



## PROBLEMS OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS IN ANDHRAPRADESH WITH REFERENCE TO CHITTOOR DISTRICT

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### **Introduction**

Andhra Pradesh (AP) has rich, multi various tradition which is reflected in its arts and crafts. Next to agriculture, handlooms occupy an important place. The AP handlooms keep the traditional craftsmanship associated with the cultural glory of the country. The handloom industry plays a vital role in meeting the clothing needs of the people of the state. It accounts for one third of cloth production in the nation. It provides employment to about 4 million people, besides; it indirectly generates employment to those who are engaged in pre-loom and post-loom activities. The handloom weaver serves the state for centuries and has acquired name by producing durable and quality products with attractive designs.

From times immemorial, AP handloom products which were bright, brilliant and be-witching, have found their way to West, Far East and won the hearts of the peoples, the world over. The creative urge of the Andhra weaver has found full expression in myriad forms in his cloth weaving. Inherited but un-rivaled skills and expert knowledge of color chemistry have all combined to make the Andhra weaver a marvelous artist. He produces fabrics which reflect not only the culture of the land but also merge with changing seasons, tastes and fashions almost everywhere. As a result of the interplay of historical, geographical and social forces, each region in the state has evolved over the decades its own pristine traditions in the growth of handloom industry

The handloom industry is facing several problems such as non-availability of adequate quantity of quality raw material, shortage of working capital, non-availability of marketing facilities, credit needs to handloom weavers in co-operative field, low capacity utilization due to not utilizing of new technology, failure of co-operative movement, facing stiff competition from organized mill and power loom sector in the area of marketing the handloom products and central and state government's low budget allocations and non utilized budgeted funds in a proper way. Majority of the weavers in the state are not financially sound because of the inadequate earnings from their profession. Many Primary Weavers' Cooperative Societies are defunct, Very few societies are earning profits and the other societies are eagerly waiting for a savior to lift them from the disastrous conditions.

The handloom industry plays substantial role in the economy of the country, yet the industry faces many operational problems. The main problems faced by the industry are shortage of raw material, lack of proper financial and marketing Facilities. These problems are discussed.

### **Objectives**

The specific objectives of study

1. To review the problems of weavers related to production, finance, marketing, housing and organizational
2. To evaluate the problems of weavers on the basis of views presented by the select weavers.

### **Sample Design**

The basis of the study is sample survey; the eclectic survey method has been used while drawing the samples. The Chittoor district has been divided into three divisions basing on concentration of weaving households: SriKalahasti, Madanapalle and Puttur. In each division, two mandals were chosen where weaving is concentrated. They are SriKalahasti, Varadhaiahpalem, Madanapalle, Kalakada, Narayanavaram and Satyavedu. The villages were selected by stratified random sampling with proportional allocation technique. The universe of weaver households has been divided into independent, master, weavers under middlemen, cooperative and labor weavers. The total number of sample weavers for all the classes is limited to 300. Ultimately, the sample was divided into 51 independent weavers, 22 master weavers, 78 weavers under middlemen, 43 cooperative weavers and 106 labor weavers.



## Tools of Analysis

Suitable and appropriate statistical tools and mathematical devices like percentages, and chi-square test were employed while tabulating, analyzing and interpreting the data.

## 1. Production

### 1.1 Yarn Supply

Table 1.1 presents the data relating to the problems faced by the weavers in the procurement of the raw materials. As far as the independent weavers are concerned i.e., 47.06 per cent of them faced the problem of higher prices followed by 25.49 per cent of weavers who faced the problems of inadequate supply, whereas 11.77 per cent of the respondents faced a lot of competition while procuring the required raw material, 5 per cent of the respondents get poor quality of raw material and mal practice. In the case of master weavers, 40.91 cent faced the problem of high prices followed by the problem of competition faced by 27.27 per cent of master weavers. The problem of inadequate supply was faced 13.64 per cent of the master weavers and 9.09 per cent of the master weaver's problem of untimely supply and poor quality of raw material.

In the case of under middlemen category of weavers, inadequate supply, untimely supply, high prices and poor quality were the main problems faced by the weavers (41.03, 25.64 and 16.67, and 6.41, respectively). The cooperative weavers mainly faced the problems of inadequate supply (55.81%), high price (16.28) and malpractice (13.95). The same in the case of all the sample weavers. Majority of them i.e 37.11 percent of the weavers faced inadequate supply followed by 27.32 per cent who faced the problem of the higher prices, 13.92 per cent of the total weavers do not get raw material when they want. It from the application of chi-square test that there is significant association between problems relating to procurement of raw material and type of the weavers. The corresponding chi-square statistic is highly significant at 5 per cent level and is given by 62.37. It can be seen from the table that higher prices, inadequate supply and untimely supply of yarn are the main problems.

**Table 1.1: Problems Relating to the Yarn**

Particulars	Independent Weavers	Master Weavers	Weavers Under Middlemen	Cooperative Weavers	Toatal
Competition	6(11.77)	6(27.27)	3(3.85)	--	15(7.73)
High Price	24(47.06)	9(40.91)	13(16.67)	7(16.28)	53(27.32)
Inadequate Supply	13(25.49)	3(13.64)	32(41.03)	24(55.81)	72(37.11)
Untimely Supply	1(1.97)	2(9.09)	20(25.64)	4(9.30)	27(13.91)
Poor Quality	3(5.88)	2(9.09)	5(6.41)	1(2.33)	11(5.67)
Storage	1(1.97)	----	2(2.56)	1(2.33)	4(2.06)
Malpractice	3(5.88)	----	3(3.85)	6(13.95)	12(6.19)
Total	51(100.00)	22(100.00)	78(100.00)	43(100.00)	194(100.00)
Calculated value of $\chi^2$	62.37				

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey

### 1.2 Input other than yarn

Other inputs in the handloom industry are dyes and chemicals. The bulk of the requirements of dyes and chemicals are available from indigenous production. But this has not been well matching up to the demand, hence, is the shortage of chemicals and dyes. So, imports are still required. As far as imports are concerned suitable provisions have already been made in the policy in which import of dyes was permitted. The prices of the dyes and chemicals have also gone up by 40 to 60 per cent. Zari, vat colors, acid colors, naphthyl are being exported freely to other countries. Hence, in our country they are sold at higher prices. The weavers' problems relating to inputs other than yarn are presented in Table 1.2. The labour weavers do not figure in the table as they



are not concerned with the purchase of raw material. Among the remaining 194 sample weavers, majority of them 36.08 encounter the problem of untimely supply followed by high price 29.38 and inadequate supply 22.68 poor quality of raw material 11.86.

Other than yarn is also the problem and it is faced by the sample weavers. The independent and master weavers bear greater burden than other weavers because they are responsible for purchasing and supplying inputs. For these weavers, high prices are the main problem followed by untimely supply, inadequate supply, and poor quality of inputs. The weavers under middlemen get inputs from the middlemen, or they will be asked to purchase from the open market. As such the UN time supply is the main problem faced by the weavers 47.44 high prices, inadequate supply and poor quality are the other problems. Cooperative weavers usually get finished yarn from the societies. That is why, ultimately supply is the major problem faced by the weavers 76.74% followed by inadequate supply and poor quality. The table reveals that high prices untimely supply and inadequate supply are the main problems faced by weavers with regard to inputs other than yarn.

**Table 1.2: Problems Relating to Inputs other than Yarn**

Particulars	Independent Weavers	Master Weavers	Weavers under middlemen	Cooperative Weavers	Total
High Price	25(49.02)	11(50.00)	21(26.92)	----	57(29.38)
Inadequate Supply	17(33.33)	6(27.27)	14(17.95)	7(16.28)	44(22.68)
Untimely Supply	--	--	37(47.44)	33(76.74)	70(36.08)
Poor Quality	9(17.65)	5(22.73)	6(7.69)	3(6.98)	23(11.86)
Total	51(100.00)	22(100.00)	78(100.00)	43(100.00)	194(100.00)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.

### 1.3 Low levels of Production

It was observed from the enquiry, that most of the weavers were not able to produce cloth to the expected levels production. Any shortfall from the expected level would indicate under the production or a kind of forced idle capacity of handlooms. The weavers expressed many reasons for not realizing expected levels of production. Table 1.3 shows the reasons for below expectation levels of production. Shortage of raw material was the main reason for not realizing expected levels of production. Out of 194 weavers, 68 weavers forming 35.05 per cent come in this category.

**Table 1.3: Reasons for lower Levels of Production**

Particulars	Independent Weavers	Mater Weavers	Weavers Under Middlemen	Cooperative Weavers	Total
Lack of Skilled Labour	4(7.84)	10(45.46)	--	--	14(7.22)
Lack of Demand	5(9.80)	--	16(20.51)	5(11.63)	26(13.40)
Shortage of raw Material	17(33.33)	3(13.64)	24(30.77)	24(55.81)	68(35.05)
Inadequate Working capital	12(23.53)	--	--	--	12(6.19)
Power Shortage	4(7.84)	3(13.64)	19(24.36)	5(11.63)	31(15.98)
Rains	6(11.77)	6(27.27)	12(15.39)	7(16.28)	31(15.98)
Health Problem	3(5.88)	--	7(8.97)	2(4.65)	12(6.19)
Total	51(100.00)	22(100.00)	78(100.00)	43(100.00)	194(100.00)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.



Power shortage, rains, and lack of demand were the other reasons reported by the weavers (15.98%, 15.98% and 13.40%). Shortage of raw material was the main reason in the case of independent weavers (33.33%), weavers under middlemen (30.77%) and cooperative weavers (55.81%).

But in the case of master weaver's lack of skilled labour was the main reason (45.46%) for not achieving the expected levels of production. For the independent weavers, inadequacy of working capital is another reason for the under production followed by rains, lack of demand and lack of skill labour. In the case of master weavers, apart from lack of skilled labour, rains are the main cause for the lower levels of production as they have to depend upon the labour weavers for weaving. Shortage of raw material and power shortage are another equally important reasons for lower levels of production. For most of the weavers under middlemen shortage of raw material, shortage of power, lack of demand and rains are the main reasons for lower levels of production. In the case of cooperative weavers shortage of raw material is not only the main but also major reason for lower levels of production.

## 2. Finance

The handloom weavers face the problem of getting institutional finance. It is evident that, out of 300 sample weavers 124 (41.33) are getting institutional finance and remaining 176 (58.67) are getting their loans or finance through money lenders, master weavers, friends and relatives and cooperative society. Even in getting institutional finance the weavers face many types of problems, important among these are lack of collateral security, delay in sanction and inadequacy. Very few weavers expressed the lack of awareness regarding institutional finance. About half of the independent weavers face the problem of delay in sanction and inadequacy of loans.

**Table 2.1: Financial Problems of Weavers**

Type of Weavers	Lack of Awareness	Delay in Sanction	Inadequate	Lack of Security	Others
Independent Weavers	4(7.84)	26(50.98)	25(49.02)	19(37.26)	10(19.61)
Master Weavers	--	9(40.91)	8(36.36)	--	6(27.27)
Weavers under Middlemen	9(11.54)	41(52.56)	44(56.41)	54(69.23)	16(20.51)
Cooperative Weavers	2(4.65)	38(88.37)	21(48.84)	23(53.49)	10(23.26)
Labour Weavers	34(32.08)	57(53.77)	28(26.42)	87(82.08)	33(31.13)

**Note:** Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total each category of weavers.

**Source:** Sample survey.

A little more than one third independent weavers do not have security against which they can get loans. As presented in Table 2.1 most of the master Weavers (40.91%) stated delay in sanction as the main problem, whereas 36.36 percent complained about the inadequacy of loan. Majority of the weavers under middlemen (69.23%) stated that the lack of security followed by inadequacy (56.41%) and delay in sanction (52.56) are the main problems regarding finance. Cooperative weavers also face many problems with regard to finance, their main problems are delay in sanction (88.37), lack of security (53.49) and inadequacy (48.84) the main problem of labour weavers is the lack of security (82.08) and the delay in sanction (53.77). Compared to other weavers, more number of labour weavers revealed lack of awareness. Regarding finance the weavers face other problems like corruption of middlemen, lack of proper response. Labour weavers face these problems more than other weavers.

## 3. Marketing

The problem of marketing handloom products in Chittoor district needs a careful study since marketing is a vital factor for the survival and growth of the industry. Marketing organization, exploitation of markets and strategic options for marketing of handloom cloth has been observed.



### 3.1 Competition

Like in the other industrial products, weavers are also facing competition in marketing their goods. The primary competition for their product is from mill-made cloth and power loom cloth; it is presented in Table 3.1. The table does not show weavers under middlemen and the labour weavers because they are not concerned with marketing and competition as such. For other weavers the competition is mainly to cotton and polyester sarees, dhotis, lungies, pattimarpu and handkerchiefs. Power looms and the mills are the main competitors for the Weavers. Among the total weavers 54.31 per cent face the competition from power looms and 23.28 per cent from the mills 22.41 per cent of the weavers do not face competition as their main product is silk sarees which are exclusively handloom clothes.

**Table 3.1: Nature of Competition for the Handloom Products**

Type of Weavers	Items	Mills	Power looms	No Competition	Total
Independent Weavers	Cotton, Polyester Sarees, Dhotis, Lungies, Pattimarpu Handkerchief	12 (23.53)	23 (45.10)	16 (31.37)	51 (100.00)
Master Weavers	Cotton, Polyester Sarees, Lungies, Handkerchief	5 (22.73)	13 (59.09)	4 (18.18))	22 (100.00)
Cooperative Weavers	Cotton sarees, Dhoties, Lungies, Handkerchief	10 (23.26)	27 (62.79)	6 (13.95)	43 (100.00)
Total		27(23.28)	63(54.31)	26(22.41)	116(100.00)
Calculated value Of <sup>2</sup>	4.84				

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.

Cooperative weavers are the main affected group as their cotton products face stiff competition from power looms 62.79 and mills (23.26), whereas only 13.95 per cent weavers do not face competition. Independent weavers are less affected by competition, as 45.10 per cent and 23.53 percent face competition from power looms and mills respectively, whereas 31.37 do not face competition at all. The figures for master weavers with regard to competition from power looms and mills are 59.09 per cent and 22.73 per cent respectively. It is inferred from the application of chi-square test. That there is no significant association between type of weavers and the question of facing of the competition. The chi-square statistic value is not significant at 5 percent level and it is given by 4.84. It can be observed from the table that most of the weavers are facing competition for their products mainly from power looms.

### 3.2 Price

Majority of the weavers are not getting reasonable price for their product. The causes for not getting their reasonable price are depicted in table 3.2. There are 44 weavers who are not getting reasonable price. Among them mostly are Independent weavers, due to lack of working capital 34.29 for holding stocks until the weavers get reasonable price. When weavers do not have working capital, for storage they are forced to sell their product without waiting for profitable price and as soon as production is over. Some of the weavers do not get reasonable price due to the high yarn price, 31.43 high labour charges 11.43 and low market prices 22.86 of marketing goods. The master weavers do not get reasonable price mainly because of high prices of yarn 55.56 and low market price of the product (33.33%). It can be observed that the weavers are not able to secure profitable price mainly lack of working capital and high yarn prices.



**Table 3.2: Reasons for Not Securing Profitable Price**

Particulars	Independent	Master Weavers	Total
Lack of working Capital	12(34.29)	---	12(27.27)
High yarn Prices	11(31.43)	5(55.56)	16(36.36)
More Labour Charges	4(11.43)	1(11.11)	5(11.36)
Low Market Price	8(22.86)	3(33.33)	11(25.00)
Total	35(100.00)	9(100.00)	44(100.00)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.

### 3.3 Middlemen

The weavers face problems with the middlemen both in acquiring raw materials and in selling the cloth also. These problems relate to payment, supply of raw materials and low margin. It is shown in Table 3.3 that late payment forms the problem with highest per cent of weavers (56.98) followed by low margin 22.09 and irregular supply of raw materials 20.93 among different types of weavers. Independent weavers face problems like low margin and irregular supply where as the cooperative weavers face the problem of late payment and irregular supply of raw materials. The main problems of master weavers are low margin and irregular supply of raw materials.

**Table 3.3: Problems with Middlemen**

Particulars	Independent Weavers	Master Weavers	Cooperative Weavers	Total
Late Payment	12 ( 13.95)	2(2.33)	35(40.70)	49(56.98)
Irregular Supply of yarn	13(15.12)	3(13.49)	2(2.32)	18(20.93)
Low Margin	15(17.44)	4(4.65)	--	19(22.09)
Total	40(46.51)	9(10.47)	37(43.02)	86(100)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.

### 3.4 Profitability

The weaving industry may be profitable to some weavers whereas some weavers may get losses due to several reasons. Whether the unit is profitable or not was a question posed to the respondents at the time of interview. The information with regard to the profitability is presented in Table 3.4. Out of total 194 weavers, 79 respondents representing 40.72 per cent are getting adequate profits; the remaining 115 Respondents representing 59.28 per cent are not getting adequate profits. As it can be seen from the table that majority of the weavers except master weavers are not getting adequate profits in weaving activity. It is observed from the application of  $\chi^2$  test that is significant association between the type of weavers and profitability of the weavers. The corresponding chi square value is highly significant at 5 % level and is given by 30.20.

**Table 3.4: Profitable and Income of the Units**

Type of the Weavers	Adequate	Independent	Total
Independent	23 (45.10)	28 (54.90)	51 (100.00)
Master Weavers	19 (86.36)	3(13.64)	22(100.00)
Weavers Under Middlemen	30(38.46)	48(61.54)	78(100.00)
Cooperative Weavers	7(16.28)	36(83.72)	43(100.00)
Total	79(40.72)	115(59.28)	194(100.00)
Calculated value of $\chi^2$	30.20		

**Note** : "Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.



The standard of living depends upon the income. Unless they get the required income in their profession they cannot lead minimum standard of living. According to our sample study out of 300 total respondents, 102 respondents representing 34 per cent have accepted that they increased standard of living, by the income which they.

**Table 3.5 Weaving and Changes in the Standard of Living**

Category of Weavers	Improved	Not Improved	Total
Independent Weavers	25 (49.02)	26(50.98)	51(100.00)
Master Weavers	22(100.00)	--	22(100.00)
Weavers Under middlemen	23(29.49)	55(70.51)	78(100.00)
Cooperative Weavers	14(32.56)	29(67.44)	43(100.00)
Labour Weavers	18(16.98)	88(83.02)	106(100.00)
Total	102(34.00)	198(66.00)	300(100.00)
Calculated value of $\chi^2$	62.26		

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey

Are getting through weaving activity, whereas 198 weavers representing 66 per cent of the weavers did not accept that their standard of living has increased through the income from the weaving activity as presented in Table3.5. The weaving activity has benefited all the master weavers and more number of independent weavers than other weavers in improving their standard of living. Most of the labour weavers under middlemen category and cooperative weavers are not benefited from weaving activity in terms of improvement in the standard of living. From the application of chi-square test it is observed that there is significant association between type of weavers and improvement in the standard of living. The corresponding chi-square value is highly significant at 5 per cent level and is given by 62.26.

#### 4. Housing

One of the main problems faced by the weavers except master weavers, is the lack of proper and adequate housing facilities. This has a bearing not only on the standard of living but also on the performance of the weavers in respect of levels of production facilities for the weavers. The housing facilities are inadequate more for about 69 per cent of the total weavers.

**Table 4.1: Housing facility of the Weavers**

Type of Weavers	Adequate	Inadequate	Total
Independent Weavers	30(58.82)	21(41.18)	51(100.00)
Master Weavers	22(100.00)	--	22(100.00)
Weavers Under Middlemen	18(23.08)	60(76.92)	78(100.00)
Cooperative Weavers	7(16.28)	36(83.72)	43(100.00)
Labour Weavers	15(14.15)	91(85.85)	106(100.00)
Total	92(30.67)	208(69.33)	300(100.00)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses

**Source:** Sample survey.

Only the master weavers have adequate housing facilities. Majority of the weavers under middlemen 76.92 cooperative weavers 83.72 and labour weavers 85.85 have complained about inadequate housing facility, whereas only 41.18 per cent of independent weavers did the same. Apart from master weavers, it is the independent weavers who have better and adequate housing facilities than others.



## 5. Organizational problems

The weavers face some organizational problems also. These problems relate to membership provision of work and the functioning of the cooperative society. Table 5.1 deals with the membership of the weavers in the cooperative society. Out of the total sample weavers only 43 weavers 14.33% are the members of society at present, whereas 153 weavers 51.00 were members in the past and 104 weavers (34.67) are not members at all. The present membership forms 11 to 28 per cent only in different manuals. But the members in the past are more in Varadhaiahpalem, Narayanavanam, Satyavedu and Kalakada mandals. The non-members constitute greater percentage in Sri Kalahasti and Madanapalle. Varadhaiahpalem has greater percentage of past membership and non-members form the least percentage compared other Mandals. Sri Kalaahsthi mandal has the least percentage of present Membership, whereas Varadhaiahpalem mandal has the greatest percentage of past members. Sri Kalahasti mandal has the lowest percentage of past members and Highest percentage of non-members. Varadhaiahpalem has the lowest percentage of non-members. It can be seen from the table 5.1 that the present membership of the weavers in the cooperative societies is only smaller percentage than in the past indicating the decreasing interest in the society.

**Table 5.1: Member of Weavers in Primary Co-operative Society**

Name of the Mandal	Present	Past	Never	Total
Sri Kalahasthi	9(11.84)	22(28.95)	45(59.21)	76(100.00)
Varahaiahpalem	8(14.29)	34(60.71)	14(25.00)	56(100.00)
Madanapalle	8(14.04)	21(36.84)	28(49.12)	57(100.00)
Kalakada	4(28.57)	6(42.86)	4(28.57)	14(100.00)
Narayanavanam	7(12.96)	25(46.30)	22(40.74)	54(100.00)
Satyavedu	7(16.28)	21(48.84)	15(34.88)	43(100.00)
Total	43(14.33)	153(51.00)	104(34.67)	300(100.00)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.

The weavers generally look for the society to provide them with work and adequate supplies of yarn which only would ensure their continuous work. Table 5.2 relates to the provision of continuous work by the society. Out of the total cooperative weavers, only 11.63 per cent of the weavers reported that the societies are providing continuous work through supply of yarn. Out of 43 members of the cooperatives almost 88 per cent feel that the cooperatives have let them down by not providing them with adequate supply of yarn. Out of the weavers for whom the societies are unable to provide yarn and continuous work, Madanapalle has the highest percentage 21.05 followed by the mandals of Sri Kalahasti, Varadhaiahpalem and Satyavedu. In total, as it can be observed from the table, the cooperative societies have not been providing adequate supply of yarn.

**Table 5.2: Provision of Yarn to Members of Cooperative Society**

Name of the Mandal	Adequate	inadequate	Total
SriKalahasti	2(40.00)	7(18.42)	9(20.93)
Varadhaiahpalem	1(20.00)	7(18.42)	8(18.61)
Madanapalle	---	8(21.05)	8(18.61)
Kalakada	---	4(10.53)	4(9.30)
Narayanavanam	2(40.00)	5(13.16)	7(16.28)
Satyavedu	---	7(18.42)	7(16.28)
Total	5(11.63)	38(88.37)	43(100.00)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.





**Table 5.3: Functioning of Cooperative Societies**

Name of the Mandal	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory	Total
Sri Kalahasti	2(4.65)	7(16.28)	9(20.93)
Varadhaiahpalem	1(2.33)	7(16.28)	8(18.61)
Madanapalte	1(2.33)	7(16.28)	8(18.61)
Kalakada	---	4(9.30)	4(9.30)
Narayanavanam	4(9.30)	3(6.98)	7(16.28)
Satyavedu	---	7(16.28)	7(16.28)
Total	8(18.60)	35(81.40)	43(100.00)

**Note** : Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage to total.

**Source** : Sample survey.

The weavers differ in their views regarding the functioning of societies. The differing views of the weavers are presented in the Table 5.3. Out of total weavers only 18.60 per cent have expressed satisfaction with the functioning of societies. That means majority of the weavers are not satisfactory with the functioning of the societies. In the mandals of kalakada and Saytavedu none of the Weavers has expressed satisfaction with the functioning of societies.

### Conclusion

The handloom industry has been an integral part of an industrial, social and cultural system. It should not be reduced to the level of a mere vestige of our historical past, as it may happen if the industry is left to face rough weather situation through competition from the mills and the power looms on the one hand, and the multifarious problems faced by the weaver-hero of the industry. The handloom industry can be given fair weather treatment by the Government through series of steps, measures and programmes which include strict reservation of viable items to the handloom sector, providing necessary infrastructure for the handloom industry, supply of raw materials in appropriate time at reasonable price, providing necessary capital, and strengthening marketing structure for the handloom products. Above all what is needed is a right approach to the industry from the view point of its place in the economy, its role towards to the weaver sections without any other skills, and its significance in the labor surplus economy. The handloom industry forms both warp and weft of cultural fabric of India. Co operativisation of the weavers will strengthen the handloom industry and thereby save the Indian masses from poverty and unemployment.

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