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## PROBLEMS OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRY OF THE GALO COMMUNITY IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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### INTRODUCTION

Handloom industry comprises diversified artistic and decorative products portfolio with its large variety and contributes significantly to the national economy by way of both exports and employment generation. The handloom items of Galo Community are very beautiful and eye catching in Arunachal Pradesh. To write about Indian Handloom is almost like writing about the country itself, so vast, complex and colourful, and yet with a simplicity and charm, difficult to attain under comparable conditions (Upadhyay, 1976). From beginning of the history the handloom forms a valuable cultural trait of a society. The cultural pattern of a society is reflected in the quality and craftsmanship of their handloom. The term handloom refers those products of a common folk or a specific community, which are produced manually with their indigenous technology. The handlooms of a society are one of the chief means of livelihood. It also fulfills their daily requirements and provides employment to the workers in their own home. So it plays magnificent role in the socio-economic development of a society. A master craftsman always enjoys a privileged status in the society.

**Objective:** The objective of this paper is to investigate the present problems of handloom industry in context of its growth and development with probable suggestions.

### METHODS AND MATERIALS

**Selected Geographical Area under Study:** The study is conducted in the West Siang district which is a part of Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh. The Siang valley, which was previously known as Siang District, is presently divided in to four districts namely, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang and lower siang.

**Inhabitant of the District:** It is the abode of the energetic Padams, Minyongs, Galo, Pasis and Mishings tribes who are known in history for their valour, i.e., the principal inhabitants of this district are Galo tribe. They belong to the Indo-Mongoloid group of people and their language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family. The percentage of BPL in this district is 66.00 while the percentage of BPL in the state is 65.82 as

per 2002 BPL census (Statistical Abstract, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of A. P., Itanagar, 2013, p.138).

**Nature and Sources of Data:** Essentially, the suggested study is empirical in nature and is based on primary sources.

**The Primary Source:** Primary data were gathered through in-person research using a participation approach and a pre-structured questionnaire. Without replacement, samples were chosen using a random sampling technique.

**Sampling and Sample Size:** 4 circles of the district viz. Aalo, Bagra, Kombo and Nikte-kodumare considered for study. Eyi, logumjini and Biru village under Aalo circle, LipuYangko, and Higebagra, villages under Bagra circle, Jirdin, papak and pomte village under Kombocircle, Nikte camp, Igokatom, Igoyami and Humoli villages under Niktekodum circle and more or less 8 Households of each village are selected to conduct survey.

There are one hundred households in total. The age range of 30 to 60 years old is used to select the responders. Because the authors believe that this group is more established in their line of work and are unsure of whether they will continue to practise these crafts for upcoming generations.

The respondents will be again divided into 1:1 ratio between males and females i.e., 50% male and 50% females as because, females in handloom sector in the tribal family of the state play vital role while the males are active in searching of market, loan, labour, raw materials, etc. There is need for further sharpening them in terms of indicators. However, these answers/ opinions are sought at the entrepreneurial level, probably from the owner of the enterprise. For the study samples are selected through random sample technique from the enterprises spread over the length and breadth of the study area.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

When one site is to take account of the problems with regard to development of handloom industry, a need arises to delimit and define them first. Because, there may be many type of problems. A few relevant problems may be selected here to deal with.

### Problems of Handloom Industries on the Basis of Field Study

In investigating the problems in context of its growth and development, a field study was undertaken with the help of a set of questionnaire. The report compiled in tabular form shown in Table-1. This is followed by probable explanations of the responses against each question. The sectors could not be made profitable. A lack of interest from craftsmen, a lack of working capital, a lack of marketing opportunities, a lack of capacity utilisation, a lack of technical know-how, a lack of organisational strength, competition from other modern products, a lack of entrepreneurial knowledge, a lack of labour, etc. were its main issues in the state. It is a well-established fact that the marketability of an industry's products determines its success. Both inside and outside the state, it lacks a well-organized market. In the state, there are six show rooms that double as sales counters and eighteen emporia. There are just two Emporia located outside the state, in Delhi and Kolkata. There are no Show Rooms or Sales Counters located outside the nation. It does not run regular advertisements on radio, television, or even in state- or nationally-published daily newspapers. Once more, its products cannot be sold to any organised agent. Participation in various fairs and expos both within and outside the state, such as the New Delhi Fair, the Indian International Trade Fair, and regional level exhibitions featuring handloom industry products for sale and exhibition, is restricted to local entrepreneurs.

**Table-1: Problems Faced by the Artisans**

Non-Availability of workers		Technical gradation and diversification of handloom items			up-and of		Overall Incentives		ILP creating problem for bringing expert/ trained/ non-trained labour		Non-availability of source of fund		Lack of infrastructural facility	
1		2			3		4		5		6			
Yes	No	No	Yes	Can't Say	Can't Say	Non-Satisfactory	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
80	20	20	60	20	20	80	85	15	87	13	90	10		

Source: Field Survey from August-December 2023. N.B.: Each artisan of handloom is considered as unit.

### Interpretation in view of Table-1

**Non-Availability of workers (Col.1):** The problem of workers is very high. For example, a hired worker from the neighbouring States come from their native place on short term leaves and stay there for days together. This affects the activity of the industries. During the cultivation or the harvesting period they take long leave. Sometimes, even some workers cannot come back to the State for non-availability of Inner Line Pass (ILP), sometimes they suffer from insecurity to enter the State, especially if not escorted. Sometimes some workers cannot pay the fare for the return journey as the small money that are given while going to home is spent on more vulnerable situations. 80% of the units are facing hurdle of shortage of workers. The various wage-guarantee schemes thicken the scarcity. In 20% units, we do not find this problem as workers in these units are the family members and owner himself.

**Technical up-gradation and diversification of handloom items(Col.2.):** Regarding up-gradation of the units, no unit takes tangible initiative. The role of KVIC and the APKVIB is very negligible in this regard. Around 60% units need up gradation and expansion, to adapt them in the market trend. 20% respond as 'can't say' and 20% implies that they have no idea about this.

**Overall Incentives (Col.3):** In the matter of availing other incentives, 80% of the beneficiaries are not satisfied while 20% do not share their opinion. They want more incentive from the Government.

**I L P creating problem for bringing expert/ trained/ non-trained labour (Col.4):** Inner Line Pass (ILP) blockades the free flow of goods, labour, machine and raw materials which are the vital problems for the growth and development of an industry. 85% beneficiaries see I L P as a barrier for the growth and development of handloom industries while 15% do not think so, because they employ selves and family member having no hired labour.

**Non-availability of source of fund (Col.5):** Getting finance is the toughest experience among all. 87% respondents tell that they face problems in arranging fund while 13% do not find problem to manage the fund as they do not need a handsome capital.

**Lack of infrastructural facility (Col.6):** So far infrastructural facility is given to the beneficiaries; most of them are not satisfied. 90% respondents are not happy with the infrastructural facility given by the institutions while 10% are happy what they get from the institution.

**Table-2: Market Related Problems**

Preference of product in the market			Competition of cheap machine made product		Have you participated in Exhibition		Transportation problem		Is there any Purchasing Centre?	
1			2		3		4		5	
Appreciable	Good	Not Good	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
	60	20	20	25	75	10	90	70	30	-

Source: Field Survey from August-December 2023.

### Interpretation in view of Table-2

**Preference of product in the market (Col.1):** In question of preference of their product in the market, 60% have appreciable access to the market. Again, 20% respondents say that their products have also good access to the market. In fact, those who say (20%) that their products are not preferred. Therefore, most of the artisans do not have access to a ready market. These units do not have any established marketing channel. There is no sale cum showroom and the quantum of production is very small. They generally sell their products to their relatives, neighbours etc. who get a product directly from the household units or from the workshop occasionally or at the time of festival. Again there are threats on sale for some of the products due to availability of cheap and handy products in the market like machine made goods (plastic molded furniture, foreign dress materials, Chinese products, etc.). The price of local product is generally high due to high wage of labour, its distinction or other reasons. Therefore, very often, the local producers have to go under push sale for their product. This appears to be true because their production level is very low. Even sometimes the production activity gets suspended for short spell of time. For example, in case of beekeeping (honey production) and black-smithy there is ready market and normally supply is less than demand. But, it is beyond doubt that in long turn the conscious buyers will realize the worthiness of eco-friendly, organic, handmade products. One point is clear that it cannot have dearth of market.

**Competition of cheap machine made product (Col.2):** There is cheap machine-made products like plastic molded furniture, foreign dress materials, Chinese products etc. in the market. Mainly, due to low price, these products play almost a monopoly over the traditional products. To a large section of the respondents, the query itself appeared to be irrelevant as they cannot think of competing with these conventional products. The local products are qualitatively different and distinct having aesthetic value and small quantum of production. 75% of the respondents do not face competition with similar products while 25% say otherwise.

**Have you participated in Exhibition (Col.3):** 90 % of the respondents never participate to exhibitions while the rest 10% participate within and outside the State like at Delhi, Guwahati or other places. Generally, KVIC and APKVIB organize these exhibitions. The responses are mixed. Some of products of cane & bamboo product receive good response while other products are not. These products need much more innovation, quality up-gradation and price competitiveness, etc.

**Transportation problem (Col.4):** Lack of transportation facilities are a major bottleneck retarding the industrial growth in this hilly terrain state. Though this sector needs very minor raw materials at the work site but it needs to send back the products to the market destinations. 70% units faced transportation problem while 30% do not.

**Is there any Purchasing Centre? (Col.5):** The finished products have no organized market. The seller sometimes pushes to sell his product to the dignitaries. Sometimes they produce on occasional demand basis and to sell during the festival time. To boost this sector it is necessary to open 'Purchase Centers' by the Government to procure these products. On turn these items may be sold through the state run emporia both within and outside the State.

### Prospective Areas for Growth and Development

**Market:** The small base of handloom products of the State suffers due to lack of adequate market facilities. Due to absence of efficient marketing facilities sometimes the stocks of small enterprises pile up, yielding to increase in the cost and leads to the sickness of the units.

The industry is inaccessible to contemporary marketing techniques. Taori (1991) states that a small sector is having a hard time surviving with the onslaught of the modern expensive techniques of the advertisements, jingles on TV which covers more than 80 per cent of the population with novel noises of sales campaign. The cost of a 30-second super "A" TV commercial is two lakhs. Regardless of the merits of his product, how can a small business owner compete with large corporations and business houses? (Mandal, 2012, p. 17). Additionally, in today's marketing, the buyer and seller can communicate with one another to conduct a financial transaction in which goods and services are traded. This can also be accomplished by phone, email, internet, courier, speed post, and regular mail, but these are not available to these state entrepreneurs. It is widely acknowledged that an industry's ability to succeed depends on the market for its products. However, these units lack a well-functioning market connection, either within or outside the State.

Thinking of world-wide website and no advertisements through electronic or print media is yet a far cry for them. The enterprises are given opportunities to participate to various exhibitions etc. Owing to intrinsic reasons the opportunities are not availed to full extent. There is a need of proper market assessment. Designing a product well, having a right brand name, having appealing packaging for varying convenient quantities, buying specific raw materials, employing right people, establishing required distribution system, having effective advertising and promotion, deciding right price, deciding terms and conditions for the middlemen and deciding about product life and precautions and notifying relevant information on the pack are key factors for sustainable markets. But, the State has so far failed almost in all fronts. We find that the local units produce to the extent of meeting-up selective demands and not in adequate quantity to create market demand that appears to be in conformity with the investigation. Moreover, we find that the impact of liberalization, privatization and globalization is yet to influence the people. It makes an indication that initially, efforts are needed to produce enough marketable industrial produce. This should essentially follow by well knitted marketing strategy.

**Problem of Finance:** The sector fall in the priority sector lending of banks and financial institutions. But the problem in availing finance remains always a stumbling block for the first generation entrepreneurs of the State. There are several directives favouring this sector to receive easy credits but whether the banks and financial institutions treating seriously this sector as priority sector remains a pertinent question to be answered. Banks ask for collateral, they ask for guarantee. But in words of a poor artisan "we do not own expensive house or plots of land in the city. Neither do we own any agricultural land. Our business is also so small. Why would bank give us loan? On the other hand, finance and loan from unorganized sector are more timely and fruitful but bears high rate of interest and more risky.

**Entrepreneurial Lack:** In the State unemployment problem has become a paradox. The problem of unemployment has been mounting, not because there is lack of opportunities, but because the unemployed youths have failed to take advantage of the opportunities available. It is an accepted fact that the supply of entrepreneurs is the most important determinant for any type of industrialization. The Government in its efforts to create entrepreneurs provides various monetary and non-monetary incentives. Various State and Central organizations have been created to cater to the needs of entrepreneurs. But reality in field draws blurry picture of entrepreneurs.

It can be argued that that lack of entrepreneurial skill of the local people and their deficient interest to invest and innovate has contributed in preventing the evolution of modern economic system in the State. One example of their lacking interest in setting up enterprises is that the those tribal boys and girls who go for craft trainings do not want to start their own business but like to join as craft teachers in government organizations. 'There is a prevailing mindset of the youths to venture either in politics, contract business, or government services. They want to earn easy money instead of walking a risky path of entrepreneurs. This mindset can be termed as psychological barrier which has emerged very strongly in the present socio-economic context of the State. Some tribal people within a very short period of time have experienced income and wealth inequalities to a high degree. Very few of them have been found to become very rich overnight and enjoy luxurious life and prefer conspicuous consumption which has been adversely affecting the rest of the society. The income inequalities in the tribal society are very strong. Some are very rich and some are stark poor. The presence of high degree of corruption at all levels and existence of underground economy is also a deterrent to State's economy (Mandal, 2009).

**Table-3: Information on Assistance Received from any Agent, Advertisement and Border Trades**

Assistance Received from Government Agency or other Agency		Advertisement of Handloom items of this state throughout the country		Do you want Border Trade		Government Should inspire to use the local Handloom Items in Institutions	
1		2		3		4	
APKVIB	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say
5	95	90	10	64	36	100	00

Source: Field Survey from August-December 2023.

### Discussions in view of Table-3

**Assistance from Government Agency or other Agency (Col.1):** We know, Directorate of Handloom are mandated for development of this sector in the State. Their roles are overlapping and not well segregated. Through above questionnaire we tried to gauge the awareness level of beneficiaries about the agency and also to see from which agency they availed benefits. Only 5% of the respondents are assisted from APKVIB and 95% artisans do not get any financial assistance or they are unaware to avail the facility. They do not know from where and which bank they get their subsidies. This made confusion about their supporting agencies. In fact, the APKVIB should be the implementing agency at the grass root level whereas KVIC is a Central body to play the role of true facilitator and its Office only located in the State Capital should monitor the functioning of the Board. This justifies an urgent need to strengthen the APKVIB with opening of branch offices at least in every district. This would be the first step towards rejuvenation of this sector in the State, a professionally drawn holistic plan with lean but effective APKVIB establishment needs to be brought in place.

**Advertisement of Handloom items of this state throughout the country (Col.2):** As the handloom items of Arunachal Pradesh are unique and eye-catching, the people of different corner of the country can know through advertisement and may like to purchase. 90% of the respondents emphasize on the need of advertisements while 10% did not reply effectively. In the modern age, the strength of business depends on publicity and propaganda. The items has its intrinsic strength, much progress cannot be done without advertisement through modern media. The free web-space has been provided by the KVIC in their website ([www.kvic.org.in](http://www.kvic.org.in)) for the State. APKVIB (Arunachal Pradesh Khadi and Village Industry Board) should upload with worthy information on State's products. The KVIC should promote it through additional means also. The National Informatics Centre can also play a facilitator's role.

**Border Trade (Col. 3):** We put up the question on prospects of border trade to the respondents with a motive to know their awareness and interest on this issue. 64% of the respondents are interested and want that the border trades should be promoted while 36% of the respondents do not reciprocated meaningfully. Most of the respondents lack of clear idea on the issue. The NER is narrowly connected to the nation's mainland. The NER is landlocked and shares only 2% of its border with the country and rest with Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and the Tibetan region (China) and China. It has been the elimination of the region's trade, commerce and other linkages, which existed in the pre-independence days. These States are very close to the dynamic South-East and East Asian countries. It is imperative to develop a coherent policy linking this area. As the three sides of the State is bounded by Bhutan, China and Myanmar there is a great possibility for border trades, if it opens, the sector will get an extra market for its products. This will offer opportunity to the people inhabiting at the international borders, which are remote, interior, inaccessible and under developed to participate to commercial activities, especially. The items have deep rooted Indian ethos and spirit of patriotism. Reviving this activity along the international border will enhance the sense of belongingness of these peoples to Indian Territory. This appears to very relevant when there has been a persistent bogus claim of China that the international border along the State is not well demarcated. We quote here a press report of the State Chief Minister, "The State Government is pursuing New Delhi for implementing the proposed tri-national highway linking Arunachal Pradesh with Bhutan via Bleting and Myanmar via Pangsupass through the historic Stillwell road to link the rich South East Asian countries. This would herald a new chapter in international trade and tourism and would be a harbinger of bilateral relations among the South East Asian nations and NER and in turn it would help to end insurgency, mushrooming of youth organizations and crimes confronting the region due to lack of socio-economic development" (The Sunday Times of India, dated 20.10.13, P.6). As a result, the state government ought to prioritise expanding

border trade with Burma, China, and Bhutan. We hope that if border trade is implemented sincerely, it will help Arunachal Pradesh become self-sufficient economically in addition to creating a new source of employment. In this sense, the market for handloom and other Arunachal products will naturally grow. We, therefore find that many areas can be developed for the growth and development of cane and bamboo industry and this may be designed in according to present demand in the age of globalization.

**Inspire to Use the Local Products in Institutions (Col.4):** Arunachal Pradesh is such a State where more than 80% of consumer's demands are satisfied by the commodities coming from the outside. But many of these commodities can be produced locally and thereby fulfill the local demand. The price of local commodities may be slightly high but qualitatively not less than that of outside commodities. To strengthen and also to encourage the local units, the Government may bear subsidie of the cost of the local items. The Government may inspire the officials to use local products like decorative and usable office items in all government and private institutions. We find cent per cent of the respondents welcome this idea.

**Table-4: Information on Financial Assistance, Information Flow and Relevance to Tourism**

More financial assistance needed		Inadequate inflow of relevant information		More assistance from Banks is needed, i.e. Co-ordination of Bank		Handloom items are relevant to Tourism/ Eco-tourism	
1		2		3		4	
Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	No
81	19	68	32	86	14	60	40

Source: Field Survey from August-December 2023.

#### Discussions in view of Table-4

**Financial Assistance (Col.1):** We see in the field that 81% respondents need more financial assistance for betterment of the unit however 19% do not think about it. They opine that at this budding stage, the Government might bear complete financial assistance of any probable unit in suitable terms and the implementing agencies should monitor utilization cohesively to check any miss-utilization. The KVIC at its special dispensation should do it for some deserving rural artisans who are languishing unnoticed. Non-baking villages should be identified forthwith and alternate scheme for these localities might be devised to achieve the mandate of inclusive development.

**Flow of Relevant Information (Col.2):** Hindrances in flow of information promotes unawareness. 68% felt that information they received is inadequate. They are mostly ignorant of related information. There is no extension worker to interface and guide. In addition to strengthening of field level organizational base the Government may launch a periodical and ensure its circulation to the nook and corner. It may carry all valuable information on this sector. It will act as a source of information provider and inspiration to the entrepreneurs.

**Role of Banks or Co-ordination of Bank (Col. 3):** Apart from providing credit assistance to small-scale industries, the bank needs to take on a more significant role. Businesses may be eligible for a special programme from the bank that allows them to take out short-term, interest-free loans. The bank is able to identify the illness of industrial units and create a rehabilitation nursing plan for them. Until the unit regains its independence, it can establish a dedicated cell for vigilant observation throughout the recovery phase. The bank assistances are inadequate according to 86% respondents. They feel, banks should play more roles in lending credit. The remaining 14% have not responded effectively, we see a common dissatisfaction with the banking fraternity.

Moreover, we feel that the Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Development & Financial Corporation, which is at doldrums, need to be revived enabling it to play the intended role. NEDFi need to play a much larger role too. Monitoring machinery needed to be in place and the Government might introduce a nursing plan to revive the sick units.

**Tourism and Eco-tourism (Col.4):** We try to see the awareness level about the link between the Tourism and Eco-tourism industry and this sector. We find 60% respondents think that tourism /Eco-tourism need to be encouraged which will have ripple effect on this sector especially on their heritage products whereas about 40% respondents are either not ready to share this idea or they have apprehended that with the inflow

of tourists from the mainland and the globe, preservation of their culture may at stake. We feel that isolation is not a tool for protection, the concept of opening of Gram-odyog Darshan (Village Industries Display & Sale Haat) with live demonstrations adjacent to the Tourist / Eco-tourist spots, may be helpful in showcasing the State's treasure trove and expanding market base. The Tourism and this sector are positively correlated. This can be a way to attract more foreign tourist. Therefore, Tourism industry must be developed on the priority basis as this state has a great potentiality regarding this so as to attract large and large number of tourist to come in Arunachal Pradesh. They will come and see the eye catching handloom products. Certain percentage of them must purchase these products.

It is known from the discussion with Public Leader, School and College Teachers, Members of Panchyat Raj Institution, Government Officers and other literate people that Handloom items will flourish if Border Trade, Tourism and Co-ordination of Bank are developed. All bear same opinion.

**Table-5: Information on Raw material (thread), Technical know-how, Machines/ Tools, Vocational Training / Education and Competence of Implementing Agencies**

Availability of Supply of thread for handloom		More supports needed towards Technical knowhow, Tools, etc.		Proper need based vocational training /education to traditional artisans to make their items more attractive		Need to enhance competence of implementing agencies?	
1		2		3		4	
Yes	No	Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	No
10	90	81	19	67	33	90	10

Source: Field Survey from August-December 2023.

### Discussions in view of Table-5

**Availability of Supply of thread for handloom (Col.1):** Most of the artisans of handloom are purchasing thread from adjacent state, Assam. It is available at local market, sometimes they have to purchase at high cost from the local market of Pasighat, the head quarter of the district. 90% of the respondents bear this opinion while 10% do not bear so. The researcher thinks that these 10% respondents are not a regular practitioner of handloom; they occasionally weave the handloom item for self use.

**More supports needed towards Technical knowhow, Tools, etc.(Col.2):** 81% of the respondents say to us that there is need of imparting adequate technical know-how, proper guidance while choosing machineries, tools and equipment for establishing a unit. Reduction of drudgery, modernization through appropriate technology is a crucial need to be attended. We reaffirmed our finding that there is total dearth of technical personnel in the implementing agencies. A well devised project formulation Cell with consultancy competence with outreach centers will be needed to be established. The Cell may work with competence under supervision of higher authorities.

**Proper need based vocational training /education to traditional artisans to make their items more attractive (Col.3):** 67% respondents say thatadequatevocational trainings are needed regularly whereas 33% respondents have no interest to answer this question. We have already referred the Majumdar Report (2000) who mentioned the lack of modern tools and equipments, poor physical infrastructure, shortage of competent training instructors, outmoded curriculum and training methods, neglect of skill up-gradation, low stipend offered to trainees etc. are some of the reasons for the suboptimal performance of the craft centers.

**Competence of Implementing Agencies (Col.4):** 90% respondents opine that there is a need of enhancement of competence of the implementing agencies whereas about 10% have not reciprocated indifferently. We find there is an essence of dilution of faith on the way the Government functions. We also feel that the promotional officers may be imparted with orientation training and be motivated to work consistently in true spirit of a developmental functionary instead of a secured to Government officials dealing with subsidy and ruthlessness having aim to achieve the annual targets. The functionaries should innovatively evolved ways and means to minimize the procedural delays. They need to discover suitable channels of marketing. Raw material depots may be opened to promptly supply raw materials in sufficient quantity. Efforts should be made to minimize the cost of production and increase their productivity.



**Table-6: Information on Opening more Purchasing Centres and Showrooms inside and outside of the State**

Should Government Open training and purchasing centre in each district		Should Government open showrooms in different corners of India?		Special stipend to the traditional artisans		Separate website for Cane and Bamboo Furniture Industries		Every year award given to the best artisan	
1		2		3		4		5	
Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say	Yes	Can't say
94	06	71	29	100	00	81	19	100	00

Source: Field Survey from August-December 2023.

### Discussions in view of Table-6

**Should Government open training and purchasing centre in each district (Col.1):** Many artisans of the sector produce their handmade items on occasional demand basis because of absence of regular market for their product. According to the Says Law, "Supply creates its own demand". Practically, the words of Economist fail here with the passing of time. For creation of demand, there is a time lag between demand and supply, again if there is absence of buyers, who will purchase the products. To overcome this problem, 94% respondents say that the Government may purchase their products by opening Purchasing Centre in the district head quarters. They say, the Government may sell these products at subsidized rate through its showrooms. But only 6% respondents do not response to this question simply say 'can't say'.

**Open Showrooms in Different Corners of India (Col.2):** 71% of the respondents think that the Government may open showroom in different corners of the Country and 29% have not responded positively.

**Special stipend to the traditional artisans (Col. 3):** Due to impact of Globalization and western civilization, the artisans are diverting from their traditional practice for livelihood. Again due to cheap machine made furniture available in the market, the common people are leaving traditional items. To alive this sector, government should grant special stipend to the traditional artisans so as to sustain them in traditional practice. Cent percentage of respondents bears this opinion.

**Separate website for Cane and Bamboo Furniture Industries (Col.4):** Some websites like <http://arunachalpradesh.gov.in>; <http://arunachalpradesh.nic.in/nip.htm>; <http://westsiang.nic.in> are available. But special website only for handloom items made by Galo people is necessary to boost up its worldwide demand. 81% respondents bear this opinion while overall 19% respondents tell 'can't say to answer this question.

**Every year award given to the best artisan (Col.5):** Award to the best artisan circle wise will work as a inspiration to continue to make the traditional items of furniture of cane and bamboo and handloom products to sell in the market. Supply will automatically create demand and market will grow. At the same time the local people will try to preserve the traditional items and try to reduce to misuse also cane and bamboo. Cent per cent respondents bear this opinion.

### CONCLUSION

The problems discussed above are not beyond the solutions, only it needs the good-will of the government machineries. If these problems are solved, then the other inter-connected problems such as insurgency, unemployment, etc. will be solved and GDP of the State also flourishes. One needs to take care of the poorest of the poor artisans while implementing a developmental scheme. All artisans would be treated equally in question of benefit. In the process of formulating policies and strategies to integrate the by-passed areas like the State into national economy it is important to understand these problems. The problems of by-passed areas should be examined very carefully because the benefits of economic growth are not shared equitably. Thus, sooner or later the conditions under which the people in by-passed areas live will become a political consideration.

Lastly we feel that the role of rural industries is gaining importance day by day in the development process in the hilly terrain state like Arunachal Pradesh. The APKVIB, a statutory body has not been streamlined even after nearly two and half decades of its creation.

N.B.: This article is a part of Ph.D. Thesis of the author.

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