



IMPACT OF THE WEAVERS' WELFARE SCHEMES ON STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE HANDLOOM WEAVERS

DR. N. TAMILARASI

Assistant Professor,
Department of Commerce,
Bharathidasan College of Arts & Science,
Ellispettai, Erode. [TN] INDIA

ABSTRACT

Handloom sector plays a vital role in the Indian economy. This industry helps in the creation of ample opportunities of employment especially for the labour class. It helps in earning considerable sum of foreign exchange to the country thus strengthening the national economy. The handloom sector has developed a lot over a period of time. It is spread throughout the country. The features of this sector vary across the country. Indian textile industry is one of the leading industries of Indian economy and has important place in industrial cluster of India. By keeping this, the present study deals with the impact of the weavers' welfare schemes on standard of living of the handloom weavers in Erode District of Tamil Nadu. The findings also indicated that the improve the weavers' standard of living.

Keywords: Handloom sector, Standard of living, Weavers, impact, welfare

INTRODUCTION

The Handloom industry is often regarded as a purely traditional and static, rather than dynamic, and labour intensive rather than capital intensive. This image of the country was true until about fifteen years ago when, after over half a century of technological stagnation, a dynamic progress began to change the picture. Since then the production capacity of the machinery has increased dramatically, advanced automation is now being applied at all stages of fibre and fabric processing.

DR. N. TAMILARASI

1Page



This rapidly changing pattern of products and processes, the growing international competition and the difficulties in the utilisation of existing production capacities characterize the situation in countries with traditional industries and influence the prospects of building up a viable textile industry in other where production is lagging behind consumption.

Government is more interested to improve the standard of living of the handloom weavers. With this him Government is launching various programmes and marketing facilities but in practice, actual result is far away from the expected level. Moreover, the impact of the weavers' welfare schemes on standard of living of handloom weavers is difficult to measure. Because, it depends upon the various socio-economic factors like gender, age, marital status, educational level, nature of the family, size of the family, number of family members involved in weaving, weaving experience, annual income in weaving, annual expenditure in weaving, geographical location of the unit, nature of ownership of weaving, number of looms owned for weaving, membership of the Weavers' Society and nature of weaving. By realizing the significance of weavers and their economic background, this paper is an attempt to study the impact of the weavers' welfare schemes on standard of living of handloom weavers.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Aswini Kumar Mishra (1994) made a study to find out the social impact of the handloom Co-operatives on social life-style of the weavers in Western Orissa. To examine this, primary data have been collected by using Interview Schedule. He found that handloom Co-operative Societies in Western Orissa are not providing any assistance for the betterment of the like of the handloom weavers. He concluded that Orissa Government should take all possible steps to increase the financial strength of the Co-operative Societies and thereafter Co-operatives Societies can provide more assistance for the betterment of the handloom weavers.

Sudhakar Rao (1990) examined the employment, poverty and levels of living among the handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh. For his study, by using Simple Random Technique 337 sample respondents have been selected. Collected data have been analysed with Factor Analysis. This study suggested that handloom weaving should be treated as an anti-poverty activity.

Rangarajan (1997) suggested that the Government should implement the different technical schemes to boost the competitive strength by improvement in the handlooms and their accessories and in pre-weaving and post-weaving process.



Devi (2013) conducted a study to identify the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers in India. She found that handloom sector has slowly deteriorated over the years. Handloom weavers were facing severe livelihood crisis. This study concluded that there must be necessary to implement various schemes to improve the standard of living of the weavers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To measure the Impact of the weavers' welfare schemes on Standard of living of the handloom weavers.
2. To provide suggestions to improve the standard of living of the handloom weavers.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

Ho: There is no significant association between the independent variables (gender, age, marital status, educational level, nature of the family, size of the family, number of family members involved in weaving, weaving experience, annual income in weaving, annual expenditure in weaving, geographical location of the unit, nature of ownership of weaving, number of looms owned for weaving, membership of the weavers and nature of weaving) of the Handloom weavers and their impact of weavers' welfare schemes on Standard of living of the Handloom weavers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is an empirical study based on survey method. As the areas of operation are wide, a pilot study was conducted as a prelude to understand the magnitude of the problems of weavers. A detailed interview schedule was prepared in regional language to collect the primary data. Convenient sampling technique has been adopted for collection of primary data. Required data have been collected from the selected 570 sample weavers. Such collected data have been analysed with the help of various statistical tools like Percentage Analysis and chi-square test.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Level of Impact

To measure the level of impact, 18 statements have been given in Interview schedule.

Weavers' level of impact has been measured with Rensis Likert's Three Point Scale. On the basis of quantification procedure, it is found that (70.00%) sample weavers are having low level Impact. Details of the findings are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Classification of the Weavers by Impact Score

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WEAVERS BY IMPACT SCORE

Impact Level	No. of weavers	TS	MS
Less	399(70.00)	10250	25.68
More	171 (30.00)	9390	54.91
Total	570 (100.00)	19640	34.45

IMPACT LEVEL OF THE WEAVERS' WELFARE SCHEMES ON STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE HANDLOOM WEAVERS: CHI SQUARE TEST

Weavers' impact level has been examined by framing a null hypothesis and the same has been tested with chi square at 5% level of significance. Details of the findings are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Impact Level of the Weavers' Welfare schemes on Standard of living of the Handloom weavers-Chi Square Test

Independent Variables	Category	Impact		Total	χ^2	DF	Result
		More	Less				
Gender	Male	132	224	356	0.615	1	NS
	Female	39	175	214			
Age	Young	44	50	94	0.184	2	NS
	Middle aged	80	251	331			
	Old	47	98	145			
Marital Status	Married	113	392	505	2.870	1	NS
	Unmarried	4	7	11			
Education Level	Illiterate	50	74	124	1.449	3	NS
	Primary Level	70	251	321			
	Secondary	47	34	81			
	College	10	34	44			
Nature of the	Nuclear	108	287	395	0.281	1	NS

Independent Variables	Category	Impact		Total	χ^2	DF	Result
		More	Less				
Family	Joint	63	112	175	1.613	2	NS
Size of the Family	Small	75	174	249			
	Medium	81	203	284			
	Large	15	22	37			
Number of family members involved in weaving	Group A	42	265	307	0.929	2	NS
	Group B	117	116	233			
	Group C	12	18	30			
Weaving Experience	Less	79	110	189	0.254	2	NS
	Medium	64	271	335			
	High	28	18	46			
Annual Income	Low	47	244	291	1.431	2	NS
	Medium	76	105	181			
	High	48	50	98			
Annual Expenditure	Low	60	205	265	1.619	2	NS
	Medium	80	114	194			
	High	31	80	111			
Geographical location of the unit	Rural	115	385	500	0.013	1	NS
	Town Area	56	14	70			
Nature of Ownership	Owned	112	341	453	0.068	1	NS
	Hired	59	58	117			
Number of Looms owned for weaving	Group A	63	283	346	0.791	2	NS
	Group B	98	100	198			
	Group C	10	16	26			
Membership in Weavers' Society	Member	74	159	233	1.036	2	NS
	Not Member	97	240	337			
Nature of weaving	Primary	93	245	338	0.005	1	NS
	Secondary	78	154	232			

NS: No Significant @5% Level

Table 2 shows that the association between the independent variables of gender, age, marital status, educational level, nature of the family, size of the family, number of family members involved in weaving, annual income weaving experience, annual expenditure in weaving, geographical location of the unit, nature of ownership of weaving unit, number of looms owned for weaving, membership of the Weavers' Society and nature of weaving are insignificant.

RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTION

DR. N. TAMILARASI

5P a g e



On the basis of the findings of the present study, the following viable suggestions are offered for the betterment of weavers' welfare schemes.

In the present study, it is found that 70.00% of the sample weavers are having less impact of weavers' welfare schemes. Hence, it is suggested that the Government concerned should consider this seriously and take necessary steps to increase the weavers' income, education and savings by implementing various benefits oriented schemes relating to development of various infrastructure facilities.

CONCLUSION

By realizing the significance of Handloom sectors and Handloom weavers, through this paper, an attempt has been made to identify the impact level of weavers' welfare schemes on standard of living of the handloom weavers. On the basis of findings, suggestion has been offered for the purpose of increase the impact level of weavers' welfare schemes.

REFERENCES

1. Aswini Kumar Mishra, (1994), "Social Impact of Handloom Co-operatives on Weavers in Western Orissa: An Empirical Study", Journal of Rural Development, Vol.13, No.2, April-June, pp. 257-261.
2. Devi, L., (2013), "An Analysis of Socio-economic status of Handloom Weavers in India". International Journal of Business and Administration Research, Vol.3, No.5, April - June, pp.16-22.
3. Rangarajan, S., (1997), "Indian Handloom Outlook in 21st Century of Handloom Export", Indian Journal of Marketing, Vol.3, No.2, August, pp.21-23.
4. Sudhakar Rao, B., (1990), "Employment, Poverty and Levels of Living among the Handloom Weavers in AndhraPradesh", Journal of Rural Development, Vol.9, No.6, November, pp.212-215.