



International Journal of Home Science

ISSN: 2395-7476
IJHS 2017; 3(2): 668-670
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www.homesciencejournal.com
Received: 01-03-2017
Accepted: 02-04-2017

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Manufacturing technique of exquisite handicraft of Jadau Kundan Jewellery of Bikaner, Rajasthan

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to investigate and properly document the craft of Jadau Kundan Jewellery of Bikaner, Rajasthan. 40 artisans were selected randomly for study. It was observed that majority of artisans were young below 40 years, living in joint families, were giving full time practice the craft, learnt the craft from their fathers and forefathers. Most of the workers neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their job.

Artisans were facing problems like job insecurity, irregular work load, low wages, occupational health hazards, lack of awareness regarding new government schemes and policies. Suggestions noted were government initiatives towards job security, establishment of workers union and providing improved working facilities.

Prime raw materials, manufacturing technique, tools and equipments needed were recorded. It was found that artisans hand over jewellery to mediator or customer. After production jewellery is sent to various cities for being exported. So, Bikaner acted only as a production centre.

It was concluded that if the production can be managed in organized manner there is a immense potential for the growth of Jadau Kundan Jewellery of Bikaner.

Keywords: Jadau Kundan Jewellery of Bikaner, Manufacturing Technique

1. Introduction

India has been renowned for its variegated handicrafts. The soul of Indian handicrafts lies in its rich cultural heritage. The handcrafted products are not only bearer of Indian heritage but also the foundation of modern design innovation. Rajasthan is one such craft pocket in India and the diverse Rajasthani craft article range from modern textiles to very traditional tie dyed textiles.

Bikaner being parched drought prone region, handicrafts have always aided as a means of supplementary income with its cultural and social significance. The handicrafts of Bikaner includes jewellery, tie and dye, carpets, embroidered leather, *mojaris*, miniature paintings, camel hide, terracotta and lac bangles which have been practiced here from generations. Present study was an attempt to study and documenting crafts of Jadau Kundan Jewellery of Bikaner, Rajasthan.

The selected handicraft of Jadau Kundan Jewellery practiced in Bikaner is also known as Meena Jewellery all over the world. Skills of jewellery making have been passed on from generations to generations by providing formal training in this field by masters. The elaborate manufacturing of this jewellery has not been done yet: this is why this field, lacks insufficient authentic information.

Following were the objectives of the study-

1. To study the present status of artisans: record problem faced and their suggestions to overcome the same.
2. To gather information about techniques, raw material and equipment used to manufacture the Jadau Kundan Jewellery.
3. To study the marketing and export potential of selected handicraft.

Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in Bikaner city, one of the historical cities of Rajasthan. Jadau Kundan Jewellery are well known across the globe and fall within the boundaries of subject of

Textiles and Apparel Designing, hence selected for the investigation.

Forty respondents were selected and personal interviewed for proper documentation of present status of artisans, problem faced, suggestions, raw materials, tools, equipments, process of making the jewellery, marketing and export potential of selected handicraft.

to get the desired information three interview schedules were formed with intense care regarding reliability and validity. The data was analyzed using the method of percentage analysis.

Results and Discussion

It was observed that most of the artisans 65% indulged in manufacturing the handicraft were young, lying between the age of 25-40 years, 35% artisans were live in joint family, 60% artisans belongs to family with 4 to 6 members while 40% have large size family with 7 and more members.

It was observed that all workers are practicing the craft for full time as a source of earning. Another finding is that 67.5% of total artisans learnt the craft from their fathers and forefathers as their family occupation. Most of the workers 80% earn more than 15000 rupees on monthly basis. It was found that 20% workers were happy with their income whereas 60% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their earnings. Those with monthly income less than 10000 rupees and largest family size were dissatisfied with their earnings.

Artisans of Jadau Kundan Jewellery face several problems. Some of these were job insecurity, irregular work load, low wages, occupational health hazards relating to decreasing eyesight, musculo skeletal problems, lack of awareness regarding new government schemes and policies and unorganized production.

Some suggestions given by artisans were government initiatives towards job security, provision of awards and establishment of workers union.

Manufacturing technique of Jadau Kundan Jewellery

Jadau Kundan Jewellery also known as Meena Jewellery gold is called Kundan and colourful paint is called Meena. It was observed that the jewellery produced by artisans are necklaces, bangles, bracelets, rings, earrings and armcuffs etc. Prices may vary depending upon size and types of stones used.

Raw materials for manufacturing- Raw materials are

1. Gold- Prime metal used in making surma the filling material.
2. Stones- Precious stones like diamond, semi precious like ruby and imitation stones are chosen depending on customers preferences.
3. Silver- Used in a thick foil form to cover the white or transparent stones on reverse side to increase the glaze or shine.
4. Coloured foil- To cover the coloured stone.
5. Resin- Called *Chapadi* used in making surma the filling material.
6. Surma powder- This is a mineral of black colour which forms the base for filling mixture.

Tools Used

As per study the tools used in Jadau Kundan Jewellery were *ghoti*, *ghota*, *salai*, fire torch, *chimi*, File, wire and sheet, drawing machine, *Bulli*, *Kaitya*, *Chugga*, scissors, sawan, brush, *soopdi*, *kaiya*, weighing balance, *hundi*, hammer and *Kheliya*.

Type of Design Used

Jadau Kundan Jewellery are usually made by arranging tiny geometrical shapes like round, oval, triangle, square and rectangle. Mostly floral designs like flowers, leaves, mango shapes are used to combine with the designs resembling to peacock and parrot.

Process of making

First step in making Kundan Jewellery is preparing collets called Ghat. In this gold is pressed into wire stripes and sheet of required gauge. Strips are cut into pieces of given shapes like round, oval, mango, square, boat, bowl etc and are arranged according to design. Gold sheet is attached at the base. After cutting away the extra sheet and filling the ghat is polished and finished. Plate -1

Meenakari

The finished ghat is given to artisan called meenakar for enameling. It is an optional process for the backside of ghat. In Meenakari, the design is sketched and carved with the help of *bulli*. Powdered meena of different colour is filled in the carving according to design and heated in furnace which stick the meena to metal sheet to get a glaze on surface. Thereafter with the help of filling stone surplus meena is rubbed off. The final heat treatment is given which gives jewellery attraction of vivid colours and fine art. After this jewellery pieces are given for jadai.



Plate-1 Steps of Making Jadau Kundan Jewellery



Jadau Kundan Jewellery

Applying Stones and Kundan- Jadai

The jadai artisan fills the ghat with surma, a mixture of lac, belcha and surma powder mixed by applying heat. Jadiya select stones as design order and prepare them before pasting. A small piece of thick silver sheet is cut according to stone size and transformed into bowl/conclave shape. The stone bonded with silver sheet on reverse side of it, is pasted on ghat.

At this stage stripes of 24 Carat fine gold called Kundan is cut in tiny pieces and applied around the stone pasted on ghat which fills the space between stones and boundaries. The layers of Kundan are joined compactly with the help of sharp edged *chisel* called *salai*. The process of applying Kundan is known as *pakai*. Then the surface of Kundan is made smooth, shiny and polished with the help of polished *chisel*. This process is known as *chhilai*.

Assembling the pieces- Puvai

Every finished ghat pieces is given to *Patwa* who decorates the pieces with beads and pearls as per customer's choice.

Selling the Goods

Artisans hand over the jewellery to mediator or to customer. The artisans told that after production Jewellery is sent to various cities for being exported. So, Bikaner acted only as a production centre.

Manufacturers of Jadau Kundan Jewellery states that they encounter problems like gap between buyer and manufacturer, problem in hall marking of jewellery and sub-standard jewellery for which suggestions like transparency in the channels of marketing were noted.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that if the production can be managed in organized manner there is a immense potential for the growth of Jadau Kundan Jewellery of Bikaner.

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