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Raipur from 14th Century C.E to 20th Century
C.E

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INFLUENCE OF TRADE IN FORMATION OF BAZAARS IN RAIPUR FROM 14TH CENTURY C. E TO 20TH CENTURY C.E

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Abstract

The research paper aims to understand the role of trade in the socio-economic development of Raipur. It focuses on the historical evolution of the city because of the existing trade and how it helped in establishing it as a self-sustainable community, starting from the rule of Kalachuries followed by the Marathas and British. It then throws light on the present scenario, where these "bazaars" continue to be the primary source of goods and products but the participation of the community has declined leading to commercialized and unsustainable development. Furthermore, the author points out the paradigm shift in the socio-economic and built fabric of the "Bazaars" which are being demolished or fully transformed. It then chalks out the significance and the relevant strategies for the protection of these Bazaars with a community centered approach.

Keywords: Trade, Bazaar, Purani Basti

1. INTRODUCTION

The new state of Chhattisgarh was formed on 1st November, 2000, with Raipur, the largest city of the state as its capital. The major factor for the establishment and evolution of the city of Raipur was trade, with exchange of goods and services through defined routes. There were different reasons for the establishment of trade in Raipur, mainly because of the pattern of migration of communities having various occupations.

The type of trade is defined by the time period, administration and location of the city. From 14th century C.E till present, trade and its influence has shaped the city with the growth of economic, commercial and cultural exchange. There were non-formal markets (hatri or hat) during the 14th century, where people came on foot from the nearby villages and sold their goods and products. Due to the development of the transport system during the 18th century, exchange of goods and products by bull-carts, started in the regional level from Raipur to Nagpur and its surroundings areas. One of the first formal markets to be established in Badhai Para, which sold bull-cart wheels (manufacture and sale) was India's biggest market. During the 19th century, trade flourished in the region due to upgraded transport system. Due to the establishment of railways, there was an increase in trade and migration of people from various places such as Bihar, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

New typology of buildings and the design of specialty markets such as Gol Bazaar, which is circular in layout, were introduced in the city. A defining period for trade in Region was in 1959 due to the establishment of Bhilai Steel Plant, which is situated between Durg and Raipur. Today, due to excessive of commercialization in residential areas and change of

occupation from the traditional knowledge system specialty markets are losing its heritage character extensively.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Following objective will be fulfilled in the current study;

1. To study the patterns of evolution of trade and trade routes in the city by understanding communities profile and occupation.
2. To understand the causes and impacts of the new administrative systems concerning the trading pattern and occupations of the communities.
3. To examine the evolution of bazaars during various time periods.
4. To analyze the significance of trade and trade route in the city and its present condition.

3. Trade Routes that shaped history:

A trade route is path by land or sea and connecting various trading destinations in the past. The trade route allowed the transportation of goods, services and migration of people across multiple trading points. The various trade routes of ancient India and the world are described below.

1. Silk Route: The most famous trade route in the world, which was prominent in the 2nd century B.C. until the 14th century A.D. connecting Asia to the Mediterranean, traversing China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greece, and Italy.
2. Spice route: Bringing flavor from east to west.
3. Incense route using domesticated camels.
4. Amber road: Trading beads

5. Tea route: The precipitous tea-horse road
6. Salt route: via salaria
7. Trans-Saharan trade route: Trading across the desert
8. Tin route: Bronze age business

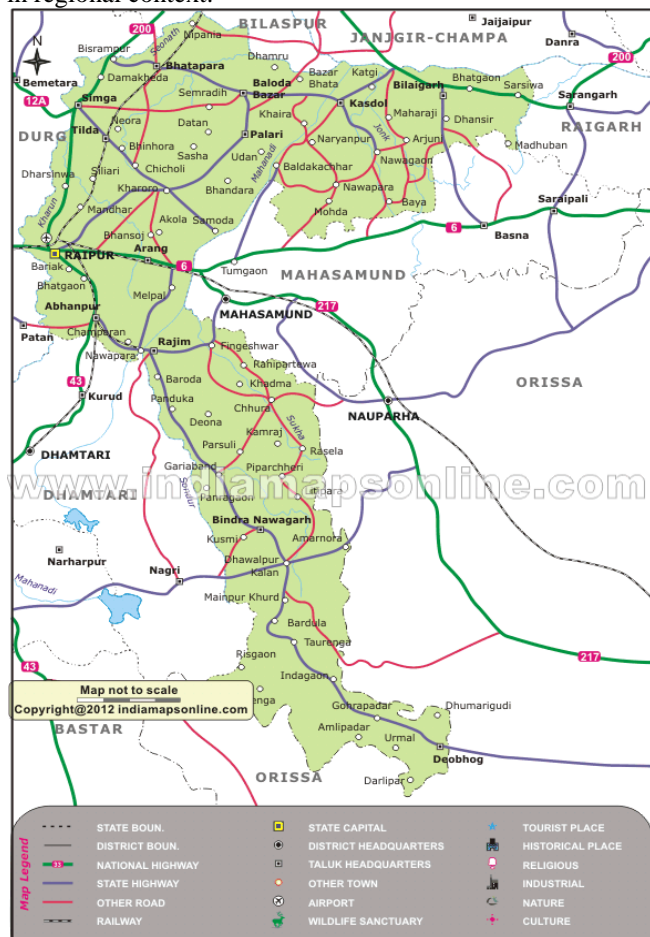
4. Reason of Trading:

There are many different reasons for trade. It is basically an economic concept involving the buying and selling of goods and services, travelling to one place to another-migration, short term or a long term results a place where either place to sell the goods and services for short term migration or a new settlement.

5. Raipur District:

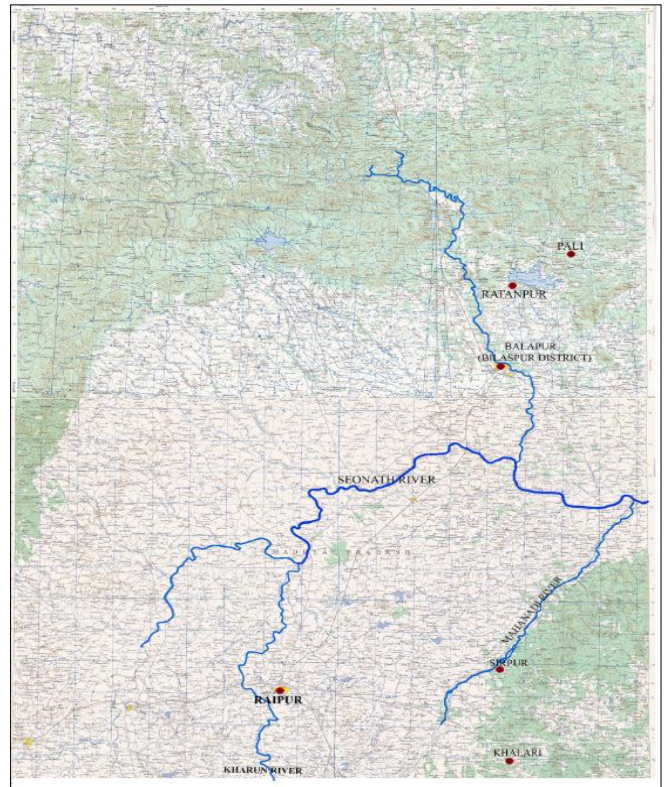
Presently in the Raipur district there are 300 bazaars which is weekly markets with local peoples. includes Raipur, Dhamtari, Bhatapara, kurud, samoda, Nevra, Baloda bazaar, Chambar and Gatwar etc. Baloda bazaar is the biggest among this.

Fig 1: Map of Raipur District shows the major and minor routes in regional context:



Source: Indiamaps.com

Fig 2: Map showing regional context of the region.



Source 1: Base map- U S Army

Source 2: Author

6. Khaadi & Village Industries in the state Handloom Sector:

Handloom sector is concentrated primarily in Janjgir - Champa and Raigarh districts which are considered as hubs for Kosa cloth production. and Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund, Kabirdham, Dhamtari, and Surguja & Bastar which are cotton producing areas.¹

7. RAIPUR CITY:

RAIPUR district is situated in the mid-eastern part of the Chhattisgarh state. It extends from latitude 21° 23" to longitude 81° 65" and an elevation of 950ft above sea level. It was initially the main centre for the market as it lies in the centre Chhattisgarh Before separation from Madhya Pradesh it was the largest district in India.

1. The major crops of Raipur are pulses, wheat, paddy (Paddy was produced in abundance and sent to south India where there was a demand for rice but production was less) udad, peas and lakh-tiwara, among others. Soyabeen, alsin and groundnut are some of the prime oilseeds that are grown in Raipur.
2. Animal husbandry is another major economic activity of Raipur which includes poultry farming and livestock. Also, rich reserve of Lime is found in abundance in Raipur city of Chhattisgarh.

8. KALACHURIES TIME PERIOD:

¹ (district wise skill gap study for the state of chhattisgarh, 2012-17)

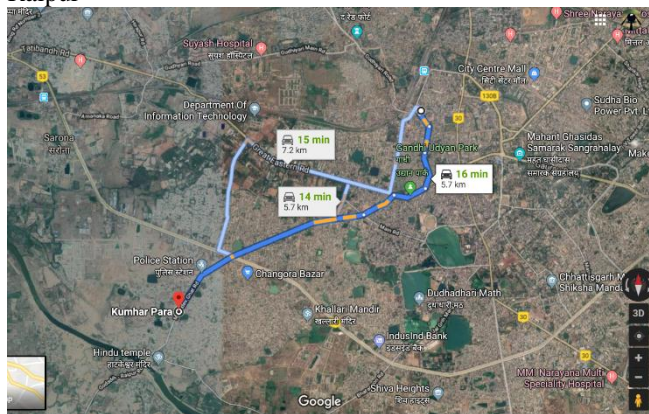
During Kalachuries time period, there were only two settlements. came up Raipura (which is on the bank of river Kharun and Purani Basti) was firstly established by the Kalachuries in 1360 A.D, when the branch of Ratanpur split into two different parts. And main branch continues at Ratanpur other shifted along the Kharun River. The road which connects Purani Basti to Raipura is named as Mahadev Ghat Road.

Fig 3: Images shows the process of making pottery at Kumhar para, Raipur.



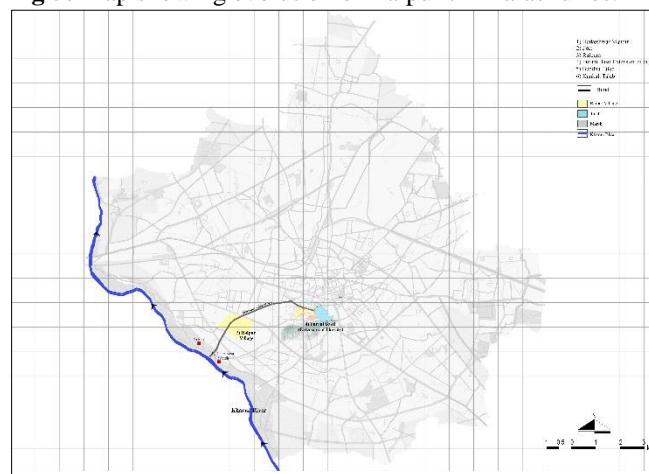
Source: Author

Fig 4: Map shows the geographical location of Kumhar Para, Raipur



Source: Google Maps

Fig 5: Map showing evolution of Raipur till Kalachuries.



Source: Author

9. PURANI BASTI:

The settlement of the Purani Basti has a different and unique character because of the evolution of settlement according to the occupation and the community which is continued till now. Where we have **colonies named after castes or professions of the people**. It is a complete city itself with about a cluster of 10 houses comprising a “para” or a Mohalla, a colony to be more precise. There are total 21 paras inside the Purani Basti, where earlier only 5 were there. The historical layer of the Purani Basti itself tells about the administration system, architecture, difference of construction techniques, difference in materials according to the occupation and community.

9.1 Occupation:

Agriculture was the main living for Kalachuries:

- Grain: Rice
- spices like: Black pepper, acne, paan
- fruits and flowers: Mango, madhuca longifolia (mahua), Shorea robusta (sal)

9.2 Irrigation system:

Natural through rain, river, pond and waterfall and also artificial through small drains. Till the time when Maratha's

arrived in the region it was mainly a small Basti (like a small cluster of houses)

Fig 6: Drain (originally- natural stream) through Agricultural land:



Source: Author

9.4 Bazaar during Kalachuries time period:

Turi-Hatri of the present was the main market at the center of the settlement. Turi- girl, hatri- Daily small market. Can be described as a **Meena bazaar of Purani Basti**. It was daily market for women, run by young girl’s about 250 in numbers where they sit down and use to sell. It was earlier called as Turi hatri ward. The market still runs but no longer any gender discrimination.

Fig 7: Image of Turi Hatri (one of the oldest bazaar of Raipur city)



Source: Author

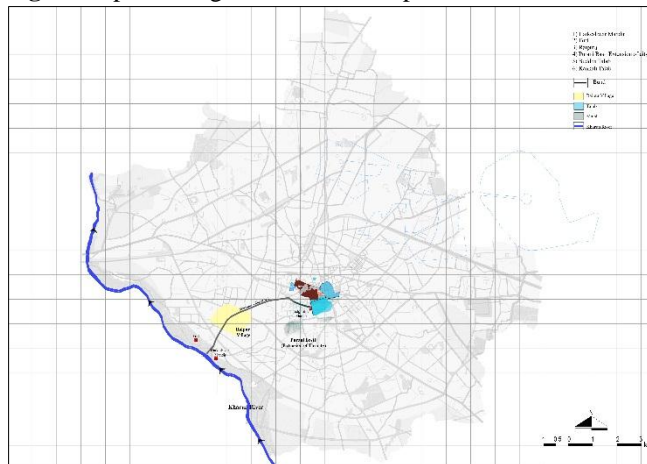
10. MARATHA PERIOD

Marathas in the middle of the eighteenth century, began the second stage of development in the history of Raipur. "In 1741 the Maratha General, .Bhasker pant, while on his way to attack Bengal, took Ratanpur and annexed the kingdom and in 1750 Amar Singh, the representative of the younger branch, rulling in Raipur, was quietly ousted".

Under the Maratha rule the physical growth of the town extended towards the north and the east. During this period a large number of immigrants. Migrated from Nagpur territory and were settled in Raipur. Consequently, Burhapara and Tatyapara; two residential para (wards) came into existence

during the Maratha regime from 1750 to 1853. During this period also, Turi-Hatri was the main market for the City.

Fig 8: Map showing evolution of Raipur till Marathas.

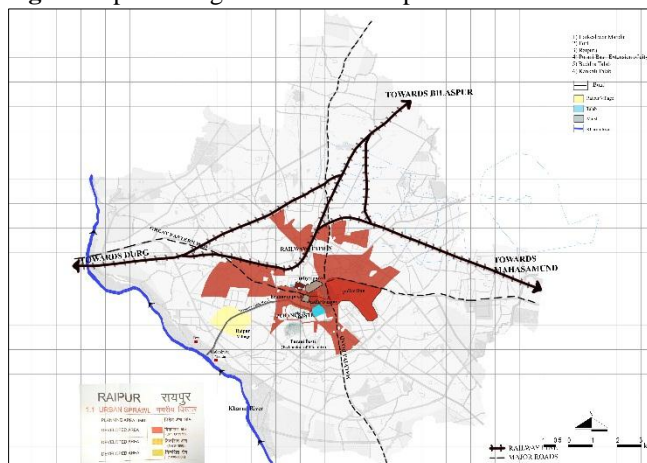


Source: Author

11.MARATHA PERIOD

The advent of the British rulers, in this part of the country, proved to be very significant in the history of town development. During the minority of Raghuji Bhonsla from 1818 to 1830 the administration of Chhattisgarh was passed on to the British for the first time for twelve years. During this short period this territory witnessed a great revival in its administration and developments. But in June 1830, although the administration was transferred-back to the Marathas, it was carried on successfully on the system organized by the Britishers.

Fig 9: Map showing evolution of Raipur till British.

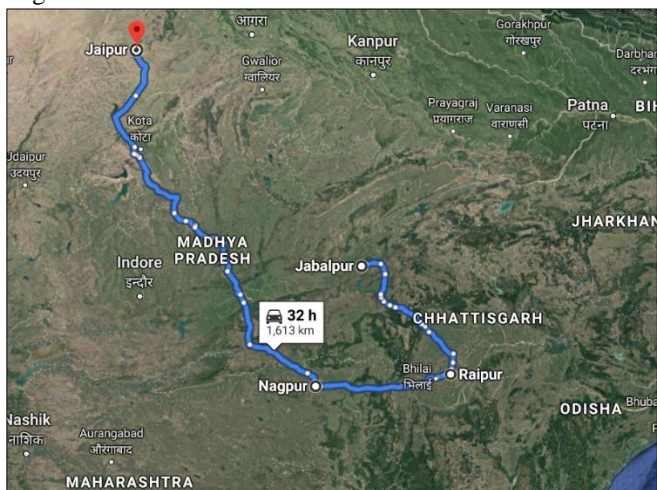


Source: Author

Capital of Chhattisgarh was shifted from Ratanpur to Raipur in by Raipur remained under the British influence from 1818 to 1947. There were three main routes during British time period which connects Raipur.

1. Nagpur to Raipur, Jabalpur
2. Raipur to Jaipur via khariyar.
3. Where Jabalpur’s route was from mandala to chilpighati.

Fig 10: Map showing main routes that connects Raipur to Regional Level.

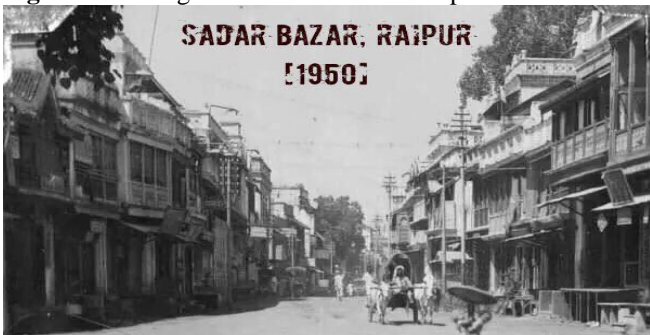


Source: Google Maps

11.1 Bazaars (Market) that has established during the British time period in the Raipur City

- Seth Nemi chand Shrishrimal came to Raipur from Rajasthan for small traders dealing in gold and Silver. The gold and silver trade flourished in Raipur due to its proximity to Orissa. Being on the route between the Mumbai and Kolkata, Raipur also has huge market for textiles.
- Malviya Road (started by Colonel Agnew and completed by Caption smith): Market was for the military people, who was purchasing clothes, goods and other items. Gradually it becomes the central sector of retail cloth market for the segments of peoples in Raipur. There is a Kaisar-i-hind Darwaza which was constructed as a memorial when Queen Victoria was pronounced as an Empress of India in 1877.
- It has been one of the biggest centres of trade in jewellery in the region not only after to Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh but also serves Ahmedabad, Baroda, Mumbai, and Orissa by acting as a transit point.
- Sadar Bazaar (1859): Sadar Bazaar (that primarily dealt with textiles and grocery) marked the era of trade and commerce. It was one of the main transit lines of the Raipur city which has left imprints on a number of other markets. It was also the main route for the chariots during the religious festivals and other rallies.

Fig 11: Old Image of Sadar Bazaar in Raipur.



Source: Facebook Raipur

- Gol Bazaar (1870): It was the oldest fruit and vegetable bazaar of Raipur. In early days this shifted to Shastri Bazaar which was whole sale and retail.

- Shastri Bazaar: Oldest and biggest Vegetable market of Raipur. And has had a significant identity ever since its establishment.
- Jawahar Bazaar: It was also the oldest fruit market.

Fig 12: Old Image of Rice seller at bazaar of Raipur.



Source: Facebook Raipur

The establishment of Bhilai Steel plant in 1955 (BSP) gave a boost to trade and commerce in Raipur, Along the Durg several towns like Raipur and Rajnandgaon also developed with the coming up of the Bhilai Steel plant. While the plant being seeing set up about 60-70 families stayed in Raipur for several years, giving a fillip to the business of local traders. Trade in the Region before 1930 was confined to Baster and Kanker from where the forest products were exported to the Arab countries. First rice mill and oil extraction plant in Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh was started by the shrishrimal family who settled here from Rajasthan. Also, the influence of thesis traders in the locality that the name of the streets also changed by the name of traders where they are living as a landmark in the history.

People of Badhaipara around 1900 C.E they have settled here because of the fine quality of wood results country's biggest market of manufacture and sale of bullock-cart in Badhai para.

Fig 13: Image of Bull cart wheels at Badhai at Raipur



Source: Author

In 1909, Raipur is a leading commercial town of Chhattisgarh and has supplanted Rajnandgaon which, for many years, occupied this position, The local handicrafts are brass-working the making of bell metal ornaments, Lacquering on wood, cloth weaving and the manufacture of gold and silver

Ornaments. Introduction of Railways during this period (1871 and 1988) the effect of railways was mainly on the trade and commerce, different type of bazaars was formed inside the city.

12.CONCLUSION:

There is a need of protection of the Tangible and Intangible things its historical significance, Architecture, authenticity and integrity because it is a back bone of the city also an evidence that city has been pass through the ages. Without identity the place is nothing.

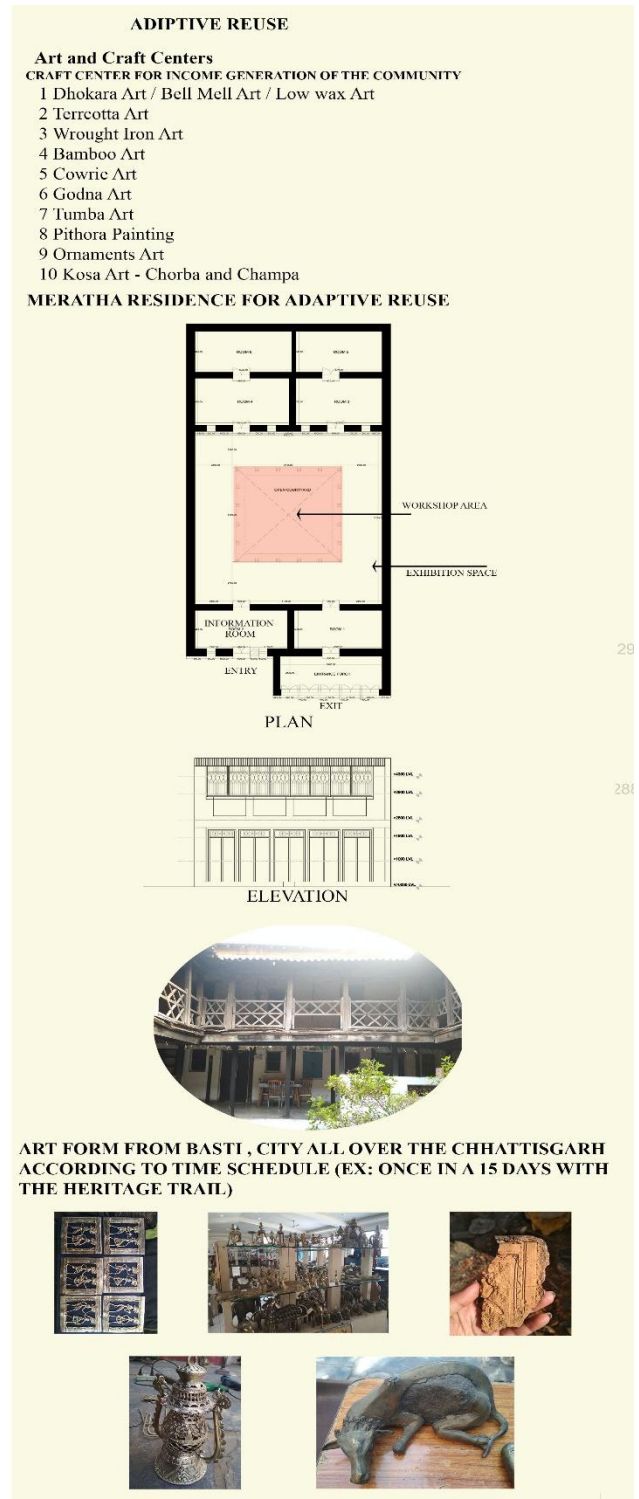
Chhattisgarh as a Rice bowl (since the city is surrounded by the perennial river of Mahanadi, hence the agricultural lands of the city are quite fertile and boasts of commendable production every year) and system of trade and route was very significant in the growth of Raipur as a Lots of Formal and informal Bazaars has been evolved but now a days mostly all the bazaars were converted into multifunctional market. Jawahar bazaar now is a whole sale market for the city. Close to Malviya road once upon a time all roads from Sadar bazaar led to sarafa bazaar and Halwai lane. While the Sarafa Bazaar has not survived and flourished, it has been eaten into Halwai Lane with a majority of Halwai’s preferring to enter the jewellery business.

Hazari lal Halwai, who was famous for his Samosas and jalebis has also converted his shop into a jewellery showroom. There was a plan to pull down the stone gate of Keshri Hind but somehow it decided to preserve as a monument.

Natural drain which was initiated by the Kalachuries and other rulers was created for irrigation purposes in the city still exists but the condition of the drain has become sullage water drain because all the pipes from houses are directly opening to the natural drains and after that through Talabs going to the Kharun river. There are no benefits to the owners or the craftsmen’s who is existing in the city from the government or any type of helping hands with the training programs etc.

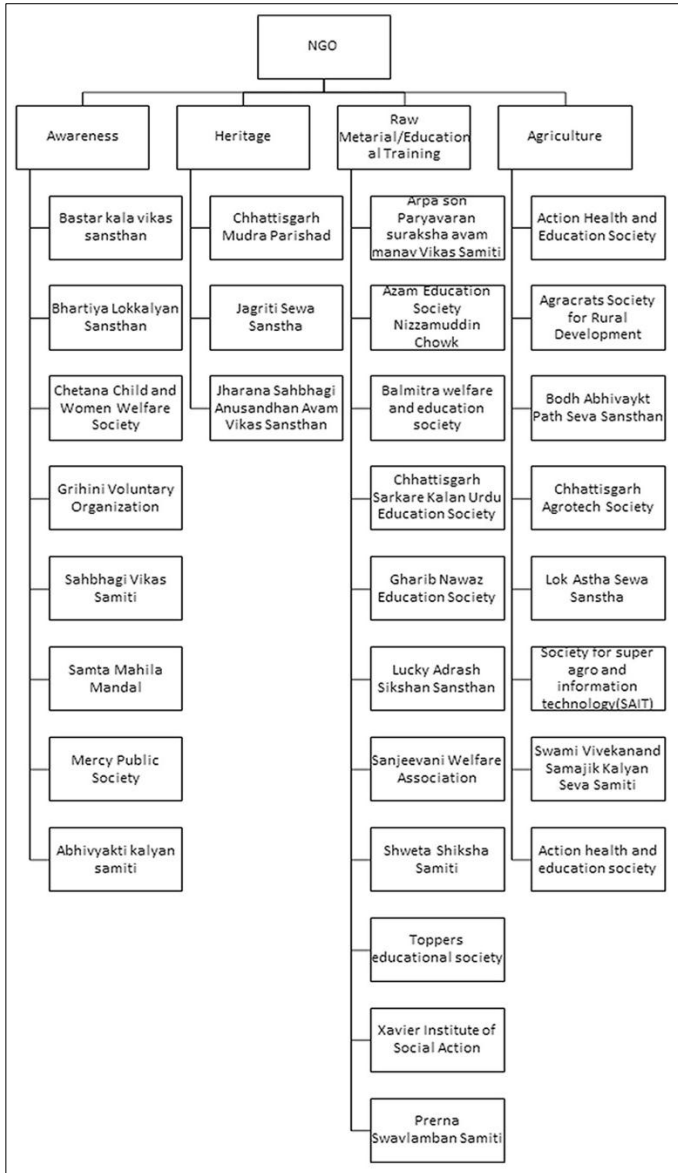
There is a lack of Infrastructure for art and crafts (government has taken an initiative to promote art and craft with the help of Mati kala Board and also, they provide machines for Kumhar’s but the involvement of craftsman’s in the heritage buildings is nowhere, training programs is very less and also very less amount of exhibition, hence they are usually road side and selling their crafts). Improvement of interaction between the local craftsmen with the government is needed.

Fig 14: Proposal for an Adaptive reuse of a Heritage house as an Art & Craft center at Purani Basti.



Source: Author

List of existing NGO's that can help elevate the communities of Raipur.



Source: Author

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