

Kathputli Craft of Jaipur An Approach For Livelihood And Entrepreneurship

Theme: Artefact Making and Entrepreneurship

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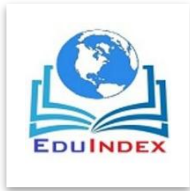
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Abstract

Rajasthan is known for its rich cultural heritage, music, dance forms and craft practices which is also an important source of income generation for their livelihood. The entire Rajasthan is full of with different artistic craft practices and since ages people of Rajasthan have been practicing various cultural and craft activities as their major source of livelihood also to entertain themselves and the community after hard work of full day agricultural and other jobs. There are some theatrical practices such as Phad painting, Kaavad, Naatkala, Kathputli performance etc. Kathputli an important narrative and performing crafts has been practicing since generations in Nagore and then Jaipur. Kathputli also known as puppet craft where *Kaath* means piece of wood and *Putli* means fabric doll. Means puppet made out of wood and fabric, which includes skills of Carpentry, Traditional Painting and Fabric stitching. The entire family of puppeteer involve in making of Kathputli where male carve the upper body of (Head) of the puppet and the females of the house stitch the entire garment of the doll. In Jaipur there are three major colonies situated Near Vidhansabha area, Jagtpura and Panipech. More than one thousands of artisans and performers practice from these colonies in various places which also make them a small entrepreneur to generate livelihood for the entire community of Puppeteers in Jaipur.

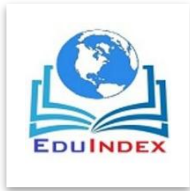


In my research I have focused on their creative entrepreneurship skill which is also creating an ecosystem to contribute to Livelihood, Communication and Education through their Artefact and performance. I have also focussed on current significant scenario of this rich cultural activity from puppet making to the livelihood sustainability.

The Purpose of this research enquiry is:

- To study the historical and cultural context of the craft tradition.
- Different changes and challenge which have been affected this craft tradition through generations.
- To study the Entrepreneurship skill and livelihood model of the community.
- To study different market forces which affect the livelihood of the artisan and the craft tradition which creates a larger impact on their socio-economic development of the community.
- To enquire how this craft tradition can create a better impact for the community development through communication and education.

Keywords: Creative entrepreneurship, Livelihood, Puppet craft of Rajasthan, Performance, and Community.



Introduction

There are different opinions about settlement pattern of Kathputli craft and craft persons in Rajasthan and Jaipur one of the opinion is that it is started from King Amar Singh from Nagaur and later it had been moved to Bassi Chitorgarh and later in Jaipur where the craft persons used to make Kaavad and painted wooden idols of God and Goddess the community was suthar and the skill of making wooden dolls had been learned by Bhaat community.

Settlement pattern of Kathputli artisans

Location



**Kathputli colony
Panipech**

**Kathputli colony
Amrudokabaag**

**Kathputli colony
Jagatpura**

Bhaat Community started using fabrics to stitch cloths on wooden head of the puppet. The community used to narrate various folk songs using various musical instruments. On the rhythm of musical instruments and songs the Puppets started dancing through the strings of the puppeteers. At present in Jaipur there are three major settlements can be seen, initially it was settled in the heart of Jaipur near Amrudokabaag, Ambedkar circle the land was given to

the Bhaat community by Jaipur royal family. Later few people from the Bhaat community got settled in Jagtpura and Panipech.

Historical Perspective of the Craft and Artisans.

The Performing Arts have been used by various folks around the world to convey their socio-cultural values and ideas through various mediums such as narrations, Storytelling, Dance, Vocal and Instrumental music etc. the traditional knowledge and messages have transferred to next generation and the group to another. These traditional communication methods have a strong significance and impact on the local folk as it has all kind of enjoyable and informative modes through Storytelling, Dance, Vocal and Instrumental music etc.

The Kathputli tradition of Rajasthan has its historical and cultural legacy of puppeteers which transfer the traditional knowledge and information through an entertaining mode of



communication so that it can easily get registered into people's mind and culture. Socially

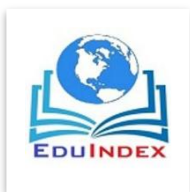
backward positions of the Bhaats, that maintain the kathputli tradition, allow them to communicate different thoughts and common evaluation process which other communities and castes are not able to do.



Kathputli Artisans and their socio-economic Sustainability

Since independence of the country major social and economic changes happened across the country and also in the life style of the puppeteers which majorly impacted the puppeteers' ways of life as they started to apply their genetic occupational practices in modern ways. By the popularity of various modes of communication and entertainment like mobile, internet, television, radio and cinema have made disinterest in traditional forms of entertainment such as puppetry. By these modern changes in the lifestyle of the people of village economy created disinterest amongst the people who were willing to sponsor the puppetry. Due to unemployment and lack of patronage by village community the Bhaat communities started migrating to city areas to find some other source of livelihood. Along with the puppetry the Bhaat community started using Kachchi Ghodi, Dhool, and Music etc.

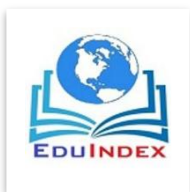
Most of the Bhaat communities have migrated towards different cities like Jaipur and Delhi for livelihood opportunities and during this time many puppeteers are able to earn respectable life and reasonable salaries their ancestral profession of playing puppets now shifted towards selling puppets as idol or as travel memories in city areas also many puppeteers have been engage in various hotels for entertaining foreign tourist through puppet performance.



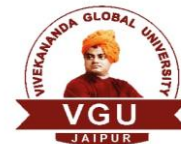
Many puppeteers involved with different cultural organizations such as RupayanSansthan, Lok Kala Mandal and Barefoot collage etc. These organizations s have allowed the puppeteer of Bhaats community other performers to show their performance throughout the nation and overseas.

List of Artisans intervene

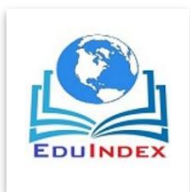
	Name of the Artisan	Father's name	Age	Marital status	Education	Children	Product category	Market
1.	KishorBhaat	RampalBhaat	35	Married	5 th class	2 boys	Musician	Playing music in hotel
2.	YovrajBhaat	MukeshBhaat	21	Married	N/A	N/A	Kathputli maker	City area
3.	Raju Bhaat	KanaramBhaat	50	Married	Basic	2 boys 5 girls	Kathputli maker	City area
4.	MukeshBhaat	KanaramBhaat	32	Married	“	2 boys 2 girls	“	City area
5.	JeetuBhaat	ChittarBhaat	26	Married	Basic	2 boys 1 girl	Kathputli maker	City Area
6.	PrabhuBhaat	ChittarBhaat	22	Married	Basic	1 girl	Artist Salesman guide	City area
7.	Kailash Bhaat	MangalBhaat	30	Married	Basic	3 girls 1 boy	Musician	Hotels
8.	Kamal Bhaat	Ramesh Bhaat	22	Married	Basic	N/A	Musician	Hotels
9.	Geeta Devi Bhaat	BajirBhaat	55	Married	5 th	4 boys 4 girls	Kathputli maker/ musician	City and hotels
10.	BhajanLalaBhaat	IsmialBhaat	60	Married	Basic	4 boys 4 girls	Kathputli maker/ musician	City and hotels
11.	Rajesh Bhaat	Bhajan Lal Bhaat	18	Married	11 th	N/A	Musician	Hotels



Think India Journal
 ISSN: 0971-1260, Vol-22, Special Issue-15
Entrepreneurship and Management: Challenges, Issues and Opportunities in the Global Economy
 held on 9 November 2019 and hosted by
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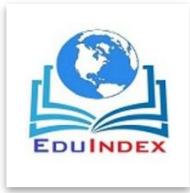
12.	Rahul Bhaat	Bhajan Lal Bhaat	25	Married	Basic	N/A	Kathputli Maker	City area
13.	Manoj Bhaat	Bhajan Lal Bhaat	32	Married	Basic	4 girls 1 boy	Kathputli maker Gilu puppet, tharmacol puppet maker	Different events
14.	Rai Bhaat	RampalBhaat	40	Married	10 th	2 boys	Kathputli maker /Musician	City area
15.	Sunil Bhaat	Prakash Bhaat	25	Married	Basic	N/A	Musician	Hotels and functions
16.	Anil Bhaat	Prakash Bhaat	30	Married	Basic	2 boys	Musician	Hotels and functions
17.	ChittarBhaat	Ismail Bhaat	50	Married	N/A	3Girls 2 boys	Kathputli maker /Musician	City area
18.	RampalBhaat	PannalalBhaat	70	Married	10 th	5 boys 2 girls	Kathputli Maker	City Area
19.	Vinod Bhaat	RampalBhaat	32	Married	10 th	2 boys	Musician	Hotels and functions
20.	Deepak Bhaat	BhangvanlalBhaat	20	Unmarried	Basic	N/A	Musician	Hotels and functions
21.	MukeshBhaat	Ramesh Bhaat	40	Married	N/A	1 boy	Kathputli Maker	City area
22.	SheevamBhaat	Mohan Bhaat	50	Married	N/A	1 boy 3 girls	Kathputli maker	City area
23.	Vinod Bhaat	Lala Ji Bhaat	30	Unmarried	10 th	N/A	Kathputli maker	City area
24.	Ravi Bhaat	JagdeeshBhaat	26	Married	Second year collage	2 girls 1 boy	Kathputli Maker	Hotel Diggi Palace
25.	Sanjay Bhaat	JagdeeshBhaat	29	Married	10 th	1 boy	Kathputli maker	City area



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26.	RanjeetBhaat	JagdeeshBhaat	32	Married	10 th	2 boys 2 girls	Kathputli maker	City area
27.	JagdeeshBhaat	HardeenBhaat	52	Married	N/A	3 boys 4 girls	Kathputli maker	City area
28.	Dhanna Ram jiBhaat	RavatramBhaat	80	Married	N/A	5 boys	Kathputli maker	City Area
29.	Viki Bhaat	Om Bhaat	22	Married	N/A	N/A	Kathputli maker	City area
30.	Buddhi Prakash	Om Bhaat	28	Married	N/A	2 boys 1 girl	Karthputli maker/Musician	City area hotels
31.	JagdeeshBhaat	RamdeenBhaat	45	Married	6 th	2 boys 1 girl	Kathputli/Dhol/Bhajan	Local area
32.	Raju Bhaat	JagdeeshBhaat	30	Unmarried	6 th	N/A	Kathputli maker/Musician	City area
33.	AnandBhaat	Dhanna Ram Bhaat	30	Married	2 nd	1 boy 1 girl	Kathputli maker/Musician	City area
34.	PintuBhaat	Dhanna Ram Bhaat	47	Married	2 nd	2 boys 1 girl	Kathputli maker/Musician	City area
35.	BhagiLalBhaat	Dhanna Ram Bhaat	38	Married	4 th	3 boys 1 girl	Kathputli maker/Musician	City area local function
36.	Ashok Bhaat	DhannaramBhaat	45	Married	9 th	3 boys 1 girl	Kathputli maker/Musician	City area local function
37.	ChauthuBhaat	DhannaramBhaat	50	Married	N/A	4 boys 2 girls	Kathputli maker	City area
38.	VijaiBhaat	ChauthuBhaat	19	Unmarried	6 th	N/A	Kathputli maker	City area
39.	Sunny Bhaat	Chotu Ram Bhaat	21	Unmarried	N/A	N/A	Kathputli maker	City Area
40.	AjaiBhaat	DeelipBhaat	19	Unmarried	8 th	N/A	Kathputli maker	City Area
41.	Arjun Bhaat	DeelipBhaat	22	Married	8 th	1 Boy	Kathputli maker	City Area
42.	Sunny Bhaat	ChamanBhaat	22	Married	Basic	N/A	Kathputli maker	City Area
43.	Sachin Bhaat	ChamanBhaat	24	Married	Basic	1 boy	Kathputli maker	City Area
44.	JitendraBhaat	Mohan Bhaat	26	Married	Basic	1 girl 2 boys	Kathputli maker	City Area



The existing Products, Services provided by the Artisan on Individual and with Community including their wages

No.	Product/Activity	Cost	Price	Number of Artisans involved
1.	Kathputli Making	20/- to 30/- Rs	50/- to 100/- Rs	Entire Family (2-4 Artisans)
2.	Kathputli Performance	2000/- to 5000/-Rs	5000/- to 15000/-	Puppetries and Music band (4-5 Artisans)
3.	Kachhigodhi	1000/- to 2000/-Rs	3000/- to 10000/-Rs.	3-4 Artisans
4.	Dhol	300/- to 500/- Rs	500/- to 1500/-Rs	2-3 Artisans
5.	Large puppet	2000/- to 5000/-Rs	10000/- to 15000/- Rs	3-4 Artisans
6	Education and training in institutions	2000/- 5000/-Rs	10000/- to 15000/-Rs	3-4 Artisans
7.	Rajasthani Folk Dance	2000/- to 5000/-Rs	10000/- to 15000/- Rs	4-5 Artisans
8.	Puppet Performance in Hotels	500/- to 1000/-Rs	1500/- to 3000/- Rs	2-3 Artisans

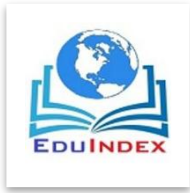
As per Digital Learning Environment for Design - www.dsource.in, Total number of Kathputli Artisans in Jaipur is around 5000 which itself is forming a huge micro units of entrepreneurs.

Methodology: for the present study I have adopted descriptive research design, through literature review, Expert interview and discussion, Observations from various related institution, information from the puppet craft cluster on grassroot level.

Literature Review

Here is the brief review of some literature on the subject. "Indian Puppet Theatre: Its Revival and Reconstruction." *Natya Theatre Arts Journal: Puppet Theatre Around the World* 4.4 (Winter 1960-61): 29-33.

Abu-Lughod, Lila. *Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986



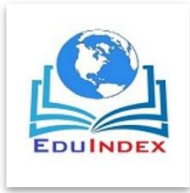
Kothari, Komal. *Traditional Kathputli Marionette Play from Rajasthan*. Jodhpur: RupayanSansthan, 1985

Findings and conclusions:

Now days kathputli idol became a souvenir, most of the tourist buy a pair of kathputli in Jaipur city to take as the historical memories from Jaipur, Rajasthan. In hotels kathputli artisans get place to perform the kathputli shows to hotel's guest and get financial appreciation which help artisans for their livelihood. Various NGO's and government organizations are using kathputli for various awareness programs and to convey social messages to the communities.

There are some common problems and issues observed during discussion with various kathputli artisans.

- Electricity Problem, The colony does not have proper electricity connections in all homes and new school going generations of community not able to study in night time.
- Lack of Market: due to various new options available in the market kathputli artisans are not able to place them in proper market chain although now they are exploring new opportunities in hotels and event for their livelihood
- Lack of Direct Government Support in the beginning kathputli artisans were not getting proper governmental support, after discussion with assistant director of Development commissioner Handicraft NR office, Jaipur kathputli Artisans male and female both got opportunity to exhibit their kathputli and sale at Jawahar kala kendra, Shilpgram in Craft fairs.
- In off season from April to August Artisans become unemployed, during off seasons artisans are not able to get demand from the market that time artisans become unemployed which required second alternative options for livelihood.



- Most of the performance funds go to NukkadNatak and related people, most of the development funds goes to various theatrical performances where these artisans are not able to approach them due to lack of education and awareness so that they can get some work opportunity from them.
- Lack of new Product Range in kathputli craft it has been observed that as per the requirement of the market and users they don't have contemporary range of kathputli related objects so that they can sell them in market and get good demand.
- Requirement of common Haat Bazar for Puppeteers, the suggestions can from the artisans and their president Shree Dhannramji that there should be a common haat bazar similar to Delhi haat bazar so that they can sell their product on regular bases.

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