

Screen Printing Chikankari Motifs on Sofa backs and Cushion covers

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ABSTRACT: *Textile designing has been an ancient art and perhaps the most ancient craft of India. It is not a new concept and has existed even in the prehistoric cave paintings as evidenced by designs appearing on costumes, tapestries and carpets etc. Gradually designing has become more intellectual. The design on the fabric is achieved by a great variety of techniques. Chikan embroidery is one of those techniques and supposed to come from Persia in the 17th century with Noor-Johan, the queen of Emperor Jahangir. The word chikan comes from the Persian word chikaan meaning drapery. Chikankari embroidery is the famous embroidery of Lucknow. Chikankari embroidery was mostly applied on apparels viz: suit and sarees. In the present study an attempt was made to develop screens for Chikankari embroidery motif for printing of Sofa backs and Cushion covers. Total ten designs were developed, five each for Sofa backs and Cushion cover. All the developed designs were subjected to visual evaluation for selection of two best designs for each Sofa back and Cushion cover. These designs were printed and highly appreciated by the judges for aesthetic appeal, design uniqueness, print quality, colour combination and overall appearance (Vedika.,2014).*

- **KEY WORDS:** Chikankari motif, Screen printing, Sofa back, Cushion cover

Designing in textile is an important component of textile production. Variety of

good designed fabric that is more appealing and marketable may have been influenced by the initial designing process (Ashitey, 2013). Embroidery is an aesthetic expression, and is often used on everyday objects like garments, table cloths, cushion covers and bed sheets etc in order to glorify and beautify them (Ladha, 2008). **Chikankari**, a craft more than 200 years old, is the delicate art of embroidery traditionally practiced in Lucknow. It was traditionally done on cotton fabric, with the design marked with wooden blocks in removable colors. The extremely beautiful, sophisticated, fine, delicate floral tracery of white on white clothes is actually called *Chikankari* or *Chikan*. Chikankari is a distinctive integral part of Lucknow culture (Jafri, 2011). Apart from wearable garments chikankari embroidery can be printed on home furnishing articles like curtain, bedsheet, tablecloth, pillow covers and cushions cover. technique (Anonymous 2012) In the present study this ethnic embroidery motifs were explored on home furnishing articles with versatile screen printing.

RESEARCH METHOD:

Locale of the study and Research design:

The research was conducted in department of Textiles and Clothing College of Home Science, CSA University, Kanpur, Information about chikankari embroidery was collected from various markets of Lucknow and screens were prepared from Banaras city.

Descriptive cum experimental research design was used for the present study.

Development of Chikankari motifs for Sofa backs and Cushion covers:

The collected motifs were modified as per suitability of sofa backs and cushion covers. Fusion of different motifs of chikankari embroidery was done for the development of new designs for sofa backs and cushion covers. Five designs were sketched for each sofa backs and cushion covers.

Screening of the developed design

Total ten designs were evaluated for selection of two most preferred designs of each

Sofa back and Cushion cover by a panel of 20 judges. The attributes for evaluation of home furnishing items were aesthetic, design arrangement, design suitability and overall appearance of design. Weighted mean score for each attribute was calculated and Ranking of design was done on the basis of total weighted mean score.

Exposure of design on the screen frame:

A flat scanner was used for scanning of developed Chikankari designs. The scanned Chikankari motifs were edited with the help of Adobe Photoshop software and finalized. These designs were exposed on the prepared screen frame through exposure machine (exposure camera).

Table1: Chemicals used for screen preparation:

S.No	Chemicals	Quantity
1.	Polyvinyl Alcohol (P.V.A)	200 g.
2.	Ammonium dichromate	150 g.
3.	Bichromate powder	150 g.
4.	Rainbow coating	180 g.
5.	Lacier paint	200 g.

Process used for screen preparation:

Screen for printing was prepared by coating the emulsion (Table-1) on nylon mesh stretched over screen frame. This paste was applied by leaving the nylon mesh untouched where the dye has to go through. Then emulsion was allowed to dry to the touch. The time required, for drying, should be about 20 to 30 minutes. Lastly recoating process was done for one more time, if required.

Selection of Fabric:

Fine casement fabric of light green and cream colour was selected for two set of sofa backs. Cushion cover were prepared with white cotton fabric.

Printing of Sofa backs and Cushion cover:

Hand screen printing method was used to print the articles. The printing recipe was prepared by mixing of following ingredients as per given ratio (Prayag 1997).

50 parts pigment color	
940 parts binder emulsion	
10 parts fixer	
	1000 parts

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The result obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussions have been summarized under following heads:

Adaptation of Chikankari motifs for Sofa backs and Cushion covers:

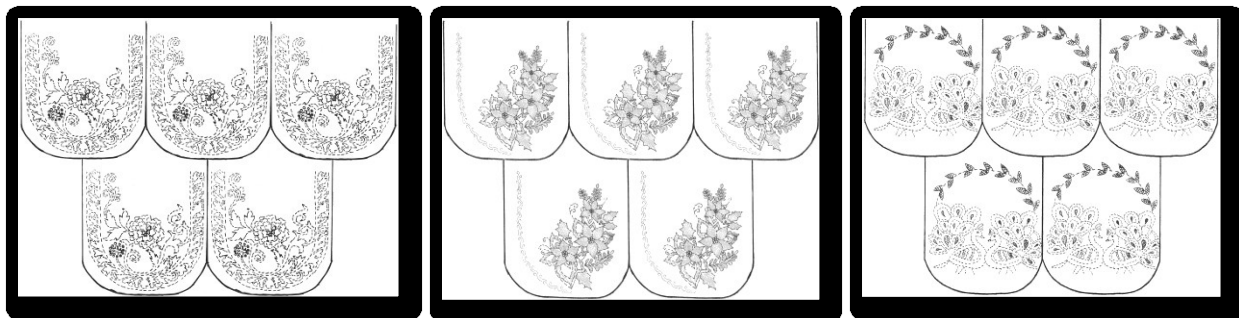
Designs for Sofa back and Cushion cover were sketched by using different chikankari motifs and space arrangement. SB₁, SB₂, SB₃, SB₄ and SB₅ designs were prepared for sofa backs. Design SB₁, SB₂, SB₃ and SB₅ were emphasized with floral motif while design SB₄ with geometrical motif. Cushion cover CC₁, CC₃ and CC₄ were designed by giving focus on

center part where as in CC₂ and CC₅, corners were emphasized. All cushion covers were designed by using floral motifs but with different arrangement.

Visual evaluation of designs for screening:

The score obtained by each design of Sofa backs and Cushion cover are shown in

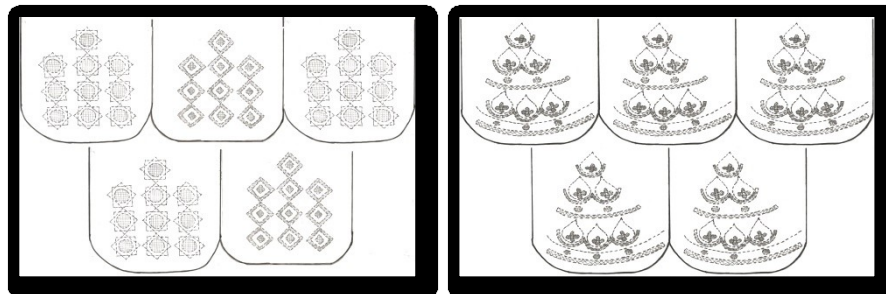
table 1 and 2. That the design SB₂ secured highest weighted mean score 4.57 and ranked as 1st due to all factors considered for evaluation viz; aesthetic appeal, motif arrangement, design suitability and overall appearance followed by design SB₁ that has floral motif in the center of sofa back and decorated with impression of bhukhiya stitch. The design SB₁ has weighted mean score, 4.46 and rank



SB₁

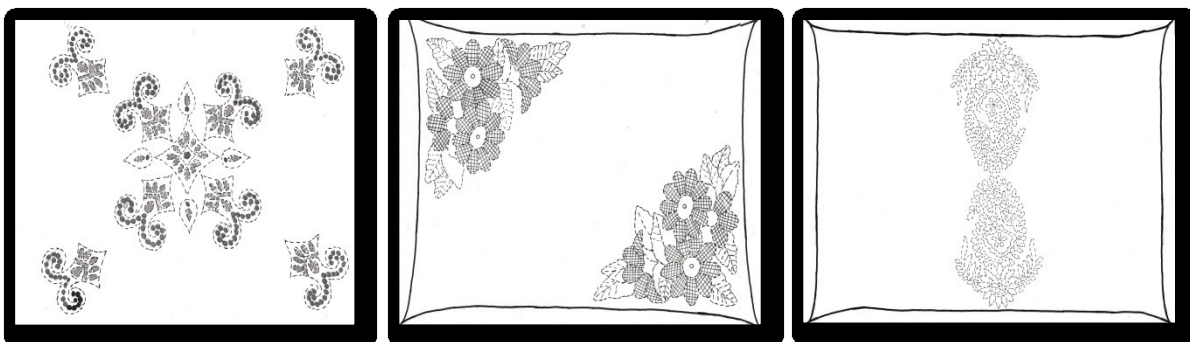
SB₂

SB₃



SB₄

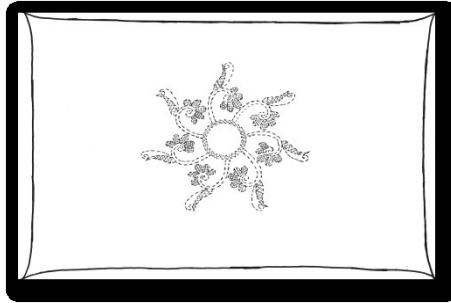
SB₅



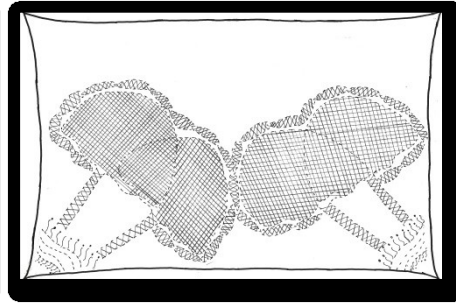
CC₁

CC₂

CC₃



CC₄



CC₅

2nd whereas SB₃ and SB₄, ranked on 3rd and 4th respectively while the lowest rank was given to SB₅ with mean score 3.55.

It was observed that among all the designs developed for Cushion cover, designs CC₂ was given highest weighted mean score 4.2 and rank 1st followed by design CC₁ which secured weighted mean score 4.12 and ranked 2nd. CC₃, CC₄ and CC₅ scored 3rd, 4th and 5th rank with weighted mean scores of 3.5, 3.46 and 3.01 respectively. Among the developed design for cushion covers, design CC₂ has flower with leaf motif in the corner of cushion cover, revealed excellent aesthetic appeal and overall appearance, followed by design CC₁ that has small motifs arranged in rectangular form in the center front of cushion cover.

Table2: Ranking of Chikankari designs for Sofa backs

S.No	Design code	Total weighted mean score	Rank
1.	SB ₁	4.46	2
2.	SB ₂	4.57	1
3.	SB ₃	4.41	3
4.	SB ₄	3.95	4
5.	SB ₅	3.55	5

Table3: Ranking of Chikankari designs for Cushion cover

S.No	Design code	Total weighted mean score	Rank
1.	CC ₁	4.12	2
2.	CC ₂	4.2	1
3.	CC ₃	3.5	3
4.	CC ₄	3.46	4
5.	CC ₅	3.01	5

Screens preparation for selected designs of Chikankari embroidery:

For design SB₂, two screens were prepared. One screen was used to fill its outline of bhukhiya stitch of the design and second screen to fill the jaali work. Only one screen was utilized for the printing of sofa back SB₁. On SB₁, impression of bhukhiya stitch was given in entire design with magenta colour.

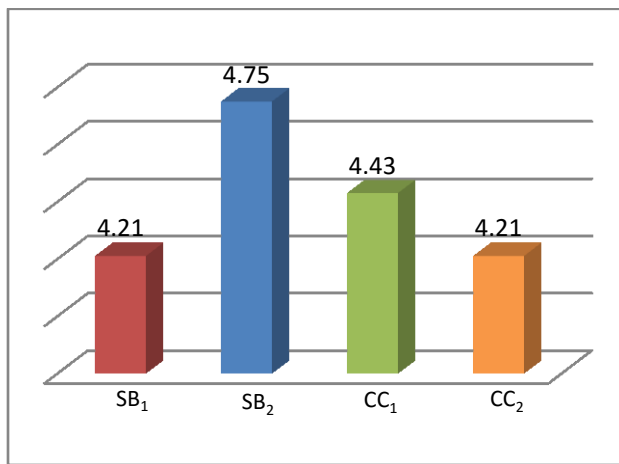
Cushion covers CC₁ were printed with green colour in leaf and red colour in flower. For printing of CC₁, two screens were separately utilized. In the design CC₂ of cushion covers, two colours were used to fill its stitches. Magenta colour was used for jaali work as well as murri stitch by utilizing one screen and purple colour for bhukhiya stitch with another screen.

Evaluation of printed articles:

Weighted mean score of sofa backs SB₂ was found highest (4.75) followed by the design

SB₁ of sofa back, (4.21) this makes SB₂ to get rank 1st preceded by SB₁. Among the printed Cushion cover, CC₁ ranked first with highest weighted mean score 4.43 followed by the CC₂ which obtained weighted mean score of 4.21 with rank second. The score obtained by each item of Sofa backs and Cushion cover are shown in Fig. 1.

Fig.1: Ranking of Printed Articles



Printed articles of Sofa backs and Cushion cover



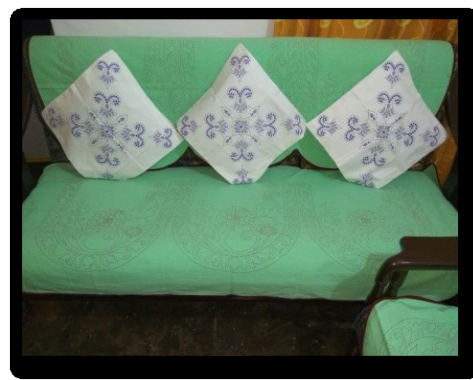
SB₁



SB₂



CC₁



CC₂

CONCLUSION:

The study will be an endeavor to explore printing of chikankari motifs on home furnishing articles. The *chikankari* motifs suitable for Sofa backs and Cushion cover were successfully converted in to vector graphics and used for

designing Sofa backs and Cushion cover. All the prepared articles were highly appreciated and well accepted with regards to aesthetic attributes of printed articles. The adaptation of developed design on Sofa backs and Cushion covers using screen printing technique facilitates the faster production with high accuracy with in less time



span. This effort might help in producing textile items of greater demand in market both at national and international level. This process is economical to develop and generate opportunities for women empowerment.

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