

Profile of the museums of Rajasthan state

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Museums are the surest way of gaining a clear and detailed understanding of the rich culture, traditions, arts, history, crafts and other notable features typical to a region and also offer us an opportunity to glimpse at some of the rarest and finest articles to be ever found in the world. Rajasthan has a number of museums with a most delightful collection of display. A survey was conducted to gain information regarding the profile of museum from the head of the museums of Rajasthan.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Museum, Historic textiles

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Museum is a building or institution dedicated to the acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition and educational interpretation of objects having scientific, historical, cultural or artistic value." The English word "museum" comes from the Latin word, and is pluralized as "museums." It is originally from the Greek (Mousein), which denotes a place or temple dedicated to the Muses (the patron divinities in Greek mythology of the arts), and hence a building set apart for study and the arts.

Museums collect and care for objects of scientific, artistic or historical importance and make them available for public viewing through exhibits that may be permanent or temporary. Most large museums are located in major cities throughout the world and more local ones exist in smaller cities, towns and even the countryside. Museums form the treasure house of any country. It throws light on the culture and heritage of that country. Collections of museums take us for a ride in the past age with the help of its collection of ancient items. Apart from being the best way to know history, museums are also a good means of education. Museums form a vital part of any civilized and cultured country. Rajasthan is famous for its cultural and history, hence museums are an important part of any country. Museums of Rajasthan are the repository of the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan that speak the valor and chivalry, the brutal wars and the glorious conquest of the days gone. Most museums in Rajasthan have an incredibly

large collection of objects, ranging from paintings, textiles, coins, sculptures, manuscripts and jewellery. Apart from the variety in forms, the objects are representative of a distinct phase or historical period, from among an accumulation of more than 5000 years of Indian history. An attempt has been made to find out the information regarding the profile of museum of Rajasthan.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

Museums of Rajasthan display outstanding collection of textiles. The study was conducted in the Rajasthan state. The list of museums was obtained from Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur and tourism department, Udaipur. The information was purposively collected from selected twenty museums having textiles of Rajasthan. Only those textile items were selected which were conserved from last 50 years. A pre-structured interview schedule was developed on the basis of available literature to gain information regarding the profile of museum from the respondents *i.e.* Head of the museum.

The developed tool was comprised of two sections Section I -Profile of the museum and Section II - Specific information about details of textile items conserved in the museum Personal interview technique was used for data collection. Data were analyzed using frequency and percentage.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

Profile of the museum :

This section reveals the general information regarding location, size, area covered, name of governing body, year of establishment, number of persons employed, sources of revenue generation etc.

Location:

The researchers selected 20 museums of Rajasthan from

different districts for conducting survey work. The data in Table 1 clearly shows that 70 per cent of museums were located at centre of the city while 20 per cent were located at far away from the city and only 10 per cent museums were located at posh location.

Year of establishment :

The data about year of establishment of selected museums have been presented in Table 1, which depicted that majority (70.00%) of museums were established between year 1901-1950, followed by 20 per cent sample units in year 1951-2000. Rest, 10.00 per cent museums selected as sample were established in year 1875-1990.

Table 1: General profile of the museum		(n=20)	
Sr. No.	Aspects	No. of respondents	
		Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Location area		
	Centre of the city	14	70
	Far away from the city	4	20
	Posh location	2	10
2.	Year of establishment		
	1875-1900	2	10
	1901-1950	14	70
	1951-2000	4	20
3.	Total area covered (square feet)		
	Below 5000	2	10
	5000-10000	3	15
	10000-15000	7	35
	Above 15000	8	40
4.	Governing body		
	State government	10	50
	Central government	3	15
	Private museums	1	05
	Museums owned/ governed by trust	6	30
5.	Sources of revenue generation		
	Ticket revenue	20	100
	Publication selling	20	100
	Cafeteria	7	35
	Videography charges	18	90
	Photography charges	12	60
	Film shooting charges		
6.	Number of tourist per month		
	Below 2000	2	10
	2000-3500	3	15
	3500-5000	5	25
	5000-6500	3	15
	Above 6500	7	35

Governing body :

Perusal of Table 1 shows that majority of the museums (50%) were governed by state government under The Department of Archaeology and Museums in Rajasthan, followed by 30 per cent museums owned/ governed by trust and 15 per cent by central government. The private museums were found to be comparatively few *i.e.* 5.00 per cent.

Sources of income generation

Data in Table 1 show the sources of revenue generation in museums. It is clear that all the museums (100%) were generating income through ticket revenue, publication selling and by taking photography charges from tourists, while 90 per cent museums were taking videography charges and 60 per cent museums were taking film shooting charges. Few museums (35%) had cafeteria in their premises.

Number of tourists per month :

Table 1 depicts the distribution of selected museums according to number of tourist per month. The data showed that 35 per cent of responding museums had number of tourist per month above 6500, 25 per cent between 3500-5000, 15 per cent between 5000-6500 and 2000-3500 and only 10 per cent had below 2000. Number of tourist included total number of Indians, foreigners and students.

Number of persons employed :

Table 2 provides a glimpse of museums on the basis of

number of persons employed.

Data in Table 2 depict that 9 museums had administrative staff ranging between 0 to 5 remaining 20 per cent units had staff between 5 to 10. Regarding technical staff, a very disheartening picture was presented as the majority of them (60 %) did not have any type of technical staff for textile conservation. Out of total 20 museums, only 20 per cent had technical staff (2-5) and 6-10 to conserve the textiles in the museums. Out of total 20 museums, 8 museums had gallery attendants (1to10) to vigilance different galleries of the museum. Thirty per cent of museums had 11 to 20 gallery attendants for caring the different galleries. Only 6 museums had more than 20 gallery attendants. All museums had security staff for protection of museum’s artifacts. Eight museums had 1-10 security staff. Only 5 had more than 20 security staff depending on the size of the museum. 35 per cent of museums had 11 to 20 security staff.

Specific information about details of textile items conserved in the museum

This section reveals the information regarding types of items conserved , number of textile items conserved and types of textile items conserved in the museum.

Types of items conserved in the museum :

The effort was made to find out the type of items conserved in the museum. Perusal of Table 3 indicates that different items were conserved in museums. Mainly miniature

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of museums on the basis of number of persons employed (n=20)			
Sr.No.	Number of persons employed	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Managerial staff		
	1-5	14	70
	6-10	6	30
2.	Technical staff		
	Not available	12	60
	2-5	4	20
	6-10	4	20
3.	Gallery attendant		
	1-10	8	40
	11-20	6	30
	More than 20	6	30
4.	Security staff		
	1-10	8	40
	11-20	7	35
	More than 20	5	25
5.	Clerical staff / ministerial staff		
	1-10	9	45
	11-20	7	35
	More than 20	4	20

paintings, stone sculptures, arms and weapons were conserved by majority of museums (18). The table further shows that in 16 museums, jewellery was conserved. Mainly silver, ivory, churr and metallic jewellery were found in these museums. It

was interesting to note that coins were preserved by 70 per cent museums and 60 per cent museums had metallic objects. However, inscriptions and metal sculptures were preserved by 9 museums.

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of museums on the basis of types of items conserved in the museum (n=20)

Sr. No.	Types of items	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Textiles	20	100
2.	Miniature paintings	18	90
3.	Jewellery	16	80
4.	Metal sculptures	9	45
5.	Stone sculptures	18	90
6.	Arms and weapons	18	90
7.	Terracotta	8	40
8.	Inscriptions	9	45
9.	Coins	14	70
10.	Photographs	4	20
11.	Metallic objects	12	60
12.	Local art and craft	6	30
13.	Ivory objects	8	40
14.	Miscellaneous	20	100

*Percentage has been changed because respondents were free to choose more than one option

Table 4: Frequency and percentage distribution of museums on the basis of number of textile items conserved in the museum (n=20)

Sr. No.	Number of textile items	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	10 -50	2	10
2	51-100	4	20
3	101-150	11	55
4	151-200	3	15

Types of textile items conserved in the museum

Table 5: Frequency and percentage distribution of museums on the basis of types of textile items conserved in the museum (n=20)

Types of textile items	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Apparels		
Male costumes	20	100
Female costumes	20	100
Headgears	20	100
Shawls	4	20
Furnishing		
Carpets/ durries	20	100
Bed sheets	10	50
Curtains	4	20
Tapestry/ embroidered wall pieces	6	30
	18	90
Others		
Flags	6	30
Laces	8	40
Purses	3	15
Fans	5	25
Gloves	3	15

*Percentage has been changed because respondents were free to choose more than one option

Photographs were preserved by only 4 museums while local art and craft was preserved by only 6 museums. Terracotta and ivory objects were conserved by 8 museums.

Number of textile items conserved in the museum :

Table 4 indicates that 55 per cent of museums had textile items between 101-150, 20 per cent between 51-100, 15 per cent between 151-200 and only 10 per cent had 10-50.

Types of textile items conserved in the museum :

Table 5 provides a glimpse of the apparel and furnishing items conserved in the museum. It shows that in apparel items, all the museums (100%) had male costumes, female costumes and headgears/turbans; however, 20 per cent museums had shawls. In male costumes, Angrakhi, Chugga, Choga, Sherwani, Jama, Kurta, Hunting coat and Sadri (jackets) and in female costumes rajsi poshak, lehanga-odni, folk costume, kurti katchli, shawls and gowns were preserved. Male and female costumes were embellished with thread embroidery, glass work, dabka, salma sitara, kala battu, poth moti, aari work and gota work.

Table 5 also indicates the data regarding furnishing items. All the museums (100%) had carpets /durries and 90 per cent had tapestry/embroidered wall pieces. Only 20 per cent had curtains and nearly 50 per cent had bed sheets in their museums. Apart from apparel and furnishing items, other items like flags, laces, purses, fans, gloves were also conserved by few museums.

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