

CONCLUSION

The cotton weaving industry of Nadia forms an important part mainly of the pre and post independence weaving industry of Nadia specially Santipur and Phulia. Apart from its significant impact on socio-economic-cultural history of these area, the protest movement is instrumental to a very large extent in bringing similar identity aspirations among other weavers of Nadia not only this time but still now.

This work has been done keeping in mind all probable aspects related to the movement of the weavers community of Santipur and Phulia. Now they are directly related with this work. And the following conclusions have been arrived at :

1. The ups and down of the handloom industry had a deep influence over the economic and social life of the people of Nadia and it was intricately connected with their survival. The weavers of remote village Santipur in Nadia district had showed remarkable courage, persistence to revive and sustain the traditional handloom heritage of India. The quality of Santipur textile is not just in its exquisite and subtle design and quality but also as the expression of the emotions and passion of the artisans makes it remarkable.

2. The weavers in order to retain the traditional heritage of Santipur has strived hard through all barriers and adapted to changed circumstances to sustain and continue with the convention. For this reason they protested again and again against English East India Company and then British Government. It was true that the collapse of the weaving industry resulted in great sufferings of the weavers, and more particularly, of the spinners who were totally thrown out of employment. They were not trained in any other branches of employment. But the weavers try to survive this problem so rapidly. Moreover, a section of the

weaving population kept themselves engaged in spinning Dhooties, Chaddars, Baftaes for the native people. Thus we find that at least in the cases of two classes of goods, the embroidered and the other finer goods in which the handloom had a peculiar advantage and the coarser kinds, which supplied the demands of the common people, the cotton weavers of Bengal could easily hold their own. As a result of these local employment opportunities, a section of the weavers could still maintain themselves by weaving. The Santipur weavers were also of no exception.

3. Not only this, the weavers of Santipur participated in the social reformation movement of the 19th Century. This is another side of the spirited righteous character of the weavers.

4. They inspired their own community to protect their indigenous industry and to strengthen their mentality. Because handloom is just not only occupation for the weavers it is the rhythm of their existence, the inspiration behind living and the pulsating force of motivation keeping in pace with the beat of life.

5. During the period of swadeshi movement they have faced the wrath of the influential members including the National Congress leaders. We have observed how they have protested and later managed to overcome the crisis.

6. Thread crisis is one of the main problem of the weaving industry of Bengal. The weavers of Santipur so rapidly matched with this problem. They did not stop their weaving and started weaving by the foreign thread since 19th Century. After 1947, the weavers of Santipur and Phulia tried to solve this problem.

7. Since the establishment of co-operative society (1977) and mainly by the Government initiative they solved this thread problem. But still now the weaving industry of Santipur faced many problem. They again and again tried their best to protect and secure their indigenous industry.

The weavers of Santipur, Phulia, Samudragarh, Nabadwip knew this truth at heart. I sincerely hope that in future many more writings describing the revolting spirit of the weavers and their vehement protests will come up. I have tried to collect information from Primary and secondary sources and interviews and express the feelings of the weavers, their grievances and happiness. They are still the backbone of India's economy and their exquisite handwork brings accolades for India from all over the world.

APPENDIX - I

Board of Trade Commercial

General Letters from the Court of Directors

13th Dec-1765 to 15th Sep. 1785

Typed copies (1/1) Vol 101. A.

Extract of Consultation dated 12th April 1773

The following is the Account given by the Anumeen and one of the weavers of Santipore.

THE CLOTHS of Santipore are made of produced in these provinces which is brought by the Beparees or Pedlars and retailed in very small quantities to be Cattances or woman employed in spinning; when it is made in to yarn the weaver purchases it either directly from them or from the Pykers who collect it in the different villages. In order to enable the weaver to carry on his Business or atleast on this pretence Advances are made to him from the Factory in ready money; but this is what he complains of, alledging that he is first obliged to accept of money against his will and afterwards forced to part with his Goods at an arbitrary valuation, for below the market price and by this method receives nothing for his labour as the yern costs him as much or even more than he gets for the coth after it is manufactured. After having spent all their former savings they are now obliged to run in Debt to the Factory which with the Profits they get on Dooties & other cloths that their women and children make and sell in the market, serves to keep them alive. Two or three men are usually employed in making a piece of cloth so that it is difficult to say in what time one man clold manufacture it. They reckon about 25 days for a piece of midling Mulmulls. The price of Yarn has been gradually rising for many years past, and the number of spinners being greatly

reduced by the Famine, it is now 25P cent dearer than foprmally, yet the value of the cloths remain the same for altho' the rates are rather higher than before the Gomastahs when they come to appraise the cloths, throw them always into the lower classes, so that they are under valued. In former times Advances were made only for the fine Mulmulls which the weavers would not manufacture without a certainty of their being taken off his hands; the midling kinds always commanded a ready sale.

The weavers request only one indulgence - That they may not be forced to take money against their will; if this is granted them, they are satisfied; but the Goods will cost the Company 40P cent more than at present.

WNQUIRY into the Midling Sort of Mulmulls of $2\frac{1}{4}$ Cubits Broad made by the weavers & c.^a of Santipore and Nuddea.

	Pieces	W. of Thread Tollas	Price Pr Rupees in Tollas	Price	Chucktee or price appraised by the company P Piece-
R a m p u t t e e Weaver 1500 Threads -- Woof weight 42 sicca --- Warp $25\frac{1}{2}$ --	1. -- --	28. 17	$6\frac{3}{4}$ $5\frac{3}{4}$	4,, 4,, 0. 3 - -	Class Price
$67\frac{1}{2}$	1.	45.	0.	7,, 4,, ,,	7 - 7,, 1.
R a m l o c h u n d Weavers 1500 Threads -- Woof -- $43\frac{1}{2}$ -- Warp 27 --	1. -- --	29. 18.	$7\frac{1}{2}$ 6.	3,, 12 3 -	
$70\frac{1}{2}$	1.	47.	0.	6,, 12	7 - 7,, 1.
G o p e e Weavers 1500 Threads -- Woof 48 -- Warp 30 --	1. --- ---	32 20	$8\frac{1}{2}$ $6\frac{3}{4}$	3,, 12 3,, - ,,	
78 ---	1.	52	0.	6,, 12	$7\frac{1}{2}$ 6,, 12
216	3	144	0	20,, 12	--- 20,, 14.

at a medium }
6,, 15P Piece }

N. B. On this last there was a Dedcudtion of 2 Annoes under the name of Guge Cummy.

The above Enquiry was made in the presence of the Gomastahs of the Factory & C.^a in publick. Midling Mulmulls of $2\frac{1}{4}$ Cubits appear at a medium to weigh 48 Tollas and the price is 6-15 for the Thread & the weavers complain that they are not paid for their labour at the rate of 3 Rupees. The price of Thread is paid in sicca Rupees when purchased from the Cattanies or spinners & in Sonaut Rupees when from the Pykars.

The weavers complain that two Annas P P Pieces are taken from them as Crutch or charges; This is not in the Accounts but must be taken by the De10IIs as due from the weavers under the Name of Bahar De10IIy.

They also complain that they are frequently tied up to a Stake and flogg'd, to this the Factory Gomastahs answer that the weavers; deliver cloths of different and inferior classes; therefore they flogg them, as to the fine and very fine Sorts of $2\frac{1}{4}$ Cubits Mulmulls and also of 3 Cubits all of these kinds are taken away and therefore it was impossible to make any Enquiry.