CHAPTER IV
HANDLOOM INDUSTRY UNDER CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR IN
CUDDAPAH DISTRICT

The chapter is divided into three sections. Section 'A' introduces important handloom centres in the district. An analytical picture of growth and development of handlooms under Co-operative Societies is presented in section 'B' while an attempt is made in section 'C' to project Socio-Economic condition of the weavers who are working under Co-operative fold in Pullampet Mandal of Cuddapah District.

In modern days co-operation is one of the most powerful instrument for restructuring and remodelling economic structure of the developing nations like India. The spirit of co-operative movement is capable of strengthening the backbone of economic and social objectives. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our Nation, used it for getting freedom from the Britishers. Like-wise, the achievement of the co-operative movement in various fields have been excellent in different countries of the World, such as, England, Unification of Germany and U.S.S.R. The term "Co-operation" is derived from the Latin word "Co-optare" which means to work together or jointly.

General meaning for co-operation is that "each for all and all for each". But different definitions have been given by different authors under different circumstances. Because
of the fact that in some countries it is aided and controlled by the state. In some countries it is used as an instrument of state planning, while in some it is totally a voluntary organisation.

According to Seligman "Co-operation, in its technical sense means the abandonment of competition in distribution, production and the elimination of middlemen of all kinds".

In this definition Seligman's mind was to eliminate the middlemen and the income of their products will be distributed equally among themselves.

V.L.Mehta, a veteran co-operator of India, looked upon co-operation in a wider context of voluntary improvement of economic condition of the people by the people themselves and described it as follows:

"Co-operation is only one aspect of a vast movement which promotes voluntary associations of individuals, who combine together for the achievement of common economic needs".

Mr.H.Calvert, an illustrious Registrar of the Co-operative Societies in the Punjab, has defined Co-operation, "as a form of organisation wherein persons voluntarily associate together as human beings on the basis of equality for the promotion of the economic interests among themselves".

The concept of co-operation, thus envisages a group of persons, having one or more common economic needs, who
voluntarily agree to pool their resources, both human and physical, to use them for mutual benefit, through an enterprise managed by them on democratic lines.

It is used to fight against exploitations of all kinds and for establishing a just society in which every person has equal right of opportunities for development and each one is a source of strength to all in the nation. In India, the co-operative movement was introduced by Sir Frederick Nicholson, a Government Official in Madras.

The Principles and objectives of the Co-operative Societies

1. Voluntary Association

The first important principle of co-operation is voluntary association. There is no compulsion on anybody to join in a co-operative society. The administration of a society is carried out democratically by a committee. It derives its power from the general body.

2. Democratic Management

A co-operative society is a supreme authority which rests with general body of members. Each member has only one vote irrespective of number of shares hold by him. The rule of the majority always prevails.

3. Self help and mutual help

Mutual help is in fact a means of self help. Members work for one another's good. The ultimate benefit which will
come through the collective efforts will be shared equally among all the participants.

4. **No Profit Motive**

A co-operative society is organised not to earn profit but to enable the members to improve their economic condition.

5. **Open door Policy**

Membership is open to all irrespective of caste, colour and creed, provided they are sound in mind and solvent.

6. **Publicity**

Publicity of co-operative principles and practices are important, particularly among the illiterates.

7. **Neutrality and equality**

Co-operators should keep themselves away from the political and religious influences.

8. **Education of the Members**

Members' education is of great importance in the activities of the co-operatives. This should enable them to understand complexities of management and basic economic and commercial problems confronting the society.

9. **Credit**

Credit should be supplied intime relatively lower at rate of interest, to facilitate them to buy all the necessary inputs on and when they are being required.
Objectives of the Co-operative Societies

The co-operative societies came into existence with the following objectives:

1. To bring scattered weavers under one organisation;
2. To supply yarn and other raw materials to weavers at reasonable rates;
3. To arrange marketing of finished goods produced by the weavers;
4. To take up modernisation and replacement of looms and other equipment by supplying improved appliances;
5. To preserve and protect the traditional handloom industry against organised mill sector;
6. To eliminate master weavers and save weaver workers from being exploited; and
7. To promote self help among the weaver-workers.

Classification of Co-operatives

The Co-operative system has been broadly divided into two types. They are:

1. Agricultural Co-operatives; and

The classification of co-operatives is displayed in the flow chart on the next page.

As indicated in the flow chart that the weavers cooperative
CLASSIFICATION OF CO-OPERATIVES

Agricultural Co-operatives

Non-Agricultural Co-operatives
  (Industrial Co-operatives)

Short and Medium term institution
Long term Institution

State Co-operative Bank
(Central Co-op. Bank
(Appex level)
(District level)

Primary Agricultural credit society (village level)

Housing Indus- Service Market-
co-operative trial co-oper-
tives co-operative co-oper-
atives co-operatives

Weavers Co- operatives

State or Central Agricultural Development Bank
Primary Development Bank

Those which help the members to produce goods collectively
Those in which the members carry on work individually
societies are covered under the main category of industrial co-operatives. Here in this chapter an attempt is made to present size and structure of the weavers co-operative societies along with analysis of the vital economic aspects, such as, Loomage, employment, production value of goods produced and marketing of the handloom goods under the cooperative sector in Cuddapah district. It would be appropriate to know, in brief, the position of handloom industry before the presentation of the actual development registered hereunder the Co-operative Sector in Cuddapah district.

SECTION A

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN CUDDAPAH DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

The district of Cuddapah had known for its textiles. As one of the coveted districts, the British East India Company treated this district as one of the sources for procurement of textiles to its army establishments.

The handloom industry had been heavily concentrated in a few places in the district. Of them, the most prominent places are: Jammalamadugu, Proddatur, Pullampet, Radvel and Madhavaram. A brief sketch of these places is presented here:

Jammalamadugu

It is one of the taluks and towns in the district. This town was known for its textiles. More concentration of weaving communities who belonged Padmasali, Thogata and Devanga are found here. It is rather interesting to note that people
belonged to Dudekula, Barber Malas, Mutraches, Muslim and Christians are also participating in the manufacture of Textile Garments.

Although, there are twentytwo weavers' Co-operative Societies in and around the taluk, Master weavers are the dominating class. In this area there are about 3058 active looms, proving employment to 4988 workers on a full time basis under Co-operative Sector.

Here mostly coloured cotton sarees of 30 to 40 counts of 6 to 8 yards length and 45" width are produced. The sarees are woven with art silk borders.

The master weavers get yarn from Coimbatore, Madras and from other places in the South India while dyes and art silk from Bombay and sometimes from Madras also.

The Master weavers supply warp and weft and other necessary inputs in their fixed ratios to the weaver-workers to weave garments. The weaver worker gets wages agreed upon when he handover the woven fabrics to the master weavers.

The sarees manufactured here have a wider market for their sales both within and outside the region in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Proddatur

Proddatur town and a taluk is another important weaving centre, where there is a concentration of the artisans in the town and in the village of Eruvapalem. The prominent weaving
communities here are Padmasali, Thogata and Devangas.

There are 24 weaver's Co-operative Societies in the taluk. Under these Co-operative Societies there are about 2377 active looms, providing employment to 5361 workers on a full time basis. Here Janata coarse coloured sarees catering to low income groups.

**Pulivendula**

In Pulivendula taluk, the largest number of weavers are found in Simhadri puram and in neighbouring villages like Kasanuru and Bojjayapalli. In this area the weavers are chiefly Thogatas.

The Pulivendula Handloom Weavers' Co-operative production and sales society limited at Simhadri puram, registered in 1945, has earned a name for its coloured sarees. The local weavers have also taken to the weaving of higher counts and the production of sarees with piping and cross borders. The goods produced by the society are sold through the sales emporia of the Andhra Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society and locally at the fair at Simhadri puram and Pulivendula.

There are four weavers Co-operative Societies in this area. In these societies 358 active looms, providing employment to 667 workers.

**Kamalapuram**

Kamalapuram a Taluk Head Quarters in the Cuddapah district
has specialised in the production of artsilk sarees and shirtings in addition to coarse cotton sarees. The weavers are mostly belonging Thogatas, a sub-caste among the weavers.

In this area eventhough there are five weavers' Co-operative Societies, Master Weavers are the dominating class. About 429 active looms, providing employment to 731 workers are under the weavers co-operative sector.

The weaving industry is spread over quite a few villages, including Uppaluru, Payasampalli, Kalamalla, Uppaluru, Urutur, Veldurthi and Pulagiri. Uppaluru is known for its handloom fabrics.

Here, the sarees of 6 to 8 yards in length, woven with warp of artsilk and the weft of cotton. The artsilk used in this village is said to be imported from Madras. The dyeing is done locally by the master weavers. The shirting cloth manufactured into pieces of 27 to 28 yards with width of 36".

The artsilk sarees and shirtings have a wider market for their sales within and outside the region in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Rayachoty

Rayachoti is another taluk headquarters in the district. There is concentration of weavers in this taluk. The weavers in this taluk manufacture a kind of cotton fabric out of 60 to 100 counts of cotton yarn. This variety of fabric is called as 'Pattimarpu' with a width of 36". It is a type garment.
Which is produced solely to market in foreign countries, Malasia, Egypt and South Africa viz., Besides this, art silk garments are also being produced here. In the village of Veerannagattupalli art silk garments are produced in large quantities.

**Sidhout**

Sidhout taluk has the largest number of weavers in the district. Weavers are heavily concentrated in a compact area, spread over the revenue villages of Kotpadu, Madhavaram and Kuruguntapalli. The weavers are drawing chiefly, Padmasalis.

Eventhough, there are ten weavers co-operative societies in and around the taluk, Master Weavers are dominating in this area. Here, there are 542 active looms, providing employment to 1793 workers through out the year, under Co-operative Sector.

The other prominent of the places in this tract Madhavaram, the hamlet of Upparapalli, Beripalli, Boyanapalli, Chinnapurreddipalli and Kondamachupalli. The weavers in these villages are using the richest traditional skills, which are inherited for the production of fabrics in the district.

The Official records reveals that fabrics ranging from 80 to 120 countage manufactured at Madhavaram, Pullampet and Proddatur. Sarees are chief fabrics that being manufactured in these villages. These sarees are known popularly as "Madhavaram sarees" which are generally 6 to 8 yards in length.
and 46 to 50 inches in width with pure zari borders 2 to 10 inches in width. The borders consist of patterns of flowers, birds, trees etc. The body of a saree is either plain or of check pattern.

The yarn is mostly obtained from Madras and Coimbatore. The zari from Surat and Bangalore. The art silk from centres in Southern India and the dyes from Madras and Bombay. The Master Weavers and the Co-operative Societies in the tract, dye the yarn in their dye houses and issue them to the weavers.

The Madhavaram sarees have a market both within and beyond Andhra Pradesh, especially, in Mysore and Madras.

**Rajampet**

In Rajampet taluk, the principal weaving centres are located at Singareddipalli, Pullampet and the surrounding villages such as those of Puthanavaripalli, Kothapet, Seetharampet and Appaihrajupet is well known for the industry. Of all these weaving centres Pullampet distinctly enjoys a wider reputation outside Rayalaseema. The weavers in the Pullampet area are chiefly Padmasalis.

Five weaver's Co-operative Societies are functioning in this area Master Weavers are the dominating class followed by independent weavers. In this area there are about 236 active looms, providing employment to 689 workers on a full time basis under Co-operative Sector.
This area is noted for production of zari-bordered sarees. The production of cotton sarees of 80 to 120 counts with zari and artsilk borders. The usual length of a saree ranges from 6 to 8 yards with a width of 47". The body of the saree is generally, plain or of checks pattern locally called "KOTTADI". The border ranging mostly from half an inch to ten inches in width is either plain or armamented with designs of fruits, mangoes, flowers, swans, elephants etc.

The Pullampet sarees are not so much in demand within the district. But demand for these sarees is noticed in the Telangana area, costal area and the southern regions including Madras City.

Almost all the looms are pit looms with fly shuttles in the district. Dobbies are being used for sarees border designs. The power looms are less and under controlled of the master weavers in the district.

A few of the literate weavers in Cuddapah district try to get benefit by the Co-operative Societies. After having acquired the knowledge relating to the establishment of co-operative societies, they intern wanted to reap the benefits by becoming member in the Co-operative Society. As a result, the first Co-operative Society was established in Jammalamadugu in 1934. The author tries to present in the following pages the size and the structure of co-operative societies that have come up in the district.
Size and Structure of Co-operative Societies

As per the information obtained from the office of the Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Cuddapah, there were 80 Handloom Co-operative Societies in the district during the year 1967-88. These societies have been spread over 28 Mandals in the district. While the district has 50 Mandals, that means, the handloom industry is concentrated only in 28 Mandals of the district. There is no even distribution of the Co-operative Societies even among these 22 Mandals.

This point is amply explained here. Proddatur mandal alone has 17 Co-operative Societies, followed by Jammalamadugu Eleven, Vontimitta Seven, Pullampet Four, B.Kodur and Simhadripuram Three each; Rajupalem, Peddamudiyan, Muddanur, Kamalapuram, Vallur, Khajipet, Sidhout, Bodvel Two each, while Mydukur, Kamalapuram, Cuddapah, Yerraguntla, Veerapunayunipalli, Vempalli, Veeraballi, B.Matham, Penagalur, Atlur, Chkrayapet, Chinnamandem and Duvvur One each.

Distribution of Looms among the Co-operative Societies

The Table No.4.1 clearly explains that 28 Co-operative Societies have loomage capacity between 51 to 100 each; 26 Societies have looms between 101 to 150 each; 10 Co-operative Societies have more than 200 looms in each - while 8 Co-operative Societies have looms between 151-200 each, and the same number of 8 Societies have less than 50 looms each.
Table No.4.1

Distribution of looms among the Co-operative Societies in Cuddapah District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>No. of Looms</th>
<th>No. of Co-operative Societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Below 50</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>51 - 100</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>101 - 150</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>151 - 200</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Above 200</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A.D.H.T., Cuddapah.

Concentration of Handlooms under Co-operative Sector

It is observed that the Handlooms have been concentrated in a four areas, viz., Jammalamadugu, Proddatur, Vontimitta and Pullampet. All these four places put together account for 8115 looms. While the total number of looms under Co-operative Sector for the years 1990-91 are 14809 looms. That means nearly 55% of looms under Co-operative Sector have been concentrated in these five places.
PROGRESS OF HANDLOOMS UNDER COOPERATIVE SECTOR IN CUDDAPAH Dt. DURING 1981–91

Source: Asst. Director of Handlooms & Textiles, Cuddapah
FIGURE II

ANALYSIS OF COST & SALE OF CLOTH UNDER COOPERATIVE SECTOR IN CUDDAPAH DISTRICT DURING 1981-82 TO 1990-91

Cost of the Cloth
Sale of the Cloth

Source: Asst. Director of Handlooms & Textiles, Cuddapah
Section-B

Progress of handlooms under Co-operative Sector in Cuddapah district during 1981-82 to 1990-91 is presented in Table No.4.2 and in figure No.1. The total number of handlooms in the district decreased from 27,941 in 1981-82 to 26,521 in 1990-91 i.e., decreased by about 5 per cent over 1981-82. The number of handlooms under Co-operative Sector in the district decreased from 15,861 in 1981-82 to 14,902 in 1990-91 i.e., decreased by nearly 7 per cent over 1981-82. The percentage of handlooms under the Co-operative Sector in the total handlooms in the district is fluctuating between 50 per cent and 68.5 per cent during the period of study. Hence, it can be concluded that the coverage of handlooms under Co-operative Sector in the district is lower than the targeted coverage of 75 per cent during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans of Andhra Pradesh.

The number of active looms under the Co-operative Sector increased from 6,550 in 1981-82 to 8,190 in 1990-91 i.e., increased by about 25 per cent over 1981-82. However, the number of dormant looms under the co-operative sector decreased from 9,311 in 1981-82 to 6,619 in 1990-91 i.e., decreased by nearly 29 per cent over the year 1981-82. Therefore, it is said that the decrease in the dormant looms and an increase in the active looms during the period of
study is the result of the conversion of dormant looms into the active looms due to the supply of sufficient inputs viz., yarn and dyes to the dormant looms, which make them active looms.

The percentage of active looms in the total looms under the Co-operative Sector in the district is fluctuating between 33.32 per cent and 55.30 per cent during the period of study and the percentage of dormant looms in the total looms under the Co-operative Sector in the district is fluctuating between 44.70 per cent and 66.68 per cent during the same period. However, it is observed from the Table that the percentage of dormant looms is outweighed the percentage of active looms during the period of study except during 1985-86, 1989-90 and 1990-91. The main reason for the increase in the percentage of active looms in the total looms under the Co-operative Sector in the district is due the supply of inputs, particularly, yarn, to handloom weavers by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The total number of members in the Co-operative Sector in the district increased from 16,690 in 1981-82 to 18,070 in 1990-91 i.e., increased by about 8 per cent. This increase in the numbers in the Co-operative Sector is coincide, the increase increase in the number of active looms in the Co-operative Sector. Thus, it can be concluded that
the increase in the number of active looms and members under the Co-operative Sector in the district shows the success of Co-operative movement in the handloom sector. But this success is not being accomplished in respect of bringing 75 per cent of total number of looms in the district under Co-operative fold as per the targets fixed for 6th and 7th Five Year Plans of Andhra Pradesh.

Details relating to the cost of production and income from sale of handloom cloth under Co-operative in Cuddapah district during 1981-82 to 1990-91 is presented in Table No.4.3, and in figure No.2. It is observed from Table No.4.3 that the cost of production per metre of handloom cloth is fluctuated between Rs.5.68 and Rs.11.62 and the annual average cost of production per metre of handloom cloth during 1981-82 to 1990-91 is Rs.8.13. The income from sale of handloom cloth per metre is fluctuated between Rs.5.58 and Rs.12.00 and the annual average income from the sale of handloom cloth per metre is Rs.8.20 during the same period.

To start with, a weaver-worker in the Co-operative Sector had produced 1.6 metre per day during 1981-82. The productivity of a weaver went up to 4 metres per day during 1985-86 while it declined by 0.5 metre during 1990-91. Usually a weaver, who works under a master weaver produces not less than 5 metres a day. The difference in productivity
of a weaver-worker under the Co-operative fold and the master weaver is due to lack of supply of yarn in requisite quantity. Unlike under the Co-operatives a worker under master weaver system is ensured of regular supply of yarn to work all through the year.

The handloom under Co-operative Sector in Cuddapah district got profits during the first half of 1980's except during 1982-83 while during the second half of 1990's they incurred losses except during 1986-87 and 1988-89. The annual average profit per metre of handloom cloth during 1981-82 to 1990-91 is Rs.0.07. Hence, it can be concluded that the handlooms under Co-operative Sector in Cuddapah district are getting nominal profits only.

Further, it is observed from Table 4.3 that both the cost of production of handloom cloth per metre and income from sale of handloom cloth per metre has been deteriorating during the last two years of the study period. For which the inflation rate has been increasing upto a double digit figure. The main reason for this deterioration in cost of production of handloom cloth is the result of Government's "New Deal Policy on Handlooms and Textiles - 1985", which paved the way for the production of coarse variety of cloth at the cost of superfine quality cloth to provide cloth at the cheaper rates to the people below the poverty line.
The average daily earnings of a weaver-worker under Co-operative system was Rs. 6.50 during 1981-82 and the same rose to Rs. 20.00 and Rs. 22.75 during 1985-86 and 1990-91 respectively. The labour charges are fixed on piece rate basis. The wage for production of a metre of cloth was Rs. 4 in 1981-82 and rose to Rs. 5.00 and Rs. 6.50 during 1985-86 and 1990-91 respectively. This indicates the wages of a worker have been on the increasing note with the passage of time to accommodate change in the general price rise of the essential goods in the country.

It may be observed here that it is difficult to give an exact number of looms at any point of time in any one of the handloom weaving centres in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is because of the fact that there are always some looms lying dormant either with a master weaver or with a handloom Co-operative Society. The dormant looms became active when the handloom goods registered a positive response in the market. Based on this, looms would be either increased or decreased by 5 per cent. According to the Table No. 4.2, the total number of looms both Co-operative fold within and outside for the year 1981-82 happened to be 27,941 while they were 27,242 and 26,521 for the years 1985-86 and 1990-91 respectively.
It may be said that for the present, there are nearly 27,000 handlooms in the district. As per the estimations arrived at by the author in consultation with the actual weavers who are experienced handloom industry that each loom can provide employment to three workers including the one that works on the loom on a full time basis. According to this the handloom industry in Cuddapah district provides employment opportunities to nearly 81,000 artisans who are endowed with the skill and dexterity to participate in the production process of handloom fabrics in the district of Cuddapah.
### PROGRESS OF HANDLOOMS UNDER CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR IN CUDDAPAH DISTRICT DURING 1981-82 - 1990-91

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total No. of Handlooms in the district</th>
<th>Total No. of looms under co-op to the Total no. of looms in the dist.</th>
<th>Percentage of active looms</th>
<th>No. of active looms</th>
<th>Percentage of dormant looms</th>
<th>No. of dormant looms</th>
<th>Total No. of Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>27941</td>
<td>15861</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>6550</td>
<td>41.29</td>
<td>9311</td>
<td>58.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-83</td>
<td>27945</td>
<td>15760</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>5252</td>
<td>33.32</td>
<td>10508</td>
<td>66.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-84</td>
<td>26496</td>
<td>13252</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>5204</td>
<td>39.26</td>
<td>8048</td>
<td>60.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>27010</td>
<td>16080</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>7021</td>
<td>43.66</td>
<td>9059</td>
<td>56.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>27242</td>
<td>18386</td>
<td>67.4</td>
<td>9501</td>
<td>51.67</td>
<td>8885</td>
<td>48.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>26242</td>
<td>17995</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>7082</td>
<td>39.35</td>
<td>10913</td>
<td>60.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>26521</td>
<td>17521</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>7134</td>
<td>40.71</td>
<td>10387</td>
<td>59.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>26521</td>
<td>16070</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>7942</td>
<td>49.42</td>
<td>8128</td>
<td>50.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>26521</td>
<td>15352</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>8200</td>
<td>53.37</td>
<td>7162</td>
<td>46.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>26521</td>
<td>14809</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>8190</td>
<td>55.30</td>
<td>6619</td>
<td>44.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Cuddapah.
### Table No. 4.3

**COST OF PRODUCTION AND INCOME FROM SALE OF HANDLOOM CLOTH UNIONS CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR IN CUDDAPAH DISTRICT**

**DURING 1981 - 82 to 1990 - 91**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Production of Cloth (Lakh Metre)</th>
<th>Cost of Production (Rs. Lakhs)</th>
<th>Sale of Cloth (Lakh Metre)</th>
<th>Income from Sale of Cloth (Rs. lakhs)</th>
<th>Cost of Production per Metre Rs.</th>
<th>Income from sale of cloth per Metre (Rs.)</th>
<th>Profit / Loss per Metre (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981 - 82</td>
<td>31.62</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>31.97</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>5.69</td>
<td>6.72</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982 - 83</td>
<td>44.42</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>43.72</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>5.68</td>
<td>5.58</td>
<td>- 0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983 - 84</td>
<td>37.41</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>36.99</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>6.02</td>
<td>6.19</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984 - 85</td>
<td>65.22</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>61.66</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>7.07</td>
<td>7.69</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985 - 86</td>
<td>113.61</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>113.88</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>7.02</td>
<td>7.32</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986 - 87</td>
<td>99.62</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>93.90</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>6.98</td>
<td>7.07</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987 - 88</td>
<td>59.52</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>69.59</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>10.94</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>- 1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988 - 89</td>
<td>49.42</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>52.58</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>11.62</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989 - 90</td>
<td>71.27</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>78.03</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>10.38</td>
<td>10.35</td>
<td>- 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 - 91</td>
<td>86.42</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>90.75</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>9.88</td>
<td>9.51</td>
<td>- 0.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Average**

8.13  8.20  0.07

**Source:** Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Cuddapah - Annual Reports
SECTION-C

Socio Economic Conditions of Weavers under Co-operative Societies in Pullampet Mandal

Climate does not widely vary much from one place to another in the district of Cuddapah. Further, almost, similar life styles and consumption patterns, of the people are noticed in all parts of the district. Thus, the district exhibits as a homogeneous black in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. It is, therefore, decided to study the socio-economic back­ground of the weavers in the district by chasing Pullampet Mandal as a representative unit for the study. One hundred households who are working under co-operative fold have been approached, at random, with a structured schedule to collect the data relating to the socio-economic background of the respondents.

Pullampet

Pullampet, known for its cotton fabrics, lies on 14° 08' North latitude and 79° 12' East longitude. It is situated on the left bank of Pullangi river and it is about six miles away from the taluk headquarter of Rajampet along the road to Madras. It is connected by broadguage rail road and Pullampet has a railway station. One has to cross a railway bridge and a causeway built across Pullangi river to reach Pullampet. There is Higher Secondary School run by the "Sri Bahuthama Vidya
Dana Sabha" set up in 1911 by a group of enthusiastic Padmasalis. The village was electrified in 1960.¹

Pullampet was a taluk head quarters in the district of Cuddapah from 1861 to 1889. Later on it was brought under the revenue administration of Rajampet. But the taluk in its name continued till about 1916. Then after, Pullampet had just the status of a village. In 1985 Pullampet became a Mandal head-quarters in the district of Cuddapah.

The population of Pullampet is 5776 (calculated based on 1981 census). More than 50 per cent of the total population of Pullampet belonged to traditional weaving communities of Padmasali and Togata. Of them Padmasali are a majority. The weavers here, principally, engaged in the weaving of cotton sarees which have a wide market both within and outside the state.

1. Caste

There is a concentration of traditional weaving communities of Padmasali, Togata and Kshatriyas. Nearly of the total population in Pullampet Mandalam belonged to weavers community. As per the table No.4, 95% of the weavers belonged to Padmasali, a subcaste of weavers. The weavers who are belonging to Thogatas and Kshatriyas are put together accounted for 5% of the total number weavers in the Mandalam.

Table No. 4.4

Caste wise distribution of Members of the Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Padmasali</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Togata</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Kshatriya</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 100

Source: Field Survey.

2. Age

The following table reveals the age-wise distribution of the weavers.

Table: 4.5

Age-wise Distribution of Members of the Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Members of the Cooperative Societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 to 50</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 and above</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 100

Source: Field Survey.
According to Table 4.5 nearly 60 per cent of the households fall within the age group of 31 to 50. This age group supplies manpower to take up different kinds of work in the handloom industry. It is interesting to note that even children below the age of 14 years and people above 51 years also find some useful work to attend work in the industry. The children may participate either in preparation of spindles or sizing works in a small measure. The aged people too may participate winding of yarn and same of them may even weave some garments. Thus the industry gainfully employs manpower of all age groups.

3. **Literacy level**

Education is the most important factor in improving the technical skills of weavers. It is also keeping pace with up-to-date changes in the market and technical knowhow. It is only through awareness the weavers can protect themselves from the clutches of master weavers and money lenders. The following table reveals the literacy level of the weavers.
Table 4.6
Levels of Education of Society Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Qualifications</th>
<th>Members of the Societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illiterates</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upto Primary School</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below S.S.C.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.S.C. and above</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey.

From the Table 4.6 it can be observed that the literates are high. They constitute 65 per cent, of whom 39 per cent are educated upto Primary School, 13 per cent are below S.S.C., and 11 per cent are S.S.C. and above.

4. Housing

Food, Cloth and house are the basic necessaries of human beings. Housing has a special significance in the life of weaving community. The weaver spends almost his entire life in his home, because the loom is largely installed in his own dwelling place. The following table reveals the housing conditions of weavers under co-operative sector.
Table 4.7
Housing Conditions of Weavers under Co-operatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Members of the Societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Thatched huts</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Semi-permanent roofing with asbestos &amp; tiles</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. No. of houses with provision for
   a) Separate space for loom installation | 9
   b) Loom installed in the living place of the house | 91

   **Total** | 100

Source: Field Survey.

It is noticed from the Table No. 4.7 that the weavers do not have permanent housing facility. More than 90 percent of the households have installed looms in their houses, which are either thatched huts or semi-permanent made whose roofs are of tiles and asbestos sheets. It is significant to note that a large number of looms under both categories are installed in their dwelling places.
5. Employment

Unlike in the other professions, in handloom industry even small children in the age group of 6 to 10 years participate in the light jobs like preloom and postloom work to support their parents. Above 60 years of age persons would also find ample pre-loom and post loom works. The survey makes it clear that one active loom may undoubtedly provides employment three persons, including the one that works on loom. And generally weaving is a skilled and hand job carried out mostly by male members of the family. However, women also participate in production process. But their percentage is not significant.

6. Family Size

A majority of the households are constituted with five persons as the family members and in 75 per cent of the households more than three persons are employed in the handloom sector on a permanent basis throughout the year. The household revealed that they remain without any work only when they could not get inputs, viz. yarn and jari either from the Co-operative Societies or from the master weavers.

7. Wages and Earnings

The Co-operative Societies supply the raw materials to its members. After producing and handing over the Saree/Cloth, the members will get wages from the Societies. The wages of
the members depends mainly upon the supply of raw materials by the Societies. There are three distinct division of work in the handloom sector solely attended by the members of a weavers' family. The three divisions are pre-loom, on-loom and post-loom.

The **pre-loom** work is the preparation of warp and weft. It is being carried on by the family members largely by females and children below the age of 15 years. The **on-loom** is the weaving of fabrics by a weaver. It is a process of manufacturing of cotton fabrics. A weaver who works for wages usually works for 8 to 10 hours a day and produced 5 to 6 yards cotton cloth/saree. In some cases a skilled weaver may produce more than 7 yards. The production of cloth/saree is depends purely on the skill of the labour. Then we come into the last division of work is post-loom operation. In this too, the work being attended by the family members. The nature of the work is folding of the saree in a particular design so that it is easy to display the fabric for buyers. The following table reveals the annual income of household under co-operative sector.
Table No. 4.8

**Annual Income of a Household under Societies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division of Work</th>
<th>Income per day per worker (Rs.)</th>
<th>Income per annum (300 days) (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-loom</td>
<td>10=00</td>
<td>3,000=00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-loom</td>
<td>35=00</td>
<td>10,500=00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-loom</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

From the table it is clear that a weaver on-loom gets an income not less than Rs. 35/- per day. Assuming a weaver works on this loom for 300 days in a year, the annual income of weaver is Rs. 10,500=00. The income is higher in the case of skilled labourer. In this profession even children and aged persons are able to get Rs. 10/- per day for doing pre-loom work. However no family member gets any income for attending post-loom operations.

8. **Loomage Capacity**

A majority of the households have a single room houses. The single room is of the size of 20 feet in length and 15 feet in width. The houses are simple designed ones to accommodate looms. Each loom requires a space of 15 feet length and 6 feet width. The following table reveals the loomage capacity of a household under the Society.
Table 4.9

Loomage Capacity of a Households under Societies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loomage Capacity</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Loom</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Looms</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than two looms</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey.

From the table 4.9 as many as 61 households have set up two looms each and the remaining 39 have one each. None of the household identified have setup more than two looms. It is only pit looms that have been used with fly shuttle in this Mandal.

9. Expenditure

The family expenditure is proposed to indicate the relative distribution of monthly family expenditure. The monthly expenditure of the respondents is distributed on the items, such as, food, clothes, fuel, education, health, liquors and recreation. The following table reveals the expenditure pattern of the weavers under co-operatives.
Table No. 4.10

Expenditure Pattern of the Weavers under Co-operative Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloth</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquors</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey.

The table No. 4.10 clearly explains that a major chunk of family earnings spent towards food. Its percentage is 65, and followed by the expenditure on liquors. It is rather disheartening to note that 15 per cent of weavers earnings is being wasted on liquors. This trend is partly due to get relief at the end of the day after strainess work from 8 to 10 hours and lack of awareness due to illiteracy.