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Ph.D Thesis : **Socio-economic Conditions of
Artisans in the NCT of Delhi: A
Geographical Analysis**

Abstract

The term artisan is used for the people who produce things of basic need with the help of simple tools. History of artisans is as old as the history of mankind. We don't know precisely the date when mankind created something manually and become an artisan but it was a turning point in the life of human being stimulating him to fulfill every possible need by making it through his hand and this may be considered as the beginning of handicraft.

Artisans conditions are getting vulnerable in the recent decades due to galaxies of problems, notable among them are: low wages, sedentary life, globalization and industrialization, dictate of middleman to obey their terms and condition, lack of education. Present thesis is an attempt to find out the pattern of distribution of artisan communities in NCT, to find out the social composition among the artisans, to study the socio-economic conditions of the artisans, to study the continuity and change in the artisanal activities and to study the existing threats in this occupation and its future prospects. For this purpose the thesis has been divided into seven chapters. The first chapter deals with detailed description about the conditions of contemporary artisan's community followed by need for the study and objective behind the research and the methodological aspects related to study. Second chapter is all about the classification and distribution of artisans in NCT Delhi. The chapter also explains the classical *jajamani* system

prevailed in India along with the chronological description of artisans before and after the revolt of 1857 and after independence. Third chapter deals with social composition and social hierarchy of artisans. Fourth chapter deals with the socio-economic conditions of artisans. The chapter is based the field survey. Crafts wise description has been presented in this chapter. Fifth chapter deals with continuity and change of artisanal activities. Thus this chapter tries to explain the change in profession as well as change in equipment used by the artisans. Sixth chapter deals with future prospects of artisans. Artisans are lagging in every aspects; economically, socially, education, awareness to name a few. So all these things put a big question mark on whether artisans are going to carry their old profession or they will quit. Seventh, the last chapter brings out the conclusion and proposes some suggestions to uplift their conditions while making use of government's various schemes meant for the artisans in the capital city as well as in the states of India. Here are few suggestions.

- They must be given minimum wage and their wage should match the inflation in the market,
- Education is must for them to understand the complications of the markets.
- Training in modern equipment's, which is available, is must for them to raise the efficiency.
- They should be given some stimuli to become more competitive and innovative.
- Every locality should have a training-cum-exhibition centre to enhance the quality of the artisans.
- Vocational training by government and religious institutions (Maktabs and Madarsa) should be encouraged.