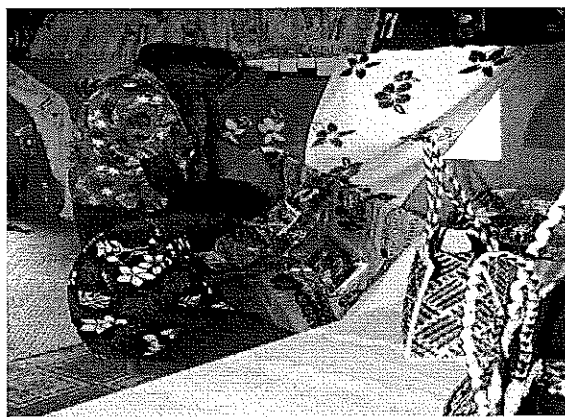
4.4 Official Closing

The one week's Handicraft Skills Development Workshop was officially closed by the Director Fiji Arts Council, Mr. Laisiasa Veikoso on Friday 25th September, 2015 at the village hall in Sawakasa II. The Rev. Etuate Lasaro was also invited to present the participation certificates to the forty - nine (49) participants, who also mentioned his outmost appreciation in the achievements of the participants, the skills and knowledge that had been acquired in the one week's training.

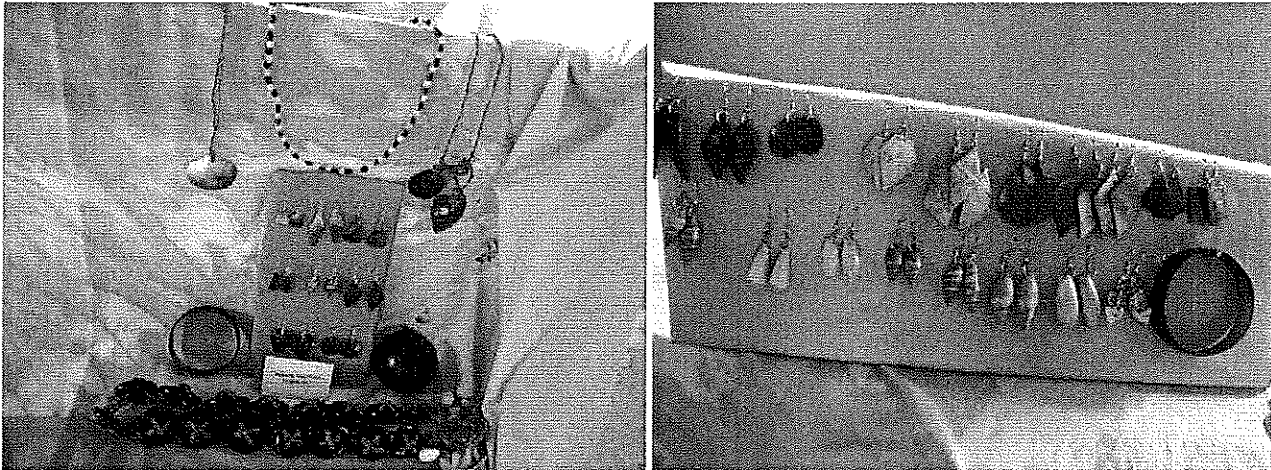


Director Fiji Arts Council, Mr. Laisiasa Veikoso- Addressing the Closing of the Workshop

He also emphasized on the importance of using locally sourced materials which are readily available and in abundance in Sawakasa.



Rev. Etuate Lasaro with Director FAC – Mr. Laisiasa Veikoso



Earrings made from local sea-shells collected from nearby beaches, bracelets and earrings from coconut shells

One of the participants Arieta Delana, had the opportunity to thank the Fiji Arts Council and the Resource Team in facilitating the training, for the benefit of the Tikina Sawakasa Women. *"We have been overwhelmed for this opportunity and acquiring the handicraft skills is very substantial for our everyday living to produce local attractive handicrafts to gain wider appeal with local markets."* In addition to this, she also mentioned their great vakavinavinaka in receiving all training tools which were presented to the women by the Director Fiji Arts Council to equip them in the continuity of producing their home made handicraft. On that same token, the Women of Tikina Sawakasa on behalf of the participants presented their traditional recognitions as a token of appreciation for receiving their working tools.



Mrs. Arieta Delana in her vote of thanks

Resource People:

This workshop was conducted by Samuela Cabe who is an expert in traditional and contemporary jeweler and a well-known designer of art in Fiji and Laisani Mara who is a Master Basket Weaver and Marica Lomasalato expert in Screen printing and Tie & Dye.

These Resource persons are recipients for the Fijian Crafted License. Fijian Crafted Licenses certifies them as legitimate makers and sellers of Fijian Crafted products and have now been recognized by Government for their initiatives in teaching their God gifted skills in village communities, National and International levels.

Also Recipients as live members for the Fiji Craft Society have also represented Fiji in Regional events such as the Pacific Festival and Melanesian Festivals. They have also been instrumental in various community handicrafts skills development workshop organized by the Fiji Arts Council and have also been awarded with numerous awards by the Fiji Arts Council towards their outstanding achievements in yearly craft competitions at both the traditional and contemporary category.



Samuela Cabe – Contemporary Jewelry Maker

Samuela Cabe is a highly regarded professional, senior crafts practitioner with many years of experience in jewelry making and textiles. He displays great energy, creativity and professionalism in his field of craftsmanship and is an inspiration to other crafts practitioners.



Marica Lomasalato – Screen Printing and Tie & Dye

Marica Lomasalato is a professional, senior crafts practitioner with many years of experience in screen printing and Tie & dye. She displays great energy, creativity and professionalism in her field of artist and is an inspiration to other crafts practitioners. She has been awarded with many prizes from 2004 to 2015 at the National Craft Fair and also Contemporary Craftperson of the Year Award 2005.



Laisani Mara – Basket Weaver, discusses with two participants during the workshop (oldest participants 84yrs old)

Likewise with **Laisani Mara**, she has outstanding, dynamic qualities of energy, enthusiasm and passion for her basket weaving skills which is inspiring to others. She is passionate about sharing her love and knowledge of handicrafts with others. Laisani Mara is a daughter of the Master Weaver the Late Finau Mara and she has been instrumental in most of the Community up skilling weaving workshop organized by the Fiji Arts Council.

Workshop Participants:

The 49 women from the Tikina Sawakasa Women's Group in the village of Lodoni, Dakuinuku, Wainivilimi, Waito, Sawakasa I & II received their certificates after training in jewelry making, screen printing and Tie & dye and Basket Weaving during the one weeks' workshop. The participant's age group ranged from mid – seventies to twenties and oldest participants is 84yrs old. This workshop involved youths group in the village.



Workshop Participants – Basket Weaving participants with Director FAC – Mr. Laisiasa Veikoso – group photo after the award of their Certificates of Participation



Workshop Participants – Jewelry making participants with Director FAC – Mr. Laisiasa Veikoso AND Rev. Etuate Lasaro – group photo after the award of their Certificates of Participation



Workshop Participants – Screen Printing, Tie & Dye participants with Director FAC – Mr. Laisiasa Veikoso – group photo after the award of their Certificates of Participation

SAWAKASA CRAFT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

VENUE: SAWAKASA I

DATE: 21ST – 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

	SCREEN PRINTING, TIE & DYE AND WALLISSI	FACILITATOR: MARICA LOMASALTO
NOS	NAMES	VILLAGES
1.	TULIA LACA	WAINIVILIMI
2.	TULIANA LORD	WAITO
3.	ARALAI MARAMA	DAKUINUKU
4.	SEREANA DUVAGA	DAKUINUKU
5.	AKANISI TINAI	DAKUINUKU
6	LANIETA KABEREKIA	DAKUINUKU
7.	ANASAINI RADINI	SAWAKASA I
8.	KUINI MARAMA	SAWAKASA I
9.	MARICA WATI	SAWAKASA I
10.	ALUMITA MARAMA	SAWAKASA I
11.	MILIKITI TIKODUADUA	SAWAKASA I
12	JONETI TINAI	SAWAKASA I
13.	TAVAITA TINAI	LODONI
14.	MAKELESI LEWATU	LODONI
15.	KELERA RAIKASAKASA	NANANU
16.	MERE SERAU	SAWAKASA I
17.	NANISE ADIROSI	SAWAKASA I
18.	SESONI RAGONE (SNR)	SAWAKASA I
19.	KOLAIA VONO	SAWAKASA I
	BASKET WEAVER	FACILITATOR: LAISANI MARA
NOS.	NAMES	VILLAGES
1.	JOSIVINI MARAMA	WAINIVILIMI
2.	IRINIETA BALE	DAKUINUKU
3.	RENIVANI KAITANI	DAKUINUKU
4.	MELANIA TUI	DAKUINUKU
5.	LAIEMA SALUSALU	SAWAKASA I
6.	ARIETA DELANA	SAWAKASA I
7.	MAKERETA MARAMA	SAWAKASA I
8.	LOSENA TUIRABE	SAWAKASA I
9.	SAVAIRA WATI	SAWAKASA I

10.	MEREDANI VAKASOKO	SAWAKASA I
11.	VARANISESE TINAI	LODONI
12.	RUSILA MARAMA	LODONI
13.	MERE CATI	LODONI
14.	SALANIETA KULA	WAITO
	JEWELLERY MAKER	FACILITATOR: SAMUELA CABE
NOS.	NAMES	VILLAGES
1.	VACISEVA TAMANIKALOU	DAKUINUKU
2.	RENIVANI SOROI	DAKUINUKU
3.	SERA NAITOKO	SAWAKASA I
4.	IRINIETA TUKUTUKU	SAWAKASA I
5.	TALICA BULA	SAWAKASA I
6.	OLIVIA LIKU	SAWAKASA I
7.	SALOTE SENITOTO	SAWAKASA I
8.	SALANIETA ULUILAGI	SAWAKASA I
9.	RUCI TIKODUADUA	SAWAKASA I
10.	ALUMITA BALEDROKADROKA	SAWAKASA I
11.	KARALAINI LOLOMA	LODONI
12.	MERE KELENI	LODONI
13.	SESONI RAGONE (JNR)	SAWAKASA I
14.	SITIVENI RATU	SAWAKASA I
15.	TEVITA BULA	SAWAKASA I
16.	SERUWAIA TIKODUADUA	SAWAKASA I

Screen printing/ Tie & dye – 19

Basket Weaving – 14

Jewelry Making - 16

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 49

Recommendation:

It is highly recommended that a follow up workshop to be carried out in the near future to see that the quality of work is maintained by the participants. Participants to understand the valuable of time to increase in their performances and takes things seriously that they could exploit more of their natural resources since they already have the knowledge and skills.

Conclusions:

The workshop had been a very successful one, in witnessing the commitment of each participant in trying their best to grasp the taught skills in a very limited time. They were very inspired; especially as they had realized that they have the raw materials at hand to create quality local jewelry to be sold in the Market and make their own jewelry.

It has been envisaged that this is a way forward that they look within themselves and think about their cultural and traditional roots in order to derive inspiration for their different created pieces that are unique and beautiful using their local materials to capture their Heritage. Having that passion will also take them a long way to sustain better development in the near future.

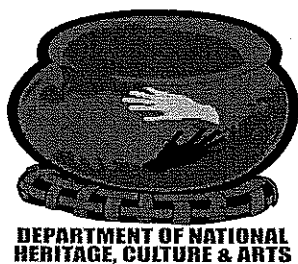
Both Men and Women of the Tikina Sawakasa had supported each other during the training which had created an atmosphere of commonality and their team spirit illustrated was commendable, surely that had contributed a great deal in achieving the goals of the training.

I also acknowledge both Teams from Department of Heritage and Arts and the Fiji Arts Council for all the support in all ways. Vinaka Vakalevu

Tuliana Cirivakayawa

Database Intern

08/10/2015



OFFICIAL OPENING

SAWAKASA CRAFT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

21ST SEPTEMBER, 2015

9.00 AM	SOQONI VATA NA LEWENI VULI VOLA YACA
10.00AM	YACO YANI NA VULAGI DOKAI
10.05	VAKAYACORI E DUA NA LOTU VEIKIDAVAKI VUA NA VULAGI DOKAI (Turaga Na Director Fiji Arts Council)
10.30	VAKAITAVI NA VULAGI DOKAI KA DOLAVA TALEGA NA VULI VOSA NI VAKAVINAVINAKA/ VAKAVEIKILAITAKI WASEI O IRA NA LEWE NI VULI
11.00AM	VAKAYAGATAKI NA TI
11.30	TEKIVUTAKI NA VULI



OFFICIAL CLOSING

SAWAKASA CRAFT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

25th SEPTEMBER, 2015

10.00 AM SOQONI VATA NA LEWE NI VULI KEI IRA NA VULAGI SURETI

10.15 AM YACO YANI NA VULAGI DOKAI

(Director Fiji Arts Council: Mr. Laisiasa Veikoso)

10.20AM VAKAYACORI E DUA NA LOTU

VEIKIDAVAKI VUA NA VULAGI DOKAI – (Vakaveikilaitaki)

10.30 AM VAKAITAVI NA VULAGI DOKAI KA SOGO NA VULI

10.45 AM SOLI NA SITIVIKITI

11.00 AM VOSA NI VAKAVINAVINAKA MAI VEI IRA NA LEWE NI VULI

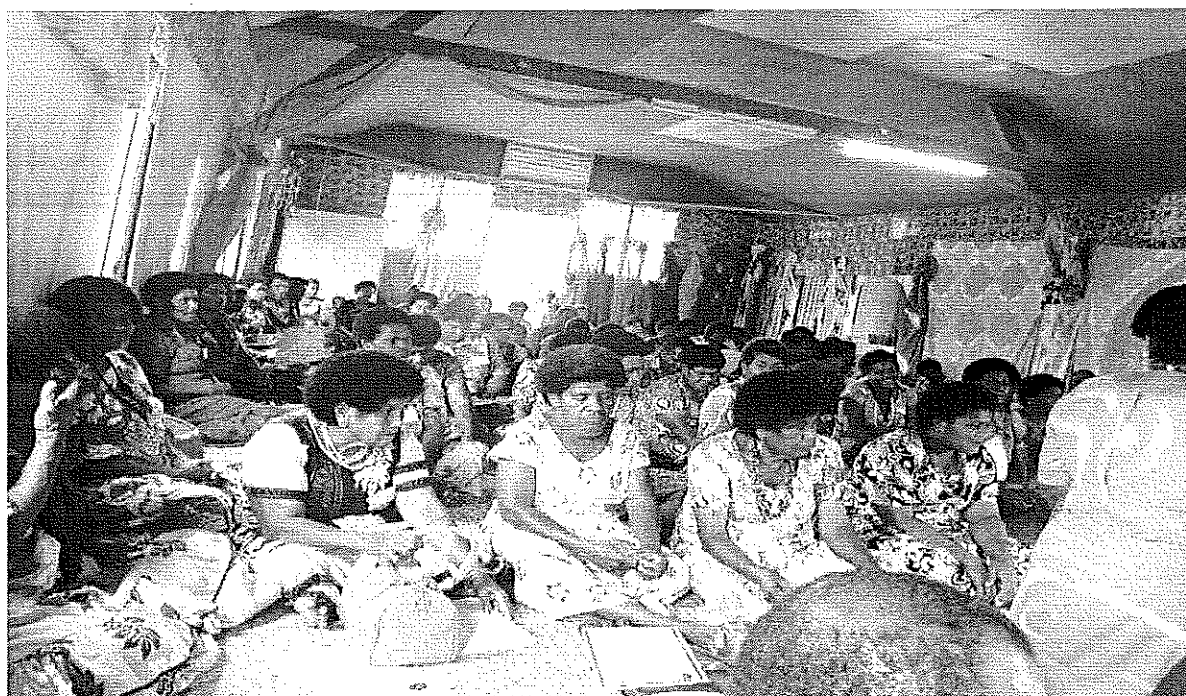
11.30 AM SURETI NA VULAGI DOKAI ME SARAVA NA NODRA CAKACAKA

NI LIGA NA LEWE NI VULI

Appendix:

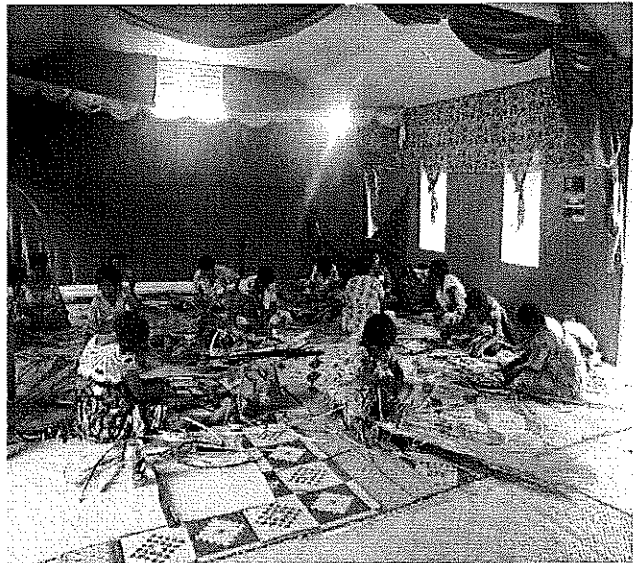


GROUP PHOTOS WITH DIRECTOR FIJI ARTS COUNCIL Mr. Laisiasa veikoso

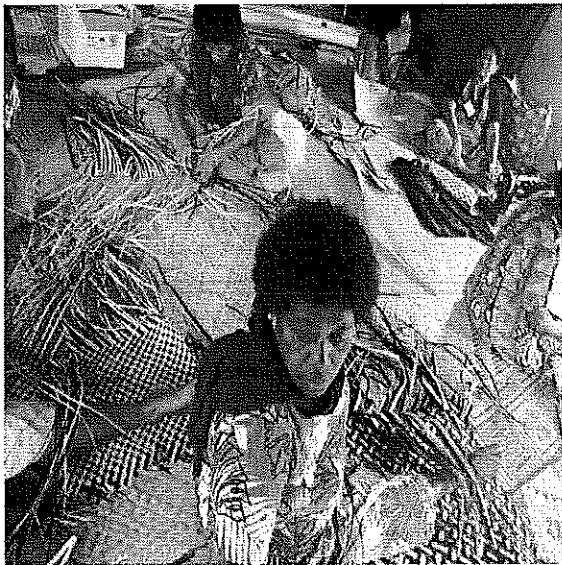


Closing ceremony at Sawakasa I Community Hall

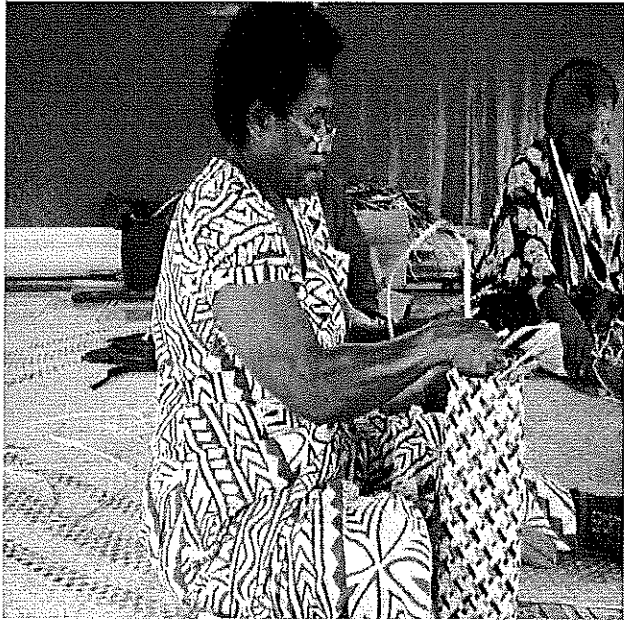
BASKET WEAVING GROUP



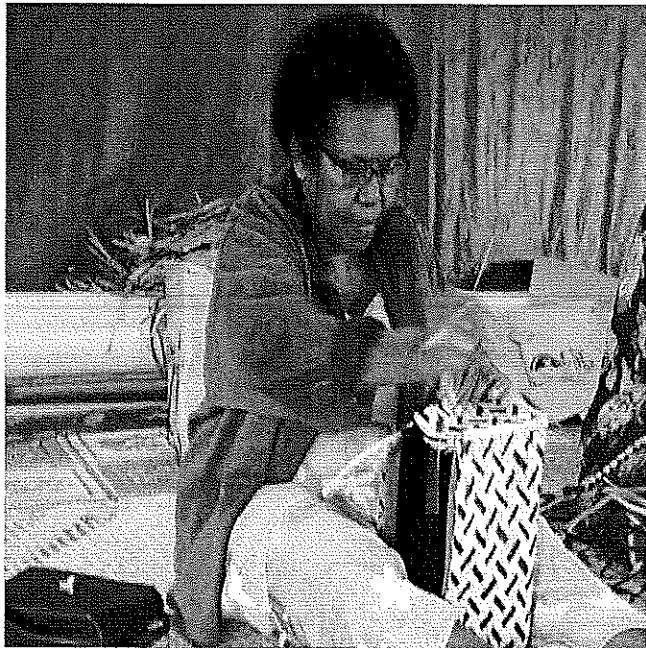
First and Second day of the workshop – basket weaving



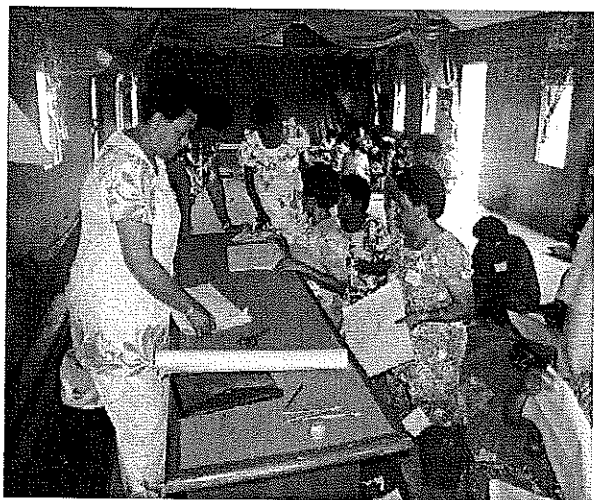
Third Day of the Workshop – Basket weaving



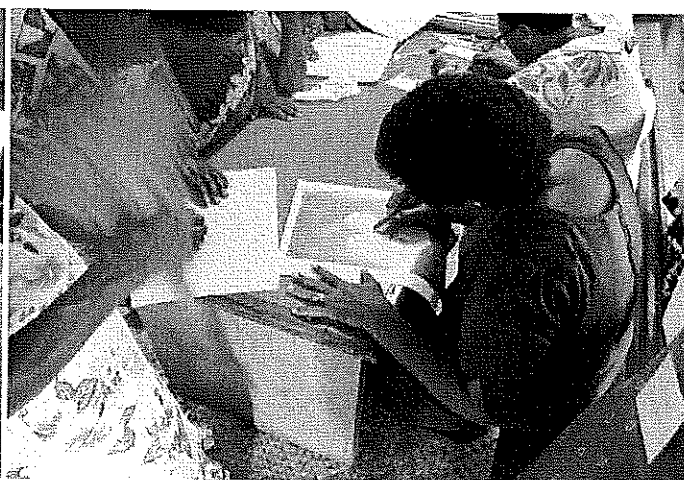
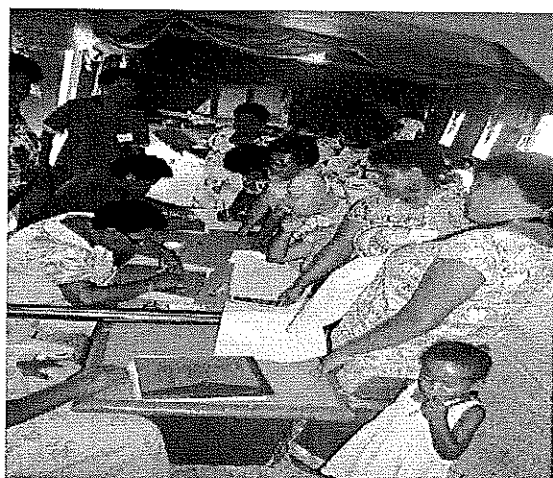
FOURTH DAY OF THE BASKET WEAVING

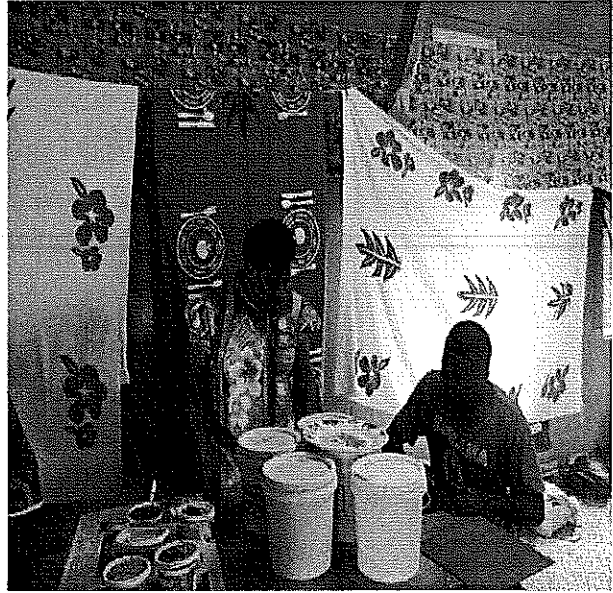


SCREEN PRINTING/ TIE & DYE



Day 1 & 2 of the Screen printing



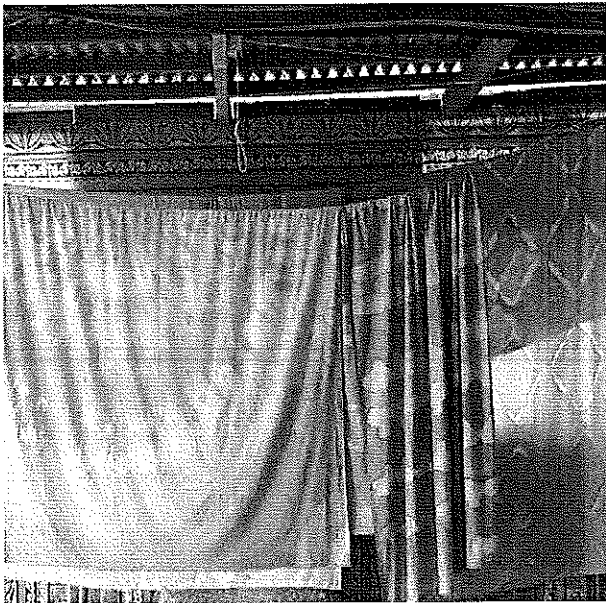


Day 3 & 4

TIE & DYE

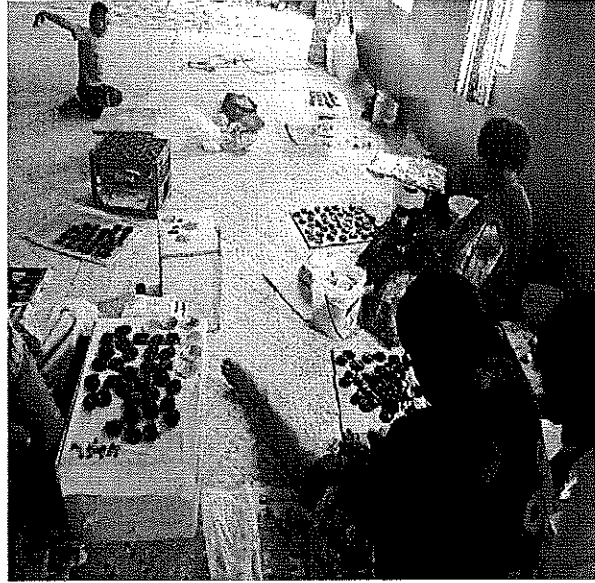


Day 1 & 2 of training

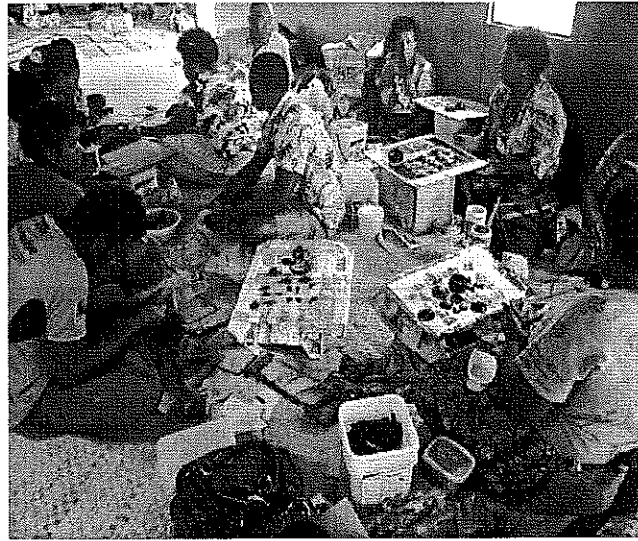


Day 3 & 4

JEWELRY MAKING



Day 1 & 2



Day 3 & 4