AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES IN DEVELOPMENT OF POWERLOOM WEAVERS – A CASE STUDY OF RAJANNA SIRCILLA DISTRICT OF TELANGANA

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ABSTRACT: Textile industry has played a vital role in the economic development of the country. Apart from providing the basic necessity of life, it has contributed to the industrial output and employment generation. Resources are important for the survival of any industry and the same stands true with textile industry. With discovery of electricity the looms run by electric power called Powerlooms became a part of Indian Textile. The Powerloom technology focuses on mass production rather than giving importance to creativity, art and customization. It is one such sector which contributes to highest cloth production among various other sectors of Textile industries. However, this decentralized industry has faced crisis situation in various parts of the country and Telangana was not let out, Rajanna Sircilla District stands testimony of the crisis. The vulnerabilities of crisis were due to weak inappropriate policies and lack of resources. The study concludes that the stakeholders of the industry should recognise the hard work of weavers and remunerate them accordingly. The Government should strengthen the infrastructure by providing the resources and continuity of work needs to be maintained by providing the orders from public and private sectors. The Government took rehabilitation measures but a long way to go for the development of weavers.

Keywords: Powerlooms, Development and Resources

1. INTRODUCTION:
The Indian Textile Industry is one of the oldest and leading industries in the world. Apart from providing the basic necessity of life, its role has been significant in providing the employment to millions of families and in the economic growth of the country. The India textile industry is largely dispersed with Textile Mills and on hand and Handlooms and Powerlooms on the other hand engage in satisfying the clothing requirement of the country and earns a substantial amount of foreign exchange through imports and exports. Handlooms have been in the country from the time immemorial and are known for intricate and artistic design which is unique in the world. With the advent of technology, textile mills were started in the second half of nineteenth century¹ and Powerlooms have recent origin and can be taken as a by-product of Mills sector.

2. DECENTRALISED POWERLOOM SECTOR IN INDIA
There are no authentic records to indicate the first introduction of Powerlooms in the country. As per Fact finding committee report of 1942 they were around 15000 looms for the whole of India. Apart from this, neither the distribution nor the growth of Powerlooms has been uniform. The Powerloom enquiry committee Report of 1964 gave a figure of 145803 looms in India which includes authorized and un-authorised Powerlooms. The growth of Powerlooms is mainly through handloom entrepreneurs who on geographical spread of electricity in 1922 and on availability of second hand discarded looms of Mills sector provided a strong base for converting the handlooms into Powerlooms. Their conversion is encouraged by prosperity of the industry with a desire to improve efficiency and productivity, increase their earnings and to reduce their strain of operation.

According to Annual Report 2016-17, Ministry of textiles, the decentralized Powerloom sector provides employment to 64.36 lakh persons and contributes to 60 percent of total cloth production in the country. There are approximately 25.74 lakh Powerlooms as on 31st October 2016 and varies from Plain to Shuttleless looms. More than 60 percent of the export comes from Powerlooms sector, whereas the readymade and home textile sectors are heavily dependent on Powerloom industry to meet its requirements.

Growth in Powerloom sector is coordinated by Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service centre. Out of 25.74 lakh powerlooms approximately 1.50 lakh looms are Shuttleless Looms². Most of the Looms are outdated and comes under vintage. Because of this the production is affected. However, the Government has taken initiative for up-gradation of technology and above all the Powerloom centers and polytechnic institutes are engaged in providing technical services such as training testing facilities, technical consultation and design development and diversification to bridge the gap between the availability of skilled manpower and the requirement of Powerloom industry. The centers are well equipped with modern machinery and equipment such as Projectile, Rapier Looms, Air jet, Drop Box Looms, Pirn Winders, Cone winders and Wrapping machine etc.

Weaving is an art and plays an important role in Indian Textile Industry. Powerloom industry is not given its due share, apart from this the structure of the industry plays an important role in making it competitive. Powerloom sector is mainly unorganized as this sector comprises of small, fragmented and unregistered units that require low investment.

3. POWERLOOM SECTOR IN TELANGANA
The textile industry of Telangana, the 29th State of South India is widely spread over in Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Gadwal, Mahabubnagar and Sircilla Districts. Ethnic handloom design of Telangana state has been promoting the cultural glory.
of the State over the years. The design pattern of Pochampally Ikat’s, Gadwala cotton, Silk and Sico sarees, Narayanpet cotton, Silk Sarees, Warangal Durries, Karimnagar Bed sheets and furnishing shows the outstanding skills of weavers in Telangana State. A significant portion of State workforce is dependent on Textile industry for employment. As per Handloom and Textile Department of Telangana, there are 82,438 Hand looms under cooperative societies and 38002 are under non-cooperatives. There are about 49112 Powerlooms and 157 Powerlooms societies in the state. Several Central and State sponsored schemes are implemented for Socio-economic development of weavers.

4. POWERLOOM SECTOR IN RAJANNA SIRCILLA DISTRICT
The craftsmanship of the Indian weaver has been refined to a fine art and these fabrics woven from superior yarns are now being manufacture on powerlooms. Indeed, the colours of life itself are reflected in their exquisite designs and startlingly with beautiful colours. The decentralized powerloom sector has widened the scope of products and fabrics manufactured because of the modernization process undertaken by the sector itself. The phenomenal success of the powerloom sector can be traced to certain distinct advantages it possesses. The comparatively low costs, the flexibility and adaptability of production techniques and heterogeneous production structure of the industry have enabled it to supply large and small quantities as per requirements. The Textile town Sircilla is one such example of Powerloom industry which provided the ample work to the weavers, so much so that it was called the “Sholapur of Andhra Pradesh”. But with boom came the depression and the success story of Sircilla has unfolded into crisis followed by indebtedness and suicides of weavers.

5. CRISIS IN THE POWER LOOM SECTOR OF SIRCILLA
The Power loom sector in different parts of India has faced crisis and Telangana is not left out from this situation and it is pertinent to note that a substantial number of weavers have committed suicides in traditional power loom industry of Sircilla Town in Karimnagar district of north Telangana. This indicates deep-rooted distress among the weaving community and has been reported with time in 1998, 2001 and in 2008 in Sircilla. It is quiet astonishing to note that the sector which emerged as cloth producer in the country have to face a grim situation and it is evident from analysis that suicides are more confined to hired worker segment as indebtedness is high among them. The Textile town of Telangana has recorded highest number of powerlooms weavers’ suicides following the crisis in the sector. The industry plunged into crisis with the closure of powerloom units and its allied industries. Unemployment and inadequate wages resulted in food insecurity, malnutrition and high drop rate of children from schools. Added to this health related problems such as anaemia, tuberculosis, asthma and gynecological illness among women became common. To overcome this, weavers came under the vicious circle of indebtedness and have to face constant harassment from lenders and micro finance institutes. To escape all this they took to alcoholism which has further deteriorated their living conditions.

6. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:
A brief review of literature from international, national and regional level studies is analysed which includes Government reports, research reports, dissertation or thesis, articles, books, journals and news reports etc.

6.1 Nathan Appleton (1858)6: The author in the book titled “Introduction of the power loom and origin of Lowell” has highlighted setting up of factories and spindles in New England. However these requirements were met generously by those who laid foundation. The power loom was at this time being introduced in England, but its construction was being kept secret and after many failures, public opinion was not favorable to its success. However, the manufacturer woke up to the fact, that the power loom was an instrument which changed the whole character of the manufacture, and by adopting the other improvements which has been made in machinery resulted in improvement of production.

6.2 Fact Finding Committee on Mills and Handlooms (1942)7: During the II world war, the shortage of yarn became acute and the handloom industry received major setbacks. So to study the problems of the industry, Fact Finding Committee on Mills and Handlooms was set up in 1942. The committee concluded that the major reasons for the crisis in the industry were due to changes in tariff policy, shift in consumer taste, competition from mill sector and Powerloom sector and a strong dependency type of relationship exist between weaver and middlemen. On the recommendations of this committee, All India Handloom Board was set up in 1945 with the aim of supplying raw material and assisting the marketing of handloom products.

6.3 Powerloom Enquiry Committee Report (1964)8: The indication of this committee is to examine the structure and growth of the powerloom industry with special reference to types, holdings, ownership, appliances, supply of raw material, fabrics produced, processing of the fabrics, marketing and financing. The report has highlighted the growth of powerlooms in important centers. The structure of the powerlooms units in the country has been changing from time to time mostly dictated by the variation in excise duty, technology, finance, production and marketing. The report concludes to enable the Textile Industry to integrate the Mills, the powerlooms and the Handlooms into a closely-knit and expanding structure of production.

6.4 Tirthankar Roy (1998)9: The author in this article “Development or Distortion? ‘Powerlooms’ in India, 1950-1997” has focused on the rise of a cotton mill industry in India, most of the 20th century has seen a dismantling of weaving in the mills, and its shift to small weaving factories, called powerlooms. The article disputes this view and interprets the growth as a pattern of industrialization founded on 1) unlimited supply of low-quality labour 2) developing systems of inter-firm co-ordination, 3) agglomeration based on such systems, and 4) continuous accumulation of capital.

6.5 K. Srinivasulu (2000)10: The analyst through the article “A death-blow to weavers”, published in The Hindu news paper has highlighted the New Industrial Policy of 1985 and its impact on social objectives. Though the policy is about liberalisation but certain measures are taken to protect the handloom sector. It was a distinct policy with regard to handloom sector but has more anti-handloom measures. The policy was more social in objectives as it made significant contribution in the form of Reservation Act and Hank Yarn Obligation for spinning Mills. The report suggested making handloom industry as three tiers on the basis of quality of cloth produce.
6.6 Handbook on Powerloom, Government of India, Ministry of Textiles (2005): The Handbook published by Ministry of Textile gives details information about Indian textile industry in general and decentralized Powerloom sector in particular. The book deals with Powerloom sector history with a focus on turning points in weaving technology and present status of Indian Powerloom industry. The book has highlighted the growth and structure of Powerloom industry with special emphasis on production profile, technology profile and product profile.

6.7 S Galab, U Vindhya and E Revathi (2010): In a report on “Suicide in SAARC Countries, Multidisciplinary Perspectives and Evidence” the authors have describe the multiple factors which leads to suicides. In the case studies from the handloom and traditional powerloom weaving households from Andhra Pradesh, the important suicides-risk factors are located along the spectrum of economic reasons-non-availability of work, low incomes, and high indebtedness. The small scale weaving, either handloom or power loom suffers from three sets of problems viz., production related stress, occupational health hazards and lack of social security measures thereby making it vulnerable to distress and hence suicides.

6.8 Asha Krishna Kumar (2001): The author in article “Despair and Death-The Crises in Sircilla”, has define the structure of Sircilla powerloom industry. More recently, globalisations, the opening up of the economy and the removal of quantitative restrictions on some categories of goods, have led to dumping by China and Thailand, ”making the weavers impossible to sell the goods in the market”. Sales dropped and stocks mounted, as did the interest outstanding on bank loans. The article concludes that the weavers could not benefit much from any of the government scheme.

6.9 Parliament Standing Committee Report (2008): The report titled “General conditions of weavers in the country - A case study of Sircilla concentration zone of weavers” prepared by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour 2008-09 which is the Thirty-Fifth Report on the subject based on the first hand information regarding the problems. A brief extract of the Committee is that there have been high incidents of suicides by the powerloom weavers in Sircilla and the reasons are Lack of regular jobs, Inadequate wages, Indebtedness and resultant harassment by the Micro-finance companies, piling of unlifted stock. Ill health, domestic problems and Prolonged addiction to alcohol. The central and state government has granted funds and implemented many schemes for the benefit of weavers. However, these schemes are in vogue for many years.

6.10 Naandi Foundation Report (2009): Naandi Foundation was appointed by the government to survey the families of Sircilla weavers. The suicides have been unprecedented among weavers community since 2000 and to know the reason for the suicides the survey was undertaken. The objective of the survey is to study the Socio-economic status of the weaver community. To identify various vulnerable groups within the community, to examine the outreach of the government schemes and interventions, the role of self-help groups and micro finance institutions in the area. The study concludes that social, demographic and economical factors have played a significant role in suicides of the weavers.

6.11 S Galab, E Revathi (2009): The authors in the article “Understanding Powerloom weavers’ suicides in Sircilla” have thrown light on the oligopolistic market of Sircilla. The article has highlighted the conditions of workers and the state and central government intervention in a more organized manner to end the distress. The Textile and handloom departments of the state government need to perform two functions i.e one, supply of yarn and two, markets for the product. Apart from production related stress the article has describe the condition of hired workers suffering from occupational health hazards and lack of social security.

6.12 Sumita Dawra (2012): Sumita Dawra an IAS officer has written field notes of her service in Andhra Pradesh State in the book titled “Poor but Spirited in Karimnagar”. Through the book the author recounts her experience as collector in the district of Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh. Through this notes the officer tried to raise the questions of wide gap between intentions and results inspite of crores of funding by Government agencies. Various struggling stories are covered from farmers, miners to weavers. Poverty, child labour, epidemic, malnourishment, water supply and sanitation were discussed. Farmers and weavers suicides were taken in a brief manner in the context of administration and governance. The problems are discussed by identifying the successful models of governance within the country and outside the county for comparison and providing contemporary perspective on administration and governance.

6.13 Manduva Hanmanth Prasad Rao (2013): The researcher through thesis title “Problems and Prospects of Textile Industry – A Study of Select Units” has endeavored to identify and quantify problems of the powerloom sector at Sircilla and the Textile Park at Baddenapally of Karimnagar district. The study also made a comparison between powerloom centre and Textile Park at Baddenapally and offer suggestion for efficient management of sector. The study suggested that Finance, Marketing, Technology and Social security measures needs to be strengthen at Sircilla Powerloom centre, moreover financial and domestic problems have driven the weavers to suicides which need to be curbed by providing rehabilitation measures.

6.14 The Hindu (2016): The Hindu news paper article has highlighted the condition of weavers in the light of demonitisation move. Powerloom industry of Sircilla is badly affected as there are no takers for their produce. The trading in the industry is mainly done through cash and demonitisation of high value currency has come as a rude shock to weavers. The inability of the common man to withdraw cash from banks or ATM is taken as an opportunity by MFI for luring weavers in the form of soft loans at high rate of interest of 36 percent. This burdens the weavers and as such they are exposed to the harassment of lenders.

6.15 The Hindu (2017): The Hindu paper news on Sari bounty which has helped the Sircilla Weavers has given the information about State Government showers on the Sircilla weavers by way of placing an order of 60 lakh saris. The remaining 30 lakh sari order is being diversified to textile firms of Gujarat as weavers expressed their inability to produce saris in such a large number by September for the Bathukamma festival. This would cost the State Government 200 crores but is being undertaken to financially support the weavers. The reason for placing such an order to Sircilla Powerloom industry because the sari produced on a powerloom costs about Rs 222 per unit whereas it cost Rs 450 in case of handlooms.
7. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
1. To find the impact of resources on the Socio-economic development of Powerloom weavers

8. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:
H₀: There is no significant effect of availability of resources in Socio-economic development of Powerloom weavers
H₁: There is a significant effect of availability of resources in Socio-economic development of Powerloom weavers

9. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:
Telangana State has 31 Districts of which Karimnagar, Warangal and Nalgonda districts are quiet famous for Powerloom industry. However, Rajanna Sircilla district is an important centre for the production of cloth through Powerlooms. Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry is selected for the study as this region has the highest concentration of Powerloom weavers faced with crisis. The primary reason for selecting this industry is to know the present Socio-economic profile of weavers in the context of crisis.

The study is in the form of empirical analysis where the objectives are evaluated by using both Primary and Secondary source.

The Primary data was collected from Powerloom workers (Hire worker/Employees) who weave and process cotton and polyester cloth. The information was taken through a structured questionnaire with good reliability. Furthermore discussions, observation and personal interviews were carried out with weavers, owners of powerloom units, Master weavers and other stake holders as the Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry is highly un-regularized.

The primary data is supported by Secondary Data. The secondary sources of data pertaining to the study was gathered from the records published by the Ministry of Textile Industry Government of India, Department of Handlooms and Textiles Karimnagar, Powerloom Service Centre of Sircilla and Hyderabad, Trade Unions office in Sircilla, CESS Sircilla, and RDO office Sircilla. Further the information was gathered from well equipped libraries of JNTUH, Osmania University, NIRD and CESS Hyderabad, articles from News Papers and Leading journals, Text Books on concerned topics and from Internet web resources.

9.1 Sampling Plan
Sircilla Powerloom industry is three tier industry and the main players are Master Weavers, Asami and Worker weavers (Employees). A detail diagnosis has revealed that the crisis is more confined to the hired worker segment of the Powerloom Industry in Sircilla. Indebtedness is high among this segment followed by food insecurity, malnutrition, anemia and other health related problems. Added to these workers are more addicted to alcoholism and depends on Finance institutions and money lenders for their credit needs. The study has targeted only hire worker segment i.e worker weavers as they are daily wage earners and more suicides are reported from this segment because of deteriorated and distress life which resulted in their low socio-economic position.

9.2 Sampling Method
The Empirical study has adopted Simple Random Sampling Technique in selection of weavers sample from Sircilla textile town. The selection of sample was made in accordance with the Powerloom weavers population within the Sircilla cluster.

9.3 Sample Size
Out of 20000 weavers a random sample of 500 which is 2.5 percent of the population is selected for the study.
Sample Size = 500
A well structure questionnaire was developed by keeping in view the objective of the study. It was administered to a very small sample segment as a pre-test. The results of the pre-test were helpful in modification of the questionnaire so that consistency is being developed for processing the large scale data. The modification of the questionnaire was done after pre-testing it through statistical norms.

9.4 Statistical Tools
The primary data collected from the respondents were analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The following statistical tools were applied for the study.
1. Multiple Regression analysis is used to predict the variability of the dependent variables based on its co-variance with all the independent variables. The dependent variable is Socio-economic development of weavers.
2. Karl Pearson's Coefficient of correlation is used to study the degree of relationship between the variables under consideration.

10. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY
1. The study is confined to a particular area i.e Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry in Telangana region.
2. The study has targeted only the problems of Powerloom weavers (worker weavers) where as the issues related with Master Weaver and Asami is not being analysed.
3. The study may be affected by inaccuracies and inadequacies of the responses to the questionnaire as majority of the weavers are uneducated and are reluctant to disclose the information due to lack of knowledge.
4. Random Sampling method was adopted to collect information for the study, which has its own limitations.

11. DATA ANALYSIS
The Socio-economic development of Powerloom weavers is being analysed by knowing the effect of availability of resources on their development. The resources are classified as:
• Availability of Work
• Electric Power availability
• Availability of Raw Material
• Technology status
• Wage Status
• Marketing facilities
• Government Support
Based on the above variables the analysis was done by using regression and correlation analysis. The results of which is shown below:

11.1 Regression Analysis:
In the following analysis, the relationship between resources and Socio-economic development of Sircilla Powerloom weavers was studied. It was found that the status of resources have made variability in the development of Powerloom weavers. The model summary of the analysis is shown in Table.No.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>Adjusted R Square</th>
<th>Std. Error of the Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>.858</td>
<td>0.736</td>
<td>0.731</td>
<td>0.651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Predictors: (Constant), Work Status, Electric Power availability, Raw Material, Technology status, Wage status, Marketing facilities, Government support

The above table shows the results of Predictive variable in multiple regressions. The model summary show the adjusted R2 as 0.731 or 73 percent of the variance is explained in the predictors of the variables. The predictive variables are Work status, Electric Power availability, Raw Material, Wage status, Technology Status, Marketing facilities and Government support. 73 percent of variation is there in Socio-economic development of weavers (dependent variable) by predictive variables.

11.2 Correlation Analysis:
Correlation Analysis is done to determine the degree of relationship between the variables. The analysis of which is shown in Table.No. 4
### Table No. 4 Correlation Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Pearson Correlation</th>
<th>Socio-economic development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Crisis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of Work</td>
<td>.853**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of Electric Power</td>
<td>.227*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raw Material</td>
<td>.255*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Status</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages Status</td>
<td>-0.35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Facilities</td>
<td>-0.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Support</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table information shows the values of correlation between the resources and Socio-economic development. There exists a high degree of positive correlation between availability of work, wage status with Socio-economic development of weavers. There is low degree of positive correlation between Electric Power Status, Raw material and Technology Status with Socio-economic development. There exist a negative correlation between Marketing facilities, Government support with Socio-economic development.

12. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1. Regression analysis shows 73 percent (Adjusted R²) of variation in Socio-economic development of weavers by resources with a standard error estimate of 0.65. Resources taken are Work, Electric Power, Raw Material, Technology status, Wages, Marketing facilities and support from Government.

2. There is 0.83 (Standardised beta coefficient) Standard deviation and 0.82 (Standardised beta coefficient) Standard deviation increase in Socio-economic development of weavers for a standard deviation increase in availability of work and wage status respectively.

3. There exists a high degree of 85 percent positive correlation between Socio-economic development and availability of work.

4. There exists a high degree of 84 percent positive correlation between Socio-economic development and wages of weavers.

5. There exists a low degree of positive correlation between availability of Electric Power, Raw material and Technology Status with Socio-economic development of weavers.

6. There is negative correlation between marketing facilities and Government support with Socio-economic development of weavers.

13. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The Indian textile is diverse catering to different needs of the people and simultaneously generates employment contributing towards economic growth by creating a balance between social and economical aspects. Weavers are the pillars of textile industry which cannot be ignored as they give strong base to the development of industry. With low Socio-economic position they could not contribute much towards the development of industry. Availability of work with handsome wages is one of the basic requirements for the development of weavers. The stakeholders of the industry should recognise the hard work of weavers and remunerate them accordingly. If they are paid on salary basis rather than on piece meal basis then even in slack season they get earnings as Master weaver and Asami have their share of profits for the whole year. The Government should intervene and give wages and other incentives to the workers as per Minimum wages Act G.O of 2015 and if any discrepancies are found then action should be taken against the employers. The continuity of work needs to be maintained by providing the orders to the weavers from public and private sectors. The Government should strengthen the infrastructure by providing the resources and uninterrupted power supply. An initiative should be taken for modernizing and up-grading the technology in Sircilla town on
lines with Sircilla Textile Parks and technically advance Powerloom clusters of India. The Government should set up yarn bank for supplying yarn to weavers without any disruption at subsidized rates. These all measures will help in curbing the inconsistencies by improving productivity and by developing the Socio-economic position of weavers.

REFERENCES: