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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

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**HYPOTHESIS (ES)** 

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION** 

**FINDINGS** 

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- Hunker, H.L. and A.J. Wright (1963), "Factors of Industrial Location in Ohio" Ohio State University, Nigeria.

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• Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

#### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

• Garg, Sambhav (2011): "Business Ethics" Paper presented at the Annual International Conference for the All India Management Association, New Delhi, India, 19–23

#### UNPUBLISHED DISSERTATIONS

• Kumar S. (2011): "Customer Value: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Customers," Thesis, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

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• Garg, Bhavet (2011): Towards a New Gas Policy, Political Weekly, Viewed on January 01, 2012 http://epw.in/user/viewabstract.jsp

#### PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS: A STUDY OF KARIMNAGAR DISTRICT

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The present study find out that most of the of the Handloom Weavers are facing financial problems, credit needs, marketing problems, production problems, raw material problems, social and personal problems, wages & employment problems, health problems and back pain problems. The study suggest atht The Government of India and State Governments provide assistance to handloom weavers, handloom weavers' co-operative societies for strengthening the share capital, improving the management of societies and modernization of looms and provide interest less loans in handloom weavers. The Government should enhance marketing facilities, increase the conducting handloom melas or exhibitions, provide new handloom looms for subsidy. The Government of India and State Governments has to be provide raw material directly to the weavers and strengthen the handloom reservation act as well as establish counseling centers for empowering the weavers to eradicate suicide attitude. Apart from above the Government should provide free health insurance, health checkups, education for children, training & capacity building, interest free loans etc.

#### **KEYWORDS**

handloom weavers, Karimnagar.

#### INTRODUCTION

andloom industry is an ancient cottage industry with a decentralized setup. Handloom industry provides employment to nearly 43.32 lakhs of people with 23.77 lakhs looms, of people are depending upon the ancillary occupations connected with this Industry. Handloom Industry is highly concentrated on Man Made Art and Tradition. The handloom sector plays a very important role in the country's economic development. Tracing the importance of the textile sector in the Indian economy, brings us face to face with the different components such as the mill segment, the handloom segment and the power loom segment that make up this whole. All these three sectors are making three types of clothes, i.e., cotton, blended fabrics and non-cotton fabrics. In handloom sector weavers are classified into independent weavers, weavers working under master weavers, weavers working for cooperative societies, weavers for Non-Government Organizations and shed (wage) weavers.

There are totally 30 lakhs handlooms in the whole world, 85 percent of handlooms representedly to 23,77,331 lakhs located in India. Out of this, 19,96,958 looms are in the Rural Areas, while 3,80,372 looms are in the urban areas. In case of employment, handloom Industry provides direct employment to about 43.32 lakhs people with 23.77 lakhs handlooms. In the present socio-economic climate where dependency on foreign capital and know-how is Increasing in all round, the handloom industry presents a sustainable model of socio economic Activity, which is not energy-intensive and has low capital costs, as well as an Extensive skill base<sup>1</sup>.

#### HISTORICAL PROOF OF HANDLOOM

The Hindu epics such as the 'Ramayana' and the "Mahabharata" as well as "Buddhist" sources, chant in detail the processes and uses of handloom fabrics. The history of the handloom industry in India could be backed back to hoary part of dates back to the Epic times and it is reported to have been in a highly developed stage even then. In the 'Vedas and the "Puranas" there are innumerable references to the exquisite qualities and wide range of fabrics worn by the Gods, Kings said to have been very much fascinated by the exotic designs and textures of fabric work, by women on the earth, and there are stories of such Gods falling in love with mortal ladies by their dress<sup>2</sup>.

"Kalidas" has described ruptial customers as Hamsa Chihita Dokoolo" of swan like wear. "Bana Bhatt," great poet in his work at many places has referred in detail to the artistic weaving of valuable cloth and contemporary elegance by mentioning garments made of extra fine thread. In Kautilya's "Arthasastra" the duties of Sutradhyaksha, a sort of sartorial officer have been described in great detail. In "Shukranti" too these are in mention of "Vastrya" an officer who looked after the demand and silken fabrics, in the market, kept an eye on the production of cloth manufacturing material and arranged for their collection of necessary sartorial information. The famous 'Ajanta Wall Paintings' of the 5th, 8th Centuries A.D, provided an invaluable record of the refined nature of the Indian-Textile Industries of the time. The cave frescoes clearly depict dancers, nobles, servants and musicians clothed in coin loom cloths and blouses, most probability patterned by the resist techniques of printing, tie and dye and ikat as well as brocade weaving<sup>3</sup>.

Though India was famous even in ancient times as an exporter of textiles to most parts of the civilized world, few actual fabrics of the early dyed or printed cottons have survived. This it is explained is due to a hot moist climate and the existence of the monsoons in India. It is not surprising; therefore, that Egypt which has an exceptionally dry climate would provide evidence which India lacks. The earliest Indian fragment of cloth (before the Christian era) with a hansa (swan) design was excavated from a site near Cairo where the hot dry sand of the desert acted as a preservative. The last 100 years have witnessed the growth of mechanized textile production internationally. In part due to competition, handloom has lost much of its market and is almost non-existent in most countries. However, handlooms are still a force to reckonwithin India and some other Asian countries such as Srilanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Cambodia. Later, fragments of finely woven and madder-dyed cotton fabrics and shuttles were found at some of the excavated sites of Mohanjodaro (Indus valley civilization). Indian floral faints, dating back to the 18th century AD were covered by Sir Aural Stein in the icy waters of Central Asia. The evidence shows that of all the arts and crafts of India, traditional handloom textiles are probably the oldest. Though it employs the largest number of people, the handloom sector is considered a sunset industry, and there is an air of inevitability given the relentless march of mechanization, modernization and sophistication. Still, there are many advocates of handloom for reasons including ideology, philosophy, sheer love for handloom products and economic arguments. However, irrespective of the policies, projects and aspirations arising out of various quarters, the handloom sector is undergoing changes, that are showing impact on the livelihoods of handloom weavers <sup>4</sup>.

#### **REVIEW OF LITARATURE**

**D.** Narasimha Reddy (2008) Is of the opinion that, it is time that, government recognized the value of the handloom sector in achieving sustainable development of the country. Despite the adverse conditions, due to larger support from consumers and being a livelihood option for millions of weavers, Handloom sector has been surviving and has the potential to be so. Government has to ensure a 'level playing field' for this sector towards competition among the different sub-sector of textile industry.

Sehgal H. K. (2009) has examined that as far as the garment export sector is concerned, there have been mixed signals: continuing world economic downturn; some late recovery, however temporary and for some people; recent Rupee appreciation and with a new Government, expected to be stable, assuming charge.

**Prachi (2010)** has observed that Indian handloom is growing in its popularity not only among the people in India, but also among the people admiring Indian handloom and Indian handicrafts from around the globe. In spite of having distinct styles and ways of weaving, there is a lot of exchange of styles that happened among the diverse Indian handloom styles.

**TNN (2011)** has mentioned that the state government has taken several decisions to encourage weavers to boost handloom industry in the state. The state government with the cooperation of the Centre has formulated several schemes to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the weavers belonging to the handloom industry.

IANS (2011) has noted that Indian consumers need to change the thinking; they need to think 'swadeshi' rather than 'videshi'. The greatest tragedy weavers' face is being ignored not just by people but by designers as well. The fashion industry is a very powerful platform to convey the message across the masses that fashion is more than chic dressing; there has to be an essence to it.

**Dr. Srinivasa Rao Kasisomayajula (2012)** presented a paper basing on field work Socio-economic analysis of handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh A Study on selected districts. he was studied in the socio economic analysis of handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh a study on Selected district (East Godavari, Prakasam, Kurnool, Nalgonda).

**A. Kumudha, M.Rizwana (2013)** in her paper Problems faced by handloom industry-A study with handloom weavers co-operative socities in erode district the paper focus on problems of handloom industry and problems of handloom co-operative society weavers.

**Venkateswaran.** A **(2014)** in his paper A Socio Economic Conditions of HandloomWeaving: A field study in Kallidaikurichi of Tiruneveli District this paper studied in the A Socio Economic Conditions of Handloom weavers and problem facing on handloom weavers.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To study the present situation of handloom industry.
- 2. To study the historical evidence of handloom industry.
- 3. To examine the problems and prospects of handloom weavers.
- 4. To give the suitable suggestions to improve the handloom industry.

#### **HYPOTHESIS**

Ho. To test whether the Karimnagar handlooms give the sufficient income to the weavers or not

H1. To test whether there is any employment opportunity even today in the handloom industry or not.

#### **NEED OF THE STUDY**

The handloom industry has facing many problems such as scarity of raw materials, marketing, finance and the most important being high incidence of mammals offered to officials. In view of this, there is an imperative need to undertaking a comprehensive study of the "problems and prospects of handloom weavers in Telangana" covering aspects such as, the impact of problems and prospects of weavers, structure of handloom weavers living conditions. Karimnagar district has been chosen for an intensive and detailed study since the district stands first in production and first in respect of membership in societies in the state.

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study broadly examines the problems and prospects of handloom weaver in Karimnagar district from 2005-2015. i.e, 10 years period.

#### SOURCE OF DATA

The study is based on primary data as well as secondary data.

**PRIMARY DATA:** The main source of the data are the weavers themselves and executive members of the society the elicit the proper information from the weavers a structured questionnaire was served to the weavers who were working in the societies. A part from this, personal interview group discussion and observation methods were used in collecting the first hand information

**SECONDARY DATA:** Secondary data for the study has been collected using published reports by the government, departments, offices Centre's consequently with the industry, published research papers in the reputed journals, books, thesis and dissertation and listing websites relating to the presented research.

#### **SAMPLE SIZE**

Sample of 200 weavers selected from the Karimnagar District.

#### **AREA OF STUDY**

This study was confined to handloom weavers of Karimnagar District

#### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

These are the limitations of the present research study. The study is essentially a micro level study. The information through the questionnaires may not have covered correct figures problems and prospects. The opinions and expressions of weavers are based on the personal experience with the societies the secondary data are taken as reported in the records however, the primary data is added to know the present conditions of weavers.

#### **DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

The data are collected from 200 sample Respondents by supplying the questionnaires, the data are analysed by simple tables on the basis of financial problems, marketing problems, production problems, social problems and health problems therefore, these aspects are covered in this paper.

Handloom weavers are facing several problems such as following:

#### 1. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Handloom industry is one such delicate organization, which has been totally capital-straved at all the time. By and large, sound financial assistance from government alone could improve the competitive urge among handloom co-operatives. The Government of India and State Governments provide assistance to handloom weavers, handloom weavers' co-operative societies for strengthening the share capital, improving the management of societies and modernization of looms. Even then, the societies could not strengthen their financial position because, they are not able to repay in time the loan received and hence the societies have to pay interest to the District Central Co-operative Banks.

The below table 1 shows the financial problems of Respondents in the four selected Mandals

TABLE	1: FINAN	CIAL PR	OBLEM
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S.	Financial Problem		No. of Respondents					
No		Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)		
1	Yes	40	42	38	44	164		
		(20.00)	(21.00)	(19.00)	(22.00)	(82.00)		
2	No	10	8	12	6	36		
		5.00)	(4.00)	(6.00)	(3.00)	(18.00)		
Tota	l (%)	50	50	50	50	200		
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)		

Source: Field survey

The table-1 reveals about financial problem of Respondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 40 (20.00%) Respondents are facing financial problem, the lowest number 10 (5.00%) Respondents are not facing financial problem.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 42 (21.00%) Respondents are facing financial problem, the lowest number 8 (4.00%) Respondents are not facing financial problem.

In Thangallapally Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 38 (19.00%) Respondents are facing financial problem, the lowest number 12 (6.00%) Respondents are not facing financial problem.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 44 (22.00%) Respondents are facing financial problem, the lowest number 6 (3.00%) Respondents are not facing financial problem.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of the Respondents are facing financial problem.

Financial problems are divvied into four types, such as following:

#### A. INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT

Investment in handloom sector has thus far been limited to input supply costs. There is no investment on sect oral growth, while there have been some piece meal projects such as work shed-cum-housing and project package schemes', they merely perpetuate the existing conditions. There has been no thinking on basic requirements of the producer. Facilities such as land, water and electricity need to be provided in many places that are a harbor for handloom manufacturing. Common facilities have not been developed such as godowns, credit facilities (banks in the vicinity), roads, proper sanitation, etc, have not been provided anywhere. In recent years, the investment profile in handloom sector has also been changing. Traditional investors - known as master weavers who have been investing for several decades in handloom production have been moving away, or have become reluctant to invest in new designs. There is a need for new programmes that enable the inflow of fresh investments and emergence of new entrepreneurs into the handloom sector.

#### **B. BUDGET ALLOCATIONS**

Allocations for handloom in national and state budgets are being reduced. This has to be reversed. Budget has to be increased with new schemes, which address the problems of the sector, in view of the linkage and the need to protect rural employment.

#### C. CREDIT NEEDS

The credit facilities currently available to weavers are far from adequate. Even those made available through co-operatives rarely reach the sections for which it is intended. This is because master weavers control a number of co-operatives and tend to corner a substantial proportion of institutional credit. As indicated earlier, the majority of weavers are to be found outside the co-operative fold, weaving usually for master weavers or on their own. The credit needs of this sector have remained unaddressed. The existing situation is one where the local master weaver provides consumption loans and/or advances, which, over time, render the weaver completely in debted to the master weaver.

#### D. TAXES AND SUBSIDIES

Presently, there are no subsidies for handloom sector. They are completely withdrawn. However, they need to be continued. There are no taxes. However, the benefits go to the traders and not the weavers<sup>5</sup>.

The below table-2 shows the Types of financial problems of Respondents in the four selected Mandals.

**TABLE 2: TYPES OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS** 

S.	Financial Problem		No. o	f Respondents		
No		Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)
1	Infrastructure and investment	8	6	4	6	24
		(4.00)	(3.00)	(2.00)	(3.00)	(12.00)
2	Budget allocation	7	8	6	7	28
		(3.50)	(4.00)	(3.00)	(3.50)	(14.00)
3	Credit	17	15	18	22	72
	Needs	(8.50)	(7.50)	(9.00)	(11.00)	(36.00)
4	Taxes and subsidies	8	13	10	9	40
		(4.00)	(6.50)	(5.00)	(4.50)	(20.00)
5	No	10	8	12	6	36
		(5.00)	(4.00)	(6.00)	(3.00)	(18.00)
Tota	I (%)	50	50	50	50	200
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)

Source: Field survey

The above table-2 reveals about types of financial problems of Respondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 17 (8.50%) Respondents are facing Credit needs, 10 (5.00%) Respondents are not facing any financial problem, 8 (4.00%) Respondents are facing infrastructure and investment, 8 (4.00%) Respondents are facing taxes & subsidies, the lowest number 7 (3.50%) Respondents are facing budget allocation.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 15 (7.50%) Respondents are facing Credit needs, 13 (6.50%) Respondents are facing taxes and subsidies, 8 (4.00%) Respondents are facing budget allocation, 8 (4.00%) Respondents are not facing any financial problem, the lowest number 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing infrastructure & investment.

In Thangallapally Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 18 (9.00%) Respondents are facing Credit needs, 12 (6.00%) Respondents are not facing any financial problem, 10 (5.00%) Respondents are facing taxes & subsidies, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing budget allocation, the lowest number 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing infrastructure & investment.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 22 (11.00%) Respondents are facing Credit needs, 9 (4.50%) Respondents are facing taxes and subsidies, 7 (3.50%) Respondents are facing budget allocation, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing infrastructure & investment, the lowest number 6 (3.00%) Respondents are not facing any financial problem.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of Respondents are facing Credit needs.

#### 2. MARKETING PROBLEMS

The wake of new trends in fashions with man-made fibre and yarn fabrics having made in roads up to the rural areas. It is but natural that handloom fabrics face difficulties in marketing and sales promotion. Marketing is the central problem that calls for the drawing up of a suitable strategy. Otherwise, any amount of aid

given to this industry at the production level will turn out to be of no help. The industry has been pursuing the sales oriented philosophy. Inadequate marketing services and facilities have resulted in periodical accumulation of stocks, resulting in underemployment and unemployment among weavers.

Independent weavers, outside the co-operative fold, are not always able to dispose of their cloth directly to the consumer. They have to approach the middlemen. In case of weavers working under master weavers on wage basis, they return the finished cloth to the master weavers. The co-operative societies are wholly dependent on the TSCO for marketing of their products. In our state, TSCO is not performing well and not in a position to lift the finished products and make the payment timely. The efforts are directed to sell the quantity through the purchase of handloom cloth by the government departments, army personnel, local bodies and rebate schemes and other programmes that are directed to push the product to the market.

The below table-3 shows the Marketing problem of Respondents in the four selected Mandals.

TABLE 3: MARKETING PROBLEM

S.			No. of Respondents					
No	Marketing Problem	Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	(%)		
1	Yesl	48	46	47	47	188		
		(24.00)	(23.00)	(23.50)	(23.50)	(94.00)		
2	No	2	4	3	3	12		
		(1.00)	(2.00)	(1.50)	(1.50)	(6.00)		
Tota	ıl (%)	50	50	50	50	200		
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)		

Source: field survey

The table-3 reveals about Marketing problem of Respondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 48 (24.00%) Respondents are facing Marketing problem, the lowest number 2 (1.00%) Respondents are not facing Marketing problem.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 46 (23.00%) Respondents are facing Marketing problem, the lowest number 4 (2.00%) Respondents are not facing Marketing problem.

In Thangallapally Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 47 (23.50%) Respondents are facing Marketing problem, the lowest number 3 (1.50%) Respondents are not facing Marketing problem.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 47 (23.50%) Respondents are facing Marketing problem, the lowest number 3 (1.50%) Respondents are not facing Marketing problem.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of the Respondents are facing Marketing problem

Marketing problems are divvied into five types, such as following:

#### A. COMPETITION FROM MILLS AND POWERLOOMS:

The powerlooms were able to misuse the concession given to handlooms and function under the cover of handlooms. The other advantages enjoyed by the powerlooms were low wages, wholesale evasion of protective labour legislation, low taxes on yarn, no levies on grey fabrics produced by powerlooms, low overheads, low requirements of working capital and flexibility in production mix. In addition to the fact that powerlooms are able to concentrate on synthetic fibres, would seem to give them an inseparable advantage over handlooms. The sector faces stiff competition from the powerlooms and mill sector, which is threatening its existence. While, most handlooms are made of cotton, the yarn consumption pattern is shifting towards other fibres also. Handloom products are increasingly being copied on powerlooms at a low cost due to rapid technological developments. If the present trend continues, handlooms could loose a sizeable market. The obligations of textile quotas would further aggravate the problem of handloom sector.

#### **B. MARKET FOR PRODUCTS**

Handloom products require more visibility. This means better and wider market network. One-off exhibitions organized with the support of government do not suffice presently, handloom products are available only in few places. An umbrella market organization, autonomous and financed by the government initially should be formed to undertake this task, financed by the sales of the handloom products.

#### C. FREE EXPORT/IMPORT TRADE - OPPORTUNITY

Post the WTO Agreement on Textile Clothing, there is going to be more free export and import of textiles. The handloom sector, as a traditional area, can claim some special packages or discriminatory measures, to protect this kind of production. Options and policy measures need to be worked out either by independent institutions or the government.

#### D. INTERMEDIARIES (INDIVIDUALS/INSTITUTIONS)

Government has created a few research, training and input institutions to help the handloom sector. These institutions include weaver service centres, institutions of handloom technology, NIFT, etc. But their performance has been below par and then presence has not helped in obviating the problems of handloom weavers.

#### E.MARKET ENVIRONMENT

Marketing environment are also effecting handloom industry<sup>6</sup>.

The below table-4 shows the Types of Marketing problems of Respondents in the four selected Mandals.

**TABLE 4: TYPES OF MARKETING PROBLEMS** 

S.			No. c	of Respondents		
No	Marketing Problem	Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)
1	Competition from Mills&Powerlooms	4	5	6	5	20
		(2.00)	(2.50)	(3.00)	(2.50)	(10.00)
2	Market for products	15	26	22	23	96
		(7.50)	(13.00)	(11.00)	(11.50)	(48.00)
3	Free export and import trade opportuinity	6	4	8	6	24
		(3.00)	(2.00)	(4.00)	(3.00)	(12.00)
4	Intermediaries	1	3	2	2	8
	(Individual and Institiutions)	(0.50)	(1.50)	(1.00)	(1.00)	(4.00)
5	Market environment	12	8	9	11	40
		(6.00)	(4.00)	(4.50)	(5.50)	(20.00)
6		2	4	3	3	12
	No	(1.00)	(2.00)	(1.50)	(1.50)	(6.00)
Tota	l	50	50	50	50	200
(%)		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)

Source: field survey.

The below table-4 reveals about Types of Marketing problems of Respondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest no 15 (7.50%) Respondents are facing market for products, 12 (6.00%) Respondents are facing market environments, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing free export/import trade-opportunity, 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing competition from mills and powerlooms, 2 (1.00%) Respondents are not facing any marketing problem, the lowest number 1 (0.50%) Respondents are facing intermediaries (individual/institutions).

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest no 26 (13.00%) Respondents are facing market for products, 8 (4.00%) Respondents are facing market environment, 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing competition from mills and powerlooms, 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing free export/import trade-opportunity, 4 (2.00%) Respondents are not facing any marketing problem, the lowest number 3 (1.50%) Respondents are facing intermediaries (individual / institutions).

In Thangallapallly Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest no 22 (11.00%) Respondents are facing market for products, 9 (4.50%) Respondents are facing market environments, 8 (4.00%) Respondents are facing free export/import trade-opportunity, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing competition from mills and powerlooms, 3 (1.50%) Respondents are not facing any marketing problem, the lowest number 2 (1.00%) Respondents are facing intermediaries (individual/institutions).

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest no 23 (11.50%) Respondents are facing market for products, 11 (5.50%) Respondents are facing market environments, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing free export/import trade-opportunity, 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing competition from mills and powerlooms, 3 (1.50%) Respondents are not facing any marketing problem, the lowest number 2 (1.00%) Respondents are facing intermediaries (individual/institutions).

The overall observation reveals that the majority of Respondents are facing Market of products

#### 3. PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

Handloom weavers are also facing production problems are scarcity of yarn, lack of technology development, raw material problems, design improvement, enhancement of value, technology& mechanization patenting designs/varieties and working hours.

The below table-5 shows the Production problem of Respondents in the four selected Mandals.

#### TABLE 5: PRODUCTION PROBLEM

S.			No. of Respondents					
No	Production Problem	Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)		
1	Yes	48	49	48	49	194		
		(24.00)	(24.50)	(24.00)	(24.50)	(97.00)		
2	No	2	1	2	1	6		
		(1.00)	(0.50)	(1.00)	(0.50)	(3.00)		
Tota	I (%)	50	50	50	50	200		
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)		

Source: field survey

The table-5 reveals about Production problem of Respondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 48 (24.00%) Respondents are facing Production problem, the lowest number 2 (1.00%) Respondents are not facing Production problem.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 49 (24.50%) Respondents are facing Production problem, the lowest number 1 (0.50%) Respondents are not facing Production problem.

In Thangallapally Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 48 (24.00%) Respondents are facing Production problem, the lowest number 2 (1.00%) Respondents are not facing Production problem.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 49 (24.50%) Respondents are facing Production problem, the lowest number 1 (0.50%) Respondents are not facing Production problem.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of the Respondents are facing Production problem.

Production problems are divvied into eight types, such as

- A. SCARCITY OF YARN: The handloom sector is mostly dependent on the organized mill sector for the supply of its principal raw material, namely, yarn. This sector uses the bulk of yarn in the form of hanks. A gross deficiency in the supply of yarn at reasonable prices is complained. The yarn is produced in composite mills and spinning mills. Though there is a stipulation of producing 50 per cent hank yarn for the handloom industry by the composite mills, the mills have not adhered to such a stipulation. The shortage of raw materials has been a problem for several years to the industry.
- **B. LACK OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT:** Weaving continuous to be a traditional and hereditary occupation. The weavers are following traditional methods of production and design due to lack of exposure, awareness and knowledge over changing technologies, methods and the requirements. The production capacity of these looms is low and the job is tedious. This sector encounters tough competition from superior quality products available at cheaper prices from the organized sectors. For technology development, major efforts are needed for modernization of looms, increasing productivity, quality of products, standardization of various processes and products and production of value added products. Lack of training is also another drawback.
- C. RAW MATERIAL PROBLEMS: The success of any industry is based on the availability of raw material. The unavailability of raw material is one of the crisis faced by the handloom sector. Cotton yarn, dyes, silk and jute are important raw materials. Cotton handloom weavers have been largely dependent on spinning mills to provide them yarn, but nowadays, these mills find it more profitable to work with the power loom sector and weaving mills. Moreover, since the concentration of handlooms is higher in rural and semi-rural areas handloom weavers have to travel for to get the yarn. Also, the raw material used by this sector is not available at a low cost since cotton production costs are high in India. With the government now encouraging yarn export, there could soon be a further shortage of yarn. So handloom weavers are today facing a raw material crisis.
- i) PRICES OF RAW MATERIAL: Handloom primarily uses natural fibres such as cotton, silk and jute. Prices of these fibres have been increasing during production and processing. Cotton production in India is expensive because of intensive and high usage of costly agricultural inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers. Secondly, while the fibre production most often happens in the vicinity of the weavers, their processing is done in distant areas, and as such the prices to the weaver are higher. With the Central Government now encouraging primary fibre and yarn exports, handloom weavers would be on the last priority for yarn suppliers.

The solution lies in establishing relatively low-post, decentralized spinning units in the villages where handloom and fibre productions co-exist. The units would enable direct linkage between farmers and weavers, which essentially decreases the cost of yarn and thus the cost of handloom products. Still, the cost of selling up the units may be too much for an individual, and hence governmental support will be required.

- ii) SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIAL: Access to raw material such as yarn, dyes and dye stuffs has become a problem. (Yarn is made out of fibres such as cotton and is used to weave the cloth, horizontally and vertically. It is the primary material to produce the cloth or fabric.) Weaving is a rural and semi-rural production activity and weavers have to go far to get these raw materials. To top it off, yarn prices are steadily increasing. The availability of hank yarn the basic material from which weaving is done is a serious issue because it is controlled by modern spinning mills, who see more profit in large-volume cone yarn. Secondly, since hank yarn is tax-free and has subsidies, enormous amounts are diverted to the powerloom and mill sectors. As a result, there is a perennial shortage of yarn for the weavers. Despite a few schemes, the hank yarn access issue has not been resolved, Colours are expensive, and presently there is no system or mechanism to increase their availability.
- **D. DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS:** While there are suggestions that handloom sector should increase its design in respond in changes in the market, the bottlenecks are many. The lack of change is not due to the weaver not being amenable to change, as is bandied. Rather, it is due to unwillingness of the investor to take risks and provide incentive to weavers for effecting the change.
- **E. ENHANCEMENT OF VALUE:** There is a need for enhancing the value of handloom products through utilization of organic cotton and organic yarn, application of natural dyes and by increasing the productivity of the looms through research and innovation.
- **F. TECHNOLOGY AND MECHANIZATION:** In the pre-loom processing (yarn preparation and dyeing), some degree of mechanization is being asked. Appropriate usage needs to be worked out.

**G. PATENTING DESIGNS/VARIETIES:** Handloom designs/varieties are not protected. As a result, investors are not interested lest they end up with the risk and those who copy the benefits. Protection options include development of handloom/silk/jute marks and registration under Geographical Indications Act. However more discussion is required on this, if handloom has to come up with designs that suit the market preferences<sup>7</sup>.

The below table-6 shows the Types of Production problems of Respondents in the four selected Mandals.

#### **TABLE 6: TYPES OF PRODUCTION PROBLEMS**

S. No	Production Problem		No. c	of Respondents		
		Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)
1	Scarcity of Yarn	4	5	6	3	18
		(2.00)	(2.50)	(3.00)	(1.50)	(9.00)
2	Lack of Techonology Development and Mechanization	7	4	5	6	22
		(3.50)	(2.00)	(2.50)	(3.00)	(11.00)
3	Raw material problem	16	21	20	17	74
		(8.00)	(10.50)	(10.00)	(8.50)	(37.00)
4	Deasign Improvements and Patering Designs/varieties	14	10	12	12	48
		(7.00)	(5.00)	(6.00)	(6.00)	(24.00)
5	Working hours	7	9	5	11	32
		(3.50)	(4.50)	(2.50)	(5.50)	(16.00)
6		2	1	2	1	6
	No	(1.00)	(0.50)	(1.00)	(0.50)	(3.00)
Total (	%)	50	50	50	50	200
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)

Source: Field Survey.

The above table-6 reveals about Types of Production problems. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 16 (8.00%) Respondents are facing Raw Material, 14 (7.00%) Respondents are facing Designs improvement and patering designs/varities, 7 (3.50%) Respondents are facing lack of technology development and mechanisation, 7 (3.50%) Respondents are facing working hours, 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing scarcity of yarn, the lowest number 2 (1.00%) Respondents are not facing any production problem.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 21 (10.50%) Respondents are facing Raw Material, 10 (5.00%) Respondents are facing Designs improvement and patering designs/varities, 9 (4.50%) Respondents are facing working hours, 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing scarcity of yarn 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing lack of technology development and mechanisation, the lowest number 1 (0.50%) Respondents are not facing any production problem.

In Thangallapally Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 20 (10.00%) Respondents are facing Raw Material, 12 (6.00%) Respondents are facing Designs improvement and patering designs/varities, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing scarcity of yarn, 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing lack of technology development and mechanization, 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing working hours, the lowest number 1 (0.50%) Respondents are not facing any production problem.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 17 (8.50%) Respondents are facing Raw Material, 12 (6.00%) Respondents are facing Designs improvement and patering designs/varities, 11 (5.50%) Respondents are facing working hours, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing lack of technology development and mechanization, 3 (1.50%) Respondents are facing scarcity of yarn, the lowest number 1 (0.50%) Respondents are not facing any production problem.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of Respondents are facing Raw Material problem.

**4. SOCIAL AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS:** Handloom weavers are also facing social and personal problems are co-operative system, wages, employment and livelihood issues, women related problems, welfare schemes and employment problems.

The below table-7 shows the Social and Personal problem of Respondents in the four selected Mandals.

**TABLE -7: SOCIAL AND PERSONAL PROBLEM** 

S. No	Social and Personal Problem		No. of Respondents					
		Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)		
1	Yes	44	45	43	46	178		
		(22.00)	(22.50)	(21.50)	(23.00)	(89.00)		
2	No	6	5	7	4	22		
		(3.00)	(2.50)	(3.50)	(2.00)	(11.00)		
Total (	Total (%)		50	50	50	200		
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)		

Source: Field Survey.

The above table-7 reveals about Social and Personal problem of Respondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 44 (22.00%) Respondents are facing Social and Personal problem, the lowest number 6 (3.00%) Respondents are not facing Social and Personal problem.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 45 (21.50%) Respondents are facing Social and Personal problem, the lowest number 5 (2.50%) Respondents are not facing Social and Personal problem.

In Thangallapally Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 43 (21.50%) Respondents are facing Social and Personal problem, the lowest number 7 (3.50%) Respondents are not facing Social and Personal problem.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 46 (23.00%) Respondents are facing Social and Personal problem, the lowest number 4 (2.00%) Respondents are not facing Social and Personal problem.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of the Respondents are facing Social and Personal problem.

**A. CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM:** While cooperatives do help in maximizing the benefits for weavers in the entire chain of production, their present condition is a cause of concern. The handloom cooperative system is riddled with corruption and political interference. Many handloom weavers are not members of these cooperatives. Government departments have to stop using them as primary sources for routing government funds and schemes. Cooperatives have to become independent of district level government officers in terms of management and decision-making.

**B. WAGES, EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD ISSUES:** Wages have not increased in the last 15 years. Some sections of handloom weavers are living in hand-to-mouth conditions, with no house or assets for them, for years together. These issues need to be addressed. Given such a situation, government policies and actions are required to address such a situation. While there are many non-government initiatives, which try to obviate the problems, policy action would have a wider reach and impact. It would also ensure a way forward and give strength to the weavers to face the competition, with much more rigour and enthusiasm.

**C.WOMEN RELATED PROBLEMS:** Women, presently, share enormous work burden with no commensurate compensation system. Their work is not recognized. Their living and working conditions are a serious concern in many parts of India.

**D. WELFARE SCHEMES:** Education and health constitute a major concern for handloom weaver families government has to come forward to help the children, women and old people to overcome their health and education needs.

**E. EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS:** The handloom sector remains a major source for self and casual employment. Apart from the direct employment to about 3.5 million people, it provides indirect employment during the pre- and post-production process. The primary importance of the sector providing gainful employment in rural India is under threat with growing competition from the powerloom sector, lack of government intervention, unfavorable. The handloom sector place an important role in the Indian economy since it is very large in scale and provides the largest employment opportunity, next to the agriculture sector. India is currently the world's largest producer of handloom products with a total production of more than 5 billion meters in 2005. The major handloom weaving states in India are west Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam and Manipur, in India, there are more than 3.8 millions handlooms in operations, with the livelihood of about 12.5 million people dependent on handloom weaving.

This makes of 23% of the total textiles production in the country. Overall, this sector place a vital role in local economies, especially in rural areas the handloom sector holds on about 12.5 million people are dependent on handloom weaving for their livelihood handloom carpets government policies, etc. because of lack of work, handloom weavers with many skills are today forced to work as construction workers, venders, etc<sup>8</sup>.

The below table-8 shows the Types of Social and Personal problems of Respondents in the four selected Mandals.

TABLE 8: TYPES OF SOCIAL & PERSONAL PROBLEMS

S. No	Social & personal Problem		No. c	f Respondents		
		Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)
1	Co operative System	10	8	9	9	36
		(5.00)	(4.00)	(4.50)	(4.50)	(18.00)
2	Wages, employment & livelihood issues	17	21	13	25	76
		(8.50)	(10.50)	(6.50)	(12.50)	(38.00)
3	Women related problems	3	4	5	2	14
		(1.50)	(2.00)	(2.50)	(1.00)	(7.00)
4	Welfare schemes	14	12	16	10	52
		(7.00)	(6.00)	(8.00)	(5.00)	(26.00)
5		6	5	7	4	22
	No	(3.00)	(2.50)	(3.50)	(2.00)	(11.00)
Total (	Total (%)		50	50	50	200
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)

Source: Field Survey.

The above table-8 reveals about Types of social and personal problems of Respondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 17 (8.50%) Respondents are facing Wages, employment & livelihood issues, 14 (7.00%) Respondents are facing welfare schemes, 10 (5.00%) Respondents are facing co-operative system, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are not facing any social and personal problem, the lowest number 3 (1.50%) Respondents are facing women related problems.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 21 (10.50%) Respondents are facing Wages, employment & livelihood issues, 12 (6.00%) Respondents are facing welfare schemes, 8 (4.00%) Respondents are facing co-operative system, 5 (2.50%) Respondents are not facing any social and personal problem, the lowest number 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing women related problems.

In Thangallapallly Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 16 (8.00%) Respondents are facing welfare schemes, 13 (6.50%) Respondents are facing Wages, employment & livelihood issues, 9 (4.50%) Respondents are facing co-operative system, 7 (3.50%) Respondents are not facing any social and personal problem, the lowest number 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing women related problems.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 25 (12.50%) Respondents are facing Wages, employment & livelihood issues, 10 (5.00%) Respondents are facing welfare schemes, 9 (4.50%) Respondents are facing co-operative system, 4 (2.00%) Respondents are not facing any social and personal problem, the lowest number 2 (1.00%) Respondents are facing women related problems.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of Respondents are facing Wages, employment & livelihood issues.

- 5. MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS: Handloom weavers are facing major health problems such as following:
- 1. Eye sight weakness.
- 2. Back pain.
- 3. Knee pain.
- 4. Joint pain.

The below table-9 shows the Major Health Problems of Respondents in the four selected mandals.

TABLE 9: MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS

S. No	Health Problem		No. of Respondents					
		Karimnagar	Siricilla	Thangalla Pally	Garshakurthi	Total (%)		
1	Eye sight weakness	17	15	16	18	66		
		(8.50)	(7.50)	(8.00)	(9.00)	(33.00)		
2	Back Pain	22	22	26	24	94		
		(11.00)	(11.00)	(13.00)	(12.00)	(47.00)		
3	Knee Pain	5	4	3	4	16		
		(2.50)	(2.00)	(1.50)	(2.00)	(8.00)		
4	Joint Pain	6	9	5	4	24		
		(3.00)	(4.50)	(2.50)	(2.00)	(12.00)		
Total (%)		50	50	50	50	200		
		(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(25.00)	(100.00)		

Source: Field Survey.

The above table-9 reveals about Major health problems of Repondents. In Karimnagar Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 22 (11.00%) Respondents are facing Back pain, 17 (8.50%) Respondents are facing Eye sight weakness, 6 (3.00%) Respondents are facing Joint pain, lowest number 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing Knee pain.

In Siricilla Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 22 (11.00%) Respondents are facing Back pain, 15 (7.50%) Respondents are facing Eye sight weakness, 9 (4.50%) Respondents are facing Joint pain, lowest number 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing Knee pain.

In Thangallapally Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 26 (13.00%) Respondents are facing Back pain, 16 (8.00%) Respondents are facing Eye sight weakness, 5 (2.50%) Respondents are facing Joint pain, lowest number 3 (1.50%) Respondents are facing Knee pain.

In Garshakurthi Mandal has been selected 50 Respondents. The highest number 24 (12.00%) Respondents are facing Back pain, 18 (9.00%) Respondents are facing Eye sight weakness, 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing Joint pain, lowest number 4 (2.00%) Respondents are facing Knee pain.

The overall observation reveals that the majority of Respondents are facing Back pain.

#### **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

- 1. 82% of the respondents are facing financial problems.
- 2. 72% of the respondents are facing credit needs.
- 3. 94% of the respondents are facing marketing problems.
- 4. 48% of the respondents are facing marketing for products.
- 5. 97% of the respondents are facing production problems.
  6. 37% of the respondents are facing raw material problems.
- 7. 89% of the respondents are facing social and personal problems.
- 8. 38% of the respondents are facing wages, employment problems.
- 9. 72% of the respondents are facing health problems.
- 10. 47% of the respondents are facing back pain problems.

#### **SUGGESTIONS**

- 1. The Government of India and State Governments provide assistance to handloom weavers, handloom weavers' co-operative societies for strengthening the share capital, improving the management of societies and modernization of looms.
- 2. The Government of India and State Governments are provide interest less loans in handloom weavers.
- 3. To enhance marketing facilities.
- 4. To increase the conducting handloom melas or exhibitions.
- 5. To provide new handloom looms for subsidy.
- 6. The Government of India and State Governments has to be provide raw material directly to the weavers.
- 7. To strengthen the handloom reservation act.
- 8. To protect do not copy of the designs made by handloom from powerlooms.
- 9. To establish counseling centers for empowering the weavers to eradicate suicide attitude.
- 10. Government should provide free health insurance, health checkups, education for children, training & capacity building, interest free loans etc.

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