

Lac Culture: A Natural Gift for Bangle Making Artisans in Muzaffarpur District of Bihar State.

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Abstract - This article refers to all those who have skill for making some new craft and sustain their livelihood with the use of natural resources. The lac is the natural product their producing states in India are Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Chhattisgarh ranks 1st among the states followed by Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. In spite of this, Muzaffarpur is one of the most centrally located District of Bihar, which has been known nationwide for its lac products especially lac bangles also known as Lahti and is the second largest producer in the country. A huge number of rural population have been engaged in the production of lac bangles and supplement their family income.

Keywords-- Artisans, Lac, Industries, Production, Natural, Government

I. INTRODUCTION

India is the country where lots of work has been done on skill basis such as glass painting, sujni art, sikki work, decorating work etc. Lac bangle making is done by artisans because it belongs to craft work. The term "Lac" has derived from the Sanskrit word "Laksha" meaning a hundred thousand and is suggestive of the large number of insects involved in its production. The lac insect (*Kerria lacca*) found in nature who secretes lac with the help of host plant like Palas (*Butea monosperma*), Kusum (*Schleichera oleosa*), Ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*), etc. It is non wood forest product along with great economic importance to India. Muzaffarpur is one of the most centrally located District of Bihar which has a huge number of rural population who engaged in the production of lac bangles. Bangle makers are facing a lots of problem in respect to social, psychological and ergonomical aspect. A large percentage of artisans are engaged in lac bangles making occupation for supplement their family income. In this way we can say lac bangles artisans are traditional craftman and they need appropriate awareness, income and government support their sustaining of skill given by forefathers so that it may be not bleak for future and well disappear.

A. *Lac bangles (Lahti) occupation belongs to tradition work and following factors are given below that cause artisan carry on to this work.*

- A good source of livelihood for poor family.
- This is traditional work that carry on from one generation to another.
- Demand of custom.
- Assured source of income during drought year.
- Avoid migration of rural population to urban area.
- No competition with other sectors.

B. *Various types of lac bangles (Lahti) are manufacturing in Bihar that are followings*

1. *Plain lac bangles*
2. *Decorative lac bangles*
3. *Mirror lac bangles*
4. *Hard lac bangles*

1. *Plain lac bangles* : Traditionally the artisans used to make plain lac bangles in single colors and that is used casually. It is plain in design. It is daily use bangles (lahti).
2. *Decorative lac bangles* : Bangles made for marriages are decorated with precious and semi-precious stones, mirrors and pearls. Decorative lac bangles are used occasionally. It is found in various colour like bright, red, green, yellow and orange.
3. *Mirror lac bangles* : Mirror lac bangles specially found in Rajasthan. This is made by artisan in a lot of quantities that is used for occasionally.
4. *Hard lac bangles* : Hard lac bangles is durable in nature and this is made based on regular use. Hard lac bangles are simple, durable and available in several colour.

II. PROBLEM FACED BY THE ARTISANS

The problems which were faced the artisans as follows

- *Lack of awareness*
- *Shortage of finance*



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- *Lack of education*
- *Lack of scientific/ modern method for marketing*
- *Health problem concerning with mental and physical.*
- **Lack of awareness:** The government has launched many organization to support and provide many assistance to small scale industries. But due to the lack of awareness regarding the organizational schemes they failed to take an advantages of this, so awareness is needful for all artisans so that lac bangles enterprise can bloom and artisans can be benefited.
- **Shortage of finance:** Financial problems are one of the most important and common problem faced by artisans.. Finance is the life blood of an organization and no organization can run properly in the absence of a limited fund. In the shortage of fund and inadequate availability of credit facilities were the major causes to run the industries smoothly and the economically sound.
- **Lack of education:** Education is the most important factor of artisans without education they will not understand for getting the latest information about the market condition i.e. test of the consumer, liking and disliking of the consumer and trending fashion.
- **Lack of scientific/ modern method for marketing :** Most of the artisans purchase their product with traditional method. With this result they are not in a position to upgrade their product keeping in mind according to market requirement.
- **Health problem concerning with mental and physical:** Lac bangles artisans faces various health problems during manufacturing of lahti. The lac bangles artisans has a very precision task which involve attach the beads, stone and other decorative material on the lac bangles that leads to a lot of physical health hazards regarding body ache, eye and neck pain.

III. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- To create awareness about different government scheme in context to upliftment of small scale enterprises.
- To provide training or workshop for physical hazards in terms of ergonomically view. It ensures that workers are aware of ergonomics and its benefits become informed about ergonomics related concerns in the workplace and understand the importance of reporting early symptoms of MSDs

IV. CONCLUSION

On the basis of lac bangles study it can be concluded that lac bangles (Lahti) making is a traditional inherited skill which is passed on from generation and from their ancestors. It is a good source of income for sustaining their livelihood. So efforts should be made by Government and non government organization for existence of this skill.

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