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Historical review of Zardozi

Dr. Sanjana Singh

Associate Professor, History Kalinga University

Abstract--Zardozi is a traditional embroidery since medieval period in India. It is considered to be famous embroidery of Lucknow as chikankari but zardozi is not getting as much as attention and promotion like chikankari. So this paper covers review of zardozi embroidery in historical perspective from ancient to modern period in India with special reference to Lucknow during Nawab's times. It also focuses on to find out its contemporary status, factors related to continuity and changes in the embroidery. It lays stress on the socio-economic status and problems of workers (zardoz) specially wages and health issues. This paper is a effort to fetch attention of government and non- government organizations towards this Royal craft of Lucknow for better promotion and facilities.

Keywords---Zardozi, traditional embroidery, medieval period, chikankari, lucknow.

Introduction

India has a wealthy lifestyle because historic times. In Indian lifestyle get dressed and ornamentation performed a giant role. When we talk approximately Costumes and textiles, we speak approximately ornamentation on garments too. Ornamentation on costumes certainly way Embroidery on garments. The artwork of embroidery is certainly of Eastern starting place and is of such historic lineage that our expertise of it stretches into pre-ancient ages. The artwork of Embroidery has been acknowledged to India, China, Japan, Asia Minor and Arabia for centuries. Embroidery is an expression of self, rendered with staying power and devoted tough paintings. It is an artwork defined as 'portray through needle'. It is a craft with a huge ranging enchantment which displays the cultural traditions of the human beings amongst whom it takes delivery and develops. India has a wealthy culture of embroidery relationship again to prehistoric times. In India this artwork takes its suggestion from nature and religion. The sample have usually been floral, animals geometric and spiritual. In India the artwork likely originated with the peasant elegance which has contributed the excellent specimens. The tracts wherein it flourished are in large part agricultural and pastoral and their population aren't required to paintings in the course of the year. They make use of spare time through devoting it to the pursuit of the artwork which even as giving them aesthetic pride brings them additionally a

subsidiary income. Indian embroidery is a fantastically specialised artwork and requires department of labour. It became carried out with handiest spiritual and royal cause withinside the past. India has exclusive kinds of embroideries. Each fashion of embroidery isn't like different and has very own splendor and grace. Usha Srikant categorized embroidery in 4 types-Court embroidery, Trade embroidery, Folk embroidery, Temple embroidery. These embroideries are practiced in exclusive paperwork in Indian kingdom including:

- Phulkari of Punjab
- Kantha of Bengal
- Zalakdozi ,Kashida and Sozani of Jammu & Kashmir,
- Chikankari and Zardozi of Uttar Pradesh
- Kasuti of Karnataka
- Gota Patti of Rajasthan
- Mochibharat, Kathiawar and Sindhi of Gujarat

What is Zardozi?

Each embroidery has exceptional records and style. Among the all above embroideries the maximum crucial appears to be the gold and silver embroidery which later referred to as Zardozi. A superb steel and Persian embroidery is made up with term 'Zar' which means gold 'Dozi' which means embroidery. It is called 'ShahiKaam' in Mughal Period. This steel embroidery that makes use of 24-karat gold silver twine. Pure gold became crushed into first-class steel twine (thread) that became used to embroider motifs on silk, satin and velvet. This could be in addition greater with the addition of valuable gemstones consisting of diamonds, emeralds, and pearls, which could be sewn into the cloth as a part of the embroidery. A variety of various ornamental stuff are used with this artwork as Kalabattu (The twisted gold plated thread), Salma (Very skinny twisted steel twine), sitara(A small spherical piece), tilli(Sequins), kora(Dull zari thread), tikora (A gold thread spirally twisted), chikna (lustrous zari thread), gijai (a round skinny stiff twine used for outlines), and kasab (silver or gold-plated silver thread).

Zardozi that is usually referred to as salmasitarekakam. The primary required equipments for Zardozi are a square wood or steel body constant at the floor additionally referred to as Karchob, and needle. Cloth to be embroidered is tightly constant in this body. So craftsman do paintings at the floor with identical sitting posture for eight to twelve hours continuously. This sitting timing is called 'nafri'. One narfi is identical to eight hours. This craft is essentially executed via way of means of Muslim network in throughout India seeing that medieval period. The crucial zadozi facilities of India are Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Bareilly, Banaras, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Jaipur and Kolkata.three But amongst all of the facilities simplest Zardozi of Lucknow got 'Geographical Identification Registration'. Four A geographical indication is a call or signal used on merchandise which corresponds to a particular geographical region or beginning beneathneath Intellectual Property India.



Figure 1. Cape made with Zardozi work

Historical development of Zardozi Craft

When we hint ancient improvement of this craft. The oldest documentary proof of this artwork could have been observed in Vedic age. In Vedic Period, Gold has been utilized in cloth ornament in lots of ways; portray the cloth with gold and silver pigment, readorning the cloth with embroidery and appliqué, weaving variegated styles highly-priced with gold or silver given in so on. Rig Veda stated a few phrases atka, drapi, pesas indicating sewn garments. Five the time period atka approach a garment embroidered with gold thread. It turned into referred to as material of gold. Same as P.C. Roy highlighted in Mahabharat the king of Kamboja provided Yudhishtara with many varieties of animal skins and woolen blankets (woolen garments) embroidered with thread of gold. In Valmiki's Ramayana there are numerous proof of gold thread paintings. Epic speaks approximately Maharajatvasas the garments embroidered with gold and silver tread. These references imply past doubt that gold silver thread paintings on costumes turned into a part of opulent culture throughout epic duration.

There are a few extra evidences given in different texts like Jatakas, where golden turbans and trappings for elephants have been made with gold paintings. Jain literatures Acharanga Sutra⁸ and Ajanta Painting cave no XVII, there are a few depiction of embroidered garments .nine Descriptions observed in Banabhatta's Harshacharita wherein spectacular muslin gown embroidered with gold thread.¹⁰ Same as embroidery with golden thread observed in Gupta and Kushana duration too. But the whole fledged shape of zardozi got here to India with the aid of using Turkish in Tughlak dynasty. During the reign of Mohammad Bin Tughlak, zardozi have become famous embroidery of royal costumes and courtly nobles. Ibanbatuta and Amir Khusro additionally deliver a few description of their writings. Batuta defined Nauroz birthday party with the aid of using Kaikubad wherein clothes, draperies, parasol, curtains have been embedded with gold. The phrase Zardozi first time seemed in Futuhati- Firozshahi, the autobiography of Firozshah Tughlak.¹² This literature gave description of clothes embroidered with zardozi. Firozshah Tughlak imposed regulations and regulations in this paintings and additionally restrained designs and styles in keeping with shariyet.

This motion gave set again to zardozi throughout his times. During the sixteenth century zardozi craft reached in Vijaya Nagar Empire below the Hindu king Krishnadev Rai and Achyuta Rai. But Mughal duration gave a brand new zenith to zardozi. In mughal duration all of the royal costumes have been made with the aid of using this paintings. A new fashion of Court karkhana tradition turned into installation in Delhi and Agra. Craftsmen from extraordinary components of united states got here right here to practice .below the patronage of Mughal emperor Akbar. AbulFazal stated scarf embroidered with zardozi inAin-e-Akbari.thirteen Typical flavor of agencies of buyers delivered variant in paperwork and styles. The royalty and the Aristocracy have been richly represented attired in gold and jewels as nicely horses, elephants, and camels have been depicted with richly embroidered saddles. During the regime of Jahangir, in his memoirs Tuzuk- i-Jahangiri mentions ornamental gowns with gold embroidery. The dominance of this craft persisted withinside the duration of Shahjahan . But Under the guideline of thumb of Aurangzeb, the royal patronage stopped and this caused the decline of the artwork. During the 18th century, the artwork suffered. The neighborhood artisans who had been gaining knowledge of abilities withinside the the manufacturing facility called 'Tiraj' migrated to Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Rajasthan, Mysore and plenty of artisans had been recruited with the aid of using Rajput rajas. This turned into the time while new political divisions had advanced with the aid of using neighborhood rulers like Awadh, Nizam and Bengal.

So those artisans observed safe haven in provincial courts. This gave a lift to zardozi craft and artisans. Agra, Jaipur, Lucknow, Delhi, Benares, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Bareilly are the hubs for unique hand-crafted zardozi. Awadh is certainly considered one among them, dominated with the aid of using Nawabs of Awadh from 1722AD to 1856AD. Nawabs of Awadh observed mughal courtroom docket tradition of their royal attires. With the migration of artisans in Lucknow, this royal craft got here to Lucknow courtroom docket and have become the a part of royal costumes of nawabs. NawabShujaudaula took hobby in handicrafts. He patronage arts in his courtroom docket. When maximum of the north Indian politics tormented by problems at that point Awadh turned into the handiest kingdom who committed its time for the merchandising of handicrafts and industries . NawabAsaf al-Daulah observed the coverage of his father. He provided land offers to many artisans. Soon after Lucknow have become the primary centre for ornamental made from zardozi. Hoey cited that it's far hard to mention with the aid of using which period this royal craft got here to Lucknow, however it is able to be stated that withinside the location of Asaf -ud-daulazardozi have become part of Awadhi tradition.

He additionally cited that zardozi of Lucknow turned into higher than different facilities in north India. Lucknow is well-known for heavy zardozi embroidery .Basically this artwork turned into finished on velvet, silk and satin fabric with the assist of needle on timber body called 'Adda'. Motifs and flowers, birds, animals and fruits, borders had been not unusualplace designs. Blue and red velvet material had been favourite amongst royal courtroom docket and nobles. zardozi artisans turned into called Zardoz. Initially this paintings turned into finished in Riyasatikarkhanaspatronaged with the aid of using royal courtroom docket and nobles. During nawabs instances such a lot of articles made from zardozi had been in call for with the aid of using the royal households and nobles

such as costumes (Male & female), Shoes, Carpet, Covers, Canopies, Saddle, Tent, Kanat, Curtains, Uniforms, spiritual Symbols (Calligraphy on fabric in Mohharram) Caps, Sheath etc. It turned into well-known for its neatness and cleanness. C.W. Gywanne stated that during nineteenth century Lucknow have become most important centre of this lovely craft. Contemporary author Abdul Halim Sharar cited this craft with the call for of Pashmina Shawl embroidered with zardozi in winter.

Sir Birdwood stated Nawabs had been very specific approximately their attires. So they took hobby of their costumes and accessories. Portraits of nawabs of Awadh supply a glimpse of this craft that are preserved in State Museum Lucknow, Amirudaula library Lucknow and Taluqadar corridor Lucknow. Not best attires however caps and footwear wore with the aid of using nawabs and nobles (each male and female) had been additionally product of zardozi paintings. Contemporary creator Abdul Halim Sharar offers a listing of footwear named Khurdnok, Charwan, Aram Pai, Konsh, ZarPai, Zuftpai Salim Shahi, Boot and Peshawari. He additionally noted that twine of Hukkas had been additionally embellished with this paintings. He noted this craft with the call for of Pashmina Shawl embroidered with zardozi in winter. After 1857 this craft were given tremendous reputation amongst not unusualplace mass due to the fact the courtroom docket lifestyle of Awadh ended, so all of the courtroom docket embroideries such as Chikankari and Zardozi used to practiced with the aid of using nearby Karkhandars in particular in Chauk and Hussainabad Area. Soon Domestic Karkhana lifestyle emerged in Lucknow. Owner of the karkhana become called Karkhandars. A record on business survey of the united provinces, Lucknow in 1923 offers a listing of a few well-known Karkhanas in Lucknow.

- Tazdar Mirza, Victoria Street
- Hadi Hussain Kholki Bazar
- Amanat Ali , Sadatganj, Chauk
- Mohammad Hussain, Kataritola
- Nasir Hussain, Asrafiabad

Main regions well-known for this paintings had been Purana Lucknow such as Chauk, Hussainabad , Nakkhas. This paintings become very high-priced at that point so best royal, nobles and directors best ought to have the funds for it. This may be apprehend with the aid of using the legit record on International Exhibition held in 1883-eighty four in Calcutta, wherein such a lot of articles product of zardozi from Lucknow displayed such as Caps, coat, saddle from Chauk seller. Cost of those objects had been from Rs.2 hundred to 300.

European Influence on the Craft

During British time European have an impact on may be visible on this paintings. Even nawabs accompanied western dressing feel of their costumes with European fashion and designs. European additionally very keen on this paintings mainly Portuguese. Birdwood believes that the lavish gold scroll ornamentation so famous on canopies, Chhatar, elephant Draperies, horse coverings, country housing and caparisons had been designs of Italian foundation of the sixteenth century. Portuguese despatched satin to India to be embroidered in Italian

designs. These encouraged the paintings of Gulbarga, Ahemdabad and Hyderabad in addition to of Lucknow at a later period. They used to ship fabric to be embroidered with this paintings. This paintings obtained a whole lot patronage in nawabs time and practiced in British period.

Present Scenario

But at gift this conventional craft isn't getting right attention. Still greater than 2 laczardoz running in this in Lucknow District .But their circumstance could be very pathetic. They aren't getting sufficient wages. As I went to discipline paintings and I discovered that maximum of the zardozi aren't glad with the cash they acquire. They stated we paintings constantly in sitting posture for eight hours called 'Nafri'. And obtained best Rs.a hundred and fifty to two hundred in keeping with day. Monthly earnings isn't greater than 5000. It could be very tough to run domestic with this little or no quantity. There is gender discrimination at the distribution of wages additionally. Female zardozi acquire much less cash even as running hours are equal. They additionally confronted scientific troubles like eye disease, lower back pain , neck pain. So they're compel to go away this paintings. When I went on discipline go to in karkhana in hussainabad requested zardozi to offer a few facts of this craft and their circumstance, they denied and stated you human beings best accumulate facts. Nobody real take care of us.we don't need to proportion any facts with you.As I requested them approximately authorities assist and regulations for the improvement of craft and artisans. Most of them had been now no longer aware about them because of illiteracy. While authorities added scientific regulations, loan, education program, and different plan for them beneathneath Handicraft Promotional Schemes with the aid of using Ministry of Textiles(Handicraft) at Centre and State degree both. But artisan are receiving very much less quantity of those blessings supplied with the aid of using the authorities. In Domestic and International markets call for of zardozi is increasing . Gulf countries, North and South America, are the primary markets wherein zardozi craft of Lucknow are constantly in needs in numerous articles.Even in style enterprise famend style designers like Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Anamika Khanna, Ritu Kumar usezardozi paintings of their Bridal costumes.

Conclusion

In Lucknow this conventional craft has a first rate social and cultural importance as Chikankari. These craft are the part of heritage. Both are modern craft for the duration of nawabs time. Historically and Culturally, this royal craft has obtained same patronage like Chikankari. But Chikankari is extra famous than zardozi because of extra interest, advertising and marketing . At gift the craft and artisans each are going through numerous hassle which includes lack of presidency interest, exploitation of Karkhandars and Middle man, and wages. Many artisans have commenced to exchange their career because of much less wages and negative centers supplied through karkhandars .To sum up it is able to concluded that zardozi could be very famous embroidery being exploited to first rate quantity and desires lots interest from authorities and non authorities corporations to survive, in order that this lovely conventional craft might also additionally get new opportunities.

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