The values of craft: The Indian case

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Propositions

1) Our understanding of the economics of intangible cultural heritage is tainted by a reductionist view of instrumental values while intrinsic values get left out in the conversation.
2) Traditional skill sectors like crafts are affected by an inadequate understanding of the economics of intangible cultural heritage.
3) Economists assume that individuals act in a rational manner although they themselves might take irrational decisions in their daily lives.
4) Our world view is decided by our understanding of what is important to us.
5) The market and the government (and the logics thereof) have a limited role in our lives. The most important things in life are experienced in the oikos, social and cultural spheres.
6) We need goods other than public and private goods to enrich our lives.
7) Crafts are too important to be left for the markets to sort out and settle what gets produced for what price.
8) Crafts need to be understood in a historical context to appreciate its social and cultural embeddedness in order to appreciate its process of production and consumption.
9) A serious consideration of the Utopia of Gandhi, the message of Schumacher of small being beautiful and the value-based approach has the potential to generate a different development paradigm.
10) An Indian learns more about the importance of Indian culture while living in Rotterdam for a few years then living in India all his life.