SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

One of the oldest industry in India is Handloom Industry. In olden days and also in present days it has provided jobs for the millions. After IInd World War scientific and technological advancement took place at a very great speed. It has introduced powerlooms, textile mills and synthetic fibres. Production on powerlooms and in textile mills is much faster, cheap and required much less labour. Obviously, without much skill from the textile industries and powerlooms refined clothes were/are manufactured. Production cost of the cloth was much less so the markets were flooded with textile clothes. Handloom industry on the other hand remained static and traditional. The same old skill and the same old traditional pattern was maintained. In the jet age the social structure, social life, life styles and values changed rapidly. Fashion technology advanced and to fulfill the needs it became necessary to introduce new design and pattern every day. The textile mill cloth and synthetic clothes were manufactured with pre-determined scientific standard. So they are attractive, durable, comfortable and convenient also. Naturally, people were attracted towards the textiles clothes. Such rapid changes could not take place in Handloom industry. It resulted in poor demand of handloom clothes.

With the establishment of cooperative societies, Government plans and several such commissions, the simple organisation of handloom industry became complicated. The number of middlemen or middle organisations increased. It also helped in increasing the cost of the production. The number of middlemen or middle organisations
has not increased only between the supplier of raw material and the weaver, but it has also increased between the producer and the purchaser. The ultimate result was the handloom weaver and handloom industry went on deteriorating, while the middlemen went on increasing their profit. It has become a vicious circle, out of which no weaver or the owner of handloom can come out. Obviously neither could they give up this traditional profession nor could they think of changing or bringing radical changes in the technique and organisation of handloom industry. The ultimate result was economy of handloom industry had gone down and handloom industry is surviving in most part of the country just on subsidy or Government aid.

Some of the handloom products however, are still fetching significant profits and the finished goods are appreciated. They are in some communities symbols of prestige, but such examples are very few. Secondly, handloom industry is not well organised, neither the weavers nor the owners have strong associations. It all together resulted in keeping the handloom industry alive with the aid from the Government.

Several studies of handloom industry were made in different parts of India. Much work had been done in the southern part of Tamil-Nadu. Present study is an attempt to understand three different aspects of handloom industry. They are organisational structure, technique of Handloom Industry and the economy of handloom industry. Here, the focus of attention is not only the handloom industry but the weavers also is paid appropriate attention.

The statement of problem of the study could be stated as
follows:

To examine the handloom industry of Nagpur from three different aspects, the first being organisational structure, the second relating to the technique and the third considering the economy of handloom industry and economic status of the weavers.

Main aim of the study is to focus attention on the three main aspects of handloom industry namely organisation, technique and economy. Present study aims at carrying out a comprehensive investigation of the handloom textile industry in Nagpur with special regard to its organisational structure, its techniques today being employed and its economy. However, this is only half of the aim of study, the main focus is the weaver who is the key individual in this industry, and the study aims at studying the weaver from the three different aspect namely, social, economic and educational.

The study was guided by following objectives:

Socio Economic status.

To know agewise distribution of weavers.
To study size of the family.
To examine educational standard of the weavers.
To investigate weavers main and subsidiary occupation.
To find out income of the respondents.
To understand details of work place and place of residence.
To know reasons for not separating work place from residence.
To find out joint and nuclear families of the weavers.
Organisational Structure of Handloom Industry

To know type of loom and its ownership nature.
To find out approximate working hours of the workers.
To know reasons for keeping the loom idle.
To find out number of members of weavers cooperative society.
To know reasons for not becoming members of the society.
To understand the establishment of the business.
To find out problems faced in purchasing handlooms.
To be aware with the nature of training facilities available.
To understand the processes involved in selecting the weavers.

Techniques of Handloom Industry

To know number of looms possessed by the respondents that are in working or idle conditions.
To know the willingness of the respondents for opting for improved type of handloom.
To understand difficulties faced in opting for improved type of handloom.
To know reasons for not opting for improved type of handloom.
To know opinions regarding the benefits of power loom.

Economics of Handloom Industry

To understand reasons given by different members of the groups for keeping the looms idle for the short period.
To be aware of the reasons for not continuing any of the
family member in this profession.
To examine the level of job satisfaction of the respondents regarding their occupation.
To find out sources from which money is borrowed.

To examine the possibility of improving the working conditions and socio-economic status of the weavers. The universe of the study was Nagpur city and the adjacent suburb area, Kamptee. In Nagpur city and also in Kamptee there are certain localities in which the weavers are residing since long and established their handloom weaving industry. These localities were traced out and then only sample for the study was selected. In the heuristic survey it was found that there are three different categories of weaver. The one who were working on their own looms. The second who are working on Mahamandals shed and the third who are working as a labour weavers. From the third 50 subjects were selected. Since the number of available weavers engaged in handloom weaving industry are so less there was no scope to make use of random sampling technique. It was done only in case of the workers working in the common shed provided by Mahamandal. Thus, the total sample comprised of 430 subjects. Their age range was 25 to 65 years, and the educational standard was 3rd to 9th standard. All of them were males. For collecting the data a comprehensive interview schedule was constructed. The questions in the interview scheduled first dealt with the identification data. Secondly, it covered information regarding family background. The major part of the interview schedule contains questions that were based on the organisation, the technique and the economy of Handloom industry. The interview schedule was finalised only after conducting
a pilot study.

A socio-economic status scale constructed by Janbandhu was used for understanding the socio-economic status of the weavers. Thus, only two major tools were used for collecting the data.

The procedure used for data collection had two approaches. One is the direct personal interview and the second allowing the respondent to write the responses during their leisure time. This second part was more applicable to the little more educated respondents.

There are large number of variables that are examined in the present study. All these variables can be clustered into a few variables that are broad and could be treated as the major variables. They are social and economic background of the respondent or weaver, organisational structure of the handloom industry, technique of the handloom textile industry and the economics of the handloom textile industry.

Since this was a survey no specific research design was used for analysing the data. Most of the analysis was done on the basis of frequency counts and chi-square test.

The findings were treated statistically and the following conclusions were drawn.

Most of the weavers at present are old and continuing with their traditional profession mainly because they are unable to change it.
The youngsters working with Mahamandal had no option for they were unemployed and they had no other skill to earn their bread. Most of the weavers were either illiterate or were poorly educated. A negligible number of them had studied upto S.S.C. or beyond. In significantly large number of cases the main occupation was weaving. Negligible number of respondents had some other subsidiary occupations.

Handloom Industry may be called as home industry because except the looms in Mahamandals shed all the looms were established in homes.

Only in Mahamandal common shed there was no individual ownership but in all other cases there were individual ownership looms.

There were no fixed working hours but the weavers had to work for 8 to 10 hours a day. In Mahamandal on the other hand the working hours were arranged in shifts. Except in Mahamandal shed more than 60 percent looms were idle.

Because of ignorance and poor education most of the weavers were not members of their cooperative societies.

Significantly large number of the handloom establishments were ancestral. Only in 11.33 percent cases it was established by the individual himself.

Non-availability of handloom, dearth of skilled carpenters and paucity of funds are the main reason of not bringing in the improvement.
Training facilities available for the weavers are mostly informal in nature. Most of them learn through imitation and practice. Some facilities are made available by the Mahamandal.

There is no specific procedure of selecting the weaver. They are given job on the recommendation of the others.

In Mahamandal shed there were frame looms but the looms established in the homes were of pit loom type. The weavers were found experiencing several difficulties in fetching raw material. The problem of selling the finished goods are very severe in nature.

Demand for the handloom cloth is very poor. As a result of which the industry kept surviving by introducing concessions like rebate etc.

Often the looms were kept idle, sometimes for short period because of the non-availability of raw material. The handloom owners have survived, though barely, only because of Janata Dhoti and Janata Saree.

None of the weavers want that his family member should continue with the weaving profession because there is no scope for progress and the profession is non-profitable. Most of the weavers are indebted, and they had borrowed money mostly from money lenders, relatives and friends.

In the present structure and technique of industrialisation there is no scope for bringing in any remarkable change in the organisational structure of Handloom Industry.
It is not possible to change the technique and make the working of the weavers comfortable.

The possibility of improving the economy of handloom industry is gloomy.
SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestions

In India there are various types of handlooms. They have regionwise speciality and variety. According to the culture and geographical condition of the region the designs and structure of the fabric is woven. Hence there is regional importance of handloom. In every region of India, handloom woven is ordinary cotton handloom for general masses and exclusively woven handloom like, Paithani, Ilkal, Maheshwari, Induri, Pitambar, Banarasi shalu, so forth and so on for higher income group. Sometimes handloom goods are no longer the choice of the poor alone, but it is weakness for the elite in India and abroad. It is heartening to see a fabric produced by an illiterate weaver in the remote interior village in India and used by the most sophisticated people around the globe.

Hence it is suggested that handloom studies should be conducted in each region, and should be compared.

Even ordinary handloom and exclusive handlooms can be studied region-wise.

In this age of speed and tension, anything that brings us closer to nature is at once in great demand. So are the handloom products of India which are proving so fascinating even to the foreigners that sometimes the demand far exceeds supply and availability.

Hence studies should be conducted to meet the supply of handloom. Market survey in foreign countries is also essential.
By introducing some flaws the appearance of a powerloom fabric can be made to look like a handloom fabric. If such textiles are exported under the label of handloom textiles the reputation of the country will be spoiled.

Hence there has to be national or international standards evolved standard test procedures for the determination of the quality of handloom.

Studies should be conducted to test defective patterns, wrong drawing, or dentiny, weft cracks, non-uniform selvedges and variations in the tension in the fabric apart from pick variation.

There is a need of carrying out extensive studies to search the means of preserving this one of the oldest industry of India. Hence, it is suggested that interdisciplinary studies must be carried out to find out the ways of preserving the Industry.

Such studies need to be conducted that will help in rehabilitating the weavers so that they can lead a better social and economic life.

Market research need to be carried out and an attempt should be made to develop liking for the handloom clothes.

Recommendations

Systematic efforts should be made to change the attitude of the common masses and develop liking in them for the handloom fabrics.

Special attempts should be made by the fashion designers
to design the garments using handloom fabrics only. It might help in increasing the demand of handloom fabrics.

Instead of providing subsidy and introducing rebate etc., the Government organisation must take serious steps for selling the handloom fabrics.

In handloom industry, there are very few finishing centres. Only basic finishing is done on handloom fabrics. To enhance the quality of handlooms more processing centres with modern processing methods should be opened. Moreover processing training centres, should be opened to train the weavers. This will definitely increase their income and weavers will be encouraged to continue their ageold business.

To increase the export of handloom fabrics testing of handlooms is necessary. Hence it is the need of the day to open testing laboratories for handloom fabrics by which there would be less chance of the handloom articles and clothes being rejected. In the year 1995 United States of America made a big issue of handloom embroidered Ghagara, stating that it was not flame proof. Hence such issues will not come up.

Special training in testing should be given to weavers. Which will add scientific knowledge in them and hence increase their economic status too.

Fashion parades should be arranged to popularise the use of handlooms. It should be shown on the mass media like, movie trailers and Television. Hence large population will be aware of
handlooms and it will increase sale definitely.

Handloom and Handicraft Board should seriously think about the finishing processes, labeling, mass media used in advertisement, sale, exhibitions of handlooms. Which will surely bring back the glorious days of handloom.

Use of handloom for the costumes of handloom office workers, and school uniforms should be made compulsory, which will increase the sale of handloom. All the Government's rest houses, circuit houses should be made compulsory to use bedsheets, towels, curtains, pillow covers, napkins of handlooms.