

Knowledge gain of women weavers on diversified carpet products

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■ **ABSTRACT :** The present study was conducted to impart knowledge regarding on diversified carpet products of carpet materials to rural women weavers. For this purpose, 50 rural weavers from four different villages in Hisar-1 block (Kaimri, Dabra, Nalwa and Balawas) were selected to impart training to create awareness regarding type of carpet products that can be made from carpet materials and need for improvement in existing designs. The knowledge related to use of carpet materials for making different diversified products by using different handmade techniques was imparted to these women by organizing five days training in each village. The information regarding training aspects was studied through interview schedule. Reasons for attending training and gain in knowledge of the trainees after training were studied. The finding revealed that 'to learn something new' was the most preferred reason for attending training as it got rank 1st (3.00) followed by 'to develop confidence in making such products', ranked II (2.85), 'preparing diversified carpet products is the best way to utilize carpet materials and unused textiles' ranked III (2.72). The t-values were found significant for all parameters of training which indicated that weavers gained sufficient knowledge. Parameters like carpet materials can be used to make diversified carpet products, making different creative carpet products, manufacturing techniques *i.e.* hand tufting, hand knotting, flat weaving, hand embroidery, combination of flat weaving and hand knotting and diversification of available carpet materials was found to be significant. All the type of embellishment materials that is lace, ribbon, colored thread and sequins work, piping were found significant at 5 per cent level of significance.

■ **KEY WORDS :** Diversified carpet products, Handmade techniques, Hand tufting, Hand knotting, Flat weaving

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Carpets and floor coverings are categorized as a handicraft product *i.e.* made using simple tools. Carpet is one type of thick fabric equipped with extra yarn on its surface termed as 'Pile'. Carpets are used in households, offices, hotels, functions, occasions, public gatherings and many more places. These add beauty, warmth and comfort to room, soften noises and protect the floor. With the advancement of civilization and man's desire for comfort, the art of carpet making progressed very rapidly. The handmade carpet industry is a labour intensive one involving millions of artisans. The country with a population backed by skill and inclination towards such craft activity has a strong potential for growth. Engaging in such activity produces gainful employment resulting in socio-economic growth. Carpet industry is primarily rural in nature with minimal requirements.

Almost all the households had a loom at its disposal wherein the family members could weave a carpet as and when they had spare time. This practice is in use from the ancient times. From the time immemorial, the villages and cottage crafts seemed to have played a pivot role in social and economic life. These not only manifested service to the positive needs in daily life but acted as a mode of self-expression which reverted as a conscious aesthetic approval (Punia, 2004). In villages carpets and other textile materials used for making durries and small items of carpets like Aasan (multipurpose mat) with flat weave and knotting techniques for self-consumption never had any commercial implication. However, if such carpets and other textile materials can be used for making other articles with combination of carpet making techniques and is enriched with embroidery and any other

materials such as ribbon, beads, lace etc. some utility articles can be created. Regarding innovations and contemporary interpretations, it can be stated that the carpet is versatile. Since carpet making art has strong roots for social recognition, it never dies, showed as it has scope for further flourishing. Therefore, this art of rural Haryana calls for special attention to make it a marketable commodity, in other forms such as mats, soft toys, belts and cushion materials, with various styles of embellishment and combination of carpet making techniques. Thus, an attempt has been made to study the scope for change in hand made carpets through diversification of existing product. The present study was undertaken with the objective of to design and prepare diversified products of carpets and impart training to rural weavers.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

Four trainings to 50 rural weavers from four different villages in Hisar-1 block (Kaimri, Dabra, Nalwa and Balawas) were imparted to create awareness regarding type of carpet products that can be made from carpet material and need for improvement in existing designs. The knowledge related to use of carpet materials for making of different diversified products by using different handmade techniques was imparted to these women by organizing training, five days in each village. Use of carpet materials for making of products *i.e.* prayer mat, stool mat, *Muda* cover, *Chowki* cover, wall pocket, file cover, telephone mat, foot mat, teddy bear and belt were taught to the trainees. Each trainee made one product of carpet by using handmade technique of carpet making. The information regarding their existing level of knowledge before training related to these aspects was studied through interview schedule. Reasons for attending training and gain in knowledge of the trainees after training were studied using interview schedule.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data were collected on opinion regarding attending the training. Gain in knowledge of weavers regarding making diversified products of carpet materials, manufacturing techniques and embellishment materials used in product

making and results are discussed below.

Weavers' opinion regarding attending the training :

The data in Table 1 revealed weavers opinion regarding attending training. 'To learn something new' is most preferred reason for attending training as it got rank 1st (3.00) followed by 'to develop confidence in making such products', ranked II (2.85), 'preparing diversified carpet products is the best way to utilize carpet materials and unused textiles' ranked III (2.72), 'to learn various designing and manufacturing techniques' ranked IV (2.59), 'to increase income by acquiring skills' ranked V (2.50), 'to make best use of time by making products from the carpet materials at home' ranked VI (2.43), 'enjoyment and find scope of creativity' ranked VII (2.00) and 'to pass spare time' was the least preferred reason of attending training. It is concluded that training helps to learn something new and it is the best way to develop confidence in making such products.

The data presented in Table 2 reveal that there was a difference between mean scores of pre- and post-exposure knowledge of weavers. The t- values were found to be significant for all parameters of training which indicated that weavers gained sufficient knowledge.

Knowledge regarding carpet materials can be used to make diversified carpet products :

After training, there was significant gain in knowledge regarding carpet materials which can be used to make diversified carpet products.

Knowledge about use of carpet materials for making different products :

There was significant improvement in knowledge of weavers regarding making different creative carpet products.

Knowledge regarding these products can be designed with using various manufacturing techniques and their combination :

Gain in knowledge regarding manufacturing techniques *i.e.* hand tufting, hand knotting, flat weaving, hand embroidery, combination of flat weaving and hand knotting and diversification of available carpet materials was found to be significant.

Table 1: Weavers' opinion regarding attending the training			(n= 50)	
Sr. No.	Reasons	WMS	Rank	
1.	To pass spare time	1.77	VIII	
2.	To learn something new	3.00	I	
3.	To make best use of time by making products from the carpet materials at home	2.43	VI	
4.	Preparing diversified carpet products is the best way to utilize carpet materials and unused textiles.	2.72	III	
5.	To increase income by acquiring skills	2.50	V	
6.	Enjoyment and find scope of creativity	2.00	VII	
7.	To develop confidence in making such products	2.85	II	
8.	To learn various designing and manufacturing techniques	2.59	IV	

WMS = Weighted mean score

Table 2: Gain in knowledge of women weavers after imparting training (n=50)

Sr. No.	Knowledge statements	Pre-exposure	Post-exposure	Gain in knowledge	t-value
Carpet materials can be use to make diversified carpet products		1.12	1.78	0.66	8.98*
Use of carpet materials for making					
1.	Prayer <i>chowki</i> cover	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
2.	<i>Muda</i> cover	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
3.	Prayer mat	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
4.	Stool mat	1.02	1.80	0.78	13.00*
5.	Telephone mat	1.02	1.80	0.78	13.00*
6.	Foot mat	1.80	1.00	0.80	14.00*
7.	File cover	1.80	1.00	0.80	14.00*
8.	Wall pocket	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
9.	Teddy bear	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
10.	Belt	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
These products can be designed using various manufacturing techniques and their combination					
1.	Hand tufting	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
2.	Flat weaving	1.46	1.80	0.34	4.05*
3.	Hand knotting	1.46	1.80	0.34	4.05*
4.	Hand embroidery	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
5.	Combination of flat weaving and hand knotting	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
6.	Diversification of available carpet materials	1.10	1.80	0.80	14.00*
The products made from using carpet materials can be embellished with:					
1.	Lace	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
2.	Ribbon	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
3.	Coloured thread & sequins work	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*
4.	Piping	1.00	1.80	0.80	14.00*

Significant at 5% level of significance at 40 d.f

Knowledge regarding embellishment of developed diversified products :

Gain in knowledge regarding all the type of embellishment materials that is lace, ribbon, coloured thread and sequins work , piping was found to be significant at 5 per cent level of significance.

It is concluded that there was gain in knowledge of weavers after attending the training. The results of Farooqui *et al.* (1992) agreed, who conducted a study in Aurangabad district regarding training needs of farm women. The study revealed that majority (92.5%) of farm women were given preferences in tailoring/ stitching, knitting and decorative stitches, training as their adoption will supplement their family income.

Conclusion :

It is concluded that training helps to learn something new and it is the best way to develop confidence in making innovative carpet products of carpet materials. The t- values were found to be significant for all parameters of training which indicate that women weavers gained sufficient knowledge as it was significant at 5 per cent level of significance. If carpets and other textile materials can be used for making other

innovative products with combination of carpet making techniques and is enriched with embroidery and any other materials some utility and innovative products can be created. Regarding innovations and contemporary interpretations it can be stated that the carpet is versatile.

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