

Potteries as an Urban Economic Base of Madhyapur Thimi

Deepak Manandhar ^a, Sudha Shrestha ^b

^{a, b} Department of Architecture, Pulchowk Campus, IOE, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

✉ ^a dpksmc2016@gmail.com

Abstract

Pottery is an unusual art using clay to make a variety of objects including flowerpots, vases, cooking pots, dishes, and more. This study explores the challenges facing Nepal's ceramic industry and its potential. The descriptive method shows the industry has potential, but those involved face challenges such as lack of materials, labor, and space to dry their creations. Pottery production and sales face challenges like product damage, seasonal demand, and shipping. Despite this, the industry experiences growth in local and global markets. It offers shaped pottery, fired pottery, and raw materials. Middlemen profit from the business. Study high demand for Nepalese ceramic crafts in international market due to quality improvement. Buyers paying more for handmade products boosting exports. Thimi potters rely on pottery for daily needs and income, making it crucial to their economy. Most households rely solely on pottery for income while agriculture caters to only their food needs for a few months.

Keywords

Pottery, Challenges, Demand, Boosting

1. Background

There are numerous primitive showy makes in Nepal. These businesses make incredible commitments to the national economy. Numerous populaces bunch take part formally or casually. Among residential businesses, ceramics has been related with society since old times. Ceramics is one of the most seasoned makes and plays an imperative part in numerous people's everyday lives. It has been an indispensably portion of human life since the starting of human history. Earthenware may be a special craftsmanship made from clay [1]. It produces diverse sorts of ceramics and clay such as blossom pots, vases for water and grain, huge vessels for refining rice wine called wine (rakshi), cooking pots, ceramics, mugs, bowls and plates made of clay. The analyst attempted to see at the challenges confronted by the ceramic industry and consider the scope of the ceramic industry in Nepal. This consider is based on graphic methodology. The comes about appear that the industry includes a great scope of action, but the individuals included in this industry confront diverse sorts of challenges or issues such as need of assets. Crude materials, labor, and need of space to dry the molded ceramics, to fire it, to store it, wrapped up items as well as different crude materials. Item deals are expanding in residential and worldwide markets. The industry is influenced by way of life changes and a wide assortment of substitute items. Brokers make great benefits, but face issues such as item harm, request subordinate on festive occasions and shipping issues. There's a colossal request for carefully assembled Nepali earthenware within the universal showcase due to the ever-improving quality. Buyers are willing to pay more for high quality items that offer assistance boost sends out. Earthenware talks to the culture, convention, engineering and natural ability of Nepalese artisans. Earthenware is eco-friendly and financially productive create in resort villages for centuries. Earthenware is the foremost appreciated craftsmanship requiring aptitude, insights, and inventiveness. Earthenware encompasses an awesome tradition. In truth, since this can be a rural nation,

there's a great demand for vessels to hold water and grain. Ceramics and explosive were utilitarian and frequently enriching. Ceramics and ceramics workshop within the field of craftsmanship. The showcase is the reference point for the ceramic industry. Competition from plastic and metal containers and holders may be an enormous issue on the request side. Accessibility, moo cost, toughness, and ease of taking care of make individuals utilize these items and deliver up ceramics. Eventually, this driven to a sharp drop in request for ceramics. In any case, the ceramic industry has household and universal markets. Our investigate centers on the household showcase.

2. Introduction

Madhyapur Thimi, the fourth biggest municipality in the valley between Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur. It is located almost 8 km east of Kathmandu and 4.5 km west of Bhaktapur. This place is situated in Bagmati, central Nepal, its geographic coordinates are 27°41'0" North, 85°23'0" East and its original

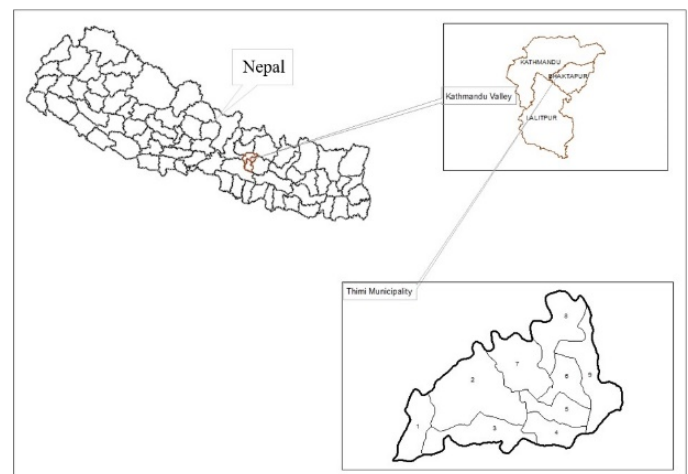


Figure 1: Location map of study area (Thimi)

name is Thimi. The least height is 1292m over ocean level at the intersection of the Manohara-Hanumante Waterway and most extreme rise is 1375m above ocean level within the northern part of the district with 83m level contrasts within the consider region. Thimi was built up by combining five Village Development Committees (VDCs) specifically Balkumari, Chapacho, Nagadesh, Bode and Dibeshwori. It constitutes 17 wards. It has a range of 11.47 square kilometers. Madhyapur Thimi, almost looked like tongue molded. The Manohara Waterway demarcates its boundary within the east, it is bounded by KMC to the west, Bhaktapur City to the east and six other Village Development Committee' specifically Gothatar VDC and Mulpani to the west, Duwakot VDC to the east and Balkot, Dadhikot and Katunje within the south.

A few legends encompass the title "Thimi" and its meaning. Legend says that since of the individuals of Thimi so effectively protected Bhaktapur, called them "Chhemi", meaning "competent individuals" - in this way lauding them for their faithful consistent bolster. Continuously, the title of the settlement got to be Thimi. The official title of the town at the time was Madhyapura or Madhyapuri, and common Newari title as Thimi. Another form says - "Thi" implies shining and burning, whereas "mi" implies fire. The individuals of this city were moreover burning like a fire in their city. So, no one seems to ever set fingers upon these individuals of Thimi.

3. Objectives

The most objective of this inquire about extend is to clarify the current state of ceramics industry within the ponder region. The particular goals are:

- To study socio-economic status of potters
- Investigating changing patterns and impacts of business activities.
- Examine the reach of the pottery industry on local and international market.

4. Limitations of the Study

The consider was constrained to the particular ranges of Madhyapur Thimi, to be specific, Chapacho (ward no 7,8,9,10) and Balkumari (ward no. 11,12,13,14) of Thimi where most of the producers are found. Since the ponder range has about 400-500 earthenware families and inside this system locked in in earthenware's, approximately 10% to 15% has taken for questionnaire survey.

- Research work was discussed on crafts and in crafts, the discussion focused only on pottery and traditional pottery.
- The study included only Newar Prajapati, who were responsible for this production according to their tradition.

5. Literature review

Ceramics has been considered a major action, particularly by Prajapati in Nepal. Individuals of the Newari tribe, an

earthenware community in Thimi, Nepal, all share the same final title: Prajapati. Within the Newari dialect, it implies "potter". Thimi has been a center of ceramics action for hundreds of a long time, conventions passed down from era to era. Concurring to 'Prajapati Mhasika' distributed by Prajapati samaj, 1130 Nepal Sambat, Prajapati are workers from India and they do this calling. The brochure is distributed by "Nepal Ceramics Co-operative Society Ltd." shows [2] that there are 23 ceramics production lines in Bhaktapur alone. By distant the biggest ceramics community in Nepal, Thimi is made up of a few thousand earthenware families, with around 8,000 person individuals included in a few perspectives of ceramics. Nowadays, in Thimi, Industrialization implies and strategies are inching in [3]. At each stage of earthenware generation there's prove of implies of expanding productivity, with Nepalese apparatus being utilized in couple with conventional manual strategies. So, for the illustration, few ceramics nowadays has 55,555 occasional furnaces related to Western furnaces, built with locally created bricks. These ovens can be considered alluring in

advanced ceramics, which are firmly encased and built with heat-resistant bricks so that they can reach higher temperatures. Comparative to the unused approach to these intermittent ovens is the later presentation of mechanized clay dealing with gear as potters over the eras get ready their clay by wedging with feet. Agreeing to Shiba Hari Maharjan's investigate on a think about titled, "Conventional Generation in Thimi, Earthenware October 1989", The Stone Age marks the generation of clay pots. The earliest was proven by archeological revelations. In this manner, we are able envision that the generation of clay pots is the foremost old human craftsmanship. Agreeing to him, the Kumale actors are capable for the generation of ceramics all through Nepal and India. All traditional ceramics are delivered as it were by them within the Kathmandu valley. Prajapati is the official term utilized for Kumale. The title "Prajapati" comes from from the Sanskrit word "producer" and is the conventional Nepali caste of potters. Agreeing to neighborhood gauges, 90% of individuals living in Ancient Thimi have the final title "Prajapati". Clay ceramics is a craftsmanship as ancient as human civilization. This centuries-old convention of making clay earthenware still lives on and epitomizes socio-cultural



Figure 2: A Prajapati making Vessels

values in jobs. Thimi, a Conventional Newar settlement within The Bhaktapur area of the Kathmandu Valley has been known for its clay craftsmanship for centuries. In specific, Kumale, Prajapati and Awale are a few of the Newar castes having a place best

ceramics from the time of their predecessors. It is a profession that has been passed down from era to era as is their family convention and their calling.

6. Methodology

Graphic think about plan was utilized in this ponder. Concurring to the Nepal Ceramic Agreeable, there are approximately 10,000 individuals included in this industry in Nepal. Larger part of the individuals included in this trade is in Bhaktapur area. The brochure is distributed by “Nepal Ceramics Co-operative Society Ltd”[2]. shows that there are 23 ceramics manufacturing plants in Bhaktapur alone. Essentially, agreeing to League of Nepal Workmanship Affiliations (FHAN), Bhaktapur may be a major provider of ceramic items and accounts for more than 70% of trades. Madhyapur District and Bhaktapur District were popular for ceramics trade indeed in spite of the fact that my think about centers on Madhyapur District and covering the investigation portion in like manner. Essentially, producers and mediators were moreover chosen. Producers are chosen to know the status and issues related to generation whereas of reacted. Information is collected from essential and auxiliary sources. The essential information sources are surveys arranged particularly for ceramic producers and showcasing middle people mediators are chosen to know the state of the advertise. This think about is based on comfort testing strategy. The survey was dispersed to 40 makers and 40 mediators [1]. But as it were 60 included within the ceramic industry. Moreover, field perceptions and interviews with distinctive individuals were moreover conducted. Auxiliary information were collected from Mahaguthi, Sana Hastakala, Nepal Prajapati Samaj, Nepal Ceramic Agreeable and other daily papers and magazines.



Figure 3: Site visit during questionnaire survey

7. Data Analysis and Findings

The strategies of investigation utilized in this consider incorporates Expressive Insights and Subjective Reaction Expository strategies. Within the measurable investigations, the

SPSS measurable bundle was utilized. Essential information examination: Essential information was collected through surveys dispersed to makers and middle people. An add up to of 80 tests were chosen from them [1].The survey dispersed to the maker consisted of 4 parts. The primary portion collects common data around the respondents. The moment portion is based on generation data, and the final portion is based on knowledge-based data. Manufacturer’s Reaction Investigation: Surveys and perceptions were the essential source of data collected from the producer of Potters. The different questions related to socioeconomics and proficient encounters advocating their answers are clarified underneath.

Table 1: The numbers of family members involved in the pottery

Family members	Frequency	percent
1	1	3.3
2	8	26.7
3	4	13.3
4	8	26.7
5	3	10.0
6	4	13.3
10	1	3.2
13	1	3.4
Total	30	100.0

Table 2: Description analysis of producers’ response (N=30)

No of years	Frequency	Percent
10	1	3.3
12	2	6.7
15	1	3.3
17	2	6.7
18	2	6.7
20	1	3.3
21	1	3.3
22	2	6.7
23	2	6.7
24	2	6.7
25	1	3.3
26	3	10.0
27	1	3.3
28	1	3.3
30	6	20.0
40	2	6.7
Total	30	100

Tables 1 and 2 show the number of respondents’ family members (producers) involved in pottery production. As observed, not all active family members are involved in the family pottery business. In this regard, most of the respondents in the conversation attributed the reason for not participating in the family business because of the changing lifestyle and the disregard for its continuity by young people.

Table 3 explains shows that most of the respondents have been in this industry for a long time. This implies it is proceeded as a conventional occupation. Not a single respondent has been in this trade for less than ten a long time. It too appears that the charm of this exchange is missing in advanced times.

Table 3: The numbers of years involved in Pottery

Description	Mean
Years in Pottery Industry	23.87
Change in production trend	2.07
Production related problem	1.40
Problem of raw materials	1.93
Program related with the manpower	1.83
Formal training	1.40
Percentage of damage product distbn	1.80
Product receiver	1.93
Percentage profit	2.00
Modern equipment for production	1.80
Sufficient manpower for this industry	3.53
Raw materials are easily available	3.50
Fuel problem	2.20
Industry has good scope	2.47
Need of training for this industry	1.67
Need of government or others' support	1.60
Problem of storage and distribution	2.33

Table 4: The numbers of hired workers

No. of hired workers	Frequency	Percent
0	14	46.66
1	2	6.7
2	6	20.0
3	1	3.3
4	1	3.3
5	2	6.7
18	2	6.7
14	2	6.7
Total	30	100.0

Table 4 shows the worker numbers employed by manufacturers. It is found that out of 30 respondents, only 16 hire workers. Most of the workers in the traditional ceramic production establishments are rarely employed, except for those engaged in the production of ceramics. Respondents said that production is workers.

Table 5: Problem of raw materials

Problem	Frequency	percent
Increase in price	11	36.7
Scarcity	11	36.7
Low quality	7	23.3
Differ in quality	1	3.3
Total	30	100.0

Table 5 shows that the crude fabric issues related with ceramic materials are caused by rising costs and not having these accessible at the time of require. It is found that most of the respondents accept that there's a deficiency of crude materials. Clay crude materials are increasingly scarce. They ought to pay more for clay indeed on the off chance that its quality isn't great.

Table 6: Problem of manpower

Problem	Frequency	percent
Scarcity	13	43.3
Increase in wages	9	30.0
Lack of training	8	26.7
Total	30	100.0

It was famous that the respondents said that there's an issue of skilled labor since there's no training facility, and few individuals are curious about this calling. Moreover, the increment within the wage rate is additionally one of the issues behind this issue.

Table 7: Percentage profit

Profit margin	Frequency	percent
Less than 10%	7	23.3
10%-20%	16	53.3
20%-30%	7	23.3
Total	30	100.0

Table 7 shows the rate of benefit gained by the maker. Most of the respondents said that they get around 10-20% benefit. Finding clients for ceramic items isn't difficult because this can be a well-known, cheap and widely used item. Due to inside competition, and potter's critical got to sell's benefit edge is moo. There's not a part of competition from popular ceramic items, but there's still very noteworthy inside competition.

Table 8: Change in Sales Trend

Profit margin	Frequency	percent
Less than 10%	9	30.0
Increase by less than 10%	6	20.0
Increase by 10%-20%	10	33.3
Increase by more than 20%	5	16.7
Total	30	100.0

Most of the respondents said there was an increment in deals year on year. There's an upward trend in deals. Typically, due to alter in deals, due to need of nonnatives, mindfulness, changing ways of life, development of competitors, etc.

8. Scope of Pottery in International Market

There's a gigantic request for Nepali handmade ceramic items within the worldwide advertise due to the made strides quality. Buyers are willing to pay tall costs for high quality items, boosting trades. Ceramics too contribute to trades. These items are sent out as crafted works to numerous nations. Concurring to the national day by day, exports of ceramic items expanded by 45% within the to begin with five months of the 2016-2017 money related year [1], reflecting the recuperation from the 2015 seismic tremor and expanded request for fine creates. Innovation within the worldwide advertises, Nepal transported 13.3 million rupees worth of ceramic items from mid-July to mid-December, compared with 9.2 million rupees within the same period final monetary year, agreeing to the most recent statistics from the League. Nepal Workmanship Affiliation (FHAN). The Joined together States is the biggest merchant of Nepalese ceramic items. Within the final budgetary year, Americans bought 10.1 million rupees worth of ceramic items from Nepal. Germany is another major merchant of Nepali ceramic items. Shipments to Germany within the final money related year totaled Rs 2.6 million. Canada imported 2.5 million rupees worth of ceramic items from Nepal within the 2015-2016 monetary year. All this appears the gigantic scope of the ceramics trade within the worldwide advertise. The table over appears the rate of benefit gotten by the maker.

9. Discussion

This consideration appears that not all family individuals of potters (potters) are included within the earthenware industry. It appears that the allure of this industry is slowly blurring due to many other issues. Typically why this industry is gradually undermined with termination. It can be seen that all the respondents have been included in this trade since their parents' time. There are a few issues in this region, for both the maker and the vender. Producers are facing problems with fixings, great storage, and where to cook. Similarly, there's no industry extension within the advanced setting. There's no organized group to bargain with this industry related issue. The as it were agreeable related to this industry, called Nepal Ceramics Agreeable, is attempting to fathom a few of the issues related to this industry, but it isn't sufficient. Need of training to produce products additionally need of thoughts to trade items. Most ceramic items are traded through different mediators. Moment, the maker isn't well off. Typically why there's a require for item send out preparing for ceramic producers. This industry has seen huge request and utilization for its items and in turn has given jobs to numerous specialists who work specifically or indirectly within the industry. In spite of its incredible potential, the industry still faces numerous restrictions due to conflicting, unbalanced and unbalanced development. Usually why it merits the consideration of financial specialists, organizers, analysts [1] and partners. This ponder appears that there are conceivable outcomes and openings within the ceramic industry, but the individuals included in this industry confront distinctive sorts of challenges or issues such as need of crude materials, labor and need of space to work. to dry formed ceramics, to cook earthenware, to store wrapped up items as well as different crude materials. Deals of items in residential and worldwide markets are expanding day by day. This industry is influenced by way of life changes and different substitute items. The agent makes great benefit, but they confront the issue of item harm, request depends on celebrations, occasions, transportation issues, etc.

10. Findings

- The examination appears that the number of dynamic individuals in most of the respondents' families (makers) has four family individuals.
- It is found that not all working family individuals are included within the family's earthenware generation. Most of the respondents did not take an interest within the family trade due to the alter in way of life and social values.
- It is found that most of the respondents have been included in this industry for a long time. This implies it has been followed as a conventional calling. Not a single respondent has seen have been in this commerce for less than ten a long time. It moreover appears that the charm of this exchange is truant in cutting edge times [1].
- Most of the conventional ceramic generation foundations have a littler number of workers, as it were ceramic generation foundations have a small number of representatives. Because the generation scale isn't huge, they don't contract more laborers.

- There are issues with crude materials due to rising costs and not having these accessible at the time of require. They got to pay more for the crude fabric and indeed the quality of the crude fabric isn't great. The industry's deficiency of arrive supply has ended up genuine and an disturbing issue that debilitates the financial reasonability of the industry.
- Most respondents pointed to a descending slant in generation due to other components.
- The fundamental crude fabric is clay utilized for generation; in expansion, rice husks and feed utilized for terminating conventional ceramics, lamp fuel and power for ceramics are too costly and not promptly accessible when needed. Some respondents said they had labor issues. We have seen that traditional ceramics producers have issues with terminating.
- Defendant said there was a labor issue. There's a deficiency of talented labor. The reason behind this is often that there are as it were a restricted number of foundations, seldom preparing to form these products, and few individuals curious about the profession. So, they didn't attempt to memorize ceramics abilities. So also, increasing wages is additionally one of the labor issues.
- The table over appears the number of respondents who were prepared by an organization. It is obvious that producers through formal preparing. Of the secure aptitudes through hone instead of respondents, as it were 18 had formal preparing.
- Finding clients for ceramic items isn't troublesome since typically a commonplace, cheap and broadly utilized item. Due to inside competition and potters' critical ought to offer, benefit edges are moo.
- The item is harmed, particularly amid cooking. In case warm isn't kept up as required, the item will be harmed. Most respondents demonstrated that the harm rate was less than 10%.

11. Conclusions

- Since there was no clay accessible, potters had to travel a long separate like 30-50 km to induce the proper kind of clay. Already, they utilized it to urge free, but presently shipping happens.
- Since there's no fuel to burn, the fetched of burning increments.
- Missing a distribution center, pot-making does not proceed amid the stormy season, so potters face unemployment amid the blustery season.
- Competition from plastic and metal containers and holders is the most issue on the request side. 5. Simple accessibility, generally moo cost, strength, comfort in taking care of, etc. empower individuals to utilize these items and allow up the utilize of ceramic items. This inevitably leads to a sharp drop in request for ceramic items [1].

- Due to poor facilities for instruction and preparing in earthenware making strategies. generation, there's still a deficiency of gifted and in fact prepared work force within the industry.
- As a result, they confront more noteworthy breakage, mutilation, destitute plan, and poor-quality misfortunes. A few preparing organizations offer distinctive skills-based preparing. A few of them are: Bhaktapur Mechanical Locale Ceramics Advancement Extend, Ceramics and Ceramics Advancement Venture Sahakari Thimi, Ceramics Advancement Extend, Service of bungalow businesses, German Project, ILO etc. This ponder highlights different shortcomings and particular issues that lead to the sector's destitute development. There's no showcasing affiliation in charge of reputation and publicizing. There must be a standardized and scoring framework in put to control the advertise. The resistance to alter by the conventional potters and the refusal of the defenders of this craftsmanship frame tells us that maybe it is time for a new alter. Such impassion might exceptionally well lead to the misfortune of a

one-of-a-kind and valuable culture of Nepal.

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to Assoc. Prof. Sanjay Uprety for his insightful comments and suggestions. The authors are thankful to Nepal Ceramics Cooperation Association for their continuous support and suggestions.

References

- [1] Prakash Shrestha. Challenges and scopes of pottery industry. *Pravaha*, 24(1):147–158, 2018.
- [2] *Prajapati Mhasika*. Rastriya Prajapati Samaj, Nepal Sambat 1130.
- [3] Binod Ghimire. *Pottery Industry and its prospects, with reference to Nepal*. 4 2020.
- [4] Basnet. Socio economic status of potters of thimi, 2004.
- [5] S. Karki. Ceramics exports jump 45pc in first 5 months, 2017.
- [6] P. R. Pant. *Business environment in Nepal*. 2014.