



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Social Science

**TRADITIONAL TREASURES FOR TODAY:
ENHANCING TRIPURA'S HANDICRAFTS WITH
FOLK CRAFTS**

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ABSTRACT

Folk crafts are playing an active role in today's market and economic development. This paper discusses from the angle that folk crafts are beneficial to the formation of clean environment, enriching handicraft skills and promoting the development of culture. Then we explore the concrete application of folk crafts in preserving our identity and culture, mainly in handicrafts like different materials made of bamboo and wood. In order to further promote the development of handicraft industry, this paper analyzes the application of handicraft and its value, and discusses the application of crafts skill in making usable materials.

INTRODUCTION

Tripura, a state engulfed by nearly 70% forest cover, boasts a rich tapestry of traditional culture and folk crafts. Passed down through generations, these crafts hold spiritual significance, enriching our social fabric. Yet, as time progresses, many of our country's traditional techniques fade into obscurity. Herein lies the importance of integrating traditional crafts into contemporary handicraft design, not only enhancing craft skills but also fostering economic stability in rural areas and nurturing our cultural heritage. The judicious application of folk crafts not only optimizes modern material usage but also imbues designs with the invaluable social essence of tradition. Craftsmanship, therefore, entails a deep understanding and adept application of folk crafts, harnessing their social value to propel cultural continuity in the modern era.

The Positions Of Folk Crafts In Modern Culture Contribute To The Formation Of A Clean Outdoor Environment:

In Tripura, gifted artisans skillfully produce exquisite crafts from simple materials like cane, bamboo, and wood. These folk crafts play a vital role in optimizing the modern usage of plastic materials and in promoting the creation of a clean outdoor environment. The goal of crafting these items is to provide society with a cleaner environment and atmosphere. The flexible use of folk technology can effectively reduce the necessity for plastic materials. Traditional usable elements, while rooted in ancient times, also have significant relevance in discarding plastic materials in the modern age. Handicrafts can adapt to the needs of the people by extracting traditional usable elements, learning from folk crafts, and integrating them into craftsmanship. By enriching the utilization of traditional elements, we simultaneously create a comfortable living environment. In addition to the use of folk crafts, traditional cultural thinking also contributes to the formation of a clean and pollution-free environment. Craftsmanship should prioritize integrity and dialectical unity. This idea greatly inspires and guides craftsmanship to generate employment opportunities. Therefore, the integration of folk crafts not only enhances our living spaces but also aligns with the ethos of environmental stewardship, driven by traditional cultural values.

Enhance Handicraft Skills

The people of Tripura possess a special skill in crafting, particularly with cane and bamboo. They create a wide array of products including decorative items, lampshades, containers, wall panels, mats, bags, hand fans, furniture, and more. However, in this era, many of our handicraft making techniques and ideas are being used as references in foreign countries, leading to a sense of monotony in handicraft skills and designs. Integrating folk crafts can inject fresh ideas and choices into our country's handicraft industry, revitalizing its current state. Additionally, to enhance handicraft skills, we must elevate the level of craftsmanship. By integrating folk

crafts and traditional culture, we can enrich handicraft skills and patterns, thereby creating a more comfortable living environment for people while simultaneously fostering the growth of the handicraft enterprise.

Advancement Of Cultural Development

To harness its positive impact, many folk crafts in our country must be disseminated and promoted. Integrating folk crafts into the bamboo craft industry would undoubtedly enhance its social value, garner widespread recognition, and further promote the development of traditional culture. Simultaneously, individuals would come to appreciate the charm of folk crafts, enrich their own aesthetic sensibilities, and deepen their understanding of our traditional culture. Folk crafts serve as a potent expression of our heritage, making the application of handicrafts a crucial avenue for advancing traditional culture.

The Application Of Folk Crafts In Handicraft Design. Promotion Of Handicraft

When crafting handmade items, essential raw materials such as bamboo, wood, and sometimes leaves are utilized. However, the incorporation of folk crafts may sometimes pose conflicts with modern manufacturing methods. For instance, constructing a house door from bamboo in a remote village of Tripura may not yield a sturdy and durable result, rendering it inconvenient for use in modern buildings. In such cases, it becomes imperative to make choices based on the specific circumstances, opting for doors made of planks instead. Consequently, the promotion of modern, convenient materials and items should be selective. Additionally, conducting exclusive market surveys is essential. This approach not only caters to users' aesthetic preferences and overall convenience but also ensures the safety of handicrafts. It underscores the importance of integrating traditional crafts with modern techniques and aspects, rather than adhering solely to traditional materials or methods, for functional purposes in modern settings.

Unanimous With Modern Usage.

Tripura, with its diverse culture, races, and traditions, presents a unique landscape for handicraft work. To cater to contemporary users' aesthetic preferences, it is essential to integrate traditional arts and crafts into modern design theories. This can be achieved by directly applying traditional patterns and shapes, while also innovating through abstraction and deformation. By understanding the essence of Tripura's traditional culture and incorporating it into design schemes, craftsmen can expand the development of folk crafts while aligning with modern design concepts. Utilizing sustainable raw materials like bamboo and wood not only ensures cost efficiency but also promotes eco-friendliness, attracting buyers and enhancing the cultural value of traditional crafts.

Contemporary Craft

The demand for cultural goods is on the rise, with contemporary handicrafts proving to be a strategic move by artisans to capitalize on tradition for economic prosperity. While commodification of handicrafts may be seen as a positive step for rural sustenance, buyers often perceive them as decorative rather than culturally significant. Despite recognition for functional aspects like finish, technique, and eco-friendliness, the deeper emotional and cultural essence of the craft is frequently overlooked. Handicrafts are often viewed as rustic products with local charm, yet their true significance remains underappreciated. To rediscover their essence, attention must be paid to aesthetic patterns, their societal relevance, and the embedded cultural theories behind their visual expressions, elements that may have been diluted by industrialization, modernization, and historical struggles for survival.

The Concrete Application Of Folk Crafts In Modern Handicraft Design

In the realm of modern design and materials, the integration of folk crafts has become a familiar practice. For instance, the creation of ladies' handbags using plastic fibers with patterns resembling traditional folk craft designs is a prominent example. Additionally, many household utensils are directly derived from ancient crafts, such as wooden spoons, plates, bottles, and bamboo chairs, which are integral parts of folk craft. Moreover, lightweight and durable items like stage podiums, bamboo tables, and flower pot stands demonstrate the effective application of folk craft in handicraft work, optimizing the use of plastic and metals. This paper briefly outlines the impact of traditional arts and crafts on modern craft education, highlighting how traditional crafts often provide premium materials in decorative forms. Furthermore, the people of Tripura can rely on generating income through public markets, showcasing their traditional handicrafts. Recently, public exhibitions of ancient handicrafts have gained prominence within the state, becoming essential for promoting skill development in bamboo and wooden crafts, particularly for the Tribal welfare society.

CONCLUSION

As society progresses, the handicraft design industry is experiencing a well-deserved surge in popularity. To stay relevant, this field requires continuous innovation. Here's where traditional folk crafts come in – they offer a treasure trove of inspiration and techniques that perfectly complement modern design needs. However, with time, many of these age-old practices risk fading into obscurity. This is why integrating them into contemporary handicraft design is crucial. Of course, this integration needs to be thoughtful. Folk crafts should be incorporated while maintaining a focus on modern design principles and aesthetics. Additionally, the concept of human and natural harmony should be considered when utilizing traditional techniques. In essence, folk crafts and modern handicraft design are two sides of the same coin, influencing and enriching each other. Through the responsible use of these resources, skilled artisans can maximize their impact in their respective fields, ultimately contributing to the advancement of society.

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