

Handy Work of Women in Sindh: A Sociological Analysis of Village Tando Soomro

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Abstract

Handicraft is handiwork done manually by local and traditional people, creating products using raw and indigenous materials. The peculiarity of this work is that, it takes a lot of time and concentration which is totally different and more elegant than machine work. Moreover, this artistic work requires painstaking efforts. This work is done mainly by hand and with the help of few tools. Mostly the artistic women, who are doing this work, get very meager wages by the middle man, and its exploitation of their work. Sindh is the land of artistic people it has an ancient civilization dating back to 5000 years. The culture, civilization and traditional workforce of Sindh have existed since pre-historic times.

The purpose of this article is to highlight and introduce the handiwork done locally by domestic women in Tando Soomro, one of the villages of district Tandoallahyar, Sindh, Pakistan.

Keywords: Handicraft, Civilization, Sindh, Artistic, Traditional.

Introduction

Women do not have direct access to handicraft, because these centers are not located in small villages. So the needy women which are uneducated or have education up to middle or matriculation, try to work at the factories with the men combined and they face lot of problems. Sales women are also part of our society and they are working with same spirit of serving for humanity and to respect these women is our duty. But the attitude of our society is not good towards these women as they are not being treated well. We need to change our thinking to respect sales women as they can serve our society and also

can support their families. Handicraft is old cultural profession and now days it is very famous in Sindh and all over the world. But the question arises that, should it be made in same way or pattern as it was done in the past? So, it can be claimed that centuries have been passed but no change has occurred in pattern of making handicraft products. Today's atomic age have destroyed lot of things in other side it has also disturbed our culture but if our Sindhi women continue their process of making handicraft things then they can earn lot of profit in international market and can promote their culture in the world. The Sindhi culture is very rich and also the things are very beautiful and attractive, as such made by Sindhi women and men. The clothes and the things of handicraft made by women in Sindh are appreciated in all over the world but we will be surprised to listen that our Sindhi's are not wearing those clothes or handicraft things as they have adopted European culture but our culture is appreciated in Europe and also used our things. Now there is time to adopt our old Sindhi culture to save our culture.

General focus on handicrafts at village Tando Soomro

Tando Soomro, is a village and union council of Tando Allahyar District in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Tando Soomro lies 7 km to the north-west of the district capital Tando Allahyar.

It is basically a rural side and local village of Sindh province where lot of handicraft items are produced but it seems generally that the producers of handicrafts of village Tando Soomro had remained in lot of difficulties and problems. It was a general observation.

This village economically is better and large portion of population depend on agriculture as a source of livelihood, as in the other villages of Sindh people usually dependent on agriculture.

Scope of the Study

This study aims at highlighting and solving the problems which are being faced by the producers of handicrafts. This study suggests the ways which are being used at national and international level to enhance and ameliorate the conditions handicraft workers. This study puts forward suggestions and recommendations through which we can find easy and better solution of the problem.

Objectives

- ◆ To know the age group of handy craft workers;
- ◆ To analyze the income of worker;
- ◆ To examine the daily working hours of worker;
- ◆ To know the earning through handy craft;
- ◆ To know the form or type of handy craft;
- ◆ To examine the raw material used in handy craft.

Literature Review

According to Qurat-u-Lin Laghari Nazuk (Kawish Magazine) Pages: 40 Year: 2011

Women have not access to handicraft centre due to not having centre. So the needy women which are uneducated or have somehow education up to middle or matriculation, try to work at the factories with the men combined and they face lot of problems.

According to Mahar U Nisa Daudpota .Publisher: University of Sindh Jamshoro, Pages: 40

Year: 1970: The Sindhi culture is very rich and also the things are very beautiful and attractive, made by Sindhi women and men. The clothes and the things of handicraft made by women in Sindh are more liked all over the world but we will get surprise to listen that our Sindhi's are not wearing those clothes or handicraft things but they have adopted European culture but our culture is more liked their at Europe and also used our things. Now we need to adopt our old Sindhi culture to save our culture.

Methodology

The type of study is Exploratory Research because there was some knowledge about the problem but had not detailed information and nobody has studied still on this problem, so to elaborate this, Exploratory type of research has applied to elaborate it more and up to the roots of the problem.

Universe of Study

The selected universe for the study is Village Tando Soomro, UC Tando Soomro, and District Tando Allahyar. This restriction to this universe has provided us chance to conduct an in depth research to

know the real and accurate data for research, because there are different reasons, first is the researchers belong to this village so it was quite to conduct research here, second due to limited area for easiness of researchers to reach to the roots of the problem.

Sample Size

Sample size is the number of women working on handicrafts and the shopkeepers of handicrafts. In the study a sample of 40 women respondents are represented. This size of samples were selected on the own idea of researchers because the real and exact figures were not available for choosing sample size accurately. If the exact figures would be there that might support researchers in sample selection. Samples were collected from the women on handicraft at home and at different vocational centers and from the shop keepers at local market.

Methods of Sampling

In the research Snow Ball Sampling procedure was used due to a big number of samples, limitation of time and resources. Snow Ball Sampling makes us able to select the samples from a big number of samples.

Methods of Data Collection

The most common used methods are executing the close-ended questionnaire, interviews and meetings. In this research these methods are used to collect the data because these methods were found most suitable to collect the data. These methods were used by the researchers due to following reasons:

- ◆ Researchers have easy access to the respondents (women and shop keepers).
- ◆ Researchers have personnel contact with the respondents because they are local residents.
- ◆ The most of the respondent are female, so have very easy to communicate with them at local level and to meet them easily.

By these methods it was easier to explain the meanings and remove misunderstandings, which might develop. That technique helped us to explain the meaning and content of the questions and

remove misunderstandings and misinterpretation, which might develop.

Data analysis

In a research study once the data have been collected the second step usually involves the analysis of those data, which we have collected during research. There are different techniques and tools used in research study to draw the accurate result.

Pre-testing

Fifteen questionnaires were pre-tested in selected area. Pre-testing not only provides a test of the clarity of the questionnaires and correctness of interpretation but also provides the possibilities of discovering the new aspects of the problem studied and anticipated in the planning stage. The purpose of pre-testing of the questionnaires was the testing questionnaires and to remove errors/mistakes for finalizing the questionnaires.

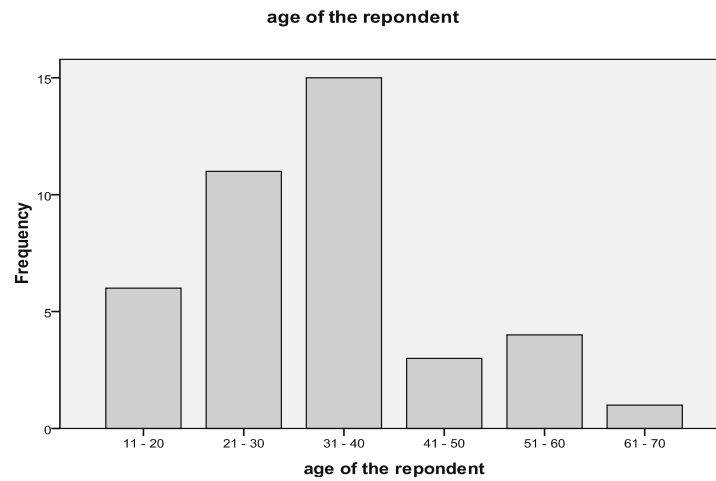
Result

TABLE # 01

Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to their age in years.

Age in years	Frequency	Percent
11 - 20	6	15.0
21 - 30	11	27.5
31 - 40	15	37.5
41 - 50	3	7.5
51 - 60	4	10.0
61 - 70	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0

Sources: Research carried out Bakhtwar Nizamani & Farhana Solangi under supervision of Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan, Department of Sociology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

**TABLE # 02**

Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to their **income earn from handicraft.**

Respondent's income earn from handicraft	Frequency	Percent
3000 - 5000	39	97.5
5001 - 8000	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0

Sources: Research carried out Bakhtwar Nizamani & Farhana Solangi under supervision of Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan, Department of Sociology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

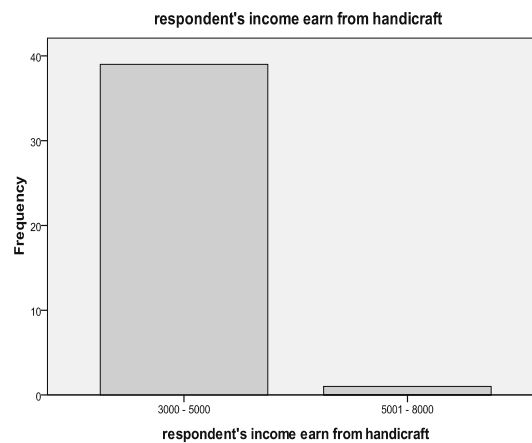


TABLE # 03

Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to their **Time respondent daily spend on work of handicraft**

Time respondent daily spend on work of handicraft	Frequency	Percent
3 - 4 hours	28	70.0
4 - 5 hours	11	27.5
5 - 6 hours	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0

Sources: Research carried out Bakhtwar Nizamani & Farhana Solangi under supervision of Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan, Department of Sociology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

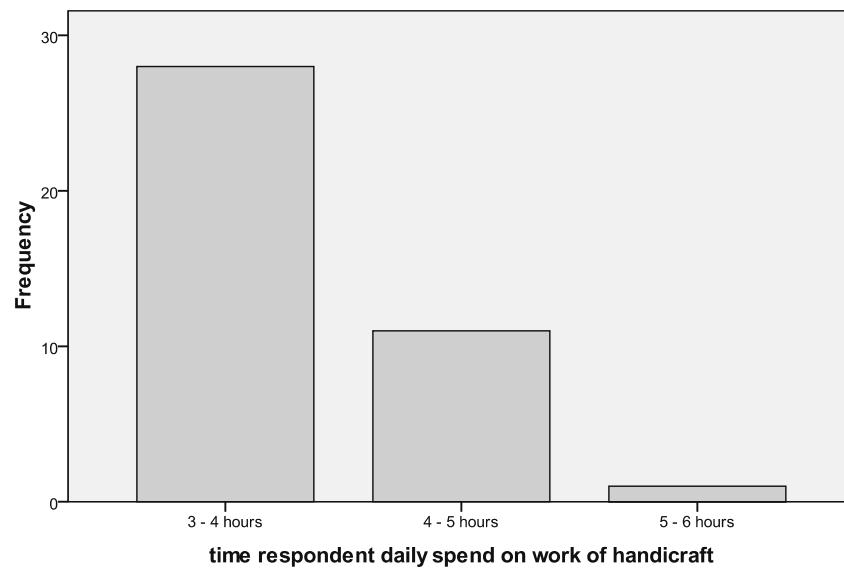
time respondent daily spend on work of handicraft

TABLE # 04

Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to their **earning through handicraft**

House hold depends on earning through handicraft or not	Frequency	Percent
Usually	7	17.5
Some how	32	80.0
Completely	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0

Sources: Research carried out Bakhtwar Nizamani & Farhana Solangi under supervision of Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan, Department of Sociology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

house hold depends on earning through handicraft or not?

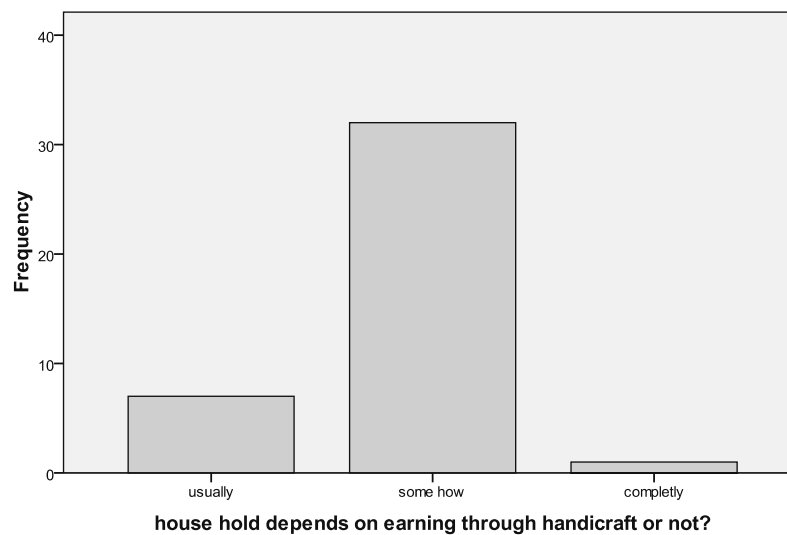


TABLE # 05

Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to their type of handy craft

Type of handy craft do you produce	Frequency	Percent
Embroidery	5	12.5
Stitching	18	45.0
Applica	7	17.5
Other	10	25.0
Total	40	100.0

Sources: Research carried out Bakhtwar Nizamani & Farhana Solangi under supervision of Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan, Department of Sociology, university of Sindh, Jamshoro.

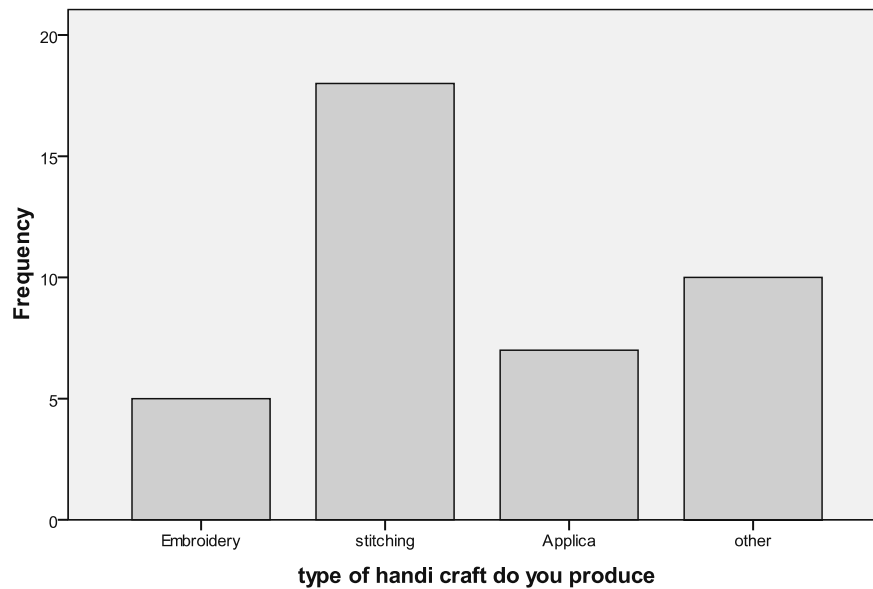
type of handi craft do you produce

TABLE # 06

Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents according to their **raw material**.

How you take raw material for final production	Frequency	Percent
By yourself	34	85.0
Borrow from others	6	15.0
Total	40	100.0

Sources: Research carried out Bakhtwar Nizamani & Farhana Solangi under supervision of Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan, Department of Sociology, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.



Findings and conclusions

Sindhi women are one of the artistic and committed women in the world. Her commitment to work in such miserable conditions and at meager amount is real appreciable. The women of locale have no exception. There is need of non-governmental organizations, women activists to play their vital role and introduce their work in the global market and get rid of the role of local middle man who always exploit them.

1. The age distribution of those who are engaged in handicrafts production in the present study shows the percentage of age group 11-20 is 15%, 21-30 is 27.5%, 31-40 is 37.5%, 41-50 is 7.5%, 51-60 is 10% and 61-70 is 2.5%.
2. The distribution of respondents according to their income earned from handicrafts is 3000-5000 is 97.5% and 5001 to 8000 is 2.5%.
3. The distribution of the respondents (producer of the handicrafts) according to their time spent daily on the work of handicrafts is 3-4 hours is 70%, 4-5 hours is 27.5% and 5-6 hours is 2.5%.
4. The distribution of respondents according to their earning through handicrafts is usually is 17.5%, somehow is 80% and completely is 2.5%.
5. The distribution of respondents according to their type of handicrafts is Embroidery is 12.5%, Stitching is 45%, Applique is 17.5% and other is 25%.
6. The distribution of the respondents according to their source of getting raw material for final production is by them is 85% and borrowing from others is 15%.

Recommendations

- Introduce new and innovative designs of handicrafts.
- Export handicrafts productions in international market.
- Arrange proper and specific local market of handicrafts.
- Educate the producers of handicrafts at very local level.
- There must be arranged competitions between the producers of handicrafts and should be awarded for their encouragement.
- Producers should be paid the actual worth of their work and production.
- Handicrafts and vocational training centers must be opened by government.
- There should be direct and easily access of producers to market without the middle man.

- Micro loans should be provided to producers as they can open their small scale business.
- A subject about the handicrafts should be in the syllabus of schools till matriculation.
- Arrange new exposures of producers time to time for more competition.
- Arrange mega events, national and international level to introduce the handicrafts.

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