



Contribution of handicraft sector in Jammu and Kashmir economy.

A brief analysis

Basharat Aziz 15073118016

Mir Audil Bashir 15073118085

Abstract

The handicraft sector occupies an important place in the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. Being both labour intensive and eco friendly it provides employment opportunities to the local unemployed people and also adds to the revenue generation of Jammu and Kashmir via exports. The horticulture products of Jammu and Kashmir have won worldwide fame because of their attractive designs and high quality. This sector has tremendous potential of earning foreign exchange and creating More employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Keywords: Kashmir,handicraft,pashmina shawls, Introduction

The handicraft industry in Jammu and Kashmir is an important sector as it contributes to overall development of Jammu and Kashmir by way of revenue generation and employment creation. This sector provides direct and indirect employment to almost 6 lakh people and has the potential of raising the living standard of the people residing within Jammu and Kashmir. The handicraft products of Jammu and Kashmir have attained fame both at national and international level because of their fine quality, unique art and inquisitiveness in design. This sector has proved to be a source of income and created vast employment opportunities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The valley of Kashmir is recognized throughout the world for its art and craft and is famous for the production of kashmiri shawls (pashmina shawls) that are in great demand both at national and international level.

Objectives of the paper

*To estimate the flow of handicraft exports from Jammu and Kashmir.

*To analyse the growth of employment in handicraft sector.

Methodology

This paper is completely based on secondary data which has been collected from various sources like the statistical digest of Jammu and Kashmir 2018,2019,2020,2021. Economic surveys of Jammu and Kashmir, newspapers, published research work and various search engines.

Direct exports of Handicraft Products Rs in crores. Table 1.

S.no	Year	Rs in crores
1	2009-2010	661.27
2	2010-2011	1004.10
3	2011-2012	1643.37
4	2012-2013	1538.28
5	2013-2014	1695.65
6	2014-2015	1287.04
7	2015-2016	1059.41
8	2016-2017	1151.12
9	2017-2018	1090.12
10	2018_2019	917.93
11	2019-2020	935.25
12	2020-2021	635.52

Table 2.

Employment and production of handicraft sector Production value (Rs in crores),employment in lakhs.

Year	Producti o n	Employment
2016-2017	-	2.75
2017-2018	1930.75	0.23
2018-2019	1377.80	0.24
2019-2020	1268.28	1.46
2020-2021	800.75	1.91

industrial **Table 3** **Handicraft**
units

Year	HIU
2018-2019	1854
2019-2020	3149
2020-2021	3780

Table 4**Division wise handicraft industrial units**

Year	Kashmir division	Jammu division
2019-2020	2225	924
2020-2021	2789	991

Table 5**District wise handicraft industrial units**

Srinagar	Jammu
827	311

Challenges faced by this sector

- # Workers are still using old techniques.
- # Lack of raw material and inadequate power supply.
- # The wage structure in this sector is very low as compared to other sector's. # Lack of skilled labour.
- # Educated youth are not showing any interest to join this sector. # Unorganized sector.

Recommendation's

- # Govt. should exempt handicraft products from any kind of tax.
- # There should be well organized handicraft marketing system which would benefit both producers and consumers.
- # More training centers should be setup.
- # Govt. should encourage educated youth to find their career in handicraft sector. # Govt should provide credit facilities to all those associated with this sector.

Conclusion

This sector occupies an important position in the economy of Jammu and Kashmir as large number of people are directly or indirectly dependent on this sector for their employment. Moreover this sector also contributes to the state exchequer by way of foreign exchange. Therefore the government of Jammu and Kashmir should come forward and take appropriate steps for the development of this sector.

References

1. Statistical digest of Jammu and Kashmir 2019,2020,2021,2022.
2. S Manzoor, export marketing of Kashmir handicraft industry.
3. Towseef Mohi Ud Din, Role of handicraft in Jammu and Kashmir.
4. www.google.com.
5. www.deccanherald.com.