CHAPTER - VI

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION
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INTRODUCTION

Handloom Industry is the biggest cottage industry in India. It provides livelihood to a large number of people next to agriculture. It has made its best contribution to the economic development of the country. It offers more job opportunities than the other village industries in India. The Indian Handloom Weavers are having higher skill and efficiency.

As per the 1987 Handloom census, there were about 4.27 lakh handlooms in Tamil Nadu. To-day, the number got reduced to 2.83 lakh handlooms, who are members of about 1354 Handloom Weavers’ Co-operative Societies in the State and most of these societies are affiliated to the Apex level (Tamil Nadu) Handloom Weavers’ Co-operative Society Limited, popularly known as Co-optex.

The average annual production of various handloom products is around Rs.500 crore. Out of which 35 percent production is being sold by Co-optex, a state level Handloom Co-operative marketing organisation through its various showrooms in the country and the balance of 65 percent is being sold by weavers’ societies through other means. Very recently “LOOM WORLD” came into existence to strengthen the marketing
of handloom products in the states by establishing a few showrooms at Chennai, Erode and Coimbatore. The sale performance of the Loom World showrooms is encouraging.

All India Handloom Fabrics marketing Co-operative Society Limited has been established for the procurement of handloom products from Apex, Regional and Primary Handloom Co-operative Societies for promoting and marketing handloom fabrics in India and abroad. To achieve these objectives, the fabric's society has set up 25 retail outlets, which are popularly known as "Handloom House". The society has its export Houses at New Delhi, Salem and Chennai. Also, the society has showrooms at Singapore and Mauritius for giving an impetus to marketing of Indian handloom products in the Foreign Markets. In order to compete with global market and to make the Weavers' Co-operative Societies run on variable line and also to give continuous employment to the Handloom Weavers they are encouraged to produce export oriented products.

In order to look after the welfare of the Handloom Weavers, Tamil Nadu is divided into 18 Circles and each circle is under the control of a Deputy Director of Handlooms and Textiles/Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles. They are in-charge of implementation of the various welfare and development programmes of the Department at the
field level. Enforcement offices are set up at Salem, Tiruchengodu, Erode, Tiruppur and Madurai.

The following schemes are implemented by the Department for the welfare of the handloom weavers and for the development of Handlooms Weavers’ Co-operative Societies.

- Free supply of uniforms to school children
- Rebate Subsidy Scheme
- Deen Dayal Hath Kargha Protsahan Yojana Scheme
- Savings and Security Scheme
- Family Pension Scheme
- Old Age Pension Scheme
- Group / Self Insurance Scheme
- Health Package Scheme
- Weavers’ House-cum-Workshed Scheme
- Weavers’ Workshed Scheme
- Scholarship to the wards of Weavers from the Dr.MGR Educational Endowment Trust
- Prize Award Scheme for the Best Exporters
- Prize Award Scheme for Best Weavers of New Design
Different aspects of Weavers’ Co-operative Societies have been dealt with in a number of studies. But the problems and prospects of Weavers of Salem District have not been taken for a separate study. Therefore it was decided to study the various problems of the weavers of Salem District analysed in different angle and to suggest measures to overcome.

Handloom Weaving is a predominant occupation in Salem District in the areas of Ammapet, Gugai, Kondalampatti, Vambadithalam, Panchukalipatty, Vennandur, Attayampatti, Elampillai, Vanavasi, Chinthamaniyur, Omalur, Jalakantapuram and Tharamangalam areas.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following are the major findings revealed from the study conducted by the researcher

1. Out of 350 respondents selected for this study, 332 belong to male category and only 18 are female.

2. More than 50% (180 respondents) of the respondents are in the age group between 31 to 45 i.e. middle age group.

3. 95 percent of the respondents are married.

4. Regarding educational qualifications of the respondents, 203 are illiterate, 95 are of primary level education, 50 are of higher
secondary level and only 2 are graduates. None of the respondents is a Post-graduate.

5. The average income of a weaver is around Rs.1,500/- per month.

6. The opinion of the respondents about family members Co-operation in weaving, is a compulsory one and unavoidable.

7. The variety of production by the respondents being Dhothies first, Towels second, Angavasthiram third and Sarees forming part of meagre numbers.

8. The opinion of 285 respondents on the conditions of loom is good/very good and 65 are of not good / highly not good.

9. Majority of the respondents (70 percent) are of the opinion that the quality of yarn is good.

10. Burden of overdue depends on personal characteristics of the members such as age, education, subsidiary occupation etc.

11. Out of ten variables selected for the analysis, four of them are qualitative and six are quantitative.

12. The factors like overdue, continuous employment, sex, age, number of members in the family are negatively discriminating the producers of Handloom industry.

13. There is no difference between male and female in case of weaving though the number may vary largely.

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14. Respondents under young age group are having higher amount of overdue because of their deviation from weaving.

15. Increasing the weaving members in the family decreases the overdue due to higher production.

16. Non-availability of yarn will cause the amount of overdue in the case of Dhothies, Towels and Angavasthiram in the proportion of 80.4, 17.6 and 2.0 percentages respectively.

17. Inferior quality of yarn will lead to higher amount of overdue in Dhothies.

18. Sale of sets to outsiders by the respondents will lead to higher amount of overdue in case of Angavasthiram.

19. The opinion of respondents about the Directors has an influence over the economic empowerment of the weavers.

20. Dhothy weaving respondents (61.6%) feel that the Directors are efficient.

21. Dhothy, Towel and Angavasthiram weavers share their opinion about value and vision of their Directors of equal importance.

22. Out of various benefits received by a weaver, weaving appliance stands first, Bonus with second and Subsidy stands at third rank.

23. Medical facility, dividend, pension, financial assistance, insurance etc. are inadequate.
24. Literacy levels of handloom weavers will not have any impact on the empowerment of social factors.

25. Housing facilities to the handloom weavers are very poor.


27. Handloom weavers live with lack of awareness of social activities like childcare, child labour, evils of dowry, human rights, female infanticide etc.

28. Marketing facility for the handloom weavers is the worst to market their products in Salem District.

29. The primary level of education and illiteracy differ significantly from each of the remaining levels of education.

30. Getting employment opportunities do not depend on the education levels.


32. Type of product and literacy of the handloom weavers are independent.

33. Co-optex is the main purchaser of goods from the society. Delay in payment from the Co-optex affects the purchase of yarn for the society.
34. Due to delay of Government subsidy and rebate, the society has to borrow money from banks for interest.

35. Due to the introduction of new designs in power loom sectors, the demand for handloom sector products are lower.

36. The cost of production in handloom is higher than the power loom sector, which leads to decline in sales and burden of overdue.

SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are made by the researcher for the purpose of improving the socio-economic empowerment of Handloom Weavers in Salem District based on the findings of the study.

1. The society should take necessary steps for the continuous supply of yarn to its members.

2. Modernisation of handlooms should be made to improve the production level.

3. Steps to be taken to revise the wages by considering the present cost of living.

4. The Government should provide enhanced medical facility and bear the medical expenses of the members who are affected by Asthma, Tuberculoses etc. which are caused by weaving.
5. The pension amount Rs.200/- per month may be increased to Rs.500/- per month based on cost of living, to meet out his family needs.

6. Improving the quality of the product by use of quality yarn, colour etc. will create more demands from the public.

7. The educational institutions may be advised to recommend Handloom Sarees / Dhothies as uniform on specified day in a week to improve the sales.

8. Under new Bunkar Bima Yojana Scheme in association with Life Insurance Corporation of India, the benefits to 75,565 handloom weavers may be raised with higher amount.


10. The present announcement of 100 days employment per annum to workers may also be extended to weavers, as announced by Prime Minister.

11. Marketing of Handloom items are with less advertisement. Hence effective advertisement media will improve the marketing of these products.
12. Price of raw material (Hank Yarn) may be reduced by the efforts of Central and State Governments, which will reduce the cost of production of handloom products.

13. In order to improve the export of Handloom goods, it can be entrusted with the hands of private sector.

14. Absence of innovative product designs and shades can be solved when research is developed for new designs, fashion and new techniques of production.

15. The Board of Directors may take effective steps in the promotion of handloom weavers.

16. Loyalty of members about the society should be educated.

17. Necessary steps may be taken to minimise the misuse of rebate.

18. The present scheme of low cost Sarees and Dhothies may be continued to reduce the unsold stock and thereby continued production can be ensured.

19. Free supply of handloom uniforms to the school children may be continued.

20. Free supply of Sarees and Dhothies to the poor people may be renewed.

21. Award may be given to a weaver who introduces new design in handloom products either in cash or in kind.
22. In order to eliminate housing problems, group houses may be constructed by State and Central Governments at subsidised rates.

23. State Government may implement proper hygienic and sanitary facilities through local authorities.

24. The due from Co-optex may be settled at an early date to avoid financial problem of Co-operative societies.

25. The Government may grant rebate amount in time.

26. Ban on handloom variety in powerlooms will improve the handloom weavers’ socio-economic status.

27. The handloom weavers who are not coming under Co-operative fold should also be given the benefits enjoyed by the handloom weavers. This is possible by identifying the deserving handloom weavers by issuing identity card.

28. Now-a-days the higher education will cost more, considering the above the handloom weavers’ wards may be granted with adequate scholarship to make the education viable for them.

29. A committee may be formed with NGO’s as its members. This committee will review the prospects and problems of handloom weavers. So that the handloom weavers and handloom industry will be rescued from deterioration.
CONCLUSION

Handloom Industry is a traditional occupation in India and nearly five million handlooms in the country are providing employment to weavers. The aim of our handloom programmes is to revitalize the industry and make it more self-supporting and self-reliant not only with production but also with marketing their products both in domestic and foreign markets. Government is aware of the large-scale employment potential of the handloom sector, which is next to agriculture both in total numbers employed and opportunities created. The various schemes implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu and Salem District Weavers' Co-operative Societies have helped the upliftment of the industry as well as the weavers.

The objective of a weavers' Co-operative society is to improve economic status of the weavers by providing regular and continuous employment. They can be economically better off, apart from freeing themselves from master weavers. Thus the mutual growth between weavers and society will improve the conditions of the society as well as the socio-economic conditions of the weavers. Based on the above, this study reveals the problems and prospects of Handloom Weavers in Salem District.