International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)
E-ISSN: 2582-2160 ● Website: www.ijfmr.com ● Email: editor@ijfmr.com

Socio-Economic Conditions of Handloom Workers –Based on Workers from Two Co Operative Societies in Kannur

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ABSTRACT

Handloom industry occupies an eminent place in preserving country's heritage and culture and hence plays a vital role in the economy of the country. Handloom industry is one of the traditional industries of Kerala and occupies second place behind the coir sector. The Kerala government introduced a lot of innovative measures to protect the industry. Workers are the inevitable element of an activity. Handloom sector faces the problem of lack of adequate availability of skilled workers, due to low-wage rate prevailing in this sector. At present majority of workers in this field are female workers. Male workers are reluctant to accept this job. Different type of workers is belonging to these sectors such as master weavers, ordinary weavers, dyers, winders, warpers, dying master, weaving master etc. are few of them. Handloom sector in Kerala is owned and managed by the co-operative societies. There are two types of co-operative societies-Factory type and cottage units. Factory type appoints a large number of workers and produces more. Whereas the cottage units are small societies, appoint few workers and produce only low quantity of output. Workers in this field face different problems. By taking the case of two cooperative societies in Kannur district, here the researchers are trying to find out the social, economic and health problems faced by the handloom workers.

Keywords: Excavation, self-employment, hand-woven, upholstery fabrics, labour-intensive.

INTRODUCTION

Handloom industry occupies an important place in the decentralised sector of the Indian economy. It is spread over several parts of the country and next to agriculture in terms of employment in rural areas. Being a self-employment activity weaving occupies an important place in rural non-farm employment. The Government of India recognised the importance of cottage industry. Various welfare programs are introduced for the development of handloom sector in particular and the weavers in this sector in general. The strength of the industry includes flexibility of production in small quantities, openness to innovation, low level of capital investment and immense design possibilities.

The handloom industry in India has a long tradition of excellence. The imagery of loom is a feature of poetic tradition dating back to the Vedas in which there are references to the weaving process. The Indian handloom has occupied an important position in respect of its export to foreign countries from an early period. The handloom industry has deep roots in the rich traditional historical and cultural diversity of

India which make it unique in the world. This industry has innumerable items to offer to almost every section of the society. Different products are producing in this sector by different states of the country.

Historians consider India as the birth place of cotton. The history of Indian handloom industry dates back to the epic ages. Fragments of earliest creations of India's handloom industry were found in the excavations of Mohenjo-Daro. Kautilya's Arthasasthra written in third century B.C mentions that cotton fibres of the western part of India were excellent. Handloom products in the country had attained a very high degree of perfection and reputation in the ancient Arabian and European countries.

The handloom industry is an important sector which provides employment to about 12 million people and contributes over 20 percent of total cloth production. The government of India appointed different committees in different plan periods to review and identify the problem of handloom weavers and to suggest necessary guidelines to improve the handloom sector. India is a country renowned for her power loom and handloom industries of different varieties of textiles for different purposes from bed cover to bridal dress. The daily wage or profit available to a weaver is less in comparison to other category to wage labourers. The handloom sector plays a very important role in the country's economy. It is one of the largest economic activities providing direct employment to 65 lakh persons engaged in weaving and allied activities. As s result of effective Government intervention through financial assistance and implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes; this sector has been able to with stand competition from the power loom and mill sector in the country and also adds substantially to export earnings.

The products of handloom, one of the decentralised industries of India may have advantages in terms of quality or design. It is usually difficult for such products to compete with products of large industry in established or new markets of local and abroad. Cotton is the primary raw material in the textile industry. It is traded globally. Cotton, cotton yarn, cotton fabrics have substantial demand in the global market. Cotton is one of the major cash crops in India and the textile industry is wholly dependent on it. The demand for it is increasing year by year with the expansion of our textile industry. Cotton occupies a significant place in the agricultural and industrial economy of the country.

All types of traditional industries in general and handlooms in particular had always been faced uncertainties and fluctuations that have often put its workers at grave risk. To facilitate the handloom sector in order to achieve faster inclusive and sustainable growth during 12th plan, a working group was constituted for the handloom sector. Kerala the southern state of India produces wide variety of handloom products. Handloom occupies second place behind coir industry.

In India, handloom weaving is one of the largest economic activities after agriculture providing direct and indirect employment to more than 43 lakh weavers and allied workers. This sector contributes nearly 11percent of the cloth production in the country and also contributes to the export earning of the country. In fact, 95percent of the world's hand-woven fabric is produced in India. The handloom sector has a unique place in our economy and its strength lies in its uniqueness, flexibility of production, openness to innovations, adaptability to the supplier's requirement and the wealth of its tradition (Annual Report, 2013-14 of Textile Ministry). The share of Kerala in the national handloom industry remains relatively small even as compared with other Southern states, namely Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN KERALA

Kerala the greenish land lies between the western ghat and Arabian Sea, about fifteen thousand square miles with varying scenic beauty. Kerala handloom industry carries a vital role in state's economy as well

as in the field of employment. A very large number of looms are located in rural areas. The rhythm of handloom can be heard in almost every village in Kerala. There are men and women weavers related with this industry.

Handloom weaving was traditionally associated with particular castes and communities of Kerala. The major communities engaged in weaving are 'saliyas' and 'devangas'. Earlier they were producing cloth for their own consumption and for meeting the needs of their village community. The weavers of Travancore claim that the original ancestor of 'saliyas', the saliya Rishi began weaving traditionally. Increase in production and improvement in transport facilities removed the hindrance of time and eased the exchange of commodities. The skill of weaving has been passed from parents to children.

The entire development programmes and modernisation of handlooms were actually started in Malabar, after the establishment of the 'Basel mission' industries of south India. Germany had established the Basel Mission in 1829 (www.textilevaluechain.com). Apart from this, the French started to give training in weaving. They imported versatile loom and introduced design development using hooks. After the British captured India, they took up and nourished handloom industry for their needs. During this period the weavers of Kerala learned the improved techniques with their influence. The introduction of fly shuttle looms and Jacquard looms by the missionaries helped the weavers of Kannur and other centres to widen the range of their products. They were mainly table cloths, napkins, handkerchiefs, cotton check shirts and so on. Later furnishings and upholstery fabrics for which the industry is now well known came in to being gradually, it became more and more specialised in export-oriented production.

The Sree Narayana movement also augmented the integration of handloom industry by inspiring many entrepreneurs and workers to try their life in this industry to discard their traditional livelihood of toddy tapping. Many handloom centres were established in Kerala state by this change over. Gradually, weaving industry had spread all over the state with new pattern, style and innovation of loom technology. There was a gradual conversion of throw shuttle pit looms to fly shuttle pit looms; today, handloom industry in Kerala provides employment directly to three lakh people and indirectly to another one lakh. The handloom industry in the state is concentrated in Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur, Kozhikode, Palakkad,Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kollam and Kasaragod districts. But the major concentration is in the northern and southern districts of the state namely Thiruvananthapuram district in the south and Kannur in the north. The 'Kerala Kasavu Sarees' are praised by women all over India for their fineness of count and natural colours, texture and gold borders. Kerala is also known for the manufacture of cotton handloom crepe fabrics in Kannur, Vadagara, in Kozhikode and has captured an export market. Balaramapuram in Thiruvananthapuram district is the most historically important and one of the oldest handloom centres in Kerala. Kuthampully in Thrissur district is also well known for handloom fabrics. Chennamangalam, in Ernakulam District is also an important handloom centre in Kerala.

Varieties of products are produced by the handloom sector in Kerala. The southern Kerala is famous for its superfine products like sarees, dhothies and 'setmundu 'etc. The middle Kerala also engaged with such products. But while going to northern side called Malabar the main production changed to furnishing items bedspreads, towels etc. The common products in Kerala are 'Thorthu' (bathing towel) and Lungies. Almost 2 lakhs of weavers are earning their livelihood from the handloom 75 percent of them are in the co-operative line. Almost 5 lakhs families are depending upon handloom industry (Kasavupudava.com/Kerala).

Department of handlooms and textiles get assisted by the Kerala state Handloom weaver's co-operative society or HANTEX which is a top co-operative organisation along with Kerala State Handloom

Development Corporation limited otherwise known as HANVEEV which offers services to weavers individually. To accelerate the growth of handloom industry, the Government of India came up with a new scheme called as Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prathsahan Yojana (DDHPY). Although the Indian Government offers assistance for the Kerala handloom industry but this does not suffice the purpose and inadequacy in the quality and wages of people of Kerala can be done away with availing more supplements through the schemes of the state. Handloom workers play an important role in the functioning of the industry, because it is a labour-intensive industry. Through this work the researchers are trying to study the social and economic problems of handloom workers. For this purpose, two handloom co-operative societies of Kannur district are considered.

Handloom industry is dominated by the co-operative sector, covering 94 percent of total looms. The remaining 6 percent of Handlooms units are owned by industrial entrepreneurs. The cooperative sector consists of factory type and cottage type societies. There were 664 registered primary Handloom Weavers co-operative societies in the state as on November, 2013, indicating a 12 percent increase from March 2012. Of the 664 registered primary handloom weavers' co-operative societies, 153 are factory type and 511 are Cottage type societies. Of these 664 societies, 431 are in working condition as in November 2013 [Government of Kerala, 2013].

Major schemes introduced in Annual Plan 2012-13- Self Employment under Handloom sector. The aim is to attract new generation entrepreneurs by providing training, marketing support and margin money to set up units. Weavers/allied workers motivation programme- The scheme aims to motivate weavers/allied workers to enhance production by providing attractive incentives.

Establishment of handloom village and integrated handloom village- The aim is to provide assistance to build infrastructure for establishing Handloom villages and integrated handloom villages in the state to showcase the rich old craftsmanship, evolution of the industry, and the processes/activities involved in making handloom products.

As per the Handloom Census of India 2009-10, (Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India) there are around 12,000 Handloom Households in Kerala. Assuming an average of two active weavers per family, the total number of weavers in the state would be about 24000. As per the report of the Survey on Handloom Sector in Kerala 2009, there were 469 societies in Kerala. The total membership in these societies was 65964, of which only 57,405 (87percent) were active in the industry. Hence there exists an ambiguity regarding the size of employment in the sector. To solve the issue, a new scheme 'Detailed Survey on Handloom Industry in Kerala' has been initiated in Annual Plan 2013-14.

Problems of Handloom Sector

1. Low productivity due to lack of technology intervention and poor market segmentation.
1. 2. Competition from cheap power loom fabrics and dumping of cheap fabric from outside state.
2. Lack of emphasis on quality and innovative designs of handloom products in market.
3. Lack of product diversification in accordance with new trends.
4. Difficulty in getting workers due to low wages and difficulty to avail credit facility.
5. Lack of working capital and fluctuation in hank yarn price.
6. Weak performance of apex societies and organizations.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Handloom the traditional industry of Kerala produces world famous handloom cloths. The industry requi-

res inputs such as yarn, dyes and chemicals, loom and workers. Being a labour-intensive industry it requires a large number of workers for the functioning of the industry. But at present the industry suffer from labour shortage, especially male workers. This is mainly due to low-wage rate compared to other sectors in the economy. Here the researchers are trying to study the social and economic conditions of handloom workers by taking the case of two handloom cooperative societies in Kannur district.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are both academic and social. So, the researchers want to explore the conditions of handloom workers of two co-operative societies in Kannur district. The study attempts to understand the socio-economic conditions of the handloom workers in Kannur. Following are the important objectives of the study:

1. To study the socio-economic conditions of the handloom workers.
2. To know the health conditions and other problems faced by the workers.
3. To understand the measures taken by the government for solving the problems of handloom workers.

METHODOLOGY

For conducting the survey, 60 samples are selected by using random sampling method. The workers belong to two co-operative societies- Pinarayi and Vengad. Data collected by using primary and secondary sources of information. Primary data are collected from 60 workers belongs to the two co-operative societies by using a structured questionnaire. Secondary information is collected from Journals, Newspapers, and Websites etc. For analysis of the data tables, pie-diagrams and bar diagrams are used.

LIMITATIONS

1. Time constraint.
2. Workers are reluctant to provide information regarding their annual income.
3. Lack of accurate data.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Banerjee Shipra and Chawdhary Savitha (2012) indicate that handloom industry plays Indicates that handloom industry plays an important role in the development of the rural economical scenario of Chattisgarh. It is one of the largest economic activities providing direct employment to larger number of persons engaged in weaving act.

Bhattacharya Suparna (2012) explains that the emergence of handloom and handicraft products of monpatritre in Tawang of Arunachal Pradesh. The arts and crafts of the monaps a Buddhist tribe of Mahayana sector especially the wood carving and mask making scroll or thangka painting have given a firsthand item.

Bhushan Brij (1997) indicates that the SSI sector was broadly classified in to two categories: Traditional industries, viz handloom, khadi and village industries, sericulture, handicraft etc and modern SSI including tiny and power loom. The strategies adopted for development of village and SSI sector in the 5th plan were to generate opportunities for fuller time employment by revitalizing and developing the existing traditional and other small-scale industries and promoting intensive development of new viable small industries.

Ekambaram.E(2014) analysed that khadi and village industries schemes are the backbone of the rural India's economy. khadi and village industries corporation plays a pivotal role in the strengthening of rural economy by promoting and developing khadi and village industries.

Gurumoorthy T.R(1993) analysed that the cotton is one of the major cash crops in India and the textile industry is wholly dependent on it. The demand for it is increasing year by year with the expansion of our textile industry. In the year 1988-89, the total supply of cotton in our country was 126.93 lakh sales. The supply of cotton has increased by 15percent during the period between 1988-89 to 1990-91.

Gurumoorthy T.R(1998) analysed that the cotton is traded globally. It is a primary raw material in the textile industry. Cotton, cotton yarn, cotton fabrics have substantial element in the global market. Cotton is a cash crop. It is not cultivated in all parts of the world. Certain tropical conditions are needed for cultivation of cotton.

Hatti.V Jayanand (2011) analysed that cotton is one of the important cash crops of the country. It occupies a significant place in the agricultural and industrial economy of the country.

Jabarullahan.J and Rajeswari (2005) expressed that Khadi and village industries have a predominant role in the development of Indian economy. A number of policy measures have been taken by the Govt for the growth of these Industries. They have high potential in the employment generation and income creation particularly in the rural and backward areas. The Government of India assumed responsibility for initiating, assisting and financing khadi.

Jain Neelam (2004) analysed that creation of employment opportunities is a matter of great relevance to India where unemployment and underemployment are rampant on a massive scale. The inability of large-scale sector to provide employment is now to go not for the maintenance of existence of small scale and cottage industries only but also to develop this sector.

K.S Kumar and Ganesh (1998) analysed that the handloom industry is a traditional cottage industry providing avenues of employment opportunities to the people of India. Majority of the handloom weavers in India are self-employed artisans who are carrying on their profession in their own homes with the artisans of their family members in pre-loom and post-loom process.

Kurup, K K N (2014) expressed that the India is a country renowned for her power loom and handloom industries of different varieties of textiles, for different purpose from bedcover to bridal dress. The daily wage or profit available to a weaver is less in comparison to other category of wage labourers. Many of them in the colonial period continued this occupation just for a bare living.

Lahiry S.C (1997) analysed the small scale, khadi and village industries play an important role in the Indian economy in creating income and employment opportunities in the rural, semi-urban areas. Khadi and village industries generate production at low capital cost, promote use of local raw material, utilize local skill, facilitate balanced regional growth and prevent the migration of labour force to the urban centres. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established by an Act of parliament.

Murthy Krishna, G (2004) analysed that the handloom industry occupies an important place in the decentralised sector of the Indian economy. Being a self-employment activity, weaving occupies an important place in Rural Non-Farm Employment (RNFE), in rural India and is included in household industrial activity in census. The Govt of India recognised the importance of cottage Industries, especially the handloom industry.

Murthy Ramana R.Vand Sailaja.A (2012) expressed that the Issues relating to cotton production continue to draw attention of economists for various reasons. Cotton is news of late for India's level of cotton productions is breaking all its past records in the last two decades. They concluded that cotton production

in India has made significant strides in the past two decades. The growth in production is contributed more by an increase yield than in area.

Patel Mahendra (2013) Analysed that the khadi and village industries, handlooms, handicrafts and coir present a significant potential to generate rural employment. Since 2003 Mahatma Gandhi Institute for rural industrialisation has been providing technology and management inputs to enhance rural employment and help identify new areas and opportunities.

Rana Kanshiram (2001) indicates that the importance of textile in the national economy needs no reiteration. Besides meeting the clothing needs of the country, it contributes about 14 percent of the Industrial production and about 4 percent of the GDP, provides direct and indirect employment to about 35 million persons, including weaker sections of society and women. The textiles are the single largest group of commodities in the country's export basket.

Rani Jyothi T and C.H Prema Kumari (1998) indicates that the handloom industry in India has a long tradition of excellence. The Indian handloom has occupied an important position in respect to its export foreign countries from an early period.

Saikia Nath Tatindra (1997) indicates that handloom is one of the most important cottage industries of Assam. In rural areas handloom is regarded as one of the most important activities and most of the rural facts get engaged in weaving activities. Handloom textile cottage industry plays an important role in the socio-economic life of Assamese people, particularly in rural areas of Assam. It is one of the major ways of earning livelihood next to agriculture for the people of Assam.

Sakaria.R.P(2013) Analysed that the SSI sector has emerged as a dynamic and vibrant sector of the economy. It has performed extremely well and enabled our country to attain wide ranging events of industrial amplifications and diversifications. Because of their less capital and high labour-intensive nature, the small-scale industries have made important contribution to employment, production, exports and also to rural industrialisation.

Selvam Paneer R.G and Rathakrishnan.L(2004) analysed that handloom industry is a traditional and also a cottage industry in India. It provides employment to the large section of poor people. The handloom industry is facing a lot of problems such as men, material, methods, machines, money, marketing and management.

Sharma S.C and Tomar A K S (1987) analysed that over the last 3 decades, SSI has recorded significant growth and played a vital role in the process of industrialisation of the country and now constitutes one of the fastest growing segments of the economy. The number of units has also increased three faces from the 1973-74 level. The small-scale units have also inhibited considerable progress in the form of diversification and sophistication.

Singh Kuldeep and Bansal Monica (1997) analysed that the handloom sector plays a very important role in the country's economy. It is one of the earliest economic activities providing direct employment to 65 lakh persons engaged in weaving and allied activities.

Subramani.N (1995) indicates that small scale industries are small in terms, but play a gigantic ride in the Indian economy. The development of small-scale industries is an integral part of the overall economic, social and industrial development of a country.

Venkatachalam.A(1993) expressed that handloom industry is the largest decentralised industrial sector in the country. Although the products of decentralised industry may have advantages in terms of quality, or design, it is usually difficult for such products of large industry in established or new markets of local and

abroad. Hence this paper reveals that the increasing prices pose a threat to the substandard yarn. It is found that the dyes and chemicals are not freely available.

RESULT ANALYSIS

Handloom –the traditional industry in Kerala is facing lot of survival problems at present. The Government of Kerala introduced several measures for the protection of this industry. Workers are an inevitable factor in any type of work, whether industrial, agricultural or service sector. In handloom industry there exist different types of workers, such as weavers, dyers etc. Among the weavers some of them are master weavers, some are independent weavers. Here the researchers are made a simple attempt to study the socio-economic background of the handloom workers. For the study sixty sample workers are selected by using random sampling method. Samples are selected from two co-operative societies of Kannur- Pinarayi and Vengad. Using the collected information tables and diagrams are prepared. They are presented as follows:

Table: 1 Workers in cooperative societies

Nature of workers	No. of respondents
Male	13(21.6%)
Female	47(78.3%)
Total	60

Source: Sample survey

Figures in parentheses are percentage to total

Based on the survey conducted among 60 workers in two co-operative societies-Vengad and Pinarayi, gathered information regarding the socio-economic status of the workers. The survey results show that the out of the total surveyed workers 21.6 percent are males and 78.3 percent are females. Due to low wages male workers are not attracted towards this job. Majority of male workers are elderly people and some of them are pensioners.

Table: 2 Distribution of handloom workers by age group

Age group (in years)	No. of male workers	No. of female workers
18-35	_	2(4.25%)
36-45	_	16(34.04%)
46-60	3(23.07%)	25(53.19%)
Above 60	10(76.92%)	4(8.51%)
Total	13	47

Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parentheses are percentage to total

Table 2 shows that 53.19 percent of female workers are belonging to age group 46 to 60. Female workers from different groups are working in the co-operative societies. But male workers with 46 to 60 and 60 above age group are working in the society. 76.92 percent male workers are belonging to age group above 60 and are retired hands. Youth are not willing to work in this field due to low wage and lack of adequate skill to do the work. Also, due to diversified employment opportunities educated youth are not attracted

towards present job. And 4.25 percent of female workers are belonging to age group 18-35. The same trend is observable in the case of entire Kerala, i.e., the number of workers both male and female depended to this sector are declining.

Table: 3 Distribution of handloom workers on the basis of their caste

Caste	No. of males	No. of females
Scheduled Caste (SC)	7	17(36.17%)
Other Backward Caste (OBC)	6	25(53.19%)
Others*	_	5(10.63%)
Total	13	47

Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

*Others include Nambiar, Nair, Vaniya

Table 3 show that the workers in co-operative society are belongs to different caste. Earlier majority of workers in handloom co-operative societies are belonging to 'Saliya' community. But at present the situation is changed. Based on the surveyed information 53.84 percent of male workers are belongs to SC caste and 36.17 percent of female workers are belongs to SC caste. 46.15 percent male workers and 53.19 percent of female workers are in the category of other backward caste. And others include 10.63 percent are females. Earlier caste influenced in preferring job. In this field workers employed are hereditary choosing the job. 'Saliya' community are related to this job and they do it as a homestead work. Then later co-operative societies emerged and people started to work in factories.

Table: 4 Distribution of handloom workers on the basis of literacy

Handloom workers	No. of males	No. of females
Literate	8(66.66%)	42(87.5%)
Illiterate	4(33.33%)	6(12.5%)
Total	12	48

Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

Table 4 shows that 66.66 percent of male workers are literate and 33.33 percent are illiterate. 87 percent female workers are literate and 12.5 percent females are illiterate. Education is not a qualification for workers in handloom field, except for office work. Majority of workers get it hereditary or others study through observation. At present the institutions such as DIC, WSC, NHDC are providing different training programmes for providing the required skill for the handloom weavers. IIHT at Thottada, Kannur is also engaged in providing skill development programme for handloom workers. This helped to bring product diversification in the handloom industry. Now the sector is producing a wide variety of handloom products and the number of customers attracting towards this field are increasing day by day.

Table: 5 Distribution of handloom workers by level of education

Level of education	No. of males	No. of females
Below SSLC	8	36(85.7%)
SSLC	_	5(11.19%)
Pre-degree*	_	1(2.38%)
Total	8	42

Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

*Equivalent to plus two

Table 5 shows that 85.7 percent of female workers are below SSLC. And 11.19 percent of female workers are SSLC and 2.38 percent are pre-degree. No worker among the sample respondent is with higher education qualification. So, the education is not playing any role in getting employment in this field. Only with lower educational qualification and those are not getting jobs in other field are preferring this job.

Table: 6 Type of family

Type of family	No. of workers
Joint family*	16(26.6%)
Nuclear family	44(73.3%)
Total	60

Source: Sample Survey

Figure in parenthesis are percentage to total

*Joint family includes additional members consisting elderly parents of husband or wife.

Table 6 shows that 26.6 percent of handloom workers are belong to joint family and 73.3 percent of workers include nuclear family. Large family size creates lots of problem. So, the people at present prefer small family norm. Also, the wage getting from this job is inadequate to maintain a big family.

Table: 7 Ownership of House

Ownership of house	No. of workers
Own house	44(73.3%)
Rented	10(16.6%)
Others*	6(10%)
Total	60

Source: Sample survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

*Others include those who live with relatives such as unmarried persons, widows etc.

Table 7 shows that 73.3 percent of handloom workers are live in their own house. And 16.6 percent workers are living in rented house and 10 percent are live with their relatives include unmarried persons, widows etc. For construction of the house, no financial support is provided by the society. Therefore, the workers have to construct house by using their own monetary sources.

Table: 8 Type of roof

Type of roof	No. of workers
Concrete	27(45%)
Tiled	33(55%)
Thatched	_
Total	60

Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

Table 8 shows that 45 percent of handloom workers are living in concrete house and 55 percent workers living in tiled house, no one in thatched roof house. House roof sometimes determines the financial status of the people. Workers with low wage find it difficult to construct concrete roofed house, for this they have to borrow from some financial institution.

Table: 9 Marital statuses of workers

Marital status	No of male	No of females
Married	13	42 (89.36%)
Un-married	_	5 (10.6%)
Total	13	47

Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

Table 9 shows that 89.36 percent of female workers in handloom sector are married and 10.6 percent of female workers are unmarried. Worker living alone and without parents are not married based on the present surveyed information.

Table:10 Health problems of workers

Type of Disease	No of workers
Damage of lungs	2(3.3%)
Blood pressure/Heart problems	18(30%)
Old age diseases	3(5%)
Back pain	6(10%)
Allergy	25(41.6%)
Arthritis	6(10%)
Total	60

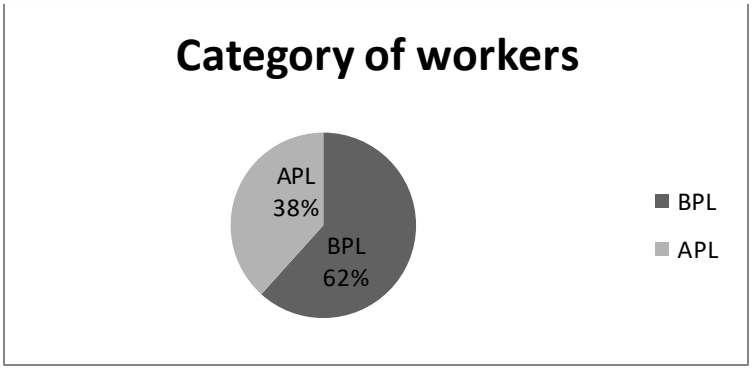
Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

Table 10 shows that the major type of health problems suffered by the handloom workers. 41.6 percent of the workers are allergic persons. They are becoming allergic either due to dust or due to cotton waste in the societies.10 percent got back pain and arthritis. 30 percent respondents have got blood pressure or heart problem. 3 percent got old age diseases. A detailed analysis of production process for handloom

shows a direct impact on health of the weaver. Body pain, pulmonary problems, chronic bronchitis, decrease in hand-grip strength are observed in weavers. Eyesight problem is also a serious problem amongst the weavers. This is directly connected to the nature of weaving which involves continuous and repetitive movement. The available health care services for the handloom workers are inadequate and unaffordable.

Figure: 1



Source: Sample survey

Figure 1 shows that the category of the handloom workers based on their financial status. Based on the study, 61.6 percent of handloom workers are included in the category of BPL. And 38.3 percent of handloom workers are included in APL. The 3rd handloom census conducted at national level shows that 57 percent of weavers fall under BPL category (Government of India, 2014).

Table:11 Number of workers belongs to trade unions

Membership of trade unions	No of workers
Member	60
Non-member	_
Total	60

Source: Sample Survey

Table 11 shows the number of workers belongs to trade union. All the handloom workers are member of the trade union. Without being a member, it is not possible for a worker to survive in this field. The problems of the workers are solved through trade unions. Trade unions are really a support to them.

Table: 12 Annual income of workers

Income	No. of workers
Below Rs.5000	37(61.6%)
Rs.5001-10000	12(20%)
Rs10000-15000	9(15%)
Rs above 15000	2(3.3%)
Total	60

Source: Sample Survey

Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

Table 12 shows the annual income of workers. 61.6 percent of workers get below 5000 rupees. And 20 percent of workers get annual income in between 5001-10000, and 15 percent of workers get annual income in between 10000-15000. And only 3.3 percent workers get above 15000.Savings of the workers are very low. Due to low annual income the workers find it difficult to save. Saving mentality among handloom workers are not adequate. There is lack of awareness among the workers regarding financial institutions and instruments where they can save.

Table: 13 Nature of work

Nature of work	No. of workers
Hereditary	8(13.3%)
Non-hereditary	52(86.6%)
Total	60

Source: Sample Survey
Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

Table 13 shows that the nature of work of the handloom workers. On the basis of this study, it is observed that 86.6 percent are and only 13.3 percent of handloom workers are hereditary workers. So, at present hereditary is not a factor that determines the workers to this job. Earlier people prefer this job hereditarily.

Table:14 Benefits enjoyed by the handloom workers

Benefits	Enjoyed	Not-enjoyed
ESI	60(100%)	_
Provident Fund	42(70%)	18(30%)
Insurance	37(61.66%)	23(38.33%)
Bonus	60(100%)	_

Source: Sample survey
Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

Workers are enjoying different benefits and the Government is providing different schemes for the upliftment of handloom workers. These schemes are a kind of incentive for the workers to continue in this job. All the workers included in this survey enjoy ESI benefit. Through this the workers and their family members get adequate medical facilities through ESI hospitials.70 percent people enjoy Provident Fund benefits. 30 percent people are retired hands and are therefore not enjoying the provident fund benefits.
61.66 percent people are not a member of insurance policy provided by the co-operative societies, because sometimes they are the members in other policies not provided by the handloom co-operatives. Data collected from the workers of two co-operative societies shows the conditions of handloom workers. Some of the workers co-operate with the survey, but others are reluctant to provide some of the details. The low wage is the major reason for the disinterest for accepting this job, especially the male workers.

FINDINGS

The following are the important findings derived from the study:

1. 1. There is shortage of skilled and expert weavers. Workers get low wages related to other jobs.

2. Lack of adequate facilities is available in the societies and also there is unhealthy working atmosphere.
3. Competition from cheap power loom fabrics and also from other substitutes. Dumping of cheap fabric from outside the state also creates problems to the industry.
4. Lack of adequate financial assistance from the Government.
5. Variety of handloom products will be produced like dhoties, bed sheets, lungi etc. Industry produce good quality materials and it exports outside the country.
6. There is no wage discrimination between men and women.
7. Handloom products got increased demand from the foreigners.
8. Provide self-employment among the people. This was possible in the case of cottage units.
9. Innovative designs of handloom products are originated from this sector.
10. Kerala textile industry comprises of traditional handloom sector, weaving and spinning sector.
11. Industry conducted '*melas*', fairs and exhibition for popularising the handloom products.
12. Due to low wages the workers find it difficult to save something for the future.
13. Shortage of job opportunities. The industry is adopting mechanisation in different activities and therefore the number of workers required for the job is reducing day by day.
14. Compared to other textile goods handloom goods are very costly, so the poor people cannot buy it. There is lack of better marketing facilities.
15. Due to this job many of the workers having health issues as back pain, leg pain, chronic bronchitis, eyesight problems etc.
16. Lack of adequate credit facilities. The financial institutions are charging high interest upon the loan provided to the societies.
17. Government schemes are not properly implemented.
18. High cost of transportation for getting raw materials and also for taking the finished products to the market.

CONCLUSION

The chapter provides conclusion for the study. For these findings of the study and suggestions derived from the study are included. There are two distinct structures within the co-operative sector, the household-based co-operatives and factory-based co-operatives. Under house hold based co-operatives the weaver household either working independently or under a master weaver. Under cottage industry, provide the raw materials in its basic or processed form to the weavers. The finished products are marketed by the individual themselves or with the help of co-operative societies. Under household type the weaver and his family take the responsibility of pre loom and post loom activities such as warping, winding, winding and other preparatory process related with the work. Weaver and most of the worker are paid piece rate wages. There are two apex co-operative societies in handloom sector of under government ownership-HANTEX and HANVEEV. These societies take the responsibility of marketing the products of handloom co-operative societies.

The government of Kerala has introduced some special programme for the development of handloom industry. The hand loom industry in Kerala has to improve its efficiency and productivity to meet the emerging global and domestic competition. The declaration of Kannur as the Town of Export Excellence for handloom by the Government of India, patent holding on natural dyes for handloom cloth etc. provide some strength of the industry. The industry accounts poor performance in production, productivity and

employment generation. But it has made much better performance in exports, especially from Kannur.

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