

Research Paper :

Dying art of Punjabi jutti in Patiala

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ABSTRACT

Patiala, the cultural window of Punjab has gorgeous works to offer in the form of ostentations-Phulkari and colorful ornamented Punjabi Jutti. This study is an attempt to find out the present status of Punjabi Jutti of Patiala, changes and problems faced by the Jutti makers. Data were collected by interview cum survey method from 100 shoe makers in and around Patiala. Data were analyzed and tabulated. With modernization and machines taking over most manufacturing activities, Punjabi Jutti has undergone lot of changes in raw materials, colour, ornamentation products and procedures, threads, price and manufacturing process. Different problems faced by shoemaker community of Patiala are high cost of raw material, shortage of skilled labour, no direct export of Jutti, decrease in demand and bad financial conditions of the workers. Government has tried to revitalize this dying art by opening CRC, Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) in Patiala under United Development Programme but consistent efforts made by them has not reaped results as expected. Hence, it is important to recognize, admire and buy these "exquisite pieces of art" and encourage the Jutti makers.

Key words : Changes, Problems, Remedies, Punjabi Jutti

Patiala, the princely city of Punjab located in the South East part of the state, is famous for its turban, paranda, peg, jutti and Patialashai Salwars. Traditional Punjabi Jutti in golden colour with profuse ornamentation speaks of gorgeousness in unmistakable tone. Punjabi Jutti with intricate patterns are made in parts of Punjab-Patiala, Malerkotla, Muktsar, Ludhiana, Malout, Fazilka, Faridkot and Abohar (Kipling, 1985). Patiala's 'Tilla Jutties' also known as Patiala Shahi Jutti is linked to princely days. These jutti were believed to be the relics of the reign of the Khilji and Lodhi, Kings of Delhi. These 'pieces of art' are an inseparable part of Punjabi attire and are popular traditional footwear which essentially complement Indian ethic or Indian casual wear perfectly. (Randhawa, 1960) It encapsules cultural diversity, local ethos and ethnicity (Kohli, 2002). Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the following specific objectives : to study the changes in Punjabi Jutti of Patiala in relation to raw material, manufacturing process, ornamentation, designs and colours, to study the problems faced by Jutti makers and industry as a whole, to critically analyse the efforts made by Punjab Government to revive the trade of Jutti making and to give suggestions for revitalization of this lying art of Punjabi Jutti making.

METHODOLOGY

Survey, interview, questionnaire and observation methods were selected for conducting this study. Random

sampling technique were used to select 100 shoemakers from in and around Patiala. The raw data collected were classified on the basis of respondents, coded (in the form of frequencies) and tabulated (in percentage) and these were then presented in the form of graphs and tables. Sheesh Mahal museum of Patiala was visited.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Handicraft is an expression of the human spirit in material form which gives delight to mankind. Every state has a distinctive handicraft which speaks of its culture ex- Punjabi Jutti of Patiala is valued not so much for the soundness of leather but for the beauty of ornamentation (Mehta, 1960). Most of the respondents or Punjabi Jutti makers were in the age group of 30-40 years.

Regarding the age of respondents (Fig. 1) 50% were in age group of 30-40 years.

Regarding education (Fig. 2), it can be seen that (80%) were illiterate and (15%) were educated up to Primary School only.

Majority of the respondents *i.e.* 95% were Hindu chamar and rest (5%) were Muslims (Fig. 3). Harijans from Rajasthan were mainly involved in Punjabi Jutti making. Majority of respondents *i.e.* 80% had nuclear families while 20% had joint families. Nuclear family had 4-6 members who preferred freedom and independence, while joint families had 15-20 members as they preferred to work together.