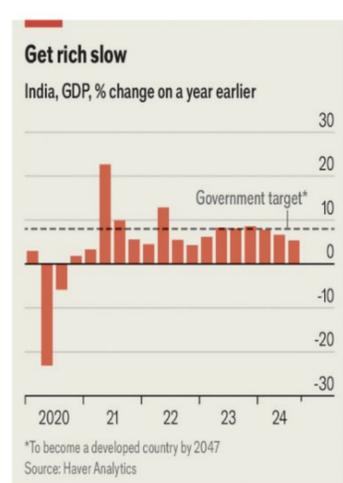


INTRODUCTION

Craftsmanship has been a generational skill. However, as the fast fashion industry has dominated our world, these precise and creative skills have been lost in the abyss of factory machines and cheap fabric. This research will focus on the impact the fast fashion industry has had on Indian craftsmanship and how the fashion industry revive and preserve the traditional handicraft that has been passed down by centuries.

This report will take a unique approach to the topic of the effects of fast fashion as I will research the effects on certain craftsmanship communities, and how we can help preserve the identity and culture that goes into Indian handicraft. Additionally, this report will explore the complicated economic aspect of the fast fashion industry in India, and whether workers pay scalability and other externalities truly contribute to the downfall of Indian craftsmanship in the 21st century.

DATA AND FINDINGS



Graph 1 shows the fluctuations of India's GDP and how the tax cuts proposed will help bring the % change to the government target (The Economist).
*To become a developed country by 2047
Source: Haver Analytics

real GDP increase will increase real wages because of price inflation

benefit for both jobs

tax cuts will lead to a benefit for the artisans on the Cost-Benefit table

	Average pay (\$ per day)	Job security
Factory workers	\$14.78	High to medium
Handicraft/artisan workers	Between \$3.41 and \$4.52	Medium to low
	Around \$0.89 in rural areas	

Table #1: Compares the average daily wage of factory workers (*Factory Worker Salary in India*, n.d.) and the average daily wages of handicraft/artisan workers in both urban and rural areas (Wilson, 2022). Table #1 also includes the job security for the respective jobs.

	Cost	Benefit
Factory workers	Sweatshop conditions Strict schedule	High pay & security Higher pay
Artisans	Lower pay Low job security	Freedom (flexible schedule) Cultural ties Safer working environment

Table #2: Demonstrates a cost-benefit analysis between factory workers and artisans. This table showcases the costs (sweatshop conditions, lower pay, etc.) of either job as well as the benefits (freedom, job security, etc.).

CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

This research confirms the hypothesis that Indian handicraft can be preserved through government incentives, cultural attitudes, and monetary subsidies.

Overall, we must boost the demand for artisanal crafts in the manufacturing sector. By boosting demand, we can create a larger and more stable job market for the artisans to have higher job security. Some solutions to boost the artisanal sectors are:

- Implementing educational programs so that artisans can pursue education while working.
- Government gives subsidies to artisanal business owners so they can hire more people to keep the craft going (increases incentive for handicraft because of the stability of having a secure job).
- Improve cultural attitudes for the youths in schools through special programs so they can get involved in preserving their culture and history.

These solutions will help preserve Indian handicraft and give a better alternative to factory work.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

- Meta-analysis
 - Observational on government regulations and privatized auditing system (government policy)
 - Synthesizing graphs to answer research questions
- Data source
 - *Quantitative*: manufacturing sector data from GDP graphs
 - *Qualitative*: incentives for artisans and factory workers
- Research questions
 - How does the government monitor factory compliance with labor laws (e.g., through inspections, audits)?
 - Are there any special certifications (e.g., Fair Trade) that factories must obtain to comply with foreign market requirements?
 - What policies can be implemented to boost demand in the manufacturing sector?
 - What is the cost-benefit analysis for factory workers and handicraft workers?

DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

- The current Indian government regulations allow employers to get away with paying employees lower, irregular hours, improper auditing, etc. This increases the appeal of artisanal work; however, the factory jobs provide better pay and job security due to a constant demand for retail. Therefore, India's title of being an export-oriented economy leads to workers having an incentive to work in factories because they know it will be a stable job.
- Additionally, the tax cuts will increase the disposable income of consumers, increasing the demand for goods and services in the retail sector. In theory, these tax cuts would benefit both industries. These tax cuts will boost the sweatshop industry as it tries to compete with China for quick production of low value products. On the other hand, the increase in disposable income will create a higher demand for the normal goods side of the handicraft industry, which is typically smaller businesses (i.e. handmade clothing). This will also increase job security for artisans as a low or inconsistent demand for their products is the main cause for low job security.
- The “sweatshops conditions” in the cost section of the Cost-Benefit analysis is a result of poor government regulation in monitoring factory compliance.
- Additionally, if the tax cuts increase economic growth, real GDP will increase, which will raise real wages for artisans.
- With social media attitudes turning against fast fashion and opting toward sustainability options, consumers can be expected on the global level to start investing in handicraft news.
- Government subsidies will increase pay for artisans and increase demand for handicraft goods, which will increase job security and lead to artisans pursuing educational opportunities that help keep the handicraft alive.

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***Works Cited & Research Paper:

