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CHAPTER – 6

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the findings of the study, suggestions and conclusion drawn from the data collected. The conclusion envisages the detailed understanding of the situation of socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers in Guntur and Krishna districts in a comparative manner and analyses them in various contexts in line with the study objectives. Besides, detailed findings of the study as well the suggestions for the betterment of the socio-economic conditions of the weaving community and explains strategies for social work intervention, also presents the conclusions. The findings, suggestions and conclusion have been arranged in the following manner:

6.1. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The following findings are presented based on the study conducted on Socio-Economic Conditions of the Handloom Weavers in Guntur and Krishna Districts, Andhra Pradesh.

I. PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

(1) Age Group

Age is one of the important variables to determine the efficiency, productivity and income of the respondents, about 32 percent of the respondents are in the age group of 51 - 60 years, and only of 4.4 percent respondents are in the age group of 20 - 30 years from Guntur district; interestingly the youth are not willing to adopt this activity as a profession. Where as in Krishna District, majority (32.3 percent) of respondents are in the age group of 51- 60 years and a dismal figure of 9 percent respondents are in 20-30 age group. It has been observed that a significant number of respondents are in less productive age, those are near to superannuation.
(2) Gender

Gender of the respondents gives the information of male and female participation in the weaving activity. Unlike the day situation women play an insignificant role in the traditional weaving, in Guntur district the large proportion (79.6 percent) of the respondents are male category and the remaining 20.4 percent are female category. Whereas, in Krishna district 71.2 percent of the respondents are male category and the rest 28.8 percent of respondents are from the female category. The comparison between two districts reveals that majority from male category are participating in weaving activity. It can be found that in Krishna district 8.4 percent of female participation rate is more than that of Guntur district.

(3) Education

An educated weaver better understands the government schemes, alters his strategies and contributes to the growth of handloom industry. The data on the education levels of the respondents reveals that, in Guntur district majority (48.4 percent) of respondents have studied up to primary level and a meagre 4.8 percent of respondents have studied up to graduation. In Krishna district the highest proportion (41.7 percent) of respondents are found from illiterates and the lowest 0.7 percent are reported from graduation. On comparison, the data of two districts shows that educational status is relatively better in Guntur district than that of Krishna district.

(4) Marital Status

In respect to the marital status of the respondents, the data shows that in Guntur district almost all the respondents (98.4 percent) are married and a minute proportion 1.6 percent of respondents are found as widowed. In Krishna district, the highest proportion (85.1 percent) of respondents are found as married and the least proportion of 3.1 percent respondents are reported as divorced/separated. On comparison, the unmarried, divorced/separated status respondents are found only in Krishna district.
(5) Type of Family

The observation on type of families of respondents in Guntur district most (89.6 percent) of the respondents expressed that their families are nuclear families and only 10.4 percent respondents families are joint families. In Krishna district nearly three-fourth (76.7 percent) of the respondents families are nuclear families and only 23.3 percent of respondents are living in the joint families. On comparison the details of two districts 12.9 percent of nuclear families are higher in Guntur district than that of Krishna district.

(6) Number of Dependents

The data on number of dependents in the families of respondents in Guntur district 33.6 percent of the respondents have 2 dependents and the marginal 7.2 percent respondents have 4 dependents. In Krishna district 37.5 percent of the respondents have 2 dependents and 5.9 percent respondents have 4 dependents. Overall the respondents of Krishna district have more dependents than Guntur district.

(7) Ration Card

Ration card is the basic element to understand the socio-economic status of people. In Guntur district most (90.8 percent) of the respondents own white cards and an insignificant number 2.4 percent of respondents possess pink cards. In Krishna district the most (92.4 percent) of the respondents have white ration cards and only 1.4 percent respondents have pink ration cards. On the whole, we can understand that all most all the respondents having white cards are in the low income group in the society.

(8) Social Group

Social group acknowledges the living standards of a person and can give support in many ways to an individual. In respect to social group of respondents majority (90 percent) of respondents belong to backward caste and meagerly 1.6 percent respondents belongs to other caste in Guntur district. In Krishna district most of the respondents (93.1 percent) are from B.C, 6.3 percent respondents belong to O.C and the negligible 0.7 percent respondents are from S.C. When we compare, similar results came out and the
majority respondents are backward communities (B.C) in both districts. In Guntur district 7.7 percent scheduled caste (S.C) respondents are more than that of Krishna district. In Krishna district 4.7 percent O.C. respondents are more than that of Guntur district. No scheduled tribe weaver is found in both the districts.

(9) Religion

Regarding religion of the respondents most (92.4 percent) the respondents from Guntur district belong to the Hindu religion and only 3.2 percent belong to the Christian religion. In Krishna district most of (92.4 percent) respondents belong to the Hindu religion and 7.6 percent respondents Muslims. When we compare the details of two districts, the percentage of Hindus are more in both districts and the Christian respondents are found in Guntur district only.

II. HOUSING

(1) Nature of House

Housing plays a pivotal role in carrying out task, as weaving involves loom and other tools. Findings on nature of house illustrates that in Guntur district 68.4 percent of respondents have own houses, 31.6 percent of respondents do not have own houses. In Krishna district, the highest number (78.5 percent) are living in their own houses and the rest of 21.5 percent do not have own houses. On the whole, it found that majority of the respondents having their own houses. However, in Krishna district 10.1 percent of respondents are higher than that of Guntur district having own houses.

(2) Type of House

The observation on type of house reflects that, in Guntur district a significant number (43 percent) of respondents are living in semi-pukka houses and 27.7 percent respondents are living in kutcha houses. In Krishna district the maximum (36.1 percent) respondents are living in pukka houses and 31.6 percent respondents are living in kutcha houses. On comparison, the details of the two districts show that a majority of respondents of Guntur district are living in semi-pukka houses and in Krishna district the majority respondents are living in pukka houses. The type of houses in Krishna district is
better than Guntur district due to working of Cooperative societies as well as the support of NGO which was exclusively helping the weaving community.

III. MIGRATION

(1) Type of Migration

Migration gives us a clear picture of the scope of employment and tells us about the poor socio-economic conditions of the migrant community. The data on migration depicts that in Guntur district majority (64 percent) of respondents are local residents or native weavers. While smaller proportion of 36 percent of respondents was migrated from other villages and or from other districts. Among the migrated respondents almost all the respondents (96.6 percent) are migrated permanently and 3.4 percent respondents were migrated temporarily. In Krishna district the majority (78.5 percent) of the respondents are local respondents 21.5 percent respondents are migrated from various places within the district and out of the district. Among the migrated respondents in Krishna district most of (93.5 percent) respondents are permanently migrated and 6.5 percent respondents are temporarily migrated. We can compare the data in both districts majority of migrants have chosen Guntur district. Guntur district has attracted more respondents than that of Krishna district. The reason is that handful earnings/opportunities are available in Guntur district.

(2) Reasons for Migration

In Guntur district half (49.4 percent) of the respondents migrated influenced by others and only 1.1 percent of respondents migrated with health problems. In Krishna district a majority (62.9 percent) of respondents migrated with financial problems and 14.5 percent respondents migrated with influenced by others. In Guntur district a majority of respondents migrated influenced by others and in Krishna district a majority of respondents have migrated with financial problems. The majority of migrated respondents of Guntur district are influenced by already working weavers. Their life and their wages have influenced the migrant weavers.
IV. OCCUPATION

(1) Earlier Occupation

Occupation is generally based on family background, educational qualification and it indicates the livelihood and status of a weaver. The observation on earlier occupation of respondents, in Guntur district was most (91.2 percent) of the respondents have reported weaving as their earlier occupation. They started their carrier with weaving occupation from their forefathers. Only 1.6 percent of respondents have entered into weaving occupation working as employees (private sector). In Krishna district most of (96.2 percent) the respondents have weaving as their earlier occupation. They have adopted this as tradition or heredity. The negligible (0.3) percent of respondents have employment before entering this occupation. When we compare the details of both districts, majority of respondents have earlier occupation weaving because in both the districts the weaving activity has been developed as a tradition or heredity. Very less proportion of respondents is from other occupations.

(2) Parental Occupation

In terms of parental occupation of the respondents, most (90.4 percent) of the respondents’ parental occupation is weaving and only 0.4 percent of respondents parental occupation is employment were reported in Guntur district. In Krishna district the major proportion (91.3 percent) of respondents’ parental occupation is weaving and lowest proportion 0.7 percent respondents’ parental occupation is employment. When we compare the details of the parental occupation of two districts weaving is common in both districts. In Krishna and Guntur districts, majority of the respondents’ parental occupation is weaving. The study says that all the respondents have chosen weaving as an occupation from their parents. Very minute percent of respondents have come to this line from out of weaving background families.

(3) Reasons for Chosen Weaving Occupation (If parental Occupation is weaving)

In respondents’ opinion, majority (77 percent) of the respondents had chosen this to continue the family occupation and meagre proportion 0.4 percent respondent selected weaving to fulfill the ambitions these results were found from Guntur district. Major part
(90.9 percent) of respondents wanted to continue their family occupation and minor part 0.4 percent respondents have chosen this one to improve the status was found in Krishna district. When we compare the details of two districts there was not much variation found the majority respondents have chosen to continue their family occupation.

**4) Parents’ Opinion to Continue their Children in Weaving Profession**

In Guntur district the highest 85.2 percent of respondents told that they don’t want to continue their children in this profession, the lowest 14.8 percent respondents said that they want to continue their children in this profession. In Krishna district 87.8 percent respondents said that don’t want to continue their children in weaving profession and 12.2 percent respondents expressed that they want to continue their children in weaving profession. When we compare the details of two districts the majority respondents have a negative impression to continue their children in this profession. Krishna district has and 2.6 percent respondents higher than that of Guntur district to continue their children in this profession.

**5) Health Status**

Health has an impact on the activity of a weaver and also enhances the production level, if he maintains a good health. With regards to health status of respondents, in Guntur district (155 respondents) have eye sight problem they are struggling with vision problem, (63 respondents) struggling with hernia. In Krishna district (179 respondents) are straggling with eye sight problem, (92 respondents) are facing problems with hernia. When we compare the above details of two districts the majority of respondents are living with several health problems especially eye sight and high risk health problems. Especially in Krishna district more number of respondents facing eye sight, hernia than that of Guntur district because of the strain of weaving heavy designs, so they were affected by hernia.
V. WORKING CONDITIONS

(1) Hours of work

Working hours are directly proportional to the production capacity. The observation on working hours, in Guntur district about 37.6 percent of respondents are working between 10-12 hours per day and 17.6 percent respondents are working between 6 to 8 hours per day. In Krishna district 45.8 percent of the respondents are working between 10-12 hours per day and 8.7 percent respondents are working up to 8 hours per day only. When we compare both districts, the majority of respondents are working between 10-12 hours and in Krishna district 8.2 percent respondents are higher than in Guntur district because in Krishna district the most of looms are attached to the houses or within the house.

(2) Number of Days working in a year

Working days plays a vital role in the weaving activity. The more working days are the better any individual develops. The observation on number of working days of handloom weavers, majority 60.4 percent of respondents are working between 201-300 days and lowest 3.2 percent respondents are working below 100 days, it was found in Guntur district. Many (62.2 percent) of the respondents are working between 201-300 days and only 1.4 percent respondents are working below 100 days it was recorded in Krishna district. Finally, the respondents of Krishna district are higher than the respondents of Guntur district in case of the more number of working days utilizing for weaving.

(3) Experience in this Profession

The observations on experience of the respondents in weaving profession illustrates that, in Guntur district 39.6 percent of respondents have above 40 years’ experience in this profession and the meagre 1.6 percent respondents have experience up to 10 years. In Krishna district 28.8 percent respondents taken in a group have experience between 31-40 years and 7.3 percent respondents have experience up to 10 years. When we compare the details of two districts the respondents in Guntur district have experience
above 40 years and the respondents in Krishna district have experience between 31-40 years. Less percentage of respondents’ experience in both districts is up to 10 years. Guntur district respondents have experience higher than that of Krishna district.

(4) Working capacity

With regards to working capital, in Guntur district the more than half (56.4 percent) of the respondents said that they cannot work with full capacity and 43.6 percent respondents said that they are working with full capacity. In Krishna district more than half (51.7 percent) of the respondents said that they are working with full capacity and the lowest 48.3 percent said that they are not working with full capacity. When we compare the details of two districts in Guntur district the highest respondents said that they are not working with full capacity and in Krishna district higher respondents said that they are working with full capacity.

(5) Reasons for working below Capacity

The observation on reasons for working below capacity, in Guntur district majority (62.4 percent) of the respondents felt that working conditions are the main reason for working below capacity and only 1.4 percent respondents said that it is lack of demand. Whereas, in Krishna district the more than half of the respondents said the labour problems and lowest 5 percent respondents, 5 percent respondents said the lack of modern loom. When we compare the details of two districts, in Guntur district the majority of respondents feel working conditions are the main reason for working below capacity and in Krishna district majority respondents said that labor problem is the main reason for working below capacity.

VI. JOB SATISFACTION

(1) Job Satisfaction

Job satisfaction is of utmost importance to any weaver otherwise it becomes a barrier for the growth of an individual, With regards to job satisfaction in Guntur district, the majority (80.8 percent) respondents felt that they have no job satisfaction in this profession and very meager 19.2 percent respondents have satisfaction. In Krishna
district also the majority (69.8 percent) respondents feel that they have no satisfaction in the present profession and the marginal 30.2 percent respondents have job satisfaction in this profession. The comparison found that in two districts the job satisfaction is very pitiable and marginally Krishna district respondents have more job satisfaction than Guntur district respondents.

(2) Reasons for Job Satisfaction

In respect of reasons for job satisfaction in Guntur district out of 48 respondents 77.1 percent felt that it is a pleasant job, and 6.3 percent of respondents felt that they get sufficient income from this profession. In Krishna district, out of 87 respondents more than half (55.2 percent) of the respondents felt that it is a pleasant job and only 3.4 percent respondents expressed future perspective. When we compare the details two districts, the majority respondents feel that it is a pleasant job it is the main reason for job satisfaction in this opinion Guntur district respondents are higher than Krishna district respondents.

(3) Reasons for Job Dissatisfaction

In respect to reasons for job dissatisfaction Guntur district out of 202 respondents the most of (83.7 percent) respondents have job dissatisfaction with low wages and the meagre 4.5 percent respondents felt that the working days are low. In Krishna district out of 201 respondents the almost all (95.5 percent) the respondents expressed that the low wages are the reason for job dissatisfaction and meagre 1.5 percent respondents expressed low working days. Comparison revealed similar result low wages are the main reason for job dissatisfaction in Krishna district 11.8 percent higher than in Guntur district. In Guntur district 3.0 percent higher than that of in Krishna district in case of low working days.

VII. SEASONAL INFLUENCES ON WEAVING ACTIVITY

(1) Seasonal Effect

Season has an influence on the production of a weaver. A particular season like winter can boost up the production level. The respondents’ opinion on seasonal effect on
handloom weaving activity, in both districts cent percent respondents said that there is seasonal impact. All respondents are facing the seasons influence on their work.

(2) Comfortable Season for Weaving

With regards to comfortable season for working in Guntur district most of (93.6 percent) the respondents feel that the winter season is the comfortable season and the lowest only 1.2 percent respondents feel that the rainy season is comfortable for weaving activity. In Krishna district almost all (99.7 percent) the respondents felt that the winter season is suitable for weaving activity. Minute 0.3 percent respondent feels that the summer season is the comfort for weaving activity. When we compare the details of both districts the majority of respondents feel that winter season is the best and comfortable season for weaving activity. Rainy season is not suitable for weaving as the pits all are filled with water in weaving places.

VIII. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

(1) Availing of the Government Schemes

In Guntur district most (90.8 percent) of the respondents have not utilized any of the government schemes for handloom weavers, while 9.2 percent of respondents have utilized the schemes of government to some extent. In Krishna district majority (75.3 percent) of the respondents have not availed the schemes and 24.7 percent of respondents availed the schemes. On the whole none of the respondents from study districts could benefit to a larger extent of the government schemes.

(2) Reasons for not availing

In Guntur district majority (59 percent) of respondents are not utilizing the schemes due to “lack of awareness” while 1.8 percent respondents felt that “master weavers are not taking initiation”. In Krishna district 42.9 percent of respondents have not availed the schemes and 14.7 percent respondents expressed that the “cooperative societies are not working for weavers”. On comparison it came to know that the major reason for not availing is “lack of awareness” among the respondents.
(3) Need of any Assistance

In terms of need of assistance in Guntur district the majority (89.6 percent) of respondents need assistance and the meagre 10.4 percent respondents do not needed any assistance. In Krishna district the most (93.4 percent) of the respondents need assistance and lowest 6.6 percent respondents do not need any assistance. When we compare the details of two districts the majority of respondents from the two districts needed assistance. In that Krishna district has 3.8 percent higher than Guntur district.

(4) Type of Assistance Needed

In respect to type of assistance needed by respondents, the dominant (90.6 percent) respondents needed financial assistance and 4.5 percent respondents needed training and development is reported from Guntur district. The three fourth (75.8 percent) of respondents needed financial assistance and the lowest 10.8 percent respondents need training and development is reported from Krishna district. Where we compare the details of two districts, majority of respondents needed financial assistance in both Krishna and Guntur districts. In this 14.8 percent Guntur districts has higher than Krishna district.

IX. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

(1) Monthly Income

Income is one of the deciding factors of the economic status any individual, With regard to the income level of the respondents it has been reported that in Guntur district 42 percent of the respondents’ income ranges is between ₹ 2,001-3,000 whereas only 0.4 percent of respondent’s income reported to above ₹ 6,000. In Krishna district (43.4 percent) of respondents were getting monthly income between ₹ 2001-3000 and smaller 2.1 percent of respondents were getting is monthly income above ₹ 6000. On comparison of both Guntur and Krishna districts majority of the respondents of monthly income is between ₹ 2001-3000. In Krishna district 1.4 percent is higher than Guntur district. In the both districts the meagre respondents’ monthly income was above ₹ 6000. In this also Krishna district has 1.7 percent higher than Guntur district. Finally, Krishna district respondents’ monthly income is better than Guntur district respondents.
(2) Family Annual Income

The data on family annual income of the respondents, in Guntur district more than half of the respondents’ family income is ₹20,001-40,000 and only 1.2 percent respondents’ family income is ₹80,001-100,000. On the other hand, in Krishna district, nearly half (46.5 percent) of the respondents’ family income is ₹20,001-40,000 only 0.3 percent of respondent’s family income is ₹80,001-100,000. When we compare the details of both Guntur and Krishna districts majority of respondents’ family annual incomes is between ₹20,001- 40,000. Guntur district has 6.2 percent higher than Krishna district. In the two districts minority respondents’ family annual income is ₹80,000-100,000. In Guntur district 0.9 percent is higher than that of Krishna district.

(3) Family Annual Expenditure

Family annual expenditure of the respondents in Guntur district 40.8 percent of respondents’ family expenditure is ₹40,001 to 60,000, and only (1.6 percent) only respondents’ family expenditure is up to ₹20,000. In Krishna district (56.6 percent) of respondents’ family expenditure is between ₹40,001 to 60,000 and very few 0.7 recent (2) respondents’ families expenditure is above ₹1,00,000. When compared majority respondents’ family annual expenditures are between ₹40,001 to 60,000 in both districts, but in Krishna district it is 15.8 percent higher than that of Guntur district. The reason is respondents of Krishna are having more dependents than Guntur.

X. SAVINGS

(1) Savings

Saving is also an indicator to economic stability of the family and hope to carry on his work in a positive way. In Guntur district most (89.6 percent) of respondents said they have no saving and minority 10.4 percent respondents said that they have savings. In Krishna district the majority (85.4 percent) of respondents has no savings and the lowest 14.6 percent respondents have savings.
(2) Range of Savings

The data on range of saving of respondents in Guntur district out of 28 respondents 39.3 percent respondents’ monthly savings are ₹ 501-1000 and the lowest 17.9 percent respondents’ monthly savings are between ₹ 1501-2000. In Krishna district the nearly three-fourth (76.2 percent) of the respondents’ savings are ₹ 501-1000 and lowest 2.4 percent respondent saving is ₹ 1001-1500. When we compare the details of the two districts the savings level of the highest respondents from each district is between ₹ 501-1000 and Krishna district has 36.9 percent higher than Guntur in this level. Finally Krishna district respondents’ savings level is better than Guntur district respondents.

XI. ASSETS AND INDEBTEDNESS

(1) Assets

Assets also one of the component to calculate economic status of any individual. In Guntur district majority 68.4 percent of respondents possessed house only and only 1.2 percent of respondents have livestock for economical support. In Krishna district most 78.4 percent of respondents owned house and only 4.8 percent of respondents owned livestock for economic assistance. When we compare in both districts majority respondents possessed house only. Krishna district respondents are better than the Guntur district respondent in possessing assets.

(2) Indebtedness

Indebtedness is a clear sign of low income and negative gap between income and expenditure. It can push the weavers into indebtedness. In respect of indebtedness in Guntur district the highest 72.8 percent of the respondents said that they had indebtedness and the lowest 27.2 percent respondents said that there was no indebtedness. In Krishna district, the highest 59.4 percent of respondents have indebtedness and the lowest 40.6 percent respondents have no indebtedness. The study shows that in Guntur district 14.4 percent respondents have higher than Krishna district respondents with indebitness. It is indicating that there is a gap between income and expenditure of the respondents in both districts. Especially in Guntur district it is high.
(3) **Range of Indebtedness**

The data on range of indebtedness, in Guntur district, 34.1 percent of the respondents’ range of indebitness is ₹ 25,001 to 50,000 and the lowest 10.4 percent respondents’ range of indebitness is ₹ 50,001 to 75,000. In Krishna district the majority 40.1 percent of the respondents’ range of indebitness is ₹ 25,001 to 50,000 and the lowest 7.6 percent respondents’ range of indebitness is between ₹ 75,001 to 1,00,000. The comparative shows that the range of indebitness of respondents. The majority respondents’ range of indebitness is ₹ 25,001 to 50,000 in this Krishna district is 6 percent higher than Guntur district.

(4) **Sources of Indebtedness**

The overall findings on source of indebitness In Guntur district the majority 64.8 percent of respondents are depending on money lender and the lowest 1.09 percent respondents are depending on cooperative societies for indebtedness. In Krishna district, the nearly half (47.09 percent) of the respondents are depending on money lender and the lowest equally 11.6 percent respondents are depending on banks for indebtedness, 11.6 percent of the respondents are depending on cooperative societies for indebtedness. Finally, majority of the respondents are depending on money lenders for indebtedness in both districts in Guntur district 17.7 percent is higher than in Krishna district and least percent of respondents said that banks are the source.

(5) **Reasons for Indebtedness**

In terms of reasons for indebtedness, in Guntur district majority (68.1 percent) of the respondents said that to fulfill home needs is the reason and only 1.6 percent respondents told that the reason for indebtedness is for purchasing raw material. In Krishna district the majority (65.1 percent) of the respondents expressed reason for indebtedness is for home needs and only 4.1 percent respondents said that reason for indebtedness is their children education. The study shows that the majority of respondents from two districts have expressed the reasons for indebtedness is for home needs only in this Guntur district is 3 percent higher than Krishna district. It is indicates
all respondents are not fulfilling their home needs with their income that is why they are going into indebtedness.

XII. COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

(1) Opinion on Cooperative Societies

The respondents were express their opinion on the cooperative societies, the result shows that in Guntur district majority (60 percent) of respondents expressed their negative attitude on cooperative societies and 4 percent of respondents told that they have no idea. In Krishna district nearly half (47.9 percent) of the respondents felt that there is no satisfaction on cooperative societies and only 3.5 percent of respondents expressed that they have no idea. Krishna district is better than Guntur district, but still Krishna district respondents expect better performance from the cooperative societies.

XIII. Role of NGOs

In Guntur district all the respondents said that no NGO worked in their working places for them. In Krishna district the majority (75 percent) of the respondents feel that only one NGO (Arthika Samata Mandali) has worked for them and 25 percent respondents said that no NGO worked here and 72 respondents are benefited. Among the respondents majority (72.2 percent) of the respondents have received infrastructure for housing, toilets construction and new designs equipment for looms were received and 27.7 percent respondents have received Human Resource Development benefits like training and development for handloom weaving.

XIV. GENERAL PROBLEMS

In Guntur district 34 percent of respondents feel that there is a scarcity of financial resource and only 1.2 percent of respondents expressed the scarcity of human resource. In Krishna district 45.8 percent of the respondents feel that there is the scarcity of financial resources and minute 0.7 percent said expressed high cost of raw material.
6.2 VERIFICATION OF THE OBJECTIVES

Basing on the existing research gaps the following objectives were verified.

1. To observe the industrial origin, structure and process in Indian Handloom Industry;
2. To study the prevailing situation in the Indian Handloom Industry with particular reference to the socio-economic conditions of Handloom weavers;
3. To elucidate the status of Handloom Industry in India;
4. To examine the social conditions of Handloom weavers in the select districts;
5. To analyse the economic conditions of Handloom weavers in the select districts;
6. To suggest suitable measures for uplifting the socio-economic status of the Handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh.

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6.2.1 VERIFICATION OF THE HYPOTHESES (Refer Chapter – 2) (2.4.1)

In order to verify the objectives of the study the following Alternate Hypotheses ($H_a$) were framed and statistically tested.

$H_{a1}$: There is a significant association between age group of respondents and Handloom weaving activity.
H₂: There is a significant association between social groups of the respondents and participation of respondents.

H₃: There is a significant association between type of houses of the respondents and district wise respondents.

H₄: There is a significant association between migration of the respondents and reasons for migration of the respondents.

H₅: There is a significant association between choice of profession of the respondents and parental occupation of the respondents.

H₆: There is a significant association between number of working days of respondents and district wise respondents working period.

H₇: There is a significant association between income generation of the respondents and weaving categories.

H₈: There is a significant association between the reasons for Indebtedness and district wise respondents.

H₉: There is a significant association between the reasons for dissatisfaction in job among respondents.

H₁₀: There is a significant association between the seasons and comfortability for weaving activities.

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6.3 STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION

An objective appraisal of the handloom industry is only a first step that has allowed to identify some of its most urgent needs and to indicate areas that suggest require intervention. A larger question to be considered would be of the agents of intervention. What should be the role of the state towards these issues, and how would primary producers participate in the decision and policy-making process? We will here get into certain major problem areas as well as indicate strategies for intervention/ action.

1. Prevention of Suicides

Weavers’ suicides become common phenomenon in many parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states. The situation of weavers is pathetic leads them in to distress and forced them to commit suicides. Various studies have highlighted that in the recent times the weavers committed suicide across the state of Andhra Pradesh. An awareness camps particularly on such ill-fated deaths can be prevented if there were huge awareness camps. The social work intervention can bring the legal system and the government machinery together to tackle the problem.

2. Efficiency of Co-operative system

The role of cooperative societies is quite significant for smooth running of the small scale handloom industries. The societies cater to the needs as well as the financial needs of the industry; unfortunately most of the societies across the state are dysfunctional due to various reasons such as political intervention and corruption.
3. Lobbying with Government

In countries like India, it is very difficult to get things done without any lobbying. Unless there is constant lobbying things cannot move faster. The situation is worse particularly in the welfare sector. Constant social work intervention with the government and other welfare agencies can address the issue of the handloom sector hence the need of social work cannot be denied.
4. Welfare Programmes

Lack of information and awareness on the governmental schemes to the handloom community forced them to lose lot of government benefits. In this context, it is very essential to disseminate the information about varies schemes and programs, that are meant for weavers. There is no doubt that the efficient social work intervention plays a significant role in liaising the handloom community and the government. It would succeed in reaching the welfare programes to the community.

5. Awareness on Government Welfare Schemes

For making any programme success awareness plays a significant role. Due to the paucity of awareness many government schemes programs have failed and did not yield the proposed and expected results. As such in handloom sector government of India and state government have introduced a good number of welfare measure for the benefit of the weaving community.

6. Promotion of Market needs

The commissioning of market surveys provides a more accurate picture of the customers’ preferences. This market information is to be disseminated by the surveying agency to all the concerned agents, especially primary producers. The role of the state in market development should also be discussed. For instance, state marketing support should focus on areas neglected by private traders, such as the thicket fabrics that form the basis of domestic (and also export) demand. Since the margins are not very high here, it is often neglected. Similarly, joint ventures between competent and committed handpicked state agencies, NGO’s and representatives of producer groups could provide models for successful market development.

7. Subsidy/ Credit needs

Credit, or rather the lack of it, is the single largest block in the growth of the handloom industry. Despite all the claims of subsidies to the handloom sector, the
amount of institutional credit that is made available to weavers is abysmally low. While banks have an inbuilt bias against small producers, the credit facilities available to the co-operatives are far from adequate. Very often, master-weaver controlled co-operatives manage to siphon off a large chunk of the credit available. The credit needs of the majority of weavers outside the co-operative fold also remain unaddressed. Also neglected are the different kinds of credit needs of weavers. While adequate and timely credit for input procurement is the main need, at times, capital may be required for repairs or for domestic and social expenses.

8. Training and Research

Research and the documentation of designs as well as of existing markets also need to be undertaken. In fact, an unreliable database has been the bane of the handloom sector. A comprehensive collection of data on handlooms covering all aspects of the industry should be immediately initiated not only through official machinery, but also with the help of weaver organizations and responsible non-governmental organizations. Further, there should be a comprehensive training and research package to adopt the modern trends.

9. Public Support

It is very essential to get a product success for the public support. If any of the products lacks public support ultimately it leads to huge loss and them industry may be pushed to huge losses. The same principle also can be applied in the handloom industry. The poor handloom industry cannot compete with the power loom and other imported foreign goods. Hence social work intervention is much required in this context. We should bring awareness in the people and educate them towards the usage of handloom products. Thus, it ultimately rejuvenates the industry and directly helps the poor lives which depend on the industry.
6.4 SUGGESTIONS

Keeping in view of the findings arrived as focal point, this section discusses on the Interventions and recommendations which would help for the upliftment of socio economic conditions of the weaving community particularly in Krishna and Guntur districts, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Human Resource Development

   Handloom weaving activity is a skill based industry. In this context, the participation of young generation and the skill development is very important to the growth and development of the industry. In the context of global competition the skill development is very crucial; unfortunately the industry lacks such a basic skill. Proper attention needs to be paid towards training and development programmes for handloom weavers with by means of sufficient funds allocation to all categories of handloom weavers. The government should provide mobile service centres instead of the regional weavers’ service centres for the training of weavers and offer good stipend for weavers in training periods.

2. Income and Expenditure/ Increased Level of Income

   Due to the impact of globalization the cost of living has been highly and sharply increased. However, the weavers’ income level has not increased accordingly. Hence, the government should take proper measures to provide the food security and minimum wage employment programmes to all categories of the weavers. As a result, their level of income will increase and fulfill their basic needs. The gap between the income and the expenditure should come down. When there is a growth in the income levels simultaneously, the socio-economic conditions of the weavers ultimately would be better off.

3. Intervention of NGOs

   NGOs intervention yield a desirable progress as they work need based, rather the project mode. The skills development activities, health care, information dissemination, etc. to be under taken concurrently. It is a practical experience that the Arthika Samatha
Mandali a NGO, which had worked to bring significant change/social development among the weavers community in Krishna district. It is an undeniable truth that the dedicated services of non-governmental organizations can bring a cheerful change; hence more intervention of NGOs is highly suggested. NGOs should come forward and extent their valuable services not only Guntur and Krishna districts, but also other parts of Andhra Pradesh.

4. Welfare Schemes and Policies

It is surprising to note that the a good number of welfare schemes implemented towards the welfare of the weavers, however, only few schemes could reach the real beneficiary and the true spirit of the schemes has been diluted due to various reasons. Implementation of the welfare schemes to be in true spirit, and the benefits to be reached to the ground level unless they can yield the expected results. The utilization of schemes and policies should be diverted from the fake handloom weavers to genuine weavers. Most of the time fake weavers enjoy the fruits of all the schemes. To ensure the true spirit the government mechanism such as effective implementation of Handloom Reservation Act, 1985 should the act in a proper way. The government should take measures to arrange awareness programmes about schemes bring implementing by them among weavers through print and electronic media.

5. Re-organization of Co-operative Societies

Government should take necessary measures to reorganize the defunct co-operative societies. The structure of the Handloom weavers’ cooperative societies is too weak to support the handloom weavers. Therefore there is a dire need to strengthen and monitor the cooperative societies keeping in view the welfare of the weavers. Further, need to pursue research on problems of cooperative societies. Proper functioning of cooperative societies ensures the benefits reaching to the genuine weavers.

6. Promotion of Independent Weavers

In the contemporary, highly competitive scenario, promotion of handloom products is very essential. Various kinds of manufacturers independent, master weavers,
cooperative weavers etc., to be promoted. This could be considered an important factor to the independent weavers. Need to reinforce the weaving capacity and earning capacity of the weavers by meaning of subsidies and financial assistance. Financial facilities/ loan and advances by Andhra Pradesh Cooperative (APCO), government should provide raw material (yarn, chemicals, etc.,) when all reach directly to weavers without a mediator at that time definitely independent weavers’ percentage will reach to good figures.

7. Marketing Facilities

Marketing plays a significant role. Proper marketing facilities stimulate the production. The market of handloom items should be extended from local to national and international markets to increase the demand parallel to the cheap fabrics. When direct marketing to consumer (without middle men) can reduce the cost of the product and increased profits. Government should establish Handloom weaver Bazaars like the Former bazaars, the interested weaver should come forward and sell their handloom items in weaving bazaars. The development of marketing skills should be developed through training. Besides, Government pays proper attention towards up gradation and modernization of loom, equipment’s and designs, infrastructural development for the betterment of the handloom industry.

8. Introduction of innovative products

The existing product can be made softer with good textures and with standard size (Redesigning of the existing traditional products). The existing traditional designs can be replaced with diversified varieties of handloom products which will establish local identity and brand image among customers. Introduction of innovative methods and products can attract large number of customers ultimately the scope of marketing can be expanded to all corners of the world.

9. Promotion of Self Help Groups (SHGs) for Handloom Weaving

Need to develop the self-help groups for the betterment of handloom weaving because the cooperative societies cover only 18 percent handloom workers. The handloom weavers need a platform to utilize all the benefits provided by the government.
The banks should also provide loans to the Self Help Groups. The government should give top priority to the SHGs besides the cooperative societies. Definitely through the SHGs should develop the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers.

10. Comprehensive Legislation on Occupational Health and Safety for Handloom Sector

There is good number of policies and schemes and other welfare measures were introduced time to time over a period of time indeed. The extent of these welfare measures certainly extends the benefits to handloom weavers. However, while implementation the true spirit has been side lined, the effective implementation of such measures ensure fruitful benefits to the genuine beneficiaries.

Among such welfare measures, health policy to weavers is one of the major initiatives due to variety of technical reasons the integrated health policy could not reach many. There is a need for inclusive legislation on occupational health and safety for the handloom sector. Key remedial initiatives need to be focused focus on creating norms, raising awareness and providing capacity building services to help weavers to meet safety standards.

11. Ensure the benefits at their door step

It has been observed throughout the study that majority of the respondents were expressing their dissatisfaction on the implementation pattern of various welfare measures for the weavers. For instance, training and development programmes are being run by the weaving service centers at zonal level (at the district headquarters). The weavers are not willing to attend such courses, due to the fear of losing their livelihoods / working days during the period. Directly it affects their livelihoods. Hence, all the welfare initiatives to be brought to their door step, so that it will get the desired results.

6.5 CONCLUSION

A careful study of the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers in Guntur and Krishna districts shows that the Handloom weaving sector provides a large scale of employment for 43.31 lakh weavers and allied workers after agriculture sector.
Therefore, there is a genuine need to promote the handloom sector which could well re-establish the pride of place occupied on the industrial map of India. It could also contribute to the economic growth of the country in a significant way. The handloom weaving has much strength and can withstand heavy competition in the global market when the pathetic socio-economic conditions were faced by weavers and needs to be changed. A good performing cooperative society is the best safeguard for the handloom sector and it protects the weavers by providing a counter balance to the master weavers.

The poor socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers are the obstructions for the betterment of the handloom weaving section. The majority of weavers live in the kutcha and the semi pukka houses. Most of them lead unsatisfactory lives with inadequate earnings. Moreover, they also become victims of variation in the working days from season to season. They have to works for 12 hours and above per day in spite of the serious health problems. The economic conditions of the majority of weavers are the worst with their monthly income they are hardly getting ₹ 2001-3000 per month. The Independent weavers are getting better income than the working under cooperative and master weaver category.

The gap exists between the income and the expenditure lead them to fall in the trap into the debt ridden circle. Apart from, the low wages made them to face the incidence of poverty hunger, particularly the weaver’s work under master weavers. The competition from the powerloom is a major threat to the survival of the handloom weaving sector leading to violation of the Handloom Reservation Act. To change the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers we need to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and also need to improve the marketing facilities, through better designs and product diversification, accessing multiple marketing channels and accessing working capital from the formal institutions, these strategies to some extent an improve the performance of the cooperatives. There is an urgency to develop the independent weavers by providing them modern infrastructure and new designs. There is a need to launch the handloom weaving self-help groups (SHG). Through the mediation of SHGs, though the. The fruits need to be reached to the bottom level. The present study has been elaborated how the innocent handloom weavers are deprived of their basic human rights.
6.6 SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The present study is confined to certain aspects/issues and it has examined / areas such as the socio-economic aspects of Handloom Weavers in Guntur and Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh. Further research studies on the concept of Handloom Industry can be made on the following areas:

- Economic analysis of weavers’ co-operative societies
- Wage - Productivity variations among handloom weavers
- Comparative studies on socio-economic assessment of Handloom and Powerloom Units
- Studies on capacity utilization, employment generation and cost of production in Handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh.
- A comparative study on Policy making and implementation of various handloom development schemes among Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Odisha states
- Handloom Cluster based studies to be carried out at various places of Andhra Pradesh.