

## Assessing the Socio-Economic Conditions of Pottery Artisans in Delhi and Haryana

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**Abstract:** Pottery artisans represents a significant segment of the artisanal workforce, contributing to cultural heritage and economic sustainability. However, their socio-economic well-being remains largely understudied. This research paper presents a comprehensive assessment of socio-economic conditions of pottery artisans in Delhi and Haryana focusing on the dimensions of human, financial, natural, physical and social capital. Data was collected through pre-structured questionnaire to capture the multifaceted aspects of pottery artisans livelihood. The study reveals various challenges faced pottery artisans, including the limited access to education, insufficient infrastructure. The implications of these findings underscore the need for targeted interventions and policy measures to enhance the socio-economic conditions of pottery artisans. Strengthening human capital through skill development programs, improving the financial inclusions, sustainable of natural resources, upgrading the infrastructure and fostering the community based initiatives are recommended to support the livelihood of pottery artisans in Delhi and Haryana.

**Keywords:** Pottery, challenges, Delhi, Haryana, Capitals, Socio-economic variables.

### INTRODUCTION

India is rich in cultural heritage, have diverse traditions and time-honored artistic traditions (Srivastava, 2019). The artisans contribute to the development of the country. Artisans hold the esteem positions and are recognized for the artistic expertise in the society (Verma & Gupta, 2017). The tradition of pottery making can be tracked back to Harappan Civilization, enduring the legacy of craftsmanship (Rao, *et. al*, 2010). Pottery industry holds a significance from both economic and cultural perspective. It helps in employment generations, raising exports, mitigating regional disparities (Regon, 2019). Pottery making industry requires certain set of

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knowledge, tools, and knowledge (Pfaffenberger, 1992). In the rural economy, pottery industry plays a major role (Meena, *et. al.*, 2005). However, with the modernization and globalization has changes the socio-economic landscaped and hinders the continuity of this old craft. Consequently, the per day earnings of ceramic artisans is lower as compared to workers engaged in the other sectors, this results in the number of artisans in the traditional sector is diminishing due to lower income (Jakhar, *et. al.*, 2023; Jakhar *et al.* 2023).

This study delves into the current socio-economic status of the pottery artisans in Delhi and Haryana which is requisite for studying the general background and information about the artisans involved in this profession. The development of this industry can provide an important source of income to the artisans living which can assist in diversifying the economic structures.

#### **DATA AND METHODOLOGY**

Since there was no secondary data available on the pottery artisans in the study area regarding the various variables, data collection was primarily qualitative and involved the interviews through a pre-structured questionnaire based on the objective of the study. Data collection was carried out in two states, Delhi, and Haryana during 2022-2023. The stratified snowball random sampling was used for the purpose of data collection. The sample includes 396 pottery artisans. Out of total sample 203 are from Delhi and 193 from Haryana. Ethical consideration was paramount throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Pottery industry is the major industry of India's cultural heritage and economic activities since centuries. However, at present, traditional pottery industry have come up with the various challenges due to changing socio-economic variables and technological advancement.

Table 1 shows the demographic profile of the pottery artisans in the study area. In Delhi, 87.19 per cent respondents were male and 12.81 per cent were females. In Haryana, 98.96 per cent were males and rest were females. This shows it is the male oriented profession in the study area. Age being the important variable which affects the power of person, physical growth and confidence (Singh, *et.al.*, 2020). The maximum respondents were from the age group of 35-45 years in both the states and least from age above 65 years. Almost all the respondents were married in the study area. Size of family is the major socio-economic factor that impacts the performance of small scale enterprises (Khan, 2014). 58.13 per

**Table 1: Demographic profile of pottery artisans**

Variable	Particulars	Delhi		Haryana		Overall	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Gender	Male	177	87.19	191	98.96	368	92.93
	Female	26	12.81	2	1.04	28	7.07
Age group	less than 25 years	24	11.82	12	6.22	36	9.09
	25-35 years	31	15.27	49	25.39	80	20.20
	35-45 years	53	26.11	56	29.02	109	27.53
	45-55 years	48	23.65	43	22.28	91	22.98
	55-65 years	32	15.76	18	9.33	50	12.63
	65 or above	15	7.39	15	7.77	30	7.58
Marital status	Married	181	89.16	190	98.45	371	93.69
	Unmarried	22	10.84	3	1.55	25	6.31
Family size	Less than 3	7	3.45	12	6.22	19	4.80
	3-6 members	118	58.13	120	62.18	238	60.10
	6-9 members	69	33.99	50	25.91	119	30.05
	9-12 members	8	3.94	10	5.18	18	4.55
	12 or more	1	0.49	1	0.52	2	0.51
Area	Rural	0	0.00	111	57.51	111	28.03
	Urban	203	100.00	82	42.49	285	71.97
Caste	BC	130	64.04	163	84.46	293	73.99
	OBC	73	35.96	30	15.54	103	26.01

Source: Author's calculation

cent of respondents in Delhi had a family size of 3-6 members and in Haryana, 62.18 per cent had a family size of 3-6 members. In Delhi, all the respondents were from the urban area but in Haryana there were respondents from both rural and urban area.

**Table 2: Distribution of Physical and Social capitals among the pottery artisans**

Variables	Particulars	Delhi		Haryana		Overall	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Ownership of homestead assets	Own house	191	94.09	191	98.96	382	96.46
	Agricultural land	11	5.42	11	5.70	22	5.56
	Any other land	3	1.48	27	13.99	30	7.58
	Electricity	202	99.51	19	9.84	394	99.49
	Availability of drinking water	115	56.65	153	79.27	268	67.68
	Cooking gas	201	99.01	191	98.96	392	98.99
	Refrigerator	164	80.79	141	73.06	305	77.02
	Four wheeler	9	4.43	7	3.63	16	4.04
	Two wheeler	106	52.22	140	72.54	246	62.12
	Livestock	1	0.49	89	46.11	90	22.73
	Other	0	0.00	4	2.07	4	1.01

contd. table 2

Variables	Particulars	Delhi		Haryana		Overall	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Ownership of pottery asset	Electric wheel	203	100.00	117	60.62	320	80.81
	Diesel operated wheel	1	0.49	0	0.00	1	0.25
	Human operated wheel	46	22.66	163	84.46	209	52.78
	Electric pot dryer	2	0.99	28	14.51	30	7.58
	Electric kiln	2	0.99	5	2.59	7	1.77
	Conventional kiln	201	99.01	186	96.37	387	97.73
	Storage and display	139	68.47	108	55.96	246	62.12
	Place to damp pieces	141	69.46	34	17.62	175	44.19
	Carving and decorative tools	146	71.92	151	78.24	297	75.00
	Pug mill	68	33.50	175	90.67	243	61.36
	Transport means	17	8.37	19	9.84	36	9.09
	Other machinery	4	1.97	67	34.72	71	17.93
	Ribs and scrapers	75	36.95	151	78.24	226	57.07
	Work shed	32	15.76	150	77.72	182	45.96
Trust	Relationship of trust	193	95.07	80	41.45	273	68.94
Community association	Link with community association	5	2.46	33	17.10	38	9.60
Reason for choosing profession	Family business	163	80.30	192	99.48	359	90.66
	Self-employment	28	13.79	1	0.52	29	7.32
	Low investment	2	0.99	0	0.00	2	0.51
	Hobby	6	2.96	0	0.00	6	1.52

Source: Author's calculation

Table 2 shows the distribution of physical and social capitals among the pottery artisans in the study area. 94.09 per cent and 98.96 per cent respondents had their own house in Delhi and Haryana respectively. Around 5 per cent of respondents had agricultural land in both the states. Almost all the respondents had provision of electricity at their place in the study area. 56.65 per cent in Delhi and 79.27 per cent in Haryana had an availability of drinking water. 99.01 per cent in Delhi and 98.96 per cent in Haryana had cooking gas. Very less respondents four wheelers. Further considering ownership of pottery assets, In Haryana, still 38.78 per cent of respondents still uses conventional wheel. 92.42 per cent of total respondents still uses the conventional pot dryer. There is use of conventional kiln in the study area. Only 61.36 per cent of total respondents uses the modern pug mill. There was trust relationship among the respondents in Delhi as compared to Haryana. Very less respondents were linked to the community organization in the study area. In both the states, family business was the main reason for choosing this profession.

Table 3 highlights the distribution of pottery artisans on the basis of human and financial assets. Education being the important variable. In Delhi, 18.72 per cent of respondents were illiterate and in Haryana 38.42 per cent

**Table 3: Distribution of Human and Financial capitals among the pottery artisans**

Variables	Particulars	Delhi		Haryana		Overall	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Education	Illiterate	38	18.72	78	38.42	116	29.29
	Up to primary	26	12.81	49	24.14	75	18.94
	Up to 8th	48	23.65	38	18.72	87	21.97
	Up to matric	43	21.18	26	12.81	69	17.42
	Up to 12th	30	14.78	1	0.49	31	7.83
	Graduation	17	8.37	0	0.00	17	4.29
	Diploma or vocational training	0	0.00	1	0.49	1	0.25
Employment	Full time	201	99.01	188	92.61	389	98.23
	Part time	2	0.99	5	2.46	7	1.77
Training	College training	1	0.49	6	2.96	7	1.77
	School training	5	2.46	12	5.91	17	4.29
	NGO training	0	0.00	40	19.70	40	10.10
	Govt training	3	1.48	50	24.63	53	13.38
	Household training	116	57.14	81	39.90	197	49.75
	Self-training	15	7.39	53	26.11	68	17.17
	Parents training	65	32.02	63	31.03	128	32.32
Borrowings	From bank	15	7.39	9	4.43	24	6.06
	From cooperative	1	0.49	0	0.00	1	0.25
	From SHG	3	1.48	46	22.66	49	12.37
	From money lender	2	0.99	16	7.88	18	4.55
	From relative	6	2.96	13	6.40	19	4.80
Savings	Bank	119	58.62	148	72.91	267	67.42
	Post office	10	4.93	2	0.99	12	3.03
	SHG	2	0.99	0	0.00	2	0.51
	LIC	41	20.20	9	4.43	50	12.63
	Cooperatives	0	0.00	1	0.49	1	0.25

Source: Author's calculation

were illiterate. Maximum responds in Delhi had an education up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard but in Haryana maximum respondents were illiterate. Maximum respondents had pottery as their full time profession. Another important variable under human capital is training. In both the states maximum respondents took training from their household members and least had college training. Furthermore, financial capital includes borrowings and savings. Maximum respondents borrowed money from the banks in Delhi and in Haryana maximum respondents took money from Self-help groups. Maximum respondents had savings in the banks in both the states. No respondents saved their money with the cooperatives.

**Table 4: Average year of training of pottery artisans**

<i>Source of training</i>	<i>Delhi</i>	<i>Haryana</i>	<i>overall</i>
College training years	0.00	0.05	0.03
Technical school training years	0.03	0.12	0.07
Training from NGO	0.00	0.43	0.21
Government Centre training years	0.01	0.56	0.28
Household training years	0.98	0.95	0.96
Self-learning years	0.08	0.74	0.4
Parents training years	0.41	0.67	0.54
Total Training year	1.51	3.52	2.49

*Source:* Author's calculation

Table 4 shows the average year of training of pottery artisans. Training helps the artisans in making them aware and skilled with new form of designs, technology, raw material etc. (Dash, 2015). Respondents had average maximum years of training from the household of about 0.98 years in Delhi and 0.95 years in Haryana. Least training years were in the case of college training by the respondents in both the states.

**Table 5: Distribution of sources of Income of pottery artisans**

<i>States</i>	<i>Source of income</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std</i>	<i>CV</i>
Delhi	Primary income	307073.89	142501.55	46.41
	Secondary income	63133	109801.2	173.92
	Total Income	370206.9	178215.96	48.14
	Primary income share	86.54	19.91	23.01
	Secondary income share	13.46	19.91	147.94
Haryana	Primary income	66227.98	61232.31	92.46
	Secondary income	47347.15	80914.3	170.9
	Total Income	113575.13	102007.94	89.82
	Primary income share	60.95	27.49	45.1
	Secondary income share	39.05	27.49	70.39
Overall	Primary income	189691.92	163512.42	86.2
	Secondary income	55439.39	97006.79	174.98
	Total Income	245131.31	194412.81	79.31
	Primary income share	74.07	27.09	36.58
	Secondary income share	25.93	27.09	104.48

*Source:* Author's calculation

Table 5 highlights the distribution of sources of Income of pottery artisans in Delhi and Haryana. In Delhi, respondents had an average income of Rs. 307073.89 from. Pottery profession and Rs. 63133 from other sources. In Haryana, respondents had an average income of Rs. 66227.98 from. Pottery

profession and Rs. 61232.31 from other secondary sources. The average level of income from both the sources primary and secondary was higher in Delhi as compared to Haryana.

**Table 6: Average amount of borrowing from different sources by pottery artisans**

Source	Average Borrowing (Rs.)		
	Delhi	Haryana	overall
Bank borrowings amount	19310	3264	11489
Cooperatives borrowings amount	985	0	505
SHG borrowings amount	2256	5948	4055
Money lender borrowings amount	492	1373	921
Relatives' borrowings amount	1231	1253	1242

Source: Author's calculation

Table 6 reflects the average amount of borrowings from different sources by pottery artisans in the study area. In Delhi, maximum amount of borrowings were taken from banks with the average amount of Rs. 19310 and in Haryana it was Rs. 3264. In Haryana, maximum borrowings were taken from SHG's with the average amount of Rs. 5948. Least amount of borrowings were taken from Cooperatives in both the states.

**Table 7: Average amount of savings in different sources by pottery artisans**

Source	Average Saving (Rs.)		
	Delhi	Haryana	overall
Bank saving amount	34561	9286	22243
Post office saving amount	675	570	624
SHG saving amount	118	0.00	60
LIC saving amount	10448	11399	10912
Cooperatives saving amount	0	0	0
Other saving amount	0	0	0

Source: Author's calculation

Table 6 reflects the average amount of savings from different sources by pottery artisans in the study area. The average amount of bank savings were Rs. 34561 and Rs. 9286 in Delhi and Haryana respectively. Maximum amount was saved in banks in both the states followed by savings in LIC with the average amount of Rs. 10448 in Delhi and Rs. 11399 in Haryana, which was higher as compared to Delhi.

Table 8 shows the different sources for the procurement of raw material in Delhi and Haryana. The data shows that in Delhi maximum respondents procure raw material from the outside their district since there is no

**Table 8: Source of raw material**

Particulars	Delhi		Haryana		Overall	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Producer own district	11	5.42	151	78.24	162	40.91
Distributor outside district	59	29.06	37	19.17	96	24.24
Producer outside district	108	53.20	3	1.55	111	28.03
Distributor own district	3	1.48	2	1.04	5	1.26
Retail/wholesale outside district	22	10.84	0	0.00	22	5.56

Source: Author's calculation

availability of raw material. In Haryana, maximum respondents procure raw material within their districts. Procurement of raw material is done least from the distributor in the own district.

## CONCLUSION

The study shows that pottery artisans in both the states have a varied characteristics depending on various socio-economic variables. Demographic profile shows that there are more male-headed household in the survey. Main population engaged in this profession is of age group 35-45 years. Majority of respondents were married and pottery as their full time occupation. As the ownership of asset maximum respondents had basic necessities. In case of ownership of pottery assets, it was observed respondents still uses old technology. Link with the community organization was not observed in both the states. These features plays a major role in studying the background of pottery artisans. As this industry have a very high potential, there is urgent need to create awareness about the importance of pottery profession. There should be avenues for the skill development and provision of finance. Government and non-government can play a dominant role for the upgradation and development of this particular profession.

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