The Ceramic City
Khurja
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corner of an old house in the web of Khurja
no fast or
different everybody
that it seems
city keeps
A man pulling a rickshaw filled with ceramic wares on Nh 91. Its very common when someone enters Khurja.
Khurja pottery industry has a long history. It is believed that Timur Lang, who sacked Delhi in 1938, had a band of soldiers amongst whom were also skilled potters. These potters stayed back and settled down in Multan (now in Pakistan) and near Delhi region.

These potters' families moved from Delhi to Khurja during the reign of Mohammed-bin-Tughlak. They were adept making blue pottery with Persian designs and colours. Initially they started doing the red clay pottery and then started introducing blue glaze on the articles made with red clay. They started painting Persian floral designs on the articles with cupric oxide. And after that they apply a soft glaze of glass and borax. The basic raw material was locally available red clay.
Talking about my experience in ethnography, say I did not had any prior experience in ethno gehay. But I have interacted with some communities and for some project research earlier. I had some rough idea that how I would interact and involve people in conversations. But I also had this in mind that people are different in their own ways and it varies from setting to setting in terms of cultural context and their exposure to the outside world.

Because of some of my secondary research I started a road map for myself to go about in this project. The first step was to meet the government officials of the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CGCRI). Before that I went to Khurja for field recce and with people. This visit was to have an idea about the town and its prominent sites from where I can collect information about the subject. My first visit directly to the field helped me understanding that on which days the offices and industries are kind of busy and on which days we can approach them.
A
fter meeting some of the important people—Emporium Owners, Pottery Factory owners, workers, Quality control people, children and some of the locals. My next step was to find a way to stay in proximity with these workers who are involved in the pottery and ceramic ware production process. To get closer to my personal connection in Khurja I tried to find a family who were in our distant relations. My elder son Gabbar is at the position of quality control in a ceramic factory called Sista International. I tried to get in touch with Gabbar's younger brother Vikas who helped me understand the city and was instrumental in my visits.

The whole family was so much loving and cooperative that they allowed me to stay with them for two weeks. Mr. Satish Kumar owns a kirana shop in the city, and his mother Mrs. Rajvati Devi is a housewife. She was a caring and loving lady. She always took good care of me—food and comfort. Vikas's younger brother Aakar is studying and doing B.com in Khurja only.

Methodology

The process of Dr. C. S. Prasad
CSIR-CGCRI

Md. Yunus Khan
Fancy Emporium

Rohit Pandey
Raj Ceramic Industries

Razi Ahmed Khan
Chhabra Industries

Babu Bhai
Raj Ceramic Industries

Recce (one day)
Khurja

Processes

Contractors

Pottery Workers
The Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata established its Khurja Centre in August 1981 under an assurance for continuous financial support from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. This Centre is functioning to cater to the needs of developing creamy and allied industries in the state, particularly to the Ceramic Industries in the Small Scale and Rural Sector. Khurja having a 600 year old tradition of pottery manufacturing has now become a centre of Ceramic Industry having more than 494 units in the small-scale sector and one of the largest whiteware clusters in India. In its journey of nearly Three Decades, This Centre of CGCRI has contributed to a great extent in the modernization and All round Development of Ceramic Industries in Khurja on energy efficiency & Cluster Development.

**Infrastructure Facilities:**
- Chemical Analysis.
- Physical Analysis.
- Firing Facilities.
- Grinding Facilities.
- Pressing Facilities.
- Trouble Shoot Team. Technical Information.
Another category goods in Khurja is formed by the local potters who do not make goods for the outer market, but only for the local market. There are colonies of local Kumbhar in the city and in the surrounding villages who make large containers for the water and grains, Kulhads (clay cups) which are sold to halwais (sweets sellers) and sakuras (small plates) bought for feasts and weddings. These traditional potters also make plates which are no longer in demand because of plastic and paper goods available now.
which the unbaked clay goods are put in the kiln. The sagger body is put on a wooden frame and beaten into the shape and thickness by the wooden beater.
Green ware drying in a pottery factory.
Initially, Khurja used the red clay for their goods. Now, the raw material comes from outside. The China clay comes from Rajmahal in Bihar, Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Chandia in Madhya Pradesh and Bikaner in Rajasthan. The ball clay is available only in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala. The feldspars comes from Rajasthan and quartz comes from Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The main source of fuel, coal from the collieries of the eastern coal fields situated in Bihar and West Bengal. The independent units get their coal against directly from the mines. The dependent units are allotted the requisite quantity of coal from the coal dump of the pottery Development Centre for firing in the rental kilns.

The basic raw material for the unglazed pots are feldspar, quartz, plastic clay and china clay, marble or calcite, zinc oxide, barium carbonate, etc. In Khurja, mostly raw and opaque glasses are used which mature at medium temperatures. Different colouring oxides are used for different colour
When the goods are ready, they are then baked in Kiln and draft. There are different sizes which make different sizes according to the design. It saves fuel and costs more fuel. The ware prevent the wares' flames and fumes, colour and glaze each other, to keep glazed art to each other. The ware is always the highest temperature around 1250-1280°C to 1500°C for crockery.
Since the very beginning I had it very clear in my mind that I have to search for Khurja’s famous sweet delicacy Khurchan. Khurchan is a milk sweet which is prepared after condensing milk layer after layer by continuously heating. Many of the people (including me) has a misconception in their minds that Khurja is being named after Khurchan. So it was part of the plan to include Khurchan in my ethnography report. Vikas took me to the inner market in the city where was very much resembling to Chandani Chowk in Delhi. And finally we meet Manoj Kumar Sharma Ji (owner Anil Sweets Khurchan Vale) Khurja’s famous Khrchan sweet shop.

I visited him for three days continuously. First day when I visited the shop in the market. I was shocked that it was such small in size. I introduced myself to Manoj ji and started talking about Khurchehan initially. He was sitting in his small shop. I sit with him for sometime to observe how famous is the shop and how many people actually buy this sweet.
Next day he promised me to show the process of making it and called me at 6 am early morning. His helper (Lakhmi Saini) prepared and the bhatti and cleaned up all the utensils. He me that we use pure buffalo milk to make this. her day or processed milk is not used.

Lakhmi denied as he did not have any idea about the name of Khurja. After continuous heating of milk. It was now in the form of condensed layers of milk but extremely hot. At sometime Manoj Kumar ji took the utensil and started cutting the whole layer into pieces with spattula. He cut the whole layer into pieces very gently and started picking it up and putting it in the sweet box. I could feel it fresh and soft.
Sh. Manoj Kumar with his father Satya Prakash Sharma
Khurja’s famous Navdurga Shakti Mandir. This temple has been built to worship all avatars of Durga.
Jatiya Bal Vihar Inter College is the oldest Govt. Co-ed school and one of its unique features is that it runs both CBSE as well as U.P Board syllabus.
J.A.S Inter College is founded by Late Rai Bahadur Seth Janki and opened by Sir J.S.Meston in the year 1905.
Ganga Bhawan is a famous heritage site in Khurja. This is the Sagar Ji Jatiya. Now this place is used as a banquet hall for many events.
It was constantly changing and growing in this project I have learnt that a person have done some sort of secondary research for this project but a lot is dependent on primary research.

The ceramic city have seen a lot of change since its origin in the ceramic world. It is not of an Industrial area rather than a crafty. Those who know traditional pottery now they are big people in Khurja and not do it or their children do not practise it. I have learnt how to meet people to approach them. People being so busy pace of life do not have time for their and in some cases for family also. In that person like me from another city wants them and ask them questions. I always things in my mind. What to ask, When much to ask and what is the correct stop asking questions and leave. I enjoyed process very much.

After meeting artists, Emporium owner, Industrialist, common people, labours, cooks I can say that my understanding for Khurja the Craft and most importantly for the people have increased substantivally. Khurja as a city very small geographically but like any other town has its culture. A culture which is developed from constant interactions between Hindu and Muslim over years. And people living in Khurja have adopted certain things from each others. For example, Khurchan is a delicacy in Khurja which is enjoyed by everybody. Even though is prepared by a Brahmin family but mostly consumed by Muslims. I visited Khurja on Christmas and right outside the street where I was living, was Church. I have seen people from castes, religion and colour celebrating Christmas and getting their children to Church in Santa Claus dress with beard. I have tried many things in Khurja. Khurja as a city is unique in multiple ways. Not only it is famous for ceramics but also for business. Besides that, there is a lot to see in Khurja and to experience.
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सूचना

राय हैं कि विद्यालय में दिनांक 23/12/2015 से 27/12/2015 तक दीयोंचरणसीह जन्म दिवस, बारह बपातु, क्रिसमस डे, तथा 
रसिकार होने के कारण विद्यालय का 
अवकाश रहेगा।

dिनांक 28/12/15 की विद्यालय निधारित 
समय पर खुलेगा।

प्रार्थी