

Giveh-weaving handicraft of Abadeh facing challenges

Iranica Desk

Giveh is a kind of soft, comfortable, durable and handmade shoe that is common in several parts of Iran. *Giveh*-weaving is a traditional handicraft in Fars Province, particularly in the city of Abadeh. However, due to the increased use of machine-made products, the demand for handmade items, especially *giveh*, has significantly fallen.

This has resulted in a lack of interest in younger generations to pursue this craft. Economic fluctuations, market instability, high price of raw materials, and low demand have caused *giveh*-weaving, like many other handicrafts, to stagnate.

Despite this, Ali Mostaghni, a 26-year-old nursing graduate, has been practicing *giveh*-weaving for eleven years since he learned it from his grandfather. He believes that *giveh*-weaving was once a

high-income profession in Abadeh, and the *giveh* produced in this city was well-known in the southern region of the country.

However, the shortage in raw materials and lack of interest from the younger generation has led to a decline in the number of *giveh*-weavers in Abadeh.

Mostaghni emphasizes the importance of supporting this profession, which is currently practiced by only a few elderly individuals. The majority of customers for these handicrafts are members of the Qashqaei and Bakhtiari tribes, who use them as traditional clothing.

"We ask the authorities to teach *giveh*-weaving to interested students studying in art schools because they should start it at the age of 15-16, and become skilled after several years of apprenticeship. We urge the city's officials to work on revitalizing the handicraft through media and financial

assistance," he said.

Mohammad Ali Jabari, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Abadeh, stated that facilities are available for those engaged in the handicrafts sector.

"There is a lack of interest in this field, but if we establish the necessary infrastructure and training facilities in the county, more people would be willing to learn this art."

He mentioned that woodcarving workshops have been initiated in the Cultural Heritage Department and similar plans can be made for other handicrafts including *giveh*-weaving.

He emphasized that the Cultural Heritage Department of Abadeh is working on promoting this handicraft, and there is good cooperation between the provincial organization and the municipality of Abadeh.



Renovation of Babol's Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge, path to growth in tourism

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Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge of Babol, Mazandaran Province, is an ancient structure dating back to the 18th century. It is situated over the beautiful Babolrud (river). It holds great historical significance as one of the remarkable bridges from the Qajar period, ISNA wrote.

This bridge has the largest communication route between the eastern and western parts of Babol.

It is located two kilometers away from the center of Babol, in the southern part of the city, surrounded by five neighborhoods.

In the early years of Karim Khan Zand's reign, in the year 1734 CE, Mohammad Hassan Khan Qajar, the grandson of Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar, who had conquered the current city of Babol and other areas of Mazandaran and had emerged victorious in the war against Karim Khan Zand (1705-1779 CE), built this great bridge over

the river which has remained to this day.

This bridge has seven main arches, with a height of 11 meters from the riverbed. With a length of 140 meters and a width of six meters, it is considered one of the important bridges in the province in terms

of economic and transportation issues.

Until 1964, Babol and Amol were connected through this bridge, but in this year a new road starting from the western side of the city was built.

However, heavy vehicles still pass through it, which has brought some criticism due to

the damages that can be inflicted on this national monument. Over the years, numerous actions have been taken to construct a replacement and remove this bridge from under the traffic load. Vehicle traffic on the bridge and road passage under the bridge has endangered this historical structure.

Deputy Head of the Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization Mohsen Bastani said that all light and heavy vehicles are prohibited from passing under the historic bridge of Mohammad Hassan Khan in Babol.

He added, to preserve this historical structure, a new alterna-

tive road should be constructed in this area so that this valuable work is not destroyed any further.

"We need to repair the damaged part of the bridge to prevent further deterioration and widening of the crack."

Head of Babol's Islamic City Council Mohammad Qorbani said that planning and creating a tourism spot around the Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge could be a great solution for its preservation and maintenance.

"By developing a comprehensive plan, we can revitalize the bridge area, making it a vibrant destination for tourists and locals alike," he said.

He continued that planning and creating a leisure destination around Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge could be a great solution for its preservation and maintenance.

"Only through solidarity and harmony between Babol's City Council and the municipality can we achieve a great success in this regard," he concluded.

