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GENESIS OF CROCHET LACE

Subha. B¹ and Koteswara Rao. M²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Economics,

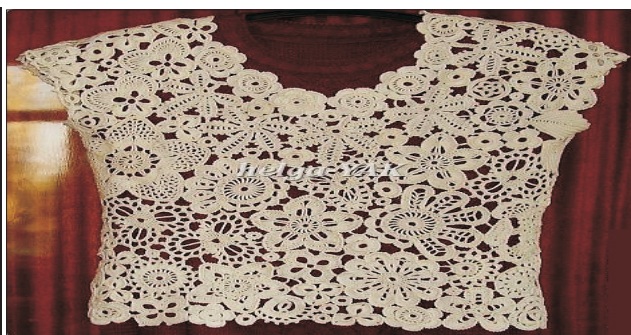
Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

²Professor, Department of Economics,

Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

MEANING OF LACE:

Textile refers to any material made of interlacing fabric refers to any material made through weaving, spreading, knitting, crocheting, or binding that may be used in production of further goods. Crocheting is a process by which thread or yarn is used to create a cloth done by hand or by machine. Crocheting and knitting involves interlacing loops of yarn, which are formed either on a crochet hook or on a knitting needle, together in a line. These two processes are different in that knitting has several active loops at one time, on the knitting needle waiting to interlock with another loop, while crocheting never has more than one active loop on the needle. Lace items are made by interlocking threads together independently, using a backing and any of the



methods described above, to create a fine fabric with open holes in the work. Lace work can be made either by hand or machine. There exist numerous styles and methods of hand crocheting and knitting. Lace is an open fabric work of different varieties of fine thread. The English word Lace is taken from the French 'laci'¹. The main raw material of Lace is a delicate fabric made of yarn or thread made by machine or by hand. It's a transparent network, in which the threads of the weft are twisted round the warp. It may be made of cotton or silk or linen or even of gold and silver thread. Now

Lace is often made with cotton thread, although linen and silk threads are still available but the manufactured lace made of synthetic fiber. It is usually a pattern work upon the process of making the lace with needle.

TYPES OF LACE:

There are many types of lace, classified by how they are made.

1. Needle lace
2. Crochet lace
3. Bobbin lace
4. Tape lace
5. Knotted lace
6. Cutwork
7. Knitted lace
8. Machine made lace
9. Chemical lace

CROCHET LACE:

At one time crochet was

considered for the wealthy only, for lavish décor in the home and dress and poor to middle class lashed back as to their rights to use as they pleased. Crochet is a process of creating fabric from yarn, thread, or other material with using a crochet hook. A needle work technique similar to knitting that creates an interloped fabric structure worked with a single continuous thread. As opposed to knitting, which requires at least two pointed needles, crochet is worked with a single hook. Crochet accurately means "hook" in France comes from croche, or croc in the Middle French word for hook, and the Old Norse word for hook is Krokr and the needle work fabric produced with yarn and different sizes of hooks is called as crochet. The word crochet is most commonly used a round

the world, except of Scandinavia. It is called Haken in Holland, Hekling in Norway, Haekling in Denmark, and virkning in Sweden. But no one is quite sure when and where crocheting got its start.²

KNITTING PROCESS:

The foundation of every piece of Crochet lace is a chain; it is created by a succession of loops worked through each other to construct horizontal rows. Variations on the basic stitch involve increasing the number of loops linked together at the same time. Crochet patterns have an underlying mathematical structure, these pattern created by the regular presence or omission of stitches is the very essence of this art form. Crochet lace differs from knitting in that the loops are locked crossways as well as vertically but Crochet can be used to create a dimensionally stable and reversible fabric. Crocheting can easily learned and produces quick results. It is most commonly used for creating household textiles such as tablecloths, curtains and towels. Crochet lace is also used for clothing and accessories such as aprons, shawls, scarves, cuffs, collars, handkerchiefs, head wear, purses, socks, and gloves, etc.

RAWMATERIAL AND TOOLS:

Techniques for working with a needle is knitting, knotting, netting, twisting, weaving, have called by many names. They include needle tambour, needle lace, lace making, tatting, coiling knotless netting, cross-knit looping, looped needle-netting, Coptic knitting, Tunisian crochet, macramé, sprang and shepherd's knitting. The materials used were cotton, silk, synthetic, and wool yarns. Crocheting was also done with such unusual materials as copper wire, jute, wool, strips of plastic, sisal, scraps of fabric, and even dog hair. In earlier times, they used whatever they could get their hands on hooks made of rental, wood, fishbone, animal bone, horn, teeth from discarded combs, old spoons, brass, mother-of-pearl, tortoise shell, ivory copper, steel, vulcanite, ebonite, silver and agate. Basic materials required for crocheting are a hook and some type of material that will be crocheted, most commonly yarn or thread. Steel crochet hooks range in size from 0.4 to 3.5 millimeters, or from 00 to 16 American sizing. These hooks are used for fine crochet items such as doilies and lace. Yarn for crochet is usually sold as balls or skeins or hanks, although it may be on spools or cones. The thickness of the yarn is a significant factor in determining the gauge, i.e., how many stitches and rows are required to cover a given area for a given stitch pattern. It does not need to be worked on a frame, like sprang or embroidery and thus is portable and can be easily carried and worked on in any convenient movement. Crochet itself is an openwork patterns and geometric shapes such as squares, octagons, and circles.

USE OF KNOTTED THINGS:

Hunters and fishermen created knotted stands of woven fibers cords or strips of net to trap animals and snare bird or fish. Other uses included knotted fame bags, openwork cooking utensils and fishing nets. Handwork was expanded to include personal decoration for special occasions such as celebrations, marriages, religious rites and funerals. Ceremonial costumes with crochet ornamentation and decorative trimmings for arms and wrists were also available. In 16th century, Europe royal and the wealthy families lavished themselves in lace-trimmings, headpieces, gowns, jackets, and the poor people could only dream of wearing such things. Crochet lace was thus developed as the poor people's imitation of the rich man's good. Moving forward to Victorian times, crochet patterns became available for flowerpot holders, baskets for visiting cards, tablecloths, lamp mats and shades, wastepaper baskets, bird cage covers, purses, antimacassars (or covers to protect chair backs from the hair oil worn by the men in the mid 1800s), tobacco pouches, men's caps and waistcoats, even a rug with foot warmers to be placed under the card table for card players. From 1900 to 1930 women were also busy crocheting Afghans, slumber rugs, traveling rugs, sleigh rugs, car rugs, chaise lounge rugs, coffee and teapot cozies, hot-water bottle covers and cushions.

LACE AND FASHION:

Lace became fashionable in the 16th century, when people began to show their status in society by wearing more elaborate and expensive lace clothing. Lace is always a luxury, the finer the lace, the more

expensive. Lace was so precious it was handed down through generations, often described in detail in estate inventories and wills. Fashion has always driven crochet lace production. Towards the end of the 16th century ruffs and stranding collars demanded bold needle lace. By the middle of the 17th century linen lace was again worn flat, and both needle lace and bobbin lace makers had refined their skills to produce some extremely intricate work. Through in the 18th century lace become increasingly delicate, often worked in extremely fine linen thread with increasing use of mesh grounds.

Usually, crochet patterns were recorded and passed through small samplers, which were often kept in a book for referral. In the early 19th century, both needle and bobbin lace patterns were translated into crochet. These patterns were widely distributed throughout Western Europe, the North America and British Isles, and by the 1850s, white work crochet lace borders on towels, table cloths, and garments were quite common. Filet crochet is geometric in form and appears similar to filet lace, which is a form of netting. Filet has a strong traditional in Greece and was used extensively beginning in the 1850s for creating bedspreads, curtains, and borders. Bead crochet employs the same techniques as ordinary crochet, but beads are added as a piece is worked. These bead crochet bags have been fashionable from the mid 19th century through today. In the 19th century, "English people not only liked to be married in lace, bedded in lace, and executed in lace, they also liked to be buried in lace".

LACE WARS:

Unbelievably the fine needle lace from Venice remained in fashion throughout the 17th century, and Venetian lace makers were "imported" to instruct French lace workers and build up the France lace industry by Louis XIV. By the 18th century, there were established lace-making centers all over Europe. Wars caused both France and England laws prohibiting the import of foreign lace made it more desirable. Some took to smuggling foreign lace. In 1741 Denmark, laws required traders to swear under oath that they would not tempt any lace makers to emigrate.

HAND CROCHET:

It is believed that crochet evolved from craft forms practiced in China, Arabia and South America where craftswomen used their forefingers instead of a hook. Crochet lace emerged as a popular substitute to costly woven lace and become a flourishing cottage industry particularly in Britain, America and France. The early 1900s saw more elaborate stitches in crochet, the craft were soon relegated to being a home craft until the 1960s, after a subsequent decline crochet is again gaining popularity in Europe. Most lace makers today make lace as a hobby, few take orders and sell their lace, and others create one-of-a-kind jewelry or sculptural pieces for display³.

THE ORIGIN OF LACE:

The exact place and date of crochet origin is in great doubt. Some believe it goes back to before the time of Christ, but there is no documentation. Italy and Flanders both claim to have invented crochet lace at some point in the 15th century. When did lace originate? Although no definite year can be given for the 'invention' of lace, it is most likely that what we now regard as lace arose in the early 16th century. Openwork fabrics and fine nets that had a lace-like effect are known to have existed for centuries, but their techniques did not contribute to those developed for the great European laces. There is pictorial evidence from the late 15th century of simple plaited laces used on costume, and this is consistent with the statement by the author of a bobbin lace pattern book – the *Niiv Modelbuch*- printed in Zurich in 1561, that lace was brought to Zurich from Italy in about 1536. What, is certainly true is that the second half of the 16th century saw the rapid development of lace as an fine openwork fabric created with a needle lace (single thread) and with bobbin lace (multiple treads)⁴.

There are reports of crochet being practiced by Italian nuns in the 16th century, there are no extant examples but little convincing evidence that crochet was done in Europe before 1800. Several sources make the link between crochet and what was called "nun's lace" or "nun's work" where it was worked by nuns for church textiles. Lis Paludan, a researcher in Denmark traced the possible origins of crochet work. She put forward three

interesting theories. (1) Crochet originated in Arabia, spread eastward to Tibet and westward to Spain, from where it followed the Arab trade routes to other countries. (2) Crochet coming from South America, where a primitive tribe was said to have used crochet as ornamentation in the rites of puberty. (3) There are theories that crochet existed as early as 1500 BC and could originate from China. Early examples of three-dimensional dolls worked in crochet were found in China, but crochet most probably developed from ancient forms of embroidery that originated in the Middle East, the Africa and the Indian Sub Continent, especially India, Turkey, Persia (Iran and Iraq), and Morocco⁵. Domestic textiles and clothing from these regions were sometimes edged with crochet in gold, silver or silk metallic threads.

Researchers suggest that crochet probably developed from Chinese needlework “tambourine”, from the French “tambour” or drum. The most convincing evidence for the origin of crochet is that it developed from tambour work that spread west ward from the Middle East on trade routes to Spain, reaching Western Europe in the 1700s. At the end of the 18th century, tambour work evolved into what the French called “Crochet in the air”, when the back ground fabric was discarded and the chain stitch worked on its own. According to American crochet expert and world traveler Annie Potter, “The modern art of true crochet as we know it today was developed during the 16th century. Because of its suitability for open work fabric designs and the ability to reproduce lace patterns, crochet became known as crochet lace in France and chain lace in England⁶”.

LACE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES:

VENETIAN LACE:

The production of lace is an interesting example of a Venetian economic activity which developed outside the guild-regulated urban economy, grew considerably during the 16th century, it continued to expand during the 17th century. The modern Venetian Lace was made by skilled labour from imported raw materials: flax, silk and precious metals. Like other products Venetian Lace was also exported by merchants, at great profit. Indeed, ‘heyday’ of Venetian lace was the latter half of the 17th century, the period in which the Venetian economy is often seen as being decline in exports. The lace trade is an example of an economic activity which does not fit the classic ‘guild-centric’ (association) craft system which has dominated the analysis of Venetian economic life⁷.

THE LACE INDUSTRY IN IRELAND:

An important of medallion technique is Irish crochet or guipure lace, is characterized by a composition of individually worked leaves and flowers attached to each other with a chain. Legend has it that four Irish nuns trained in a French convent and introduced crochet to Ireland in 1840. In Ireland, Crochet began as a cottage industry with a lace called Irish crochet or guipure lace and in the mid 1800’s it became a large industry because of the need of the people to supplement their income due to the Great Irish Famine (1845-1849) or potato famine. It pulled them out of the famine, and threw them into miserable poverty. It is still a cottage industry in some countries such as India, Italy, Sri Lanka, Greece and some Asian countries⁸.

In the year around 1846, the art of making crocheted “Lace” reach to a much wider area. Like Fair Isle and Aran Knitters, Irish crocheters were truly masters of their craft, able to focus on intricate and elaborate patterns in finely comprehensive work and their skills could generate income in a non industrialized society. Their crochet work was exported throughout the British Isles and North America. Schools were formed to teach the skill, teachers were trained and sent all over Ireland, where the workers were soon creating new patterns of their own. And, although more than a million died in less than 10 years, the Irish people survived from the famine mostly on their crochet earnings. Irish men, women and children were organized into crochet cooperatives. It further gave them the chance to emigrate and begin a new life abroad, taking their crochet skills with them⁹. According to Potter two million Irish people immigrated to America, between 1845 and 1859, four million by 1900. American women, busy with their spinning, weaving, knitting and quilting, were soon be influenced to include in Irish crochet skills of their new neighbours¹⁰.

THE LACE INDUSTRY IN VICTORIAN PERIOD IN ENGLAND:

Creating beautiful needlework crochet was a sign of refinement in England and the United States. The greater variety of modern crochet stitches were developed during the Victorian period, due to both distribution of patterns and the inclusion of crochet in the school curriculum of girls. Students were taught to hold their hook like a pencil, as it gave the lines of the hand a more graceful look. It was very common to work directly from a picture of the design or form a sample of crochet. Needle work was taught to the young women in school from the early 1800's through the late 1900's. Lace like crochet items were used as placemats or to cover chair backs, also known as antimacassars.

1) Mile Riego of England in the year around 1846 discovered Spanish needle lace, which looked like Venetian needle-point lace, could be adapted to crochet. She also claimed to have invented "lace-like-crochet", today called Irish crochet. By the end of 19th century, crochet was being practiced as a free-form technique in Western Europe. 2) Next significant change be noticed when Clare nuns established a convent in Ketnmare (Kenmare) in 1861, at the end of the Irish famine. Lace was first made in a workshop at the convent and it provided employment to women. 3) Fashion in Lace like crochet changed with the end of the Victorian era in the 1890s. Crocheted laces in the new Edwardian era, between 1910 and 1920, became even more sophisticated in texture and complicated stitching. 4) The strong Victorian colors disappeared, though, and new white or pale threads are except for fancy purses, which were often crocheted of brightly colored silk and elaborately beaded.

After World War –I, very few crochet patterns were published, and most of them were basic versions of the early 20th century patterns. After World War-II, from the late 40s until the early 60s, there was revival in interest in home crafts, particularly in the United States, with many new and artistic crochet designs published for colorful doilies and other home items, along with updates of earlier publications. The craft remained chiefly a homemaker's art until the late 1960s and 1970s, when the new generation picked up on crochet and popularized a motif worked in the round, granny squares and incorporating bright colors. Although crochet underwent a subsequent refuse in popularity, the early 21st century has seen a recovery of interest in handicrafts and Diy, as well as great strides in improvement of the quality and varieties of yarn.

LACE MARKET AT NOTTINGHAM:

The lace market is a historic quarter mile square area of Nottingham in England. It was the place of the world's lace industry during the British Empire and is now a protected heritage centre. By the end of the 17th century the knitting of lace was mainly carried out in the homes of the merchant class by the lace makers. The lace market has undergone a revival in recent years. The dominance of the lace trade is revealed by White's Directory published in 1902. According to 1901 census, the lace industry in the town of Nottingham employed over 20,000 people out of 240000 populations, the majority of them women¹¹. Some of the old buildings are available and some original lace machines of 19th century are still in use today, often interfaced with computers. After the 1929 financial crisis, world trade conditions worsened which started in America and the lace trade continued to decline.

THE LACE INDUSTRY IN BELGIUM:

"The lace industry is practiced in all the provinces of Belgium with the exception of the province of Liege, but the two provinces of Flanders are the principal places of this industry." In certain districts it may be said that all women, young or old, handle the needle or the bobbin, and where the manufacture of lace has fallen back before the invasion of great industry, its remembrance remains alive, it still possesses a kind of popularity; and little would be needed to revive it. The labour contract between the lace-worker and the middleman is always verbal. The payment alone is settled and, moreover, is always established by the middleman, for the manufacturer rarely interferes. The lace-maker is almost always remunerated by the piece, in a few rare cases she is paid by the day's work. Piece-work is established upon the inherent relation of time and skill necessary to make such craft¹². This art and craft industry is based on four factors: First, traditional skill; second, aesthetic, artistic, decorative and utilitarian demand; third, religiously and socially symbolic and, fourth, employment generation.

LACE IN AMERICA:

The lace must have been growing in America, the first American handmade lace in existence was found. One survey finds that in South America, Peru, the first American handmade lace extant was found. The lace makers came to this country from the Midland countries of England, such as Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The only well known American lace industry was found in Ipswich, Massachusetts in the late 18th century¹³. "Lace making in Ipswich is perhaps the first women's industry in America" said Bonnie Hurd Smith, a former curator of the Ipswich Historical Society. The women were doing lace work while the men were at war, and many men were killed, so their widows needed to make money to support their families. The president of America, George Washington visited Ipswich in 1789 to support the area's extraordinary domestic textile industry, brought home a shawl for Martha¹⁴. American Lace experienced resurgence in the late 1960's and early 1970s in the form of Sweaters, vests, and loose Jackets.

LACE MAKING IN DARVEL (SCOTLAND):

In 1876 lace making was introduced to the Irvine Valley, and mills began to bounce up in Darvel and nearby Newmilns. The Irvine valley's products were exported throughout the world, India also providing a particular market for lace. But markets began to dry up in the early 1900s, and the "home-spun" policy promoted by Ghandi in India in the 1920s simply confirmed to decline of the industry. Lace is still made in Darvel, and locally made lace curtains hang in almost every door and window in the village¹⁵.

LACE MAKING IN SRI LANKA:

The lace making industry introduced and developed during the colonial era of Sri Lank has provided employment to a multitude of people throughout the centuries. By the early 16th century, the Portuguese introduced and developed the lace making industry. When it came to the mid 17th century, it was the Dutch colonist that continued the development of the lace making industry. However, the lace making art in the island still provides a significant contribution to certain communities. It has been recognized that the Magalle area of the district of Galle is the predominant place in which this particular industry is being carried on at substantial levels. In Sri Lank, Galle is famous for its lace making industry as it was the South Western portion of the island in which the lace making art first took form. They fight old age, poor market conditions and poverty to keep the lace craft going¹⁶. This place is not popular among Sri Lanka which leaves the lace makers dependent on the foreign and tourist market. Mass production and cheaper imports of machine made lace have pushed handmade lace out of local markers. Most of these women sell their lace to traders for a small amount of money. These traders resell the lace for three or four times the price they pay the makers who have no first hand entrée to the market¹⁷.

THE SPREAD OF LACE:

Since lace evolved from supplementary techniques, it is impossible to say that it originated in any one place, although the city whose name was first connected with lace is Venice. Venice was an important trading centre, it was there that the first known lace pattern books were printed (Le Pompe in the 1550s) and in the early years the city positively acted as a hub for the spread of lace knowledge. By 1600 high quality lace was being made in many centers across Europe beginning in Venice, Italy and spreading throughout including Flanders, Spain, France and England, women who were trained at other textile crafts seem to have picked up the new craft with relative ease. Crochet has come to be considered a traditional needlework technique in many parts of the world, notable traditions can be found in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, The Indian subcontinent, and western Asia. Travelling noblemen and intermarriage between royal families ensured that new fashion ideas were spread widely: lace was traded and smuggled across borders. The entrepreneurs and manufacturers of fashion were constantly seeking innovations to secure and extend their position in the market. This versatile and potentially rich craft has been practiced by both men and women in many counties, maybe the most ubiquitous item of crocheted clothing today is the kufi cap, often worn by Muslim men. Yet the crochet lace items from India, Pakistan, and Guatemala can be found in museum and private collections, non-European traditions of crochet would seem a promising area for future investigation.

THE GROWTH OF LACE MAKING:

There are a few parts of the world where handmade lace is still produced for sale, but increasingly through the 20th century lace making became a craft undertaken for pleasure and it had been left to individuals to preserve lace making skills. Since its formation of an educational charity, The Lace Guild has worked to encourage excellence in both the making and design of lace by holding exhibitions, workshops and an annual summer school it introduces lace makers and the general public to both exciting contemporary work and the best of traditional lace. Its headquarters, The Hollies in Sturbridge, is now home to a museum with over 15,000 lace items and lace related artifacts and a library with a comprehensive collection of lace books.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET:

In 1904, the Sybil Carter Indian Lace Association started to help ship and market lace made by women to East Coast consumers and provided a good source of income to American Indian women. Lace, made by Indian women, was awarded the Gold Medal in open competition at the Paris Exposition, 1900. In an attempt to build the French economy, Richelieu, the principal minister of Louis XIII of France imposed a duty on all imports and brought Italian lace-makers to France to teach local workers and overtime France became a leader in the field of lace-making. Along with other needlework techniques, crochet became accepted by fiber artists and international competitions began in the 1970s. In America the crochet Guild was founded in 1994 and seeks to promote and expand the art of crochet through fashion trends have resulted in a resurgence of crochet as a relaxing pastime and a technique to create accessories such as hats, scarves, shawls, and purses¹⁸.

MECHINE MADE LACE AND THE DECLINE OF HAND-MADE LACE:

The first machine made lace nets were made in the latter part of the 18th century, due to mechanized industry continued to develop, the handmade lace industry declined. As it true among other types of needlework, crochet flows in popularity until the initial growth in the 19th century, the practice of crochet declined in the early 20th century when machine-made lace overtook the market and women's garments became increasingly made ready to wear and in synthetic material with machine made trims. The industrial revolution in Britain brought with it a great change in lace making. The first machine lace was made towards the end of the 18th century, entrepreneurs made constant improvements to the machines, first producing patterned nets, and then increasingly complex designs, until by 1870 virtually every type of handmade lace had its machine made copy. The handmade lace industry had disappeared in England by 1900, although there were a number of small organizations (such as The North Bucks Lace Association) that supported handmade lace makers with patterns and an outlet for their work.

LACE CRAFT IN INDIA:

In India crochet lace has been practiced for the last 300 to 400 years. Dutch and Portuguese missionaries introduced it in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Goa. There are no specific castes or religious communities practicing this craft in India is predominantly done by women across households in India. Lace work is used as a needle with thread to make utilitarian items as bedspreads, pillow covers, curtains, waistcoats, frocks, skirts and dupattas. Lace work also made decorative items as telephone covers, tea cozy, mats for dressing table and wall hangings. Many of the social welfare organizations and Mahila Samajam's implemented lace and embroidery work as their main industrial activity under the community development program. Lace and embroidery work is primarily a craft practiced by the women folk but the southern part of the country is a major centre.

CROCHET LACE IN GUJARAT:

Jamnagar in Gujarat is considered the oldest center for crochet craft was practiced in India, where women have been involved in this craft since the time of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzab. The designs are primarily based on print motifs like boot, nosegay, flora, almond and date. The colour palette of crochet lace is dominated by black and brown with white and has an artistic appeal. The women make both decorative and

utility crochet lace items.

CROCHET AND LACE WORK IN GOA:

Needle work like crochet and lace knitting were introduced by the nuns of the Santa Monica Church and Convent in Old Goa in 1606. Lace was used to make liturgical vestments like stoles, and edgings for everyday wear and for ceremonial attire of women. International market has now created a market for crochet and lace products and many market cooperative societies and convents employ hundreds of women to make complex designs in Panaji. These are also sold at popular tourist places such as the Wednesday flea market at Anjuna beach and Saturday night market in Arpora. Still practiced across Goa the skill is now put to commercial use providing employment to many women and is sold in stores, at local markets and exported. Goa lace is here, as are colourful masks, the excellent shopping bags and table mats woven from sisal or banana, coconut or pineapple fiber.

CROCHET AND LACE INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NAIDU:

Lace making as an industry is not indigenous to India; it was introduced by Europeans into southern India. To achieve the freedom of females particularly the slave girls the Christian Missionaries started lace industry at Nagercoil in 1819. and was later extended to other stations. European ladies established schools and introduced lace making in Tinnevely, Vadakkankulam, Tuticorin, Edayankudi, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirapalli. The first girl's school of small industry gradually enlarged when greater facilities for disposing of the lace were secured that they might earn some money out of lace-making¹⁹. In course of time this industry became a major source of support to purchase their liberty. In Tirunelveli, southern Tamil Nadu, Sarah Tucker Female Training Institution (1861) played a vital role in women's training on lace making²⁰.

The Nagercoil industry regularly employed women in lace making and lace was dispatched to far off places like Calcutta, Poona, Coonoor and Trivandrum. In the year 1867, the demand for lace decreased considerably and the working expenses went higher than the gross income. Hence the earnings of the workers gradually decline to Rs. 1.50 per month²¹. In March 1899 at the Madras Exhibition Nagercoil industry gained prizes and certificates for their beautiful and fine needle-work and also the neat execution of the work helped the industry to receive an order from his Highness the Maharajah of Travancore for the Paris Exhibition. The industry received a letter of award "for the excellence of the work and the promptitude of its execution"²².

The period of 1 world War 1914-18 was a curse to world economy but proved a boon to the lace industry, but the year 1922, reported a falling off sales then in 1924 the Nagercoil Lace Industry had been difficult to keep the workers fully employed. In December 1929, the Viceroy Lord Irwin accompanied by Lady Irwin visited South Travancore princely state in British India. During the course of their visit the Nagercoil Lace Industry was greatly admired by them. The state exhibition included the work of Nagercoil Lace Industry; her Excellency was pleased to accept beautiful pieces of lace and embroidery²³. The work done by Nagercoil Industry in the year 1930 was highly satisfactory; then it continued to decline until 1933 on account of the war it experienced great difficulty in obtaining materials. Ikkadu lacework in Madras district is also an important industry.

Lace industrial school in south Travancore, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin (southern Tamil Nadu) and other places taught them to manufacture lace and in course of time they were able to sell their products and meet the demand they had received from foreign visitors²⁴. "The lace of Edayankudi School is gained distinction at the exhibition and commanding a ready sale and a good price. As a household industry, lace making spread rapidly among the villages through which some sections of the depressed class women got benefit²⁵. The Ursuline nuns from Belgium started a Lace School at Ranchi in 1905. The people, prefer to married women came from Ranchi town and its suburbs. The laces knitted by them are a great demand in Calcutta as well as in Europe. Thus the women could earn money instead of cutting and selling grass²⁶.

LACE WORK IN KERALA:

Christian missionary society started a girl's school in Kottayam in 1820, which was the first of its kind in

North Travancore (Princely state in British India). When more missionaries arrived, similar schools were started in Alleppey, Cochin, Tellicherry and other places for girls in 1839²⁷. Lace work was established both the centers in Trivandrum and Parassala in Kerala, a good amount of Industrial work, chiefly lace and embroidery, were carried out by women and girls²⁸.

The Malabar area lagged behind Travancore and Cochin with regard to English Education. In the 19th century, missionaries in central Kerala was first planned chiefly to give the pupils necessary domestic training, mainly comprised of needlework-embroidery, knitting, spinning, crocheting, lacework, and sewing in the schools. Lace making, Domestic science, etc, were not part of the earlier mode of learning it was brought in with missionary education. The government took up these subjects as being essential to the process of training women to be women²⁹. Lace making was considered to be more respectable than the traditional occupations of making jiggery or trading oil and other products from the palms that in Travancore³⁰. In Travancore, the missionaries promoted and popularized the lace and embroidery work in all centers as it required a small amount of raw materials and a low cost of production. The year 1898 an order for a number of beautiful specimens of lace including gold and silver was obtained for the Exhibition in the Museum at Trivandrum³¹. The commencement of lace work in South Travancore is a matter of historical significance and its origin takes one back to the beginning of the 19th century.

OTHER IMPORTANT CENTERS:

Delhi is located the great depot of the gold lace weaving. Lucknow is the major producer of lace formed from gold and silver wire. The artisans of Mumbai and Murshidabad are renowned for gold and silver lace making. In south gold and silver lace are made largely at Dindigul, Mysore, Bangalore, Visakhapatnam and other places.

LACE INDUSTRY IN ANDHRA PRADESH:

The Godavari Delta region in Andhra Pradesh is another important center where crochet has been practiced for the last 200 years. It is believed to have been introduced in the region by Mr. and Mrs. Macrae of Scotland in 1844, is popular for its flourishing crochet lace industry providing employment to women artisans of the region. United States first lady Michelle Obama's visited to National Handicrafts and Handloom Museum at Pragati Maidan, Delhi on 8th November 2010, and Crochet lace from Andhra Pradesh was one of the products to showcase their art before the world's most powerful man's better half³².

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