

A Study On The Different Delightful Craft Work In Kashmir

Towseef Mohi Ud Din

Research Scholar in Economics, Vikram University Ujjain (M.P)

Email: towseefeco@gmail.com

Abstract: *The wonderful craftsmanship that go forward in the lap of neat as a new pin beauty got perfect over the centuries through nimble be on pins and needles of artisans, evolve into a novel blend of workable economic activity and rich cultural heritage, exist it Carpet Weaving, Kani Shawl Making, Papier Mache Work, Khatamband, Wood Carving, Phulkari Work, Thangka Painting, Namda Making, Basoli Painting or other craft, the master skills of legendary local hands remain incomparable throughout the world.*

Keywords: *Handicraft, different crafts, artisans*

1. Introduction

Art and craft of Kashmir are as the fragrance of flower, which is so much attractive like our craft also attract the consumers from world. Our artists and craftsmen found an unmatched expression from our impressive culture through the appreciated legacy of handicrafts. Historically the fame and fortune of these handicrafts has been legendary surmounting the barriers imposed by our geography and amazing the masses across the world. Prized around the globe, these crafts weave a magical mix of motifs and imagery that mirrors the diverse cultural and geographical wall-hanging of Kashmir.

2. Objectives

- To analyze the different craft of Kashmir valley

3. Methodology

The data for the present study has been collected from secondary sources. Government of Jammu and Kashmir digest of statistics, books, journals, newspapers, published and unpublished research

work, various search engines and primary survey are also used.

4. Main thought

Different crafts of Kashmir:

Kani shawl

An artistic majesty woven into a shawl, kani shawls are most exquisite and famous shawls from Kashmir. Craftsman weaves the shawls with special wooden needles called kanis in Kashmiri. With highly specialized technique, making of kani shawl takes at least a year or two depending on the design. The shawls have been a favorite of Mughal emperors and owing to their extraordinary beauty, skill and time involved these shawls are exclusive as well as expensive.

Papier machie

Papier machie derived from French word meaning “chewed paper” papier machie involves composite material consisting of paper pulp, sometimes reinforced with textiles, bound with an adhesive, such as glue starch or wallpaper past. Through this decorative art local craftsmen transform a verity of utility articles into rare art pieces. The process

comprises of two phases, the sakhtsazi (making the object) and the naqashi (painting the surface).

Khatamband

A rare and incredibly wonderful specialty of wood work, Khatamband is an art of making ceiling. The crafts men fit small pieces of wood (preferably walnut or deodar wood) in geometrical pattern without using of nails. The ceiling when completed presents exquisite design and can easily be disassembled and reassembled according to the requirement.

Carpet weaving

Carpet involves the most intricate forms of weaving. Weaving almost one million knots per square meter a craftsman turns a silk carpet into a marvelous piece of art. Famous throughout the world, carpet weaving in Kashmir has been passed and perfected through generations. Carpets are woven on wooden looms across rural and urban Kashmir. A carpet is completed in several months or years depending on the density and size. Raw materials used are wool, silk and mercerized cotton.

Wood carving

Traditionally woodcarving has been aesthetically vibrant art form in Kashmir. Kashmir has some of the best walnut wood carving done anywhere in the world. Craftsmen etch floral or other patterns through a dexterous use of mallet and chisel on wood. Wood carving is done on a verity of objects ranging from furniture (tables, chairs, writing desks, dining tables etc.) to articles of personal use like jewellery boxes, photo frames and various other articles used for interior decoration.

Kishtwar straw work "binna"

Pursued as a leisure time activity by women, straw work is done in different parts of Jammu. But the straw craft binna of Kishtwar is considered to be the best. The mineral rich brown soil of Kishtwar

lends a special quality the wheat and the straw which is extraordinary smooth and lustrous. It is used to weave round an oblong mats, containers and trays of various kinds with a unique finish.

Kandkari copperware

Kandkari is an exclusive craft in copperware that master smiths of Kashmir have kept alive from centuries; the craftsmen engrave copper utensils with geometrical and calligraphic motifs. The designs on copper ware items are unique and attractive. The most famous product of Kandkari work is "Kashmir Samovar", a kettle used to prepare Kehwa and Nun Chai. The Kandkari work is done upon other items like Bowls, Frames, Flower Vases, Tea Sets and Scent Chests.

Thangka painting

Practiced in Ladakh thangka is a traditional Himalayan Buddhist scroll painting which depicts the life of Buddha, various influential lamas and deities, the wheel of life and bodhisattvas. An artist undergoes rigorous spiritual and artistic training to learn the craft. Paintings are made on white cloth plastered with local clay which is found in abundance in village spituk and places like lamayuru. Thangka is a religious art and is used as meditation tool to help bring one further toward the path of enlightenment.

Tilla work

A style of embroidery which involves the use of gold or silver zari (tilla) thread, tilla work is a traditional Kashmiri craft used to embellish pherans and shawls but now can be seen on saris, shalwar kameez and other garments. Artisans painstakingly embellish the fabric with designs made by silver or gold thread secured by cotton thread. The designs can be vary from traditional intricate patterns requiring a lot of time to finish to simpler ones which require less thread and labour. The most commonly used motifs are the Pamposh (Lotus), Chinar, Badam, (Almond). A bride's

trousseau is considered incomplete without a tilla pheran.

Lachka

Lachka is a tailored cap worn by the Gujjar women and children. It is closely fitted and has a flap extending down to the neck at the back. Artisans embroider the lachkas in cotton thread in bright colours with designs mostly in geometric shapes like circles, triangles and wave-like lines. The finely embroidered cap is also decorated with coins, buttons, amulets, shells and beads.

Kanger

No family in Kashmir can get over the winter without a Kanger. The craftsmen make a small portable earthenware-lined wicker basket, Kanger, which becomes a warming pot when filled with burning coal. It is believed to be in use since the time of Mughals and no matter how many heating devices are in the market nowadays, its popularity and utility remains intact. Kanger is work of art and represents the place it is made at like Tchaar Kanger, Bandepoor Kanger and Islambaed Kanger. There are kangeris which are intricately woven with fine willow while some are made of coarse and thick material.

Phuk-Kari

Phul-kari is popular since 15th century; phulkari is a style of embroidery using bright floral designs. The word Phul means flower and Kari means craft. A traditional craft of Jammu, phulkari is a domestic art practiced by women for their own use. The craft has brought colour into the everyday lives of women and their garments. A bride's trousseau is considered incomplete without phulkari. Earlier the embroidery was limited to shalwar kameez and dupattas but now phulkari is done on handkerchiefs, table covers, bed spreads, wall hangings, jackets, bags, footwear and kids garments reflecting their popularity. The designs are also no longer limited to floral patterns.

5. Conclusion

There is a requirement to enhance the quality and quantity of the production to get more income and give a positive impact to economy. There is no doubt that handicraft industry are doing very well and that is significantly affecting our economy if we want to boost our economy more there will be a requirement of latest machines and new technology for running this industries. As part of improvement in the production, it will help to create more employment opportunities for persons looking for job directly or indirectly. And also there is a requirement to bring numerous improvements in the handicraft industry such as, requirement of assistance from government. The state government need to be liberal administratively and financially, so that artisans fell easy to produce better quality and they can able to compete with the mill made goods.

6. Reference

- i.** Kashmir Times, 18 March, Monday, (2002)
- ii.** Industry on fast revival in J&K, Jammu, News line, The Official Website of Jammu & Kashmir Government , India, 18 September,(2001)
- iii.** Bamzai P.N.K., a history of Kashmir political, social, culture from the earlier times to the present day, New Delhi, (1962)
- iv.** J&K bank yearly calendar cum magazine (2014)