

Socio-Economic status of Handloom Weavers working under Cooperative sector in Nalgonda District of Telangana State

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Abstract: India's handloom industry has a long tradition of craftsmanship that is exquisite and incomparable. Compared to other countries in the world, it has a diverse and rich textile tradition, a wide range of textiles of varied designs, produced by various techniques. The specialty in the weave of the textiles in each region is developed based on location, climate and cultural influences. The weaves are often colourful, and fabrics are frequently worked over with incredibly intricate embroidery. The objective of this paper is to analyse the current state of the handloom industry in Telangana state, understand its contribution to the economy, and identify issues and challenges concerning their socio-economic sustainability and outline measures needed for strengthening and promoting the handloom industry globally.

Keywords: Craftsmanship, Handloom weaver, Socio-Economic, Sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

The handloom industry is predominantly a household-based industry in which the entire family contributes labour. The handloom industry is important to the country's economy. The Indian textile industry is divided into two categories: composite mills, which combine spinning and weaving under one roof, and decentralized mills, which include handlooms and power looms.

Handloom is a distributed, decentralised, unorganised, rural-based industry that contributes significantly to the country's economy in terms of employment and export earnings. India produces 85 percent of the world's handlooms. Handloom is a traditional product with a rather traditional marketing strategy. This sector accounts for roughly 15% of the country's fabric production and makes a major contribution to the country's export earnings. India produces 95 percent of the world's handwoven cloth.

The handloom industry occupies a unique role in our economy. It has survived thanks to skills passed on from generation to generation. The sector's strength stems from its uniqueness, production versatility, and openness to new concepts, adaptability to supplier requirements, and a long history. New techniques and economic liberalisation, on the other hand, have made major inroads into the handloom market. The handloom sector has been challenged by competition from power looms and mills, as well as the availability of cheaper imported fabrics, shifting customer tastes, and alternative employment opportunities.

After independence, the Indian government has followed a policy of supporting and encouraging the handloom sector through a variety of programmes and schemes. The handloom sector has shown positive growth and weavers' income levels have improved to some degree as a result of various policy initiatives and scheme interventions such as cluster approach, aggressive marketing campaign, and social welfare measures. Handloom fabric development has been very impressive, with growth rates of 6% to 7% at the start of the 11th Plan.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

After agriculture, handloom weaving is one of the country's most important economic activities. Inefficient product management and an inadequate product mix are the industry's key concerns. Mill made and power loom fabric is placing a lot of pressure on handloom goods. The value of product mix attributes in the full marketing phase of connecting the product with the ultimate customers cannot be overstated. Unlike other industries, the handloom industry is unable to successfully market its goods. Another serious problem facing handlooms in various areas is competition from power looms, and another limitation of the handloom industry is its unorganised existence.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The aim of this analysis was to investigate the socioeconomic factors of a sample of handloom weavers in Nalgonda district of Telangana.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The analysis is solely analytical. The analysis is focused on both primary and secondary sources of knowledge. The primary data was obtained by interviewing respondents in the Nalgonda district of Telangana State using an interview plan. The sample size is 225 participants. For the purpose of choosing the survey respondents, the convenience sampling procedure was used. Secondary data was obtained from a number of sources, including books, journals, reports, and websites.

Age group of the respondents

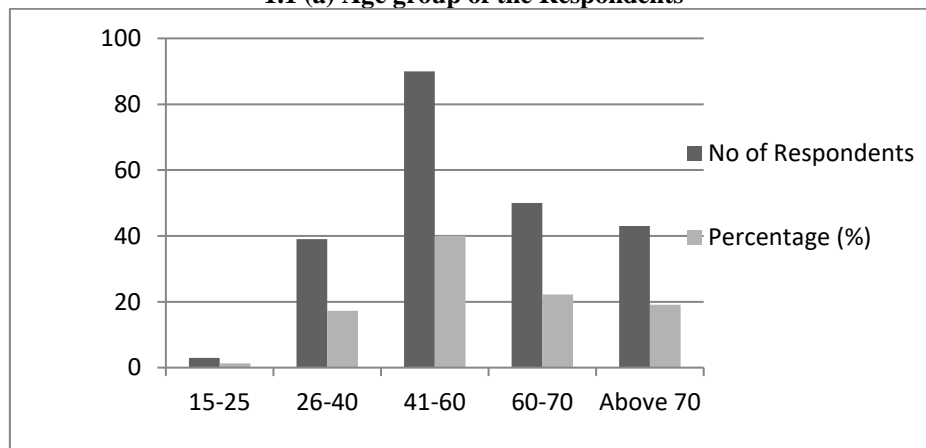
Age is one of the most significant social factors that affect a country's social, economic, and demographic condition. In the life span of a human being, age is an acquired trait. Age defines one's role in a family, community, or group, as well as one's ability to pursue certain tasks and accomplish certain goals during one's life. The young age distribution of a nation suggests that the country's population is increasing at a faster pace.

Table 1.1
Age group of the respondents

Age	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
15-25	3	1.3
26-40	39	17.3
41-60	90	40.0
60-70	50	22.2
Above 70	43	19.1
Total	225	100.0

Source: Primary Data

1.1 (a) Age group of the Respondents



Source: Primary Data

Table 1.1 indicates the Respondent's Frequency and Percentage depending on their Age. The majority of weavers (40%) are between the ages of 41 and 60, and the majority of weavers (70%) are between the ages of 41 and 70 (81.3 Percent). For those under the age of 40 are considered (18.6 percent). It means that the younger generation is not adequately encouraged. Weavers are leaving the trade due to a lack of creativity, poor profitability, and survival concerns.

Gender-Wise Sample Respondents

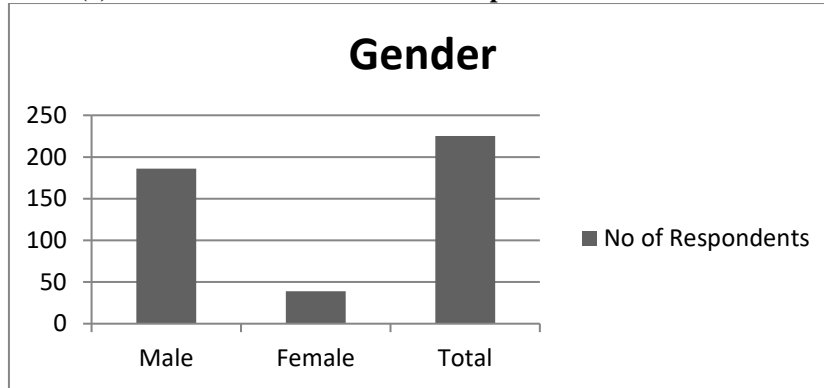
Another significant social factor among handloom weavers is gender. Male and female demographic distribution patterns have an effect on their relative and economic relationships. Weaving is one of the practises in which women will actively participate. The presence of males dominates the gender allocation of handloom workers in this sample.

Table 1.2 Gender proportionate of Co-operative Handloom weavers

Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	186	82.7
Female	39	17.3
Total	225	100.0

Source: Primary Data

1.2 (a) Gender wise distribution of Co-operative Handloom weavers



Source: Primary Data

Table 1.2 shows the Frequency and Percentage of the Respondent according to their Gender. Majority out of 225, 186 (82.9%) are Male and 39 (17.3%) are Female. Most of the respondents are Males.

Educational Background of Sample Respondent Weavers

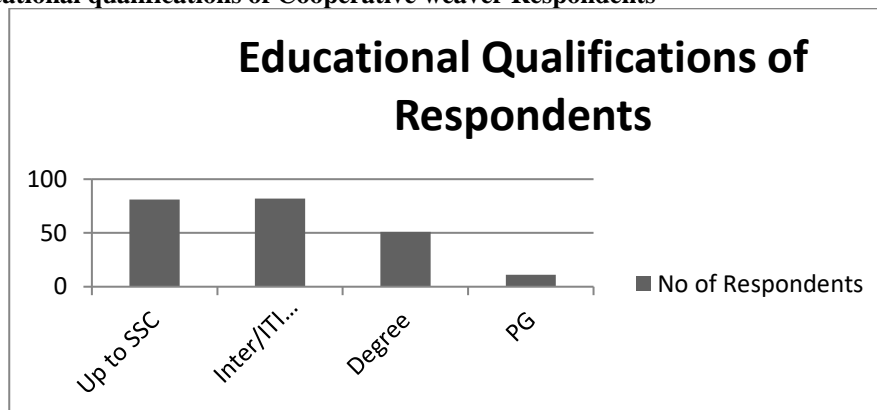
Literacy is a critical social variable that has an effect on a country's social and economic growth. Education is known as a man's inner capacity that directs him on a continuous basis at different stages. Education is a mechanism that has an effect on the intellect, character, and moral power, as well as playing an important part in human progress.

Table 1.3 Educational qualifications of Cooperative weaver Respondents

Educational Qualification	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Up to SSC	81	36.0
Inter/ITI/Diploma	82	36.4
Degree	51	22.7
PG	11	4.9
Total	225	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Educational qualifications of Cooperative weaver Respondents



Source: Primary Data

Table 1.3 shows the frequency and percentage of the respondents according to their Educational Qualification. Out of 225 samples, Majority of the weavers' Educational level is SSC to Inter 36.4% (82), Basic education up to SSC also showing majority educational level among weavers, Graduation 22.7% (51), Post graduation 4.9% (11). In this analysis 100% weavers are literate.

TYPE OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS FAMILY

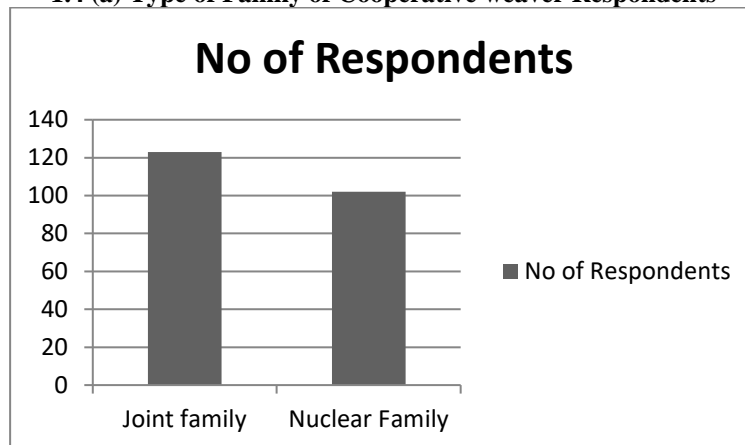
In India, families are divided into three categories: nuclear, joint, and extended joint. Joint families and extended joint families are more common in society, according to tradition. The nuclear family structure, on the other hand, is very common in today's culture and is mostly seen in metropolitan areas. Slowly, this pattern is expanding to rural areas as well. In the analysis of social circumstances in any group of respondents, the form of family is a significant factor. The common model has turned out to be nuclear households. Similarly, the respondents are in the same boat. 54.7 percent of respondents are organised as nuclear households, leaving the aged without treatment and advice. Since weaving is a collective practise, the respondents in the research region claimed that joint families receive more than nuclear families.

Table 1.4 Type of Family of Cooperative weaver Respondents

Type of family	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Joint family	123	54.7
Nuclear Family	102	45.3
Total	225	100.0

Source: Primary Data

1.4 (a) Type of Family of Cooperative weaver Respondents



Source: Primary Data

Table 1.4 shows the frequency and percentage of the respondents according to their family type. Out of 225 samples, Majority of the weaver's families are joint families. Which are 54.7 % (123), whereas Nuclear families are also proportionately near equal to the joint families, which holds 45.3% (102) of the total sample.

Economic life style factors of Cooperative weaver Respondents

Consumption is takes away substantial portion of one's income. Consumption expenditure incurred by the sellers on items like food, clothing, entertainment, electricity, electronic gadgets, drinking water, transport and other equipments. It has a major role in determining the economic standard of living of the handloom weavers.

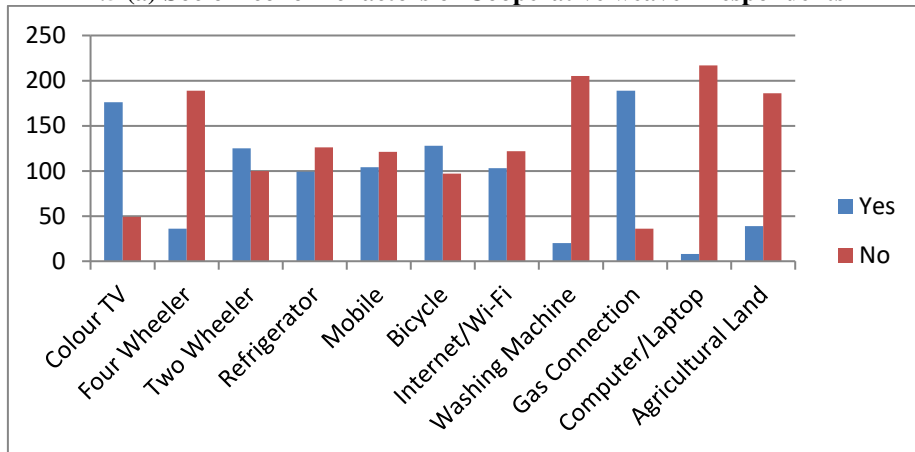
Table 1.5 Socio-Economic factors of Cooperative weaver Respondents

Socio-Economic Factors	Yes		No		Total
	No of Respondents	(%)	No of Respondents	(%)	
Colour TV	176	78.2%	49	21.8%	225
Four Wheeler	36	16.0%	189	84.0%	225
Two Wheeler	125	55.6%	100	44.4%	225
Refrigerator	99	44.0%	126	56.0%	225
Mobile	104	46.2%	121	53.8%	225
Bicycle	128	56.9%	97	43.1%	225
Internet/Wi-Fi	103	45.8%	122	54.2%	225

Washing Machine	20	8.88%	205	91.1%	225
Gas Connection	189	84.0%	36	16.0%	225
Computer/Laptop	8	3.5%	217	96.5%	225
Agricultural Land	39	17.3%	186	82.7%	225

Source: Primary Data

1.5 (a) Socio-Economic factors of Cooperative weaver Respondents



Source: Primary Data

Table 1.5 shows the custom table of socio-economic factors, which should be analysis about life styles of the Handloom weavers, which reveals about their economic status due intervention of the inclusive marketing.

Earnings per month of Cooperative weaver Respondents

Income plays a significant role in determining the standard of living of the people. The income comes from selling handloom cloths and various other sources such as land, property, investment and the like. In this study the concept of income consists of income from weaving of handloom products.

Table 1.6 Earnings per month of Cooperative weaver Respondents

Earnings per Month	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than 5000	49	21.8
5000 to 10000	46	20.4
10000 to 20000	51	22.7
20000 to 30000	49	21.8
Above 30000	30	13.3
Total	225	100.0

Source: Primary Data

1.6(a) Earnings per month of Cooperative weaver Respondents

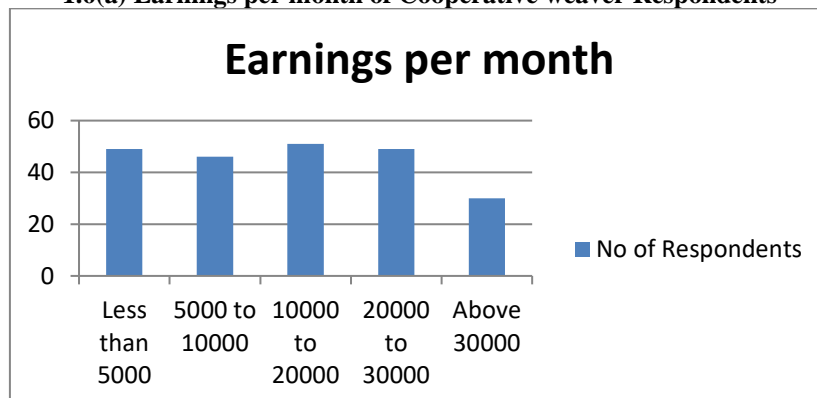


Table 1.6 shows the frequency and percentage of the respondents according to their earnings per month. This indicates different economic situations of the weavers working with the Co-operative societies. Out of 225 sample 21.8% (49) are earning less than 5000 per month, 20.4% (46) are earning 5000 to 10000, Majority of the weavers 22.7% (51) are earning 10000 to 20000, 21.8% (49) are earning up to 30,000 income, rest of the 13.3% (30) are generating above 30,000. These earnings are depends on the various factors, like availability of work from the Co-operative societies, Health conditions, Age and Necessity of weavers family. Co-operative Heads also playing vital role in the providing sufficient work to their society members. These incomes are not constant. It may vary month to month.

FINDINGS

- The majority of weavers (40%) are between the ages of 41 and 60, and the majority of weavers (70%) are between the ages of 41 and 70 (81.3 Percent). For those under the age of 40 are considered (18.6 percent).
- Male and female demographic distribution patterns have an effect on their relative and economic relationships.
- Majority of the weavers' Educational level is SSC to Inter 36.4% (82), Basic education up to SSC also showing majority educational level among weavers, Graduation 22.7% (51), Post graduation 4.9% (11). In this analysis 100% weavers are literate.
- Majority of the weaver's families are joint families. Which are 54.7 % (123), whereas Nuclear families are also proportionately near equal to the joint families, which holds 45.3% (102) of the total sample.
- Due to a lack of work and a market support system, the majority of handloom weavers are still in a precarious economic situation.
- Out of 225 sample 21.8% (49) are earning less than 5000 per month, 20.4% (46) are earning 5000 to 10000, Majority of the weavers 22.7% (51) are earning 10000 to 20000, 21.8% (49) are earning up to 30,000 income, rest of the 13.3% (30) are generating above 30,000.

SUGGESTIONS

- The majority of weavers come from rural areas and poor families, the Indian government should strictly enforce the hand loom reservation act of 1985.
- The majority of the weavers in the study area are poor; the government should provide frequent health checks and insurance to the hand loom weavers.
- The majority of the weavers in the study area are Hindus, and they are primarily poor, the government should encourage these weavers by providing finance at a lower interest rate.
- Handloom identification cards and up to 100 units of free electricity should be provided by the government to weavers.
- Because the majority of the weavers are undereducated, the government should provide proper training and development programmes, as well as brainstorming sessions for the hand loom weavers.
- Because most of the weavers are from nuclear families, the government should provide more subsidies to the weavers in order to improve their skills and income levels.
- The government should provide weavers with jacquard machines so that they can weave new designs that will earn them more money, and only then will sustainable development be possible.
- Hand loom clusters should be established by the government in the region.
- The government should assume responsibility for marketing handloom products and for providing raw materials directly to handloom weavers.

CONCLUSION

The handloom industry has been steadily declining over the years, and handloom weavers are facing serious difficulties as a result of a severe labour shortage. Unsystematic government policies, globalisation, competition from power looms and mills, ineffective scheme implementation, and changes in social and economic conditions are the main causes. If the above suggestions are taken into consideration, they can help handloom weavers in the Nalgonda District solve their problems to a large extent.

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