
A STUDY ON ASSESSING HANDLOOM WEAVER'S STATUS DURING COVID-19 SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT: Clothing is considered to be evergreen until human being resides in this universe. Diversified apparels reveal the status of the people socially and economically. In today's scenario, large number of people spends on their dressing which looks elegant, pretty, sparkling etc., One fact is hidden here about the weavers who brings out all these outcomes. As it is quite transparent that, in ancient days 3 occupations are considered to be major i.e. Food, Clothing and Shelter. To be focused on these 3 professions, Food is considered to be prime which is offered by Farmers, then comes clothing. Post Adam-Eve period, once human beings learned to behave in civilized manner, clothing plays honor part which is offered by weavers. Then to reside with safety and security, home/house is required which is offered by Mason. In this article, Researcher tried to dig on how the weavers are empowered currently which have reflection in economic development too. It is important to know about weaver's contribution and the level of empowerment attained as the product from handloom industry has greater demand. Even many shifted to modern lives and wears, still unique place is there for traditional wear too which is to be acceptable without any hesitation.

Keywords: Weavers, Status, Lock Down, COVID-19.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays common public love to engage themselves to do something and be busy always. The two world wars forced all youngsters and women to participate in occupation, which was the monopoly of men earlier. As traditional society began to crumble, cash income became an important source of social status where weaver's community were reconstructed with many laws which protect weaver's interest. To highlight about the weaver's empowerment, first and

foremost, we all should know about the scenario in ancient days. Weavers were treated as machineries where owners never concerned about their safety and welfare. But they were keen to extract work from the weavers and treated like slaves and they were under paid for their effort. Gradually when the trend changes, attitude and behavioural changes also happened at once from both the end. Owners started treating weavers in a dignified manner. Also, weavers came to know their rights and the role to be played with. To improve the situation of handloom weavers, it is crucial to improve market and production infrastructure, capacitate weavers and designers to innovate deep craft skills, and provide access to credit and financial support. Designs have to be protected under the intellectual property regime. The handlooms provide livelihoods for 4.3 million families, making it the second largest employer after agriculture. The industry has the potential to create over one million jobs with the lowest per capita investment for creation of such jobs, through building on existing skills and social capital.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kunal Mishra, Dr. Tushar Kanti Das (2021), this article aims at finding the importance of weaving industry and highlighted the importance of modern handloom industry. Researcher focussed on ethnicity. Raw material used such as cotton, silk, jute and bamboo are utilised for fabrics. Among these raw materials, silk and cotton are acting as predominant for weavers to bring out designed products. Weavers are craftsmen who will be focussing on design with the help of creativity and innovation. Researcher conducted the study in Western region of Odisha, Bargarh which will be quite popular for culture, tradition and craftsmanship. This study highlighted about the lifestyle of weavers and their status during COVID. Akhomiyan Protidin (2020), Researcher aimed to identify the issues faced by weavers during lockdown. Research area had been covered in Gowhati. This article reveals that the looms had demand during festival season such as New Year, Rongali. This lockdown make the looms to be unoperated and no sales where 200 crore produced fabric remains unsold. This scenario made loom owners and they asked for financial assistance from the government to run their routine lives. In this condition also, looms generated revenue through the source of wedding. Author concluded his article by explain the impact of lockdown which makes weavers and loom owners to face drought and starving for food. Dr. Ashok Panigrahi (2020), researcher focussed in his article about novel virus tracked by WHO and their effect across the globe. Also, it analyses the impact of this novel virus in the field of weaving. It says that due to this novel virus, much production is affected due to lockdown where 216 countries affected which is having negative impact on export and employment led down and it is complex to predict the revision of Indian Textile sector.

Ruochen Dai et.al., (2020), this article used two sources namely registered firms and regarding operation of existing firms. Both the sources are considered to be highly essential which will place the weaving professionals. Once the dummies of infection rates, and closer promity to suppliers and customers are there to avail the benefit. But unfortunately, all the process to be stopped due to this lockdown and operational inefficiency had been identified. Reliance cluster

of few informal entrepreneurs identified alternate source of earning. i.e. Networking and informal setup of weavers join together to weave with the available resources. Ministry of Textiles (2019), as per the report of Ministry of Textiles and Census report, it is considered to be fortunate and the handloom sector is considered as unorganised activities in the country. Despite of this situation GoI identified several measures for the welfare the weavers to uplift their lives and status. Around 35 Lakhs of weavers have been employed but the contribution is insignificant Reddy (2019), Researcher in this article, highlighted about the budget allocations thru the government over the past few years, which will reflect a story of neglecting the government part towards this sector. Budget which is allotted ultimately speaks about Rs.604 crore in the year 2017-18 which is showing falling sign. After the allocation to this particular sector economy found an increase in the year 2019-2020. But the pitiest part is that it fell short after the budget allocation in 2017-18. Due to this condition, even economy faced dropping down condition. Arakiasamy et.al (2015), Author highlighted about the causes and reason of COVID-19 due to Poor sanitation and having mass group discussion in common places, led to have common illness. In this situation, irrespective of age, elder and younger were affected about 10% whose lives have become utter question mark. Their earning capacity also decreased drastically which will have negative impact on their dependants. Majority of the researchers focused on Textile industry but few focused in Handloom sector at various stages. Few districts have unique quality of being weaving as prime occupation in Tamil Nadu. No researchers attempted to study the COVID impact. Today's scenario makes all weavers struggle during lock down. It has to bring to the lime light for all.

3. OBJECTIVES

- i. To gain insight about handloom sector and situation of COVID-19
- ii. To assess the impact of weavers during COVID-19
- iii. To sketch out a conceptual model regarding the weaver's status during COVID-19

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- Farmers and Weavers are to be given special attention. Without them, none of the human beings can consume food and protect Honor. It is considered to be an essential one to know their status. Hence researcher took effort to construct article to bring to the limelight

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology refers to the steps adopted by the researcher to write this article. Under Research Methodology, few things should be present without fail such as follows:

- a) **Research Design:** Research Design refers to the blue print of the overall research work. This article consists of fact-finding enquiry about weaver's status in Tamil Nadu. To support this, Descriptive research is adopted by the researcher

- b) **Methods of Data Collection:** Researcher adopted only secondary data since this article comes under conceptual study i.e. Articles, Journals, Govt., Reports, Bulletins etc., relevant to the study
- c) **Research Area:** Tamil Nadu State
- Salem, Thiruvannamalai, Polur, Onnupuram, Durugam, Santhavasal, Sevoor, Kannamangalam, Vannagnulam

6. CONCEPTUAL MODEL

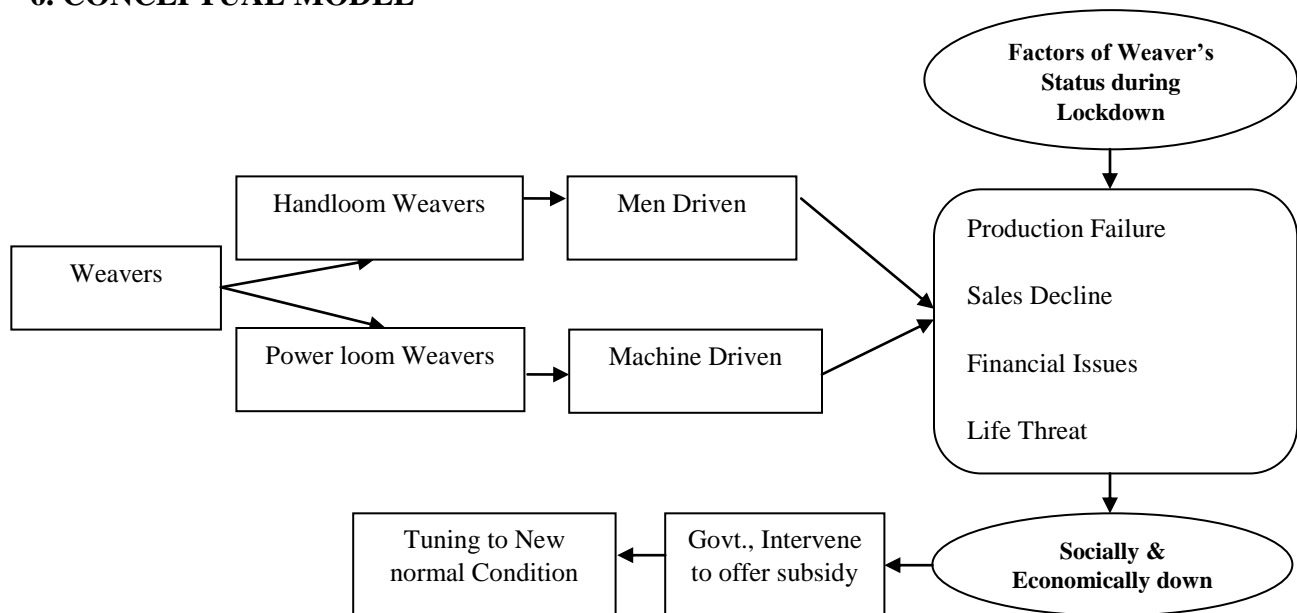


Fig: Conceptual Model on Assessing Weaver's status during Lockdown

The above conceptual model represents the assessment of weaver's status. Weavers found very difficult to run their normal lives. There are some influential factors which determine the weaver's status during lock down. Lockdown situation flipped the whole universe. Especially few segments affected very badly such as Education, Textile, and Agriculture. Under textile segment, so many sectors play important role namely Handloom, Power loom, spinning etc., All these wings gone down literally such as Production failure where weavers could not able to get orders from owners which makes the weavers to be jobless. When there is no production, it will have reflection in sales decline.

When there are no sales ultimately weavers have to face and experience the condition of scarcity. When they experience scarce situation, then their life will be a great threat. This situation made weavers to commit suicide. As it is transparent the resources available in India is ample. Due to exploitation and middlemen interference collapses the overall process. Due to this, concerned professionals do not reach any benefit. Problem occurrence is often and it has to be resolved by

the government. When government is the apex body, they have to take certain measures to protect the weaver's interest which makes the weavers to attain new normal life which helps them to achieve more productivity.

7. CONCLUSION

National lockdown forced weavers and common people to face major issues and worse time for weavers. Also, to reveal the fact that, lock has affected stakeholders in all the ways, it much affected to the hired weavers lead them to face unemployment than the weavers who weave on their own. During lock down it is implied to all that wearing mask, maintaining social distancing, avoid travelling in common transportation which makes the migrant weaver's contribution is nil. Lock down is relaxed bit one side but other side, still the demand for clothing to be raised to assign work to the weavers to weave products such as lungis, dhotis, sarees, towels etc., To achieve competitive edge, government support is considered to be mandatory.

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