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## AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF POTTERY OCCUPATION IN GURGAON DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

On the one side of coin in the world of technology, we have seen the products made of different metals which may have proved attractive, well designed, good finishing, light in weight, cheap in rate, durability and so on. But they have not proved their utility towards maintaining your good health by using them. The other side is the use of pottery products which are in use since ancient time in India and have also proved their utility since beginning. Making pottery products is not the rocket science but it is also true that it was dominated by potters only. This occupation doesn't need much tools and techniques but it can be made with the help of one wheel, beater and anvil only. To know the importance of this occupation, this study finds out the pattern of production, cost, income and profit of pottery



occupation in Gurgaon district. This study is based on primary data which is collected with the help of questionnaire interview schedule. This study concludes that the pottery occupation is suffering from costly raw materials, lack of working capital, obsolete technology, lack of diversification of products, strong competition from the mechanized industries products, inadequate marketing facilities and lack of research and development efforts

**KEYWORDS:** Technology, Product, Pottery, Potter, Tools, Technique, Wheel, Beater, Anvil and Occupation.

### INTRODUCTION:

We all live in the country where some people seem to be floating on the island of prosperity and others in the vast sea of poverty. Apart from working in government services; people are engaged in agriculture and ancestral/traditional occupation as well. Since ancient times this labour is engaged in these occupations which are distributed mainly as per caste system. Blacksmith started iron related occupation, Carpenter started wood work, Harijans started leather work, weavers started weaving and Potters (Kumhar) started making clay pottery. They adopted these occupations as a

livelihood for their survival and existence. They can work from home and earn their income as a pottery worker (Akilandeewary and Pitchai, 2016). Due to lack of education, capital, infrastructure and technology may have been some of the reasons for them to be incapable of competing the modern industries. The modern industries seem to be ruining the traditional occupation. Economic viability of occupation is facing challenges which get reflected into their living standard and education of their children. The fear of getting pushed out of market looms large on the people involved in these occupations. But after knowing the importance of this occupation very few studies have been reported in the literature. That is why this study has chosen pottery occupation as a research problem in this paper.

### 1.1 Background of Pottery Occupation

Pottery is a form of clay which is modeled into a desired shape, dried, glazed and fired into a kiln. It is the traditional occupation which is run by Kumhar community. Making of pottery is not a simple task. It needs an ultra-skilled person who has a creative mind and innovative ideas. Earlier pottery making was started in villages but with the advance innovations and technology of science it is spread in towns and cities also. When nothing was there in ancient era, the pottery was found in many forms. In the process of pottery making many members of potters family are involved in the clay preparation to glaze part and firing process. Pottery products are introduced to the newly born baby and be in touch till death of a person. So pottery has a great relation to mankind. Pottery was practiced and used in ancient India since 5500 BCE during Mehrgarh period, now it is called north west India and Pakistan. Further it was developed in Indus Valley civilisation and flourished along the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers which was further called Harappan civilisation and this civilisation lasted 3500 to 1300 BCE.

### 1.2 Process of pottery making

Pottery items are made by clay which is taken out from deep and risky rocks with a very hard work of many people. The raw clay is dug from third layer of earth as the first two are not good for use (Diana Halluska, 1999). One must have full knowledge of clay. It is among the most abundant of earth's natural resources, as well as one of the cheapest and most useful raw material. It is to be dried, segregated from grass straws and pebbles. It is to be wetted and filtered through thin net. Knead it and make the dough for master potter.

### 1.3 Selection of Pottery making Techniques

There are only two techniques used in making pottery products. But with the creativeness of potter's mind he can give birth to thousands of varieties of pottery products. In every bit of second his mind carries on thinking of new models. In both the techniques; process of preparing clay, tools, finishing, glazing and firing process remains almost same. Techniques used in making clay pottery are given as below:

### 1.4 Wheel Throwing and Stages of Pottery Making on Wheel

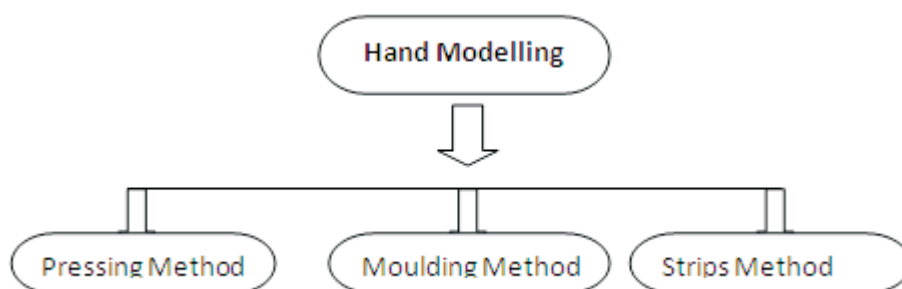
Throwing is the technique of making pottery products on wheel which may be thrown manually or by electricity. The operations on wheel cannot make you expert or master until and unless you take guidance of the expert or work under him for a stipulated time period. There are lot of tricks in the arms, hands, legs, palm, fingers and tip of fingers of a potter which cannot be described theoretically. To make a ware on wheel, a potter has to go through minimum eleven stages like wetting the surface of wheel, centering the lump, coning the lump, raising the lump up, plunging or pressing down, drawing up or raising up again, making the wall thin, forming by making surface soft, collaring, using smoother for upper body, using Cutter of thread and removing the ware from wheel.

### 1.5 Selection of Tools

Though the limited numbers of tools are used in pottery but selection of tool for a particular pot is very important. Before using any tool in pottery making it is very important to know the function of each and every tool. Some required tools are like Beater or Bat, Anvil, Beating base, Cutter (Kabula) and Knife (Chhuri).

### 1.6 Hand Modelling

Hand modelling means the wares are made by hand without taking the help of wheel. In this technique hand and fingers play an important role to make the wares. This is the ancient technique of making clay pottery ware. Hand modelling technique can be classified into following categories:



### 1.7 Decoration

As we know that pots made on wheel or by hand modeling are incomplete in nature without decoration part which plays very important role. Decoration of pottey products needs shaving, stamping, engraving, cut facets, perforation, polishing, glazing and painting.

### 1.8 Firing of pottery products

After giving the desired shape to the pottery wares whether it is made by wheel throwing, hand or by frames; they are to be put on fire. Before putting on fire they are called green wares and are delicate in nature. To make the pots for use they are put into fire in an adequate and appropriate kiln. Cow dung, logs of wood and eucalyptus branches and leaves are the materials used to fire the clay pots in kiln whether it is open or close kiln.

### 1.9 Potter

The man behind this pottery is called potter. Pottery is the ripen fruit which is plucked from the tree termed as potter. He is a very calm and quiet person who inherently shows the cultures of Haryana. He belongs to a very hard working and very simple living community commonly known as Kumbhkar or Prajapati. He requires only one wheel, one stick and some traditional tools which he has got from his predecessors. But with the creativity of his mind, he is able to transform the clay into well-structured and attractive pots, vessels, toys and other items of day to day requirement, occasional use and festival use items. Usually, he takes a lump of clay, put it on wheel and throws it with the help of a stick. Then he puts his both the hands on lump, puts the pressure on toes of feet by lifting the back portion of his feet. Then he pulls the lump upward and make the large size of lump with the help of water. After that nobody knows what magic he plays to form all varieties of pottery. In front of your eyes he will make the desired pottery items and you will not be able to get hint even.

### 1.10 Historical background of potter

Potter is the English word and the synonym of this word in Hindi is Kumhar. The Kumhar or Kumbhars or rehmani derive their name from the Sanskrit word Kumbhakar which bears the meaning earthen pot maker. They are also known as Prajapati, Prajapat, Ghumiyar, Ghumar, Kumbhkaar or Kumawat. This caste is found in all the parts of India. The origin of this community is believed from the beginning of civilization when the man started using utensils to prepare and eat food. The Kumhars consider themselves to be the starters of the world's first industry named Pottery. This community is the family of DaksaPrajapati. It is mentioned in our Purans. DaksaPrajapati was the son of Lord Brahma. DaksaPrajapati was a great scholar of Yajur-Ved.

### 1.11 Life of Potters

The Kumhar are a landless community who continue in their traditional occupation as potters, with some engaged in animal husbandry and crop farming on a share-cropping basis. Some work as masons and manual labour for a daily wage. Many Kumhar have abandoned their traditional occupation and are employed in government service – as teachers, engineers, doctors, police and armed forces; while others work for private enterprises. But literacy level and awareness on many social issues is still not satisfactory.

## 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

There is a huge decline in pottery occupation and the condition of potters is deteriorating day by day. Most of them have left the pottery making and shifted to other professions. The main reason is found that the cost of raw material is increasing and the profit margin is not meeting the requirement of potters. In golden days pottery was the main source of income but now they live with hand to mouth with pottery income due to low level of demand of pottery products. So this study finds out “an economic analysis of pottery occupation in Gurgaon” as an objective. Further, economic analysis has been analysed with the help of production of pottery products, cost, income and profit received from pottery products.

## 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is carried out in Gurgaon block and Pataudi block of Gurgaon district and 100 respondents/potter households from each block are taken into account for data collection which represents the final sample unit. The research participants are potters families including women, old aged potters and children above 18 years. To meet the criteria for judging the quality and validity of research based on the sources of



information, the genuine respondents are taken into account. To make the relevancy of data, the multiple sources of evidence are gathered. Groups of potters, direct observation, interviews, questionnaires and the literature reviewed, are the multiple sources of information to validate and authenticate the study. Most of the interviews were conducted in the homes and at their working place, so as not to disrupt their production. For few interviews the audio and video recorder was used. The present study is taken for the period 2015-16 with respect to primary data survey through well designed and pre-tested schedule by using interview method of survey. Total 200 respondents were selected for the study. The study is mainly based on descriptive analysis of the literature, reports and data collected from the secondary and primary sources. Statistical methods were avoided and more emphasis was given for a qualitative description. The simple statistical tools as percentage and the descriptive research design are used to analyze, interpret and for tabulation of data for presenting the findings.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To find out the results of economic analysis of pottery occupation; the pottery production, cost, income and profit received from the sale of pottery products is taken into account for analysis. The result is obtained and discussed in succeeding paragraphs.

##### 4.1 Production of Pottery Products

Pottery occupation is a seasonal occupation. It runs only for 3-4 months in a year. It cannot be continued in rainy season and in extreme hot weather. There are various factors involved in pottery production like demand of products, festival season, the place of work, timing of work, climatic conditions, technology used in the process of production, involvement of risk and various other factors. The details of production quantities of pottery products in 2015-16 in Gurgaon district have been analysed and are given as below:

**Table : 1- Total Production of Pottery Products**

Sl No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	Total Production (In Quantities)	Sl No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	Total Production (In Quantities)
1	Matka big	10845 (57.41)	8045 (42.59)	18890	12	Jhajri small	10 (100)	00 (00.00)	10
2	Matka small	15410 (59.06)	10680 (40.94)	26090	13	Chillam big	850 (71.13)	345 (28.87)	1195
3	Ghadiya	11215 (59.89)	7510 (40.11)	18725	14	Chillam small	1360 (71.96)	530 (28.04)	1890
4	Kadhavani big	1560 (57.40)	1158 (42.60)	2718	15	Gullak big	1385 (38.00)	2260 (62.00)	3645
5	Kadhavani small	1945 (62.30)	1177 (37.70)	3122	16	Gullak small	2150 (32.67)	4430 (67.33)	6580
6	Bilovani big	1540 (56.70)	1176 (43.30)	2716	17	Barua	15000 (96.77)	500 (03.23)	15500
7	Bilovani small	2005 (60.78)	1294 (39.22)	3299	18	Diya big	151850 (64.25)	84500 (35.75)	236350
8	Handia	9800 (54.83)	8075 (45.17)	17875	19	Diya small	920920 (64.04)	517200 (35.96)	1438120
9	Karva	18010 (59.19)	12420 (40.81)	30430	20	Sarai	210750 (61.56)	131600 (38.44)	342350
10	Kamoi	11930 (58.62)	8420 (41.38)	20350	21	Dhakkan big	20560 (65.17)	10990 (34.83)	31550
11	Jhajri big	10 (100)	00 (00.00)	10	22	Dhakkan small	41020 (56.99)	30955 (43.01)	71975

Source : Field Survey

It is inferred from the table 1 that almost 22 items are produced in the research area sample households and in all the items the Gurgaon block is leading with very good margin. It shows that the demand of the pottery products is very high in Gurgaon block in comparison to Pataudi block and that is the main reason of high production rate in the block. Second reason is that 34% respondents belong to urban part of the block and 66% respondents belong to rural part. The access of market is very easy and can be reached to end user easily. Whereas in Pataudi block the respondents belong to rural part. In the production of Gullack (Small and Big size) Pataudi block is having more production than Gurgaon block. It also shows that Matka (Big and Small size), Ghadiya, Handia, Karua and Kamoi production is very good in comparison to other parts. The production of Diya (Big and Small size) and Sarai is very high in Gurgaon block. Overall it is quite evident that the scope of pottery is very good in Gurgaon block

#### 4.2 Cost Price and Selling Price of Pottery Products

All pottery items produced in research area were listed with their name and size. The cost price of each and every product was found out as per the use of clay and other raw material. The itemwise details of cost price and selling price are given as below:

**Table : 2 - Itemwise Cost Price and Selling Price of Pottery Products**

Name of item	Gurgaon Block		Pataudi Block		Name of item	Gurgaon Block		Pataudi Block	
	Amount in Rs					Amount in Rs			
	CP	SP	CP	SP		CP	SP	CP	SP
Matka big	62.65	75.23	52.85	62.38	Jhajri small	28.48	34.19	24.02	28.35
Matka small	45.56	54.71	38.44	45.37	Chillam big	11.39	13.67	9.61	11.34
Ghadiya	39.87	47.87	33.63	39.70	Chillam small	8.54	10.26	7.20	8.50
Kadhavani big	79.73	95.74	67.27	79.40	Gullak big	22.78	27.36	19.22	22.69
Kadhavani small	56.95	68.40	48.05	56.71	Gullak small	11.39	13.67	9.61	11.34
Bilovani big	68.34	82.07	57.66	68.05	Barua	2.28	2.73	1.92	2.27
Bilovani small	51.26	61.55	43.24	51.03	Diya big	1.71	2.05	1.44	1.70
Handia	34.17	41.03	28.83	34.02	Diya small	1.14	1.37	0.96	1.13
Karva	22.78	27.36	19.22	22.69	Sarai	1.71	2.05	1.44	1.70
Kamoi	22.78	27.36	19.22	22.68	Dhakkan big	6.83	8.20	5.76	6.80
Jhajri big	45.56	54.71	38.44	45.37	Dhakkan small	4.56	5.47	3.84	4.53

Source : Field Survey

In Table 2, the cost price and selling price of each surveyed product is reflected. For making easy to understand for the viewer, in the cost price; clay cost, labour cost, decorating cost, baking cost, transportation cost, maintenance cost and breakage cost of pottery ware in raw form as well as in baking process is included. These components of the cost differ in both the blocks because the Gurgaon block itself is a very populous city and in the close vicinity of the capital of the country and this is the main reason of cost difference in both the blocks. Same way the margin in selling price is also more in Gurgaon block than Pataudi block.

#### 4.3 Production Cost of Pottery Products

Pottery occupation needs huge manpower in pottery making process. Starting from clay digging to baking of pottery products in kiln needs full involvement of labour. Pottery making is very tedious task and needs sufficient manpower, all most all family members get involved in this process. So it means that pottery

occupation absorbs a big amount of labour power in pottery making process. The labour includes male/female potters and children also. They generally do not estimate labour cost but when we take this cost in account then it covers a major part in pottery production cost. Sometimes neighbouring female potters are also called for decorating, glazing, shaving and colouring of products. The payment is paid according to working hours or work completed by them. Other than labour cost there are many other production costs incur the pottery production like clay cost, glaze cost, baking cost, maintenance cost of kiln and transportation costs etc. The cost of production is increasing and demand of the products is decreasing. The details of production cost of all the produced quantities are given in following table as below:

**Table:3 - Total Production Cost of Pottery Items**

Sl No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	Total Cost (In Rs)	Sl No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	Total Cost (In Rs)
1	Matka big	679439	425178	1104617	12	Jhajri small	285	0	285
2	Matka small	702080	410539	1112619	13	Chillam big	9682	3315	12997
3	Ghadiya	447142	252561	699703	14	Chillam small	11614	3816	15430
4	Kadhavani big	124379	77899	202278	15	Gullak big	31550	43437	74987
5	Kadhavani small	110768	56555	167323	16	Gullak small	24489	42572	67061
6	Bilovani big	105244	67808	173052	17	Barua	34200	960	35160
7	Bilovani small	102776	55953	158729	18	Diya big	259664	121680	381344
8	Handia	334866	232802	567668	19	Diya small	1049849	496512	1546361
9	Karva	410268	238712	648980	20	Sarai	360383	189504	549887
10	Kamoi	271765	161832	433597	21	Dhakkan big	140425	63302	203727
11	Jhajri big	456	0	456	22	Dhakkan small	187051	118867	305918
<b>Total Cost</b>		3289183	1979839	5269022	<b>Total Cost</b>		2109192	1083965	3193157

Source : Field Survey

Table 3 shows the total cost price of all the produced quantities of each category pottery product. Both the blocks have different level of production and different cost price of each pottery product. To get the total cost price of all production, the total produced quantities are multiplied by their respective cost price as shown in table 2. In Gurgaon block the total production cost is rupees 5398375 and in Pataudi block it is rupees 3063804 in total which constitutes rupees 8462179.

#### 4.4 Income Received from Pottery Products

Income received by the potters of both the blocks i.e Gurgaon and Pataudi block is analysed separately



and as a whole of Gurgaon district also. The itemwise details of total earned annual income in both the blocks is shown in table 4 as below:

**Table:4 - Total Income from Pottery Items**

Sl No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	Total Income (In Rs)	Sl No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	Total Income (In Rs)
1	Matka big	815869	501847	1317716	12	Jhajri small	342	0	342
2	Matka small	843081	484552	1327633	13	Chillam big	11620	3912	15532
3	Ghadiya	536862	298147	835009	14	Chillam small	13954	4505	18459
4	Kadhavani big	149354	91945	241299	15	Gullak big	37894	51279	89173
5	Kadhavani small	133038	66748	199786	16	Gullak small	29391	50236	79627
6	Bilovani big	126388	80027	206415	17	Barua	40950	1135	42085
7	Bilovani small	123408	66033	189441	18	Diya big	311293	143650	454943
8	Handia	402094	274712	676806	19	Diya small	1261660	584436	1846096
9	Karva	492754	281810	774564	20	Sarai	432038	223720	655758
10	Kamoi	326405	190966	517371	21	Dhakkan big	168592	74732	243324
11	Jhajri big	547	0	547	22	Dhakkan small	224379	140226	364605
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>3949800</b>	<b>2336787</b>	<b>6286587</b>	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2532113</b>	<b>1277831</b>	<b>3809944</b>

Source : Field Survey

Table 4 shows the total income received from sale of all produced products in both the blocks. Income is also received in same ratio as of their cost of production and selling price. Potters of Gurgaon block separately receive the income rupees 6481913 and Pataudi block received rupees 3614618 and in total it is rupees 10096531. This is the total income of 200 respondents and on an average it is rupees 50483 per household of both the blocks.

#### 4.5 Profit Received from Pottery Products

Pottery making is a seasonal occupation. It cannot be continued in rainy and hot season. It lasts for 3-4 months in a year. Hence the production is restricted to the limited quantities which results in less profit ratio to the pottery workers. Gurgaon block produces considerably good quantities of pottery products in comparison to Pataudi block. In the ratio of profit also the Gurgaon block is leading with good margin. The details of profit in both the blocks are given as below:

**Table :5 - Total Profit from Pottery Items**

SI No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	SI No	Pottery Item	Gurgaon Block	Pataudi Block	Total Profit (In Rs.)
01	Matka big	136430	76669	12	Jhajri small	57	00	213156
02	Matka small	141001	74013	13	Chillam big	1938	597	217549
03	Ghadiya	89720	45586	14	Chillam small	2340	689	138335
04	Kadhavani big	24975	14046	15	Gullak big	6344	7842	53207
05	Kadhavani small	22270	10193	16	Gullak small	4902	7664	45029
06	Bilovani big	21144	12219	17	Barua	6750	175	40288
07	Bilovani small	20632	10081	18	Diya big	51629	21970	104312
08	Handia	67228	41910	19	Diya small	211811	87924	408873
09	Karva	82486	43098	20	Sarai	71655	34216	231455
10	Kamoi	54640	29134	21	Dhakkan big	28167	11430	123371
11	Jhajri big	91	00	22	Dhakkan small	37328	21359	58778
<b>Total Profit</b>		<b>660617</b>	<b>356949</b>	<b>Total Profit</b>		<b>422921</b>	<b>193866</b>	<b>1634353</b>

Source : Field Survey

Table 5 shows the total profit received from all the produced quantities to the producer potters of both the blocks annually. The total profit of both the blocks is rupees 1634353. Gurgaon block received the profit of rupees 1083538 and Pataudi block received rupees 550815. The average profit shared by each households of Gurgaon block is rupees 10835 and Pataudi block is rupees 5508. Average profit of Gurgaon district collectively is rupees 8172.

## 5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Pottery is the true mirror of a society. It reflects the way of life and culture of the people. This occupation is known as small scale family-based occupation run by skilled pottery workers by using primitive tools and with wide prevalence of illiteracy among the workers. We love the size, design and shape of the pots made by potters. We enjoy eco free use of pottery but we forget the hard work, dedication and socio economic condition of potters who made these pottery products. The present study shows that the pottery occupation in the study area is suffering from costly raw materials, lack of working capital, obsolete technology, lack of diversification of products, inadequate marketing facilities and lack of research and development efforts. In recent times, other alternatives to pottery have risen to scene such as plastic, ceramic and glass products, which have limited the use of pottery (Mahran, 1999). When the pottery product is ready for use that time the cost of clay in Gurgaon block reaches upto Rs. 11.39 for 1 kilogram use of clay and in Pataudi block it was Rs. 09.61. Gurgaon block is leading in pottery production but it is not sufficient for survival. Out of 200 sample households the total profit was only rupees 1634353. So the average profit reaches to each sample household is only Rupees 8171.

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