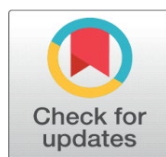
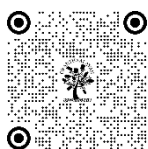


INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND PRESERVATION OF EMBROIDERY CULTURE: CASE STUDIES ON LAMBANI EMBROIDERY IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The Lambani community is known for its rich and colorful embroidery. The community depends on this art form for their cultural expression. Lambani embroidery is an essential reservoir of historical information and cultural identity passed down through the ages. The research paper will explore the case studies of Lambani embroidery artisans and will examine the functions of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in protecting cultural heritage. The paper will provide insight into how Indigenous knowledge, such as traditional symbols, practices, and skills passed down through the ages, is embodied and communicated through Lambani embroidery.

On the other hand, lambani embroidery has become commercialized with time and has provided new economic opportunities, especially for women in the community. Commercialization comes with maintaining the craft's authenticity while meeting the consumers' demand. The paper will also shed light on the balance between adapting to modern market demands and preserving the traditional culture of Lambani embroidery. It also provides insights into strategies for supporting the sustainable development of traditional crafts while ensuring the continuity of indigenous knowledge. These case studies demonstrate how IKS may be successfully incorporated into modern cultural and economic frameworks while supporting sustainable development and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Keywords: Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Lambani Embroidery, Cultural Preservation, Traditional Crafts, Economic Sustainability



1. INTRODUCTION

The Lambani community is renowned for its colorful intricate embroidery which is used as a storehouse of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and a means of cultural expression and identity. For the Lambani's, embroidery is more than simply a craft; it is an essential component of their historical identity that has been passed down by the women to generations. The tradition is distinguished by its vibrant threads, mirrors, and distinctive stitching, and is a significant part of the community's intangible cultural legacy. IKS are based on the interaction between local communities and their natural surroundings. They are specialized knowledge and practice systems that have developed over generations. These systems are comprehensive in addition to technical expertise, they include social norms, values, and conventions that are passed down verbally or via life experience between generations (Agrawal, 1995). Regarding customary arts and crafts such as Lambani embroidery, IKS are essential to maintaining the cultural, symbolic, and financial relevance of the craft.

The designs, patterns, and embroidery techniques utilized by the Lambani culture have deeper implications related to their identity, history, and social systems than just being ornamental. Research pertaining to Indigenous knowledge

underscores the significance of crafts as dynamic repositories, encapsulating not just creative customs but also the amassed knowledge of societies concerning their historical background and perspectives (Battiste & Henderson, 2000). Lambani embroidery uses unique designs and motifs that stand for fertility, the elements, safety, and social standing. These components represent the community's interaction with environment, society, and history and are a crucial component of its intangible cultural heritage.

The intersection of preserving Indigenous knowledge while adapting to contemporary market demands presents a complex but crucial dynamic. This research paper will explore how IKS within the Lambani community continues to thrive through traditional embroidery practices. It will also investigate the commercialization of these crafts, particularly its impact on the women artisans who maintain this heritage. By analyzing case studies, the paper aims to shed light on the strategies necessary to support sustainable development while preserving Indigenous knowledge and ensuring the continuity of this craft.

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This research seeks to understand the multifaceted relationship between Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and the preservation of cultural heritage through Lambani embroidery. The following objectives guide the study:

- To explore how Indigenous Knowledge Systems are embodied and preserved through Lambani embroidery.
- To examine the impact of commercialization on Lambani embroidery and the community's cultural identity.
- To identify strategies for balancing market demands with the preservation of cultural heritage.
- To analyze the role of women in sustaining both the economic and cultural significance of Lambani embroidery.

3. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

Based on the research objectives, the study hypothesizes that Lambani embroidery not only preserves Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) but also plays a significant role in the socio-economic empowerment of women within the community. The commercialization of this craft, while offering economic opportunities, presents challenges to maintaining cultural authenticity. However, a balance can be achieved between market demands and the preservation of traditional practices. Thus, the hypothesis is as follows:

"The traditional practice of Lambani embroidery serves as a key medium for preserving Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), with women artisans playing a crucial role in sustaining its cultural and economic significance. While commercialization provides new economic opportunities for the community, it also challenges the preservation of cultural identity. However, it is possible to strike a balance between market demands and cultural preservation, ensuring the continuity of traditional craftsmanship and the empowerment of women in the community".

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study employs a qualitative research design to explore the relationship between Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and the preservation of Lambani embroidery. By focusing on the meanings and contexts surrounding this cultural practice, the research aims to understand how Lambani embroidery serves as both an art form and a repository of Indigenous knowledge and cultural identity. The analysis begins with a comprehensive literature review, which critically examines existing research on IKS and cultural preservation, identifying key themes, theoretical frameworks, and gaps in current knowledge. This foundation sets the stage for the subsequent case studies, which provide detailed examinations of specific instances of Lambani embroidery. These case studies illustrate how Indigenous knowledge is expressed and preserved in real-life contexts, particularly highlighting the experiences of women artisans and the impacts of commercialization on their craft. The study employs thematic and comparative analysis to draw connections between the literature and the case studies, revealing patterns and insights into the interplay between tradition and modernity.

5. CONTEXTUALIZING THE STUDY: A LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this literature review is to explore the existing body of research surrounding Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS), the preservation of traditional crafts, the commercialization of cultural practices, and the role of women in maintaining both economic and cultural traditions. In examining these topics, this review aims to contextualize Lambani embroidery within broader discussions of cultural sustainability and economic development.

• **INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION**

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Hess & Ströbel, 2013) refer to the local knowledge that is developed, sustained, and passed down through generations within a community, deeply intertwined with their social and natural environment. These systems encompass practical skills, oral traditions, rituals, and values that are embedded in cultural practices such as embroidery. As scholars point out, Indigenous Knowledge Systems are vital for maintaining cultural continuity, particularly in communities where traditional practices are integral to both daily life and identity.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) refer to the local knowledge accumulated by Indigenous peoples over generations, encompassing various fields such as environmental management, medicinal practices, and craftsmanship. This knowledge is embedded in cultural practices that are passed down through oral traditions, rituals, and day-to-day activities (Agrawal, 1995). In many Indigenous communities, these systems are integral to the preservation of identity and heritage.

According to Battiste and Henderson (2000), IKS are crucial in safeguarding Indigenous worldviews and cultural practices in the face of external pressures such as modernization and globalization. The transmission of knowledge within communities occurs through cultural mediums like craftwork, songs, and stories, which embody the values and history of a people. These mediums serve as repositories of not only practical knowledge but also cultural memory, enabling communities to maintain continuity with their past.

According to UNESCO (2012), the safeguarding of traditional crafts like Lambani embroidery is critical for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, particularly as many such practices are at risk of disappearing due to globalization and modern economic pressures. Research indicates that when Indigenous knowledge is embedded in cultural practices, it not only sustains the craft but also strengthens community identity and resilience (Sillitoe, 1998). This underscores the need to protect traditional crafts from the forces of commercialization that may alter their authenticity. Battiste and Henderson (2000) argue that Indigenous Knowledge Systems play a pivotal role in maintaining cultural continuity, especially in communities facing the pressures of modernization and globalization. By passing down techniques, symbols, and practices through generations, the Lambani community sustains a rich cultural legacy that reflects their unique identity. UNESCO (2012) further asserts that safeguarding traditional crafts like Lambani embroidery is critical for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, particularly as these practices face the risk of disappearing due to external economic pressures.

• **CULTURAL PRESERVATION THROUGH TRADITIONAL CRAFTS**

The relationship between traditional crafts and cultural preservation has been well-documented in studies of indigenous communities worldwide. Crafts like Lambani embroidery serve as dynamic repositories of cultural knowledge and historical memory. As Narayan (2019) notes, traditional crafts provide a window into the social, economic, and spiritual lives of indigenous peoples, encapsulating centuries of lived experience and cultural interaction.

In the context of Lambani embroidery, cultural preservation is closely linked to the craft's ability to maintain its original techniques and motifs despite external influences. Lambani women, who are the primary custodians of this craft, pass down their embroidery skills and knowledge within the family and community, ensuring that the craft continues to reflect the community's cultural values. The importance of traditional crafts in cultural preservation is also underscored by Sillitoe (1998), who points out that crafts like Lambani embroidery embody Indigenous Knowledge Systems that are at risk of being eroded by commercialization and modernization. While crafts can adapt to market demands, it is essential that their cultural authenticity remains intact to ensure that they continue to serve as vehicles for cultural transmission and identity.

• **COMMERCIALIZATION OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS**

The commercialization of traditional crafts has become a double-edged sword for many Indigenous communities. On one hand, it provides much-needed economic opportunities, particularly for women who are often the primary artisans. On the other hand, commercialization can lead to the dilution of cultural authenticity as market demands may require alterations to traditional designs and techniques (Klamer & Petrova, 2007). In the case of Lambani embroidery, commercialization has enabled the craft to reach a broader audience, offering artisans a source of income that helps to improve their socio-economic standing.

However, scholars like Frater (2024) caution that the drive to cater to consumer preferences often forces artisans to compromise on traditional symbols, materials, and techniques, leading to a gradual loss of the craft's cultural integrity.

Commercialization of Indian handicrafts reveal that while commercialization can empower artisans financially, it may also contribute to the commodification of cultural heritage, where the original meaning and significance of symbols and designs are lost in favor of marketable aesthetics. The tension between economic development and cultural preservation is a central theme in the literature on traditional crafts.

• **THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINING CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC PRACTICES**

Women have historically been the custodians of traditional crafts in many Indigenous communities, and the Lambani community is no exception. Lambani embroidery is largely a female-driven practice, with women passing down their skills, knowledge, and techniques through generations (Gowda & Nataraj, 2017). The economic empowerment of women through these crafts has been well-documented, showing that involvement in traditional crafts enables women to gain financial independence, improve their social standing, and contribute to household income (Mehta, 2019).

The art of Lambani embroidery serves as a medium for women to assert both their cultural identity and economic independence (Chawla et al., 2017). Women in the Lambani community are the primary practitioners of this intricate needlework, creating vibrant and symbolic pieces that reflect their beliefs, traditions, and community. The importance of women's roles in sustaining Lambani embroidery is well-documented; the designs and motifs employed in these embroideries are deeply rooted in the community's cultural and spiritual beliefs, with each stitch and pattern carrying significant meaning. By passing down these techniques and designs from generation to generation, women ensure the continuation of this rich cultural heritage (Chawla et al., 2017). While commercialization has provided new opportunities for women to enter the workforce, it has also introduced challenges related to the commodification of their craft. Research by Sen (2018) suggests that women artisans face a delicate balancing act, navigating the pressures of producing goods for a global market while striving to maintain the cultural integrity of their craft. In this context, women play a vital role not only in the economic realm but also in preserving their community's cultural identity through traditional crafts. Thus, the empowerment of women in the Lambani community is intertwined with their efforts to sustain both economic viability and cultural legacy.

6. CASE STUDIES: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND THE PRESERVATION OF LAMBANI EMBROIDERY

The case studies of Lambani embroidery showcase the intersection between Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and the changing socio-economic environment. These studies highlight the challenges faced by the Lambani artisans, particularly in balancing the preservation of traditional techniques with the demands of commercialization.

• **PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES IN KOPPAL, KARNATAKA**

In the rural region of Koppal, Karnataka, the women of the Lambani community have retained and passed down their traditional embroidery techniques for generations. Lambani embroidery, characterized by vibrant colors, mirror work, and geometric patterns, symbolizes fertility, protection, and social status. For the women in Koppal, these designs are not merely decorative but are deeply rooted in the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) that form part of their cultural identity.

In this region, women have continued to pass down their knowledge informally, teaching the younger generation through hands-on practice. Despite the economic pressures brought about by the commercialization of the craft, the women have resisted modernizing the designs and techniques to maintain the integrity of their cultural heritage. Instead, they emphasize the importance of preserving traditional knowledge to ensure the continuity of their ancestral practices. However, as local markets grow and the demand for cheaper, mass-produced versions of Lambani embroidery increases, these artisans face a dilemma: they can either maintain the authenticity of their craft, which is time-consuming and requires intricate detail, or adapt to market demands by simplifying their techniques. The tension between these competing priorities highlights the need for more sustainable models that support artisans in preserving their IKS while benefiting from market opportunities (UNESCO, 2012).

• **WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMBROIDERY IN SANDUR, KARNATAKA**

In Sandur, Karnataka, Lambani women have been empowered through cooperative initiatives that seek to capitalize on the growing commercial demand for their embroidery while ensuring that traditional knowledge systems are protected. With the help of NGOs, these women have organized themselves into collectives that enable them to produce and sell their embroidery at fair prices.

The collective model allows the women to retain control over their work, ensuring that the cultural significance of their designs is not lost in the commercialization process. Moreover, the increased economic opportunities have allowed women to become more financially independent and improve their social standing within the community. As Mehta (2019) points out, the empowerment of women through traditional crafts like Lambani embroidery contributes to broader social and economic development, especially in rural areas where job opportunities are limited. However, as commercialization grows, there is a risk of the commodification of Indigenous knowledge, where cultural practices are reduced to products for consumer markets. The case of Sandur highlights the need for a balance between economic development and cultural preservation, as the women artisans continue to navigate the complexities of retaining cultural authenticity while meeting the growing demand for their work.

• **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COOPERATIVE MODELS IN BAGALKOT**

In Bagalkot, Karnataka, Lambani women have made significant strides in the preservation of their Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) through the establishment of cooperative models. These cooperatives not only empower the women economically but also serve as a vital mechanism for sustaining the traditional practices of Lambani embroidery. The cooperatives allow women artisans to control the production, design, and marketing processes, ensuring that the craft retains its authenticity while providing an economic livelihood.

In these cooperatives, older artisans play a crucial role in passing down embroidery techniques, patterns, and cultural knowledge to younger generations. This generational transfer is vital for the continuity of IKS, as it reinforces traditional cultural symbols and practices. The cooperatives regularly host workshops and training programs aimed at teaching the youth, which helps retain their interest in the craft. This model ensures that while the craft enters modern commercial markets, it remains deeply rooted in traditional practices. Moreover, by working within these structures, the women gain financial independence and agency, improving their social standing within the community. Research indicates that cooperatives not only uplift the economic conditions of women but also protect cultural knowledge by providing a controlled environment where traditional practices are respected (Gowda & Nataraj, 2017). This case highlights how cooperative models serve as a dual-purpose tool for both the economic empowerment of women and the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Lambani embroidery.

• **MARKET COLLABORATION AND SUSTAINABLE CRAFT IN BANGALORE**

In Bangalore, a growing number of modern designers have collaborated with Lambani artisans to incorporate traditional embroidery into contemporary fashion, jewelry, and home decor items. This initiative represents a sustainable way to balance cultural preservation with market demands. Artisans in this collaborative model maintain control over their traditional designs, ensuring that Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) are upheld.

For example, Lambani women work alongside fashion designers who incorporate their vibrant embroidery patterns into high-end products. The collaboration is structured to respect the cultural heritage and authenticity of Lambani embroidery by preserving motifs that represent important symbols like fertility, protection, and social status. Designers avoid altering the core elements of the craft, ensuring that the knowledge embedded in the embroidery is retained and celebrated. The artisans receive training in modern production techniques while ensuring that traditional motifs, materials, and colors are adhered to, which prevents the dilution of cultural meaning in the face of commercialization.

This market collaboration demonstrates that Indigenous crafts can appeal to modern consumers without sacrificing their authenticity. By allowing artisans to control the narrative of their craft while participating in modern economic frameworks, this model shows how sustainable development can occur. Studies show that these collaborations not only expand the market for Lambani embroidery but also help protect and celebrate the knowledge systems that underpin these traditional crafts (Mehta, 2019).

7. INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION THROUGH LAMBANI EMBROIDERY

The case studies presented highlight the critical role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in preserving Lambani embroidery while also addressing the challenges posed by commercialization and modern market demands. The findings from these cases demonstrate how IKS, when deeply embedded in cultural practices like embroidery, serve as a bridge between tradition and modernity, ensuring both cultural continuity and economic sustainability

• THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN CRAFT PRESERVATION

Indigenous Knowledge Systems play a crucial role in preserving Lambani embroidery, ensuring that the cultural meanings behind motifs, colors, and stitching techniques are not lost. As evidenced by the case studies from Sandur and Ballari, the transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next has been pivotal in keeping this cultural heritage alive. The motifs used in Lambani embroidery such as those representing fertility, protection, and social status are deeply tied to the community's history and worldview. These elements of IKS are not just artistic expressions but encapsulate the Lambani people's relationship with their environment, society, and spiritual beliefs.

The preservation of these Indigenous knowledge elements is not a static process. It involves continuous adaptation and reinterpretation of traditional symbols to ensure their relevance in the modern context. As seen in the collaborative efforts between artisans and modern designers in Bangalore, the incorporation of traditional Lambani embroidery into contemporary fashion highlights how IKS can evolve without losing their cultural integrity. This dynamic approach ensures that IKS remains relevant and adaptive in changing economic landscapes, allowing the Lambani people to retain their cultural identity while engaging with modern markets.

• COMMERCIALIZATION: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

While commercialization has brought economic opportunities, particularly for Lambani women, it has also introduced challenges related to the preservation of cultural authenticity. The commodification of traditional crafts often pressures artisans to alter or simplify their designs to cater to market demands, which may lead to the erosion of Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Scholars such as Klammer & Petrova (2007) have pointed out that economic pressures can force artisans to prioritize quantity over quality, diluting the symbolic and cultural significance of their work.

However, the case studies also suggest that commercialization does not necessarily have to lead to the degradation of traditional knowledge. Initiatives like the cooperatives in Bagalkot show that when artisans are empowered to control the production and sale of their goods, they can maintain the cultural authenticity of their craft while benefiting from new market opportunities.

These cooperatives provide artisans with the necessary infrastructure, resources, and training to ensure that traditional knowledge is passed on to future generations without being compromised by market pressures.

The collaboration in Bangalore further illustrates that thoughtful market engagement, where artisans are treated as equal partners and co-creators, can allow for the preservation of IKS while appealing to modern consumers. The key lies in fostering relationships where the cultural significance of traditional crafts is respected and preserved, rather than commodified.

• WOMEN AS CUSTODIANS OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

The role of Lambani women as custodians of Indigenous Knowledge Systems is critical to the survival of Lambani embroidery. As highlighted in the case studies from Ballari and Bagalkot, women are the primary transmitters of embroidery techniques, patterns, and cultural meanings. Their knowledge of traditional motifs and symbols, passed down through generations, ensures the continuity of Indigenous knowledge within the community. Through both informal knowledge transfer and structured cooperative models, women play a central role in maintaining the cultural integrity of Lambani embroidery while adapting it to new social and economic realities.

Moreover, the economic empowerment of women through embroidery has broader social implications. Studies have shown the involvement of women in traditional crafts not only improves their economic standing but also strengthens their role as cultural leaders within the community. By gaining financial independence and a greater voice in decision-making, women can actively shape the future of their cultural heritage, ensuring that it is preserved for future generations.

• **BALANCING MARKET DEMANDS WITH CULTURAL PRESERVATION**

One of the central questions explored in this research is how to strike a balance between meeting market demands and preserving the cultural heritage embedded in Lambani embroidery. The case studies suggest that such a balance is achievable through thoughtful, community-driven strategies. Initiatives like the Sandur Kushala Kala Kendra (SKKK) and the cooperatives in Bagalkot have demonstrated that it is possible to create sustainable economic models that preserve IKS while engaging with modern markets.

The cooperative models, in particular, provide a blueprint for how traditional crafts can be scaled up without sacrificing cultural integrity. By placing control in the hands of the artisans, these cooperatives ensure that cultural preservation is prioritized alongside economic development. Furthermore, collaborations between artisans and designers such as those seen in Bangalore can be structured in ways that respect and preserve traditional knowledge while making it accessible to wider audiences.

Ultimately, the sustainability of Lambani embroidery as both a cultural and economic practice depends on the ability to maintain this delicate balance. As market demands evolve, it is crucial that Lambani artisans continue to have the autonomy to preserve their cultural heritage while adapting their craft to new contexts. The findings of this research suggest that Indigenous Knowledge Systems, when properly supported, provide a strong foundation for achieving this balance.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study of Lambani embroidery through the lens of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) underscores the complex interplay between cultural preservation, economic empowerment, and modern market demands. This research, informed by multiple case studies, has shown that traditional craftsmanship, particularly Lambani embroidery, is not just a means of economic sustenance for the community, but also an essential expression of cultural identity, history, and collective knowledge.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) as a Pillar of Cultural Continuity:** The research emphasizes that Lambani embroidery is a living tradition steeped in IKS, which includes not only the embroidery techniques but also the social and cultural meanings associated with it. These knowledge systems are vital to the preservation of the Lambani community's unique identity, particularly in the face of globalization and modernization.
- **Challenges of Commercialization:** While commercialization has provided economic opportunities, it has also introduced pressures that could potentially dilute the cultural authenticity of Lambani embroidery. The study highlights the tension between mass production demands and the preservation of traditional craft. However, case studies like the Bagalkot cooperatives and Bangalore collaborations demonstrate that it is possible to strike a balance between market demands and cultural preservation if artisans retain control over their craft.
- **Women's Agency in Cultural and Economic Empowerment:** Lambani women, who are the primary custodians of traditional knowledge, play a critical role in both the transmission of cultural heritage and economic resilience of the community. Through cooperatives and collaborative efforts, they have been able to empower themselves financially while preserving and passing on the craft to future generations. This dual role underscores the importance of supporting women artisans in initiatives that blend cultural and economic goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS THROUGH POLICY AND PRACTICE:

- Government and NGO support should focus on creating structures that protect and promote IKS in traditional crafts, ensuring that the transmission of knowledge is prioritized alongside economic development.
- Cultural education programs should be developed to formalize the teaching of Lambani embroidery to younger generations, ensuring that traditional motifs, patterns, and techniques are not lost in the process of modernization.

2. SUSTAINABLE COMMERCIALIZATION AND MARKET INTEGRATION:

- Collaborations between artisans and designers should be fostered in ways that prioritize cultural preservation, allowing Lambani artisans to reach modern markets without compromising the integrity of their work. Clear guidelines for ethical partnerships should be established.

- Fair-trade certification and cultural branding could be introduced for Lambani embroidery, helping artisans access larger markets while ensuring that the cultural value of their work is recognized and compensated fairly.

3. WOMEN-CENTRIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:

- Cooperative models that empower women artisans should be expanded, with a focus on providing access to resources such as funding, training, and market information. This would ensure that women continue to play a leading role in both the economic and cultural sustainability of Lambani embroidery.
- Microfinance initiatives aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs in the craft sector should be developed to help them maintain autonomy over their work, allowing them to sustain their businesses without depending on exploitative middlemen.

4. CULTURAL HERITAGE AS ECONOMIC CAPITAL:

- The promotion of Lambani embroidery as part of India's rich cultural heritage could enhance its value both domestically and internationally. This can be done through government-sponsored cultural festivals, exhibitions, and tourism initiatives, which showcase the uniqueness of the Lambani community's craftsmanship.
- Digital platforms could be developed to market Lambani embroidery directly to consumers, bypassing middlemen and ensuring that artisans receive fair compensation for their work.

9. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

While this research has provided valuable insights into the relationship between IKS and the preservation of Lambani embroidery, there remain areas that require further investigation:

- Comparative studies between Lambani embroidery and other indigenous crafts in India and around the world could provide a broader understanding of how different communities navigate the challenges of commercialization and cultural preservation.
- The impact of digital technology on traditional crafts, including how it can be leveraged to preserve IKS while adapting to new consumer habits, is another potential area of study.
- Further research on policy interventions that balance economic development and cultural heritage preservation would offer practical insights for governments and NGOs working in this area.

In conclusion, Lambani embroidery serves as both an economic and cultural cornerstone for the community, with Indigenous Knowledge Systems at its heart. By empowering women, fostering ethical commercialization, and strengthening cultural education, it is possible to ensure the preservation of this rich heritage while enabling economic sustainability. The balance between tradition and modernity, as demonstrated in the case studies, offers a roadmap for future efforts to protect and promote indigenous crafts across India.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None

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None

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