

## **IMPACT OF THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY ON THE ECONOMY OF NADIA DISTRICT**

The district's economy may be viewed in the perspective of the economy of the state first. Then the discussion would be extended to the district level.

### ***11.01 Economy of West Bengal***

The economy of West Bengal has gone through major periods of turmoil since independence. Considering the strong social and cultural heritage of the state, and also its status during the British rule, it can be commented that West Bengal has not done justice to its own potential.

The economic crisis in advanced countries caused economic slowdown in developing countries as well and India was no exception. This also affected the state economies but inspite of that, West Bengal was able to maintain a moderate growth in the economy in the last few years. The annual growth in Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), the most widely used indicator for assessment of a state's economic performance, at constant 1999-00 prices from 2002-2009 is mentioned below in Table 24:

**Table 24: Annual Growth in NSDP in West Bengal at Constant 1999-00 Prices in %**

<b>Sectors</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
Primary	-2.30	3.42	2.08	2.11	4.40	4.97	-1.06
Secondary	10.07	9.02	10.05	12.74	15.33	13.27	8.65
Tertiary	5.18	5.41	7.87	8.65	8.90	9.30	8.94

*Source:* Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Government of West Bengal.

From the above table it can be seen that the growth in the secondary sector was phenomenal particularly in the financial year 2006-07 and was 15.33%. This was also accompanied by a vibrant growth in the tertiary sector, which has been also an important

contributor in the state's economy in recent years. The downward trend in the growth rate of NSDP in 2008-09 can mainly be attributed to a fall in the rate of crop production especially in the production of potato affected by "late blight". The kharif crop during the entire season was badly hit by erratic weather conditions, while the summer vegetables and jute was adversely affected by heavy early monsoon downpour. There were also severe cyclonic storms during the late monsoon phase. All these resulted in the poor performance of the primary sector in 2008-09.

The yearwise percentage share of different sectors in total NSDP at Constant 1999-00 Prices for some years is given below in Table 25:

**Table 25: % Share of Different Sectors in Total NSDP at Constant 1999-00 Prices**

Sectors	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Primary	31.64	32.01	30.22	29.66	28.43	27.01	25.92	24.70	22.96
Secondary	14.82	14.62	15.55	16.09	16.63	17.44	18.49	17.17	17.53
Tertiary	53.54	53.37	54.23	54.25	54.94	55.55	55.59	58.13	59.51

*Source:* Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Government of West Bengal.

Thus it can be seen that with time, there was a gradual drop in the contribution of the **primary sector**, while the other two sectors gained importance.

The policy of the state government to strengthen the **secondary sector** at the backdrop of farm and balanced growth of the agricultural sector was successful, although there was a slightly downward movement in the manufacturing sector in 2007-09. The industrial policy of West Bengal was focused on faster and balanced economic development with active cooperation from the private sector and appropriate usage of foreign technology and investment. In terms of value- addition, the leading industries in West Bengal are basic metals, chemicals and textiles. However, though the relative importance of chemicals grew in the last two decades, the share of textiles and basic metals declined considerably during the same period. Special Economic Zones have been recognized as important mechanisms for trade and investment promotion, infrastructure creation, employment generation, promotion of regional development, improvement in export competitiveness, skill and technology transfer and earning of foreign exchange.

The activities related to the **tertiary sector** have been growing steadily during the period 2002-09. Important contributors in this sector include producer services, real estate, ownership of dwellings and business service sectors.

The economy of West Bengal has been undergoing a substantial structural change in favour of non-farm activities since the early 1990's. The Government of West Bengal has its own proposals for an alternate economic policy in the vital issues of industrial development like rehabilitation of sick mills, generation of employment opportunities, and protection of legitimate interest of the labourers. The state government has framed specific policies for small and medium enterprises viz. price preference in purchase, product distribution, payment exemption and credit support. The **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Act, 2006**, has the objective of promoting, developing and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium industries. After introduction of this act, 7044 units have been set up with employment generation of 39574 persons and Rs. 674.63 crores have been invested in these units in 2007-08. The government is actively promoting micro and small industries in areas of handicrafts, handlooms, textiles, sericulture, khadi and village industries, which also produce important export items. There are many traditional and non-traditional clusters in MSME sectors of the state. The preliminary report on the fourth MSME Census, 2008 reveals the following statistics in respect of West Bengal. ( Table 26 )

**Table 26: Major Findings of Fourth MSME Census, 2008**

% of closed MSMEs	15.08
% of units managed by women entrepreneurs	4.65
% of units owned by S. C. Population	10.08
% of units owned by S. T. Population	0.91
% of units owned by O.B. C. Population	10.41
% of units owned by General Category Population	58.87

*Source:* Department of MSMEs and Textiles, Government of West Bengal.

Though many of the **MSMEs** are organized under cooperative and other similar societies, yet a large number are unorganized, especially those located in the rural areas. However, the unorganized sector also contributes significantly in the production process. These units do not have proper state patronage, but still many of their products are given coverage under the “reserved category” that acts as hedge against competition from large manufacturers. According to NSS, in 2007, this sector accounts for an employment of 270.89 lakh workers. Important industries in the MSME sector include:

- a. **Khadi and Village Industries** act as an essential tool for generating employment and uplifting socio-economic status of the rural people. The major activities of this section of industry includes pottery making, weaving, tailoring, food processing, making leather products and mats, bamboo works etc. Women participation is very good in this sector though most of the units are unregistered.
- b. The industries related to **Leather, Jute and Jute-diversified products** are performing well in terms of capturing both the domestic and foreign markets.
- c. About 5 lakh artisans are engaged in producing almost 200 different varieties of **handicrafts** in the state which include different stitching items, block and hand printing saris and dress materials, silver, brass, leather, jute, bamboo, cane, coconut shell and conch shell products, art textiles, clay pottery etc. These products are mostly sold in domestic market although they have high export values. Different governmental and non-governmental organizations manage the production and sale of the products and also safeguard the interests of the artisans. Fairs are also arranged in this regard where the artisans participate and sell their products directly.
- d. The **handloom industry** is one of the major cottage industries of the state. There are more than 3.5 lakh handlooms in the state providing part time and full time employment opportunities to about 7 lakh weavers. The strategy of the government of forming cooperatives and implementing different production based and welfare schemes are benefiting the weavers and improving the production status of the sector substantially. The Handloom Cluster Development Programme facilitates the sustainable development of the handloom weavers mainly inside the identified clusters. There are also more than 10,000 **powerloom** units under 40 cooperatives, 17900 **hosiery** units and more than 20,000 **readymade garment** units in the state.

### ***11.02 Economy of Nadia District:***

The per capita district income in Nadia has always been lower than that of the state and in recent years, the gap between the two has widened. While the average growth rate in per capita income in the district is 4.6% per year, it is 5.4% for West Bengal as a whole in the period of 1997-98 to 2006-07. This is expected as the economy of Nadia is primarily dependent on agriculture and there is limited range of modern sector activities in the district in comparison with several other districts and of course with Kolkata.

#### ***Agriculture:***

***Agriculture*** is the main economic activity in the district, accounting for 33.51% of the net district domestic product. New alluvium and plenty of underground water have enhanced agriculture in Nadia. The economic development of Nadia is accentuated by cultivation of seasonal field crops. Nearly all the important crops have a profitable growth here because the farmers are progressive enough to adopt new technologies and scientific methods to stimulate the agricultural prosperity, thereby inducing the agricultural development.

The cropping pattern is well balanced with 290.74 thousand hectares of net sown area (in 2009-10) and a moderately good yield per hectare. Nakashipara block has the highest area of land under cultivation (23052 hectares) followed by Chakdaha (22415 hectares) and Chapra (21372 hectares). Similarly, Nabadwip block has the lowest area under cultivation (8174 hectares). However the conversion of the agricultural land for construction for residential and other purposes in recent years is hazardous to the economy of Nadia.

For a long time Nadia has been an important exporter of food grains to the neighbouring districts. Rice is the main crop and all the three types, Aus, Aman and Boro, are cultivated. Other crops cultivated are wheat, oilseeds, pulses, jute and sugarcane. The production pattern in recent years is given in Table 27. Vegetable production plays an important role in supporting the financial system of Nadia and a large portion of the production is exported. The district is also very rich in horticultural crops. The main products are banana, mango, guava, coconut and other citrus fruits. Floriculture activity has flourished in this district in recent years. The jute production of the district received a huge setback after the partition of Bengal. However, serious efforts from the government in recent times have improved the situation to a considerable extent and the production of jute has increased in the recent years.

**Table 27: Production of Principal Crops in the District of Nadia, 2006-10**  
(in thousand tonnes)

Crops	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
<b>Foodgrains :</b>				
1. Rice	677.7	683.0	799.5	664.9
Aus	93.4	102.3	132.7	99.5
Aman	232.2	223.5	301.0	242.5
Boro	352.1	357.2	365.8	322.9
2. Wheat	102.6	110.6	84.3	94.8
3. Barley	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3
4. Maize	10.4	7.2	6.6	8.5
5. Gram	2.6	3.6	3.1	3.6
6. Other Pulses	25.7	25.2	24.2	28.7
<b>Oil Seeds :</b>				
1. Rapeseed & Mustard	69.1	68.1	51.8	69.6
2. Linseed	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4
3. Other Oil seeds	33.4	34.6	33.6	34.5
<b>Fibres :</b>				
1. Jute	1887.0	1762.2	1780.1	2047.9
2. Mesta	1.0	2.3	3.7	1.8
<b>Miscellaneous crops :</b>				
1. Sugarcane	77.4	270.0	219.8	87.2
2. Potato	120.2	114.2	85.2	153.6
3. Chilly (dry)	6.2	11.2	11.0	11.0
4. Ginger	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4

*Source:* Directorate of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal.

Although significant exploitation of water resources has already been made in the district, there still remain exploitable water resources, both surface and ground. Irrigation

system covers about 80% of the net sown area and has made remarkable progress in recent years. The landform of the district does not support creation of surface water reservoirs.

The food crops, along with the cash crops, fruits and vegetables, serve the local economy of Nadia significantly. The agricultural activities of the district provide part and full time employment opportunities to 54.92% of the total working population of Nadia (as per census, 2011). In recent years the Government has become operative to handle the situation of marketing of the agricultural products. The co- operative markets set up by the state government initiate the effective marketing of the surplus production after their proper utilization.

### ***Industries:***

Lack of important minerals and efficient infrastructure hinders the growth of traditional mineral-based heavy industries in Nadia. Industrial activities are concentrated in the central and southern part of the district, accounting for only 12.07 % of the net district domestic product, while the northern part, in general, specializes in agricultural production.

The ***large and medium scale industries*** in the district are mainly located in centres like Kalyani and Gayeshpur area which include production of chemicals, ferro-alloys, steel, medicines, ayurvedic products, beverages, electrical equipment etc.

There is only one ***Industrial Estate*** in the district and it is located at Kalyani. 52 industrial units have so far been accommodated in the Industrial Estate and they play a very important role in the promotion and development of industries. Therefore the setting up of more Industrial Estates in the district is imperative for improvement of the industrial scenario of the district.

Nadia has moderate concentration of ***small scale industries*** which are involved with food and beverage, tobacco products, cotton, silk and woolen textiles, wood products, chemicals and plastics products, repair services etc. The district has a strong agricultural production base and there is ample scope for the development of ***agro-based industries***. At present there are more than five hundred agro-based industries in the district, many of which are permanently registered with the Directorate of Cottage and Small Scale Industries. Important agro-based industries in the district at present include husking mill, rice mill, oil ghani, wheat grinding, bakery, making of jam, jelly, pickles, papad etc. The Government of West Bengal has announced additional subsidy / incentives for the agro-based industries. The

District Industries Centre has been organising awareness campaigns among the prospective entrepreneurs for setting up of more agro-based industries in the district. Efforts are on to find out suitable entrepreneurs interested in establishing multipurpose cold storages and oil mills with the assistance from the financial institutions. Apart from these, other small scale industries like tarpaulin, making of pipes and tubes, colour concentrates and yarn dyeing form important industries in the district. The metal works of Nadia are well known throughout the state and produce different metal products which offer export opportunities.

The temporal pattern of the number of small scale industrial units and the related employment pattern are provided in Table 28. It can be seen that the MSME Development Act, 2006 has provided a strong impetus to the development of the small scale industrial units in the district after the implementation of the act. Till April, 2006, there were 16547 units but the number leaped forward since then. However in the period 2009-10, the number of new units registered declined. This may be due to improper policy implementation by the state or disturbance in the industrial environment of the district in the mentioned period. However, the employment generation in this section increased steadily with time.

**Table 28: Number of Small Scale Industrial Units Registered with the Directorate of Cottage and Small Scale Industries, Nadia District**

Year	Units Registered		Employment Generated	
	During the Year	Upto the Year	During the Year	Upto the Year
2006-07	390	390	3137	3137
2007-08	244	634	2575	5712
2008-09	397	1031	3441	9153
2009-10	367	1398	4503	13656

*Source:* District Statistical Handbook, Nadia, 2011

The small scale industrial units are mostly concentrated in areas like Kalyani, Haringhata, Krishnanagar and Gayeshpur and provide employment to a substantial number of people in the district.

The *Khadi and the Village Industries (KVI)* serves as a major source of employment in the rural areas to relieve the extreme pressure on land for agriculture. The State KVI Board provides financial assistance to the industries which are involved in the production of pottery, match and agarbatti, cane, bamboo and leather products etc. The number of production units assisted and the amount granted by the KVI Board is mentioned in Table 29:

**Table 29: Financial Assistance provided by KVI Board**

Year	Number of Units	Amount (in lakh rupees)
2006-07	164	19.39
2007-08	197	66.58
2008-09	183	59.24

*Source:* KVI Board, Nadia

It can be seen that the number of units assisted increased from 164 in 2006-07 to 183 in 2008-09 while there was also a leap in the amount of financial assistance during the mentioned period from 19.39 lakhs to 59.24 lakhs.

There are traditional artisans who are engaged in *cottage and village industries* such as handloom, brass and bell-metal pottery, clay model etc. The handloom and the pottery and clay model industries are extremely localized in nature due to their dependence on traditional skilled workers. The clay doll making of Krishnanagar occupies the foremost position among the *handicraft items*. It has a very high repute and is well known all over the country. Area-wise concentration of handicraft items is given below in Table 30.

**Table 30: Pattern of Concentration of Handicraft Products in Nadia.**

Items	Place of Concentration	Number of Families Engaged (Approx.)
Clay dolls and sculpture	Ghurni, Santipur, Nabadwip and Chakdaha	39
Terracota products	Krishnanagar	11
Cane and bamboo furniture	Krishnanagar, Ranaghat	10
Wood carving	Krishnanagar	7
Jute diversified products	Krishnanagar, Kalyani	15
Brass and bell metal products	Nabadwip, Matiari	23

*Source:* DIC, Nadia, 2011

**Handloom industry** still occupies a predominant position in the industrial scenario of Nadia district. The major concentrations of handloom weavers are in Santipur, Nabadwip, Krishnanagar I and II and Ranaghat I. There are more than one lakh looms operating in the district providing employment to about two lakh people in the weaving and associated sectors of this industry. Only about 15% of the weavers are under the cooperative fold. The region's handloom industry has an age old tradition and holds a special place in Nadia's economy. For the benefit and development of the industry, the district handloom office is putting its best efforts to provide finance through NABARD and Nadia District Central Cooperative Bank Limited (NDCC), along with implementation of various welfare schemes, as already discussed in Chapter 9. The products of the industry are not only sold in local and national markets but also through government showrooms viz. Tantuja, Tantushree and Manjusha. The handloom products of the district have good reputation and in recent years, product diversification in the handloom industry has opened new avenues for their export in international markets.

**Tourism Industry** in Nadia holds a special place and contributes significantly in the district's economy. Nadia is one of the ancient Sanskrit learning centres and contributes significantly to the religious and cultural history of the state. Ancient temples, mosques, historic forts and magnificent handicrafts make Nadia district a great tourist destination. Nadia has gained as a tourist destination from the advent of Bhakti movement and Sri Chaitanya. **Nabadwip** is the birthplace of the great social reformer and founder of the Vaishnav religion, Sri Chaitanya Dev Mahaprabhu. This temple town is a major attraction for devotees and tourist. It is the seat of the Vaishnav Culture. **Mayapur** is claimed by some as the actual birthplace of Sri Chaitanya. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple complex is a major crowd puller and an international tourist destination. **Santipur** was once an important centre of Sanskrit learning and today the town is also famous for its exquisite saris. Its temples, built in the traditional "atchala" style are worth visiting and offer excellent examples of the beautiful terracotta style that was once prevalent in Nadia. **Krishnanagar**, following the name of Raja Krishna Chandra Ray, is a historic city with several places of tourist interests. The Rajbari of Krishna Chandra in the city, with its collections of rare antiques and exquisite wall decorations is the principal attraction. It is also famous for wonderful clay models. In a locality of Krishnanagar, called **Ghurni**, there is a colony of artists who work with clay. These artists produce images of Hindu gods and goddesses for traditional worship throughout the year, as well as clay models of human

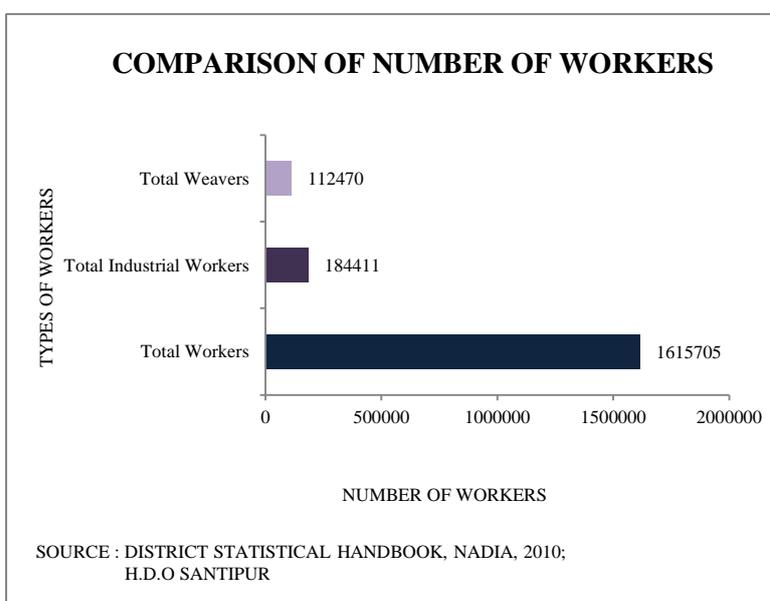
figures and real life objects. **Plassay** is famous for historic battle fought in the year of 1757 between the last Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-doullah and British forces commandeered by Robert Clive. The Ras Utsav of Santipur and Jagadhatri Puja of Krishnanagar also draw tourists from far off places.

### ***11.03 Impact of the Handloom Industry on the Economy of Nadia District:***

Handloom is a traditional activity of the district and the most renowned of all the industries in Nadia. This industry, with its environment friendly production trend, requirement of low capital input, demand for human skill and manual labour is extremely suitable for densely populated developing countries and thus, the economy of Nadia District of West Bengal is immensely dependent on this industry. The impacts of the handloom industry on the economy of the district are as follows:

#### **➤ *Employment Generation:***

Though the economy of Nadia is immensely dependent on its agricultural resources, the handloom sector provides employment sources to a large number of people. Infact, the handloom industry accounts for 60.99% of the total industrial workers of the district and for



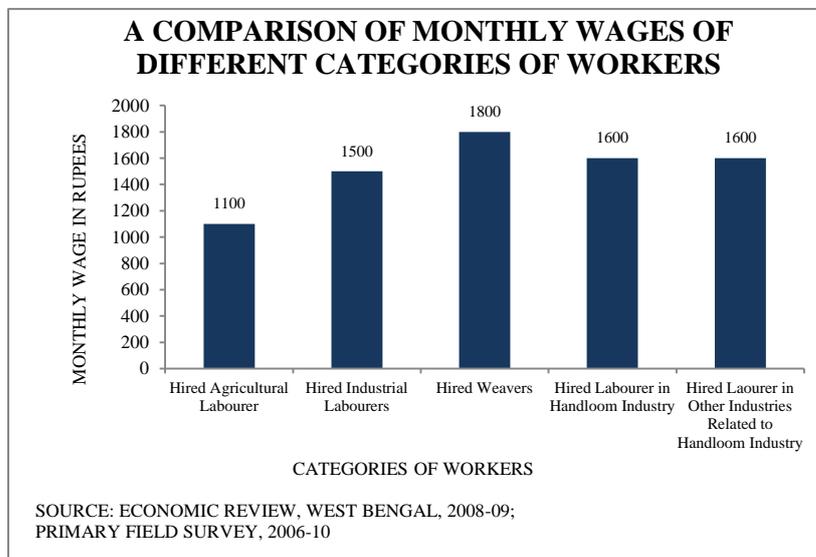
**Fig. 49**

6.96% of the total workers of the district. (Fig. 49). The handloom industry also reduces the disparity in the male-female work participation rate by providing part-time and full-time employment opportunities to a large number of women who are engaged in the preparatory activities for making handloom products. However, there is a substantial difference in the income

between the male and the female. It is also noticed that the women rarely hold the status of master weavers or owners of the production units, though they are actively involved in the weaving process. The labour intensive trend of the handloom industry is also suitable for a district like Nadia with dense population and high incidence of poverty and unemployment. Many of the hired labourers, who remain unemployed in the agricultural sector for some months in the year, engage themselves in the preparatory works of handloom production during those months.

➤ **Income Generation:**

Though the handloom sector provides only a meager living to the associated weavers, still their monthly income is better than the hired labourers in the agricultural sector of the region (Fig. 50). Infact, the average monthly income of a hired weaver is also better than the



hired labourer in the other industrial sector of the district. The associated industries related to the handlooms also offer a better monthly income opportunity to the population than the agricultural sector. Although the industry generally demands

skilled labour for weaving purposes, the preparatory works and ancillary industries absorb semi-skilled or unskilled labourers, who otherwise remain jobless or create disguised unemployment in the oversaturated agricultural sector. The nature of engagement in the handloom sector provides job security for a longer period than the agricultural sector.

➤ ***Necessitating Low Capital Input and Large Number of Manual Labour***

The handloom industry is an environment friendly industry which requires low capital input and simple setup in the workshop to carry on the production process. It is thus quite suitable for areas where people, in general, do not have huge capital to start off with the business. The industry thus encourages the skill of entrepreneurship present among the people which would otherwise be lost in the dearth of capital required to start off with a large scale business. Though the presence of mahajans is still very prominent, yet, many of the weavers have been successful to come out of the mahajani grip and start off their own production unit.

The handloom industry is labour intensive and absorbs a large labour force of the region. The industry also supports age old tradition and skill that attach uniqueness to the handloom products. Though the weaving process in particular demands a lot of skill and trained labour, the preparatory processes and the ancillary industries of the handloom sector can be run with semi skilled labour. Infact, the techniques of the other aspects of production, besides weaving, are so simple that people can easily be trained in a short period for the purpose.

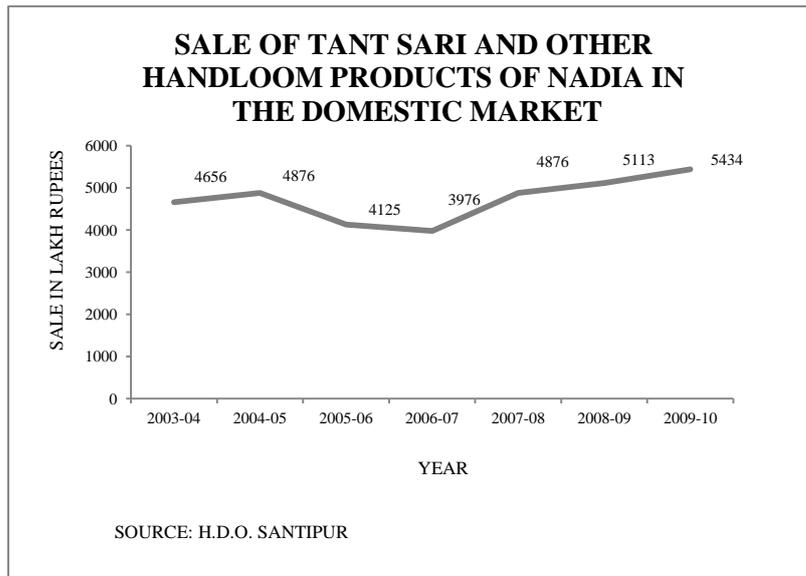
➤ ***Capability for Production of Value Added Commodities***

Since the production in the handloom sector is skill dependent and unique to the locality, the finished commodities can fetch a much higher price and there is high percentage of value addition at every stage of production. Thus inspite of low capital input, the price of the finished product make the weavers earn a sufficient amount for their skill. This is truer in the case of exportable handloom products which can bear high price for its quality, style and uniqueness.

➤ ***Revenue Generation and Opportunity Creation for Ancillary Industries of Nadia District:***

Though the economy of Nadia is primarily dependent on agriculture, still, in recent years, there is a diversion of the rural work force to the non-farm sector. The handloom industry plays a dominant role in the overall industrial scenario of the district, supporting more than two lakh people in its production system. It earns a substantial amount of revenue for the district's economy and also occupies an important niche in the state economy. The temporal pattern of sale of the handloom products in the domestic market during 2003-10 was

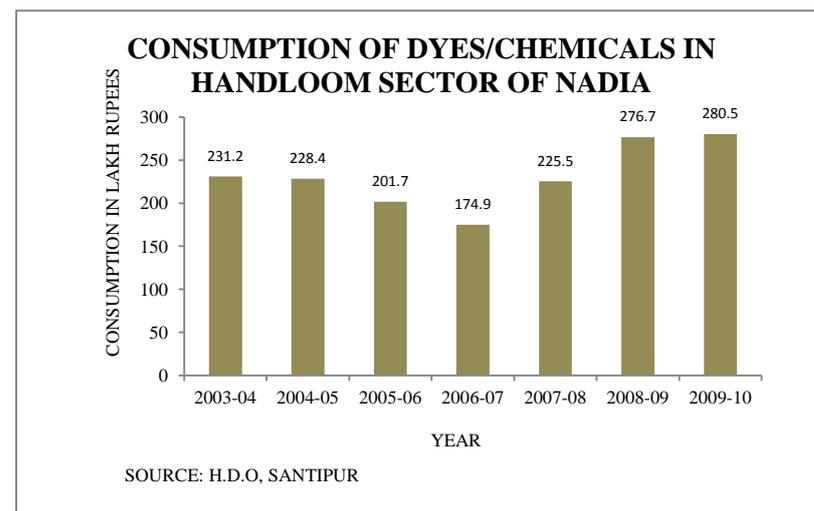
obtained from the H.D.O. of Santipur and is represented in **Fig. 51**. It can be seen that though there was a temporary downward pattern in the sale of the products during 2005-07, yet the



**Fig. 51**

industry recovered from 2008 and continued its way successfully, making a prominent contribution in the later years to the district's industrial production.

The handloom industry uses products of different ancillary industries like the cotton yarn processing industry,

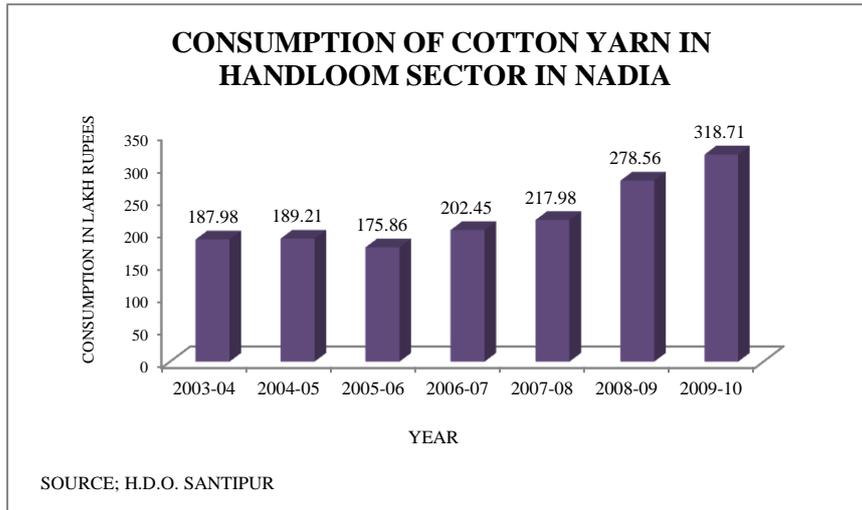


**Fig. 52**

the dyes and chemicals industry, the looms' spares industry and so on. The handloom sector receives its raw materials from these industries, which are located both within and outside the district. In recent years, there is a tendency towards the growth of these ancillary industries in areas of handloom production. These industries also generate revenue for the district and provide part time and full time employment opportunities to the local population. In Nadia, these ancillary units are mainly small scale ones and generally owned by the

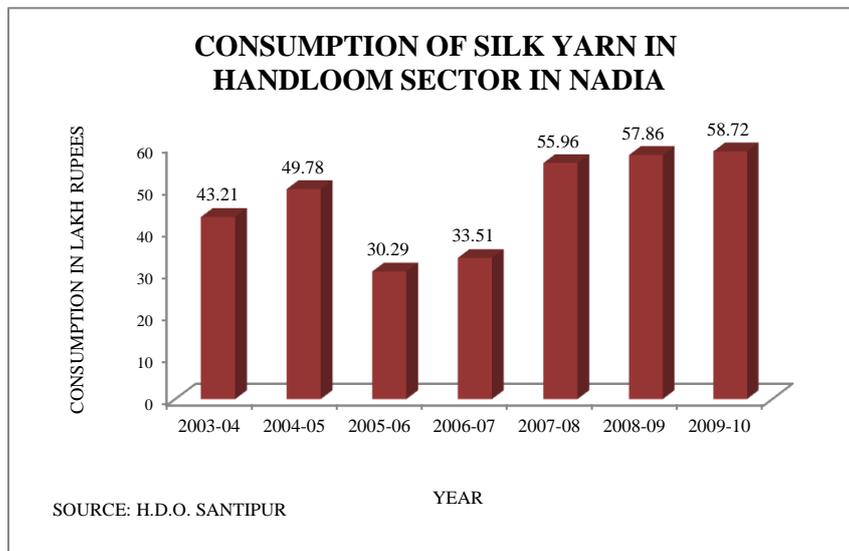
master weavers and mahajans, who try to appropriate the profit from these aspects of production along with their profit margin from the handloom sector. In the adjoining figures (**Fig. 52**, **Fig. 53** and **Fig. 54**), the temporal patterns in the consumption of different types of raw materials obtained from ancillary industries in the period 2003-10 are shown. It can be noticed that there was an overall downward trend in the consumption pattern of these raw

materials from 2005-07. This was mainly due to the fall in the demand and unstable market conditions for the handloom industry as a whole. However, it acquired an increasing trend



**Fig. 53**

states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Silk yarn is however consumed in selected aspects of

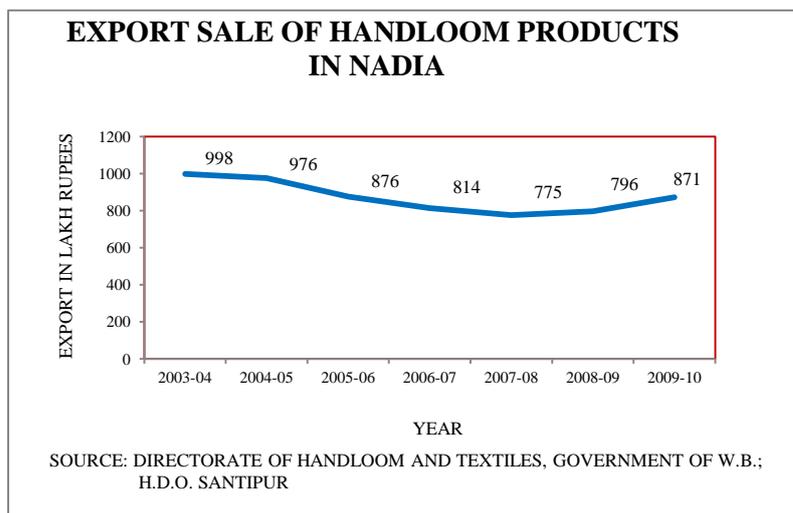


**Fig. 54**

➤ ***Production for Export and Generation of Foreign Revenue:***

The products of the handloom industry are popular even in the international market and a portion of the handloom production is exported. Though this export activity is concentrated only among selected groups of weavers, yet it provides a significant stimulus to the production sector and boosts the district's economic performance. The adjoining **Fig. 55** shows the temporal pattern in the export of the handloom products, which received a setback

from 2007-08. Unlike the previous two raw materials already mentioned, silk is not processed locally but is bought from the wholesale market in Kolkata. These silk yarns reach the capital city from the western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Silk yarn is however consumed in selected aspects of handloom industry, especially in the manufacturing in the export section and expensive products.



**Fig. 55**

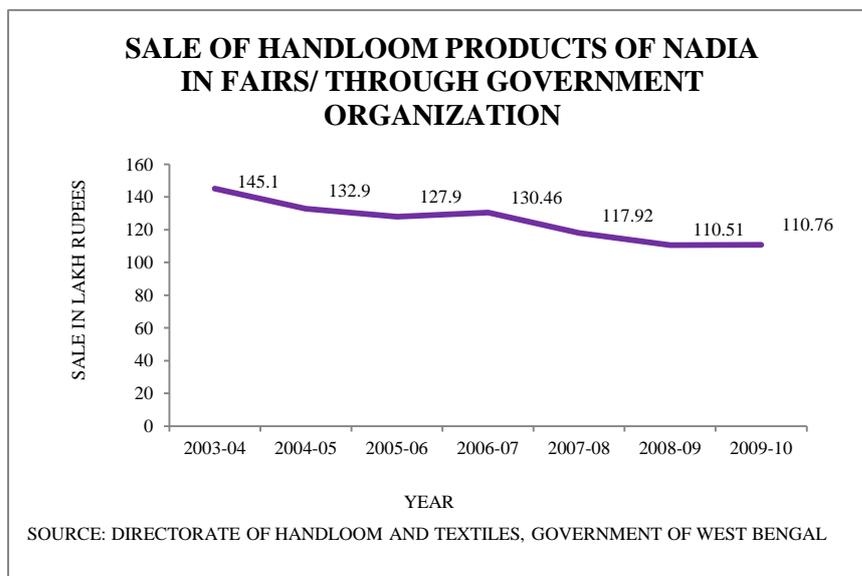
➤ **Linkage Creation:**

Different types of spatial linkages originate based on the functioning of the handloom industry and play vital role in its sustenance. The types of linkages include:

**Human Linkage:** Most of the weavers engaged in the production of the handloom sector are migrants from Bangladesh and North Bengal districts. They are skilled workers acquainted with the traditional weaving styles, and without them, the production system would not sustain. The industry also accounts for a large number of commuters who commute to the state capital of Kolkata to access the required raw material weekly or daily, and supply them to the local traders. Thus the migrants and the commuters create two different aspects of human linkage.

**Commodity Linkage:** The handloom industry requires raw materials, which are not always found at the sources of production. The industry has developed mainly based on the availability of skilled labour and tradition of weaving. The raw materials are brought to the production centre from Kolkata from different parts of the country. Only a few rich mahajans and master weavers trade the raw materials directly from the other states. The finished products are sold locally and also sent to different wholesale and retail markets of the country, creating another type of commodity linkage. Again the commodities produced in the handloom industry of Nadia are sold in different fairs and through government selling organizations all over India, the temporal pattern of which is shown in **Fig. 56**. This linkage pattern, however, shows a slightly decreasing trend over the years. A part of the finished products is also exported, forming a type of international commodity linkage.

in 2005-07, during the international economic turmoil, but has started to regain its position in recent years, from 2008.



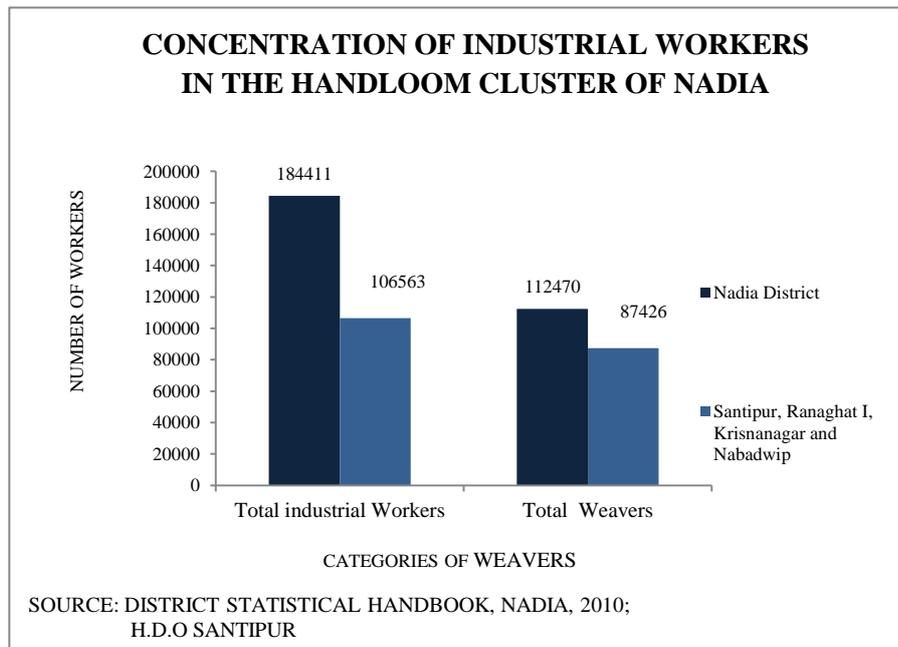
**Fig. 56**

**Monetary Linkage:** The handloom industry gets monetary support from different state financial organizations. The cooperatives also arrange for loans from different types of government policies and schemes. The entrepreneurs from adjacent districts and Kolkata invest in the handloom industry of the Nadia district. Added to this, the migrant weavers send a healthy portion of their wages and income to their original residential areas. Thus, different types of monetary linkages are created by the handloom industry of the Nadia district.

➤ **Regional Concentration in Industrial Development:**

The handloom industry is skill dependent and thus is an extremely localized phenomenon. The available data shows that the handloom cluster in Nadia, which comprises mainly of the blocks of Santipur, Ranaghat I, Nabadwip and Krishnanagar II, engage 106563 industrial workers out of 184411 industrial workers (57.79%) of the district. It can also be seen that above mentioned blocks also account for 77.73% of the total population engaged in the weaving section of the handloom industry of Nadia district (**Fig. 57**). Handloom is the most important of all the industries of Nadia and thus, it controls the distribution of the industrial workforce. However, this concentrated phenomenon of the development of the handloom

industrial sector of the district has given rise to regional inequality in the overall development of the district.



**Fig. 57**

➤ ***Development of Growth Centres:***

The handloom industry of Nadia has occasionally influenced the development of some urban growth centres in the district. These centres have advantages of large skilled and trained labour force, availability of economic facilities, adequate transport and communication, proximity to existing commercial centres and markets, availability of required infrastructure etc. Important growth centres that have developed based on the handloom industry are Ranaghat, Chakdaha, Santipur, Fulia, Nabadwip and Krishnanagar.