



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Problems Faced By Handloom Weavers in Telangana State: A Study of Karimnagar District

Ankam Sreenivas¹, Nimmala Rajesh² and K. Rajender¹

¹Department of Commerce and Business Management,
Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana

²Department of History & Tourism Management,
Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana

Email: asreenivas22@gmail.com, nimmalarajesh1990@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The history of the handloom industry in India could be backed back to hoary part of dates back to the Epic times and it is reported to have been in a highly developed stage even then. The last 100 years have witnessed the growth of mechanized textile production internationally. In part due to competition, handloom has lost much of its market and is almost non-existent in most countries. However, handlooms are still a force to reckon within India and some other Asian countries such as Srilanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Cambodia. Later, fragments of finely woven and madder-dyed cotton fabrics and shuttles were found at some of the excavated sites of Mohanjodaro (Indus valley civilization). Indian floral faints, dating back to the 18th century AD were covered by Sir Aural Stein in the icy waters of Central Asia. The evidence shows that of all the arts and crafts of India, traditional handloom textiles are probably the oldest.

Key words: Handloom weavers, Telangana State, economic development

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INTRODUCTION

The Handloom sector plays a vital role in the economic development of a country. It is one of the largest economic activities after agriculture, providing direct employment to more than 43 lakhs, weavers in India with 23.77 lakhs Handlooms. This sector contributes nearby 15% of the total cloth produced in the country and also contributes to the export earning Rs. 3,000 Crores, 95% of the world Handloom fabric comes from India.

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF HANDLOOM

The Hindu epics such as the 'Ramayana' and the "Mahabharata" as well as "Buddhist" sources, chant in detail the processes and uses of handloom fabrics. The history of the handloom industry in India could be backed back to hoary part of dates back to the Epic times and it is reported to have been in a highly developed stage even then. In the 'Vedas and the "Puranas" there are innumerable references to the exquisite qualities and wide range of fabrics worn by the Gods, Kings said to have been very much fascinated by the exotic designs and textures of fabric work, by women on the earth, and there are stories of such Gods falling in love with mortal ladies by their dress.

"Kalidas" has described raptial customers as Hamsa Chihita Dokoolo" of swan like wear. "Bana Bhatt," great poet in his work at many places has referred in detail to the artistic

weaving of valuable cloth and contemporary elegance by mentioning garments made of extra fine thread. In Kautilya's "Arthashastra" the duties of Sutradhyaksha, a sort of sartorial officer have been described in great detail. In "Shukranti" too these are in mention of "Vastrya" an officer who looked after the demand and silken fabrics, in the market, kept an eye on the production of cloth manufacturing material and arranged for their collection of necessary sartorial information. The famous 'Ajanta Wall Paintings' of the 5th, 8th Centuries A.D, provided an invaluable record of the refined nature of the Indian-Textile Industries of the time. The cave frescoes clearly depict dancers, nobles, servants and musicians clothed in coin loom cloths and blouses, most probably patterned by the resist techniques of printing, tie and dye and ikat as well as brocade weaving.

Though India was famous even in ancient times as an exporter of textiles to most parts of the civilized world, few actual fabrics of the early dyed or printed cottons have survived. This it is explained is due to a hot moist climate and the existence of the monsoons in India. It is not surprising; therefore, that Egypt which has an exceptionally dry climate would provide evidence which India lacks. The earliest Indian fragment of cloth (before the Christian era) with a hansa (swan) design was excavated from a site near Cairo where the hot dry sand of the desert acted as a preservative. The last 100 years have witnessed the growth of mechanized textile production internationally. In part due to competition, handloom has lost much of its market and is almost non-existent in most countries. However, handlooms are still a force to reckon within India and some other Asian countries such as Srilanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Cambodia. Later, fragments of finely woven and madder-dyed cotton fabrics and shuttles were found at some of the excavated sites of Mohanjodaro (Indus valley civilization). Indian floral faints, dating back to the 18th century AD were covered by Sir Aural Stein in the icy waters of Central Asia. The evidence shows that of all the arts and crafts of India, traditional handloom textiles are probably the oldest. Though it employs the largest number of people, the handloom sector is considered a sunset industry, and there is an air of inevitability given the relentless march of mechanization, modernization and sophistication. Still, there are many advocates of handloom for reasons including ideology, philosophy, sheer love for handloom products and economic arguments. However, irrespective of the policies, projects and aspirations arising out of various quarters, the handloom sector is undergoing changes, that are showing impact on the livelihoods of handloom weavers.

REVIEW OF LITARATURE

Prachi (2010) has observed that Indian handloom is growing in its popularity not only among the people in India, but also among the people admiring Indian handloom and Indian handicrafts from around the globe. In spite of having distinct styles and ways of weaving, there is a lot of exchange of styles that happened among the diverse Indian handloom styles.

IANS (2011) has noted that Indian consumers need to change the thinking; they need to think 'swadeshi' rather than 'videshi'. The greatest tragedy weavers' face is being ignored not just by people but by designers as well. The fashion industry is a very powerful platform to convey the message across the masses that fashion is more than chic dressing; there has to be an essence to it.

Dr. Srinivasa Rao Kasisomayajula (2012) presented a paper basing on field work Socio-economic analysis of handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh A Study on selected districts. he was studied in the socio economic analysis of handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh a study on Selected district (East Godavari, Prakasam, Kurnool, Nalgonda).

A. Kumudha, M. Rizwana (2013) in her paper Problems faced by handloom industry-A study with handloom weavers co-operative societies in erode district the paper focus on problems of handloom industry and problems of handloom co-operative society weavers.

Venkateswaran A. (2014) in his paper A Socio Economic Conditions of Handloom Weaving: A field study in Kallidaikurichi of Tirunelveli District this paper studied in the A Socio Economic Conditions of Handloom weavers and problem facing on handloom weavers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the present situation of handloom industry.
2. To examine the problems faced by handloom weavers.
3. To give the suitable suggestions to improve the handloom industry.

HYPOTHESIS

Ho: To test whether the Karimnagar handlooms give the sufficient income to the weavers or not

H1: To test whether there is any employment opportunity even today in the handloom industry or not.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The handloom industry has facing many problems such as scarcity of raw materials, marketing, finance and the most important being high incidence of mammals offered to officials. In view of this, there is an imperative need to undertaking a comprehensive study of the “problems faced by handloom weavers in Telangana” covering aspects such as, the impact of problems of weavers, structure of handloom weavers living conditions. Karimnagar district has been chosen for an intensive and detailed study since the district stands first in production and first in respect of membership in societies in the state.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study broadly examines the problems and prospects of handloom weaver in Karimnagar district from 2005-2015. i.e, 10 years period.

SOURCE OF DATA

The study is based on primary data as well as secondary data.

Primary Data:

The main source of the data are the weavers themselves and executive members of the society the elicit the proper information from the weavers a structured questionnaire was served to the weavers who were working in the societies. A part from this, personal interview group discussion and observation methods were used in collecting the first hand information

Secondary Data:

Secondary data for the study has been collected using published reports by the government, departments, offices Centre’s consequently with the industry, published research papers in the reputed journals, books, thesis and dissertation and listing websites relating to the presented research.

SAMPLE SIZE

Sample of 200 weavers selected from the Karimnagar District.

AREA OF STUDY

This study was confined to handloom weavers of Karimnagar District

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

These are the limitations of the present research study. The study is essentially a micro level study. The information through the questionnaires may not have covered correct figures problems. The opinions and expressions of weavers are based on the personal

experience with the societies the secondary data are taken as reported in the records however, the primary data is added to know the present conditions of weavers.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data are collected from 200 sample Respondents by supplying the questionnaires, the data are analysed by simple tables on the basis of financial problems, marketing problems, production problems, social problems and health problems therefore, these aspects are covered in this paper.

1. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS:

Handloom industry is one such delicate organization, which has been totally capital-straved at all the time. By and large, sound financial assistance from government alone could improve the competitive urge among handloom co-operatives. The Government of India and State Governments provide assistance to handloom weavers, handloom weavers' co-operative societies for strengthening the share capital, improving the management of societies and modernization of looms. Even then, the societies could not strengthen their financial position because, they are not able to repay in time the loan received and hence the societies have to pay interest to the District Central Co-operative Banks. The below Table 1 shows the financial problems of Respondents in the Karimnagar District.

Table 1: Financial Problems

Financial Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	164	82.00
No	36	18.00
Total	200	100.00

Source: Field survey

The Table 1 reveals about financial problems of Respondents. In the Karimnagar District has been selected 200 Respondents. The highest number 164(82.00%) Respondents are facing financial problems, the lowest number 36(18.00%) Respondents are not any facing financial problems.

2. MARKETING PROBLEMS:

The wake of new trends in fashions with man-made fibre and yarn fabrics having made in roads up to the rural areas. It is but natural that handloom fabrics face difficulties in marketing and sales promotion. Marketing is the central problem that calls for the drawing up of a suitable strategy. Otherwise, any amount of aid given to this industry at the production level will turn out to be of no help. The industry has been pursuing the sales oriented philosophy. Inadequate marketing services and facilities have resulted in periodical accumulation of stocks, resulting in underemployment and unemployment among weavers.

Independent weavers, outside the co-operative fold, are not always able to dispose of their cloth directly to the consumer. They have to approach the middlemen. In case of weavers working under master weavers on wage basis, they return the finished cloth to the master weavers. The co-operative societies are wholly dependent on the TSCO for marketing of their products. In our state, TSCO is not performing well and not in a position to lift the finished products and make the payment timely. The efforts are directed to sell the quantity through the purchase of handloom cloth by the government departments, army personnel, local bodies and rebate schemes and other programmes that are directed to push the product to the market. The below table-2 shows the marketing problems of Respondents in the Karimnagar District.

Table 2: Marketing Problems

Marketing Problems	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	188	94.00
No	12	6.00
Total	200	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table-2 reveals about marketing problems of Respondents. In the Karimnagar District has been selected 200 Respondents. The highest number 188(94.00%) Respondents are facing marketing problems, the lowest number 12(6.00%) Respondents are not any facing marketing problems.

3. PRODUCTION PROBLEMS:

Handloom weavers are also facing production problems are scarcity of yarn, lack of technology development, raw material problems, design improvement, enhancement of value, technology& mechanization patenting designs/varieties and working hours.

The below table-3 shows the production problems of Respondents in the Karimnagar District.

Table 3: Production Problems

Production Problems	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	194	97.00
No	6	3.00
Total	200	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table-3 reveals about production problems of Respondents. In the Karimnagar District has been selected 200 Respondents. The highest number 194(97.00%) Respondents are facing production problems, the lowest number 6(3.00%) Respondents are not any facing production problems.

4. SOCIAL AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS:

Handloom weavers are also facing social and personal problems are co-operative system, wages, employment and livelihood issues, women related problems, welfare schemes and employment problems. The below table-4 shows the Social and Personal problems of Respondents in the Karimnagar District.

Table 4: Social and Personal Problems

Social And Personal Problems	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	178	89.00
No	22	11.00
Total	200	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table-4 reveals about social and personal problems of Respondents. In the Karimnagar District has been selected 200 Respondents. The highest number 178(89.00%) Respondents are facing social and personal problems, the lowest number 22(11.00%) Respondents are not any facing social and personal problems.

5. MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS:

Handloom weavers are facing major health problems such as eye sight weakness, back pain, knee pain and joint pain. The table-5 shows the major health problems of Respondents in the Karimnagar District.

Table 5: Major Health Problems

Health Problems	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Eye sight weakness	66	33.00
Back pain	94	47.00
Knee pain	16	8.00
Joint pain	24	12.00
Total	200	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table-5 reveals about major health problems of Respondents. In the Karimnagar District has been selected 200 Respondents. The highest number 94(47.00%) Respondents are facing back pain, 66(33.00%) Respondents are facing eye sight weakness, 24(12.00%) Respondents are facing joint pain and only 16(8.00%) Respondents are not any facing knee pain.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. 82% of the respondents are facing financial problems.
2. 94% of the respondents are facing marketing problems.
3. 97% of the respondents are facing production problems.
4. 89% of the respondents are facing social and personal problems.
5. 100% of the respondents are facing health problems.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The Government of India and State Governments provide assistance to handloom weavers, handloom weavers' co-operative societies for strengthening the share capital, improving the management of societies and modernization of looms.
2. The Government of India and State Governments are provide interest less loans in handloom weavers.
3. To enhance marketing facilities.
4. To increase the conducting handloom melas or exhibitions.
5. To provide new handloom looms for subsidy.
6. The Government of India and State Governments have to be provide raw material directly to the weavers.
7. To strengthen the handloom reservation act.
8. To protect do not copy of the designs made by handloom from powerlooms.
9. To establish counseling centers for empowering the weavers to eradicate suicide attitude.
10. Government should provide free health insurance, health checkups, education for children, training & capacity building, interest free loans etc.

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