

THE ART OF MAKING CARPET- AGRA

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ABSTRACT

Carpet is textile used for floor covering it is generally used by high profile peoples of the society; it is assign of royalty, luxury and fame. It is used for various purposes like making room comfortable, warmer, for decoration purpose etc. It has been found that the carpet traditionally originated in the tent of the nomads of Central Asia. The earliest evidence of carpet is reported from Altai Rangein Southern Siberia. The Pazyruk carpet is discovered from the tomb of Scythian chief, and measures 6'×6'6" (1.8×2 meters). In India carpet weaving started in 15 century during Akbar rules in Agra. A traditional carpet was prepared by knotting and weaving but now days tufting gun is used for making carpets. The study was conducted to see the present status of this unique art with the study it has been discovered that carpet weaving being declining due to various reasons like high labour coast, less demand, time consuming etc. There was an article in newspaper in year 1993, 2012 about the problem faced by the weavers and this industry. In 2000 a book was published 'The Impact of Social Laboring on Child labour in India's Carpet written by Alakh N Sharma et.al. According to this book and the articles in the hu76new paper, carpet industries are promoting and exploiting children due to cheap labour. Due to this, the demands of Indian carpetin international market have become less.

Key words:-carpets, weaving, knotting, tufting gun

INTRODUCTION

Carpets is a textile floor covering the upper layer is of piles and the base traditionally was of wool but now there are various fibers used for base like nylon, polyester and many more. These fibers are cheap as compare to wool. Carpets are the sign of royalty, luxury and fame. The term carpet is often used interchangeable with the term rugs, although rugs are smaller and carpets are bigger in size. It used for various purposes; including insulating a person's feet from a cold title or making room more comfortable and warmer. It provides decoration and color to the room. Carpets represent feudal affluence; royal grandeur and unique cultural opulence. They mark the status of their owners. Carpet making is a chief cottage industry in many parts of India and enjoy a respectable place among carpet exporters. In 2000s, carpets are used in industries, hotels and in private homes. Carpet weaving is very similar to woven fabric they both made on hand loom. The carpet is commonly made in width of 12 feet (3.7m) and 15feet (4.6m).There are various types of carpets named as Woven carpets, Tufted carpets, Needle felt carpets, Knotted carpets The total annual earnings from export are around three crores out of which much part is of Rajasthan i.e, almost about 50% and rest is shared by all other parts of India. Also carpets are mainly manufactured in China, Rumania, Iran, Turkey, Nepal, Bulgaria, and Afghanistan.

SURVEY

The survey was conducted in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The main purpose of the visit is to explore the cottage industry of carpet. I have visited kanu carpet.

PROCESS

For making carpet raw material that is Merino wool is purchased from Australia and New Zealand. After purchasing raw material cleaned, spinning (making thread/yarn) and dyeing is done in Bikaner, Rajasthan. Dyeing yarn is done in both chemical and natural colors, as dyeing process cannot be conducted in Agra due to pollution reasons. Natural dye includes flowers, barks, roots, leaves, saffron wood, turmeric, indigo, pomegranate peel and henna. Thread dyed with natural herbs are very dull in their appearance and colors is also does not evenly spread on yarns but on the other hand if they dye with chemical dye the color is very bright and do not bleed and spread evenly in threads but they are toxic.

DESIGN

The sketch of design is drawn on graph paper to simplify the motifs or design for the village women. The design is followed from bottom to upwards in that each square contain colors. Design includes Persian, Afghanistan and old Agra designs. Agra designs means designs taken from monuments of Agra, Indian tribal and oriental designs. The designing is done on the bases of the demand of international market

SIZE

The normal size of carpet is 2' X 3', 3' X 5', 4' X 6', 6' X 8', 8' X 10' and 9' X 12' their size may be modified according to the order or demand of the customer.

WEAVING

Weaving is done on hand loom, basically carpet is weaved by knotting process. It took 3 months for one weaver to complete one 5 ft. carpet. During weaving weaver use to sing a song of color name and place where they are putting the color and the same pattern is followed by the other person is sitting next to him. In ancient time every family had a particular design which they weave on the carpet from one generation to other generation's family members learn the design in the form of poetry from generation to generation so the design they will be making will be same but color can change.



Figure 1: Weaving of Carpet

For making royal carpets its generally requires two weavers to complete single in six months and in that carpet approximately 20,736 knots were there in per square feet.

WASHING

After weaving, the carpets further goes for washing. Firstly the carpet is washed with soap and detergent and then it goes for the fixation of color that it solution of caustic soda, water and bleach. It helps color fixation of the carpets so that the carpet does not bleed out the color. Then the same process continues several times to recheck the bleeding of colors. After fixation carpet is treated with acetic acid (vinegar) for 5-6 hours so that insects, silverfish etc. does not harm the carpets. Lastly the carpets are dried in sunlight.

FINISHING

After washing final product checking is done so that there is no flaw remaining in the carpets. There can be many defaults like loose weave, wrong design, narrow border, broad border, color mismatching and many more. Once the carpet is dried it is inspected whether there is any default in the carpets to fix these problems carpet is fixed on the iron frame then they rectify any kind of defects found on the carpet. Then once again inspection by supervisors and combing of carpet is done so that is if there is any of type default it will easily be caught by the person. Combing makes carpet soft and lustrous. The next step is the worker will trim or cliff the carpet by maintaining some pressure on the scissors. The cliffing process takes place thrice. The first time they wash it and it is called pre-washing cliffing. The second the iron stick or screwdriver is used to bring the yarn up and then it is cliffed. It the third time cliffing is done by single hand of a person so the effect of the color change comes on the carpet. The colors of the carpet appear to be different from different position. The right hand cutting the carpet and the pressure applied by the left hand should be accurate throughout the carpet cutting. Cross binding of carpet is done on the edge of the carpet.

Then carpet is washed again with normal water. As the carpet is made up of merino wool which contain resin (oil), so when the carpet is rubbed it will started shining. Finally it goes for packaging.



Figure 2& 3: Washing and Finishing COAST

OF PRODUCT

The raw material costs Rs600/kg. The final product is sold on the basis of per square feet which starts from Rs1500/-. The carpet are sold in the Indian and international market through exhibition. The labor cost is Rs300 per square feet.

DEMAND

The demand of carpet in Indian market is very less percent. There is high demand of Indian carpets and rugs in international market. There are some articles in the new paper in 1993,1996,2001,2012 according to the articles carpets industries are prompting child labor they exploit them and carpet weaving cause ill effect on children health many of them are facing respiratory disorder due to fibers and cuts and wounds on their finger because of knotting of thread

MOTIFS

Motifs on Indian carpets are mixture of Persian carpets and ethnic Indian Designs.

Kashan:-This is an interrelated leaf and tendril design. In these types of design there is known central medallion.

Ispahan:-This is a leaf and tendril pattern with elaborate corners, a floral border and an encircling medallion.

Herati:-This pattern is made up of diamond shapes and leaves. This is usually no medallion.

Bokhara:-This design comprises of repetitive oval medallions that are called gulls or “elephant footprints”

Heriz:-This design used in Indian carpet is geometric in shape .there is a medallion similar to a starburst too.

Serouk:-This is simple a pattern of independent flower bouquets.

Seapi:-This Persian developed into the heriz design and is geometric in shape that consists of a medallion from which arms extend.

Mir:-Also known as boteh, this Indian carpet design is a paisley design that is spread all over Kermon:-

These patterns consist of a floral medallion intricate corners and a border.

Aubusson:-A large floral medallion with intricate corners and elaborate border .this is actually a French design.

Mahal:-This is a non-figurative floral design noticeably geometric. Tribal:-

These are irregular patterns of diverse kinds.

Savonnerie:-This is an elaborate Aubusson pattern.

Bidjar:-There is a hexagonal medallion and a herati field bordering it.

MODERN METHOD

Weaved fabric that is the base of the carpet was first fixed on iron frame the weaving was done with tufting gun in modern method tufting is used for making carpet. After weaving again unfinished carpet is stretched on iron frame so that pile coating can be done pile is fixed for fixation. After fixation it goes for washing, drying and trimming of extra threads or a loop trimming was done with electronic scissor.



Figure 4.5 Modern process of carpets

AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CARPET

- The cottage industry of marble and carpet generate lots of employment in the city. The Carpet industry employs mostly women in their industry. Ninety percent of carpet weaving is done by woman in present time. Minimum three months are required to complete the hand knotted handmade carpet. The carpet house in Agra provides raw material to the villagers and unfinished carpet brought to the firm for the finishing process done by the experts. There are many training school and center in the villages of Agra where people are trained in how to fix the loom, study the design chart, sing the design and prepare the carpet. The Weaver is paid on the basis of per carpet weaving and also paid on the basis of square feet which approximately Rs300 per square feet. Due to carpet weaving many women are employed and they earn their livelihood to support their family. There are only cottage industries, act as a source of income for the people of Agra and for nearby villages, apart from an agriculture. Most of carpet work is done in villages which are nearby Agra like Abhayapura, Akbarpur, Akola, Albatai, Babarpur, Mustkil, Anguthi, Artauni, Azizpur and many more.
- Restrictions are imposed in Agra on different industries which pollute the environment to preserve the World Heritage site that is the Taj Mahal. According to Pollution Controlling Board there are various acts, one of which talks about the preservation of the Taj. The rule says that no such industries would be established within a radius of 75kms. Thus the industries of Agra are all situated in the outskirts of the periphery.
- As carpet weaving generate income to the people and improve the living style of the people. This project is called as 'Work for the Weaker Sector Save Taj project'.
- According to some literatures from 16th century jail carpet are weaving in agra jail. But in present time the carpets are woven on demand only.
- Today also in there jail carpets are woven by prisoners but the quality and design is not very fine and good.
- Carpet weaving is also less because due to weaving many weavers face bronchitis problem due to fibers. So to overcome this problem many industries or cottage industries provide face mask. To the weavers.

CONCLUSION

The carpet is a textile used for floor covering. It has been found that the carpet traditionally originated in the tent of the nomads of Central Asia. The earliest evidence of carpet is reported from Altai Range in Southern Siberia. The Pazyruk carpet is discovered from the tomb of Scythian chief, and measures 6'×6'6" (1.8×2

meters). In India carpet weaving started in 15th century during Akbar's rule in Agra. In present time carpets are manufactured in Kashmir, Agra, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Shahjehanpur, Amritsar, Gwalior, and Jaipur. This study was conducted to see the present status of carpets while doing this project the researcher came to know about various facts of carpets like weaving, finishing, demands, and development of motifs, cost and many more. On the other hand the researcher also came to know about the various problems faced by the weavers and carpet industries. There was an article in newspaper in year 1993, 2012 about the problem faced by the weavers and this industry. In 2000 a book was published 'The Impact of Social Laboring on Child Labour in India's Carpet' written by Alakh N Sharma et.al. According to this book and the articles in the newspaper, carpet industries are promoting and exploiting children due to cheap labour. Due to this, the demands of Indian carpet in international market have become less. While on my research investigation of the process of carpet making, the researcher found that large number of women are employed and which helped them to run their livelihood. Unfortunately due to environmental pollution act the large scale industries were shifted to rural areas to save the world heritage Taj Mahal. The weaving process is done in the nearby villages of Agra the raw material provided to the weavers by the cottage industries of Agra. The employments of the rural women are high and they are paid meager amount. The employment rate is low. The best thing that happened in this industry is that they have stopped using child labour. Thus it can be concluded that carpet making is a very complicated, expensive and time consuming process and the newer generation of carpet weavers are not ready to continue this art.

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