

Development of Questionnaire for socio-economic status of Chikan workers of Lucknow

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Abstract:

Considering the objectives and hypothesis, the present study was conducted in two years. Since there was no inventory available to assess the socio-economic status especially of Chikan workers, the present researcher developed a standard inventory. For development of this inventory total 20 percent of population female chikan workers became part of this study who belong to two block of Lucknow. Thus, the present study is a developmental research. During the two years of this work, a standard rating scale was developed by the present researcher considering standard procedure. The rating scale was found reliable ($r=0.68$, $p<0.01$) and valid ($r=0.70$, $p<0.01$) to assess the real status of the Chikan workers in Lucknow. Out of 1500 chikan workers located in the two block of Lucknow district, the rating scale was developed on 300 (i.e., 20%) female workers. The data of the survey study were analyzed by using standard statistical procedures.

Key words: questionnaire, the socio-economic status, Chikan workers, Lucknow, India

INTRODUCTION

Chikankari is a fine art of embroidery made with white untwisted yarn with the help of a needle on a fine cloth. It is

done on viol, silk, cambric, georgette, terry cotton etc. At first, designs are printed on the cloth with washable colours while different stitches or embroidery work is done on cloth. This is a home based industrial activity which is mainly performed by women artisans and workers.

The origins of Chikankari (Hand Embroidery) are shrouded in mystery and legend. As early as the third century B.C. Megasthenes wrote of the fine flowered muslin worn by Indians in the court of Chandragupta Maurya, perhaps the first historical reference of Chikan. It seems likely that Chikankari was prevalent in East Bengal during the reign of the Mugal emperors, from where it came to Lucknow in the 18th century during the time of Nawabs for Avadh, and where it flowered into an art of exquisite refinement.

The city of Lucknow, India, evokes emotions and reactions of wondrous nostalgia. Its culture blends aesthetics, refinement, elegant graciousness and impeccable mannerisms with evocations of poetry, music and other distinctive art forms. Amongst these has been the delicate art of very fine "Hand Embroidery" which is termed as "Chikankari" famed not only in the oriental world but prized in all citadels of culture. It is noteworthy that during this period the Master craftsmen were all men.

This highly acclaimed craft fell to abysmal depths once the patronage of the erstwhile Nawabs and landowners ended. It was relegated to a low standard ill paid commercial activity in which almost entirely, only women were involved. Manufacturers used middlemen to exploit women artisans who were not only very poor but also women cloistered and in "Purdah". (Behind the curtains).

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objective of the study is to develop a questionnaire to find out socio economic condition of Chikan workers of Lucknow district.

METHODOLOGY

Selection of Subjects:

The population for this study was Chikan workers from six regions of Lucknow city. There are approximately 1500 Chikan workers located in these six areas and out of that 300 (i.e., 20%) were participated in this study. Participation was voluntary and those who choose not to participate were not forced to participate. The blueprint of subject's participation from each region is presented below:

Table 1: Area-wise subjects' distribution

Sr. No.	Name of the Region	Number of Participants
1.	Kakori	200
2.	Sarojininagar	100
	Total	300

Selection of Variables:

- Chikan Karigars

Inclusion criteria:

- The participants must be Chikan worker.
- The participant must be 16 years to 30 years older.
- The participant must have Chikan karigari experience of more than one year.
- Female

Sample:

The investigator of this study visited all the selected areas where Chikan workers are located. She personally convinced these workers to participate in this survey study. In fact, the Chikan karigars were female so it was easy for the researcher being female to convince and cooperate. Participation in the study was voluntary and consent was given by filling the rating scale. Once the rating scale was completed, they were collected

immediately by the researcher and kept in safe place for confidentiality reasons.

There were total 300 participants from two regions of Lucknow. For this study to be considered valid and for statistical analysis, a response rate of 85% or more (i.e., n=300 or greater) was required. Each participant's information was kept strictly anonymous and participants were also requested to keep their information confidential until the completion of this study. Although a response rate of over 100% was achieved, finally 300 Chikan workers could complete the rating scale.

Tools used:

This study considered only one variable i.e., socio-economic status of Chikan workers. To assess the variable the researcher administered the newly developed tool i.e., the Rating scale "Socio-economic status in Chikan workers" on the sample. The tool (i.e., rating scale) was found reliable ($r=0.68$, $p<0.01$) and valid ($r=0.70$, $p<0.01$). The scoring was done in points.

Methods of Measurement of the Variable:

For Development of the Rating scale:

- Descriptive statistics was employed.
- Test-retest reliability of the preliminary form of the rating scale was calculated by using Pearson's product moment correlation.
- Split half method of reliability was also established for the rating scale.
- Construct validity was determined using item-total correlation.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

To accomplish the objectives of this study, a rating scale on socio-economic status has been developed. Further a survey study was conducted to assess the development and socio-

economic status of Chikan workers. The results of rating scale development and socio-economic status of Chikan workers have been presented in this chapter.

Results on Rating scale Development

The researcher developed the rating scale on socio-economic status of Chikan workers considering three phases:

- Preliminary phase-I,
- Middle phase-II, and
- Final phase-III.

Results on Preliminary Phase-I

After reviewing the literature related to socio-economic status in small scale cotton industry workers, the investigator identified 6 major dimensions viz., family background education, living standard, living conditions working efficiency ,working conditions institutional interventions, income, expenditure, saving, depth and health prepared a total of 77 questions. *The questions related to these dimension were prepared* and was shown to the experts in the field of economics and psychometrics. Primarily, the rating scale had 77 questions i.e., each dimension consists of 10 to 14 questions. Three experts in economics and psychometrics who evaluated the questions and on the basis of their suggestions only 63 modified questions (items) were retained in the rating scale. Primarily, the rating scale (with 63 questions) was administered on 300 Chikan workers for try-out basis and was re-administered after a gap of one month. The dimension-wise test-retest reliability coefficients were ranged from 0.65 to 0.73 (Table 1). However, the experts' opinions reveal that the rating scale ensures content validity. Thus, the preliminary form of the rating scale was found reliable and valid.

Table 1: Dimension-wise test-retest reliability coefficients of the newly developed rating scale

Dimensions	Reliability coefficients**
1. Family background and education	0.73
2. Living and life style	0.67
3. Work capacity and working conditions	0.68
4. Institutional intervention	0.65
5. Income, expenditure, savings and debt	0.68
6. Health / Illness	0.69
*p<0.05; **p<0.01	

Results on Middle Phase-II

In this phase, the preliminary form of the rating scale was administered on large sample (n=300) and the data were processed. The split half reliability coefficient was statistically significant (r=0.68, p<0.01).

Results on Final Phase-III

Since there was no other rating scale parallel to this rating scale, the construct validity was established through item-total correlation, where the score of individual question was correlated with total score secured by 300 samples. Thus, the validity coefficient was 0.70. This ensures that the rating scale, containing 63 questions, is valid.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The art of Chikan embroidery in India is about 400 years old and it is believed that this is a Persian Craft, which came to India with Noorjahan, the queen of Jahangeer the Mughal Emperor. At that time it was designed and practiced by the queen and other begams (wives) of Mughal Emperors. Chikankari flourished under the patronage of the rulers of Awadh. Later when the capital of Awadh shifted to Lucknow from Faizabad, in the year 1722 A.D., the knowledge of this craft came to Lucknow. Gradually, in Lucknow the Mughals founded the Hand Block Printing skills that made it easier for

them to practice this embroidery, as earlier the tracing of design was very difficult. This availability of easy process of drawing of base design encouraged them to teach this fine embroidery-work to their Kaniz (servants), who in turn taught it to their other family members and gradually this embroidery become a part time earning source of many women of rural areas. The craft of Chikankari is quite distinctive and forms an integral part of life in Lucknow. The fine needlework adorned the garments made from gossamer silk fabrics and muslin for the ruling elite. The love and hard work of the artisans created delicate designs on fabrics that was reminiscent of sheer grace. This Chikan Embroidery is not only providing employment to about 2.5 lacs artisans of different crafts but people from non-craft base are also earning their livelihood by associating themselves with this craft. Expected number of non-artisan persons earning their bread and butter from this craft is about one million. They may be contractors, manufacturers, retailers, raw material providers or employee with manufacturers. Further, there are many non government organizations working for welfare of artisans in the cluster. They are implementing various schemes of Central or State Government Departments. However, the effectiveness of these NGOs on socio-economic conditions of Chikankars is not known. For this, the present researcher, therefore, developed a rating scale for the Chikan craft workers to assess the various aspects of living conditions of Chikan workers, those who are working under the umbrella of the NGOs. Standard steps were adopted to make the tools ready (Bhattacharyya *et al.*, 1977; Bera, 1990; Guilford and Fruchter, 1973). The tool was found reliable and valid. Since there was not such parallel test or checklist available so far, the researcher had to depend upon the item-total.

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