



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Different Welfare Programmes for Handloom Weavers and their Awareness

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Abstract

Indian Textiles Industry has an overwhelming presence in the economic life of the country. The present study has been conducted in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh which is one of the major handloom hubs. It is based on primary and secondary data. The total sample respondents for the study were 385. The present study was conducted in two cluster-Ramnagar and Bajardiha and 70 Cluster weavers were randomly selected. Out of 350 Handloom Co-operative Society 15 Co-operative Society were randomly selected and each societies 10 Handloom weavers were randomly selected. 50 Master weavers and 51 working under master weavers and 49 Independent weavers and 15 co-operative society's head were purposively selected from densely populated area of Varanasi of handloom weavers. A structured interview schedule was prepared and administered on respondents through personal interview method and observation method of data collection. Secondary data for study collected from the published and unpublished sources, annual reports, research, journals and various related websites. Data were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tools like Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation-test and x2test. The computer software SPSS 16 was also used to find results for finding out the socio-economic background of respondents the B.G.Prasad's scale of Socio-Economic Status 2017 were used and results were drawn from it. The study results revealed that the situation of the Handloom weavers was pathetic due to illiteracy and unexposure so that they do not have enough and sufficient knowledge about various government welfare programmes. So that government should take effective measures for betterment of Handloom weavers at grassroots level.

KEYWORDS-Handloom, Handloom weavers, master weaver, co-operative society, Handloom welfare programmes

Introduction

Handloom weaving is largely decentralized and weavers in the sector are mainly from the vulnerable and weaker sections of the society, who weave for their household needs and also contribute to production in the textile sector. The weavers of this industry are keeping alive the traditional crafts of different States. The handloom sector has a unique place in our economy. This sector has been sustained by transferring skills from one generation to another. The strength of the sector lies in its uniqueness, flexibility of production, openness to innovations, adaptability to the supplier's requirement and the wealth of its tradition. The textile industry contributes to 7% of industry output in value terms, 2% of India's GDP and to 15% of the country's export earnings. With over 45 million people employed directly, the textile industry is one of the largest sources of employment generation in the country. (Annual report 2017-18). There are 23.77 lakh handlooms in the country, providing employment to 43.32 lakh handloom weavers and ancillary workers. This includes 38.47 lakh adult handloom weavers and ancillary workers, of which 24.72 lakh are engaged full time and 13.75 lakh on part time basis. nearly 27.83 lakh handloom households are engaged in weaving and allied activities. (3rd. Handloom Census of 2009-10). The Indian textiles sector unique in comparison to the textiles industry of other countries. This also provides the industry with the capacity to produce a variety of products suitable to the different market segments, both within and outside the country. The Government of India, since

independence, has been following a policy of promoting and encouraging the handloom sector through a number of program and schemes. The programs and schemes are given below:

- National Handloom Development Programs
- Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.
- (a)Health Insurance Scheme(HIS)
- (b)Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana(MGBBY)
- Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme.
- Yarn supply scheme
- Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.
- 'Revival, Reform and Restructuring (RRR) Package.
- Handloom Samvardhan Yojana
- Janeshwar Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana
- Mukhyamantri Hathkargha Bunker Samman Yojana
- Electricity subsidy
- Sant Kabir Award

Review of literature

Thirunarayananam and Paramasivam (2009) explained various welfare schemes and programme implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading the weavers skills.

Jyoti Narzary(2013) in his study revealed that Customers also expect lot of things to be done by the government for survival of handloom sector. Opening more outlets, exhibitions and trade fairs, loans for setting up an outlet of handloom, subsidy for handloom products, relaxation on duties and taxes and improved marketing strategy for handloom sector are the major comments from customers for survival of handloom. Despite the welfare-oriented policies implemented by the Government, almost half of the handloom weavers belong to the most backward and poorer sections of the population. The high incidence of poverty and illiteracy among weaver families is accompanied by poor access to basic necessities including health, water, sanitation, housing and livelihood facilities.

Bhagat Singh(2014)The handloom sector assumes special significance for a labour surplus economy like India because its technique of production are mainly labour intensive and it has the potential to absorb a very large size of our unemployed workforce. However, this sector suffers from myriad of problems related to technology; supply of inputs, shortage of capital and weak marketing network etc.If proper attention is paid for the development of this sector it may contribute significantly to the generation of income, output, employment and foreign exchange earnings.

OBJECTIVES-

1-Knowledge assessment of handloom weavers regarding various Government programmes for their and industry welfare.

2- knowledge assessment regarding different type of Govt. Welfare programmes for Handloom weavers with their region and educational status.

Materials and Methods

The present study has been conducted in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh which is one of the major handloom hubs. It is based on primary and secondary data. The total sample respondents for the study were 385. The present study was conducted in two cluster-Ramnagar and Bajardiha and 70 Cluster weavers were randomly selected. Out of 350 Handloom Co-operative Society 15 Co-operative Society were randomly selected and each societies 10 Handloom weavers were randomly selected.50 Master weavers and 51 working under master weavers and 49 Independent weavers and 15 co-operative society's head were purposively selected from densely populated area of Varanasi of handloom weavers. A structured interview schedule was prepared and administered on respondents through personal interview method and observation method of data collection. Secondary data for study collected from the published and unpublished sources, annual reports, research, journals and various related websites. Data were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tools like Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation-test and x2test.The computer software SPSS 16 was also used to find results for finding out the socio –economic background of respondents the B.G.Prasad's scale of Socio-Economic Status 2017 were used and results were drawn from it.

Results and Discussion

Results of the study were discussed according to the objectives of the study.

Table : 1-Demographic Profile of the Respondents

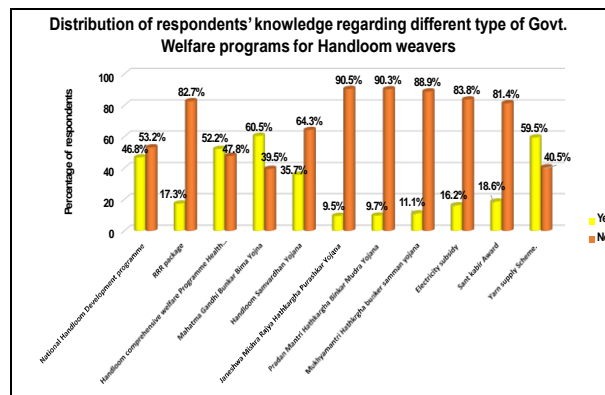
Table No-1	Title	S No.	Categories	Number	%
1.1	Age (In Years)	1	Up-to 35	97	26.2
		2	36-50	183	49.5
		3	>50	90	24.3
			Total	370	100.00%
		Average age \pm sd =43.27 \pm 10.94, Range=(18-27)			
1.2	Sex	1	Male	309	83.5
		2	Female	61	16.5
1.3	Religion	1	Hindu	181	48.9
		2	Muslim	189	51.1
			Total	370	100
1.4	Caste	1	General	45	12.2
		2	OBC	159	43
		3	SC	166	44.8
1.5	Educational status	1	Illiterate	136	36.8
		2	Primary	60	16.2
		3	Middle	28	7.6
		4	High	74	20
		5	Inter	58	15.7
		6	UG	9	2.4
		7	PG	3	0.8
		8	Professional	2	0.5

Table no. 1.1 reveals that majority of respondents (49.5%) belonged to age group of 36 to 50 years followed by 26.2% respondents belonged to the age group of 35 and below 35 years. Only 24.3% respondents belonged to the age group of 50 and above 50 years. Table 1.2 reveals that majority of respondents (83.5%) belonged to the male followed by 16.5% respondents belonged to female. Table 1.3 reveals that the majority of respondents (51.1%) were Muslims while (48.9%) respondents were Hindu. Table 1.4 reveals that majority of respondents (44.8%) belonged to the scheduled cast while (43.0%) respondents belonged other backward cast and only (12.2%) respondents belonged to general caste. Table 1.5 shows that majority of respondents (36.8%) were illiterate and 22.0% respondents had high school education and 16.2% respondents has primary level education. 15.7% respondents had intermediate level education and 7.6% respondents had middle level education and 2.4% respondents had under graduate level education. Very few only 0.8% had post graduate level education and 0.5% respondents had professional level education.

Table no.2 Distribution of Respondents knowledge regarding different type of Govt. welfare programmes for Handloom weavers.

Sr. No.	Different Govt. Welfare programmes	Yes		No		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	National Handloom Development programme	173	46.8	197	53.2	370	100.00
1.1	RRR package	64	17.3	306	82.7	370	100.00
2.1	Handloom comprehensive welfare Programme Health insurance Scheme	193	52.2	177	47.8	370	100.00
2.2	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna	224	60.5	146	39.5	370	100.00
3	Handloom Samvardhan Yojana	132	35.7	238	64.3	370	100.00
4	Janeshwar Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana	35	9.5	335	90.5	370	100.00
5	Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana	36	9.7	334	90.3	370	100.00
6	Mukhyamantri Hathkargha bunker samman yojana	41	11.1	329	88.9	370	100.00
7	Electricity subsidy	60	16.2	310	83.8	370	100.00
8	Sant kabir Award	69	18.6	301	81.4	370	100.00
9	Yarn supply Scheme.	220	59.5	150	40.5	370	100.00

The table no 2 shows the knowledge regarding different Govt. welfare programmes. The table shows that majority of respondents (60.5%) had knowledge of Mahatma Gandhi BunkarBimaYojana. 59.5% respondents had knowledge of Yarn Supply Scheme while 52.2% respondents had knowledge of Health Insurance Scheme. 46.8% respondents had knowledge of National Handloom Development Programme while 35.7% respondents had knowledge of Handloom SamvardhanYojana. 18.6% respondents had knowledge of SantKabir Award, 17.3% respondents had knowledge of RRR package, 16.2% respondents had knowledge of electricity subsidy, 11.1 respondents Mukhyamantri Hathkargha Bunkar Samman Yojana, 9.7% respondents Pradhanmantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana and 9.5% respondents had knowledge of Janeshwer Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purskar Yojana.



Graph no.2

Table no. 3

Region wise Distribution of Respondents knowledge regarding different type of Govt. Welfare programmes for Handloom weavers.

The Table no 3 shows that the proportion of urban weavers had greater knowledge regarding different type of Govt. welfare

Sr. No.	Knowledge of Different Govt. welfare programmes	Region							
		Urban		Rural		Total		Y=1	
		No	%					X ²	P
1	National Handloom Development programme	126	45.3	47	51.5	173	96.8	0.92	>0.05
1.1	RRR package	52	18.7	12	13.0	64	17.3	1.55	>0.05
2.1	Handloom comprehensive welfare Programme Health insurance Scheme	145	52.2	48	52.3	193	52.2	0.01	>0.05
2.2	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna	172	61.9	52	56.5	224	60.5	0.83	>0.05
3	Handloom Samvardhan Yojana	102	36.7	30	32.6	132	35.7	0.50	>0.05
4	Janeshwar Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana	32	11.5	3	3.3	35	9.5	5.49	<0.05
5	Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana	33	11.9	3	3.3	36	9.7	5.84	<0.05
6	Mukhyamantri Hathkrgha bunkar samman yojana	31	11.2	10	10.9	41	11.1	0.01	>0.05
7	Electricity subsidy	47	16.9	13	14.1	60	16.2	0.39	>0.05
8	Sant kabir Award	53	19.1	16	17.4	69	18.6	0.13	>0.05
9	Yarn supply Scheme.	170	61.2	50	54.3	220	59.5	1.33	>0.05

programmes than rural weavers except programme national Handloom development programme and Health insurance scheme but statistically the difference is significant regarding Janeshwar Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana and in all other programmes rural and urban weavers had significantly same knowledge.

Table no. 4

Educational status wise distribution of respondents knowledge regarding different type of Govt. welfare programmes for Handloom weavers.

Sr. No.	Knowledge of Different Govt. welfare programmes	Educational Status									
		Illiterate		P-HS		Inter +		Total		df=2	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	X ²	P
1	National Handloom Development programme	56	41.2	66	40.7	51	70.8	173	46.8	20.82	<0.001
1.1	RRR package	16	11.8	29	17.9	19	26.4	64	17.3	7.11	<0.05
2.1	Handloom comprehensive welfare Programme Health insurance Scheme	65	47.8	83	51.2	45	62.5	193	52.2	4.18	>0.05
2.2	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna	77	56.6	97	59.9	50	69.4	224	60.5	3.30	>0.05
3	Handloom Samvardhan Yojana	47	34.6	54	33.3	31	43.1	132	35.7	2.17	>0.05
4	Janeshwar Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana	13	9.6	15	9.3	7	9.7	35	9.5	0.02	>0.05
5	Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana	7	5.1	24	14.8	5	6.9	36	9.7	8.66	<0.05
6	Mukhyamantri Hathkargha bunker samman yojana	14	10.3	13	8.0	14	19.4	41	11.1	6.73	<0.05
7	Electricity subsidy	18	13.2	23	14.2	19	26.4	60	16.2	6.86	<0.05
8	Sant kabir Award	26	19.1	30	18.5	13	18.1	69	18.6	0.04	>0.05
9	Yarn supply Scheme.	77	56.6	93	57.4	50	69.4	220	59.5	3.72	>0.05

The table no 4 shows that the proportion of weavers who belonged to qualification of Intermediate and above had greater knowledge regarding different type of Govt. welfare programmes than illiterate weavers except SantKabir Award, but statistically the difference is significant regarding National Handloom Development Programme, RRR Package, Pradhanmantri bunker Mudra Yojana, Mukhyamantri Hathkargha PurshkarYojana, electricity subsidy and in all other programmes weavers who belonged to qualification of Intermediate and above and illiterate had significantly same knowledge.

5-Findings

- 1- Majority of respondents (49.5%) belonged to age group of 36 to 50 years.
- 2- Majority of respondents (83.5%) belonged to the male.
- 3- Majority of respondents (51.1%) were Muslims
- 4- Majority of respondents (44.8%) belonged to the scheduled cast
- 5- Majority of respondents (36.8%) were illiterate.
- 6-majority of respondents (60.5%) had knowledge of Mahatma Gandhi BunkarBimaYojana.
- 7-The proportion of urban weavers had greater knowledge regarding different type of Govt. welfare programmes than

rural weavers except programme national Handloom development programme and Health insurance scheme.

8- The proportion of weavers who belonged to qualification of Intermediate and above had greater knowledge regarding different type of Govt. welfare programmes than illiterate weavers.

Conclusion

Mostly handloom weavers are illiterate and even they don't have knowledge about all the welfare schemes run by the Government. There is lack of awareness. They don't know that Government is running welfare schemes with different names and to all for their well-being. Today it's required that Government should communicate about all its welfare schemes by putting stalls at very far and rural areas and with the help of its officials to direct interact to extreme ground level weaver. Individual weavers do not have information and knowledge about Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Bima

Yojana. While if they get benefit of this schemes than they will be in a situation to produce good products and can sell direct into market.

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