

The Study of Types of Weaving Crafts and its Production Procedures (Case Study: Daz Crafts in Balochistan)

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Abstract: *Nannorrhops ritchiana* (it is called Daz tree in Iran) is the sole species in the genus *Nannorrhops* in the palm family which mostly grown as an ornamental plant in Balochistan and its fruit and leaves have been used in making crafts in this area. Its fruit named Konel which is smaller than palm's fruit. Its heart of palm may be eaten (it is named Daz kish or Kosh) this white fiber is located around the center core. Despite to the conventional wisdom that supposes crafts are made of the palm leaves it should be noted that these artistic wickerwork crafts are produced by Daz's twigs weaving that is one of native and fundamental crafts of the natives of Balochistan City. Daz's twigs weaving has a long and rich history as sublime as the territory of Iran and play a significant role in supplying and providing the necessities of life as long as ameliorates the economy of Baloch families. Daz leaves have been used in constructing simple and functional crafts and a string of beads, necklace and other products have been made of its fruit. The purpose of this study is to analyze and study different types of Daz-based products as well as the way of making them. In overall, the findings of this study suggest that the utmost important weaving include one-cort, two cort, three-cort, Sichkan, Goor cham, Mohr Goap, Pich baft, consisting some crafts such as Tegerd, Gor pat, Chilook, Sevas, Tichak, Kapat, Parbond.

Key words: Daz (*Nannorrhops*), Daz's twigs weaving, Balochistan, Baloch's art crafts, *Nannorrhops*

INTRODUCTION

Daz is a kind of bush plant from the family of palms (wide palm) which due to favorable climate grows in Balochistan to an extent degree. The existence of such a plant in this area have been the source great blessing and bounty for Balooch people and the linkage of Daz tree and Balooch people in the course of daily life of countrified and tribal people have been perpetual and continuous. This relationship used to be deeper in a way that food, shelter, work utilities, garden fences, livestock's cote, transportation of agricultural and bestial products and even prayer beads and carpets were made from it and in a word all Balooch life had been dependent on Daz and wicker products made out of it. According to Shabani, (2009), "the relationship of Daz and Balooch people is that of net and the sailor, soil and the potter and string and carpet weaver. Daz has all these applications for a Balooch. He makes utilities, carpet, shelter and food with this plant".

The attempt to make a subsistence and making necessary tools in accordance with the present conditions and resources available to people has impelled them to make much use of existing facilities and has therefore fostered their creativity and mindset in using these facilities in different forms and in accordance with requirements of those days. Wicker products made from

Daz in particular shoes had been an important element of bride's dowry. Moreover, Daz carpet had been among the items which bride used to take to bridegroom's home. It has had the role of ornamental carpet in homes of villagers and tribal people and they had been proud of that.

The fruit of Daz is called Konel or Koner. It is smaller than date and is less meaty but had been considered a suitable food for shepherds and travelers. Another part of Daz which can be eaten is called Kish or Kosh or what is usually referred to as palm cheese which helps Daz grow and is located in the main gemma. Its color is white and tastes sweet. In the past and in the drought this material had been used to make bread. Its fresh form is also used (today in Hormozgan Province, palm cheese is used as an ingredient of pickles). This is the way to bring out the Daz. First, side leafs should be removed. For this reason leafs attached to the main pedicle are bent and split in two and are pulled against the growth direction. Then, the main gemma (the main pedicle) is taken and pulled with great force to come out and its Kish be used.

When the pedicle is removed, Daz stops growing. "Although, today plastic materials have penetrated into the depth of Balooch villagers and tribal people. Nowadays because of permanency of plastic materials in transportation and migration, their low price, people's inclination to welfare and comfort and other cultural and social factors they have replaced Daz and every family

uses colorful can afford to by carpet, however poor they may be. Therefore, the bondage between Balooch and Daz is fading away. Nonetheless, Daz has kept its place-however blurry in every corner of the lives of villagers and tribal people”.

DAZ WEAVING IN BALOCHISTAN

Weaving wicker in Balochistan is done with the leaf of a wild kind of palm tree which is locally called Daz. It is a bush plant from Palmaceous family. Its scientific name is *Nannorhops ritchieana* which translates to a short bush. Daz grows in Afghanistan too. Its leaf is used to make wicker, bag, boater and other delicate things. Its core is used to make beads. In the Southern Iran, the tree is referred to as Purk or Daz and it is believed that one of these names is attributed to male tree and the other is special for the female one. Afghans call it “Merez” (Sabet, 1994).

It grows in Southern Iran, Kerman, West of Jazmurian and Lar (Zargari, 1990). Daz grows particularly in Southern parts of Iran (Balochistan). It is a savage plant and grows mostly in the way of temporary rivers (Mozafarian, 1996). It has also been found in rocky lands. The minimum and maximum temperature suitable for the life of Daz is 18.4 and 51 °C, respectively.

Palm date family constitutes a big and definite family all over tropical and humid areas. All the plants in this family need heat and humidity in the roots. They grow mostly in Africa, Brazilian coasts, Amazon, Antilles, tropical coasts of Africa, Asia, Southern India, Malaysia, southern Oceania islands. They don't usually grow in other regions not mentioned here or else are very rare.

Balooch people believe that Daz is of two kinds; they call them pork (also called Porg and Porkh) and Daz. Each of these kinds are of two separate types which are Readag or Radag and Garac or Karand. Readag and Garac are distinguished by the color and the texture of leaves. Leaves of readag are resistant to twisting and won't be torn; they are mostly used for wicker-works. In contrast, leaves of garac are brittle and items made by them don't last long.

COLLECTING AND PREPARING DAZ LEAFS

In order to collect enough Daz leaves in order to make wicker handicrafts we have to go to the place where they grow and cut them with a saw or a knife. Daz leaves are locally called “pish” (Fig. 1). They are near residential areas and for this reason access to them is easy.

Having cut leaves, linear cuttings of leaves are increased by hand; afterwards they are attached to each other with a wicker rope (i.e., the rope goes through pierced leaves). Usually each 50 leaves are put in one rope (however in some parts of Balochistan, the rope contains 100 leaves). The ropes are then transported to the village.



Fig. 1: Collecting Daz leaves for making Daz handicrafts

After having gathered necessary leaves they are formed into thin strips which is done by piercing a needle or any sharp material into the leaf and pulling it across the leaf. The thinner the strips, the more quality they have. In the next step, strips are exposed to sunlight to dry. If wet and fresh leaves are used for making products, they will develop large holes due to contraction and this lowers the quality of the produced materials. Although, fresh wet leaves are sometimes used for weaving wickers. When strips are dried and prepared for production, they will be wetted with some water to become flexible and do not crack in the weaving stage. The prepared leaf for weaving is called “gozar jatgin leaf”.

METHOD OF PRODUCTION

Wicker products are weaved through two main methods. In the first method which is used for making mats and wicker fans, strips are put in a line they are weaved in upside down way and in accordance with the quality and the type of material being weaved, certain amounts of leaves are textured. When weaving leaf sides are folded and their free ends are put under previous leaves to prevent disintegration.

In the second method, wicker products are weaved using a strip which is referred to as pat (Fig. 2). Strip with is between 6-12 cm with regard to the kind of product being made. In order to produce pat, a certain amount of leaves are weaved; this amount is determined considering the kind of products which is going to be made using pat.

When preparing pat is finished it is used for making such products as basket, dishes, balance, carpet bag, table cloth and even some kinds of mats. The way cylindrical products are produced with pat will be discussed here: the base of cylindrical products is first weaved; then the pat is coiled and attached to the base; after that pat sides are sewed. Sewing is done using a wicker rope which is called “cilok” or a thin strip of Daz leaf. To do this, the rope is moved through a hole in the



Fig. 2: Pat strip; these strips, just like pieces of carpet are weaved separately to make wicker products



Fig. 3: Method of sewing and attaching pat strips to each other

stick; then the stick moves through strips at the sides of pat (Fig. 3). This is done either in cylindrical form to produce utensils or in parallel form to produce certain kinds of mats called “soman” and “patal” or in circular form to produce table cloth (parzong) and the like.

THE STATUS OF FORM AND COLOR IN DAZ WEAVING IN BALOCHISTAN

In Daz weavings, form manifests itself in different weaving methods. The number of such forms had been limited because in Balochistan it has served primarily a utility function and had no artistic value to the people. However, some people would change the forms in order to produce more beautiful wicker products. These forms are discussed in the following sections.

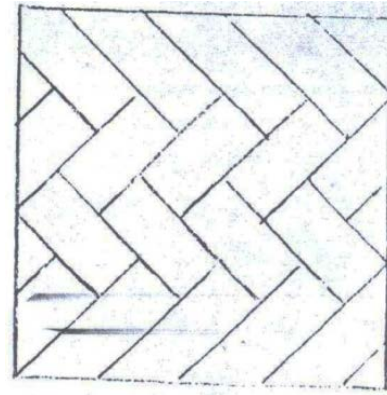


Fig. 4: Two-cort form

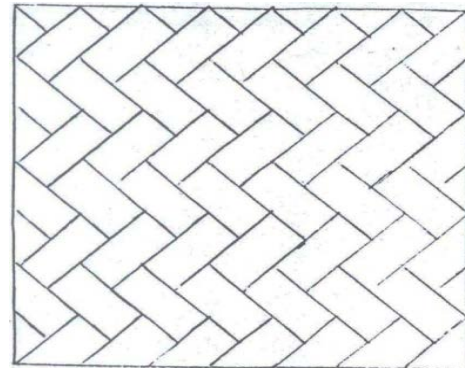


Fig. 5: Three-cort form

One-cort form: This form is the simplest form and of the lowest quality. The products made with this method are those which are used temporarily. This form is used for weaving a kind of gross wicker bag called “sond”. Sond is used for keeping ripe dates from falling on the ground. One-cort form is also used for making a special kind of carpet.

Two-cort form: This form is the most common weaving method used in making high quality products (Fig. 4). This form is made by moving a strip between other strips; it is weaved horizontally and is used in producing different kinds of baskets, mat (two-cort tegerd) and strips for other pat products. Some people refer to “two-cort form” as “two-tak form”.

Three-cort form: This kind of weaving is also common. To produce this form, three strips are weaved horizontally through other strips. This form can be found in many wicker products (Fig. 5).

Seckan form: Seckan form is very similar to three-cort form and is treated as one form in a number of

regions. However, seckan is a zigzag form and its main difference with three-cort form lies in their placements: seckan form is perpendicular while three-cort form is horizontal (Fig. 6).

Moreover, weaving in a seckan form is more difficult; this difficulty has turned into a proverb in the culture of Balooch people: weaving one-cort and two-cort forms is easy but weaving seckan form is difficult. Seckan also refers to the free ends of Daz after weaving is finished.

Seckan coutal: This form is seen as squares in the width of the items which gives it beauty, delicacy and complexity.

Goor cham (boor cham): This form is the most complex waving type in Balochistan and is obscure to many youth. The view of this form is four small squares in a big square. Each small squares has a definite center. This form is mostly found in Nikshahr environs (Fig. 7).

Mohr goap: This kind of form is also being forgotten and is used only by a small number of people. In this form, wicker strips are weaved in two, three and four layers. The completed form resembles a geometrical flower. This form

is mostly common in Saravan and its associated regions but is also found in other regions; however, the people of such regions have not given it a specific name. Stoncan is another form which is weaved very similarly to Mohr goap (Fig. 8).

Twisted form: This form is very rare and is mostly used for making wicker fans. In this form, leafs are twisted so as to create holes in specific places and these holes when put in a line, create beautiful form in the wicker (Fig. 9).

Although in the near past people of different parts of Balochistan have used dye to decorate their products, today only a few number of people in villages of Nikshahr are familiar with the best way of painting wicker products. Most of these people are those who present their products in exhibition held in other provinces. Villages in the proximity of Yanch and Mahnet and tribal region of Fazollahi are among the regions in which wicker painting is still common. The dye substance is imported from Pakistan and includes pink, green and yellow.

Dies used for this purpose are supplied in small boxes under the name of “pen”; this brand is very expensive is not resistant to the friction. Dye extracts taken from Daz

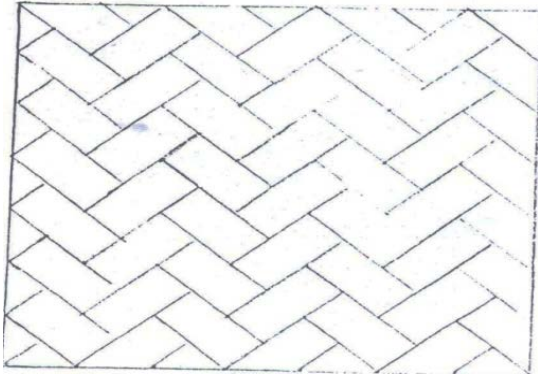


Fig. 6: Seckan form

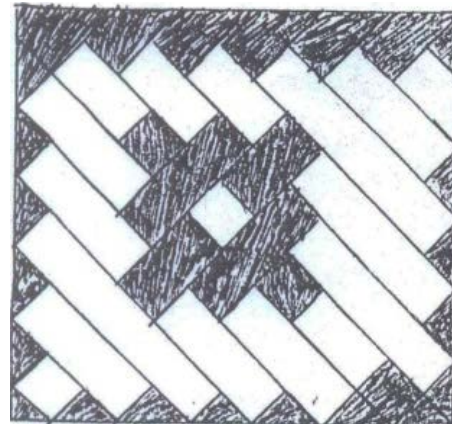


Fig. 8: Mohr goap form



Fig. 7: Goor cham form

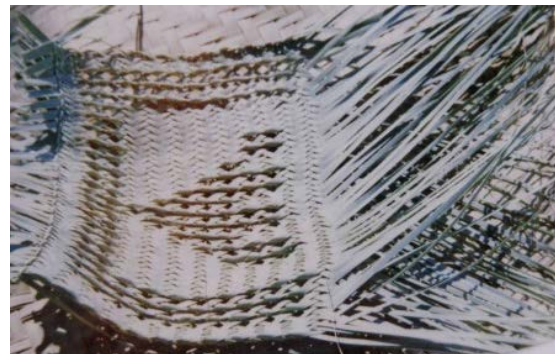


Fig. 9: Twisted form

are also used for painting in different parts of Balochistan. One way of getting extracts is to keep them for a complete day. In this way, different kinds of brown colors are obtained. The other method is to take a thin layer of Daz leaf immediately after cutting them and get them dries.

WICKER PRODUCTS OF BALOCHISTAN

Tegerd: Tegerd is a kind of mat weaved with Daz leafs. Balooch people refer to wicker-work as tegerd weaving. Tegerd is produced more than other wicker products in Balochistan and is used as a carpet. Daz is mostly used for tegerd weaving (Fig. 10).

Wicker mats are produced in different sizes considering their application; its size reaches to 12 m and even more. Different forms are applied in the weaving of tegerd. If the width of tegerd is <1.5 m, one person works on it but if it is >1.5 m, two or three persons have to cooperate. Considering their applications, tegerds are divided into different types.

Patal (Soman): It is special kind of tegerd produced by sewing pat strips to each other. It is used as mat; it is also used for covering of house tops and hut roofs instead of plastic coverings. For this reason it is produced in different sizes. Two or three persons have to devote a complete day cutting, stripping and moistening Daz leafs needed for a 2 in 2.5 m wicker patal. To make this patal, pat strips are first weaved with a length of 2.5 m and a width of 10-40 cm, each one produced by one person. Having finished pat strips they are sewn up with a wicker rope. Finally, the weaving of the patal will be complete in 3-5 days by one person. Tegerd is usually made by women but soman is usually made by men. In Ghasrgh and Nikshahr, people call it soman and people of Lashar Nikshahr call it patal (Karim Zadeh, 2014).



Fig. 10: Tegerd, a traditional mat

Poshtak (Baddel): It is a kind of tegerd used primarily for hut roofs and house tops produced with the size of 6 in 9 m. Moreover, it is used in tents with the size of 10 in 1.5 m.

Cergec (Kad): It is the thinnest tegerd used mainly as a carpet and produced in large sizes. In weaving this mat, various forms are applied around the sides seamlessly (without using pat strip). This variety contributes to the beauty and delicacy of the resulting product.

Korpat (Gorpat): A circular or oval tegerd used for collecting and pressing dates which is also called "sarlace". Pat splits are used in the production of Korpat. Having prepared strips they are sewn in circular or oval form used mainly for individual purposes (Fig. 11). People of Ghasr Ghand and Nikshahr call it "panal".

Gapkash: "Gapkash" is the equivalent of "pulling" and that is called so because of the way it is produced. In the production of Gapkash, strips are pulled to be stiffened. This type of tegerd is most common in Lashar, a region in Nik Shahr; it is the best and the most common type of tegerd found in Lashar.

Pariz: It is a small mat which is put on dromedary when riding camel.

Prayer rug: As it can be understood from the name of this product it is used for prayers, usually in oval and sometimes in rectangular form. Rectangular prayer rug is produced just like wicker mat and the oval one makes use of pat strips and in some cases goat hair for decoration. Its size differs from 110×70-120×70 cm. Each prayer rug needs about 100 Daz leaf and each person can make one in a day.



Fig. 11: Gorpat

Cilok: Cilok is a kind of rope made from Daz leaves (Fig. 12). Cilok has many applications in the life of villagers and tribal people. It is used as an element in the production of other wicker materials. It is provided in different length and thickness. To produce cilok, palm leaves are turned into strips with required thickness. The strip may be thin or thick. In making thick strips, Daz leaves with natural cuts may be used, then a thread of prepared leaves are threaded. The thread most used is two-thread cilok; however, three-thread cilok is also common which is more tenacious and beautiful. Cilok can be weaved immediately after collecting leaves.

When weaving is finished, the resulting product has a pale green color and is called cilok. Sometimes it is placed between two stones and hammered (to the extent that quality is not compromised); the color changes to brown because a thin layer from leaves is removed; in addition to that the resulting rope is softer and more delicate. People of Nik Shahr call it “sad”. In Saravan, unhammered cilok is called “hoshkbor” and hammered cilok is called “jatkin”. In Lashar, unhammered cilok is referred to as “simple rope” and the hammered one is called “coptagin sad”. They use cilok to refer to a small rope used for fastening sheep. Cilok is also used for black tents, building huts (attachment of branches), making fences to keep animals, draining water from wells, excavation, agricultural works, fastening luggage, weaving beds and chairs, etc. For each of the aforementioned uses, cilok is given a special name.

People of Iran Shahr and Nik Shahr refer to a very thick and hammered rope uses usually for pulling heavy objects in excavation and pulling water as “riz” (Karim Zadeh, 2014).

Wicker shoes (Savas): Savas refers to kinds of shoes produced with Daz leaves and has three types: bazmani,



Fig. 12: Cilok

dambur and takal (Fig. 13). Bazmani savas includes the following parts: jatk; tajik and savas band. For making bazmani savas, Daz strips are divided into two and twisted to each other; these twisted leaves are called “malik”. The leaves are then hammered and put in the water for 12 h or more (leaf color changes to dark brown); the hammered and softened leaves are called “jatk”. A hammered and softened rope (sad) used as the skeleton of the shoes is called “tajik” and the one used as the clasp is called “savas band”.

Having prepared above said parts, tajik-which is about 2 m long is folded twice and attached to the place of toes. The hammered leaves are then passed around the rope. Free end ropes are then knitted so that shoes will be stiffened. Knots will be hiding in the main structure of the shoes.

After that an awl or any other sharp material is used to move savas band through holes and knotted. In this way brackets are formed to keep the feet firm on the shoes. The resulting shoes last about 4-5 m. The rope needed for making savas requires about 10 Daz leaves. If the primary materials are readily prepared, one can make two pairs of savas in a day.

The second and third type of savas are temporary and are produced with twisting of Daz leaves; the can be made in any place. Dambur savas is made by striping leaves without disintegrating them from their leafstalks. Takal savas is made by stripping leaves and disintegrating them. Both types use wicker rope for brackets.



Fig. 13: Wicker shoes (Savas)



Fig. 14: Ticak

Ticak: Ticak is a kind of tray whose edges are curved inwardly and is used for cleaning rice, wheat, lentil and other grains (Fig. 14). Ticak is usually made by parak tree whose leafs are thick and more tenacious (however, it is also possible to make ticak by Daz leafs). For making ticak, first a square mat is prepared and then a wicker rope is moved through the sides. When the rope is pulled, edges of the wicker mat move upward. Finally, rope ends are knotted and the tray is made. In some cases a black rope made up of goat hair is weaved around ticak to make it beautiful. In this case the tray will be called “sar goaft ticak”. The average price of ticak is 4000 Rials. Weaving ticak takes about 3-4 h.

Kapat: Kapat refers to all kinds of baskets, purses, hamper and casket which have leads. These items are weaved more delicately. They are given a single name because of their similar functions. Making a kapat needs about 5 Daz leafs and its weaving takes about 5-6 h. There is also another kind of kapat used for keeping dates and is called body kapat and contains 1 kg.

Katirok (Kator): It is a kind of cylindrical or cube box having a lead. To make this a wicker base having a diameter of 10-15 cm is first weaved and then woven to the height of 20-25 cm (Fig. 15). In the case of cube box, the base should be in the form of a square. At the final stage a lead is woven and put in it.

The primary application of katirok is keeping sewing utensils of Balooch women. Today, a small-scale katirok is used for cube sugars. In Saravan, “kator” refers to a handled dish for keeping things and the item used for



Fig. 15: Katirok



Fig. 16: Sapt and sond

keeping sewing utensils is called “kotak”. However, for people of Nik Shahr, kotak is a small mat used as a lid for big pitchers.

Sapt (soft): Sapt is an open basket and is very much similar to a big tub (Fig. 16). There are different kinds of spts each having special functions. It has two handles used primarily for feeding animals and carrying feedstuff and other agricultural crops. People of Lashar in Nik Shahr call it “kach”. In some places people use the word “lach” to refer to a bag which is carried on the back. Lachuk is a small-sized lach.

Parbond (parond): This wicker product is used for climbing palm dates. It is made up of an oval mat to one of whose sides a buckle of wicker rope is attached which will be hanging when climbing palm tree. Weaving parbond needs about 150 Daz leafs and takes 5 days to finish.

Kando: It is a wicker glass used for drinking water, tea, etc. To make kando, the leaf should be cut first then it is curled and fastened with a strip of the same Daz leaf so that the leaf will have no piercing or hole in it and may be used for carrying liquids. Even today, when there is no access to glasses, kando is used (Fig. 17).



Fig. 17: Wicker glass and wicker toys

CONCLUSION

Weaving wicker products has long existed in different parts of the world and has been the best way to provide simple tools for satisfying primary necessities of living. What is to be taken into consideration in today Balochistan is the necessity of proliferating indigenous wicker-works such as Daz-weaving because their materials are easily provided. Moreover, because of the easy access to the primary materials, the resulting product will

have high added value. With regard to the accessibility of materials and existence of required human resources what is needed is just a simple planning to pave the way for stable employment for the youths in this region and marketing their products in order to develop this traditional craft.

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