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ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF RAJANNA SIRCILLA POWERLOOM WEAVERS

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ABSTRACT:

Clothing is one of the basic necessities of human existence and as a requirement it has changed its significance with time. Its role from protection to pride has seen the evolution from different perspectives. The credit goes to the exceptional skills of weavers, who are the life blood of textile industry. The Indian textile industry is diverse and occupies a prominent position in the Indian economy. It ranges from capital intensive to hand woven sector. The Powerloom has recent origin and is seen as a by product of Mills sector. As every industry has its ups and downs, Powerloom industry is



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no exception to this and has its share of problems in the form of Infrastructure issues, Technology, Raw material, Organisational issues, Government assistance and Marketing problems. The weavers has to bear the brunt of industrial problems by way of lack of work, low wages, improper working conditions and harassment which made their life a havoc by increasing indebtedness, financial crisis and domestic issues. Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry of Telangana is selected for the study as the industry witnessed the crisis following erratic and unsystematic policies of Government. A sample of 500 weavers is selected for the study and their Socio-economic conditions is being analysed by using statistical tools of ANOVA and Independent sample t-test. The study concludes on four aspects i.e. to develop the Socio-economic conditions of weavers, to manage financial crisis, to implement rehabilitation measures and to develop the industry for removing the traces of crisis and for rehabilitating the weavers.

KEYWORDS: Powerlooms, Socio-economic conditions, Financial Crisis and Rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION:

Textile industry in India is the second largest industry after agriculture providing employment to over 45 million people which significantly includes women work force and is considered as largest source of employment generation. India is one of the largest producers of textiles and garments. Abundant availability of raw material in the form of cotton, silk and wool have made the country a hub for textile manufacturing. The Indian textile industry represents a rich and diverse spectrum with hand woven sector at one end and capital intensive mill sector on the other. The spectrum also includes decentralized Powerloom sector, hosiery, knitting and handicraft segments. It also includes variety of fibres ranging from natural fibres like cotton, wool, silk and jute to man-made fibres like polyester, rayon, nylon and lycra etc.

TELANGANA POWERLOOM INDUSTRY

Telangana has rich and flourishing textile industry. They are about 120440 handloom weavers in cooperative and non cooperative folds and about 49112 Powerlooms working in the state. The Powerloom

industry of Telangana is spread in Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy and Mahabubnagar Districts of Telangana State. Majority of the Powerlooms i.e 35000 looms are working alone in Rajanna Sircilla District. However most of them are outdated, English type plain powerlooms of 5 HP producing 56 width of low end cloth. Several Central and State sponsor scheme are being implemented for the socio-economic development of weavers in the state.

The Government of India in coordination with State Government has taken many initiatives for the development of Powerloom industry and implemented many schemes for the Socio-economic development of weavers in State. The Department of Handlooms and Textiles are vested with the powers to oversee the functioning of Handlooms, Powerlooms in the co-operative and decentralized sector. The Department is responsible for setting up of Apparel and Textile Parks in the garment sector. The Commissioner and Director of Handloom and Textile Department is charged with the responsibility of supervision of work, Implementation of schemes for development and vested with statutory and regulatory functions.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Powerloom industry contributes to highest cloth production among various other industries of Khadi, Wool, Hosiery, Mills and Handlooms etc. In Telangana State the major concentration of Powerlooms are in Rajanna Sircilla followed by Nalgonda, Rangareddy District and Warangal. This decentralized industry has faced crisis situation in various parts of the country and Rajanna Sircilla District of Telangana stands testimony of the crisis. In recent years the weavers have to face vulnerabilities due to weak organisation structure, poor infrastructure, outdated technology, lack of marketing facilities, financial debts, low wages, chronic illness and addiction to liquor. The Government has taken rehabilitation measures for the upliftment of weavers. It is in this phase of uncertainties the present study is undertaken with an aim to understand the prevailing Socio-economic conditions of Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom weavers.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A brief review of literature from international, national and regional level studies is presented below. This includes Government reports, research reports, dissertation or thesis, articles, books, journals and news reports etc.

Textile Enquiry Committee Report (1952): Textile enquiry committee under the chairmanship of Shri Nityanand Kanungo was entrusted with the task of examination and assessment of three sectors i.e Mills, Handlooms and Powerlooms. The committee made detail analysis of three sectors and their role in economic development of the country and observed that the Handloom sector was into deep crisis which resulted in large scale unemployment of weavers.

Powerloom Enquiry Committee Report (1964): The committee was formed to examine the structure and growth of the powerloom industry with special reference to types, holdings, ownership, appliances, supply of raw material, fabrics produced, processing of the fabrics, marketing and financing. The report has highlighted the growth of powerlooms in different centers and the geographical spread of supply of electric power together with the availability of looms discarded from the mills provided a strong base for the growth of powerlooms.

L. C. Jain (1983): The study of LC Jain titled "Handlooms face Liquidation Powerlooms Mock at Yojana Bhavan", focused on systematic destruction and concealment of Handlooms by Powerlooms. The study concludes that yarn shortage has made the prices competitive which has affected the wages and earnings of the weavers.

Tirthankar Roy (1998): The author in the article "Development or Distortion? 'Powerlooms' in India, 1950-1997" has focused on the rise and fall of a cotton mill industry in India. The article interprets the growth of Powerlooms as a pattern of industrialization founded on unlimited supply of low-quality labour, inter-firm co-ordination, agglomeration and continuous accumulation of capital. Asha Krishna Kumar (2001): The author in article "Despair and Death-The Crises in Sircilla", has define the structure of Sircilla powerloom industry. The article concludes that the weavers could not benefit much from any of the government scheme. The Sircilla weavers are also not eligible for assistance to modernise their looms under the TUFS as it does not cover cottage industries. The families of the weavers who commit suicide is not even eligible for an ex gratia payment.

Naandi Foundation Report (2009): Naandi Foundation was appointed by the State Government to survey the families of Sircilla weavers. The suicides have been unprecedented among weaving community since 2000 and to know the reason for the suicides the survey was undertaken. The objective of the survey is to study the Socio-economic status of the weavers community, to identify various vulnerable groups within the community, to examine the outreach of the government schemes and interventions.

S Galab, E Revathi (2009): The authors in the article "Understanding Powerloom weavers' suicides in Sircilla" have given a detail description of Sircilla oligopolistic market. The article has highlighted the conditions of workers and the State and Central government intervention in a more organized manner to end the distress.

Sumita Dawra (2012): Sumita Dawra an IAS officer has written field notes of her service in Andhra Pradesh State in the book titled "Poor but Spirited in Karimnagar". Through the book the officer recounts her experience as collector in the district of Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh. The Administrative problems are discussed by identifying the successful models of governance within the country and outside the county for comparison and provided contemporary perspectives on administration and governance.

Manduva Hanmanth Prasad Rao (2013): The researcher through the research titled "Problems and Prospects of Textile Industry – A Study of Select Units" has endeavoured to identify and quantify problems of the Powerloom sector at Sircilla and the Textile Park at Baddenapally of Karimnagar district. The study makes an attempt to identify the future prospects of the sector and suggest various means of achieving the prospects through the resolution of the problems.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry is selected for the study as this region has highest concentration of Powerloom weavers faced with crisis. The study is in the form of empirical analysis where the objectives are evaluated by using both Primary and Secondary source.

The **Primary data** was collected from Powerloom weavers (Hire worker/Employees) who weave and process cotton and polyester cloth. The information was taken through a structured questionnaire with good reliability. The primary data is supported by **Secondary Data**. The secondary sources of data pertaining to the study was gathered from the records published by the Ministry of Textile Industry-Government of India, Department of Handlooms and Textiles Karimnagar, Powerloom Service Centre of Rajanna Sircilla and Hyderabad, Trade Unions office in Rajanna Sircilla, CESS Rajanna Sircilla, and RDO office Rajanna Sircilla.

Sampling Method

The Empirical study has adopted Convenience Sampling Technique in selection of weavers sample from Rajanna Sircilla District. The selection of sample was made in accordance with the Powerloom weavers population within the Rajanna Sircilla cluster.

Sample Size

Out of 20000 weavers a sample of 500 which is 2.5 percent of the population is selected for the study.

Sample Size = 500

A well structure questionnaire was developed by keeping in view the objectives of the study. It was administered to a very small sample segment as a pre-test. The results of the pre-test were helpful in modification of the questionnaire so that there is consistency for processing the large scale data.

Pilot Study

The pilot study was carried out on a sample of 50 workers. The data collected in pilot study was processed with Cronbach's Alpha test to know the reliability of a questionnaire. Based on the experience gained in the pilot study, with some minor modification the questionnaire was administered to 500 respondents (Powerloom weavers) for testing the hypothesis. The result of the testing and validation revealed the following values:

Table No. 1.2 Reliab	ility Values of Varia	ables 🛛 🗸
Reliability Statistics		
	Cronbach's	
Variable	Alpha	No of Items
Socio-economic Condition	0.780	8

Source: Field Survey Data.

Cronbach's Alpha Values for both the variables are within the minimum acceptable criterion limit i.e $\alpha > 0.60$. The data is considered for further processing and for testing the objectives of the study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyse the Socio-economic Conditions of the Powerloom weavers.

HYPOTHESES

The study attempts to test the following hypotheses for their acceptance or non-acceptance.

 H_01 : There is no significant effect of Social factors on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers. H_02 : There is no significant effect of Economical factors on the Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers.

STATISTICAL TOOLS

The primary data collected from the respondents were analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Parametric two-sample t - test is used to analyze bi-polar responses on statements of Likert's Five Point scale to test for its significance.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) is used to identify the influence of Demographic, Social and Economical factors on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has analyzed the present Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers which may tend to change. The study is confined to a particular area i.e Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry in Telangana region. Hence, the results obtained may not be applicable to other Powerloom industries of other states.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry plunged into crisis following erratic and unsystematic policies which fail to address the root cause of problems. In spite of emerging as major cloth producer centre, Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry could not sustain the growth for a long period of time; as such the crisis became wide spread and affected the Socio-economic position of weavers which resulted in suicides of the weavers. In the light of this, the present study was undertaken to analyze the social and economical issues of weavers.

ANALYSIS OF HYPOTHESES

To know the Socio-economic aspects of Powerloom weavers the following hypotheses were framed and tested through statistical techniques of ANOVA, t-test, Correlation, Regression and Factor Analysis. The independent variables selected are Demographic variables, Social variables and Economical Variables of weavers which are either categorical or dichotomous or continuous variables whereas the dependent variable is Socio-economic Conditions of weavers, which is based on likert scale.

HYPOTHESES TESTING OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF POWERLOOM WEAVERS

H₀2: There is no significant effect of Social factors on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers. To test above hypothesis the following sub-hypotheses were framed by considering the effect of Education of Children, Type of Dwelling, Basic Facilities at Home, Household Items, Type of Ration Card, Type of Habits and Health issues (Social factors) on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers.

mee	lvers				ANOVA Te		
				60		~	Dec. He
	Variables	Ν	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
	Children Education						
	No Children	9	26.56	5.294			
	No Education	9	22.56	4.851			
	Pre Schooler	44	26.11	4.076	_		
	Primary Level	82	25.28	3.992	_		
	High Level	50	24.34	3.767	6.633	0.000	Significant
	SSC	45	22.69	4.907			
	Intermediate	73	23.25	4.527			
	Graduation	145	24.83	3.965			
	Professional Degree	43	26.98	3.745			
	(B): There is no significant associatio nomic conditions	n betv	ween the	e type o			vith their Soci
		n betv	ween the	e type o	of weavers		vith their Socio
		n betv N	ween the Mean	e type o SD			vith their Socio
eco	nomic conditions				ANOVA Te	est	
eco	Nomic conditions Variables				ANOVA Te	est	
eco	Variables Dwelling Type	N	Mean	SD	ANOVA Te	est	
eco	Variables Dwelling Type Thatched	N 23	Mean 28.57	SD 6.535	ANOVA Te	est	
eco	Variables Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled	N 23 191	Mean 28.57 23.71	SD 6.535 3.401	ANOVA Te	est	
eco	Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled Asbestos	N 23 191 206	Mean 28.57 23.71 25.33	SD 6.535 3.401 4.661	ANOVA Te	est	
	Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled Asbestos Pucca	N 23 191 206 6 74	Mean 28.57 23.71 25.33 23 25.18	SD 6.535 3.401 4.661 7.668 3.497	ANOVA Te F Value	est Sig 0.000	Results Significant
	Variables Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled Asbestos Pucca RCC	N 23 191 206 6 74 betw	Mean 28.57 23.71 25.33 23 25.18	SD 6.535 3.401 4.661 7.668 3.497	ANOVA Te F Value	est Sig 0.000	Results Significant
	Variables Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled Asbestos Pucca RCC (C): There is no significant association	N 23 191 206 6 74 betw	Mean 28.57 23.71 25.33 23 25.18	SD 6.535 3.401 4.661 7.668 3.497	ANOVA Te F Value	est Sig 0.000	Results Significant
	Variables Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled Asbestos Pucca RCC (C): There is no significant association	N 23 191 206 6 74 betw	Mean 28.57 23.71 25.33 23 25.18	SD 6.535 3.401 4.661 7.668 3.497	ANOVA Te F Value 9.052	est Sig 0.000	Results Significant
	Variables Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled Asbestos Pucca RCC (C): There is no significant association nomic condition of Powerloom weavers	N 23 191 206 6 74 n betw	Mean 28.57 23.71 25.33 23 25.18 veen the	SD 6.535 3.401 4.661 7.668 3.497 availabi	ANOVA Te F Value 9.052 lity of basi	est Sig 0.000 c facilities	Results Significant with the Socio
eco II H01	Variables Variables Dwelling Type Thatched Tiled Asbestos Pucca RCC (C): There is no significant association nomic condition of Powerloom weavers Variables	N 23 191 206 6 74 n betw	Mean 28.57 23.71 25.33 23 25.18 veen the	SD 6.535 3.401 4.661 7.668 3.497 availabi	ANOVA Te F Value 9.052 lity of basi	est Sig 0.000 c facilities	Results Significant with the Socio

H01: There is no significant effect of Social factors on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers

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					ANOVA T	est	
	Variables	N	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
IV	Household Items						
	Any One item	12	22.75	1.357			
	Any Two items	72	27.18	5.705			
	Any Three items	343	24.03	4.008			
	Any Four items	67	26.43	3.258			
	Above Four items	6	27	2.191	12.616	0.000	Significant
H01	(E): There is no significant associa	ation betw	veen the	type of	ration car	d with the	Socio-econon
con	dition of Powerloom weavers						
					T- Test		
	Variables	Ν	Mean	SD	T Value	Sig	Results
۷	Type of Ration Card						1
	White Card	324	25.22	4.238			
	Antyodaya Anna Yojana Card	170	24.03	4.523			
	None	6	24.5	0.548	4.273	0.014	significant
H01	(F): There is no significant effect of	weavers ha	abits on t	heir Soci			
					ANOVA T		
	Variables	Ν	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
VI	Habits of weavers						
	Cigarette/Beedi & Alcohol	111	24.05	6.098			
	Alcohol	297	25.29	3.73			
	Cigarette/Beedi	23	22.26	2.005			
	None	69	24.83	3.514	5.098	0.002	Significant
H01	(G): There is no significant effect of	weavers h	ealth on t	their Soc	1		1
					ANOVA T	est	
	Variables	N	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
VII	Health Issues						
	Any One	131	25.6	3.624			
	Any Two	182	24.9	3.542	1		
	,,	1	24.76	5.179			
	Any Three	95	24.70				
		95 46	22.15	3.645			
	Any Three				_		

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Source: Primary Data

The above analysis shows the respective null hypotheses were rejected when the ANOVA Sig. Value and T Sig. Value were less than 0.05. The rejected hypotheses were the affect of Children education (.000), Type of Dwelling (.000), Availability of Household items (.000), Type of Ration Card (.000), Habits of weavers (.002) and Health issues of weavers (.000) on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers. The null hypothesis related with the Availability of Basic facilities at home (.550) is accepted as T Sig. Value is greater than 0.05.

 H_02 : There is no significant effect of Economical factors on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers.

To test above hypothesis the following sub-hypotheses were framed by considering the effect of Total Income, Expenditure, Amount of Debts, Assets, Mode of Savings, Financial Support in Family and Sources of Borrowings (Economical factors) on Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers.

H02	(A):There is no significant effec	t of weavers To	otal Incom	e on the	ir Socio-econ	omic condit	tion
					ANOVA Tes		
	Variables	N	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
1	Total Income(per annum)						
•	Less than 100000	114	23.16	5.083			
	100000 to 200000	371	25.17	4.002	-		
	Above 200000	15	28.47	1.06	15.679	0.000	Significant
H02	(B): There is no significant effect	t of weavers T					
					ANOVA Tes		
	Variables	N	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
	Expenditure(per annum)						
	Less than 80000	75	26.12	5.95	8.		
	80000 to 160000	408	24.42	3.955	1		
	Above 160000	17	28.35	1.32	11.148	0.000	Significant
H02	(C): There is no significant effec	t of weavers D		10000			
	T T				ANOVA Tes	st	
	Variables	N	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
	Debts						
	Less than 50000	184	25.42	4.623			
	50000 to 100000	132	23.36	3.571			
	Above 100000	116	23.91	4.641	-		
	None	68	27.5	2.53	18.163	0.000	Significant
H02	(D): There is no significant asso	ciation betwee				cio-economi	-
					ANOVA Test		
	Variables	N	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
IV	Assets						
	Moveable	140	25.19	4.574			
	Immoveable	55	25.49	5.869			
	Both	249	24.31	4.164			
	None	56	25.39	2.024	2.268	0.028	Significant
H02	(E): There is no significant as	sociation betw	een the	Savings (of weavers w	with their S	ocio-economi
con	dition						
					ANOVA Tes	st	
	Variables	Ν	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
V	Savings						
	SHG	134	25.66	3.179			
	Chit Fund	75	27.76	3.635			
	Bank	15	25.73	3.453			
	Chit Fund & SHG	19	30.53	2.568			
	None	257	23.03	4.245	37.692	0.000	Significant

					ANOVA Test		
	Variables	N	Mean	SD	F Value	Sig	Results
VI	Financial Support						
	Spouse	315	24.37	4.152			
	Son	24	29.38	5.282			
	Spouse & Mother	44	25.82	2.202			
	Spouse & Son	70	23.03	4.334			K
	Spouse & Daughter	7	24.29	0.488			
H02(None G): There is no significant	40 effect of Bo	27.58 rrowings on	4.314 the Soc	13.528 cio-economic	0.000 condition	
H02(weay	None G): There is no significant	-		-		condition	
	None G): There is no significant	-		-	io-economic	condition	
	None G): There is no significant vers	effect of Bo	rrowings on	the Soc	io-economic	condition st	of Powerloc
wear	None G): There is no significant vers Variables	effect of Bo	rrowings on	the Soc	io-economic	condition st	of Powerloc
wear	None G): There is no significant vers Variables Sources of Borrowings	effect of Bo	rrowings on Mean	the Soc SD	io-economic	condition st	of Powerloc
wear	None G): There is no significant vers Variables Sources of Borrowings Any One Source	effect of Bo N 289	Mean 24.49	the Soc SD 4.639	io-economic	condition st	of Powerloo
wear	None G): There is no significant vers Variables Sources of Borrowings Any One Source Any Two Sources	effect of Bo N 289 123	Mean 24.49 24.59	the Soc SD 4.639 4.038	io-economic	condition st	

As per the above analysis the respective null hypotheses were rejected as the ANOVA Sig. Value is less than 0.05. The rejected hypotheses were the Total Income of weavers (.000), Total Expenditure (.000), Debts (.000), Assets (.001), Savings (.000), Financial Support (.000) and Borrowings (.000). This shows that there is a significant effect of economical factors on Socio-economic Conditions of Power loom weavers.

FINDINGS

The Social factors taken for the study are classified as weavers children Education, Type of Dwelling, Basic facilities at home, Weavers Habits and Health issues. The respective null hypotheses were rejected when the ANOVA Sig. Value and T Sig. Value were less than 0.05. There is significant affect of Children education, Type of Dwelling, Availability of Household items, Type of Ration Card, Habits of weavers and Health issues of weavers on the Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom weavers. Whereas the availability of Basic facilities at home was insignificant in changing the socio-economic condition of weavers.

The Economical factors taken for the study are Total Income, Total Expenditure, Debts, Assets, Savings, Financial Support and Borrowings aspects. The respective null hypotheses were rejected as the ANOVA Sig. Value is less than 0.05. There is significant affect of weavers total Income, Expenditure, Debts, Assets, Savings, Financial Support and Borrowings on their Socio-economic Conditions.

CONCLUSION

Weavers have given importance to the education of their children for their better future. Children with good educational background have brought a significant change in Socio-economic condition of weavers. Possession of assets has significantly reflected the Socio-economic condition of weavers. Weavers with own property feels secure both psychologically and economically. The availability of basic facilities at their dwelling does not significantly reflect their Socio-economic conditions. Almost all the houses have electricity, toilet and drinking water facility. The household items which gives a comfort and as a matter of luxury cannot be afforded by the weavers with low income. Most of the weavers have basic things like Fans, Television and Gas Connection. The weavers with good earnings have Refrigerator and coolers. This shows that possession of household items has significant association with the socio-economic conditions of

weavers. Possession of Ration Card depends upon one's socio-economic condition. White ration card in Telangana has an advantage of taking benefits from Government schemes and Anthyodaya Card is given to those families who live below to BPL line families i.e in other way AY card is given to poorest of poor families. Most of the weavers in Rajanna Sircilla consume alcohol either on occasional basis or on daily basis. The problem arises when it becomes addiction. As such the habits of weavers have made significant impact on their Socio-economic condition. Weavers complain of back and joint pains followed by age and stress related health issues. Health of weavers has significantly affected their Socio-economic condition. Healthy person will contribute more in the development of family from economical and social aspects.

Income determines the standard of living and financial status of an individual. With high income weavers have better options of spending and savings for the future. There is significant effect of total income on the Socio-economic conditions of weavers. The weavers with low income could not contribute much to the development of family even after possessing the excellent skills and good experience. They try to make an adjustment with their meagre earnings and at times take debts at high rate of interest to meet their daily expenses. Expenditure is the amount of money spends on various activities. If it exceeds the income, deficit arises and to overcome this borrowing takes place. If the amount of expenditure is less than the income then with the surplus amount the development takes place. As such there is a significant effect of weavers expenditure on their Socio-economic conditions. Weavers borrow due to low income and high responsibilities and they are caught under perpetual debts. Unable to pay the borrowed amount weavers have to face the harassment from lenders which leads to depression and in a state of depression some have become addicted towards alcohol and some have even resorted to suicides. Borrowings have significantly affected the Socio-economic condition of weavers. Most of the weavers have financial support from their spouse followed by their children. Women are engage in Beedi Making and the earning which they get along with Beedi pension is used to support the family. Though their earnings have not made any drastic impact but were significant enough in improving the socio-economic status of weavers. Weavers take debts to fulfil the responsibilities of their family. Most of them took debts for the purpose of daughter's marriage or for children education or to meet the expenses related with the health problems. Indebtedness has caught the weavers under the vicious circle of poverty and has significantly affected their Socio-economic condition. Some of the weavers saved money and their savings has significantly improved their Socio-economic condition and made them capable of bearing the expenses like daughters marriage, education of children, health problems and other occasional expenses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The development of Powerloom weavers is classified under four categories i.e Socio-economic Factors, Financial Crisis, Rehabilitation measures and Industrial Development.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Medical leave, Bonus, Provident Funds, Health cards and Pensions should be given in coordination with Powerloom employers. This will create social and economical balance and make the workers loyal and sincere towards the work by reducing labour turnover. Weavers should give importance to the education of children and take the benefits from Scholarship and other schemes. Younger generation should be motivated to participate in the sector as their active participation brings creativity and energy to the sector. The Government and stake holders should make the Rajanna Sircilla Powerloom industry as prospective industry with all types of facilities and schemes in consistent for the benefit of weavers as they are the pillars of industry.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

The Government should intervene and give wages to the weavers as per Minimum wages Act and if any discrepancies are found then action should be taken against the employers. The workers are paid on piece meal basis, if they are paid on salary basis then even in slack season they get earnings. In peak season the Powerloom owners earn a good amount of profit. They should take initiative by transferring a part of the profit in the form of Bonus or as Profit sharing to the workers as they are earning on the skills of these workers. Banks and Financial Institutions on intervention with Government should come forward and device their credit policy with an objective to lend weavers on liberal terms without any discrepancies exploitation as indebtedness is mother of all problems. Women needs to be trained and educated in alternative livelihood options as Beedi Making is not only the option left for women to earn as they can contribute better towards family income by other sources.

REHABILITATION MEASURES

The Government should control the role of unorganized financial market and promote the Banks and financial institutions. Weavers should control their expenditure on anti social elements like customs and dowry which helps in controlling the debts. The weavers should take all necessary precautions and manage the occupational hazards. They should avoid drinking and other bad habits which results in loss of health and money as health is wealth. The Government and Stakeholders should identify the vulnerable groups and provide them with counselling and rehabilitation.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Government should take every initiative for modernizing and up-grading the technology in Rajanna Sircilla town on lines with Rajanna Sircilla Textile Parks and technically advance Powerloom clusters of India. The awareness of schemes and their benefits should be brought into the notice of every Powerloom unit holder. The owners should install the technically advance looms which improves the productivity and quality of the product. These technically advance looms also helps in reducing the strain and stress of workers. The Government should strengthen the infrastructure by providing the resources and uninterrupted power supply. The Government should minimize the duties and taxes and ensures a security and continuity of work.

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