

When 'talent' outshines 'degrees'

In our everyday interactions, we come across all kinds of people; there are those whose achievements and educational milestones are well-known and acknowledged by all. However there are also those whose talents and aesthetic intuition is not quite out in the public eye, yet it's something to be marveled upon, especially when it defines and shines upon the cultural settings of a country. Judging a person based on how many degrees they have earned, and how their performance has been throughout the academic year, needs to be changed, as there is life beyond what 'bookish knowledge' defines. Craft Industries Development Centre, is one establishment that stands proud due to its authentic handicraft creations, keeping the culture of Bahrain alive. Having a pool talent, especially women, where they project their love on the work assigned to them, definitely makes one thing very clear, "love completely whatever it is that you do".

"Talent is a gift given from God. Though I did not get the opportunity to go to school, recognizing my hidden talent makes me feel very special and unique, not just in the eyes of others, but in the eyes of myself," Laila Hamad Isa told Weekender, as she brushed upon how she has been working in the Craft Industries Development Centre (CIDC), since 1997. She says, "Handicraft was something that always made me feel happy and calm. Training in creating different, but beautiful handicraft items, makes me fall in love with what I do every moment." CIDC appears to be the only school, Laila went to, and the best part about her journey was that she was already into craftwork before being properly trained.



Laila Hamad Isa



Having been taught a variety of things, where she created bookmarks, tissue boxes, among others, the metal 'Al Naqda', which she uses in designing her creations, appears to be the area of her expertise, which has got humungous praise from the buyers as well as onlookers.

"I discovered how good I am at drawing and painting ceramics, making boxes for tea and jewellery, putting henna, and creating craft items out of Al Naqda, which motivated me to do better and better, and preserve the heritage of Bahrain," another member Fadhela shared with us, who has been part of this initiative for the past 10 years.

"Being a proud Bahraini, the changing times possess the capacity to shift the interest of the generation away from the handicraft creations, which is the pride of the country. Every minute, when I sit to create new handicraft items or when I get so much of love and appreciation from people, I get the feeling that I am working hard in preserving the culture of Bahrain." Proficient in henna, she developed her knowledge and today, she supervises two to three ladies, who are also showing signs of never-ending passion for creating handicraft items.



The pride of the island

Jameela who is the backbone of the project started the welfare for women segment of the establishment, where she also provides training for women with special needs, so they can discover their capability of doing great things in life. One interesting creation in process that Weekender team witnessed at the CIDC workshop was the making of paper out of palm leaves. "Palm Tree is the pride of Bahrain," says Imaan, who supervises the team in the creation of papers out of palm leaves. Having joined eight years back, every moment and every second serves as a bliss for Imaan, owing to the fact that she is into the noble act of polishing the handicraft culture of Bahrain. "There are so many people, who are not schooled, but what makes such kind of people unique and different from others is the talent they possess, where their love for their talent makes them above all the degree holders. Nobody is born foolish, nobody is born without talent. Everybody has something hidden within him or her, which needs to be unleashed. Once that is unraveled then no negative thought or energy can stop them from ruling the world," Imaan concluded on a positive note.





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