



Kashmiri Crafts – A Fascination for Tourists



Junaid Bashir

Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism & Hospitality, Foundation University, Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan.

Anas Mahmud Arif

Assistant Professor, Department of Tourism & Hospitality, Hazara University, Mansehra, KP, Pakistan. Email: anaschtm@gmail.com

Owais Khan

Graduate, Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra, KP, Pakistan.

Abstract: Kashmir has different brightening prestigious expressions and specialities which have been famous for quite a long time for their fine work and magnificence. To be sure, Kashmiri speciality items are unbelievable. Artwork is the primary wellspring of pay for the Kashmiris. Speciality work or essentially make is a kind of embellished work hand made utilizing just basic apparatuses. Things made by large-scale manufacturing or using machines are not handiwork items. The Kashmiri specialists are consistently alive to the beautiful encompassing. It communicates a reaction to the excellence around the formation of an enormous assortment of pursuing or decorating flower themes interlaced into multifaceted examples. The art items are promoted in Asia as well as in European countries. This article is to portray the significance of Kashmiri craftsmanship and artworks from hundreds of years. It additionally portrays how Kashmiris are imaginatively and customarily associated with their conventional artwork. The center on the traditional heritage is built on neighborhood uniqueness on the one hand and social tourism on the other. Kashmir could be a visitor range and can win significant income from yearly visits, although the majority of tourists head for the greatly attractive coast during the summer and winter. In Kashmir, with its freezing winter when atmospheric conditions are semi-arctic, the artisans use their time at home as inventive knowledge in making art crafts of stunning excellence. Regal support empowered these painstaking works from early occasions till these items, light in weight and wealthy in workmanship, found attraction and magnetism for tourists, locals, and abroad.

Key Words: Art & Craft, Kashmiri Craftsmanship, Prevailing Culture, Ruling Kashmir Tradition, Intangible Heritage, Traditional Crafts, Sustainable Development

Introduction

The hand-embellished work in Kashmir Valley is celebrated all through the world in light of their quality, workmanship, and unique patterns. This part can create profitable work inside and outside the state. It is a concentrated work part, needs less capital and is eco-accommodating. In this manner, the social expense of painstaking work is less contrasted with other little and medium-scale ventures (Nilson&Thorell, 2018). Being a work escalated segment, painstaking work can be set up both in the country and urban regions. The province of Jammu and Kashmir is renowned all through the world for its beautiful magnificence, supporting atmosphere and craftsmanship capacities which can be the center and hub for tourists.

The State Government has set up many instructional hubs for training little fellows and young ladies in conventional expressions and artworks.

Therefore, there has been a wide dispersal of handiworks all through the state. Numerous savvy people consider Kashmir a paradise on earth. It is called so for its pleasing excellence as well as for sensitive expressions and artworks as well. The businesses of the valley were possessed both by the state and private people. King Zain-ul-Abdin 1420-1470 AD transformed Kashmir into a grinning nursery of industry, remembering for the hearts of the individuals' normal originations of work and life and embedding in their psyches the germs of genuine advancement (Akhter, 2017). King has been made of his investigation of these expressions in Samarqand. With his promotion to the seat, he welcomed skilful educators and craftsmen from that point to prepare his subjects in these expressions. Kashmir, with their normal fitness for things creative, before long procure an extraordinary dominance in these artworks and

started to deliver articles in such excellent structures and collections that they obtained unparalleled popularity in Asia and Europe.

The province of Kashmir has a rich legacy concerning craftsmanship and speciality. The State Government allows the craftsmen to investigate their masterful custom their house is living in various pieces of the territory of Kashmir. Every one of these clans has its own customs and culture, and it is as yet reflected in everyday things like garments and utensils and so forth. The structures and *Naqqashi* work done on the different handcrafted things have a solid engraving of the antiquated convention (Khan, 2017).

As indicated by *Nilmata Purana*, "the ventures, in which these craftsmen were locked in, must be surmised distinctly from the wanderer to completed items. In this way, the articles of dress highlight the craft of turning, weaving, coloring, and washing. The adornments were made of gold and silver, weapons of war, most likely made of iron. Thus woodwork, calfskin work is highlighted by earthen-pitchers, wooden-pitchers, wooden seats, and cowhide shoes". During the rule of Sultan *Zain-ul-Abidin*, the speciality of papermaking, Paper Mache, cloak weaving, and so on were presented in Kashmir (Alkazi, 2014).

The primary data collection is embraced, and in this information collection strategy, the foremost common procedures are self-administered studies, interviews, field perception, and experiments. For this particular, culture research is focused on traditional artisans and the tourists visiting, admired by Kashmiri craftsmanship.

In the following lines, an overview of the crafts of Kashmir is given:

Paper Making

The speciality of papermaking is said to have begun in China in the first or second century AD. From that point, it was realized to *Samarqand* 1300 years and afterwards to Kashmir in the fifteenth century. From that point forward, Kashmir has been popular for this speciality of good quality paper (Dusenbury, 2004).

Paper Mache

Among the most popular customary speciality of Kashmir, Paper Mache was presented in Kashmir by *Zain-ul-Abidin*, who imported specialists from *Samarkand* to prepare the neighborhood individuals. The workmanship is very nearly family syndication among their relatives. In any case, substantially more

significant than these noteworthy realities are the subtleties and plans painted on the Paper Mache articles (Akhter & Manzoor, 2019). The typical structures on Paper Mache products are flying creatures, *Pontoons*, Trees, Lord Fishers, *Bulbuls* and the *Mynas*, the little fixes of blooming blossoms like the rose, the tulip, the lily, the iris, the daisy and other decision things from the universe of nature.

Kashmiri Shawl

It was Sultan *Zain-ul-Abidin* who set it up as a prospering industry. From that point forward, wrap started to be traded abroad. During the *Mughal* time frame, the Kashmiri cloak had become so famous the notoriety of Kashmiri wrap arrived in Europe. Later on, the request expanded, and the London custom House forced a significant obligation of 80% on Kashmiri cloaks. A cloak is a straightforward thing of attire, inexact worn over the shoulders, chest area, arms, and at times over the head.

The wraps made in Kashmir possess a pre-prominent spot among material items and is portrayed by the elaboration of its structure. There are three filaments from which Kashmiri cloaks are made *Fleece*, *Pashmina*, and *Shahtoosh*. Numerous sorts of weaving are dealt with cloaks 'Sozni' or embroidery is commonly done, Paper Mache, needlework, *Ari* work are other kinds of needle weaving (Rizvi & Ahmed, 2009).

Kashmiri Silk

Concerning the starting point of the silk business, a reliable date remains untraced. Some hold that it had an autonomous birth here and was conveyed in Vedic time. Others state that the speciality of sericulture was imported from Central Asia, where it was imported from China. The notice of this stuff was made just because during the rule of *Zain-ul-Abidin*. Among the marvels of Kashmir is the number of mulberry trees developed for their leaves for the creation of silk. The silk piece products made in Kashmir are rendered especially appealing by the fine weaving work (King, 2005). An enormous assortment of structures, blossoms and leaves, laced roses and narcissuses, poppies and tulips, lilies, and *Chinar* leaves, decorate the outskirt or the whole bit of these luxurious luxuries.

Kashmiri Gabbas and Namdas

The *Gabbas* and *Namdas* are, for the most part, utilized

as floor-mats and covers, being a less expensive substitute for rugs and carpets. The root of the *Gabba* craftsmanship is unknown. As per legend, there inhabited *Anantnag*, a helpless tailor, known as *LasyaTota*, who is said to have been the main man to consider sewing together some old diversely colored bits of *Puttooto* frame a story material. It is said that the establishment of this industry was along these lines laid in Kashmir ([Raina, 2014](#)).

It was in 1918 when the production of *Namdah* was occupied at *Nawab Bazar* by a notable firm named *Khawaja Garib Shah*. *Namdah* was a woollen felt, a sort of handmade mat with woollen weaving on it or a drugged-like fascinating rug mat which filled in as a story covering or sleeping pad.

Kashmiri Carpet

The fundamental credit for Kashmiri Carpets goes to *Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin* for floor coverings in the valley (1425 AD). He brought specialists and authorities from Persia, Central Asia and Arabia to train the nearby occupants. Even though the work was finished by hand, the business was profoundly composed and had all the basics of an enormous scope of present-day concern. The crude materials required for the assembling of floor coverings were woollen, silk, cotton, and jute yarns and colors. With the presentation of the plan examples of wraps, conventional paisley, leaves and blossoms, the Kashmiri floor covering achieved a serious extent of flawlessness. Kashmiri floor covers are incredibly famous for two things, they are handmade, never machine-made, and with the hint of nearby imaginative eminence, the Kashmiri rug additionally achieved a serious extent of flawlessness and cut out an exceptional spot in the worldwide market ([Goswami, 2009](#)).

Kashmiri Basketry

The cause of bin making is lost in the fog of ancient history. It is perhaps the most seasoned speciality on the planet, which despite everything, holds the creative mind, just as the propelled man. In Kashmir, too, the craft of basketry had existed since prehistory. The fundamental capacity of a bushel is that of a good for holding, solid and conveying different wares. Bushel creators have developed a few different uses for their items. In Kashmir, this art is being used for making hand-fans, delicate supplication mats for the mosques

And chick for entryways, Kashmiri basketry additionally presents a complex of differing shapes and measures and involves roundabout, circular or tube-shaped relics of coffins and compartments and so on ([Bakshi, 1997](#)).

Metal Work

It has been recorded, and references are found in *Kalhan's Rajatarangini*, where mention is made of the use of gold bangles, armlets, the ring made of gold and many other ornaments ([Kaw, 2004](#)). During the *Sultanate* period, this industry was patronized by *Zain-ul-Abidin* as we have evidence of the existence of goldsmiths, gold washers, gold beaters, blacksmiths and many other who dealt with the metal works.

Woodwork

Wood-cutting is an antiquated art of the land. Kashmir is a place where there are woods and wonderful trees. Pecan trees develop in bounty in the valley and halfway due to the solidness of the wood and mostly inferable from its rich regular veined surface excellent articles of differed structures can be made along these lines. In spite of the fact that woodwork in some structures was known to the individuals in the time of old Hindu rulers, it got due consideration during the rule of *Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin*. The pecan business endured a decrease during the *Afghan* and *Sikh* time frame before organizing a recovery during *Dogra* rule when articles of furniture, particularly chairs and tables, were produced particularly for European markets. Pecan woodcutting is restricted inside the Muslim people group of Kashmir and is to a great amount prepared in Srinagar city. Today woodwork is fundamentally found in pretty much every place of Kashmir ([Handa & Jain, 2000](#)).

Kashmiri Leatherwork

Calfskin's work has existed, a huge scope exchange cowhide in the valley. It was mainly the control of a specific order of Kashmir known as "Watal" who arranged the covers up in the towns and brought these to *Srinagar* for refining reasons. An enormous variety of cowhide products with their unique characteristics were manufactured in Kashmir, packs, shoes, coats, shoes, pads for seats, calfskin cover and so forth. These items were likewise of extraordinary interest in the

European nations. *Maharaja Pratap Singh* prohibited the offer of skin and horns ([Parashar, 2004](#)).

Role of Handicrafts in the Economy of Kashmir

The craftsmanship exercises completed in Kashmir Valley are popular all through the world in light of their quality, workmanship and structure. This area can produce profitable work inside and outside the state. It is a concentrated work division, needs less capital and is eco-accommodating. In this manner, the social expense of handiworks is less contrasted with other little and medium-scale ventures. Being a serious work segment, handiworks can be set up both in provincial and urban territories and can be taken off as an auxiliary occupation in the valley.

The part makes an obvious commitment in supporting fare exchange of the state. The workmanship exercises are particularly completed in Kashmir Valley, which is known as the home of craftsmanship products and has earned a special spot in the land of handiwork situation. This segment could produce the extraordinary potential to attract crafts-loving tourists.

The accompanying recommendations are advanced to improve the presentation of the workmanship area in the valley.

1. The state government ought to build up groups of the crafted works in various locales and far-off regions for the advancement and manageable improvement of painstaking work. These bunches ought to be created with the end goal of plan advancement, showcase help and creation forms.
2. Brand advancement and item promotion can be expanded in the presence of national and international tourists.
3. Modern show-rooms of Kashmiri hand-embellished work ought to be set up across the nation and at tourist destinations for the advancement of workmanship items and tourism development.
4. The government ought to assist through financial support/credit facility/microfinance to help workmanship exporters, with the goal

those new markets of Kashmiri handwork could thrive.

5. Setting up of learning craftsmanship units and display centers at town, square and region level to produce quality work and linkage development among the artisans and tourists.
6. Artisans at work and engagement of tourists in the process of craft making will lead towards experiential tourism, creating fascination for tourists and the local development.

Conclusion

Kashmiri crafts accomplished a serious extent of flawlessness and a remarkable spot in the universal market. In Kashmir, too, the speciality of basketry had existed. It is perhaps the most established art on the planet, which despite everything, holds the creative mind of the crude just as the propelled man. The metal, Silver and Copper of Kashmir are of extraordinary interest in Kashmir just as in the United States, Europe and other countries. Essentially the woodcutting is an antiquated speciality of the land, yet today it is in incredible interest and unique furniture pieces are found in each place of Kashmir. Cowhide work was essentially the control of a specific organization of Kashmir. Although the craftsman didn't get adequate cash for food however till the calfskin products are in incredible interest in Kashmir.

Developing links between the culture and tourism divisions could be a challenge, especially bearing in mind that traditional culture is increasingly utilized as a fascination in tourism but not frequently in a way that legacy specialists would approve.

It is true that tourism and culture are exceptionally distinctive in their approach to the common subject of advancement, so accomplishing equality is greatly troublesome. The legacy segment bolstered the thought that tourists ought to come to unique places, to craftsperson and living human treasures who work in their characteristic environment. It is anticipated and intrigued in advancing uncommon speciality exercises like organized visits to legacy education such as openly discuss exhibition halls, conventional fairs or makes people's workshops for those bunches with the market who are searching for interesting encounters.

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