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Economic Condition of Barmer Appliqué Artisans in Dhanu Village, Rajasthan

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Abstract
The present paper examines the economic condition of artisans engaged in Barmer appliqué work in Dhanu village, Rajasthan. It is based exclusively on the Dhanu-specific data reported in the supplied Phase III thesis chapter. The analysis covers household earning members, inherited occupation, working time, monthly income, access to banking and artisan identity cards, awareness of government schemes, marketing channels, raw-material procurement, product profit, landholding, housing, selected household assets and overall socio-economic status. The findings show that 71% of artisans reported a monthly income of ₹5,000–₹10,000, while 12% earned below ₹5,000. Appliqué work alone was reported as the inherited occupation by 86% of respondents. Although 67% had a bank account, none reported possessing an artisan card. The largest socio-economic category was Lower Middle Class (59.16%), followed by Lower Class (40.83%). The findings indicate that appliqué contributes to household livelihoods, but artisans continue to face limitations in income, assets and institutional access.

Keywords: Barmer appliqué, Dhanu, economic condition, artisan livelihood, monthly income, socio-economic status

1. Introduction

Traditional crafts provide livelihood opportunities while sustaining inherited skills and cultural practices. The economic condition of craft-based households is influenced by several interrelated factors, including the number of earning members, occupational dependence, income, availability of work, market access, access to financial services and ownership of household and productive assets. In rural craft communities, these factors are particularly important because production is often organised within the family and income may vary according to orders, product type and the time required for production.

Barmer appliqué is practised as a family-based craft in western Rajasthan. The present paper focuses only on Dhanu village and analyses the economic circumstances of its appliqué artisans. No data from Chohtan have been included.

2. Objectives

- To examine the household earning structure and occupational dependence of appliqué artisans in Dhanu.
- To assess monthly income, work engagement and reported profit from appliqué products.

- To study access to banking, artisan identity cards and awareness of government schemes.
- To examine product marketing, raw-material procurement and household asset ownership.
- To assess the overall socio-economic status of artisans in Dhanu village.

3. Methodology

This descriptive paper is based on the Dhanu-specific tables and discussion presented in the supplied Phase III thesis chapter, titled "Demographic profile, Socio-economic profile and working condition of artisans engaged in Barmer appliqué work." The source reports a Dhanu sample of 120 respondents for most household and economic variables. Socio-economic status was assessed using the Udai Pareek Socio-Economic Status Scale. Frequencies and percentages are presented as reported in the source document. Where the source contains inconsistent totals or percentages, the discrepancy is identified in a data-validation section and has not been silently corrected.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Household earning structure and occupational dependence

Table 1. Number of earning members in Dhanu households (N = 120)

Earning members	Frequency	Percentage
One	55	46
Two	54	45
Three or more	11	9

The findings indicate that 46% of households had one earning member, while 45% had two earning members. Only 9% reported three or more earning members. Thus, the household earning structure was concentrated in families with one or two earners, suggesting that the contribution of each earning member may be important to household livelihood.

Table 2. Inherited occupation of artisans in Dhanu (N = 120)

Inherited occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture and appliqué work	17	14
Only appliqué work	103	86

Appliqué work alone was reported as the inherited occupation by 86% of respondents, while 14% reported a combination of agriculture and appliqué work. This indicates a strong dependence on the traditional craft as an inherited livelihood activity among the surveyed households.

Table 3. Time devoted to appliqué work (N = 120)

Working time (hours)	Frequency	Percentage
3–4	42	35
5–6	65	54
7 or more	13	11

More than half of the respondents (54%) reported spending five to six hours on appliqué work, while 35% reported three to four hours and 11% reported seven or more hours. The source chapter notes that earnings may vary according to product type and size, complexity of appliqué work, availability of orders and quantity of work undertaken.

4.2 Monthly income and product profitability

Table 4. Monthly income of appliqué artisans in Dhanu (N = 120)

Monthly income	Frequency	Percentage
Below ₹5,000	15	12
₹5,000–₹10,000	85	71
Above ₹10,000	20	17

The largest proportion of artisans (71%) reported a monthly income between ₹5,000 and ₹10,000. A further 17% reported earning above ₹10,000, while 12% earned below ₹5,000. According to the source chapter, artisans associated variations in monthly earnings with the type and size of products, complexity of the work, availability of orders and quantity of work undertaken. Larger products such as sarees, suit sets and curtains, as well as smaller products such as dupattas, shawls, bags and pouches, formed part of the range of items produced. The source also reports that payment was generally made on a piece-rate basis.

Table 5. Profit earned on appliqué products in Dhanu (N = 120)

Profit range	Frequency	Percentage
5–10%	86	72
10–15%	23	19
15–20%	11	9

The most frequently reported profit range was 5–10%, reported by 72% of respondents. Nineteen per cent reported a profit range of 10–15%, while 9% reported 15–20%. These figures represent the profit categories reported in the source; they should not be interpreted as net monthly income or as a monetary profit amount.

4.3 Financial and institutional access

Table 6. Bank account ownership among Dhanu artisans (N = 120)

Bank account	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	80	67
No	40	33

Table 7. Possession of artisan identity card in Dhanu (N = 120)

Artisan card	Frequency	Percentage as reported
Yes	0	0
No	120	120

Note. The source gives 120 respondents and records 120 (120%) under “No”. The count is retained as reported; the percentage should be corrected or confirmed from the original data.

Table 8. Awareness of government schemes among Dhanu artisans (N = 120)

Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Aware	68	57
Not aware	52	43

Bank-account ownership was reported by 67% of respondents, while 33% did not have a bank account. None of the respondents reported possessing an artisan identity card. Awareness of government schemes was reported by 57%, whereas 43% were not aware of such schemes. These findings point to a gap between the existence of formal financial and institutional channels and artisans' access to or awareness of them. The source data do not establish whether bank accounts were actively used for craft-related transactions.

4.4 Marketing and raw-material procurement

Table 9. Mode of selling appliqué products in Dhanu (N = 120)

Mode of sale	Frequency	Percentage
Own/direct selling	82	68
Mediator	20	17
Dealers	13	11
Customers	5	4

Own or direct selling was the most frequently reported mode of product sale (68%). Seventeen per cent sold through mediators, 11% through dealers and 4% directly to customers as separately categorised in the source table. The distribution suggests that direct selling was an important reported channel, although a proportion of artisans continued to use intermediaries.

Table 10. Sale through fair-trade channels in Dhanu (N = 120)

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	85	71
No	35	29

A total of 71% of respondents reported selling through fair-trade channels, while 29% did not. This finding is presented separately from the mode-of-sale table because the source treats fair-trade participation as a distinct variable.

Table 11. Source of raw-material procurement in Dhanu

Procurement source	Frequency	Percentage
Local traders	52	40
Neighbouring village	26	20
Wholesalers	39	30
Any other	13	10

Note. The frequencies total 130, although the Dhanu sample is reported as 120 in most tables. The percentages total 100. Confirm the denominator and frequencies before publication.

Local traders were the most frequently reported source of raw-material procurement (40%), followed by wholesalers (30%) and neighbouring villages (20%). Ten per cent reported another source. The procurement pattern indicates the use of both local and wider supply channels; however, the sample-total inconsistency must be resolved before drawing precise conclusions.

4.5 Land, housing and household assets

Table 12. Landholding among Dhanu artisan households (N = 120)

Landholding	Frequency	Percentage
No land	73	61
Less than 1 acre	25	21
1–5 acres	22	18

A majority of respondents (61%) reported having no land. Twenty-one per cent owned less than one acre, while 18% reported landholding between one and five acres. The limited land ownership indicates that most surveyed households had little or no reported agricultural land as an additional household resource.

Table 13. Type of house among Dhanu artisans (N = 120)

House type	Frequency	Percentage
Kutcha house	55	46
Mixed house	42	35
Pucca house	23	19

Nearly half of the respondents (46%) lived in kutcha houses, while 35% lived in mixed houses and 19% in pucca houses. The source chapter describes kutcha dwellings as structures made using locally available materials and relates the prevalence of such housing to limited economic resources and low wages received for appliqué work. It also notes that some households progressively improve their houses as financial resources become available.

Table 14. Ownership of selected material possessions in Dhanu

Material possession	Frequency	Percentage
Bullock cart	36	30
Cycle	19	16
Television	11	9
Chair	23	19
Mobile phone	31	26

Note. The source presents these items as selected possessions. Confirm whether respondents could report more than one item and whether the denominator is 120 before treating the categories as mutually exclusive.

Bullock carts were the most frequently reported possession (30%), followed by mobile phones (26%), chairs (19%), cycles (16%) and televisions (9%). The source chapter presents these as selected material possessions. The pattern provides an indication of household assets, although the data do not measure the value, condition or productive use of each item.

Table 15. Ownership of draught animals in Dhanu

Ownership	Frequency	Percentage as reported
No draught animals	94	72
1–2 draught animals	36	28

Note. The frequencies total 130. The source discussion elsewhere reports 78.3% and 21.7%, which do not match the table percentages (72% and 28%). Confirm the correct sample size and values.

The source table records that 72% of households did not own draught animals and 28% owned one or two. As the table denominator and the accompanying narrative are inconsistent, this variable should be treated as provisional until the original records are checked.

4.6 Overall socio-economic status

Table 16. Socio-economic status of artisans in Dhanu according to the Udai Pareek Scale

Grade	Category	Score on scale	Percentage
D	Lower Middle Class	13–23	59.16
E	Lower Class	Below 13	40.83

The Udai Pareek Socio-Economic Status Scale classified 59.16% of Dhanu artisans in the Lower Middle Class category and 40.83% in the Lower Class category. No respondents were reported in the Middle, Upper Middle or Upper Class categories. The source chapter relates the socio-economic position of artisan households to limited landholdings, low levels of formal education, dependence on traditional appliqué work, restricted social participation and the prevalence of kutcha or mixed housing. Taken together, the findings indicate that the surveyed artisan households were concentrated in the lower socio-economic categories.

5. Major Findings

- One earning member was reported in 46% of households and two earning members in 45%; only 9% reported three or more earners.
- Appliqué work alone was the inherited occupation for 86% of respondents.
- Most artisans (54%) reported spending five to six hours on appliqué work.
- Monthly income was ₹5,000–₹10,000 for 71% of respondents; 12% reported below ₹5,000 and 17% above ₹10,000.
- The most frequently reported product-profit category was 5–10% (72%).
- Bank accounts were held by 67% of respondents, but none reported having an artisan identity card; 57% were aware of government schemes.
- Own/direct selling was reported by 68%, and 71% reported selling through fair-trade channels.
- Most respondents procured raw materials from local traders (40%) or wholesalers (30%); the source frequencies require denominator verification.
- Sixty-one per cent reported no landholding, and 46% lived in kutcha houses.
- According to the Udai Pareek scale, 59.16% were in the Lower Middle Class category and 40.83% in the Lower Class category.

6. Conclusion

The economic profile of appliqué artisans in Dhanu indicates that the craft is an important inherited livelihood activity, with 86% of respondents reporting appliqué work alone as their inherited occupation. Most artisans reported a monthly income of ₹5,000–₹10,000, while the largest product-profit category was 5–10%. Direct selling and fair-trade channels were reported by substantial proportions of respondents. At the household level, however, limited land ownership and the prevalence of kutcha and mixed housing point to constrained material resources. Although two-thirds of respondents had bank accounts, none

reported possessing an artisan identity card, and awareness of government schemes was not universal. The Udai Pareek scale further showed that all classified respondents fell within the Lower Middle Class or Lower Class categories. Overall, the findings suggest that strengthening artisan livelihoods requires attention to stable income opportunities, market access, institutional documentation, scheme awareness and access to financial services. These conclusions apply only to the Dhanu-specific data supplied in the thesis chapter.

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