



HANDLOOM SECTOR IN TELANGANA STATE: ISSUES AND POLICY CONCERNS

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Abstract

The significance of the handloom sector in India lies in the fact that it is a major employer next only to agriculture. The dependence of 16 millions weavers on this sector in the country is a clear evidence of its importance in terms of livelihood. Telangana is one of the important states in Handloom Industry. There are about 40,533 handloom weavers including ancillary workers. Around 16776 handloom looms are geo-tagged in Telangana district. Handloom Industry in the Telangana State involves special spot in the country for its select craftsmanship and curios of handloom weavers. Ethnic handloom plans of Telangana State advancing the social wonder of Indian legacy and culture. Henceforth assumes a fundamental part in the economy of the country. The article will focus on handloom industry in Telangana and issues facing by the weavers and policy concerns.

Key words: *Handloom, Employer, Telangana, Economy, Issues.*

Introduction

The significance of the handloom sector in India lies in the fact that it is a major employer next only to agriculture. The dependence of 16 millions weavers on this sector in the country is a clear evidence of its importance in terms of livelihood. The contribution of this sector to total cloth production in the country has been around 22 percent.

Handlooms are the second largest employment generating sector in the country, next only to agriculture. Around 31.45 lakh weavers' households and 68.86 lakh artisan households continue to make a living today, due to the support of a civil society which respects the importance of preserving India's traditional heritage. Handlooms and handicrafts are a source of livelihood for around 32 million people, a majority of them belonging to economically impoverished Backward Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Minorities.

Telangana is one of the important states in Handloom Industry. There are about 40,533 handloom weavers including ancillary workers. Around 16776 handloom looms are geo-tagged in Telangana district.

The Handloom business being a piece of the Indian culture and custom is one of the most settled house ventures in India diffused commonly all through the country. The handloom region is dispersed, decentralized, un-facilitated and natural based, accepting a critical part in the country's economy to the extent work and ware benefit. India produces 85% of the handlooms of the world. Handloom is a standard thing and its promoting is amazingly customary in nature. This region contributes nearby 15% of the texture creation in the country and besides contributes an incredible arrangement to the item obtaining of the country.

Handloom Industry in Telangana

Handloom Industry in the Telangana State involves special spot in the country for its select craftsmanship and curios of handloom weavers. Ethnic handloom plans of Telangana State advancing the social wonder of Indian legacy and culture. Henceforth assumes a fundamental part in the economy of the country. Creation in the handloom area recorded a figure of 6900 million sq. meters in



the year 2011-12, which is around 25% over the creation figure of 5493 million sq. meters recorded in the year 2003-04. As a monetary movement, handloom area involves a spot second just to farming as far as work. The area with around 23.77 lakh handlooms gives work to 43.31 lakh people of whom, 77.9 percent are ladies, and 28 percent have a place with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Handloom area contributes almost 15% of the material creation in the nation and furthermore adds to the commodity income as 95% of the world's hand-woven texture comes from India. Be that as it may, this area is confronted with different issues, for example, out of date innovation, disorderly creation framework, low usefulness, lacking working capital, traditional item range, and frail promoting joins. Further, handloom area has consistently been a frail contender against power loom and plant areas. Against this setting, the current work endeavors to make a top to bottom review into the life and hopelessness of handloom families.

Significance of the Study

The Handloom weavers of Nalgonda region of Telangana dealing with intense issues of critical destitution and under business. Larger part of them are battling for their endurance and some of them have ended it all too. Consequently this review is cantered around the scientific investigation of handloom weavers. Hence the specialist attempt made to concentrate on deductively the day to day environment of the weavers and the elements answerable for itself and recommended medicinal measures for advancing the circumstance.

Reviews of Literature

Nagaraj.G, KV.Rao, A study on the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers, IJRT, 2014. Handloom Industry in the Telangana State occupies unique place in the country for its exclusive art and artefacts of handloom weavers. Ethnic handloom designs of Telangana State promoting the cultural glory of Indian heritage and culture. Hence plays a vital role in the economy of the country. Sadanandam B, Socio-Economic Conditions Of Handloom Weaving Societies- A Case Study Of Warangal District International Journal in Management and Social science, issue 4, 2016.

Customary Indian handloom partakes in a worldwide standing just as immense requests in the nearby business sectors. Notwithstanding, the weavers face various difficulties which influence their vocation and generally speaking prosperity.

Balasubramanian.P. Socio Economic Condition Of Handloom Weavers: A Study With Special Reference to Handloom Weavers Co-Operative Society In Kannur District, International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics Volume 119, 2018.

Handloom sector is an important second position employer in the country after agriculture. More than 16 million weavers are living with the help of handloom. According to the census 2011 it is estimated 833 million people are currently lives in rural India. Now more than 35 million weavers and more than 150000 weaver's co-operative societies are build upon their dreams with the support of the handloom industry.

Rani andhya, Socio-Economic Profile of Handloom Weaving Community: A Case Study of Bargarh District, Odisha, 2015. Traditional Indian handloom enjoys a global reputation as well as huge demands in the local markets. However, the weavers face a number of challenges which affect their livelihood and overall wellbeing. The study aims to analyse the socio economic condition of the weavers and offer possible recommendations to mitigate their plight. The result of the study revealed that the weavers are facing a number of challenges like financial constraint, inability to purchase up-



to-date machineries, poor working condition, meagre remuneration and the absence of government support.

Rao Srinivas, Sudheer, Problems of Handloom Weavers in Andhra Pradesh: A Study of Krishna District, International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, Nov, 2016.

The handloom area in India is the biggest area close to horticulture. The handloom area in India today presents diverse and complex issues which are more convoluted taking into account its Socio-Economic Importance. It is the greatest house industry in India and there are around 48 lakhs of weavers a populace of 40 millions relies upon this industry Sivaram Suresh, Socio-Economic Conditions Of Handloom Weavers In Select Districts Of Telangana State, Ijmsrr, 2016.

The Handloom business being a piece of the Indian culture and custom is one of the most established house enterprises in India diffused generally all through the country. The handloom area is scattered, decentralized, un-coordinated and rustic based, assuming a significant part in the country's economy as far as work and commodity profit. India produces 85% of the handlooms of the world.

Organisational structures

1. Independent Weavers (Get raw material from traders and products sell to anyone).
2. Co-operative Weavers (Working for cooperative Society).
3. Master Weavers (Under Master weavers around 10-50 wage weavers works, raw materials get from Bangalore and sell to shops or can sell to direct to consumers by online or direct).
4. Wage Weavers (works for master weavers).

On the basis of the organizational structure and the relations of production, the handloom sector can be divided into the following sectors: i) Independent Weave, ii) Co-operative, and iii) Master-weaver sectors.

Independent Weavers

Independent weavers are those who produce cloth on their own, that is, they own the instruments of production, purchase raw materials from market and produce fabric with family labour and sell the products in the local market or to traders.

Co-operative Sector

The handloom co-operatives are a major segment accounting for a large proportion of weavers as members. The co-operatives that emerged as a mechanism for protecting the weavers from the dominant master-weavers and traders and recorded notable success in their objective have seen a decline since the 1980s. And, co-operative society will be given raw material to who are member in Society. Then, the co-operative society will be taken production from the weaver.

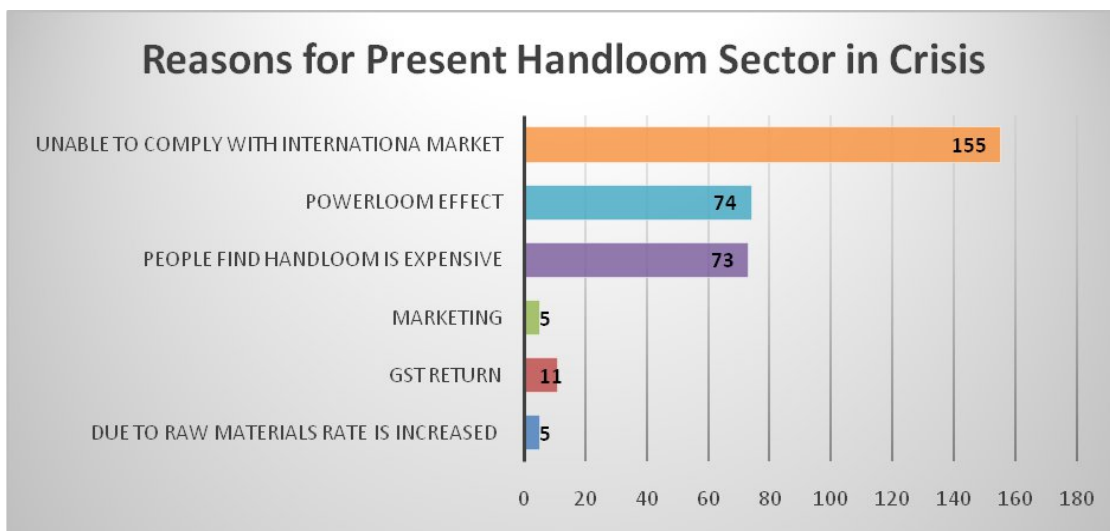
Master-Weaver Sector

In this system the master-weaver or the entrepreneur produces cloth by employing wage labour. Either he directly markets the product or sells it to traders. Here two kinds of production practices exist: i) put-out system and ii) Kharkhana system, the weaver works at his home on his own loom using the raw material supplied by the master-weaver for a piece rate wage. The entire family of the weaver is involved in the production process – with the adult members engaged in weaving and the aged and children helping in the preparation of accessories. In the kharkhana or shed-worker system, the weavers work on the looms provided by the master weavers under one roof.



Weavers Problems

1. Yarn rate is increased.
2. Weavers are shifting from the Handloom sector to another sector.
3. Low income levels/rates.
4. Impact on health and education.
5. Handlooms are getting decreased.
6. Market system is collapsed (raw material, finished product).
7. Economic crisis in Handloom sector.
8. Power loom sector is more effecting to the Handlooms.
9. Government schemes that are affectively using by the weavers.
10. Reasons for migration.
11. Skills required producing marketable products.
12. Functioning of cooperatives.



Source: Field data

Policies and Practices for Handlooms

The Indian government's policy on handlooms till recently had an obsession with employment generation at the expense of other objectives such as efficiency and growth. The overall policy on handlooms on the part of the Indian government had 4 instruments:

Focus on forming and strengthening weavers' co-operatives as part of a rather complex organizational structure that also included "apex bodies" at the state and central levels and is supposed to provide inputs and credit and marketing channels to weavers. Improve quality and productivity of fabrics (cloth) through handloom, imparting new skills, designs and technology to weavers. Provision of subsidies, including assured supply of cotton yarn and credit at subsidized rates; and other forms of protection including reservation of certain items for the handloom sector. Under the Hank Yarn Obligation Order of 1985, 50% of yarn production by spinning mills has to be in the form of hanks, for handlooms. Setting up of welfare schemes to help weavers improve their livelihood and working conditions.

The primary objective of the government's policy on handlooms since 1950 was the production of cloth for the masses in sufficient quantities and at reasonable prices. A range of varieties of cloth was



reserved for production in the handloom sector, especially controlled or “Janata” cloth (that is, cheap cloth for poor, rural households). Moreover, the mill sector was forbidden in 1956 or thereabouts to install new looms to increase their capacity. The Textile Policy of 1985 was a continuation of the earlier policies of protection to handlooms in the form of reservations and hank yarn obligations, while the Textile Policy of 2000 was much more of a departure. For instance it recommended that the least skilled weavers should be shifted to semi-automatic power looms, and that the Hank Yarn Obligation Order be reviewed.

Government subsidies and protective measures include reservation of 11 varieties of cloth for the handloom sector; subsidy for Janata cloth that ate up over 50% of the total allocation to the handloom sector in the early 1990s until it was disbanded in 1996.

Credit and marketing support by the government includes cash credit assistance at concessional rates to primary co-operatives and state-level apex bodies. Credit allocations across the states and districts are highly skewed and are based on very little verification of credit requirements. There is much evidence of bogus co-operatives that have cornered a large share of government credit.

Government modernisation schemes have included the promotion of frame looms and jacquard looms, training to weavers in new techniques. Several drawbacks with frame looms that weavers have identified themselves such as less flexibility, having to weave in worksheds as opposed to in the house, more physically difficult, and substantial additional investment expenses which weavers cannot afford.

Indian government welfare schemes for weavers.

For example the Handloom Development Centres Schemes introduced in 1993 and the Handloom Village Development Scheme, the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, and the Thrift-cum-Savings scheme. It is hard to differentiate one government scheme from another as their goals are vague and they lack clearly defined priorities. They also seem to be devised by New Delhi and implemented at the state level without much reference to regional specificities or requirements.

Conclusions

The significance of the handloom sector in India lies in the fact that it is a major employer next only to agriculture. The dependence of 16 millions weavers on this sector in the country is a clear evidence of its importance in terms of livelihood. Telangana is one of the important states in Handloom Industry. There are about 40,533 handloom weavers including ancillary workers. Around 16776 handloom looms are geo-tagged in Telangana district. Handloom Industry in the Telangana State involves special spot in the country for its select craftsmanship and curios of handloom weavers. Ethnic handloom plans of Telangana State advancing the social wonder of Indian legacy and culture. Henceforth assumes a fundamental part in the economy of the country. At present handloom industry in Telangana facing many problems, Government need to support the Industry.

Reference

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