

Case-Study: Unethical Practices leads Un-Natural Death of Handicraft Products

Dilip Kumar¹, P.V. Rajeev²

¹Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, Gopal Narayan Singh University, Jamuhar, Rohtas, Bihar

²Professor, Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

Abstract

The given case study discusses about the burning issues of the handicraft sector. As we know that the handicraft was a key sector in ancient time regarding employment generation, foreign exchanges, and expertise in unique crafts. The case study highlighted some fiery issues of handicraft sector which created hurdles against growth and development of sector.

Keyword: Artisans; Handicraft Sector; Socio-economic status; Unethical Behaviour

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Introduction:

As we know, India is famous for its rich culture and tradition. India was the largest exporter to the European countries, in which the handicraft sector was playing a crucial role in foreign exchanges. Indian handicraft products have their own legacies which show the unique customs and traditions through their crafts. Indian crafts are known for their diversities which vary from states wise as well as districts wise which carried and build a strong bond between artisans and customers. But in the meanwhile the handicraft sector started losing its control from the handicraft products export as well as from foreign exchanges. The government could not properly supervise the growth and development of the handicraft, which caused a great lost in term of foreign exchanges and artisans started switching some other alternate works.

Background Note

According to the census 2011, Uttar Pradesh is the highly populated state with 20 crores population and average literacy rate of male stands at 77.28% while female literacy is at 57.18%. It is one of the highest handicraft producing and consuming states in India. Eastern Uttar Pradesh is one of the unmatched regions of handicraft and handloom productions sector such as

Corresponding Author: Dilip Kumar, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, Gopal Narayan Singh University, Jamuhar, Rohtas, Bihar, E-mail: dilipbhu02@gmail.com; dilip.kumar@gnsu.ac.in
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Varanasi is famous for Benarasi sarees and silver toys, Bhadohi is world famous for Carpets, Azamgarh is for black pottery, Mirzapur famous for Terracotta, sandstone crafts and Plaster of paris items etc.

Mirzapur has an important place for the handicraft products in Uttar Pradesh, which has been supplying crafts products in different parts of Uttar Pradesh as well as Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The artisans have been used to make terracotta, sandstone crafts and crafts from plaster of paris. Most of the artisans who have been working in craft production since age are skilled artisans. Handicraft production was the only source of income for the artisans and artisans developed different methods for the production of various shapes, size, design, color etc. crafts items.

Outlook

Shekhar and Jitendra have been working on a socio-

economic condition of artisans in the Mirzapur district, so they want to meet artisans and collect the data accordingly. They started visiting different villages for the purpose of data collection regarding the socio-economic condition of the workers. They noted that the artisans of handicrafts are socially backwards and economically weak. Artisans were unable to manage twice the meals for the day through crafts productions, so they were willing to leave their family business. The most common problems were lack of raw material, money, storage facility, crafts demand, market knowledge etc. But they got to know about two different types of problems which also un-naturally end the antique crafts legacy.

During the data collection they got to know about some very old artisans in the villages. They had unique knowledge to produce rare of the rarest crafts items and when they met artisans, they got to know that they had a great experience in handicraft works. Raghu Prajapati shared his vast experience with Shekhar and Jitendra, he said that these crafts had great demand in old days regarding products demand and profitability. But since 1990's, this sector started losing its importance and legacy due to lack of customer interest and market demands. Raghu Prajapati was 70 years old; he had more than 50 years of experience in handicrafts production. He said that he has a great and unique knowledge about some antique crafts such as Krishn Pyala, Surahi, Hathani etc. which were very innovative antique craft products. Some of the artisans who had Raghu's age group died because of age issues and diseases. Some of the younger artisans started learning the methods of these crafts and died accidentally and some other older artisans were also dead during two to three years. Then, the rest of the artisans started leaving the technicality of these antique crafts.

Due to these reasons a wrong rumor was spread or circulated in that region, that those artisans who want to learn these antique crafts will die accidentally within two to three years of time. Because of this reason no one is ready to learn about these crafts. However, old artisans who wanted to transfer their skills to the new generation but no new artisans were interested to learn. So, they were helpless in circulating their skill and knowledge to the young artisans. After the death of Raghu and his colleagues, who will carry the legacy of these ethnic

crafts products?

The researcher faced a new issue or problems in the handicraft sector in that region, during the collection of the data, they got to know that some of the skilled workers didn't want to teach to the new born artisans except their family members. Shekhar and Jitendra met Ramraj Prajapati, who didn't want to teach his expertise of works to any new workers except their family members. Ramraj Prajapati, said to interested artisans, that there is no future scope in the handicraft sector and advised them to explore new sectors for work and business. After a long discussion with Ramraj Prajapati, he said that he doesn't want to produce new competitors in his villages and markets of the handicrafts sector. So, he didn't want to transfer his skills and talents to the interested and newborn artisans.

These were the most influential reasons for the un-natural death for the skills and talents of artisans due to lack of awareness and believed in the baseless rumor in the handicraft sector.

After collecting the data on socio-economic conditions of handicraft artisans, they used these data in their thesis and research paper. They never tried to talk regarding the burning issues of handicraft to the villagers and concern department of handicraft.

Shekhar and Jitendra were both research scholars in eminent University but they never tried to talk to the villagers regarding the rumors. They never tried to talk to Ramraj Prajapati regarding his unethical behavior, which directly caused the unnatural death of the handicraft sector.

Questions for Discussion:-

- Discuss the unethical behavior of Ramraj Prajapati regarding spreading of knowledge among new born and interested artisans.
- Discuss “Rumor causes un-natural death of the Handicraft sector”
- Do you agree that being a highly qualified citizen the behavior of Shekhar and Jitendra were unethical? Explain?

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