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A Exploration on the Socio-Economic Capability of the Handloom Weavers Group with Particular Reference to Suler Block, Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT: India has a rich historical legacy that includes traditional hand weaving. Due to the fact that it offers millions of individuals a means of subsistence, this industry sits adjacent to farming. The desire for handmade goods and distinctive indigenous designs is driving the growth of the handloom sector both domestically and abroad, yet the economic situation of the weaving community is steadily declining. Competition on international marketplaces, limited revenue, poor market values for completed goods, and difficulty connecting with customers are issues that weavers must deal with. The ancient handloom industry is harming Tamilnadu's weavers, but experts haven't done much research into it. The purpose of this study, which is being conducted in the Tamil Nadu district of Coimbatore's Suler Block, is to assess the regional weaver's socioeconomic position and provide any necessary advice. The outcomes of previous research that demonstrate a progressive transition from weaving to official services due to the unpredictability of this industry and the administration's neglect of the deteriorating status of conventional weaving served as the motivation for this exploration.

I. INTRODUCTION

The world greatest handloom economy, with a rich cultural past, is found in India. Hence, it also has a significant financial consequence. Textiles from India's weavers are in high demand and well-liked around the world. a few well-known hand-woven textiles from India throughout antiquity. According to the Fourth All India Handloom Statistics, there are 31.45 lakh households across the nation that are active in weaver production, including weaving and related operations. This is an increase from the Third Census, when there were 27.83 lakh citizens counted. The Fourth Central India Handloom Surveys included a total of 25,45,312 weaving families. There were 26,73,891 weavers counted in all during this cycle. 18 lakhs are distributed across four Indian regions, representing all weavers' homes across the country. Assam (10.9 lakh families), West Bengal (3.4 lakh), Manipur (2.1 lakh), and Tamil Nadu are among these states (1.7 lakh). Both the North East and the Division of West Bengal are both major producers of sarees (silk sarees from Assam and Tripura). Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are the two states in the south that produce the most sarees. These five states produce 78.6% of all weavers sarees in the country. Tamil Nadu is a wonderful state that is rich in traditional clothing that we can wear on our bodies in a variety of ways. The distinctive indigenous goods capture the character of traditional living. Towels, dhotis, saris, clothing fabrics, and many more items are woven by hand in Tamil Nadu. The cooperative institutions are Little Weavers, Master Weavers, and the cluster actors. The plurality of workers work for the handloom weavers, who also supply the raw resources to the handloom industry. The majority of cooperative societies are losing money, which prevents them from being able to properly care for their members.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. **Nimbalkar (2002)** In his analysis, he emphasises how important the Indian textile industry is to society and how it employs 6.5 million individuals directly and indirectly. Because of state interference via financial assistance and other welfare systems for the survival of the nation, this industry is able to operate.
2. **Mathiraj and Rajkumar (2008)** He conducted research on handloom manufacturing and marketing, relating performance concerns in the weaving industry to the advertising activity conducted by the Tirunelveli District

Weavers' Society in the face of significant variations in yarn pricing. To address the issues facing weavers, the research recommends a manufacturing design, a marketing technique, and acceleration in the trade at an affordable price.

3. **Prachi (2010)** she witnessed Indian customs as the hand-loom business grew in popularity not only across India but also throughout the world. Since individuals admire Indian handloom and handicraft, different weaving methodologies and approaches were exchanged throughout the handloom industry.

4. **TNN (2011)** He concentrated on the various measures the management had taken to support weavers in the state's handloom sector. The regional administration has developed a number of plans to improve the socioeconomic circumstances of Indian textile sector operators.

5. **IANS (2011)** He found that Indian buyers need to adopt a "swadeshi" rather than a "videshi" way of thinking. Although the modelling industry is a highly effective venue for spreading the narrative and showcasing talent among the masses, weavers must contend with rejection from both the general public and innovators.

III. ISSUE OF THE PROBLEM

In accordance with the research that is presently accessible, not many experiments have been done on the socioeconomic situation in Suler Block, Coimbatore District. Despite numerous programmes being launched to enhance the social and economic circumstances of weaving communities, little progress has been made. They were more vulnerable, especially because of inadequate management structures, flaws in governance, financial disincentives, insufficient infrastructure, decentralised looms, bad marketing, etc. So, the proposed poll's focus is to investigate the socioeconomic characteristics of the weavers' population in Tamilnadu's Suler Block, Coimbatore District, in an attempt to appraise its position.

The Tests of the Aims

- ❖ To examine the socioeconomic circumstances that hand-loom weavers are existing in addition to determining their function in society.
- ❖ To assess the economic standing and social scenarios of the hand-loom weavers and to evaluate their financial conditions.
- ❖ To deliver adequate recommendations and strategies for the weavers category.

IV. METHODS AND MATERIALS

Relevant research from the respondents' weavers has been gathered to meet the research's aim and objectives. The analysis has utilised both qualitative and quantitative assessment approaches. Qualitative analysis and interpretation have been applied to interviews. The Suler Block in TamilNadu's Coimbatore District served as the original study venue. According to a census, a large percentage of the community in the Coimbatore District works as a weaver, and they are distributed throughout the Suler Block. The strategy of deliberate sampling was used. A residential interview schedule with 200 respondents provided the primary data. There were both open-ended and closed-ended questions on the interview agenda. The first section of the schedule covered general information on the respondent's demographic background and other relevant details, and the second section contained digital platforms. Thirdly, in relation to the family of the weaver's financial situation. Simple percentage analysis was employed as a tool and procedure for the present research, which emphasised on An Experiment on the Socio-Economic Capability of the Handloom Weavers Group with Particular Reference to Suler Block, Coimbatore District.

Focus Data on Analytical and Interpretation Socio-Economic Conditions of Handloom Weavers

Age			
S. No	Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	25 to 35 Years Old	66	33 %
2.	35 to 40 Years Old	89	44.5 %
3.	40 to 50 Years Old	29	14.5 %
4.	50 to 60 Years Old	16	08 %
	Total	200	100 %
Marital Status			
S. No	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Single	26	13 %
2.	Married	159	79.5 %
3.	Window	15	7.5 %
	Total	200	100 %
Community Status			
S. No	Community	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	SC	56	28 %
2.	MBC	46	23 %
3.	BC	90	45 %
4.	Others	08	04 %
	Total	200	100 %
Religions			
S. No	Religions	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Hindu	181	90.5 %
2.	Christine	10	05 %
3.	Muslim	09	4.5 %
	Total	200	100 %
Type of Family			
S. No	Type of Family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Joint	189	94.5 %
2.	Nuclear	11	5.5 %
	Total	200	100 %
Educational Status			
S. No	Educational	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	21	10.5 %
2.	Primary Level	146	73 %
3.	Secondary Level	16	08 %
4.	Diploma	12	06 %
5.	Degree	05	2.5 %
	Total	200	100 %
Occupation Status			
S. No	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Primary Occupation	196	98 %
2.	Secondary Occupation	04	02 %
	Total	200	100 %
Land Holdings			
S. No	Land	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Null Holdings	175	87.5 %
2.	1 to 2	09	4.5 %

3.	2 to 4	05	2.5 %
4.	4 to 5	07	3.5 %
5.	Above 5	04	02 %
	Total	200	100 %
Earning Income Per Month			
S. No	Income Per Month	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Rs. 5000 to 10,000	122	61%
2.	Rs. 10,000 to 15,000	52	26 %
3.	Rs. 15,000 to 20,000	14	07 %
4.	20,000 Above	12	06 %
	Total	200	100 %
Debt Raised			
S. No	Debt Raised	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Cooperative Society	78	39 %
2.	Banks	98	49 %
3.	Money Lenders	16	08 %
4.	Friends and Relatives	08	04 %
	Total	200	100 %
Working Status			
S. No	Working Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Independent Weavers	34	17 %
2.	Cooperative Society	22	11 %
3.	Working under Master Weaver	144	72 %
	Total	200	100 %
Reasons of Working under Master Weavers			
S. No	Reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Lack of Financial	56	28 %
2.	Lack of Adequate	40	20 %
3.	Lack of Looms	29	14.5 %
4.	Lack of Infrastructure	40	20 %
5.	Other	35	17.5 %
	Total	200	100 %

Age: It is evident from the preceding figure that 8% of weavers are under the age of 30, 44.5% are between the ages of 35 and 40, 33% are between the ages of 25 and 35, and 14.5% fall between the ages of 40 and 50. This shows that the majority of people working in the handloom business are middle-aged individuals between the ages of 35 and 40.

Marital Status: The frequency of married and single respondents is displayed in the figure ahead. This is a crucial element that influences how people's demands, social standing, and other aspects are met. According to the poll, 79.5% of respondents were married, leaving only 13% of respondents who were single and a 7.5 window.

Community Status: In accordance with the resulting information, the communities in the survey area of Block were higher in BC, with 45% of respondents who were weavers belonging to the Scheduled Caste 28%. There were 4% fewer respondents who were multiple.

Religions: The religion of the community members is presented in the accompanying data. The socioeconomic position of the population is largely determined by religion. 90.5% of those in the research area identified as Hindu, making up the majority of the population. Muslim 4.5% and Christian 5% .

Type of Family: Compared to the following information, 95.5% of respondents are members of nuclear families, while the remainder, 5.5% are members of joint families.

Educational Status: The social standing of the family is also influenced by the educational level of the household leader or individual family members. The employee's degree of employment determines the type of work he is doing because vocations with greater wages and more employment opportunities are available to those with higher education levels. 10.5% of the respondent groups in this study were illiterate, whereas 73% had completed primary school, 8% had completed secondary school, 6% had completed a diploma programme, and 2.5% had completed a degree programme. This demonstrates that the plurality of respondents have primary-level education.

Occupation Status: The socioeconomic qualities of a person are determined by their work. The amount of education, the possession of assets, and other factors are all influenced by one's occupation. In a poll of weavers, 98% of the interviewees identified weaving as their main line of work. 2% at the secondary level.

Land Holdings: The respondent family's economic status is shown by their land holdings. The largest asset for a rural lifestyle is thought to be land, which can be acquired in terms of cash or any other form of profitable venture during a time of financial hardship. Most of the respondents in the table don't own any land. 4.5% are gaining one to two, while 87.5% are holding nothing. Just 2% of respondents had more than 5% of flooded or unirrigated land bearing, compared to 3.5% who had 4 to 5 acres, 2.5% who had 2 to 4 acres, and only 2% who had more than 5%. Below is a graphic showing the land holdings.

Earning Income per Month: The basis of every person's existence is their income. More money means a higher standard of living. The steadiness of a family's income determines its buying power. The aforementioned table displays the respondents' monthly income breakdown. 61% of respondents reported income around Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10,000, 26% between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000, 7% between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000, and 6% above Rs. 20,000. The plurality of respondents earn between Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10,000, it has been discovered.

Debt Raised: Master weavers are the true criminals and debtors. 49% of respondents took out loans from banks, 39% from cooperative societies, 8% from money lenders, and 04% of respondents took out loans from friends and family. As a result, there is a great deal of reliance on master weavers, and banks have no function.

Working Status: The aforementioned table displays the respondents' categorization by ability to work condition. 72% of weavers are controlled by master weavers, 17% of weavers work for individual weavers, and 11% of the weavers in the field of research are employed by cooperativesocieties.

Reasons of Working under Master Weavers: In the assessment, it was discovered that the overwhelming majority of respondents worked for master weavers; roughly 28% of respondents mentioned problems with a lack of funding and 20% with a lack of appropriate infrastructure. Other 17.5%, as well as the lack of looms 14.5%, saw them as attempting to work without funding; they do provide raw materials, yarn, and dyes. According to the respondents, the purpose of collaborating under the direct authority of master weavers is to overcome the difficulties in the absence of advertising; they cannot attempt to sell their brands to market segments.

Elements of such a Recommendation

- ❖ To provide the essential needs that society requires for growth and raise the weaver's and his family's quality of existence.
- ❖ To enhance the position of handloom weavers
- ❖ The administration must take the required steps for the handloom by offering them a shared, functioning shed. It is necessary to raise awareness about the value of education among the weavers.
- ❖ They have serious problems, especially during the annual rainfall.
- ❖ To create a user-friendly learning platform that would help master weavers improve their skills
- ❖ Although handloom weaving has a significant amount of strength, it is still suffering from a serious crisis and bad cultural and financial situations, so it is essential to determine and evaluate its capabilities and flaws in order to make the industry viable.
- ❖ The expenses of displays or exposes may be covered by the authorities, and the viability of providing a reimbursement to weavers' cooperative mediators for secondary retail channels may be investigated.
- ❖ The federal and regional administrations may adopt the necessary action to provide viscose silk and

- polyester hybrid fibre to handloom weavers on a variety of grounds.
- ❖ Basic weavers can run their collective showrooms (joined marketing strategy) without putting the cooptex in competition. On festival days, large elementary groups may be invited to host displays at the neighbourhood market.
 - ❖ Weavers' companies can employ a pooled marketing approach, and TV channels may be extensively used mostly for market promotion information.
 - ❖ Key weavers may handle the pre-loom tasks like spinning, dyeing or bleaching, warping, etc. Those weavers who are unable to make such arrangements can have other weavers take care of it. The larger weavers in the area may be encouraged to take on this responsibility, and post-loom operations may be created on a pooled-specific basis.
 - ❖ As a result, the number of man-days worked has no bearing on weavers' average earnings. Instead, it relies on the weavers' salaries, which depend on the quality of the work they have produced.

V. CONCLUSION

As a result of their precarious socioeconomic situation, handloom weavers in Sullur Block, Coimbatore District, who already have traditionally made weaving their main livelihood, are in a pitiful state, according to the observations of the existing analysis. The socio-economic requirements, even so, are declining due to a number of undesirable variables. The poll's assumptions have a considerable impact on how to help handloom weaver households improve their socioeconomic circumstances. Numerous individuals are employed by the handloom industry, which is constructive as an employer in both urban and rural areas and tends to focus on progress. A notable industry in the country, handloom weaving employs thousands of people. It is crucial to elaborate on these traits while outlining the business's opportunities. A likely ability to attract and retain, which has consequently, it is becoming increasingly clear that there are opportunities for the handloom industry in niche markets in both national and global marketplaces. A genuine shift in the prevailing perspectives on the economy will be necessary to accomplish this. During my fieldwork, I discovered that weavers are still employing ancient weaving looms even without advancements in technology, outstanding work situations, financial resources, standardised accounts, or efficient shed weaving. The handloom industry seeks to identify the issues, highlight them from many angles, and emphasize the influence of the handloom sector. To encourage literacy among weavers, the administration must take the necessary steps for the handloom industry, such as providing them with a to assist weaving in meeting protection requirements, the authorities should provide women with technological assistance. It is necessary to raise consciousness and support capacity-strengthening measures.

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