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## A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT ON THE PATH OF THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY INTO THE ERA BEFORE AND AFTER INDEPENDENCE

**Dr. JMJ. Vinodini**

Associate Professor  
Department of Econometrics  
S.V. University, Tirupati.

### ABSTRACT

The Indian handloom sector of the textile industry is an ancient industry that serves the economy well in terms of providing direct and indirect employment to over 35.22 lakh weavers and is the largest economic activity second only to agriculture. One of the finest and most dynamic components of Indian cultural history is the custom of manufacturing handicrafts and weaving by hand. Handloom is the second largest sector after agriculture, with advantages such as lower capital investment, availability of labour weavers, lower power consumption, environmental friendliness, market flexibility, and so on. The Indian government is also working to expand and improve the country's production and branding. Weavers' livelihoods are still in jeopardy. As a result, in addition to making the handloom sector sustainable, it is vital to recognise today's issues as well as the sector's strengths and weaknesses. This paper is animated to analyze the important elements of the handloom sector such as dependent households, weavers, looms, worked man-days, and production trends pre and post independence.

Key Wards: Handloom sector; trend in pre and post Independence; weavers' states; production.

### Introduction

The handloom sector plays a very prominent role in the country's economy. It is one of the most important economic activities, employing over 35.22 lakh people directly in weaving and related activities. As a result of effective government intervention through financial assistance and the implementation of various development and welfare schemes, this sector has been able to withstand competition from the power loom and mill sectors. This sector contributes nearly one percent of the total cloth produced in the country and also adds

substantially to export earnings. The handloom is unparalleled in its flexibility and versatility, permitting experimentation and encouraging innovation. The strength of handlooms lies in introducing innovative designs, which cannot be replicated by the power loom sector. Thus, handlooms form a part of the heritage of India and exemplify the richness and diversity of our country and the artistry of the weavers.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To examine the weaver population in India.
2. To analyse the production of the handloom industry during the pre and post independence periods.

### **India's Handloom Industry History**

The history of our handlooms dates back to epic times. It forms a part of our rich cultural heritage. The ancient literature of India, Buddhist and Pali, has a lot of references to handloom cloth and fabrics. In the Vedas and Puranas, there are innumerable references to the exquisite qualities and wide range of fabrics worn by the gods, kings, and people at large. Each God and Goddess is described as wearing a specific type of fabric, such as Lord Krishna in yellow, Goddess Kali in red, and so on.

It was known that the Indian handloom industry has been popular worldwide for centuries for its workmanship. It was a big craze and status symbol for European countries to have Indian handloom products in their homes. Thus, the Indian handloom has an excellent past. It goes back to the Indus Valley Civilization.

### **During the Pre-Independence Period**

The fact that Britishers, with their knowledge of advanced and sophisticated machinery and a vested interest, emboldened themselves to bypass the age-old weaving traditions of India, is undeniable. Weavers were constantly exploited through various means. As a result, the ancient hand-spinning industry nearly died, leaving hand weavers helplessly dependent on the machine for yarn supply. The tariff policy during 1896–1914 favoured the progress of the handloom industry in India. The import duty of 3.5 percent was increased to 7.5 percent on mill-made cloth.

But the beginning of the world war became a boon for the millers, as between 1914 and 1920, the number of mill looms increased by 15 percent, and thus the production of handloom cloth also sharply fell during this period, resulting in unemployment for weavers. During the war period, imports of cloth were curtailed and internal demand increased, which was helpful for mills. Till about the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the textile industry in India was a handloom industry only, with 100 percent handloom cloth circulation in the country and a flourishing export market in addition. But the situation changed so rapidly that before the Second World War, the ratio was in favour of the mill sector and not in favour of handlooms.

After the First World War, the handloom industry recorded unprecedented progress and performance, mainly because of the availability of good quality dyes, the use of fly shuttle looms by weavers in many parts of India, and the emergence of cooperative forms of organisation in the wake of the 1904 Cooperative Societies Act. But the trade depression of the 1930s perplexed and paralysed the handloom industry. Owing to the

growing competition with foreign cloth, the imposition of protective duty by the government on imported cotton cloth, and the mass production of cloth by power looms.

Moreover, the British Government imposed a duty on yam in 1927, and hence handlooms had to depend mostly on the yam spun in India. Due to the depression, the average earning capacity of the weaver was seriously eroded, and even if using improvised looms, the weaver could not help produce more, and the wages received were not commensurate with the job.

In the early part of the 1930s, the condition of weavers was precarious. The Indian government was not paying close attention. Only the state governments were trying to help the weavers. Gradually, the state governments realised the urgency of the situation. The Government of India also strongly felt that weavers were hit by the import duty on the yam, and a grant was released to the industry equivalent to the proceeds of an import duty of X Ana per pound of imported yam up to the fifties. It was included for the first time in the budget of 1935.

However, financial measures were not sufficient to ameliorate the woes of weavers, and hence, a fact-finding committee was appointed in 1941 to investigate different problems of the industry, such as difficulty in getting yam, marketing of finished products, the state of handloom technique, etc. It also had the responsibility to find a new way of reorganising the industry and delineating a special field for handloom. According to the committee's recommendation, the All India Handloom Board was established in 1945.

The production of the handloom and mill sectors increased considerably from 1920–21 to 1938–39, but the rate of growth of production was far below that of the mill industry presented in Table-1. The table shows that, while mill production increased from 1,563.1 million yards to 3,905.3 million yards, the handloom sector covered 931.2 million yards, and the percentage of production was 43.61 in 1938–39. In contrast, mill production increased from 1,563.1 million yards to 3,905.3 million yards, but the handloom sector covered 1703.2 million yards, and the percentage of production was 43.61 in 1920–21. The overall production of the handlooms sector increased from 931.2 million yards to 1703.2 million yards during the period from 1920–21 to 1938–39.

During the years 1922–1923, the handloom sector held the highest percentage of 61.9 percent; thereafter, handloom production gradually declined, and while mill production increased, the percentage held by the handloom sector decreased. It was very low for handloom production, recognised at 35.32 percent in 1937–38.

Table-1  
Progress of the mill and handloom industries during 1920–39 (in million yards)

Year	Mill production	Handloom production	% to mill production
1920-21	1563.1	931.2	59.57
1921-22	1706.0	938.0	54.98
1922-23	1720.8	1084.0	62.99
1923-24	1696.9	816.8	48.13

1924-25	1935.9	1010.8	52.21
1925-26	1964.6	888.4	45.22
1926-27	2265.7	1216.8	53.71
1927-28	2370.9	1210.8	51.07
1928-29	1859.4	973.2	52.34
1929-30	2356.5	1282.4	54.42
1930-31	2480.8	1257.2	50.68
1931-32	2872.8	1332.4	46.38
1932-33	2982.7	1519.2	50.93
1933-34	2767.6	1262.0	45.60
1934-35	3153.7	1255.6	39.81
1935-36	3240.8	1450.4	44.75
1936-37	3322.1	1265.2	38.08
1937-38	3661.5	1293.2	35.32
1938-39	3905.3	1703.2	43.61

Source: Report of the fact finding committee, Govt. of India, 1942, p. 11.

### During the Post-Independence Period

Several generations of weavers' families have suffered long enough as a result of British mistreatment. After independence, the weavers clamoured for solid foundations on which to build up their industry once again. Thus, it was a turning point for weavers, as the government was also aware of the problems faced by the weavers, and special and immense importance was given to this industry in the different five year plans. Also, to look into the difficulties of weavers and the industry, different committees were appointed over time and space. Besides, a number of institutions were established to channel financial resources and other managerial assistance to the industry.

The All India Handloom Board was established in 1945 and reconstituted in 1952 to advise the government on the development of the handloom industry and assist the government generally on problems, such as examining the schemes for the improvement and development of the industry. The role of the All India Handloom Board has undergone a radical change since 1958. Till then, the Board was responsible for formulating state plans for the development of the handloom industry after discussion with the concerned state governments.

However, the Planning Commission revised the procedure so that continuing schemes would be sanctioned by the state government and would not receive financial support from the center. In one way, the importance of the board was reduced. Again, the Board was reconstituted in 1978 in response to the recommendation of the Shivaraman Study Team, and in 1982, it ultimately merged with the All India Handicraft Board to form the All India Handlooms and Handicrafts Board.

In 1953, a decision was taken to open the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society to look after the internal and external marketing. Later on, it was assisted by the Handloom Export Promotion Council. Of late, while analysing the growth and performance of the apparel industry in India, it was commented that in the years to come, there will be two clothiers in the world: India and China. It was also

observed that, apart from India and China, none of the other countries like Bangladesh, Maritus, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, which are the leading suppliers of finished apparel to the developed world, have a strong textile base.

The relics discovered in the recent excavations at Mohenjodaro and Harappa proved beyond dispute that Indians as early as 5000 BC were experts in the art of dyeing and weaving cloth. The historical records observed that from about 1500 BC to 1500 AD, for nearly thirty centuries, India held the world monopoly in the manufacture of cotton goods.

### **Historical Development of the Handloom Industry**

History shows that hand weaving have been in existence in India for over five thousand eight hundred years now. Five thousand years ago, the people of Mohenjodaro knew how to grow cotton and spin and weave. These early inhabitants of the Indus Valley made garments of dyed and patterned cotton, as is evident from the discovery during the excavation of these ancient Harappan sites of a fragment of madder dyed cotton woven in a coarse plain weave. The archaeologists also found, during the digging, terracotta spindle whorls. These significant discoveries from the ancient sand desert site confirmed knowledge of spinning and weaving, as well as the magical Manjitha, madder dyeing process. It was a discovery of the utmost importance, for these finds were the first signs of the use of cotton and dyed garments in the Indian subcontinent.

During the epic age, handicrafts are reported to have been at a highly developed stage. The industry enjoyed a rich heritage in India until the 19th century. Since there were no machines for weaving, the handloom industry was the sole supplier of cloth in the country.

The handloom industry in India had attained a very high degree of excellence centuries before the mechanised loom was invented to produce cloth. As the largest cottage industry in India, it occupies a place of prominence in the economy of the country. Nearly one third of the total requirement for cloth in the country is met by this sector, which caters to all segments of the market. In 1928, the attention of the government was drawn to the problems of the handloom industry for the first time by the Royal Commission on Agriculture, which expressed the view that the development of the village industries on cooperative lines was essential to their survival in the face of increasing competition from the organised mill industry. However, no steps were taken by the government of India to develop the handloom industry until 1934.

For the first time in the year 1935, the government of India formulated a scheme known as ‘Subvention Scheme’. Under the scheme, Rs. 5 lakh were provided to each state for the development of the handloom industry. This scheme aroused a considerable interest among the weavers in the cooperative movement, even though the subsidy was meager. Some interested state governments supplemented the subsidy by contributing from their own resources. The cooperative societies were utilised for administrative purposes. But unfortunately, the scheme was later withdrawn.

### Number of Handlooms in India (1921–2020)

In India, the handloom industry is spread across all the states in the country. But it is true that no precise data is available regarding the number of looms, the number of cooperative societies, the various types of handlooms, the quantity and varieties of production, or employment. Several committees have been appointed from time to time by the Indian government to evaluate the total number of handlooms in the country.

Table-2 shows that the number of handlooms in India increased from 1921 to 2020. According to the report of the 1921 census, the total number of handlooms in India was 12.60 lakh. The Tariff Board of 1932, in its report, estimated the total number of handlooms at 15.15 lakh. The Fact-Finding Committee of 1942 estimated it at 17.91 lakh. The Tax Enquiry Committee in 1954 estimated the total number of handlooms in India as 28.70 lakh. According to the Sivaramam Committee Report of 1974, there were 35.73 lakh handlooms in the country, whereas the position revealed by the statistical statements available from the Textile Commissioner's Office, Bombay, puts handlooms at 38 lakh in 1976. The basic statistics on handlooms compiled by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms in 1983 show that the total number of handlooms in India is 38.20 lakh. The census of handlooms in India in 1987, in its report, estimated the total number of handlooms in India at 39.10 lakh. Again, according to the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi, there were 51.81 lakh handlooms in the country in 1991. As per the Tenth Five-Year Plan Report in 2003, there are 67 lakh handlooms in the country. The third all-India handloom census began in 2010 with 23.71 lakh handlooms. According to the office of the handloom development commissioner, 43.31 lakh handlooms were produced in 2015. The fourth all-India handloom census, conducted by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, revealed that there would be 27,01,400 handlooms in operation by 2020. Thus, the overall growth of handlooms has been presented at 114.37 percent during the period from 1921 to 2020.

Table-2  
Number of Handlooms in India by Different Committees/Studies (1921-2020)

Year	Name of the Committee/Report	Number of Handlooms (in lakh)
1921	Census Report	12.60
1932	Tariff Board Report	15.15
1942	Fact Findings Committee Report	17.91
1954	Tax Enquiring Committee Report	28.70
1974	Sivaraman Committee Report	35.73
1976	Statistical Statement from the Office of the Commissioner Textile, Bombay	38.00
1983	Basic Statistics on Handlooms, Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi:	38.20
1987	Census of Handlooms in India	39.10
1988	First Census all India handloom census (1987-88)	37.80

1991	Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi.	51.81
1996	Second Census all India handloom census (1995-96)	34.71
2003	Tenth Five-year-plan Report	67.00
2010	Third all India handloom census (2009-10)	23.71
2015	Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms)	43.31
2020	Fourth all India handloom census 2019-20, Ministry of textiles, Government of India	27.01

Source:

1. Census of Handlooms in India by NCAER, 1987.
2. Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi.
3. K.Rama Mohan Rao, Development of Handloom Industry, 1990, p. 14.
4. Five year plan Reports.
5. Fourth all India handloom census 2019-20, Ministry of textiles, Government of India

### Number of Handlooms in Various States

The handloom weaving industry in India is the second largest employment provider after agriculture, as presented in Table-3. According to the fourth all-India handloom census, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, there will be about 27,01,080 handlooms in the country in 2020. Though the handloom industry exists in most of the States, handlooms operating on a commercial scale are concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Assam has the most looms, with 12,46,613 handlooms, followed by Manipur, which has 215397 handlooms. Assam has 12,46,613 handlooms out of the total of 27,01,080 in the country, accounting for more than 46.15 percent of the total and holding the top position in terms of number of handlooms in the country. In West Bengal, there are 2,78,499 handlooms in the country, which covers 10.31 percent of the total number of handlooms in the country. The eight states like Assam (46.15 percent), West Bengal (10.31 percent), Manipur (7.97 percent), Tamil Nadu (7.06 percent), Tripura (6.14 percent), Arunachal Pradesh (3.68 percent), Andhra Pradesh (3.41 percent), and Uttar Pradesh (3.40 percent) cover nearly 88.12 percent of the total handlooms in the country. There are a very small number of handlooms in the states and union territories, like Goa (one handloom), Puducherry (104 handlooms), Sikkim (130 handlooms), Punjab (644 handlooms), Haryana (681 handlooms), and Maharashtra (3354 handlooms).

According to the Handloom Census of 2019-20, the total number of handloom workers is 3522512, which includes both weavers (2673891) and allied workers (848621). As against the total number of weavers at 267,381 as per the handloom census of 2019–20, the number of weavers as per the prior handloom census (2009–10) was 43.32 lakh, and the number of weavers as per the earlier 2nd handloom census (1995) was 65 lakh, thus indicating a significant fall in total employment in the sector in recent years as compared to the earlier period. The reduction can be attributed partly to the impact of the global recession in 2008 and partly to the impact of growing competition from the decentralised powerloom and mill-made sectors. This decline in employment in the handloom sector could have social and economic implications for the weaver community if

the trend persists, thereby pointing towards the urgency of bringing in appropriate reforms to reverse the trend. However, the number of weavers has declined gradually between the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th (latest) Censuses.

It can be seen from the table that the state of Assam stands in the first place, having the largest number of 12,69,506 handloom households (40.37 percent), followed by West Bengal with wide variation, having 5,42,557 (17.25 percent) handloom households. Third place is being occupied by Mnnipur with 2,21,855 (7.05 percent) handloom households, and fourth, fifth, and sixth places are being held by Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and Utter Pradesh *states* with 2,09,582 (6.66 percent), 1,37,455 (4.37 percent), and 1,31,120 (4.17 percent) handloom households, respectively. Andhra Pradesh ranks seventh with 1,22,644 (3.90%) handloom households, while Punjab ranks last with 936 (0.03%) handloom households and Sikkim has 697 (0.02%) households in the country. From this, it can be concluded that the handloom households in India have been diffused across the greater length and breadth of the country.

Table-3

Number of handlooms in the States and Union Territories of India in 2019-20

State	Rural Households	Urban Households	Total Households	Weavers	Allied workers	Total workers	Looms
Andhra Pradesh	77,065	45,579	1,22,644	127662	49785	177447	92026
Arunachal Pradesh	84,014	9,300	93,314	77600	17016	94616	99450
Assam	12,52,188	17,318	12,69,506	1107428	176453	1283881	1246613
Bihar	4,716	1,949	6,665	7216	5631	12847	8378
Chhattisgarh	15,283	3,593	18,876	14077	7426	21503	12364
Delhi	0	4,053	4,053	3236	1049	4285	1081
Goa	24	2	26	22	4	26	1
Gujarat	8,109	2,100	10,209	10179	422	10601	9771
Haryana	224	25,184	25,408	14414	11128	25542	681
Himachal Pradesh	13,260	312	13,572	13211	477	13688	14273
Jammu And Kashmir	12,173	10,895	23,068	15784	7544	23328	14711
Jharkhand	12,582	3,896	16,478	12364	10133	22497	6976
Karnataka	28,597	5,080	33,677	27175	27616	54791	22249
Kerala	14,780	5,467	20,247	15480	6604	22084	10728
Madhya Pradesh	7,822	6,435	14,257	12805	5267	18072	10163
Maharashtra	990	2,445	3,435	2882	627	3509	3354
Manipur	1,92,431	29,424	2,21,855	212481	12203	224684	215397
Meghalaya	42,647	108	42,755	41221	1553	42774	43220
Mizoram	21,100	6,302	27,402	17298	10242	27540	21861
Nagaland	31,970	10,441	42,411	35950	7534	43484	69363
Odisha	61,205	2,018	63,223	53472	64364	117836	47625
Puducherry	219	1,410	1,629	908	782	1690	104
Punjab	121	815	936	631	338	969	644
Rajasthan	6,005	2,765	8,770	8687	1403	10090	5449
Sikkim	690	7	697	632	65	697	130
Tamil Nadu	1,44,573	65,009	2,09,582	197818	45757	243575	190716
Telangana	19,417	8,499	27,916	25930	21922	47852	11544
Tripura	1,35,001	2,454	1,37,455	111927	25712	137639	165713

Uttar Pradesh	87,412	43,708	1,31,120	130778	60179	190957	91732
Uttarakhand	6,099	4,997	11,096	7967	4594	12561	6264
West Bengal	4,67,728	74,829	5,42,557	366656	264791	631447	278499
All India	27,48,445	3,96,394	31,44,839	2673891	848621	3522512	2701080

Source: Fourth all India handloom census 2019-20, Ministry of textiles, Government of India.

In independent India, in line with the division of economic power between the centre and the states, the handloom industry formed a subject in the state list. Accordingly, to give special attention to their problems, a number of states with very high concentrations of handloom population, such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, and Meghalaya, created separate directorates for handlooms and powerlooms industries. In other states, the Directorate of Industries looks after the handloom industry. For the adoption and implementation of schemes for the development of the handloom weaving industry, there is the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) at the center, and at the state level, there are the State Handloom Development Corporation and the State Apex Weavers' Cooperative Societies.

To meet the need for updating the technology and familiarising the weavers and others associated with the industry with the different aspects of the development, three Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (DHT) have been established at Salem, Varanasi, and Gouhati.

### **Production in the handloom sector**

In any manufacturing activity, production is the key element. The problems of the handloom industry are vastly different from those of other industries. The main and primary problem in the area of production continues to be the availability of raw materials, particularly yam, at reasonably stable prices in the required quality and quantity. Production, as well as trade in yam, is largely concentrated in private hands like mahajan, master weavers, etc. Imbalances in production, supply, and demand of yam among different states intensify the problem. Another weakness of handloom production is its low productivity with respect to certain products. This can to a great extent be remedied by appropriate modernization of looms and equipment, improvements in working environments, and improvements in pre-loom and post-loom facilities.

A handloom census was done by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 1987. The census data reveals an average productivity of 6.62 metres per loom per day (excluding North Eastern States), assuming that the number of days worked per year is 240. It is as low as 0.95 metre per day per loom in Himachal Pradesh and as high as 15.0 metre per day per loom in Delhi. The census methodology would be largely accurate because empirical data on cloth production, divided by the total number of looms and the number of working days, provides the productivity per day per loom.

The contribution of the handloom sector to textile production is significant. The handloom cloth production increased from 5493 million square metres to 7990 million square metres during the period from 2003–04 to 2018–19. The production of handloom cloth during the last fifteen years is given in Table-4. During

2003–04, the production of handloom fabric was 5493 million square meters, while the share of handloom cloth in total cloth/textile production of 33,874 million square metres (comprising handloom, mill, and powerloom) was about 16.22 percent. In 2004-05, approximately 5,722 million square metres of handloom cloth were produced, contributing to total cloth production of 35,573 million square meters; in 2005-06, handloom cloth production increased by 6,108 million square meters, contributing to total cloth production of 38,390 million square meters, with a handloom share of 15.91 percent.

The handloom cloth production was 6,536 million square metres in 2006–07 and 6,947 million square metres in 2007–08. During 2008-09, handloom production fell from 6,943 million square metres to 6,677 million square meters, while the share of handloom in total cloth production also fell from 16.05 percent to 15.85 percent, which was marked by the global recession. The handloom production decreased from 6,907 million square metres to 6,901 million square metres during the periods of 2010-11 and 2011-12, but the share of handloom in the total cloth production increased from 14.67 percent to 14.81 percent in the same period. During the years 2020-21, abnormal mill production increased, as did handloom production, but the growth rate fell from 9.91 percent to 3.51 percent, and the handloom percentage fell from 14.08 percent to 12.54 percent. However, since then, production has consistently risen in the following years. The increase in production, despite growing competition from mill-made and decentralised powerloom sectors, is heartening. The increase in production of handlooms took place in spite of growing competition from the mill-made and power-loom sectors. The increase in production of handlooms took place in spite of growing competition from the mill-made and power-loom sectors. The data given in the table shows an improvement in the production of cloth by the handloom sector over the years.

Table-4  
Year-wise cloth production by handloom sector from 2003-04 to 2018-19  
(in million sq meters)

Year	Total cloth production	Handloom cloth production	Growth of handloom	Percentage of handloom production	handloom ratio to total cloth production
2003-04	33874	5493	--	16.22	1:6.17
2004-05	35573	5722	4.17	16.09	1:6.22
2005-06	38390	6108	6.75	15.91	1:6.29
2006-07	41161	6536	7.01	15.88	1:6.30
2007-08	43265	6943	6.23	16.05	1:6.23
2008-09	42121	6677	-3.83	15.85	1:6.31
2009-10	45819	6806	1.93	14.85	1:6.73
2010-11	47083	6907	1.48	14.67	1:6.82
2011-12	46600	6901	-0.09	14.81	1:6.75
2012-13	61949	6952	0.74	11.22	1:8.91
2013-14	46425	7104	2.19	15.30	1:6.54
2014-15	47438	7203	1.39	15.18	1:6.59
2015-16	46334	7638	6.04	16.48	1:6.07
2016-17	45946	8007	4.83	17.43	1:5.74
2017-18	51741	7482	-6.56	14.46	1:6.92
2018-19	52464	8147	8.89	15.53	1:6.44

2019-20	63587	8954	9.91	14.08	1:7.10
2020-21	73916	9268	3.51	12.54	1:7.98

- Note: 1. The total cloth production includes handloom, powerloom and mill sector excluding hosiery, khadi, wool and silk.
2. 2018-19 from April to December 52,394 square meters of handloom and total production 11 months powerloom
3. 2019-20 and 2020-21 production is projected values.

## Conclusion

As this paper has discussed, the handloom industry plays an important and dynamic role in the country's economic development, providing significant employment to agriculture in India. Performance of the handloom sector in the pre-independence and post-independence periods the Vedic Period, the Mourya Period, Greek Influence, India Brocades, India Shawls, Indian Embroidery, Indian Dyed and Printed Fabrics, the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, Post-Independence Fabric Production from 1920-2020, and State-Wide Handloom Weavers The data given in the table shows an improvement in the production of cloth by the handloom sector over the years. As a result, in addition to making the handloom sector sustainable, it is vital to recognise today's issues as well as the sector's strengths and weaknesses.

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