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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Thiyagi Kumaran Weaver’s Co-operative Production and Sales Society Ltd., is at Attayampatty in Salem District. It was established 46 years ago with the aim of improving the standard of living among the weavers in Attayampatty. At present, it has 750 members on its roll. Its products are mainly dhoties, dhavani and angavastra of different counts in cotton and polyester. It is managed either by the elected body or special officer appointed by the government. It is at present under the management of Special Officer. For the purpose of this study, a sample of 150 weavers have been selected at random. A schedule was prepared for the selected respondents. The primary and the secondary data were used for the study. The information and data were collected through the schedule, interview with the officials of the society and eminent and experienced personalities in the filed of weaving.

The required raw-materials are purchased by the society and supplied to the weavers. The weavers undertake pre-loom processing of warping which is fitted into the loom. Simultaneously, weft is also prepared on bobbins which are used in flying shuttle for weaving. The
other family members are also involved or else help from neighbour weavers is sought.

FINDINGS

- Out of the 150 respondents selected, 65% belongs to the back-ward community followed by 24% in the most back-ward community and only 11% in the forward community.

- In the age-wise analysis of selected respondents, 28% belongs to the age group of 40 to 45, 24% goes to the age group of above 50 and only 12% belongs to the age group of below 30. It shows the younger generation is not ready to take weaving as a profession.

- The share capital is studied by using trend percentage. From the analysis, it is found that the share capital of the society is gradually increasing every year except during the year 2002-2003.

- The output of the society is analysed by calculating the trend percentage. It is found that the output is increasing continuously year by year except in year 2002-2003 where the output is the lowest in all the years of the study. Continuous increase in output shows the growth of the society.

- An analysis was made in respect of sales of the society. It is found that it is increasing constantly every year till 1999-2000 and thereafter, it starts decreasing as there is recession in the handloom industry in general.
The earnings of the society were studied and found that out of 6 years taken for the study, only in 1999-2000 there is a profit of Rs.1.9 lakhs when there was the highest sales. In the remaining years, it was negative. The profitability of the society is very poor. It shows, the society should improve its sales and try to achieve its break-even sales as early as possible.

Society’s borrowings were studied by trend analysis and found that they were unchanged during the first two years and thereafter they were fluctuating. This shows that the society is not financially stable with its own fund.

A comparison of income between the loom owners and loom leasers is studied by using the multiple regression analysis. It is found that the loom owners’ income is significantly influenced by the raw-materials of the Angavastra followed by Dhoti and Dhavani than the loom leasers’ income. It is due to demand for Angavastra (Thundu) as it is widely used not only along with the dhoti but also separately. Dhavani has come in the third place as its use is out of fashion. Moreover, the girls prefer chudithar for dhavani as it is convenient to wear, to travel and covers the entire body in full.

An analysis of discriminating utilization of raw-materials between loom owners and loom leasers was made by discriminant analysis.
It is found that the utilization of raw-materials for dhoti, dhavani and angvastra by loom leasers is better than the utilization of raw materials by the loom owners. It shows the responsible use of raw materials by the loom leasers than the loom owners. It has become necessary for the loom leasers to reduce the wastages so as to decrease the cost and thereby increasing the income. In order to avoid wastages, they carefully take care of the use of raw-materials.

It is found that in case of advance amount and opinions of its sufficiency both loom-owners and loom leasers behave alike. There is no difference between them in their opinion. As the advance amount increases, the opinion of sufficiency also increases and vice-versa. This shows the mind set and psychological behaviour of the human beings.

Regarding the opinion of receiving the advance amount in time, it is found that the loom owners have stability in their opinion as compared to the loom leasers.
SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings, personal enquiry with the weavers and experts in the field, the following suggestions are offered.

✓ In order to increase the number of members and strengthen the financial position, the society should provide continuous work for weavers.

✓ Weaving profession should be made attractive to the youngsters through imparting education and training.

✓ In order to increase the sales and to compete with the powerlooms and mill goods, different varieties and designs are to be introduced in the products.

✓ More efforts are to be taken to increase the sales through the agents and retail selling. The society should not mainly depend upon the "Co-optex" for its marketing of goods.

✓ In order to avoid the loss, the society has to increase its sales to the level of break-even.

✓ The society should increase its own fund so as to avoid the borrowings through increased contribution from the existing members and admission of new members.

✓ There should be appropriate training and refresher courses for weavers at fixed intervals for better utilization of inputs to avoid wastages. Such courses will offer them the modern
techniques to be adopted in weaving, the latest products to be
introduced, modern designs available and recent trend in
utilization of handloom products in India and Abroad.

✓ The society should extend the basic amenities like housing and
water to all the weavers.

✓ The society shall execute the idle programmes which will be
beneficial to the weaver members.

CONCLUSION

Co-operation is not merely a concept to be read and practiced
but it should become a way of life of weavers and others. It is
possible only through education and inculcation in the minds of them.
If it is done, most of the problems will automatically be solved.