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**A CASE STUDY ON WEAVERS SOCIO - ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY OF
ANDHRA AND TELANGANA STATES**

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Abstract

The handloom industry is India's most important cottage sector, representing and conserving the country's vibrant and beautiful culture and traditions. Weaving is the most basic of the numerous processes of handloom clothing production. It is characterised as a frame for weaving with some wooden devices attached to it. The handloom business creates items that are both environmentally benign and energy efficient. The end result is improved long-term development. A cooperative is a self-governing group of people who meet for the purpose of pursuing a shared goal. This study has identified the major economic elements to blame and proposed solutions to interrupt the vicious cycle of these economic variables, which together make these people's work and lives a full misery.

Words to Remember: Situations Socio-Economic - Andhra Pradesh and Telangana handloom weavers

Introduction

The current research technique is a case study of the socioeconomic conditions of handloom weavers in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The handloom industry is India's most important cottage sector, representing and conserving the country's vibrant and beautiful culture and traditions. Indian artists are now known all over the world for their hand spinning, weaving, and printing techniques. Weaving is the foundation of the many stages of handloom clothing production. It is defined as a weaving frame with some wooden components attached. Nearly 65 lakh people are employed in the handloom sector, which has 35 lakh looms, and many more lakhs rely on the industry's ancillary occupations. Man-Made Art and Tradition are heavily represented in the Handloom Industry. Spinning Mills is a company that specialises in supplying yarn raw materials to weavers. The handloom industry creates energy-saving, environmentally friendly products. The end result is improved long-term development. A cooperative society is an organisation in which a group of people who share common interests band together to advance their financial activities, such as manufacturing, distributing, selling, and providing fulfilling welfare measures to its members. A Cooperative Society is a voluntary group of people who get together for the common good. A cooperative society's primary goal is to help people, not to make money. As a result, in our society, the cooperative society is a generous one. Weavers cooperatives provided many options for dormancy in rural and regional populations. As a result, the cooperative provides a ready-to-use solution for resolving member problems.

The Study Is Required:

The handloom industry in India is facing a number of economic and non-economic issues, including capital shortages due to a complex credit system, falling input availability, yarn supply and price increases, lack of marketing, lack of electricity, health issues, working more than 8 hours a day, lack of training, lack of financial assistance from state and central governments, and insufficient working capital. As a result, several weavers attempted suicide or attempted suicide. This study has identified the major economic elements to blame and proposed solutions to interrupt the vicious cycle of these economic variables, which together make these people's work and lives a full misery.

Objectives:

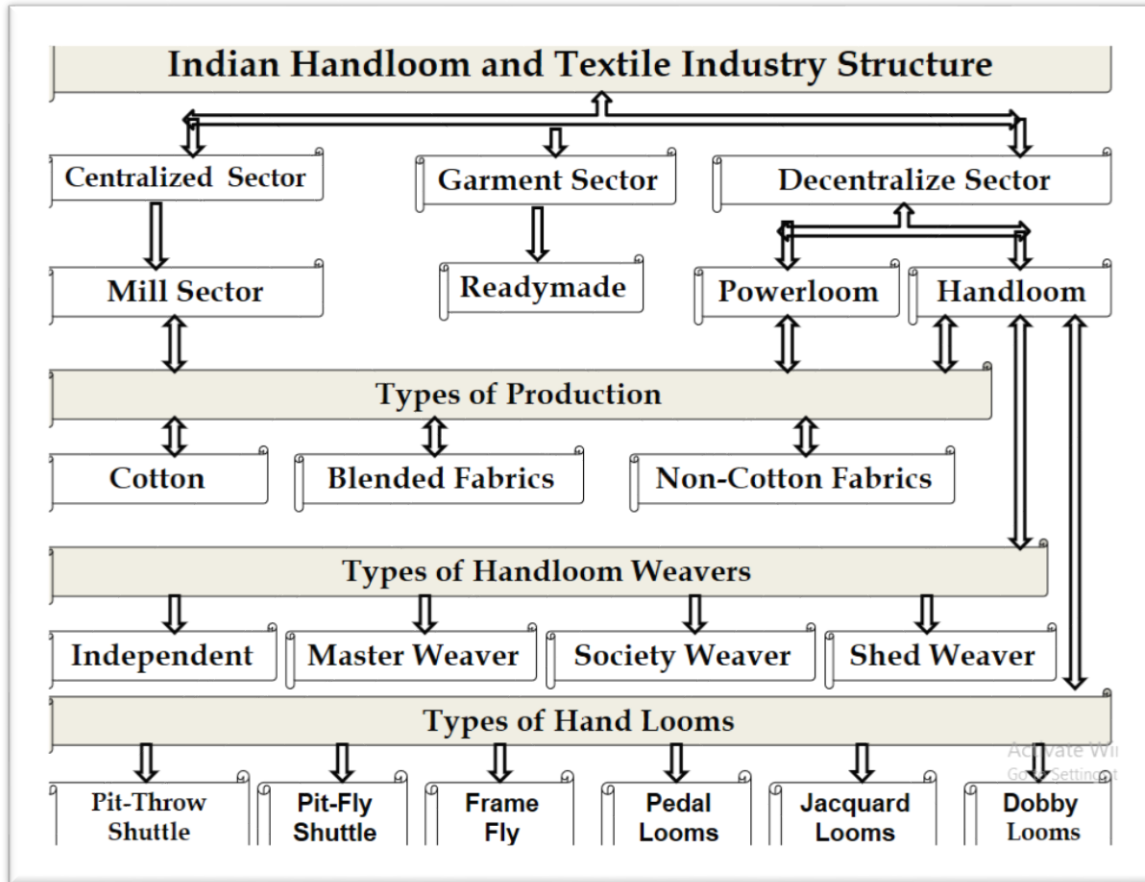
1. To map out the whole manufacturing and marketing structure of the handloom sector.
2. To determine the socioeconomic profile of traditional handloom weavers in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

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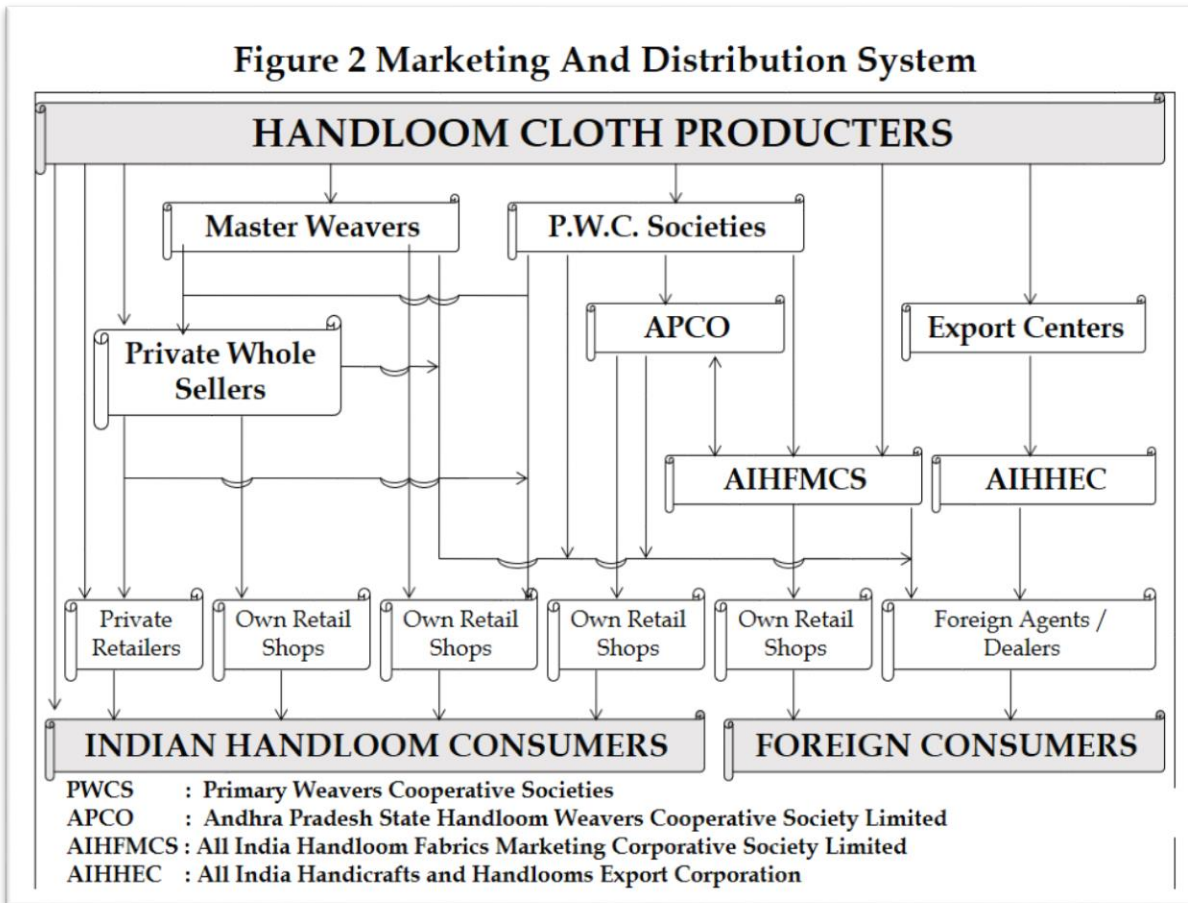
Methodology of Study

The primary data was acquired from a sample of 600 weaver respondents, 150 from each of four villages in Andhra and Telangana states, including Bandarulanka, Chirala, Yemmiganur, and Pochampally. Secondary data was gathered from the Handloom Organizations' official websites as well as the Centre for Handloom Information and Policy Advocacy.

Profile of the Indian Handloom & Textile Industry



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Data Analysis:

Socio Economic Analysis of Handloom Weavers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

| Sl. No. | Socio Economic Content | Particulars | Respondents | Percent |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | Type Handloom households | Weaver households | 1,32,860 | 75% |
| | | Allied households | 42,746 | 24% |
| | | Others | 1,390 | 01% |
| | | Total | 1,76,996 | 100 |
| 2 | Possession of Looms | With Looms | 75,248 | 43% |
| | | Without Looms | 1,01,748 | 57% |

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|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | Total | 1,76,996 | 100 |
| 3 | Usage of Looms | Domestic | 650 | 0.37% |
| | | Commercial | 1,73,781 | 98.18% |
| | | Both | 2,246 | 1.27% |
| | | Not Applicable | 319 | 0.18% |
| | | Total | 1,76,996 | 100 |
| 4 | Dwelling Unit Type | Kutcha | 17,813 | 10% |
| | | Semi Pucca | 91,574 | 52% |
| | | Pucca | 67,609 | 38% |
| | | Total | 1,76,996 | 100 |
| 5 | Ownership of the Dwelling Unit | Owned | 1,26,328 | 71% |
| | | Rented | 49,371 | 28% |
| | | Others | 1,297 | 01% |
| | | Total | 1,76,996 | 100% |
| 6 | Weavers Ration Card Type | Anthodia Anna Yojana | 6,732 | 4% |
| | | Below poverty Line | 1,55,627 | 88% |
| | | Above Poverty Line | 2,319 | 1% |
| | | No Ration Card | 12,318 | 7% |
| | | Total | 1,76,996 | 100 |
| 7 | Age Group of the Handloom Workers | Less Than 18 years | 49,373 | 14% |
| | | More Than 18 years (Adult) | 3,06,465 | 88% |
| | | Total | 3,55,838 | 100 |
| 8 | Gender of the Adult Handloom Workers | Male | 1,49,896 | 49% |
| | | Female | 1,56,569 | 51% |

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|----|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | | Total | 1,76,996 | 100 |
| 9 | Social Groups of the Weavers | SC, STs | 4,166 | 01% |
| | | OBCs | 2,81,232 | 92% |
| | | Others | 21,067 | 7% |
| | | Total | 3,06,465 | 100 |
| 10 | Weavers Education Level | Never Attended School | 1,29,512 | 42% |
| | | Below Primary | 32,002 | 10% |
| | | Primary | 41,556 | 14% |
| | | Middle | 44,464 | 14% |
| | | High School | 42,214 | 14% |
| | | Higher Secondary | 11,284 | 4% |
| | | Graduate and Above | 5,433 | 2% |
| | | Total | 306465 | 100 |
| 11 | Weavers Employment Status | Independent Weavers | 51,565 | 17% |
| | | Under Master Weavers | 2,26,415 | 74% |
| | | Under Co-operative Societies | 24,045 | 8% |
| | | Under Private Owners | 4,440 | 1% |
| | | Total | 3,06,465 | 100 |
| 12 | Nature of Work Engagement | Full Time | 2,72,824 | 89% |
| | | Part Time | 33,641 | 11% |
| | | Total | 3,06,465 | 100 |
| 13 | Usage of Major Yarns | Cotton (Count 1 – 20) | 2,554 | 4% |
| | | Cotton (Count 21 – 40) | 6,156 | 8% |
| | | Cotton (Count 41 – 80) | 25,168 | 34% |

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|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | | Cotton (Count above 80) | 9,212 | 13% |
| | | Mulberry Silk | 26,853 | 36% |
| | | Others | 3,697 | 5% |
| | | Total | 73,640 | 100 |
| 14 | Major Source of Yarn, Materials | Open Market | 9,292 | 19% |
| | | Master Weaver | 33,070 | 68% |
| | | Cooperative Society | 5,235 | 11% |
| | | Others | 802 | 2% |
| | | Total | 48,399 | 100 |
| 15 | Average Production Per weaver | Less than 1 Meter | 37,821 | 51% |
| | | 1 to 2 Meters | 16,407 | 22% |
| | | 2 to 3 Meters | 9,275 | 13% |
| | | 3 to 4 Meters | 7,052 | 10% |
| | | Above 4 Meters | 2,964 | 4% |
| | | Total | 73,519 | 100 |
| 16 | Working Status of Looms | Working | 1,00,668 | 95% |
| | | Idle | 5,797 | 5% |
| | | Total Looms | 1,06,465 | 100 |
| 17 | Major Source of Loan | Money Lenders | 7,958 | 20% |
| | | Master Weaver | 24,904 | 61% |
| | | Cooperative Societies | 918 | 2% |
| | | Commercial Banks | 3,782 | 9% |
| | | Others | 3,164 | 8% |
| | | Total | 40,726 | 100 |
| 18 | Age Wise Distribution | Below 20 | 48 | 08 |

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|----|----------------------------------|------------------------|------|-----|-----|
| | | 20-30 | 72 | 12 | |
| | | 30-40 | 130 | 22 | |
| | | 40-50 | 254 | 42 | |
| | | 50-60 | 54 | 9 | |
| | | 60 Above | 42 | 7 | |
| | | Total | 600 | 100 | |
| 19 | No. of Dependents of the Weavers | Two Nos | 64 | 32 | 3 |
| | | Three Nos | 402 | 134 | 17 |
| | | Four Nos | 1104 | 276 | 46 |
| | | Five Nos | 600 | 120 | 25 |
| | | Six Nos | 288 | 38 | 9 |
| | | Total | 2398 | 600 | 100 |
| 20 | Educational Back Ground | Illiterates | | 232 | 39 |
| | | Up to SSC | | 202 | 34 |
| | | Intermediate | | 94 | 16 |
| | | Graduation & Above | | 72 | 12 |
| | | Total | | 600 | 100 |
| 21 | Categories of Weavers | Independent Weavers | | 30 | 5 |
| | | Master Weavers | | 204 | 34 |
| | | Co-operative Societies | | 342 | 57 |
| | | Wage Workers | | 24 | 4 |
| | | Total Respondents | | 600 | 100 |
| 22 | Community of Weavers | Padmasali | | 242 | 40 |
| | | Devangula | | 218 | 36 |
| | | Kurini&Karnabatha | | 118 | 20 |

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|----|------------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----|
| 23 | Occupational Structure | Others | 22 | 04 |
| | | Total | 600 | 100 |
| | | Weaving | 1494 | 77 |
| | | Business | 176 | 9 |
| | | Agricultural Labour | 136 | 7 |
| | | Employment | 136 | 7 |
| 24 | Residential Status | Total | 1942 | 100 |
| | | Rented | 188 | 31 |
| | | Own | 378 | 63 |
| | | Others | 34 | 6 |
| | | Total | 600 | 100 |
| 25 | Nature of the Owned Houses | Thatched | 106 | 28 |
| | | Semi-Permanent (Tiles) | 204 | 54 |
| | | Permanent (Daba) | 68 | 18 |
| | | Total Respondents | 378 | 100 |
| 26 | Reasons to Selecting Weaving | Traditional | 424 | 71 |
| | | Easy to Earn More Income | 50 | 8 |
| | | Less Capital Requirement | 62 | 10 |
| | | Only known this work | 64 | 11 |
| | | Total | 600 | 100 |
| 27 | Monthly Average Income Group | Below 2000 | 37 | 06 |
| | | 3000 - 4000 | 43 | 07 |
| | | 4000 - 5000 | 55 | 09 |
| | | 5000 - 6000 | 298 | 50 |
| | | 6000-7000 | 84 | 14 |
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|----|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----|
| 29 | Problems with Middle Men | 7000 Above | 83 | 14 |
| | | Total | 600 | 100 |
| | | Average Income | Rs. | |
| | | | 6,525 | |
| | | Late Payment | 91 | 40 |
| | | Irregular Material Supply | 62 | 27 |
| | | Low Margin | 75 | 33 |
| | Total Respondents | 228 | 100 | |
| 30 | Source of Raw Material | Producer | 72 | 12 |
| | | Local Dealer | 90 | 15 |
| | | Master Weavers | 266 | 44 |
| | | Co-Operative Society | 172 | 29 |
| | | Total | 600 | 100 |
| 31 | Number of Looms | One Loom | 442 | 74 |
| | | Two Looms | 84 | 14 |
| | | Three Looms | 50 | 08 |
| | | Four Looms | 24 | 04 |
| | | Total | 600 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey

Interpretation:

According to the data gathered, adults over the age of 18 make up a major portion of the handloom weavers' population. Weavers from the Padmashali (a backward caste) account for 92% of the total respondents in the weavers, indicating that handloom is a poverty class vocation. However, male weavers make up a bigger share of the workforce than female weavers, yet the gender wage disparity is small. It is also observed that a considerable number of the young literate class are engaged in weaving as a hereditary occupation with less career options due to their lower investment in education. Sixty percent of weavers' children attend government schools.

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As a result, the educational quality is incompatible with the market's desired skills. Body pains, fever, TB, diabetes, and blood pressure account for a major portion of the weavers' annual medical expenses. The majority of ordinary weavers visit government hospitals; the average annual household income of ordinary weavers is Rs. 78,305, and weavers with this income fall below the poverty line.

Suggestions and Conclusions

Increase government budget allocations, and establish sufficient enforcement to ensure that money are used effectively. Through public distribution centres, provide high-quality raw materials at low prices. The handloom industry should be isolated from the textile industry and rebuilt with special packages and subsidies for small businesses. Governments could begin by strengthening the Apex Societies and releasing overdue funds from government agencies. To decrease the interest burden, governments could convert the Apex Society's long-term borrowings into share capital. The government should pay special attention to balancing growth among societies, eliminating phoney groups and members, and developing cooperative societies. The handloom sector need more institutional support in order to avoid unusual delays in payment of sale proceeds. New looms should be set up on the cooperative fold in weavers' work sheds to provide group work for all weavers. Governments should adopt a long-term strategy for the development of the handloom industry. A policy for providing regular credit to handloom weavers on agricultural loans needs to be developed. To address the societies' working capital needs, the governments should establish a Revolving Fund of 100 crores and distribute it evenly or proportionately among them. Weavers should have access to health care and receive free medical benefits from governments. The product reservation for handlooms must be tightly enforced, or the benefits of market promotion will be taken away by the Power-looms. The handloom sector should improve its design in response to market developments; there are numerous impediments. More visibility, i.e. a better and bigger market network, is required for handloom items. Exhibits held on a one-time basis with government backing are insufficient. The use of organic yarn and natural dyes can help to increase the value of handloom products.

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