



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF HANDLOOM WEAVING WORKERS IN TELANGANA STATE

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Abstract

The practice of handloom weaving holds historical significance as one of the ancient activities globally. This sector plays a multifaceted role, contributing significantly to various aspects. Notably, it holds paramount importance in the development of rural areas. The meticulous development of the handloom weaving sector not only preserves cultural heritage but also becomes a key driver for rural employment, particularly among the youth. The present study is entitled to study the Socio-Economic conditions of the handloom weaving workers in Telangana State. This study presents the information of the handloom weaving workers based on the data collected from the workers with the help of structured schedule. This study covers the general information of the handloom weaving workers, Socio - Economic Conditions, their income levels and their opinions on major expenses. The findings of the study reveal a concerning aspect – the economic conditions of these handloom weaving workers in the study area are unfavorable. This observation points to potential challenges faced by individuals in this sector, highlighting the need for targeted interventions or supportive policies to improve their socio-economic circumstances. Enhancing the conditions within the handloom weaving industry could not only uplift the livelihoods of the workers but also contribute positively to the overall development of the rural community.

Keywords: *Handloom, Weaving Workers, Socio- Economic Conditions, Schedule.*

1. Introduction

The handloom sector plays a pivotal role in the country's economy. It is one of the largest economic activities next to agriculture. This sector, with about 35 lakh looms, at present provides employment to 65 lakh persons, the traditional handloom weaving in India has been kept alive by those professionally skilled household weavers, which inextricably is linked with the age-old tradition of weaving. Nevertheless, in India, handloom industry is an ancient cottage industry spread all over the country. This is a source of livelihood for the millions directly or indirectly. Its role is quite significant in meeting the clothing requirements of the masses. It occupies a pivotal place with its wide ramification into the socio-economic fabric of society. The hand-woven textiles have a long glorious tradition. They are symbolic of Indian culture forming part of great heritage of art. Centuries ago when Europe, the birth place of today's modern capitalism and industry, had little industrial development to boast of India was famous for its grand artistic skills of her craftsmen. The Indian cotton fabrics enjoyed worldwide patronage especially in Eastern and European markets in the world.

According to the Fourth All India Handloom Census, the total number of households in India engaged in handloom activities (weaving and allied activities) is 31.45 lakhs. This is an increase over the Third census where the count was 27.83 lakhs. The principal reason behind this increase may be attributed to the success of various initiatives undertaken by the Government of India, as well as several levels of due diligence that have been built into the census design, involving various oversight measures by multiple stakeholders from the Government machinery. The study posits that the socio-economic conditions of a particular sector serve as a reflective gauge for its overall growth. By scrutinizing the



socio-economic conditions of handloom weaving workers, it becomes possible to assess the status of this sector comprehensively. This evaluation, in turn, enables the formulation of justified recommendations and actions necessary for the development of the sector.

In the current study, a thorough examination is conducted on the social conditions, economic conditions, as well as the income and expenses of handloom weaving workers in the selected districts of the Telangana State. By delving into these aspects, the research aims to provide a holistic understanding of the circumstances surrounding handloom workers, offering valuable insights that can guide informed decision-making for the improvement and sustainable development of the handloom weaving sector in the specified region.

2. Scope of the Study

The art of weaving stands as one of the oldest handicrafts with a rich history of patronage across the globe throughout various eras. Comparable to essential needs such as food and shelter, clothing represents a fundamental necessity for every human being. Within the diverse landscape of India, Telangana emerges as a state with a significant presence in the handloom industry, encompassing various regions.

The focus of this study is specifically directed towards examining the socio-economic conditions and the income and expenses of handloom weaving workers. The geographical scope is confined to selected districts of Telangana State. By honing in on these specific regions, the research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the socio-economic dynamics and financial aspects related to handloom weaving workers, contributing to a more targeted and insightful analysis within the context of the larger handloom industry in Telangana State.

3. Review of Literature

The following are the few reviews on handloom weaving workers are presented briefly.

Singh & Gautam (2021) reveals that many constraints in the handloom industry may be responsible for the continuous decline in revenue from handloom export. The paper highlighted that there is an immediately needed to create awareness of the export assistance program among handloom weavers. To create awareness among beneficiaries' government should conduct seminars, and meeting for increasing awareness of government schemes.

Amit Chatterjee and Nehal Jain (2020) study shows that weaver households in the areas looked at had low living standards and quality of life. It was found that the handloom weavers of Kota Doria live in deplorable social and economic conditions and that different government programmes have been unable to help them make more money.

Ishfaq Majeed et al., (2020) this paper tries to deeply study the social and economic conditions, problems, and challenges of carpet weavers in the Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. The study showed that the situation of carpet weavers is not good because they don't get enough education, have health problems, make low wages, don't get enough help from the government, and are taken advantage of by the middleman or master weavers.

Gundeti Ramesh (2018) found that the khadi weavers are not getting minimum wages. This paper also found that the Khadi weavers face problems like poor living conditions, high working hours, low wage



rates and a lack of social security measures. However, finally, the paper concludes the appropriate policies to uplift the Khadi handloom weavers.

Avoid Roy and Dr Pradeep Chauhan (2017) found that most of the jobs in the industry are done by men with very little education. Weavers face several problems, such as not having enough money to buy new machines, terrible working conditions, a drop in wages, an increase in the price of yarn, a lack of government support, a lack of domestic demand and market, and so on. Plans aren't carried out well, and not all the money and facilities get to the people who need them. So, it's essential to plan and implement those plans so that people in the area can use those facilities well.

4. Objectives

1. To analyze the Socio-Economic Conditions of the Handloom Weaving Workers in Telangana State.
2. To study the Income and Expenses of the Handloom Weaving Workers in Telangana Sate.

5. Methodology

The research adopts an empirical approach, relying on primary data collected from a sample of 300 handloom weaving workers in Telangana State. Telangana, a state in southern India, has a rich tradition and heritage in the handloom industry. The handloom sector in Telangana is known for its vibrant and diverse range of handwoven fabrics, including sarees and other traditional garments. The sampling method employed is simple random sampling to ensure an unbiased representation of the handloom worker population.

6. Data analysis and Interpretation

The primary objective of this study is to elucidate the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weaving workers. To achieve this, the study utilizes fundamental statistical tools, specifically the mean and percentage calculations. The outcomes of these analyses are systematically presented in the ensuing tables, offering a comprehensive and quantitative insight into the various aspects of the socio-economic landscape of the handloom weaving workforce.

Table 1, Socio - Demographic Profile of the Handloom Weaving Workers

Categories	Sub Categories	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Gender of the Handloom workers	Male	210	70	70
	Female	90	30	100.00
	Total	300	100	
Age of Handloom workers	Below 20 years	38	12.67	12.67
	21-30 years	54	18	30.67
	31-40 years	88	29.33	60.00
	41-50 years	70	23.33	83.33
	Above 50 years	50	16.67	100.00
	Total	300	100	
	Illiterate	60	20	20
	Primary Education	68	22.67	42.67



Educational Status of Handloom workers	SSC	108	36	78.67
	Higher Secondary	38	12.67	91.34
	Above Higher Secondary and others	26	8.66	100.00
	Total	300	100	
Religion	Hindu	206	68.67	68.67
	Muslim	56	18.67	87.34
	Christian	38	12.66	100.00
	Other	00	00	100
	Total	300	100	
Social Status of the Handloom workers	SC	48	16	16
	ST	35	11.66	27.66
	BC	192	64	91.67
	OC	25	8.33	100.00
	Total	300	100	

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

Above table shows the demographic profile of the handloom of weaving workers, it can be explained with percentage

- Regarding the Gender of the respondents, it can be note that 60 % (90) of the respondents are Male workers and 70% (210) of the respondents are Female workers.
- Pertains to Age of the respondents, majority of the respondents 88 (29.33%) are in the age category of 31- 40 years after that most of respondents 70 (23.33) are in the age category of 41- 50 years, and followed by 50 (16.67) respondents are belongs to above 50 years category, 54 (18%) respondents are in the category of 21 to 30 years age and only 38 (12.67) respondents are belonging to below 20 years age category.
- Regarding the Education level of the respondents, most of the workers 36% (108) are completed their secondary level education, 22.67% (68) respondents are completed their primary education, 12.67% (38) members are completed their higher secondary education, 20% (60) members are illiterate and only 8.66% (26) members are studied above higher secondary.
- Pertaining to the Religion of the respondents, it can be noted that majority of the respondents 68.67% (206) are belongs to the Hindu religion, followed by the Muslim religion with 18.67% (56) of the respondents and only 12.66% (38) respondents are belonging to Christian religion. Most of the respondents are belongs to hindu religion and only 68.67% are other religions.
- Regarding the Social status of the respondents, the highest number 192 (64%) respondents are belonging to BC community, foll owed by the SC community with 48 (16%) respondents, 35 (11.66%) respondents are from ST and only 25 (8.33%) respondents from OCs community during the study period.



Table 2: Socio-Economic Profile of the handloom of Weaving Workers

Categories	Sub Categories	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Type of House	Thatched	68	22.66	22.66
	Tiled	48	16	38.66
	Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC)	156	52	90.67
	Shed	28	9.33	100.00
	Total	300	100	
Types of Work	Weaving	88	29.33	29.33
	Warping	54	18	47.33
	Tie & Die	68	22.66	69.99
	Bobbin winding	90	30	100.00
	Total	300	100	
Acres of Land owned by the weaving workers	Up to 1 acre	234	78	78
	Above 1 to up to 3 acres	54	18	96
	3 to 5 acres	12	4	100
	Above 5 acres	0	0	
	Total	300	100	

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

Above table shows the economic conditions of the handloom weaving workers of the selected districts in Telangana State. Each category is explained in below.

- Regarding the Type of house, it can be noted that 52 (156) respondents having RCC type of house, 22.66% (68) of the respondents having thatched type of house, 16% (48) of the respondents are having tiled houses and only 9.33% (28) of the workers are having shed type of houses and another type of work of the handloom workers;
- Regarding the Type of work 29.33% (88) of the respondents are weavers, by 30% (90) of the respondents are Bobbin, Winding and spinning related workers, 18% (54) of the respondents are warping and also 22.66% (66) of the workers are belongs to Tie and die work.
- Regarding the Acres of land owned by the handloom weaving workers, 234 (78%) workers are having up to 1 acre of land, 54 (18%) handloom workers are having land in between 1 to 3 acres, 12 (4%) having land in between 3 to 5 acres and no handloom weaving worker is having more than 5 acres of land.



Table 3: Monthly Income of the Handloom Weaving Workers

S No	Monthly Earnings (Figure in Rupees)	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
1	Up to Rs 5000	114	38	38
2	5000 to 10000	76	25.33	63.33
3	10001 to 15000	38	12.67	76
4	15001 to 20000	59	19.67	95.67
5	Above Rs 20000	13	4.33	100.00
	Total	300	100	

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

The above table reveals the average monthly income of the handloom weaving workers, out of 300 workers, 114 (38%) workers are earning up to 5000 only, 76 (25.33%) are earning 5000 to 10000 rupees, 38 (12.67%) are earning in between 100001 to 15000, 59 (19.67%) are earning in between 15001 to 20000 rupees, 13 (4.33%) are earning above 20000 rupees. Form the above results it can observed that the income levels of the handloom workers are not in a better mode. It can be noted that 114 members are earning up to 5000 only, and only 13 members are earning above 20000 rupees.

The analysis of the table above highlights a significant finding: a majority, exceeding 60%, of handloom weaving workers earn a monthly income below 10,000 rupees. This discerning statistic leads to the conclusion that the economic conditions of the weaving workers are less than favorable. The prevalence of low-income earners in this sector indicates potential economic challenges, financial constraints, or inadequate remuneration for their labor. This conclusion underscores the need for attention and potential interventions to improve the economic circumstances of handloom weaving workers, ensuring a more sustainable and equitable livelihood for this workforce.

Table 4: Monthly Savings of the Handloom Weaving Workers

S. No	Amount of Savings	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
1	Up to 1000	68	22.67	22.67
2	1000 to 2000	58	19.33	42
3	2000 to 3000	83	27.67	69.67
4	3000 to 4000	42	14.00	83.67
5	4000 to 5000	44	14.67	98.34
6	Above 5000	5	1.66	100
	Total	300	100	

Source: Compiled from Primary Data



The above table depicts the savings of handloom workers in the selected districts of Telangana State. Out of 300 workers 68 (22.67%) are saving up to 1000 rupees per month, 83 (27.67%) are saving in between 2000 to 3000 rupees per month, 42 (14%) are saving in between 3000 to 4000 rupees, 44 (14.67%) are saving in between 4000 to 5000 rupees per month, and only 5 (1.66%) handloom workers are saving above 5000 rupees per month. The table above illustrates that individuals are saving less for various reasons. Handloom workers in the selected districts of Telangana State were asked about the factors contributing to their reduced savings, and the findings are presented in the table below. Nevertheless, they are setting aside savings from their respective incomes, and the factors influencing their savings were inquired about.

Table 5: Monthly expenditure of handloom weaving workers

S No	Monthly expenses	No of Respondents	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
1	Below 3000	56	18.67	18.67
2	3000 to 5000	74	24.67	43.34
3	5001 to 7000	121	40.33	83.67
4	7001 to 9000	34	11.33	95
5	Above 9000	15	5	100
	Total	300	100	

Source: Compiled From Primary Data

The above table elaborates the monthly expenses of the handloom weaving workers. Out of 300 sample respondents 56 (18.67%) expenses are below 3000 rupees per month, 74 (24.67%) workers expenses are 3000 to 5000 rupees, 121 (40.33%) handloom weaving workers expenses are in between 5001 to 7000 rupees, 34 (11.33%) workers expenses are in between 7001 to 9000 rupees and only 15 (5%) workers monthly expenses are above 9000 rupees. From the above analysis it can be noted that most of the handloom workers are spending less amount for their expenses. It can be concluded that these workers are less spending for their lives. From the analysis above, it is evident that a significant portion of handloom workers allocates a comparatively smaller amount for their expenses. This observation leads to the conclusion that these workers are generally adopting a frugal approach to their livelihoods, implying that they are constrained in terms of spending on various aspects of their lives. This might suggest economic challenges, limited resources, or financial constraints faced by handloom workers, thereby emphasizing the need for potential interventions or support mechanisms to improve their overall well-being.

Table 6: Handloom weaving workers opinion on their primary expenses

Expenditure	SDA	DA	N	A	SA
Food	84 (28%)	30 (10%)	40 (13.33%)	56 (18.66%)	90 (30%)
Health (Medical Related)	20 (6.67%)	26 (8.67%)	50 (16.67%)	60 (20%)	134 (44.67%)
Childrens Education (Education)	26 (8.67%)	24 (8%)	20 (6.67%)	44 (14.67%)	186 (62%)



House Rent	214 (71.33%)	60 (20%)	6 (2%)	12 (4%)	8 (2.67%)
Social Ceremonies	20 (6.67%)	34 (11.33%)	42 (14%)	60 (20%)	144 (48%)
Transportation	38 (12.67%)	30 (10%)	30 (10%)	48 (16%)	154 (51.33%)

Source: Compiled from Primary Data

The above table illustrates the responses of Handloom workers about their expenses.

- Concerning the primary expenditures on food among handloom workers, 30% (90 individuals) express strong agreement, 18.66% (56 individuals) indicate agreement, 13.33% (40 individuals) remain neutral, 10% (30 individuals) disagree, and 28% (84 individuals) strongly disagree with the statement.
- In terms of major expenditures related to health and medical concerns, 44.67% (134) of handloom workers expressed strong agreement, 20% (60) indicated agreement, 16.67% (50) remained neutral, 8.67% (26) disagreed, and 6.67% (20) strongly disagreed.
- Regarding the major expenses on children education, 62% (186) of the handloom workers are strongly agreed, 14.67% (44) are agreed, 6.67% (20) are neutral, 8% (24) are disagreed and 8.67% (26) of the workers are strongly disagreed.
- Regarding the major expenses on house rent, 8% (2.67) are strongly agreed, 4% (12) are agreed, 2% (6) of the handloom workers are neutral, 20% (60) are disagreed, 71.33% (214) of the handloom workers are strongly disagreed,
- Regarding the major expenses on social ceremonies, 48% (144) of the handloom workers are strongly agreed, 20% (60) are agreed, 14% (42) are neutral, 11.33% (34) are disagreed and 6.67% (20) of the handloom workers are strongly disagreed.
- Regarding the major expenses on transportation, 51.33% (154) of the handloom workers are strongly agreed, 16% (48) are agreed, 10% (30) are neutral, 10% (30) are disagree and 12.67% (38) of the handloom workers are strongly disagreed.

7. Conclusion

The handloom weaving activity holds a historical significance as one of the ancient crafts worldwide. Its contribution spans various aspects, with a notable emphasis on the development of rural areas. The sector's significance lies in its potential to generate employment opportunities for the rural youth. The study is specifically concentrated on assessing the socio-economic conditions of handloom weaving workers actively engaged in weaving activities. From analysis of income, it can be concluded that significant majority earning a relatively low income serves as a basis for the conclusion that the economic conditions of handloom weaving workers are unfavorable. The data underscores economic challenges within this demographic, suggesting a need for attention to uplift their financial well-being through potential policy changes, skill development programs, or other support initiatives to enhance their overall economic prospects. However, the findings indicate that the economic conditions of handloom weaving workers in the study area are unfavorable. This suggests that despite the historical and developmental importance of the handloom sector, the individuals directly involved in weaving face challenges in terms of their economic well-being. Understanding and addressing the factors contributing to these unfavorable conditions may be essential for fostering sustainable development, improving livelihoods, and ensuring the continued vitality of this ancient craft.



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