



A Study of Thai–Yuan Yok Mook Handweaving Fabric in Tontan Sub–district, Saohai, District, Saraburi Province, Thailand

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Abstract

The objectives of this research was to study Thai–Yuan Yok Mook handweaving fabric in Tontan Sub–district, Saohai, District, Saraburi Province in production process, product design, product color, product development, knowledge transfer, and management practices. The finding revealed that Thai–Yuan Yok Mook handweaving fabric in Tontan Sub–district, Saohai, District, Saraburi Province illustrated the unique of Thai Yuan nation, art, culture, and local wisdom. The handweaving process could be classified by 2–12 heddle twills and named by product design from natural characteristics. Knowledge transfer could be occurred at the learning community such as Thai Yuan culture hall. Moreover, the sufficient economy was one of the important management practices.

Keywords: Thai–Yuan Yok Mook Hand weaving fabric, knowledge transfer, sufficient economy

Introduction

The beautiful Thai traditional art has been well known for all nations. Especially, Thai handicrafts show elegant, graceful, delicate and intelligent from Thai people. They are local wisdom and cultural heritage. Thai handicrafts could illustrate Thai lifestyle, economics, and society at the time these art and craft would be produced. The first objective to produce these handicrafts was to use them as a house ware. After the society spread, the objective to produce handicrafts as a house ware had been changed. They also were produced for exchange and sale. Thai society has been changing. Moreover, the popularity of handicrafts has been decreased. Factors which were involved with problems of handicrafts conservation were economics and the growth of technology today. As a result, handicrafts, and traditional house wares were less interesting and important for local people. Local people would spend more time to produce other things for their living.

Local handicrafts were in the recession situation. It was difficult to retrieve them as important things for local people. However, local handicrafts are really important in the education. They are significant evidences to show the background and evolution of ancestor's wisdom. They also present the glorious past and pace of changes which involved with the lives of each human community. Questions should be ask now is "how to protect and conserve Thai handicrafts?" One of the most essential solutions is collecting material and data such as photos album, and treatises on ancient books or clothes, local handicrafts. They should be conserved and kept by category in the local and national museum. Moreover, another one solution could be organizing them in to education system because they are such the best tools for developing human's ability.

In the past for Thai education, local wisdom was provided to descendants. Knowledge transfer was continuously taught to young

generation. The education started from family, or temples. Local craftsmen taught and transfer their knowledge to descendants and other local people. This education was diversity and based on their living styles. The diversity of education in the past has been gone when the government controlled and organized the national education system. The education administration sets policies, principles, and practices from central agency. As a result, the curriculum isn't consistent with local life style. In this situation, it is necessary to improve the education system to be suitable for Thai society according to conservation of Thai national arts and culture. The national education Act B.E.2542 is described about conservation of Thai national arts and culture as follows; learning process should emphasize on the right awareness to be proud of being Thai and supporting national art, culture, local wisdom, and Thai wisdom. 23(3) section of acts describes that students should have the knowledge about religion, art, culture, Thai wisdom, and application of Thai wisdom.

The encouragement of local art and culture could be provided to education system because the goal of learning today is developing the quality of life. Educational institutions not only teach students, but also improve and increase quality of life for community.

Saraburi province has a long history. Populations here are diversity and comprised of many different nationalities. Each nationality has the unique in culture, tradition, and life style. The long experiences are collected called "local wisdom". Thai-Yuan immigrated to settle in Saraburi along Pa Sak River. It was on the west and far from the present downtown 5 kilometers. It is called Ban Tontan. Nowadays, there are many Thai-Yuan in Saraburi. These Thai-Yuan have taught Yok Mook Hand weaving fabric to their descendants until now.

It is extremely interesting to study Thai-Yuan Yok Mook handweaving fabric in Saraburi

province. This study could be taught to students or interested people to be proud of Thai wisdom that reflects Thai-Yuan life style, culture, and unique. Moreover, this study could be useful for people who would like to study Thai-Yuan Yok Mook handweaving fabric in Saraburi province. They could get more knowledge and understand values of local handweaving which is Thai cultural heritage. Thai wisdom would be conserved and protected continuously. Moreover, It could develop the handweaving fabric to the market for Thai economics in the future.

Aims

The purposes of this research were to study Thai-Yuan Yok Mook handweaving fabric in Tontan Sub-district, Saohai, District, Saraburi Province in production process, product design, product color, product development, knowledge transfer, and management practices.

Material and Method

1. The population of this study was Thai-Yuan Yok Mook handweaving fabric in Tontan Sub-district, Saohai, District, Saraburi Province.

2. The samples of this study were 100 Thai-Yuan Yok Mook handweaving fabric in Tontan Sub-district, Saohai, District, Saraburi Province which would have different design 2-12 heddle twill.

Data Collection

This research was field study research. The data collection methods were as follows;

1. To study the literatures which were involved with this study such as the information about Saraburi province, Tontan Sub-district, the history of Thai-Yuan in Saraburi, handweaving product, handweaving fabric color, knowledge transfer, management practices, and other researches.

2. Research instruments comprised of 1) the interview questionnaire which contained

informal questions. It consisted of open-ended questions, 2) the field study record which was the observation form of interview. Research would record facts from the observation such as environment, places, people, or the information about knowledge transfer in handweaving production, and 3) the field data collection which was the qualitative approach.

Data Analysis

1. After collecting the data from observation, interview, and record, data was examined for the complete data.

2. All data was categorized by research objectives and framework.

3. Data was analyzed by the structure of questionnaire and described the discussion.

Conclusion

Thai-Yuan Yok Mook Handweaving Fabric in Tontan Sub-district, Saohai, District, Saraburi Province presents the unique of art, culture, and local wisdom from ancestors. The conclusions are illustrated as follows:

1. In the production process, handweaving fabric makers were Thai-Yuan females. They are taught how to make Yok Mook handweaving fabric from their mothers, relatives, and ancestors in their community. They make Yok Mook handweaving fabric for their clothes or implement. Handweaving production processes are as follows:

1.1 Handweaving makers would prepare for fabric by themselves every single process. First, they plant the cotton, separate seed from cotton, and weave the fabric. However, handweaving makers could buy the artificial fabric from the factory. The weaving machine for Yok Mook handweaving fabric is still small traditional machine. There are few weaving machines in the village because the makers use a loom instead of the traditional weaving machines.

One of techniques that is used to produce Yok Mook handweaving fabric is using 2 sets of warp yarn. The first set of warp yarn is single color or multicolor for plain weave. The second set of warp yarn is the special one wrap yarn. Yok Mook handweaving fabric is repeated pattern.

1.2 The components of Yok Mook handweaving fabric process are as follows: 1) The makers, Thai-Yuan women, work together as Tontan Sub-district weaving group. They are good at hand weaving. Their main career is a farmer. They are 30-70 years old. 2) Weaving tools are weaving machines or looms. The weaving machines are developed from local wisdom to make Yok Mook handweaving fabric easily and quickly. 3) Weaving fabric is the artificial fabric from the factory. Makers would wind the artificial fabric. The product would be designed by customers. 4) Weaving process would use a loom. The process consisted of 9 steps such as winding the wrap yarn Yok Mook handweaving fabric is famous. There are lots of demands from customers, as a result, makers could not make it for all customer demand. Moreover, the price of Yok Mook handweaving fabric is expensive. The makers don't have time to produce the products. Therefore, Rajabhat Thepsatri University has been developing the Yok Mook weaving machine. The machine developer is Thai-Yuan at Sao Hai district in Saraburi province. He has been developed the Yok Mook machine for producing high quantity and quality products.

2. In the product design, color, and development, according to interview the design of the Thai-Yuan Mook Handweaving mainly form the main line of yarn. The maker makes two mainly separate line of yarn. First line is to be the ground of the design and the second line is to be the design of the product. While the worker is working, he, or she has to step on the wood stick in order to switch the two mainly line of yarn for

the design. The design gets more complex pattern by adding more of the main line of yarn.

3. In the knowledge transfer, according to interview the president and members of Tontan sub district hand weaving group, they have the responsibility to transfer their knowledge in Yok Mook handweaving fabric. Learners could have basic knowledge about Yok Mook handweaving for their future career. Also, learners could have good attitude and realize the values of weaving career. Learner could be students, or local people who are interested in Yok Mook handweaving. The budget to learn is provided by government, sponsors, and selling Yok Mook handweaving fabric from Tontan sub district hand weaving group. The budget is used for constructing and decorating the weaving building, buying the weaving machines for learner, and buying tools for learner.

The learning class is comprised of 5 lessons which are 1) the principle of Yok Mook weaving career, 2) the equipment of Yok Mook weaving, 3) wrap yarn preparation, 4) weft preparation, and 5) weaving fabric. All equipment and tools are provided to learners by Tontan sub district hand weaving group.

4. In the management practices, Tontan sub district hand weaving group was established in 1982. Nowadays, there are 3 weaving buildings, 30 weaving machines, and 200,000 baths for capital investment. Tontan sub district hand weaving group is set for 5 people in the management group. The equipment is supported from Tontan sub district municipality. Management methods of Tontan sub district hand weaving group are as follows:

4.1 In organizing the system, Tontan sub district hand weaving group was founded by Thai-Yuan women according to get an extra income for family and conserve local wisdom. The information of Tontan sub district hand weaving group are as follows:

Group name: Thai-Yuan women hand weaving group in Tontan sub district, Sao Hai district, Saraburi province.

Group leader: Mrs. Payom Sukkaseam, as the group president

Location: 12 Village No. 3 Tontan Sub-district, Sao Hai District, Saraburi Province

Products: local hand woven fabrics, Yok Mook hand woven fabric (2-12 heddle twill), skirts, bags, breast wraps, and clothes

Famous products: Yok Mook hand woven fabric (8 heddle twill) in Pikul, which is the most famous for One Tambol One Product

4.2 In the goals of organization, Thai-Yuan women hand weaving group in Tontan sub district would emphasized on producing the hand woven fabric from local wisdom which has the unique design from antecedents.

4.3 In marketing, many people are interested in community products such as local hand woven fabric. Therefore, Thai-Yuan women hand weaving group in Tontan sub district should focus on planning for the growth of product and operation. It's necessary to develop and make the diversity of products.

The budget for production cost is from 1) public and private sections, 2) donators, and 3) selling hand woven products from Thai-Yuan women hand weaving group in Tontan sub district.

An interesting product is Yok Mook hand woven fabric (2-12 heddle twill).

Member income is divided for members. If members buy fabric with their own money, they would get both wages and fabric costs. The profits from selling products would deposit in the bank account of Thai-Yuan women hand weaving group in Tontan sub district.

Department of community development supports Thai-Yuan to make hand woven fabric which is Yok Mook hand woven fabric, demanded by customers. It is very beautiful, and

unique. Thai–Yuan women hand weaving group in Tontan sub district should make a package, business card, handbills, advertising posters, and distribution.

Recommendations

1. The government and agencies which relate to produce local handicrafts should identify the directions for product design development, and pattern of Yok Mook hand woven fabric according to present economics and society.

2. Local education institutions should have the curriculum in Yok Mook handweaving fabric

for students, and interested people. It could support the local wisdom conservation.

Recommendation for future research

1. An interesting topic for future research should be the study of Yok Mook hand woven design. The information of product design should be collected from other places such as Sukhothai, or Rajburi.

2. The future research should do the benchmarking Yok Mook with other hand woven fabric such as Jok hand woven fabric, or Mud Mee Fabric.

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