

# ABSTRACT

## Title of the Thesis:

### *The Handloom Industry and its Impact on the Economy of Nadia District in West Bengal*

Handloom weaving is one of the ancient industries of India. Presently, the industry uses mill yarn for the production of different types of fabrics. The handloom sector plays an important role in the economy of India. It is one of the major economic activities providing direct employment to over 65 lakh persons who are engaged in weaving and allied activities and contributing over 23% to the country's total cloth production. The importance attached to the handloom industry is also evident in the state of West Bengal. Handloom products of Bengal have a rich tradition. Nadia district occupies a very important place in the field of handloom industry of West Bengal and handloom industry of the district plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic status of the population. The traditional production of Jamdani sari of Nabadwip, Santipuri of Santipur and Tangail varieties of Fulia has been popular in the domestic market for years. The economy of Nadia district is supported by agricultural and industrial activities and also to some extent by tourism. Handloom industry holds a prime position in Nadia's economy and under this backdrop, the present study "*The Handloom Industry and its Impact on the Economy of Nadia District in West Bengal*" has been contemplated.

The entire research has been arranged into thirteen chapters. The *first chapter* is the introductory one where the researcher intends to provide some preliminary information about the research work. The *second chapter* highlights the general perspectives of the study area. In the *third chapter*, discussions are made regarding the origin and evolution of the handloom industry. The *fourth chapter* provides an account of the present status of the handloom industry. The *fifth chapter* deals with the different types of raw materials required for the working of the handloom industry. The *sixth chapter* discusses the different categories of weavers and associated population of the handloom industry. The *seventh chapter* provides an account of the production processes of the handloom sector and the different support institutions. In the *eighth chapter*, the

different procedures of financing, marketing and sale of handloom products are discussed. Major schemes and programmes related to the handloom industry are dealt in the next chapter that is the *ninth chapter*. The role of the cooperative societies of the Nadia district in the sustenance and development of the handloom industry is discussed in the *tenth chapter*. An attempt has been made in the *eleventh chapter* to assess the impact of the handloom industry on the economy of Nadia district. The *twelfth chapter* discusses the different problems of the handloom industry of Nadia district. The last chapter, that is the *thirteenth chapter*, deals with the major findings followed by suggestions and concluding remarks.



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