



# *International Journal of Home Science*

ISSN: 2395-7476  
IJHS 2016; 2(3): 211-213  
© 2016 IJHS  
[www.homesciencejournal.com](http://www.homesciencejournal.com)  
Received: 06-07-2016  
Accepted: 07-08-2016

**Prathyusha Kantheti**  
Ph. D scholar, Department of  
Apparel and Textiles, College of  
Home science, Professor Jaya  
Shankar Telangana State  
Agricultural University,  
Hyderabad-500004, India.

**Dr. Anitha Dasari**  
Professor and Head, Department  
of Apparel and Textiles, College  
of Home Science, Professor Jaya  
Shankar Telangana State  
Agricultural University,  
Hyderabad-500 004, India.

## A study on Perception and preferences of backing materials by block printers

**Prathyusha Kantheti and Dr. Anitha Dasari**

### Abstract

India has been renowned for its hand block printed and dyed textiles in cotton and silk. It is the essence of India and the crafts that make India stand out in the world and skill passed through many generations and should be preserved. Block Printing is one of the numerous arts and crafts that are slowly dyeing and need to be renewed and brought back to life. The present study was taken to find out if there exists any scope for replacement of the hessian with other backing materials in order to improve print performance of block printed textiles. This study has revealed many facts and had given scope for experimenting on these terms. Study was conducted on 30 block printers with the help of pre tested questionnaire regarding the type of materials used as backing and the years of their longevity, any scope for replacement and the durability of the present backing material and this study has revealed many facts.

**Keywords:** Block printing, Block printers, Backing materials, Jute, Thickness

### 1. Introduction

Block printing is an ancient Indian art that dates as far back as 12th century. Traditionally, hand carved wood block stamps were used to print on textiles. The art of block printing is very unique and labour intensive process, as it makes every piece of cloth one of a kind and different from others, which cannot be achieved with modern printing techniques using automated machinery. What makes this technique exquisite is the fact that the design has to be first carved onto the wooden block by hand, and then executed on the fabric.

Traditional block printing was done using environment friendly dyes, derived from vegetables, plants, minerals etc. These pigments were mixed with kerosene oil and binder which helps in fixing the colours to the fabric.

Hessian cloths are used extensively as backing materials for hand block printing table. Using of hessian as backing material is practiced from ages. Due to natural bio-degradable feature, and its durability, end users prefer to use hessian cloth over synthetic substitutes.

The present study was conducted on 30 block printers to know their opinion on present backing material used on block printing table and to find out whether any other materials can replace the present hessian backing materials.

### 2. Methodology

A survey was conducted in different block printing units of Hyderabad. The device for collection of data consisted of a pre tested questionnaire. Questionnaire was developed to illicit information from the block printers regarding their experience in this field, type of backing material used for block printing table, thickness of backing material, no of layers required to acquire the desired thickness, its durability, frequency of using printing table, duration of using printing table, articles that are frequently printed, frequency of replacing backing material, top most layer of printing table, type of printing paste used and the ideal material suitable for backing. Data was collected through pre tested questionnaire from 30 block printers in the area of Hyderabad.

Their perception with regard to the present block printing table, the type of backing material used, their thickness, layers placed, and the ideal fabric used for backing material were collected and evaluated. Overall mean scores were used to find the printers opinion on the present block printing table.

**Correspondence**  
**Prathyusha Kantheti**  
Ph. D scholar, Department of  
Apparel and Textiles, College of  
Home science, Professor Jaya  
Shankar Telangana State  
Agricultural University,  
Hyderabad-500004, India.

### 3. Results

#### Perception and Preferences of Block printers with Regard to hand block printing table.

To facilitate the need based research, data was collected from 30 block printers from different block printing units of Hyderabad through pre- tested questionnaire. Their perception with regard to present block printing table, materials used for backing, thickness, no of layers used for achieving desired thickness, its durability was collected and evaluated. Apart from this, their opinion on an ideal backing material was collected. This survey has revealed few facts about the backing materials that best suits the purpose of block printing and its role in printing.

The thickness required and the no of layers to be used was also collected and analysed.

The perception and preferences of block printers with regard to printing table were presented below

#### 3.1 longevity of printing table and type of material used for backing

**Table 1:** (values in numerical scores) n=30

S. No	Factors	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b> Since how long the printing table was used			
a)	10 yrs	10	33
b)	15 yrs	20	67
<b>2.</b> Type of material used for backing			
a)	Jute	30	100

As per the information/data collected from block printers (shown in the table 3.1) 33 percent of the printers were using the table since 10years where as 67 percent of the respondents were using table from 15 years. Cent percent of the respondents were using jute hessian (tattu in local language) as backing material.

#### 3.2 Layers of material used for backing and Thickness of backing material

**Table 2:** (values in numerical scores) n=30

S. No	Factors	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b> Layers of material required for backing			
a)	20-22	08	27
b)	22-24	22	73
<b>2</b> Thickness of the backing after laying all the layers			
a)	1-1.5 inch	04	13
b)	1.5-2inch	26	87

73 percent of the respondents opined that the required layers of backing material for block printing table is 22-24 layers where as 27 percent of the printers were of opinion that 20-22 layers of thickness is sufficient for printing table to ensure sufficient backing for printing. With regard to the required thickness, 87 percent of the respondents viewed 1.5"-2.0" thickness is sufficient for backing, where as 13 percent believed that 1.0"-1.5" (inch) thickness is required.

#### 3.3 Reason for selecting particular material for backing and durability of backing material

**Table 3:** (values in numerical scores) n=30

S. No	Factors	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b> Reason for selecting Jute as Backing material			
a)	Cost effective	30	100

b)	Durable	30	100
c)	Traditional method	30	100
<b>2</b> Durability of backing material			
a)	2-3 yrs	-	-
b)	3-5yrs	-	-
c)	More than 6 yrs	30	100

As shown in the above table, all the respondents gave the reason for selecting jute as backing material as - its cost effectiveness, biodegradable nature and mainly because of the reason that their fore fathers were highly dependent on the jute hessian. The durability of jute hessian was more than 6 yrs as opined by majority of printers.

#### 3.4 Duration and Frequency of using Printing table.

**Table 3:** (values in numerical scores) n=30

S. No	Factors	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b> Duration of using printing table for printing			
a)	06 hours per day	02	7
b)	08 hrs per day	10	33
c)	More than 10 hours	18	60
<b>2</b> Frequency of using printing table			
a)	Daily	30	100
<b>3.</b> Type of articles printed			
a)	Saris	30	100
b)	Dress materials	30	100
c)	Bed sheets	30	100

As the survey was conducted in block printing units, majority of the block printers use the printing table for more than 10 hours per day, 33 percent were using printing table for a minimum period of 8 hours per day. The type of articles printed daily were mainly saris and dress materials followed by bed sheets.

#### 3.5 Top most layer of printing table, cost of the present backing material, can any other materials replace present backing materials and type of printing paste used for printing

**Table 4:** (values in numerical scores) n=30

S. No	Factors	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b> Top most layers used as backing			
a)	Khora	30	100
b)	Cotton	-	-
<b>2</b> Can any other materials replace the traditional jute Hessian backing			
a)	Yes	12	80
b)	No	03	20
<b>3</b> Cost of the present backing material			
a)	40-60/ mt	15	100
<b>4</b> Type of printing paste used			
a)	Pigment colours	30	100
b)	Natural Colours	-	-

Cent percent of the respondents were using jute hessian (tattu) in local language as backing material. Two layers of khora material is used as the top most layer of backing by cent percent printers/respondents. When they were posed with the question of can any of the other materials replace the present jute backing, 80 of the respondents opined that the traditional backing material can be replaced by other suitable materials provided with improvement of quality than jute. Whereas 20 percent said no other materials can be replaced with jute.

Majority of the respondents said that the material used as backing named jute hessian (tattu) costs around 40-60/mt and cent percent of the respondents use pigment colours for hand block printing.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Study conducted on the block printing table and block printers, had shown that there was a definite need to improve the performance of the block printing table. Even though there was much scope for improvement of hand block printing table, unfortunately in India this field was not much identified and negligible work had been carried out.

Data was collected from 30 block printers through a pretested questionnaire. Their perception with regard to the backing material used on block printing table including type of material used, its durability, layers of materials used, thickness of material, cost of the material etc. were collected. Apart from this the opinion on an ideal backing material was collected and evaluated. The data collected was consolidated.

As per the information collected it was found that, majority of the printers were using block printing table with jute as backing material from 15years and the durability of this jute backing is more than 6 years. Selection of jute as backing material is based purely on its durability and biodegradability. The ideal thickness of backing material is 1.5 to 2 inch thickness which can be achieved by laying 24 layers of material. Majority of the block printers, 80 percent of the block printers suggested the use of other backing material for block printing table.

#### **5. References**

1. Edmund Knecht. The principles and practice of textile printing. 1952.
2. Hatanaka, Kokyo, Zahid Sardar. Textile Arts of India. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1996.
3. Mohanty, Bijoy Chandra, Jagadish P. Mohanty. Block Printing and Dyeing of Bagru. Ahmedabad Calico Museum of Textiles, 1983.
4. Sickman L, Soper A. The Art and Architecture of China. Pelican History of Art (3rd ed.). Penguin, 1971. ISBN 0-14-056110-2.
5. Sasha<<http://www.sashaworld.com/block/block.htm>> India Crafts, 2003.
6. [http://www.india-crafts.com/textile\\_products/blockimpressions.html](http://www.india-crafts.com/textile_products/blockimpressions.html) 2003.
7. <http://www.kalyanatextiles.com/pages/block-printing>
8. <http://jaitexart.com/others/art-of-hand-block-printing/>