CHAPTER - II

RESEARCH - METHODOLOGY
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RESEARCH – METHODOLOGY OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

2.1 IMPORTANCE OF STUDY:

The present chapter deals with the research methods that have been followed in this study as follows:

Clothing is basic and elementary desire of human being in this globe. Hence the manufacturing of the same is undertaken by Handloom Weavers, Powerloom Weavers and organised mills. Handloom products of India are well-known all over the world since long. The Handloom Industry has unique place in Indian Economy. The Handloom Industry scattered throughout the country. It is the second largest source of employment next only to agriculture. Millions of the people in India depend upon Handloom Industry for their livelihood. The Handloom Industry has not only survived but also grown over the decades due to its inherent strengths like flexibility of production in small quantities, openness to innovation, low level of capital investment and immense possibility of designing fabrics.

Handloom Industry in Solapur occupies place of prominence because nearly 10,000 handlooms in the city provides means of livelihood to more than 50,000 persons. Nearly 90% handlooms in Solapur are under co-operative sector. The peculiar feature of Solapur is that Solapur is one of the biggest centres in handloom weaving in India. The handloom materials like Bedsheets, Towels, Wall Hangings, Chaddars are exported all over the world. In Solapur most of the handloom weavers are the members of co-operative society. In Solapur there are 164 handloom weavers co-operative societies which have been established for the economic upliftment of the
weavers. Maximum societies are only in Solapur city area. As a policy, it has been considered that, the Handloom being a household industry scattered in the eastern part of the city can best develop in co-operative fold.

Handloom sector has been encouraged into co-operative fold by government mainly for benefiting the individual weavers and saving them from the oppression, exploitation and clutches of the Master Weavers.

Organising weavers into co-operatives is the most effective way to strengthen their economic and bargaining position, especially against exploitation by middlemen traders. Individually, the poor weavers were actually helpless tools of exploitation in the hands of Mahajans and Master weavers. Co-operative form of organisation has therefore generally been found to be ideally suitable. The aim of co-operation, as Mr. Darling put it, "not to procure the highest price for the producer or lowest price for the consumer, but a fair price for both."

The Government of Maharashtra had appointed the “Tidke committee” in order to develop the Handloom Industry in the State and to raise the economically backward class of weavers above the poverty line. According to the recommendation of the “Tidke Committee”. The Government of Maharashtra established the independent ‘Directorate of Handloom and Powerloom’ at Nagpur on 2nd October, 1971. It has four regional offices at (1) Solapur (2) Nagpur (3) Mumbai and (4) Aurangabad.

While writing about the powerloom sector in India, we just cannot avoid the reference of famous textile town of Solapur in Maharashtra. Solapur is number two textile centre after Mumbai. It is famous for Jacquard Chaddars. There are two composite textile mills, more than twelve

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spinning mills and 28,795 powerlooms [in 1993] and more than 10,000 handlooms in Solapur. 78% of these powerlooms are engaged in manufacturing world famous Jacquard Chaddars. It is an unique product manufactured in Solapur. In no other place in India or abroad chaddars are manufactured on such large scale. The average daily production of chaddars in Solapur is calculated as 94,295.3

Variety of textile production viz. Jacquard chaddars, Terry Towels, Gray Cloth, Bedsheets etc. are being manufactured in Solapur.

2.2 **SCOPE OF THE STUDY:**

Handloom products of Solapur are well known all over the world. Solapur is one of the biggest centres of handloom weaving in India. The handloom products i.e. Sarees, Dhoties, Towels, Bedsheets, Wall-hangings, Chaddars are exported all over the world.

However, the industry in the Solapur district, surprisingly, has received very – very little attention from scholars and researchers than what it deserves. Hence, the objective of the present study is to fill one of the many gaps in our knowledge about this industry in Solapur. For a minute study of the Handloom Industry under co-operative organisation, the work should be restricted either to a particular area or specific problems relating to the Industry. The study area of present research work was restricted to the Solapur district. The present study embraces in its scope the Handloom Industry in Solapur district. The scope of the subject is vast. Solapur one of the biggest centres of handloom weaving in India. To make the picture of the industry logially complete, an attempt was made to conduct socio-economic survey of the weaving communities and their co-operative societies.

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The present work is based principally on the working of handloom co-operative societies in Solapur district. This is a modest attempt to present an integrated and comprehensive analysis of the most important household industry of the district. In fact, this study being the first of its kind for Solapur, is largest exploratory in nature.

The basic problems of the handloom industry, in fact worsen in certain directions. Competition from Mills and Powerlooms, non-availability of raw materials, subsidies and continually depressed markets, financial and technological backwardness, non-availability of funds, lack of formation of rational policy by state as well as central government for the development and growth of this industry etc. are the burning problems. Efforts have not been made by the central or state government or other associations and agencies in this direction. It cannot be denied that at present the industry is not as sound as it appears and however a bright future it may have, it cannot really progress unless the fundamental handicaps are removed.4

Hence, the need arises for present study to bring the fundamental handicaps of the industry within a sharp focus for effective growth of handloom industry in Solapur. It is necessary to verify the hypothesis about the working activities of Handloom weavers co-operative societies, i.e. Purchasing, production process, equipments used for producing, financing, capital structure, co-operating, marketing activities etc. An attempt has been made to discover the approaches taccees, forecasting and channel of distribution followed by Handloom Weavers in Solapur district for conducting the above said activities. Thus, I have chosen the topic because, I would like to contribute through my research work, towards the progress of handloom weaver’s co-operative societies in Solapur.

2.3 **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:**

The researcher is confident that this research work will become an invaluable document for the Handloom owners in general and Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies in particular as well as the government agencies, handloom corporations, handloom boards and other associations related with the Handloom Industry specially with Solapur. It is also hoped that it will act as a guideline for effective Management of Handloom co-operative Societies, and handloom owners or entrepreneurs in this business.

2.4 **FORMULATION OF HYPOTHESIS:**

Before a study of any problems associated with the economy, demography, and with the physical environment, it is most appropriate to formulate some hypotheses. In order to understand precisely the problems, the hypothesis enables to fulfill the objectives during the research. The following hypotheses have been taken into consideration for the study.

1. Majority of the handloom weavers in Solapur belongs to Sali Community.
2. Majority of the handloom weavers are aged and illiterate.
3. Most of the weavers work for co-operative societies.
4. The economic condition of the handloom weavers is very weak and the standard of living of the workers is low.
5. Handlooms are not modernised and majority of the handlooms are engaged in producing traditional products i.e. sarees and dhoties.
6. There are problems in purchasing of yarn and marketing of handloom products due to keen competition from the powerlooms.
7. The infrastructure facilities and credit facilities are not sufficiently provided by the Government for the weavers.
2.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

In view of a critical study of handloom sector in Solapur district which is to be undertaken by us, the purposes of research study are outlined as under

1) To examine the existing socio-economic conditions of individual weaver and the weavers of the co-operative societies.

2) To make the picture of the Handloom Co-operative Societies logically complete to study all the problems of the individual weaver and the weavers of co-operative societies.

3) To examine the role of government in creating an appropriate human relation within Handloom Co-operative Societies.

4) To identify the problems in respect of procurement of yarn, fluctuations in the prices of yarn, methods of supply of yarn, sources of finance, marketing and other production related problems of handloom industry.

5) To study the organisational pattern, problems and government policy towards the textile industry in general and handloom sector in particular.

6) To study the historical background and the growth of the industries in Solapur.

7) To know various phases of development of Handloom Industry in Solapur and to understand the methods of production of the handloom products, and to study the powerloom industry in Solapur with comparison of handlooms.

8) To enquire into the policy adopted by government with regard to Handloom Industry.

9) To enhance high productivity by creating political value of management of co-operatives.
10) Examining and identifying the role of different institutions, organisations in industries in Maharashtra especially in handloom industry.

11) To motivate workers in sense of loyalty, responsibility, discipline with pride and confidence in a most convincing manner, so the goals can be achieved effectively.

12) To help the management to organise the particular programmes which will help to enhance good human relations among the workers.

13) To come up with practical suggestions which can be easily followed by a raw administration in promotion of healthy human relations and to create motivational strategy in Handloom co-operative societies for the effective growth of Handloom Industry in Solapur.

2.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In an effort to make an in depth study and analysis of effect of strategies used by the management among workers, the researcher hopes to undertake a qualitative study of the phenomenon. The very purpose of qualitative research is to understand the nature of the setting and to answer questions related to descriptive, exploratory and explanatory nature of the phenomenon under study.

In view of the above objectives, the present research work was carried out with the help of both primary and secondary sources of statistical information, supplied by the government offices, departments, handloom co-operative societies, directorate of handlooms and powerlooms, handloom entrepreneurs, corporate bodies, federations, handloom boards, corporations in the study area i.e. Solapur.
The required information to serve the various objectives stated above was collected in a phased manner as follows –

1) In order to study the textile industry in general and Handloom sector in particular different secondary sources were tapped.

2) The information regarding the Handloom Weavers Co-operative societies of Solapur district was collected through personal interviews of the office bearers of the societies. The researcher has issued the questionnaire to the weavers as well as office bearers of Handloom Co-operative Societies.

3) As regards the collection of secondary data, the researcher collected the data from secondary sources like Annual Reports of Handloom Co-operative Societies, the Directorate of Handlooms and Powerlooms in Solapur, the articles available in different local and state level daily newspapers like Sanchar, Lokmat, Sakal, Tarun Bharat, State level and National level newspapers like Times of India, Indian Express, Economic Times, The Hindu. A researcher greatly relied on the magazines like Commerce, Yojan, Indian Textile Journals, Competition Success, Economic and Political Weekly.

Researcher has gone through various reports like Fact Finding Committee Report, Tidke Report, Textile Enquiry Committee Report, Report of Solapur Handloom weavers enquiry committee.

Researcher has collected the secondary information from the records available with the Directorate of Textiles, Maharashtra, All India Handloom Board, Maharashtra Handloom Development Corporation, Department of Co-operation and Textile Government of Maharashtra, Report of Western Maharashtra Textile Association, Gazetteer of Solapur, Directorate of Economics and Statistics,
Mumbai, National Co-operative Union of India, Development Commission of Handlooms, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, Planning Commission of India, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, All India Handi Crafts and Handloom Development Corporation; All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, Government of India National Textile Policy 1985 and 2000 and various five year Plans, previous published and unpublished research work.

However, a detailed note on the sources from where the material was drawn for this research work is given at the end of each page as reference as well as it is given in the Bibliography.

4) In order to know the financial information and sources of Handloom Co-operative Societies, the researcher discussed with the office bearers of the Handloom Co-operative Societies, Directorate of Handloom and Powerloom Solapur, Industrial Co-op. Bank of the weavers of Solapur, note that this is the only and unique Bank in Maharashtra providing finance to the weavers and weavers co-operative societies and weavers co-operative spinning mills.

5) The production process problems as well as the cost structure of the Handloom Product Manufacturing have been studied by the intensive method of interview technique with the help of structured schedule. A sample of 185 units were selected for the same purpose. During the field survey, the heads of sample units were interviewed and their responses were recorded in the schedule. I undertook field surveys mostly in the Solapur city on a random sampling basis where the views of the weavers, Government agencies have been obtained.
6) The problems being faced by the Handloom Industry were also identified by interviewing the individual weaver, members of weavers co-operative society. Master weavers, the office bearers of Handloom Co-operative Societies and the office bearers of Weavers Federation [WEMCOTEX] Dealers, Officers in the Directorate of Handlooms and Solapur Handloom Association.

7) The information regarding powerloom industries and industrial economy of Solapur city was collected through personal interviews of the authorities of the Solapur Powerloom Association and Solapur District Powerloom Co-operative Societies Federation, Officers in Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Estate, D.I.C., M.I.D.C., Officers of Industrial Co-operative banks, Textile Mills, Chaddar manufacturers and Dealers, Spinning Mills, Officers from TEXPROCIL, BIRA, etc.

2.7 POPULATION:

The population of this study shall comprise of the Handloom Co-operative Societies functioning in the Solapur district.

2.8 SAMPLE:

It is known fact that, it is not always possible and practical to obtain data from each and every member and unit of the whole population due to the number of limitations and other circumstances beyond the researcher’s control such as time, accessibility and expenses. In view of this, the researcher hopes to obtain a sample of selected unit that will be the focus of study through simple and appropriate random.

In order to select the sample for this survey the random and purposive sampling methods were used. In Solapur the handloom sector is unorganised or decentralized sector and therefore it was very difficult to classify these units into different sizes viz., large, medium and small. In
order to have the operational classification of these units into different categories, the researcher selected 1837 units from the different categories at random and contacted the concerned owners [weavers] belonging to different organisational categories. With the purposive, sampling method out of 1837 units, a sample of 185 units was selected [about 10 per cent of the total units]. The number selected from each of the categories of weaver households was in proportion to different organisational categories.

In Solapur nearly 90% weavers come under co-operative fold. The nature of external agencies gives rise to different segments of the organisational structure of this industry.

At present the organisational structure of the industry comprises four demarcated sector (1) Independent Weaver (2) Master Weavers or Sowcar Weavers (3) Co-operative Sectors (4) Corporate sector.

Table 2.1 shows the number of sample observations, drawn from the selected different organisational Categories.

Table No. 2.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Organisational Categories</th>
<th>Number of Units</th>
<th>Number of Units Selected</th>
<th>Number of Handlooms</th>
<th>(3) as percentage of (2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Independent Units</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sowcar Weaver or Master Weaver Units</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Co-operative Sector</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>10.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Corporate Sector</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1837</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>10.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Field Survey.
The above table shows that, in the selected sample of 185 units, 13 units belonging to the independent weavers category, 9 units owned by the Master Weavers, 161 units are under co-operative sector, the corporate sector has only 2 units.

2.9 DATA COLLECTION METHOD:

In order to collect and obtain an appropriate data, the researcher does not plan to utilize any single method but intend to use following methods.

1) Personal observation
2) Unstructured interviews
3) Questionnaire

The research work was carried out in the Solapur city and district based on the several investigations carried out by personal interviews and collection of the primary and secondary statistical data in the present context of the issue in the research work. There are tables and statements some of which are based on personal investigations while others are taken from published and unpublished work.

However, as mentioned earlier, in order to obtain secondary data, Books, Reports, Journals, Articles of the Newspapers and other publications which have relevance to the topic are utilized.

2.9.1 INTERVIEW SCHEDULE / QUESTIONNAIRE:

An interview schedule or questionnaire was used as an instrument for the collection of data during the field survey. The form of questions used were both closed and open ended. The questionnaire was framed with the objective of collecting quantitative were data as well as securing information of a qualitative nature. Above all, it was designed keeping in mind the samples of the interviewees, the mode of its administration, the nature of information sought and the kind of analysis intended. The schedule was pre-tested before the start of full scale inquiry, after that, it
was finalized with necessary modifications. During the field survey, the heads and office bearers of handloom co-operative societies as well as the member weavers were interviewed and their responses were recorded in the schedule.

2.9.2 Informal Interviews and Observations:

Informal conversation and observation methods were also used in addition to the interview schedule, to collect the requisite data from primary sources.

The field survey provided an opportunity to come in close contact with the Handloom weavers. Thus, their socio-economic behaviour, customs, traditions, working hours, their festivals and normal workings which greatly influence their wearing activity, directly or indirectly, could be observed from close quarters. Apart from the weavers, important persons in the industry from the locality and government officials were contacted and the matters relating to the industry were discussed. Information obtained through such informal interviews has been dovetailed in the study.

During the course of the research when the researcher had the occasion to interview the Handloom weavers and the office bearers of Handloom co-operative societies, it was experienced that there is a difficulty of convincing them of the utility of the investigations; the weavers were under the apprehension that the data is being collected for the use of Income-Tax Department and therefore they were not fully co-operative in their replies.

Researcher was able to win them in confidence and explain to them that, the records in any case will not be given to Income Tax or other departments. The researcher explains to them that the purpose was purely academic and their answers will be used for the betterment of their
conditions. Then only the weavers disclosed all the facts truthfully and to
the satisfaction of the investigator.

2.9.3 **STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE USED**:

After collecting the information with the help of questionnaire and
interviews the next step is to tabulate the data into different categories was
undertaken rigorously. The classification is made on the basis of members
of Handloom co-operative societies approach. The graphical presentation is
given for the purpose of clarifying the idea about the different aspect of
their activity and the results are tabulated for the benefit of the readers. In
this way with the help of this statistical technique, the data is made useful
for the study.

2.10 **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**:

The following are the limitations of the study.

1. The researcher intends to undertake the different phases of the study
   within the period of 20 years, that is from 1980-2000.

2. The study includes handloom co-operative societies in Solapur
   District only.

3. The researcher has no control over the environment under which the
   study is carried out.

4. The study is conducted in selected handloom co-operative societies
   in the Solapur District.

5. The researcher has no control over the manner and the mood in
   which the respondent has reacted to the research instrument.

6. The Handloom sector is the largest unorganised economic activity.
   This itself possess problems of getting the authentic information
   about its production process. This has created many operational
   problems in collection of data with particular reference to its cost
   inputs. The researcher had to depend on oral information given by
the respondents which needed verification and confirmation, thus costing of labour inputs made it a difficult task.

7. All the respondents were rather reluctant to provide necessary information on the cost of production and the profit margin. However, they were motivated to rationalize the information given by them.

8. Most of the weavers in Solapur are from Telangana [Region of Andhra Pradesh] they speak and understand Telgu language and the weavers from the South Solapur district they speak and understand Kannada language. Local interpreters were contacted to help in this situation. Quite often the interviewers were reluctant to give information. The possibility of understatement or overstatement by the interviewers, under the circumstances, might not be ruled out inspite of precautions taken.

9. The data from secondary sources on the Handloom Industry in Solapur are meagre, and that which are available and disconnected and unco-ordinated. Such data cannot be very much useful for any integrated and comprehensive study.

10. Another limitation which may be mentioned is that reliance had to be put on official reports and records both published and unpublished for collection of data and other information. The non-availability of required information, in some cases posed a problem. Further, there was neither time nor resources to verify the truth in official data.

11. Finally, the analysis of the problems of the Handloom Industry is synonymous with that of handloom weavers. Thus, it is a human problem basically. The economic problems faced by the weavers form a complex web of economic, social, political, religious, cultural
and many other causes. Hence, their economic problems cannot be fully analysed through economic tools alone. This overlapping of the spheres of operation makes different disciplines interdependent, thereby creating the need for interdisciplinary approach to the problem. But this is beyond the capacity of an individual researcher.

Inspite of these limitations, the present research work is successful effort in analysing, the problems and economics of Handloom Industry in Solapur District. This will definitely provide a proper framework for further policy implications for the development of this neglected but employment oriented decentralized sector of handlooms in Solapur.