CHAPTER - X

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10.1 FINDINGS:
Following are the findings of the study.

1. Solapur is one of the biggest centres of handloom weaving in India. All the handloom weaving centres visited at Solapur, have been organised under co-operative fold. The peculiar feature of Solapur is that, Solapur is the only district in the entire Maharashtra where approximately 90% of the total handlooms are under co-operative fold.

2. It is noticed that in Solapur district there are 164 primary handloom weavers co-operative societies. There is not a single dormant society. Total number of members in the societies is 16476.

3. It is found that in Solapur 7,734 handlooms are under co-operative fold and 751 handlooms are under private sector.

4. It is observed that out of 7734 handloom under co-operative fold, 3865 looms are working and 3869 looms are dormant.

5. In the survey it is found that, 87% of weavers worked for co-operatives, about 7% of the weavers were independent, about 5% worked for master weavers and about 2% of weavers worked for corporation.

6. According to government figures nearly 50% handlooms in Solapur are dormant. Causes according to our field survey are:
   i) Mismanagement and corruption by the heads of the societies.
   ii) Politicisation of co-operatives.
   iii) Misappropriation of funds.
   iv) Low wages to the weavers.
v) Increase in the number of loss making co-operatives.
vi) Limited market for handloom.

vii) Limited financial assistance to the societies and the weavers by the government.

viii) The continued existence of bogus societies.

ix) The failure of several aspects of government in its textile policy statements.

7. The weaver's co-operatives as they now exist are of two types:

1) the supply societies and 2) the production-cum-sale societies.

The former societies supply raw material and ask the weavers to produce goods according to certain specifications and wages are paid to the weavers. Some of the production and sale societies have their own work-shed or karkhana. Very few societies have their own dye houses and warping wheels to provide services in preparatory processes.

8. It is noticed that, some weaver members supply cloth to the co-operatives as well as to master weavers. They retain their membership because it enables them to enjoy the benefits of the various schemes for which the societies get government funds.

9. It is observed that the weaver supplies the finished cloth to the co-operative societies or the master weavers. In effect, the weaver is totally isolated from the market. Information on changing tastes and market preferences comes to him only through the co-operative or the master weaver.

10. The individual weaver who are not under co-operative fold, purchase yarn from the private yarn merchants situated at Sakhar Peth, Solapur. Most of the private weavers purchase yarn, once or twice in a month on credit and on small scale.
11. In the survey it has been found that, some weavers who are the members of co-operative society and loom owners do not engage themselves in cloth weaving process, but get the cloth woven through hired workers by paying wages less than the margin fixed for them, such weavers (loom owners) earn the difference between the rate fixed for them and wages paid by them to their hired workers. Generally their margin of profit for each saree comes to Rs. 20 to 30 only.

12. The individual weavers who comprise only 7% of total number of weavers at various centers, do not sell their products directly to the customers. They sell to the cloth dealers in Chati-galli, Solapur, it is for this reason that they do not make any advertisement after products are made for sale; the price which they get is reported to be lowest, which according to them give a profit of not more than Rs. 20 to 30 per saree. This low price according to them is because of heavy competition from mill sector and powerlooms.

13. It is observed that, some master weavers in Solapur district are weavers who have gone exclusively into trading though they continue to be members of the co-operative society. None of them continues to operate a loom at home, nor do they run work-sheds or employ weavers to work directly on their looms.

14. It is observed that, some prominent master weavers are elected as presidents of the co-operatives because of their standing in the local weaving community, while continuing to run their own business also. Inspite of the resulting lack of clear-cut lines between weaving for the master weaver and for the co-operative society, there are many weavers who state clearly that they weave only for the co-operative society. Though according to the general opinion, the
master weavers are counter posed as natural opponents of the co-operatives there are also instances in Daji peth where the master weavers, as the presidents of the co-operatives, are actually nurturing and developing the societies. The relationships are extremely complex and reflect the many different facets of the realities of the handloom sector.

15. It is noticed that, in Solapur master weavers are slowly rising in the name of co-operation; especially in the eastern part of the city. There, reasons why they are arising in some handloom weaving areas of Solapur. First, because weaver's co-operatives have failed in some cases. In some part this is due to the fact that master weavers are able to have themselves elected as presidents of co-operatives and siphon off the funds received from government under various schemes. Second, co-operatives alone are not able to provide enough work to the weavers. Third, and perhaps most important, master weavers are willing to advance loans to weavers without any of the procedures they have to face for getting money through other institutional sources. Hence, the social network is a very important factor. In particular, the immediate need of the weaver for money for consumption needs and capital needs is met only through the master weaver. He takes all the risks of bad debts and risks in marketing. Some important master weavers are able to give employment throughout the year to the weaver.

16. In our field survey it is found that, many master weavers who have taken control over co-operatives have in fact made the societies financially sick by misappropriating their funds. They also do exploit the weavers in a sense because in spite of having a higher profit margin, they pay the same wages as the co-operatives.
17. Master weavers and Karkhandars are wealthy persons and they have their own looms or work-shed (Karkhana). They purchase yarn from the private yarn merchants in Sakhar Peth, Solapur. They get Sarees prepared on their looms through hired labourers (workers) a majority of whom hale from Andhra Pradesh (Telangana) Some master weavers or Karkhandar have their own outlets through which the sarees are sold by using their own lable and brand.

18. However, some master weavers have crept into the co-operative field by a secret arrangement by showing their family members and close relatives as the members and formed co-operative society with so called benamidar weavers. These Controllers of the society have found a boost to their income in the facilities and concessions which government provides for the development of individual weavers in the co-operative field.

19. Manufacturers, co-operative societies and Master weaver or agents from Solapur purchased cotton yarn from local spinning mills, especially Solapur Sahakari Soot Girmi, Bombay, Ahmedabad and Coimbatore and rayon yarm from Bombay and Surat. In all the places cotton yarns of 60s, 80s and 100s count were used and rayon yarn of 24 denier.

20. The ease of workers who work in worksheds is quite different. Such worksheds or karkhanas-style arrangements are found in some places in Solapur city - at Daji peth, Bhadravati peth and MIDC area. Both co-operative societies and master weavers run such worksheds, though the co-operatives are, strictly speaking, associations of independent weavers who have their own looms. In some areas like Datta nagar and Andhra Bhadrawati peth, the co-operative societies have started the sheds to provide work to the
weavers because weaving activity in the locality is depressed. In some cases the worksheds are ill ventilated, ill-lit and overcrowded. Because of the attempt to fit in the maximum number of looms in an limited space, there is virtually no room for the weavers even to stretch a little. This is the condition not only in worksheds run by master weavers, but even in the sheds run by co-operative societies.

21. The present study showed that around 93% of the weavers are from the Padmashali community. The Padmashalis hale from Telangana region (Andhra Pradesh). Their community is found to be mainly weavers community. Weaving is a traditional occupation of these families. The Padmashalis speak Telgu and Marathi. Weavers belonging to the muslim community are known as momins. They speak Urdu and Marathi.

22. The age of the weavers ranges from 21 to 63 years, majority of the weavers were found between the ages of 40 to 60 years. It seems, therefore, that, the young are finding no attraction in their forefathers industry. When the handloom workers & weavers were asked, whether they would employ their children in this industry, invariable answer given by all was that they would not do so. This reflects their utter dislike of the prevailing conditions in this industry.

23. When some of the weavers and workers were asked as to why they do not employ their young children in the industry, then most of them opined that the work has no future, the work is too much derogatory and the weavers find no place of honour in the society. Some workers replied that, weaving process involves the weavers both physically and mentally. Such continued exertion caused certain physical diseases like chest pains, joint pains etc.
24. It is found that, most of the weavers were either illiterate or under educated.
25. One of the most distressing feature of economic life of weavers is the condition of their houses. In the backward weaving centers of Solapur especially in Bhawani Peth, Daji Peth, Ghongdewasti, Gandhinagar, Telangi Pacha Peth, most of the weavers live in one or two room cottages built of mud and bricks or bamboo and patra nettle work. The houses are in a badly dilapidated, uncleaned and insanitary. They need complete renewal in many cases. The houses are small, low old & they are without latrines, bathrooms and common conveniences. In many cases the whole family lives in small room. Filthy and stuffy atmosphere, ill ventilation, overcrowding, narrow lanes, open drains and dustbins, in short the living condition of weavers in general is bad.
26. It is found that most of the Padmashali weavers and workers they drank toddy not because of its exhilerating quality but because of habit was engrained in their community, perhaps by the long and continuous practice of centuries.
27. The average family comprises of 5 to 8 members, of about 2 to 3 members are engaged in this weaving.
28. In the survey it has been found that the most of the weavers settled in the eastern part of Solapur city, mainly in Muslim Pacha peth, Gandinagar, Telangi Pacha peth, Bhadrawati peth, Datta nagar, Indira Nagar Bhavani Peth, Ghongade Wasti, Raviwar Peth extending upto Ashok Chowk areas. Muslim weavers are settled in Muslim Pacha peth, Shukrwar peth, Shaniwar peth, Raviwar peth.
29. It is found that nearly the entire weavers female population of Padmashali weavers was illiterate and 17% male are literate and
about 13% are educated. Lack of interest and meager attainment in education a educational backwardness, low wages, economic exploitation, superstition, fatalism and cheap amusements were some of the Characteristics of the Padmashali workers.

30. It is found that weavers usually work at home on their own looms, according to orders regarding varieties, colours and designs are specified by the co-operative society or the Master weaver. The weavers also incur all the expenditure involved in the replacement of workout parts or any improvements to the loom. The ordinary pit loom does not involve much capital expenditure and costs about Rs.5000 or less. Over a period of ten years, most of the parts need to be replaced. Improvement can be in the form of a frame on which the pit loom is placed, which only means that the weaver is more comfortable while weaving, or a Jacquard frame which means that different types of fabrics can be woven. The ordinary frame costs about Rs. 2000 and the Jacquard frame Rs. 10,000.

31. It is noticed that, yarn preparation, involving warping, sizing and starching, is the responsibility of the weaver. Warping and sizing are usually done by the weaver's household. The hand-operated warping wheel, which looks like a 'Charkia' is a common sight in weaver's houses. Dying is also done by the weaver himself. Dyes are supplied by the NHDC (National Handloom Development Corporation) through the co-operatives. But in most cases the weaver buys the dyes in open market. Some co-operative societies have their dyeing units.

32. In the survey it has been found that nearly 53% of the sample units had one loom each and 36% of these were units with two looms.
each. There two groups taken together constituted 89% of the total number of sample units.

33. It has been found that, the cotton hand weaving household units primarily use household labour and very little of hired labours.

34. Out of handlooms available for commercial production, it is estimated that only about 50% are active on the basis of single shift of 8 hours working.

35. In the survey it has been found that, 20% of the looms are traditional Khadda looms (pit looms) and 80% are frame looms. Frame looms have sprung up in the field recently about 30 years back and they are more convenient, modern and productive as compared to khadda looms.

36. In Solapur yarn are dyed in napthol, vat and reactive dyes. Dyeing is done by men. Dyes are purchased from various agents at Bombay, Pune and also from local market in Sakhar Peth, Solapur. Some weavers got the ready dyed yarn from local market for weaving.

   For sizing gum, mutton Tallow, Kori kanda and rice starch are used; Gum starch is used for sizing rayon and silk yarn. In Solapur length of warp yarn varied from nine meters to three hundred meters.

37. In Solapur most of the weavers used fly shuttle frame loom with dobby lattice was used and few weavers used pit looms. Length of warp yarn varied from nine meters to three hundred meters. In Solapur one sari was produced at a time on one loom. Length of the saris produced was ranged from 5, 5½, 6, 8 and 9 yards and the width ranged from 45" to 49".

38. In Solapur world famous Jacquard chaddars, wall hangings bedsheets, towels, napkins, saris are manufactured on large scale on
handlooms as well as on powerlooms. They are exported all over the world. This thing has taken the name of Solapur on international map.

39. It is clear that for handlooms, the main market is still the traditional sari. In fact, about 80% of the looms in Solapur produce traditional apparel items Jacquard Chaddar, dhoti, lungi and saree. There is also a diversification into non-traditional items like napkins, towels, bedsheets, durries and so on.

40. It is noticed that, production of sarees tops in the list of production i.e. 53% and dhotis occupy the second position i.e. 15%.

41. A detailed personal investigation showed that, normally a weaver works for 8 to 10 hours a day and produces 20 sarees (9 yards each) a month. Each simple saree is worth from Rs. 225 to Rs. 355 at prevailing rates.

42. When the weavers were asked as to how much they produce on a single loom? It has been replied that, they produce 7 to 8 meters cloth on a single loom after an 8 hour work during the period from 8 am to 6 p.m. with interval of rest.

43. It is also observed in the survey that saree is the most important fabric produced in the city. Nearly 19 types of sarees were produced in Solapur coares dhoties are produced on small scale in some of the handloom centers of the city. Handloom Sarees of Solapur are light in construction and bright in Shades. The biggest plus print of these sarees is that ladies of all classes have attraction of them. Thus, the production of men's garments in Solapur are negligible as compared to that of women's.

44. The saris of Solapur are widely demanded. The investigation found that these sarees are sent all over India, especially to Mumbai, Delhi,
Baroda, Marathwada, Khandesh and Indore. It is reported that nearly 25% goods found their own way out of state and remaining 75% being enough to meet the local demands of the people of all classes, right from poor women, agricultural workers to wealthy women.

45. Weavers were paid on piece basis. The price of the sari was from Rs. 130 to Rs. 15,000. Janata sari was the cheapest and pure silk sari was most expensive.

46. Sari of Solapur were named after their borders. Borders were given name either after the motifs uses in them or after the name of the village where they were produced.

    The width of the borders ranged from ½ inch to 16 ½ inch. Usually the borders in saris of Solapur were not very broad. In new styles of sarees borders were found to be broad.

47. The handloom industry in Solapur is an old industry and a number of handlooms are still in working condition. A large number of weavers and weaving centers are there in Solapur, saris of different varieties are famous for their exquisite and antique beauty. They are mainly cotton and mixture of cotton and rayon, which cater to all classes of people. Tye and dye technique is also used for Irkal Sarees.

48. Handloom woven saris of Solapur are quite famous for their superior quality of fabric construction, constant inflow of new designs and for their reasonable ranges. Silk and finer sort of cotton cloth turban are woven at Solapur. Today the industry of weaving is flowing. Workshops are found in Bhawani peth, Andhra Bhadrawati peth, Daji peth, Vishnu nagar and the other areas of the eastern part of city.
49. Traditional colours of saris of Solapur were green, yellow, purple, blue, red, maroon, black, pink and orange.

50. Three styles of Pallavs were found common in maharashtra namely;
   1) Ganderipadar   2) Toke padar   3) Laphe padar

   Toke padar style of Pallave weaving was found only in Solapur. Warp yarns were tied and dyed for Pallav on both the sides. It was found that warp yarns of Pallav were dyed in red colour and warp yarns of the field in blue, purple, black, brown, blue-purple color etc. The pallav consisted of total 5 bands 3 bands in red color & 2 in white. The broadest band near the field of the sari was 4 ½" (11 cms) The middle one was 4 ¼ (10.5 cms) and the last band towards the tassels was 4" (10 cms)

   The two white bands were arranged in between the red bands. The width of these bands measured 3 ¾" (9 cms) and 3 ½" (8.5 cms) respectively. The widest white band was next to the widest red band. The two white bands were decorated with five to six lines in black colour and the temple stoops were on either side. The stoops varied from 5-6 number. This design was woven in plain weave by multi weft technique. The ready Pallav was 27" (67.5 cms) broad.

51. One of the most visible facts about weaver's earning is that the wage rates are extremely low. Even in areas for products where the daily wages are around Rs. 100 the highest we have come across. This is earned through extremely strenous work, a long working day of 9 to 11 hours and invariably requiring two people. The average daily earnings tend to be around Rs.40 to Rs.50. There are household earnings and weavers rarely have other sources of income.

52. The last and certainly the central, agent in handloom weaving is the weaver himself. In Solapur, weavers have a very well defined
perception of their identity as skilled workers which sets them apart from the rest of the rural people. It is this sense of identity and pride in their craftsmanship which keeps many weavers in the activity inspite of the fact that wages are low. Yet it is also clear that many weavers have had to give-up weaving because of the poor wages.

53. It is observed that, hand weaving constitutes the sole source of livelihood for most of the household engaged in it. Out of a total of 185 sample units, 133 or nearly 71% of these depend on this industry as the sole source of their livelihood and that it is the main occupation for the rest of the sample units i.e. 29%.

54. As a result of competition of mills and powerlooms, their hereditary occupation, handloom weaving was hit hard. Consequently the income of the wage workers had gone so low as to be insufficient to attain a standard of living which might be considered as minimum for them.

55. According to personal survey of 185 units in Solapur, most of the weavers were found to be indebted to sowcar weavers. It was found on the basis of the data collected against 125 sample units was Rs. 4,45,863 at the time of inquiry.

56. It is noticed that, there is shortage of skilled workers for handloom because the wages paid to such workers are comparatively lower than the wages obtained by workers in powerloom industries. The worker in powerloom industry earn around Rs. 80 to 100 a day but a worker in handloom industry is able to earn not more than Rs. 50 after the whole day manual work.

57. It is revealed in the survey that the average income of the weavers in co-operative sector is Rs. 900 to 1500 p.m. and the income of
individual weaver in private sector is Rs. 700 to 1100 and that of master weaver is Rs. 1500 to 3000.

58. It is found that the production in the handloom industry is slack during the period between the June and October. The production in the handloom industry is at peak during the month of February to May; may be because this period happens to be a marriage season. In Maharashtra, handloom sarees of Solapur are much in demand.

59. The independent weavers who are outside the co-operative fold, sell their product either direct to the customer or to merchant or master weaver.

60. It was found that the fluctuations in the prices of yarn do exert influence in the prices of yarn and marketing of handloom cloth.

61. There is no 'service center' for handlooms in Solapur.

62. It has been found that the prices of yarn are not constant. They are continuously rising. Thus, the future and fate of handloom is mainly depends on the regular supply of yarn and its prices.

63. Powerloom cloth is sold in the market or exhibition as handloom cloth nearly in order to get the rebate which the government has fixed for the sale of handloom cloth.

64. In all the places visited it was noticed that maximum co-operative societies sell their product to WEMCOTEX and WEMCOTEX sell them to the consumers through its outlets, named "WEMCOTEX EMPORIUM". Some of the weavers sold the sarees in local markets situated at Chati galli, Phaltan galli in Solapur. Head weavers (Master weavers) collect and give the finished products to the shop-owners for sale or the head weavers owned a small shop and manufacturers supply the products to the wholesalers and to the agents of Emporiums at different places.
65. In Solapur, the yarn in the form of hank, is supplied by the local mill "Solapur Vinkar Sahakari Soot Girmi Niyamit, Solapur" to all the primary handloom weavers co-operative societies. The mill is organised by the primary handloom weavers co-operative societies in Solapur district. At present 169 handloom societies are the members of the mill.

66. Yarn is also supplied by the local mills i.e. Laxmi Vishnu Mill, Jam Mill after their own consumption. Yarn is supplied from Karnataka, A.P., Gujarat, Bombay through their agents or yarn merchants. The yarn market is at Sakhar Peth, Solapur.

67. The failures of the government policy can be seen more clearly in the following way:

i) Handloom co-operatives depend on the government for supply of yarns, dyes and credit. Of these, the yarn supply is totally inadequate, irregular and we see in Solapur that in many cases co-operatives are purchasing their requirements of yarn and dyes in the open market.

ii) The main need of the co-operatives is credit for production, which is now channeled through the Directorate of Handloom and its district level functionaries. It is through this machinery that the political power of bogus co-operatives is exercised and these societies corner a large share of the credit made available to the handloom sector by NABARD.

iii) The other main role of the government is in marketing. In view of the crisis that WEMCOTEX is going through, some co-operatives are developing their own marketing networks in any case, since WEMCOTEX is neither able to lift a large quality of cloth from the societies, nor is it able to pay for the cloth that it does buy.
iv) Undeterred by its own experience of failures, the government has pushed ahead with the same policies again and again. The disastrous results of the experiment with Janata cloth in Solapur is just one more example of this. The government is also implementing a number of development programmes to improve the co-operatives. Many of these schemes overlap with each other in terms of their objectives.

v) The main drawback of this multiplicity of schemes is that they are all devised by the central government and implemented by state government without any reference to regional specificity's or requirements.

vi) The second important agency in handloom weaving is the co-operative society. Though the government has been gradually withdrawing from its policy of protecting and supporting the handloom industry in practice if not in its stated intentions it still continues to control co-operatives so comprehensively that the co-operatives can never function as autonomous decision making economic entities.

vii) The government, unfortunately, persists in emphasizing the potential only for exports, inspite of the fact that this poses many problems. Government pronouncements on this are made, as seems to be often the case, without any detailed idea of the nature of local markets for handloom products. The inefficiency of government agencies to market handlooms is ascribed to the deficiencies of handlooms and not to the ineffectiveness of the government.

68. It has been found in the survey that the government has offered various facilities and incentives for the weavers of co-operatives viz. i) subsidy, ii) M.D.A. (Marketing Development Allowance), iii)
Loans, iv) Health, v) work-shed, vi) Loans for purchase of looms, accessories equipment, vii) share capital etc.

But the benefits of these schemes do not reach to the gross root level of weavers and workers. The ordinary members of the co-operative society, who are real weavers do not in anyway benefit from the facilities and incentives. The cream of the benefits is swallowed up by a few wealthy and political leaders who are the presidents and secretaries of the societies and ordinary weaver members are left to remain satisfied under the prevailing conditions with the labour charges (wages) alone.

69. 99% powerloom units were managed with proprietorship background, many of whom were thus found to be not keeping any record regarding cost volume, profit etc.

70. It was found that most of the powerlooms were working only one shift, thus not utilising its full capacity.

71. It has been revealed in the survey that those of the well to do members of the co-operative society also have powerlooms under their ownership, many of these members are interested in the development of their powerloom products. They divert the profit which they are able to earn from the society to finance the powerlooms which are generally held in the name of their children.

10.2 SUGGESTIONS:

10.2 A) Suggestions regarding supply of Raw Material

1. Government should make available adequate quantities of hank yarn to handloom weavers at reasonable and controlled price like cement and sugar.

2. All yarn below count of 40 should be reserved for handlooms.
3. The National Handloom Development Corporation [NHDC] should supply the yarn to the handloom weavers at the rates which are slightly lower than the prevailing market rates.

4. It has often been found that frequent unfavourable fluctuations in the price of yarn affect the handloom weavers most adversely by throwing them out of jobs. Government should have to desire suitable mechanism for this, and if necessary, the operations of NHDC may have to be subsidies by the government on the same lines, as subsidy is given on agricultural inputs like fertilizer's, seeds etc., in the overall interest of employment.

5. The weaver's co-operative societies should be strengthened so that they can buy yarn in bulk directly from the spinning mills.

6. More spinning mills should be set up in the district to bridge the gap between domestic yarn production and the total yarn requirement of the industry.

7. It is suggested that the price of yarn in the hank form should be controlled, but the controls should not lead to a reduction of quality. A price control system should have proper distribution system and proper control organization for distribution under strict supervision.

8. Intermediaries in the yarn trade should be eliminated in order to solve the yarn problem. This calls for the expansion and strengthening of the co-operative coverage in the industry.

9. To feed the spinning mills with raw cotton, cotton cultivation should be encouraged in the district. This is possible since Solapur has vast tracks of land suitable for cotton cultivation.

10. In order to ease the problem of yarn, 'Yarn Bank' should be established within the state under co-operative sector.
11. In order to free the handloom sector from the stronghold of composite mills, it will be necessary to permit setting up of spinning mills with adequate spindle capacity.

12. It is suggested that, the Government should take certain steps so that a regular supply of yarn of specified qualities and at reasonable prices is ensured.

13. There must be proper co-ordination between the Assistant Director of Handloom and Primary Weavers Co-operative societies in procurement of stocks in time.

14. The Director of Handloom may explore the possibilities of formation of separate societies for supply of inputs such as yams, dyes and chemicals in areas where large number of handloom are working. The co-operative spinning mills may open common sale depots of yarn and supply.

15. Helpful links should be established between the primary societies and spinning mills in the matter of supply of yarn.

16. Apex co-operative marketing society should supply silk, dyes, chemicals & other raw materials to the primary weavers co-operative societies at the reasonable rates.

10.2. B) Suggestions regarding Marketing:

1. Handloom industry can benefit immensely if fabrics are converted into garments. From the study, it can be firmly concluded that comparatively more money can be earned from handloom fabrics by making garments rather than selling in fabric form. From the calculation, it was found that, one can earn a minimum Rs. 4,000/- by selling 1000 garments, keeping 12% as profit. The handloom product have a greater economic importance in the rural sector as they provide a vital source of rural employment and an economic
support. The Government should shoulder the responsibility of marketing of handloom by purchasing handloom cloth which is required in Government Offices, Semi Govt. Offices, Corporation and Local bodies etc.

2. The Government of Maharashtra and the local governments require various types of cloth. It should be directly purchased from the Primary Handloom co-operative societies and their district level association.

3. The handloom towels, wall hangings, Jacquard chaddars and sarees made by the weavers of Solapur are sold at the double or triple rates at Delhi and Mumbai. It needs grand exhibition halls in big cities. The government should purchase handloom cloth and also make markets available for it.

4. In order to attract the maximum customers, government should give 30% rebate on purchase of handloom cloth during rebate period because the difference between the price of handloom cloth and powerloom cloth is 30%, but government gives 20% rebate.

5. State Government should implement the scheme for assisting state government institutions in opening retail outlets in rural parts of the country.

6. It should be made obligatory by the state government that, 'Every state Government employees must wear handloom cloth at least once in week. They should be compelled to wear handloom cloth.

7. The fabrics like dhoties and sarees which can be produced on handlooms with or without designs, in this kind of fabrics, handloom face stiff and unfavorable competition from the powerloom and mills. In this sector they require strict protection against powerlooms and mills by way of reduced duties for them and by strict
enforcement or reservation act in their favour. It is felt that a judicious mix of the fiscal measures and schemes for development of handlooms to work competitively with powerlooms and mills.

8. It is suggested that Government should organize the state level exhibitions and fairs for marketing the handloom products and help the societies to have their own independent outlets.

9. Rebate period be extended and rebate amount should be increased.

10. The product range needs to be regulated in response to the product mix demanded in the market. The marketing strategy should also have an eye on consumer's choice. Product diversification should favour the production of more artistic tie and dye fabrics. Efforts should be made to reduce the price of handloom products produced in Solapur in order to increase their competitive power. Above all, an effective publicity campaign to strengthen and expand the market is essential.

11. It is suggested that, the co-operative societies should circumvent government regulations to the extent possible and should manage to market their own output taking advantage of the latest market trends.

12. In order to increase the export of handloom saris, Bedsheets, towels, chaddars, wall hangings, an 'Export House' exclusively powerloom sector in Solapur in general and handloom industry in particular should be opened. There is good export potential for export in different countries where the climate is more or less same as that of our country.

13. Participation in commodity fairs abroad; there are International Fabric and House Hold Textile Fairs organized in Europe, USA, and certain south East Asian countries. The handloom industry would do well to participate in these fairs-where business is done on the spot.
This will also help the participants/visitors to know the needs and wants of the customers in these countries.

14. Government should make mass advertisement through T.V., Radio, Films, Magazines to encourage the people to purchase handloom products. In order to improve the competitiveness of the handlooms, steps should be taken for modernisation of looms, for supply of yarn to the weavers for production of value added items on handlooms by using blended and mixed fibre and for removing the cost handicap of handlooms vis-a-vis powerlooms by bringing about suitable fiscal measures.

15. In order to boost export, the handloom technology should be upgraded and product should be developed to suit market requirements with regards to excellence and price. The looms should be modified and upgraded with the new gadgets and accessories which could improve the quality of products and make the entire process more efficient and profitable. It is also necessary that the weavers should be given training in the use of modern accessories and its maintenance and in design inputs with the use of handloom dobbly.

16. A wide range of products, covering garments, Bed sheets, chaddars, home textiles, decorative, furniture fabrics, wall hangings, curtains, carpet, ready made garments etc. should be produced on handlooms and should be exported. As export is a high risk and time bound business, this should be done with proper planning. Various central Government organization dealing with exports such as Handloom Export Promotion Council [HEPC], Handloom and Handicraft Export Corporation [HHEC], weavers service centers, Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, Indian Silk Export Promotion
Council [ISEPC], Central Cottage Industries Corporation, National Institute of Fashion Technology [NIFT] and National Institute of Design [NID] etc. should take an active part and assist the exporters and societies for production of fabrics, in view of their experiences of dealing with these products in different countries.

17. The school authorities and government should use handloom cloth for school uniform, police uniform, military uniform, peons uniforms. So that handloom weavers be benefited.

10.2 C) **Suggestions Regarding Finance**:

1. For effective successful implementation of modernisation proposal and technological upgradation, it is necessary that suitable and adequate financial assistance should be extended to the weavers in consultation with the Director Handloom. The state government should give financial assistance to the weavers in co-operative fold for modernisation scheme. As far as the weavers outside the co-operative fold are concerned, it is suggested to extend financial assistance. Through Maharashtra State Handloom Development Corporation.

2. As the poverty of the weavers (Padmashali Workers) was primary, that is, due to inadequate incomes, our first concern should, therefore, be to increase the wages of weaver members of co-operative, which formed the only source of their family income. To reach the minimum standard, wages should be increased by 50% or more through the proper agency.

3. The main need of co-operatives is credit for production, which is channelled through the Directorate of Handlooms by NABARD but the political power of bogus co-operatives corner a large share of credit. NABARD, which is well aware of the problem in the existing
set-up, should develop an alternative framework through which the really working co-operatives can have access to credit for their working capital needs.

4. In the place of rebate scheme, it may be considered that an alternative scheme of providing subsidy towards managerial expenditure, compensating the loss due to lower profit.

5. Due to financial constraints, the weavers are not in a position to purchase fly-shuttle looms or other improved accessories out of their own resources, therefore, it is suggested that, the supply of improved looms and accessories should be undertaken by the government agency.

6. It is suggested that a separate State Handloom Finance Corporation be set-up as an institutional financing body that may be known as "Maharashtra State Handloom Finance Corporation" for the purpose of providing adequate finance on the reasonable terms at the right time to the handloom weavers of both co-operative and non-co-operative sector in the state.

7. There should be provision of cheap and adequate finance. Because Capital is required a) for purchasing the equipments, b) for purchasing the raw materials and c) for holding the finished articles until they are demanded.

8. To solve the problem of working capital "Co-operative Bank" of the primary handloom weavers co-operative societies of Solapur District should be established to look into the working capital needs of their industry.

9. Availability of credit is important criterion for export of handloom products. The existing procedure of giving loan to co-operative societies from the co-operative banks under the NABARD refinance
scheme is required to be simplified. Sanction and disbursal of loan should be made easier and simpler, so that the societies can get loan within three days of applying. Availability of credit in time rather than the rate of interest is of critical importance in Export. This should be looked into properly.

10. To avoid delay in sanctioning the credit limits, primary society may directly forward the loan applications to the concerned co-operative Central Banks with a copy to the Assistant Director for his independent recommendations.

11. The weavers representative should be appointed in every District Central Co-operative Bank and spinning mill as a Director so that the weavers interest can protected.

12. The weavers who are not in a co-operative fold, find difficulty in obtaining credit. It is therefore, necessary that the credit requirements of such weavers should be provided by the Nationalised Banks at the lower rate of interest.

13. The 'Textile Development Fund' should provide a loan on long term to the weavers which should be in form of a bridge loan. The loan should be either interest free or should have a subsidy to match the interest payment.

14. Rehabilitation fund with government contribution should be set-up to safeguard weavers interest.

15. Government should increase the subsidy on controlled cloth, which is produced by the weavers co-operative societies so as to make it economically viable.

10.2.D) **Suggestions Regarding Co-operatives:**

1. The societies are being advised to give stress on new design and market cloth on "Low margin and High turnover" approach.
Simultaneously, an awareness campaign should be launched to make the weavers aware of the importance to quality and motivate them to produce defect-free cloth with new design and colour.

2. Co-operatives should remain the major institutions in a decentralised activity for protecting the workers. They can ensure a better level of wages which also forces the traders to increase the wages that they pay to the artisans. It is also suggested that, the co-operatives should function as autonomous economic enterprises so that they can compete in the market.

3. The government, which has enveloped the co-operatives under its protective mantle, has been gradually withdrawing from marketing. But various other restrictions on the co-operatives continue which prevent them from becoming independent and viable. It is recommended to set the co-operatives free so that they can become competitive.

4. It is suggested that the only way that co-operatives will survive is, if they are freed from government regulations and control to manage their own affairs and prove that they can compete in the market.

5. It is suggested to create gradually an atmosphere in which co-operatives begin to function as independent successful enterprises. This requires an institutional framework by which co-operatives have access to credit, inputs and markets because of their own performance.

6. The government should, however, extend to the co-operatives the same support that other enterprises receive. Co-operatives should have access to institutional credit, on the same footing as any other economic activity. For long term survival, the co-operatives must become the "effective alliance" of the interests of the rich and small
weavers, which Attwood has set down as the necessary pre-condition for their success.

7. Many master weavers who have taken control over co-operatives have made the societies financially sick by misappropriating their funds, they also export the weavers by giving lower wages, inspite of having a higher profit margin. For both these problems, the solution is the emergence of stronger co-operatives.

8. Many handlooms and some primary weaver's co-operatives are defunct in Solapur. Therefore, to make the Primary Weaver's Co-operative more viable and to provide the benefit of services to the poor weaver-members, the Central Weavers society i.e. WEMCOTEX is required to be strengthened. This federation is to take bigger responsibilities towards the provision of necessary inputs, and arrangement of marketing to the Primary Weaver's Co-operatives.

9. There should be proper census of handloom figures and proper record of loomage of which working and dormant. The average productivity of loom should be fixed and proper numbering should be given to each loom.

10. Prizes and Awards should be given by the State Government and Central Government to the ideal and efficient co-operative society.

10.2.E) Suggestions regarding Production:

1. State Government should set-up processing houses for handloom products.

2. There should be complete ban on the production of coloured sarees, lungies and dhoties by powerlooms and mill sector. It should be reserved for handloom industry.
3. The state government should set-up the "Institute of Handloom Technology" and "Design Centers" in Solapur to improve to the quality of handloom cloth.

4. Model 'dye houses' and mercerising plants should be set up at the suitable centers of Solapur.

5. The weavers should be provided advanced looms with modern accessories and other equipments.

6. The Central Government has cancelled the "Janata Saree" and "Dhoti" scheme in 1977. The condition of handloom weavers has gone from bad to worse. It is suggested that, the handloom weavers should produce 'Bandage Cloth' on their looms. At present, there is an urgent need of using the Bandage cloth and replacing Janata cloth. Each handloom can produce '9' meter of cloth on an average. It means that there is no problem to produce 17 to 18 meter bandage cloth on each loom. Thus, there will be tremendous development of the handloom industry in Solapur and Maharashtra. The same Bandage cloth may be used in the Government Hospitals, hospitals granted by the government, municipal hospitals, zilla parishad hospitals, semi-government hospitals. In this way, if the Bandage cloth is provided at the government rates to various hospitals, there will be a golden opportunity for the semi-skilled workers as well as the workers above 60 years age. The Government can provide jobs for them in the form of "Bandage Cloth Scheme" The jobless weavers may be employed. At present the state government is importing "Bandage Cloth" from other regions.

7. The entire production of controlled cloth should be transferred to the handloom sector. This shift would provide continuos employment to a large number of weavers even who do not posses high skill.
8. Handloom cannot survive only on Government subsidies. If we really want to put this handloom sector engaged in export production on sound footing, we have to naturally ensure technical improvement or technological upgradation.

9. If the handlooms of India want to remain in real business and withstand the competition from organised mill sector and decentralised powerloom sector. They should compete in the export market on the relative strength of their design features, quality and cost. Modern technology or technological upgradation is concerned with all these.

10. Product diversification in favour of superior quality fabrics is desirable for enhancing the earnings of the weavers and for their survival.

11. Scope for upward revision of price rate wages in the industry is limited. However, there is need and scope for rationalisation of piece rates of wages to remove the existing anomaly in the prevailing wage system.

12. To improve the level of earnings to the households engaged in cotton hand-weaving activity, the weavers engaged in producing ordinary clothes should either switch over to weaving of quality fabrics or increase production to enhance their earnings through low piece rates of wages.

13. Introduction of superior technology is vital for survival of the weaver. Hence, handlooms should be converted into powerlooms on a selective basis at the household level, but in co-operative fold, on a selective basis and in a phased manner. If the technological changeover is brought about on the lines, as it has been suggested in
the study, the argument of technological unemployment as consequence of such a measure loses much of its validity.

14. Handlooms, especially the throw shuttle ones engaged in weaving quality fabrics with intricate designs, should be left out of the conversion scheme. Meanwhile no new handlooms should be installed.

15. The manufacturing of handloom cloth needs a separate work place. But it is found that, in many places, the workplace is attached to the residence of the weavers. It is suggested that the workplace should not be attached with the residence of the weavers, there should be a separate work-place.

16. The technology in the handloom industry in Solapur has not witnessed any significant change in the recent past. The throw-shuttle and fly-shuttle looms are widely used. Consequently labour productivity in the industry is very low. There is an urgent need for introduction of superior technology in the industry. Some improved appliances should be introduced to reduce drudgery in the process of production.

17. The pre-loom processes, namely dyeing, bleaching, sizing, degaussing, winding, warping etc. and the post-loom processes namely, finishing, shrinkage, printing, sizing, calendering etc. which are the best requirements for the handloom industry, are carried out cumbersome way in Solapur. The weavers shall therefore have to be provided with all these pre and post loom facilities under co-operative sector to place the industry on the right track. This should be done through primary co-operative societies as a centrally sponsored sector scheme. The state government should establish processing and dyeing unit in Solapur.
18. There should be separate 'warping and sizing establishment in Solapur by the government.'

19. There is need of improvement in the present equipments of weaving establishment. In Solapur the use of fly-shuttle has become universal. In handling the warps, the threads are frequently broken. Improvement is necessary, in the arrangement of a warp beam.

20. There is an urgent need to modernise the handloom industry to improve the quality of handloom cloth. At present the efficiency of handloom is definitely not up to required quality standards.

21. It is suggested to improve the productivity of handlooms which demanded technological innovation and production of high value items. This would ensure greater returns to the weaver and retain talent in the handloom sector. It is also suggested a time bound package on technological improvements and introduction of training to the handloom concentrated pockets immediately.

22. It is suggested to set up a handloom R & D (Research and Development) center at Solapur and establish techno-economic and production centers at Solapur.

10.2.F) General Suggestions:

1. Weaver's Service Center and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology should be established in Solapur for imparting better weaving techniques and designs.

2. Government should implement various welfare schemes for improving the conditions of the weavers like health scheme, housing scheme, thrift and group insurance scheme, workshed scheme, thrift-cum-savings scheme, free education scheme etc. All these schemes are on paper but they are not implemented by the state government.
3. There are many schemes for the weavers, the main drawback of this multiplicity of schemes is that they are all devised by the Central Government and implemented by State Government. State Government should make an evaluation of the suggested schemes with reference to regional specifications or requirements and implement those which have the highest potential to benefit the handloom sector in the region.

4. Schemes to provide better infrastructure in the co-operatives (Like warping machines, dye units, warehouse and showroom), which will help them to internalise many functions, would perhaps be the best choice. They will then become self-financing, since the services provided will be paid for by the weavers. This also has the advantage of requiring a single dose of finance rather than a programme which requires funding every year.

5. It is suggested that the welfare scheme for handloom weavers like housing scheme and provident fund scheme should be implemented at the earliest. The house of weaver should not be merely a dwelling place but also a work place.

6. It is recognized that the handloom industry has to more to a higher technique as the entire economy begins to expand at a more rapid rate, the planned process of rehabilitation of weavers must start now. The weavers should be given modern technical and general education to increase their efficiency and educational facilities should also be given to the children of weavers.

7. There is need for correct statistics. No comprehensive survey of the handloom industry was undertaken by the state government after 1980. The figures supplied by the state government were almost the
repetition of the old figures with minor adjustments made here and there. There should be exact figures of different types of handlooms.

8. There is an urgent need of liquidating the ignorance and illiteracy of Padmashali workers. The entire female population was illiterate.

9. If food and milk free of charge could be provided to the children of weavers during school hours, their feeding problem would be partially solved for parents. Besides food, the health of children must be looked after by the Municipal Corporation by giving them free nursing and medical aid.

10. The state government should implement and establish "Gharkul Scheme" for the handloom, weavers, as this scheme is implemented for "Bidi Workers" in Solapur.

11. Padmashali workers drink toddy not because of its exhilarating quality but because of habits. Therefore, to divert them, it is suggested that, more recreation centres should be started in worker's localities.

12. Handloom service centre should be opened in Solapur.

13. To faster healthy development and eliminate unhealthy competition and clandestine trade between the chaddar manufactured on handloom (with reservation of chaddar for handlooms) and powerloom sector, a clear cut policy of reservation of varieties should be made and all the prevailing confusions must be clear.

14. It is suggested that all major handloom concentrated states should set up separate departments of handlooms. State handloom co-operatives and apex societies should be revitalised by providing suitable rehabilitation package.
15. In a bid to encourage handloom sector, all state governments should consider exempting hank yarn and handloom products from any tax, including sales tax, entry and octroi.

16. The focus should be to provide improved earnings to the weavers. This could be achieved through intensive human resources development, substantially enhanced and easy availability of credit to weavers, improved availability of yarn of requisite counts at reasonable and stable prices, continuing design and technical development, comprehensive marketing support and promotion of welfare measures.

17. The State Government earmark some amount for enabling the medical team to investigate the survey the diseases to which the weavers are susceptible and to suggest the remedial measures that may have to be taken from becoming a prey to such diseases.

18. Regular training should be imparted to handloom weavers in operating improved type of looms and to switch-over to the production of varieties depending upon the tastes of customers.

19. India is the largest producer of jute, with a whopping 40% global share. Jute is the promising fibre for handlooms. Jute is gaining grounds in all sectors. Use of jute and jute blended yarn promises to usher in a new era for handlooms. Efforts should be made to diversify the range of jute products to various textile products. The Indian handloom weavers have extraordinary skill, so they require less training to use jute yarn in their looms. Prices of cotton yarn are very high but jute is a promising fibre for handloom which is abundantly available in the country at cheaper price.

20. The 'Representative' of the weaver should be nominated as a 'Vidhan Parishad Member' by the governor, so that the problems of the
weavers may be brought to the notice of the government for solution.

21. For the all round development of the Maharashtra State, the government has established several financial development corporations viz. Maulana Azad, Anna Saheb patil, Mahatma Phule Financial Development Corporations. Through these corporations government has provided solid financial support for the various communities. Following the same pattern, it is suggested to established the 'Weavers Financial Development Corporation' for the economic upliftment of the handloom weavers specially in Solapur.

22. For canvassing and publicity of handloom cloth among the public, the Municipal Corporation should exempt "Octroi" on handloom and should not impose income tax, sales tax and other taxes.

23. Residences should be provided to the weavers according to the Prime Minister House Scheme.

24. A handful 'Master Weavers' have been certainly benefited by the schemes which were meant for the weavers members of the co-operative societies. To stop the exploitation of handloom weavers at the hand of Master Weavers (so called leaders of society runners); Government should uproot the master weavers from the membership of co-operative society by taking possession of their common work sheds and handover them to deserving weavers. The entry of such evil social forces should be stopped.

25. It is frequently observed that a single master weaver and his family members have retained the membership of different co-operative societies to overpower several organisations. Therefore, it is suggested that, Government of Maharashtra should check the
membership and cancel the bogus membership and also cancel the registration of bogus co-operative societies at the earliest.

26. Some rich manufacturers and evil social forces or so called leaders of a weavers community, have taken undue advantage of the available facilities on the various schemes specially in rebate period. It clearly shows that the societies are being established simply to reap the benefits from the government. Strangely enough the number of societies is increasing day by day even though the number of handlooms and production of cloth is decreasing. Government should stop such mal-practices.

27. For the welfare of the weavers social security schemes and other schemes should be started by the government like Provident Fund, Pension, Savings Schemes, Insurance, Training, Bonus, Good Living accommodations, good working conditions, sick leave, medical allowances, free health services etc.

28. There are over 15 crore unemployed youths in the country today, half of them are educated and skilled. Unemployment is the root cause of all terrorist and separatist activities. And Handlooms industry has a huge potential to provide employment on a large scale, young generation should be drawn back to handloom industry.
10.3 **SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

The study attempts within its limited scope to present an integrated and comprehensive analysis of the handloom industry in Solapur. In fact, the present study is the first of its kind for Solapur. Just one study cannot be sufficient to fill all the gaps in our knowledge about the industry which had a glorious past. Justice will be done to it, only when if further research to examine its dimensions is carried on. The present work hints at the fields that require further indepth treatment. For example, although Khadi Industry is an integral part of the handloom industry, it has yet its own distinct features and problems.

Hence, Khadi industry in Solapur demands a separate full scale study for itself. Similarly silk hand-weaving requires special indepth treatment. In the same way, the essence of traditional handloom fabrics can be intelligently transfused into the fabrics made out of jute and blended yarns to have better export opportunities because of novelty of the yarn, cheaper cost, abundant availability etc. Jute is a promising fibre for handlooms. Jute is gaining ground in all the sector. There is an ample scope to diversify the range of the jute products to various handloom products like Shabnam bags, durries, blankets, apparels and decorative wall hangings etc. This is another important subject awaiting research indepth. In fact, each and every aspect of the industry covered in the present study. May provide basis for further research. In conclusion, the handloom industry in Solapur awaits further research in many of its dimensions.