

Original Article

An assessment of Physical and Tourism profile of Terracotta village Panchmura, Bankura district, West Bengal

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Abstract

Panchmura village is famous for its age old Terracotta craft. The Kumbhakar artisans engaged in this craftsmanship since long year. The wide neck Terracotta horse, elephants, Manasa chali and other decorative artefacts are manufactured in this craft village. The major objective is to find out physical setting and tourism profile of this rural tourism centre. The field study and observation method is used to collect primary database. The land use and land cover change along with tourists profile is discussed in this article.

Keywords: Terracotta, Kumbhakar, Manasa Chali

Introduction

Terracotta is semi-uniform, moisture-free, hard clay that is typically burned to create pottery. The classic long-necked. In this region, Bankura horses depicting the Malla kingdom's royalty are the most sought-after craft. Because of its invention and artistic values, it has both concrete and intangible cultural significance. In addition to its spiritual and religious significance (in the creation of goddess idols), terracotta crafts are now used to decorate dining rooms, guest rooms, and hotels, representing traditional Indian folk art. The foundation of "terracotta" art and craft is clay, which serves as the primary raw material. Only after obtaining this lateritic clay (Mati) does this task start. Its creation may take several days or even months. The traditional wheel, or chak, was typically used by the elderly potters. It is a revolving wooden dial with different components and compositions of the pottery object built independently. After that, all of these components are scraped to give it a smooth appearance. Following the conclusion of each phase, these craftsmen's deft hands join the broken pieces. After this fundamental formation, it is not left uncovered in the sun's direct heat since tiny cracks could make these craft items easily breakable. Therefore, it should be placed in an open area with shade for a few days to allow the moisture to drain. The "Bhati (Fumuce) is mace" is created by carefully excavating the brick-lined area. It is powered by coal, cow manure, and dry eucalyptus tree leaves. Recently Electric furnace is launched by "Panchmura Mritsilpi Samity", which reduces labour cost, saving times, and prevents entered in the formace it is and prevents pollutions and can uses repeatedly. Once the craft items are prepared it is sealed, and light up the fire for baking process getting over, it remain to the wood pod fuel. The process takes eight to nine hours overnight. After that, it can chill for five to six hours. Finally the dark brown or orange color impart in it.

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Study Area:

The major production facility for this terracotta work is Panchmura village, which is located in the Bankura District's Khatra subdivision and is used as the study area. Panchmura is situated between 22°58'00"N 22°66'67"N and 87°10'00"E 87°16'67"E. It is 68 meters above mean sea level on average. According to data from the 2011 population census, there are 719 people living in the village, with terracotta crafts accounting for

the majority of the population. The fundamental emblem of this trade, which symbolizes the Bankura district, is the long-necked horse. This long neck demonstrates the grandeur of the Malla kingdom in Bishnupur, which not only focused this craft item on its religious or spiritual appeal but also used it to decorate opulent hotels and guest residences because to its magnificent ornamental qualities.

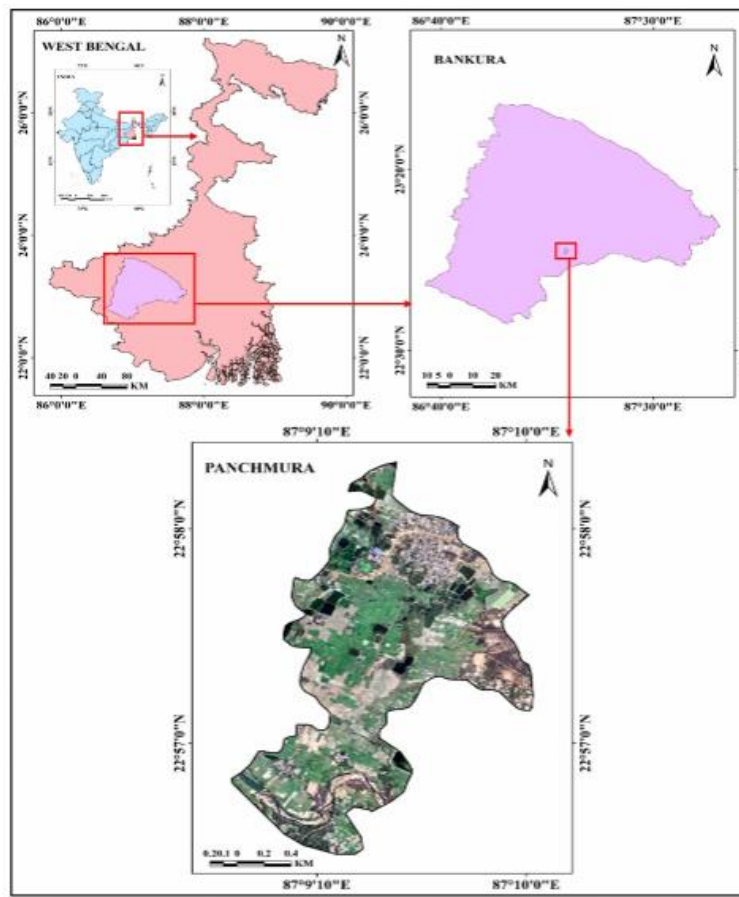


Fig: Study area map

Objective:

This research study aims to address following research objectives:

1. To find out physical landscape features of Terracotta village Panchmura.
2. To find out tourists profile of Terracotta village Panchmura.

Methodology:

Both the primary and secondary data is used to analyze the database. The primary data is collected through field survey and secondary data is collected through various books, journals and websites.

Land use and Land cover of Panchmura village:

By using BHOONIDHI portal Liss 4 image of perspective field area has been downloaded. After

image processing (Supervised image classification), the land use land cover map have been prepared. By using the classification 5 major classes have been identified. These are as follows -

1. Water body: Water as define by the bureau of the census included all areas with in the landmass by the united states, that persistently are water covered, provided that if linier. They are at least 200 mt wide and should cover 40 acres of land. In our study area map around 4,53,600 mt square area has been covered by the water bodies which shares 6.61% of land.

2. Vegetation: Vegetation or forest, lands have a tree crown areal density of 10% or more which are capable for producing timber and others forest product which exert an influence of the climate and water regime in our study area around 6,20,100

mitre square area covered by vegetation which shares around 10% of land.

3. Agricultural Land: Agriculture land may be define broadly as land used primarily for production of crops, fiber and live stocks in our study area around 12,42,000 mitre square area is covered by agriculture land which represent almost 20% off land mask.

4. Built up area: Built up area is that the total area covered by human properties, such as carpet area,

walls, balconies, corridors, lobbies etc. In our study area around 4,91,400 mitre square area is covered by constructions which represent 7% area only.

5. Fallow land & sand: Fallow land is that kind of land which has limited ability to support life and

6. Vegetation: Only 1/3 area is covered by vegetation and other covered. In general it is and area of thin soil, sand or rock. In our study area only 2,53,800 sq. mt. is covered by fallow (unproductive) land which shares 4% only.

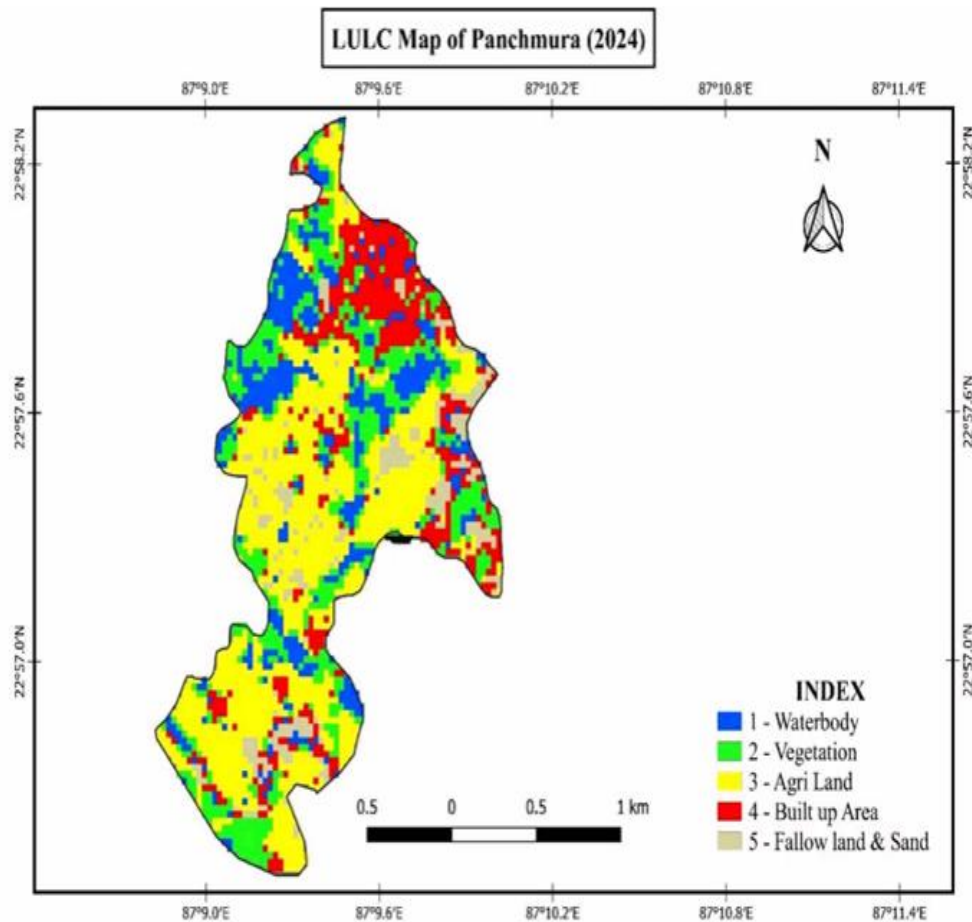


Fig: LULC map of Panchmura village

Physical Setting of the Study area:

Features of Morphology and Relief Generally speaking, morphology is the area of geography that deals with the physical characteristics of a region of land and the processes that produce it. Mountains, hills, rivers, coastlines, and human settlements and activities are the main components of landscape morphology. Mountains, hills, plateaus, valleys, plains, and other landforms

formed by weathering, erosion, and tectonic action are examples of relief features. The distribution of temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns are all impacted by relief. An imaginary line that joins points of equal value is called a contour. A contour map, sometimes referred to as an isohaline map, usually displays several contours. This contour map shows elevation contours.

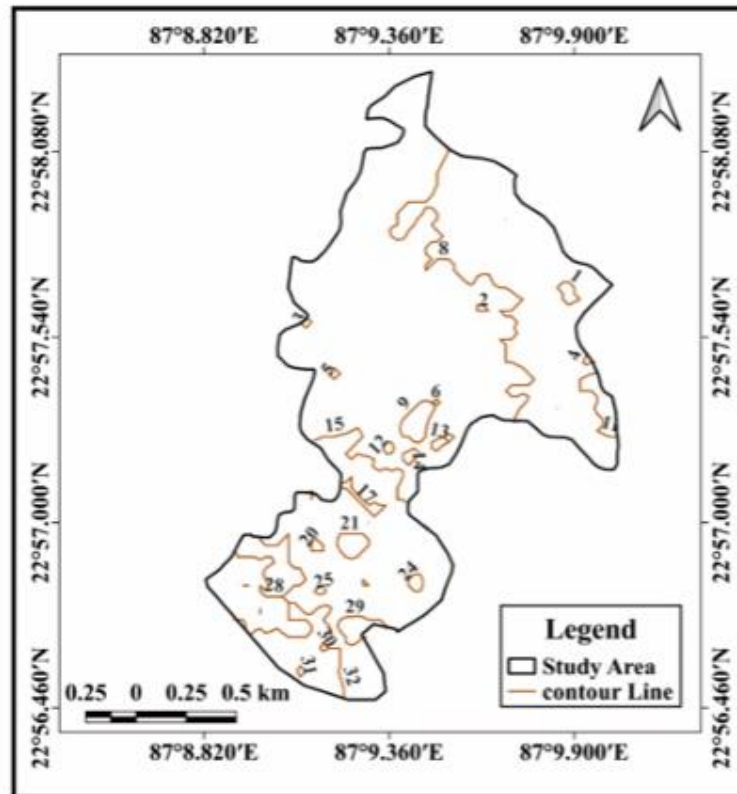


Fig: Contour map of Panchmura village

In south western part the absolute height is recorded for village Panchmura. In the north-east section mostly human habitant is found. The

moderate height and gentle ground slope is noticed in the middle section of the village.

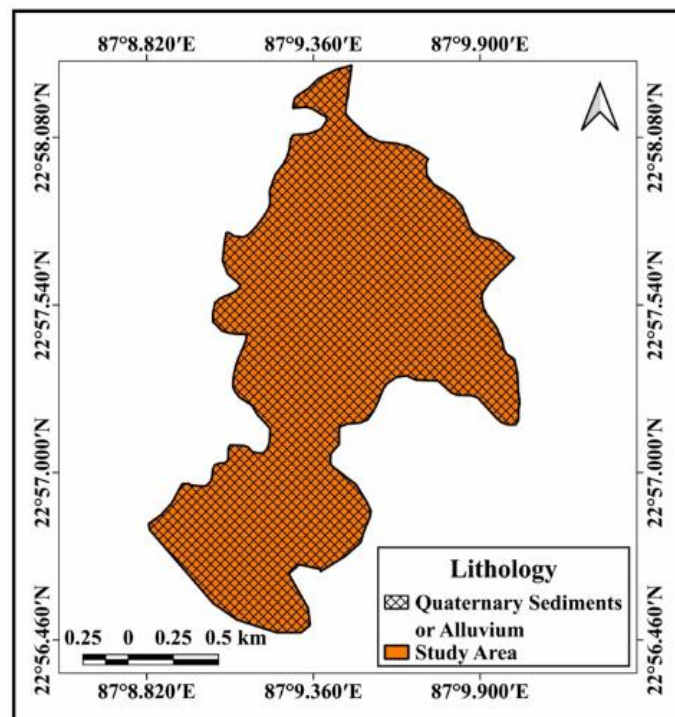


Fig: Lithology map of Panchmura village

Drainage System:

Drainage is the flow of water through clearly defined channels; a drainage system is the network of these channels. The patterns created by the streams, rivers, and lakes in a certain drainage

basin are referred to as drainage systems, or river systems, in geomorphology. They are controlled by the land's topography, slopes, and whether hard or soft rocks predominate in a certain area.

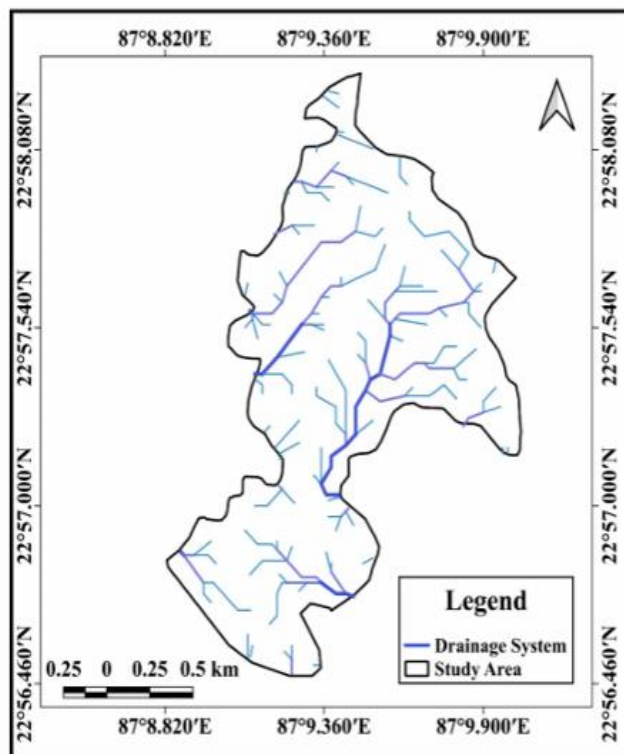


Fig: Drainage map of Panchmura village

Climate:

A region's long-term weather patterns, usually averaged over 30 years, are referred to as its climate. Weather is made up of the long-term sum of the atmospheric constituents (and their variations) during brief intervals of time. These factors include wind, temperature, humidity, precipitation, air pressure, and solar radiation. Beginning in early March, the western portion of Bankura experiences a sharp increase in temperature. The highest temperature increases to almost 48 °C. The daytime temperature significantly decreases by the first week of June when the southwest monsoon begins. With a typical daily minimum temperature of 12 to 13

degrees Celsius and rarely falling below 7 degrees, December is the district's coldest month. All year long, relative humidity is often high. During the south-west monsoon season in May, clouds cover the sky. October sees a decrease in cloud cover, and the remainder of the year is clear or only slightly cloudy.

Slope:

Slope refers to the inclination of a surface or a section of a surface. Although it can be used to different types of surfaces, slope is frequently employed to assess topography. The slope is the fastest rate of value change between each cell and its neighbors. Slope can be expressed as a degree or as a percentage.

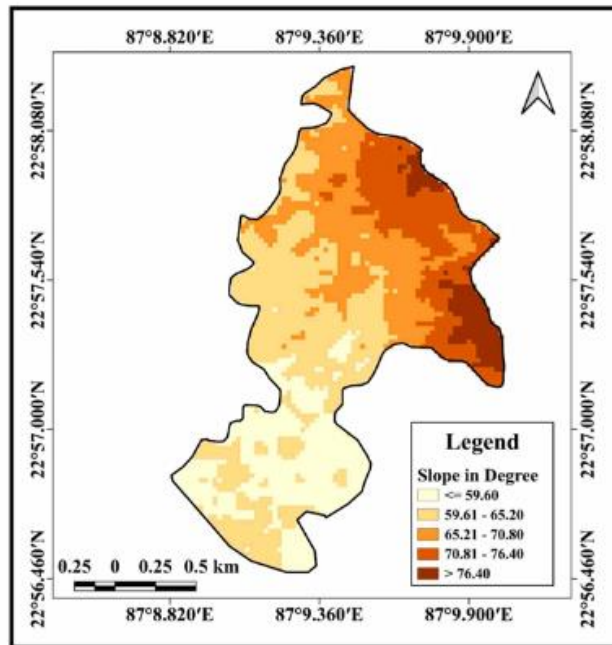


Fig: Slope map of Panchmura village

Soil:

The most significant natural resource on Earth is soil. On the surface of the earth's crust, soil is a mixture of minerals, living things, water, and air.

Processing soil is time-consuming and depends on a number of factors, including parent material, temperature, rainfall, vegetation (organic matter), etc.

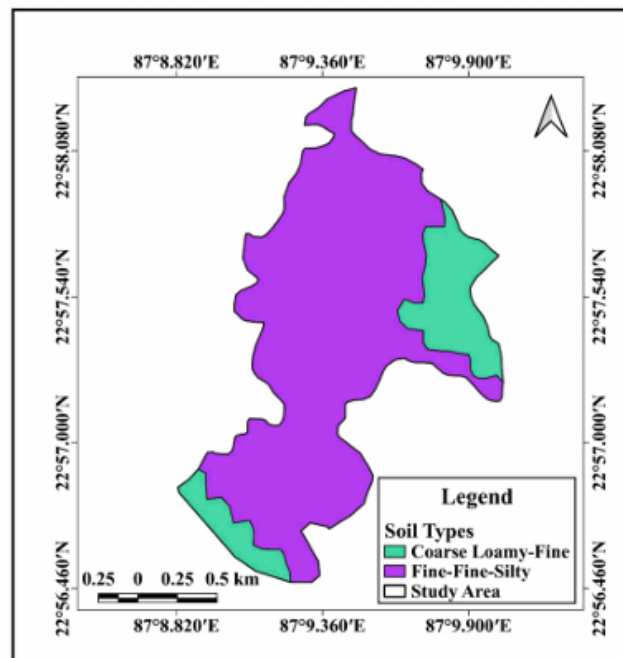


Fig: Soil map of Panchmura village

In the middle and northern most part fine-silty material is profound, where as in north-eastern and south-western part fine and coarse loamy soil is found

Vegetation:

A region's plant life is referred to as its vegetation. It describes the ground cover that various plant

types produce. Sunlight, soil, topography, precipitation, and the local climate are some of the variables that affect vegetation. It is the most important resource to balance the Environmental ecology.

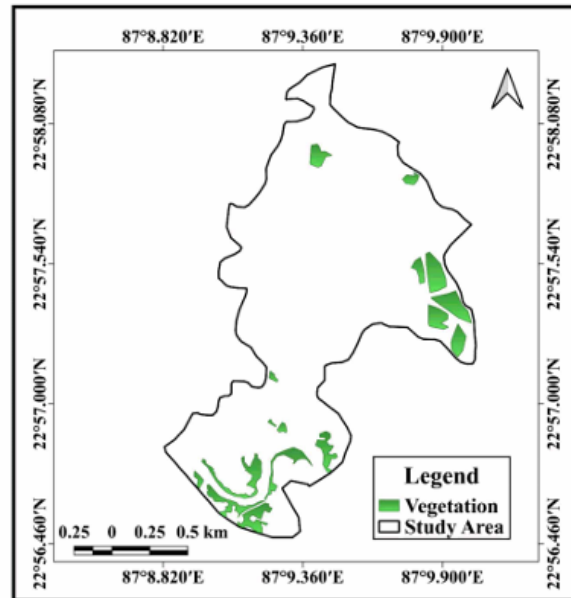


Fig: Vegetation map of Panchmura village

As we can see, there is a strong concentration of flora in the eastern and south-eastern parts of Panchmura village. Here, we

primarily find tropical deciduous forest and some Akashmoni that have been planted by the Forest Department.

Tourists Profile:

Gender Profile	Frequency	Percentage
Male	19	38
Female	31	62
Age group		
0-15	5	10
16-30	10	20
31-50	24	48
More than 50	11	22
Origin of tourists		
Within state	48	96
Outside state	2	4
Abroad	0	0
Nature of companion		
Family	30	60
Friend	8	16
Colleagues	3	6
Solo	9	18
Purpose of the tour		
Vacation	19	38
Education	2	4
Office	0	0
Others	29	58
Period of stay		
1-3 days	49	98
4-6 days	1	2

More than 7 days	0	0
Frequency of visit		
Not visited earlier	12	24
One time	29	58
More than one time	9	18
Amount of the tour budget		
Less than 2000	38	76
2000-4000	10	20
4000-6000	2	4
More than 6000	0	0
Season wise tourist visit		
Summer	8	16
Winter	36	72
Rainy	2	4
Autumn	4	8
Mode of the Transport used by tourists		
By Bus	8	16
By own car	14	28
By hired car	28	56
Hotel category		
3 star	2	4
2 star	4	8
Ordinary hotel	44	88
Trip Planning		
By own	45	90
Through travel agent	5	10
Frequently purchased items		
Photo and idol of god and goddesses	13	26
earthen horse and elephants	35	70
Others	2	4
Nature of Problems		
Lack of transport	30	60
Lack of infrastructure	13	26
Lack of amusement	5	10
Others	2	4

(Source: Field survey, December, 2025)

As per tourist profile it can be said that majority of the tourists were male and belongs to mature age group (31-50). Mostly belongs within state and visited the craft village with their family. Mostly they have visited the craft village to buy some Terracotta articles and souvenir. More than 95% tourists preferred to visit for single day in this craft village. For buying craft article and transportation they usually spent around 2000 rupees. The most pleasant weather for tourist visit was winter vacation as various craft fair is

organized in Panchmura and Bishnupur. From Bishnupur and Bankura town tourists usually prefer to visit by hired car. Mostly they stayed in various hotels in nearby town Bishnupur. The earthen horse and elephants artefacts were the most selling article in Panchmura. Among various difficulties lack of transportation was become alarming issues which may need to be resolved on an urgent mode.

Conclusion:

West Bengal is one of India's leading manufacturers of the exquisite "Terracotta" craftsmanship. This pottery skill is not a recent invention; it has a long history in India. Numerous archeological discoveries indicate that it was widespread during the Indus Valley Civilization. The region's rich alluvial soil and abundant clay supply surely contributed to the rapid expansion of this terracotta craft, even though the precise date and method of its introduction to Bengal's craft zone are still unknown. West Bengal is a famous destination for tourists wishing to buy terracotta handmade goods because it is currently the leading producer of this artistic and attractive craft item.

This field research looks at the socioeconomic and physical aspects of Panchmura village in Bankura. Panchmura in the Bankura district is referred to as the terracotta craft heaven in West Bengal. Craftsmen need to be trained in a range of soft skills, managerial aptitude and talents, production procedures, marketing strategies, and proper communication in major languages in order to enhance their craft enterprise, despite its appeal and increasing popularity. There is a lot of potential for this Panchmura ceramic craft cluster to support environmentally sustainable development, produce revenue, and create jobs. It can boost self-reliance and inspire the next generation of pottery-making families to follow this career path, which is positive for the rural labor market. Unskilled individuals and semi-skilled women should acquire manual training in order to enhance the standardization of economic growth and restorative vitality in this ceramic sector. Thus, this study's main objective is to examine the connection between the socioeconomic and physical aspects of this district. This facilitates the creation and implementation of policies for the development of this craft village.

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Nil.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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