

# Physical Performance Of Handloom Industry In India : An Overview

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**ABSTRACT** - Indian handloom sector of the textile industry is an ancient industry, which serve the economy well in terms of providing direct and indirect employment to over 13 million weavers and is the largest economic activity second only to agriculture. Handloom industry is the largest cottage industry in the country. The relevance of the handloom sector in the agrarian economy is massive because of its linkages with crucial and sensitive sectors like agriculture. It uses agricultural products as raw materials and, therefore, provides an ever-ready market for agricultural produce. Therefore, in an economy where majority of people rely on agrarian sector for their livelihood, the significance of handloom is well understood.

**Key Words:** Handloom Weavers, Employment, industry and Handloom Industry Problems

## I. INTRODUCTION

The contribution of the handloom sector in the total production and exports in India is around 15 per cent. 95 per cent of the world's hand woven fabric is being produced in India. Handloom weaving is largely decentralized with the weavers mainly belonging to the vulnerable and weaker sections of society. The handloom sector has a unique place in our economy. It has been sustained by transferring skills from one generation to another.

The strength of the sector lies in its uniqueness, flexibility of production, openness to innovations, adaptability to the supplier's requirement and the wealth of its tradition. The adoption of modern techniques and economic liberalization, however, have made serious in-roads into the handloom sector. Competition from Power loom and mill sector, availability of cheaper imported fabrics, changing consumer preferences and alternative employment opportunities have threatened the vibrancy of handloom sector. The Government of India has been following a policy of promoting and encouraging handloom sector through a series of measures and schemes. Due to various policy initiatives and scheme interventions like cluster approach, aggressive marketing initiative and social welfare measures, the handloom sector has shown positive growth.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Devi L. (2014)** has studied the socio-economic conditions of the handloom workers in India. It has been found that handloom sector has slowly deteriorated over the years. Handloom weavers were facing severe livelihood crisis because of adverse government policies, globalization and change in socio-economic conditions. Ineffective implementation of government schemes has increased

unfair competition from the power loom and mill sectors which are responsible for the crisis.

**Boruah Rickey Rani and Kaur Satvinder (2015)** Conducted a study on the topic entitled "A study on the analysis of economic of weavers" cooperative societies in Assam" have analyzed the business operations of selected handloom weaving units in Assam and concluded that this sector is beset with manifold problems such as obsolete technologies, unorganized production system, low productivity, inadequate working capital, conventional product range, weak marketing link, overall stagnation of production and sales and, above all, competition from power looms and mill sector.

**Mohan Rao, Chairman, Rashtra Cheneta Jana Samakhya (RCJS) (2018)**, a confederation of handloom weavers in India says, "Many weavers are uneducated and rely solely on their skills that have been passed on to them by their previous generations. This is traditional knowledge for them and it is the government's responsibility to take their concerns and future into account." At the heart of protection for the handloom sector is the Handloom Reservation Act, which spells out the articles reserved exclusively for the production by this sector. From cotton and silk sarees to the Dhoti, there are some 11 items which find a mention under the Act.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The primary objective of the study is to examine of the handloom industry in India in terms of allocation of block level clusters to the states. Production, weavers owing status of looms and weavers owing status of different types of ration cards.

- To study the status of handloom industry in India, in terms of allocation of block level clusters, production, owning status of looms and that of the owning status of the types of ration cards.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the preparation of this paper, the researcher has collected data on the sanction of block level clusters, releasing of fund and beneficiaries covered from the annual

reports of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Third National Handloom Census. In addition, supporting data have been collected from the published sources like journals, periodicals, reports and books. Statistical techniques have also been employed to analyze the data. Simple statistical and mathematical tools such as percentages and averages have been used to analyze the data so as to draw the meaningful inferences.

**Table 1: No. of Block Level Clusters Sanctioned to States under General category and NER category, Funds released and Beneficiaries Covered during the year 2017-18.**

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of Block level Clusters sanctioned	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakh) As on 31.12.2017	No. of Beneficiaries Covered
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	141.27	665
2	Bihar	2	100.91	701
3	Chhattisgarh	2	52.40	529
4	Himachal Pradesh	1	31.20	200
5	Kerala	1	35.20	450
6	Madhya Pradesh	1	156.44	9603
7	Jammu & Kashmir	1	39.10	205
8	Karnataka	1	28.13	386
9	Tamilnadu	4	128.86	1473
10	Uttar Pradesh	4	133.49	952
	<b>Total (Gen.)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>847.00</b>	<b>15164</b>
11	Arunachal Pradesh	2	69.50	1154
12	Assam	21	1370.95	19022
	<b>Total (NER)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1440.45</b>	<b>20176</b>
	<b>Sub Total (Gen.+ NER)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>2287.45</b>	<b>35300</b>

Source: Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, Annual Report 2017-18

Table 1 show the sanction of block level clusters to each of the states under General and NER category, funds released to them and beneficiaries covered by all these clusters. It is evident from the table 1 that 43 block level clusters are sanctioned to 10 states under general category and two states under NER category.

No. of block level clusters sanctioned is 20, total funds released for these 20 clusters in 10 states is Rs.847 Lakhs and no. of beneficiaries benefited out of these 20 Block level clusters is 15164. Where as the Block level clusters sanctioned to 2 states under NER category is 23, fund released to these 23 clusters is Rs.1440.45 Lakhs and the no. of beneficiaries benefited out of these 23 clusters under NER to 2 states is 20176 Lakhs.

From the foregoing analysis one can infer that the no. of block level clusters sanctioned under General category is less than the no. of block level clusters sanctioned under NER category. Similarly funds released under General category to 20 block level clusters is much less than the funds released under NER category to 2 states. The no. of beneficiaries covered under General category in all the 10 states is much less than the no. of beneficiaries covered under NER category in 2 states.

### IV. PRODUCTION OF HANDLOOM SECTOR IN INDIA

The production of handloom sector in India from 2008-09 to 2017-18 are presented in table 2:

**Table 2: Cloth Production of Handloom sector in India from 2008-09 to 2017-18**

(in Million Sq.Meters)

Year	Total cloth Production*	Cloth Production by handloom sector	Share of handloom in the total cloth production	Ratio of handloom to power loom (in terms of cloth)
2008-09	42121	6677	15.90	1:5.04
2009-10	45819	6806	14.90	1:5.41
2010-11	61761	6907	11.18	1:5.50

2011-12	59605	6901	11.57	1:5.42
2012-13	61949	6952	11.22	1:5.47
2013-14	62624	7104	11.34	1:5.18
2014-15	64332	7203	11.19	1:5.24
2015-16	64584	7638	11.82	1:4.82
2016-17	63480	8007	12.61	1:4.45
2017-18	43520(P)	5134(P)	11.80	1:4.92

Source: Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, Annual Reports from 2008-09 to 2017-18

Note:\* The total cloth production includes handloom, power loom and mill sector excluding hosiery, Khadi, wool and silk.

Table 2 shows the total cloth production by handloom, share of handloom cloth production in the total cloth production and the ratio of handloom cloth production in the cloth production of power loom from 2008-09 to 2017-18.

A production in the handloom increased from 2008-09 to 2016-17 except in 2011-12. The share handloom production in the total production decreased for some years and fluctuated for some other years in ten year study period. The ratio between the handloom cloth production and power loom and cloth production highly significant.

From the fore going analysis one can infer that the handloom cloth production increased in the beginning of three years and decreased in the fourth year of ten year study period and increased from fifth year to eighth year of the same period and decreased in the last year.

Table 3: Region-Wise distribution handloom workers over their dwelling status according to 2009-10 Census

Name of the region	Owned	Rented	Others	Total
Central	120947 (91.28)	9128 (6.89)	2428 (1.83)	132503 (100)
Eastern	459912 (94.42)	6286 (1.29)	20909 (4.29)	487107 (100)
Northern	49427 (85.70)	4507 (7.81)	3740 (6.48)	57674 (100)
North Eastern	1581209 (93.94)	25818 (1.54)	76118 (4.52)	1683145 (100)
Southern	314044 (75.28)	99121 (23.76)	4024 (0.96)	417189 (100)
Western	5158 (91.24)	427 (7.56)	68 (1.20)	5653 (100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2530697 (90.93)</b>	<b>145287 (5.22)</b>	<b>107287 (3.85)</b>	<b>2783271 (100)</b>

Source: Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, Third National Handloom Census, 2010.

Table 3 shows the distribution of handloom workers over different regions and the owning status of their dwelling houses. It is clearly understood from table 3 that there are about 27, 83,271 workers spread over different regions viz., regions. On an average more than 90 per cent of the handloom workers are Central, Eastern, Northern, North-Eastern, Southern and Western residing in the houses owned by them. 5.22 percent of handloom workers and residing in rented houses and 3.85 percent of the handloom workers are residing in other houses. Large numbers of handloom workers are residing in North eastern region followed by Eastern region, southern region, central region, northern region and western region.

From the forgoing analysis one can infer that 27, 83,271 handloom workers are residing in different regions and in different types of residences. On an average more than 90 percent of the handloom workers are residing in their own houses, 5.22 per cent of the handloom workers are residing in rented houses and 3.85 per cent of the handloom workers are residing in other places other than the owned and rented houses. Large numbers of handloom workers are residing in North eastern region and least number of handloom workers irrespective of their residential status is residing in western region.

**Table 4: Region-wise distribution handloom workers with looms and without looms according to 2009-10 Census**

Name of the region	Households with looms	Households without looms	Total
Central	4108 (36.18)	7247(63.82)	11355 (100)
Eastern	214066 (43.90)	273609 (56.10)	487675 (100)
Northern	77290 (49.92)	77531 (50.08)	154821 (100)
North Eastern	1349533 (80.21)	333044 (19.79)	1682577 (100)
Southern	202763 (48.81)	212672 (51.19)	415435 (100)
Western	8260 (29.17)	20061 (70.83)	28321 (100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1856020 (66.76)</b>	<b>924164 (33.24)</b>	<b>2780184 (100)</b>

**Source: Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, Third National Handloom Census, 2010**

Table 4 shows the distribution of households over different regions with looms and without looms. Altogether there are about 2780184 households are working for handloom industry in India having looms and not having looms on their own.

The households working for handloom industry with looms is much higher than the households working for handlooms without looms. In other words more than 66 per cent of the households working for the handloom industry with the looms and around 33 percent households working for the handloom industry without looms.

The households working for the handloom industry without looms in Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western are more than the households working for the handloom industry in India. The number of households working for the handloom industry with looms is much higher than the households working for the handloom industry without looms. The total households number working with handloom industry with and without looms industry in north eastern region.

Large numbers of households with and without owning looms are working for the handloom industry in India in the north eastern region and least number of households working for the handloom industry in the central region.

From the foregoing analysis one can infer that the total households working for handloom industry in India is about 2780184. Total number of households working for the handloom industry in India with loom is much higher than the number of household working for handloom industry without looms. Large numbers of households working for handloom industry in India with looms and without looms are found in North eastern region. The least number of households working for handloom industry in India with looms is found in central region.

**Table 5: Region-wise handloom workers households and type of ration cards according to 2009-10 Census**

Name of the region	AAV	BPL	APL	NO RATION CARD	TOTAL
Central	747 (6.58)	6586 (58.00)	2267 (19.96)	1755 (15.46)	11355 (100)
Eastern	41927 (8.60)	166004 (34.04)	241512 (49.52)	38232 (7.84)	487675 (100)
Northern	8391 (5.44)	27843 (18.05)	102719 (66.58)	15326 (9.93)	154279 (100)
North Eastern	205584 (12.22)	451396 (26.83)	574541 (34.15)	437856 (26.02)	1682577 (100)
Southern	13952 (3.36)	362360 (87.22)	20589 (4.96)	18534 (4.46)	415435 (100)
Western	262 (0.93)	10227 (36.11)	17156 (60.58)	676 (2.39)	28321 (100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>270863 (9.77)</b>	<b>1024416 (36.95)</b>	<b>958784 (34.59)</b>	<b>512379 (18.49)</b>	<b>2771820 (100)</b>

**Source: Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, Third National Handloom Census, 2010**

**Note: AAV-Antyodaya Anna Yojana; BPL – Below Poverty Line ; APL – Above Poverty Line**

Table 5 shows the distribution of households working for handloom industry over different regions and the type of ration cards that they own. It is clearly understood from the table 5 that there are about 27, 71,820 households are working for the hand loom industry owning different types of ration cards. Number of households working for the handloom industry and owning BPL cards is much higher than the households owning AAY, APL and no ration cards. Number of households working for handloom industry in North eastern region is much higher than the number of households working for handloom industry in other regions. Large numbers of households working for handloom industry and owning AAY, BPL, APL and no ration cards also found in North eastern regions.

From the foregoing analysis one can infer that about 27, 71,820 households are working for handloom industry in India and owning different types of ration cards. Total number households working for handloom industry and owning different types of ration cards representing of North eastern region is also much higher than the number of households working for the handloom industry owning different types of ration cards and representing other regions. Number of households working for handloom industry owning BPL ration cards representing North eastern region is much higher than the households working for handloom industry owning other cards and representing other regions.

## V. FINDINGS

- The no. of block level clusters sanctioned under General category is less than the no. of block level clusters sanctioned under NER category
- The ratio of handloom in cloth production of power loom cloth production increased in the beginning of three years.
- Large number of handloom workers are residing in North eastern region and least number of handloom workers are residing in central region.
- Large numbers of households working for handloom industry with looms and without looms are found in North eastern region.
- Number of households working for handloom industry owning BPL ration cards representing North eastern region is much higher than the households

## VI. CONCLUSION

The Handloom Textiles set up an everlasting part of the gorgeous cultural Heritage of India. The element of art and craft present in Indian handlooms makes it a prospective sector for the upper segments of market domestic as well as international. Prospects for the handloom industry in the government of India has been launching loom.

To country act this surrounded problems the government of India has sanctioned block level clusters to 10 states under

General category and two states under NER category a sizeable funds were also released under these categories a sizeable number of beneficiaries also covered under these clusters as result the cloth production by this sector is sustain of course the ratio between the cloth production by handloom industry and power loom and mill sector. It seems to be very significant more than 90 per cent of the handloom workers houses of their own. More than 66 per cent handloom workers working for the handloom industry have loom of their own more than 80 per cent of the handloom workers have ration cards of different types of these handloom workers who own BPL ration are many.

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