



The Thar region in the western state of Rajasthan, similar to Kachchh in many ways, also has a family of organisations - together called **URMUL** - with shared beliefs of community-driven development through programmes that are devised, strengthened, sustained and finally owned by the communities.

*Left: A weaver of Marusthali Bunkar Vikas Samiti - a livelihoods generating community based organisation of desert weavers and part of the URMUL network.*

Such programmes are not limited to civil society. **Jharcraft** (below) - an initiative of the Jharkhand government - attempts to conserve tribal skills of working with bamboo, cane, mud, lac, jute, grass and metalwork among other art and craft forms. It has enhanced or created livelihoods for over 3 lakh families in just 10 years.



*Mud artisans of Jharcraft.*



*'Dhokra' metalwork - a tribal art form in Jharkhand with a 4000-year-old history.*

The ideas of localisation of both production and consumption, are not limited to the 'cottage industries', but also to products considered 'industrial-scale.' In Kuthambakkam village of Tamil Nadu, the former panchayat sarpanch Elango R. envisions a regional collection of villages to be self-sufficient in producing everything from soap to electric power.



*Left to right: Youth working in a manufacturing unit in Kuthambakkam, Tamil Nadu; grain processing mills amongst other applications customarily considered reserved for large-scale industry.*