

A Study On The Economic Impact Of Handloom Co-operatives On Weavers

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Abstract

A co-operative society is an independent people's association voluntarily united to fulfill their basic economic, social and cultural requirements by means of a collectively owned and democratically controlled activity. The co-operative movement was an awakening movement for handloom and its associated activities. The handloom co-operative societies played a vital role in our country's economy. The societies provided employment as a source of livelihood for millions of handloom weavers. It is an organization for the deprived and innocent person and takes care of the challenges and the growth strategy by providing strategic inputs on the sector they belong. The development and rapid growth of handloom co-operatives are therefore of vital importance. The Government introduces several schemes to increase the competitive strength of the handloom co-operatives. However, not all handloom co-operatives are well managed and well run. The growth performance of a co-operatives establishes the development of other institutions, middlemen, master weavers, independent weavers, and other beneficiaries. Well-performed co-operatives safeguard the handloom sector since they defend the member weavers and afford a counterbalance with the master weaver. The failure of the handloom co-operative societies will produce substantial losses not only to members and society, but also to the community at large. The powerloom is a clear threat, but can be challenged by unique handloom products that can be marketed locally or abroad, unlike powerloom articles. Based on fieldwork, this study analyzes the distribution of income between handloom co-operatives member weavers and non-member weavers. It also analyzes the variations in the expenditure on essentials and traces out the difference in savings and investment pattern of members and non-member weavers. This study was undertaken in Bishnupur Municipality, Bankura District, West Bengal. A three-stage sampling procedure was followed for sample selection and the responses from the questionnaires are analyzed to test statistically significant differences between the members and non-members. The results revealed that co-operatives have contributed significantly to improve the economic conditions of the weavers. The non-member weavers should become member weavers to get the benefits as enjoyed by the member weavers and increase their social and economic status in the society.

Keywords: Co-operative societies, handloom, weavers, socio-economic status, occupation.

Introduction

The handloom industry in India is the largest unorganized sector and makes up the rural life of

the country. India is one of the foremost countries in preserving and developing this decentralized textile industry through the co-operative organization. Next, to agriculture, the handloom

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industry in India is by far the largest cottage industry in terms of employment potential. About ten million people depend upon this industry for their livelihood.

In India, handlooms meet up to one-third of the clothing requirements of the people. It is the single largest industry to give employment and livelihood in the rural area. In West Bengal, there are 3.07 lakh handlooms; of them, nearly 70% looms are under the co-operative fold.

India is a country with lakhs of villages and her economy is based primarily on rural earnings. Therefore, the socio-economic development of these villages is considered essential, especially during the post-independence period. Special attention was given to the growth and development of village industries. This growth was mainly achieved by developing the cottage and handling industries and other village-based industries. Thus, the need for a co-operative organization was felt to help all people to achieve their common goal of self-development in a common organization.

A rural handloom co-operative is an association of weavers, who co-operate in the fabric production, processing and marketing of handloom products made by the co-operative members and make available the required help and services. Credit, raw materials and the marketing of handloom products are the three main requirements that cannot be easily met in the rural handloom activities.

The best solution to these complexities is handloom co-operatives. It offers two distinct advantages: a) pooling of capital and skill and b) utilization of facilities provided by the Government. The main aim of a co-operative can be categorized into two:

- (i) co-operatives provide social services to society with a view to safeguarding the

interests of the members and protecting them from exploitation by capitalists and traders.

- (ii) Economics aim to focus mainly on employment creation, reduction of disguised unemployment, increase work participation rate among male and female members, attempt to raise the profit percentage of the members and arrange for different economic welfare and pension schemes for the member workers.

However, this does not mean doing away with co-operative organizational forms. Indications got from the field survey suggest that situations can improve by adopting measures like the opening of the yarn depot/bank, appointing consultants for capturing markets, the improvement in infrastructural supports, product diversification, skill up-gradation of the weavers, realization of dues from the market and better performance by the Apex societies and other marketing organizations. Similarly, attention needs to be paid to new marketing and social entrepreneurship strategies.

West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Limited (Tantuja)

Tantuja is the apex body representing the Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies (PWCs) in West Bengal was set up in 1954 by the State Government. The Apex society primarily undertakes the following responsibility: supply of raw materials; marketing of handloom products; Organizing and developing markets in and outside the State for handloom products; establish and run sales depots for the sale of handloom goods within and outside the State. The Apex society requires adequate working capital and the State Government contributes to strengthening its share capital base. The key achievements of Tantuja are:

- extension and upgrade of two training cum procurement centers in PurbaMedinipur;
- construction of TanterHaat and Suto-O–Ranger

- Bazaar with funding from State Government at PurbasthaliPurbaBurdwan;
- renovation of showrooms located at Belur, Jalpaiguri, and Krishnanagar;
- establishment of exclusive Baluchari retail outlet in Kolkata under the Baluchari Revival Project.
- showroom cum godown at Digha.

Tantuja has 12 procurement centers and 2 training cum production centers for procuring handloom products from co-operative societies and artisans. The products are sold through its 83 sales outlets located all over India. In the year 2016, Tantuja was awarded "Images Retail Award" for the best "Turnaround Story".

Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies of Bankura Districts

The handloom co-operative societies play a major role in the sustenance of the handloom sector in Bankura district. Weavers' co-operatives were formed to tackle problems such as a steady supply of yarn, market access, and employment generation.

Though the societies operated in the mid-1970s, they have recently come into focus and gained tremendous importance in the handloom sector within a short time. In this perspective of their spirit of co-operation, self-reliance and mutual understanding the co-operative folds came into focus with the administrative backing of the State Government and monetary support from the co-operative banks and other nationalized financial organizations.

This organizational form is ideal for the handloom sector. For the sake of survival and social security and to avoid exploitation from other agencies such as mahajans, moneylenders and dealers, the weavers needed to get united for the transformation

of their miserable lifestyle to a state of better earning and better living and to restore the pristine glory of their craft and the ancient skill to its mighty position. Besides ensuring economic support and employment opportunities, the co-operatives undertake various developmental works of lifestyles, health and education of the weavers under its fold.

Literature review

On attaining independence, Government of India rightly recognized the important role that the industry can play and several policy measures planned and executed to bring the industry on a sound footing. Development of the industry based on co-operative guidelines was the cardinal element in all the Five-Year Plans of India. Co-operation has the advantage of bringing freedom and opportunity for people with benefits of large-scale management and organization. Co-operative societies are expected to perform functions of bulk purchase of raw material, raise capital by issue of shares, obtain finished goods from members and market them on favourable terms. Realizing the significance and suitability of co-operatives for handloom weaving in India, F.D. Harvell of British Government formed the First Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Society way back in 1907. Probably, the first attempt for solving rural economic problems and the survival of village industries in the fast increasing competition after the Co-operative Societies Act 1904 came into existence. The said Act has the objective to form self-help groups, encourage thrift, and co-operation among the various beneficiaries, to required financial support and essential resources (Suresh & Ganesh, 1998).

However, the principle of co-operation in the industrial field was accepted as a method for helping small industrialists, craftsmen, artisans, and others increase their production capacity and economic resources. Generally, co-operatives

consists of artisans, craftsmen, industrial workers, and small industrialists. The industrial co-operatives made definite progress during the first two five-year plans, 1951-56 and 1956-61. Weaver's co-operatives have been firmly established under the guidance of the All India Handloom Board, which still provides Government grants and loans to the co-operatives and helps to strengthen marketing organisations. It further helps to build up co-operatives' internal resources by increasing the share capital. Most funds are available to co-operative societies from co-operative banks. Private entrepreneurs provide credit facilities. Co-operative societies also receive Government subsidies, grants, and loans for the purchase of machinery, equipment, raw materials, etc. (Majee & Hoyt, 2011).

Different Indian and State organizations pay considerable attention to the introduction of improved tools and techniques among industrial co-operative societies. The co-operatives, therefore, play an important role in developing village-based industries. (Dube, 2012).

The handloom industry was the sole supplier of clothing for the entire population in our country until the invasion of East India Company during the 17th century. Since then the historic glorious past of the handloom industry in India faced several droughts under British rule. After independence, the condition of weavers was miserable and efforts were made in the 1950s to bring weavers under the weaver's co-operatives in pursuance of the industrial policy resolution (Chaudhuri, 1974).

Co-operative societies were created long before with the intention of the fair trade movement to help workers improve their livelihoods. Since then, the number of weavers' co-operative societies has increased, but the sector reflects that the economic status of many weavers still needs to be improved. Owing to various socio-economic factors, the weavers cannot get rid of their own burden from the

master craftsman-cum-employer, (Mukund & Sundari, 2001; Kamal, 1976).

Even though weavers co-operatives were established since 1907 to prevent the weavers being exploited by master weavers, the co-operative movement made little change, since only 30% of the handlooms are under the co-operatives and the rest work for private interest. Such a situation has two aspects. One, the slow development of the weavers' co-operative societies and the movement was unable to create a significant impact on the population; secondly, the co-operative societies was not fully utilised by its members (Naidu & Jayachandra, 2014).

Handloom industry is a traditional cottage industry, playing a vital role in India's economic development since independence. The sector provides avenues of employment opportunities to the people of India. It is a labour intensive family occupation in which all the members of a family can take part. Majority of the handloom weavers in India are self-employed artisans who are carrying on their profession in their own homes with the help of their family members in pre-loom and post-loom process (Liebl & Roy, 2004).

In terms of impact on rural employment and income, handloom industry in India ranks next only to agriculture. About 23% of the country's total fabric comes from the handloom sector, which earns substantial foreign exchange (Chandra, 2005).

Based on the census carried out by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, during 2009-2010, there are 3,07,829 handlooms in West Bengal, providing employment directly or indirectly to about 6,65,006 people. The numbers of active co-operative societies are 474 covering 89,689 looms (Bhattacharya & Sen, 2018).

The First Plan Period considered 'Co-operative' as

the ideal infrastructural institution for implementing a variety of schemes to support the growth of decentralized cottage industry like handlooms. Much significance has been laid on the formation of co-operatives and the various formulated schemes that were formulated was handloom co-operative oriented.

Special attention was given after Independence. The co-operativisation of handloom weavers was one of the major efforts. Subsequently, the Central and the State Governments formed different committees, task forces, and study groups for studying the socio-economic conditions of weavers in order to strengthen their co-operative movement. (Dev et al., 2008).

The handloom industry offers the maximum employment opportunities in West Bengal, About 5.8% of the households are involved with the rich heritage silk industry. The two main handloom concentrated areas in western Bengal are the Shantipur and Phulia of Nadia district. The study does the situational analysis of the handloom weavers from Nadia district by focusing on their problems. It also explored the existing crisis faced by the weaving community of Nadia district. Based on the SWOT analysis the paper recommends several measures such as awareness campaigns, self-help group and formation of consortiums, financial literacy programme, setting up of common facility centre with dyeing facilities, and market exposure to upgrade the existing situation of the handloom sector.

Garget. *al* delineated the crafts and made a comparative study on co-operative society, the private sector and clusters of Kullu on selected

handicrafts cluster. A comparison was made on parameters such as heritage and cultural aspect of Kullu weaving, socio-economical and geographical aspects, problems prevailing amongst the artisans, technical specifications, motifs, and colours. The in-depth knowledge of comparison will help in terms of prospects of design, marketability, and satisfaction of the craftsmen in the field of their expertise and their employment as heritage.

Objectives of the study

The economic impact study of handloom weavers co-operatives was done with the following specific objectives:

- (i) Analyze the distribution of income between the co-operative members and non-member weavers.
- (ii) Finding out variations in the expenditure on essentials between the co-operative member and non-member weavers,
- (iii) To trace out the difference in the savings and investment pattern of the co-operative member and non-member weavers

Methodology

The study collected primary and secondary data. A well-structured questionnaire was prepared for collection of primary data from 60 sample weavers comprising 30 member weavers and 30 non-member weavers. A voluntary participation sampling procedure was followed to draw the sample weavers from Bishnupur Municipality in the District of Bankura, West Bengal (Figure 1). The secondary information was collected from books, annual report, and journals relating to the handloom industry.

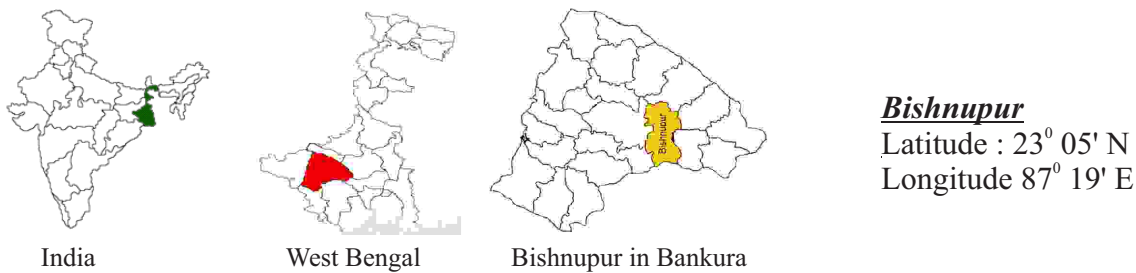


Figure 1: Map showing the study area location with Bankura

Weavers from Patrapara, Krishnaganj and other weaving localities under Bishnupur Municipality were selected based on their voluntary participation for the study.

Profile of the Bankura handloom sector

The handloom sector in this district is the second job-generating sector of the rural economy. The sector has 11,791 weavers, ancillary weavers, and over 30,000 people engaged in various handloom related activities. During the 8th Five-Year Plan emphasis laid on co-operativisation and development of handloom sector through modernizing the looms and provision of technological inputs, supporting the design

to improve product competitiveness, increasing the production of blended handloom fabrics, improving marketing and supporting infrastructure and strengthening the database, ensuring adequate supply of yarn and other raw materials (Mitra, 2016).

In the Bankura District, the handloom production is done by the private, co-operative and cluster approach. While the latter two categories are more organized, the private sector handlooms are more scattered and unorganized. The co-operative society mainly supplies yarn for making cloth at a prescribed weaving and allied processing charges. Figure 2 indicates the handloom localities of Bankura District.



Figure 2: Handloom sectors of Bankura District

The weaver's concentrated areas are Bishnupur, Sonamukhi, Bankura, Taldanga, and Simlapal Block. Besides PWCs, clusters, self-help groups, there are master weavers and individuals in this district. Handloom Development Officer heads these handloom sectors. The office situated in

Bankura town. The handloom industry of Bankura District receives all kinds of Central and State aids and supports through Handloom Development Office. The working structure of Weavers' Co-operative Society is described in Figure 3.

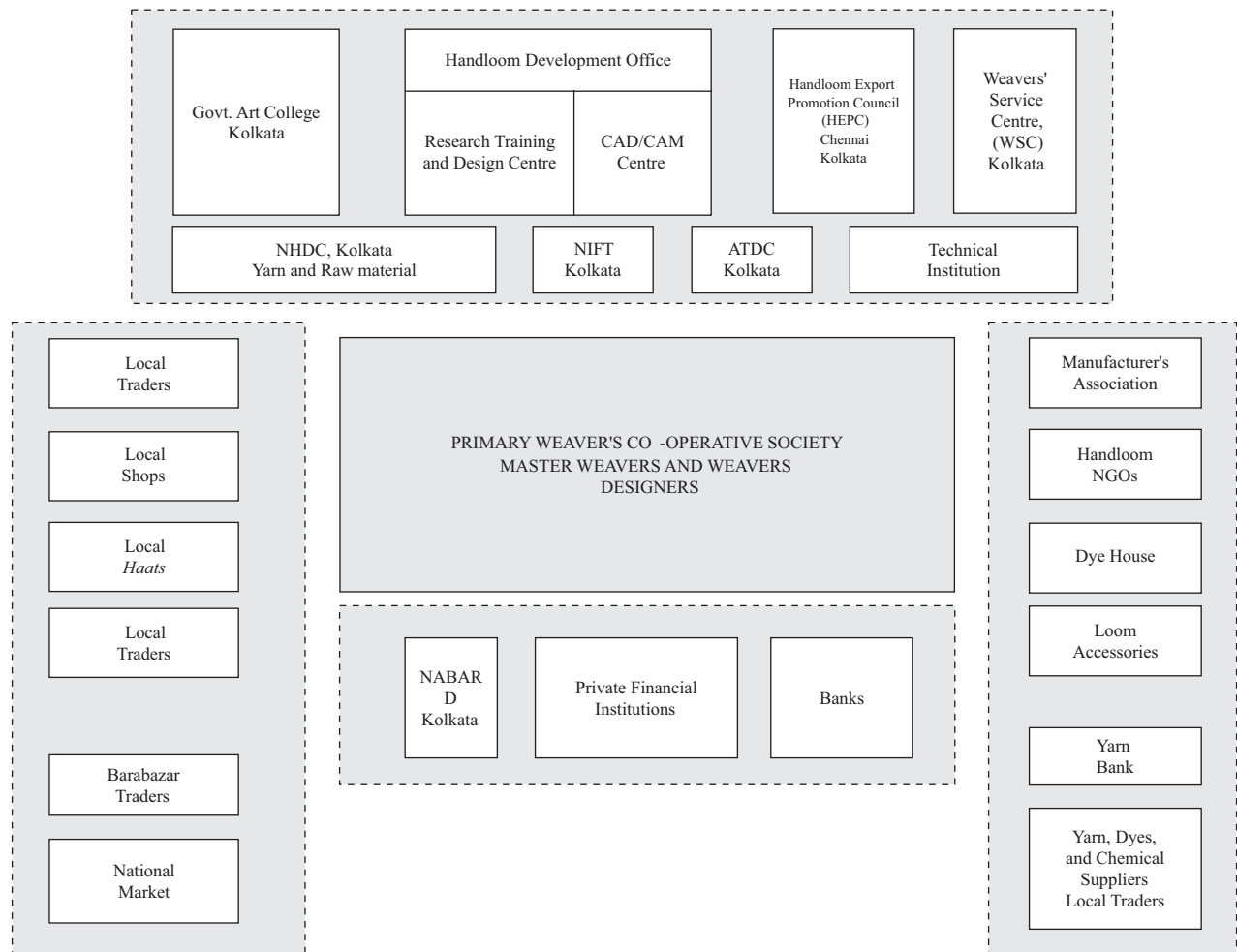


Figure 3: Working structure of handloom society

The cotton sector produces Bed Sheet, BedCover, Furnishing material, Dhoti, and Gamchha (towel). The silk sector products are Baluchari saree, Swarnachari, Tassar Shirting and Scarf, Tassar and Silk fabric (Than). Baluchari sarees are mainly weaved in Bishnupur, but recently they are also weaved at Panchmura and Sonamukhi. Coloured Silk Than are produced at village Banbirsingha at Patrasayer Block. Silk and Tassar of Sonamukhi

belt are also very famous. The cotton weavers earn 100 to 150 and silk weavers earn 150 to 200 per day.

The production of Balucharisaree began in Bishnupur in around 1956. Baluchari saree has got the status of Geographical Indication in India. It is well known for depictions of mythological scenes on the pallu of the saree. Designs are mainly from

the Ramayana and Mahabharata and worn as a sign of aristocracy and status (Nanda, 2018). Pit looms

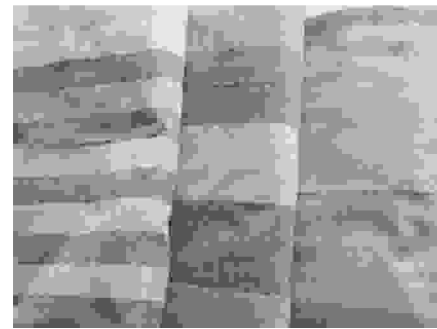
are used to weave the connoisseurs' items (Fig. 4).



(i) Baluchari woven design (Silk saree)



(ii) Cotton Gamcha (towel)



(iii) Cotton Bedsheet

Figure 4: The handloom products of the society

Total production is for 8 crores (7.5 lakh meters) in the co-operative sector. The active PWCs is

shown in Table 1 and Table 2 (Annual Administrative Report, 2018).

Table 1: Details of active PWCS in Bankura District (Cotton handloom sector)

Block	Area	Society Name	No. of Weavers	No. of Handlooms	Products
Bankura – I	Rajagram	Rajgram P.D. Loomless S.S. Ltd.	220	200	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Bankura – II	Bankura II	Bankura-II T.S.S. Ltd.	372	297	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Indpur	Jambedia	GorduaraTantubay S.S Ltd.	275	151	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
		JambediaTantubay S.S Ltd.	270	268	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Taldangra	Bhalukbasa	BhalukbasaTantubayS.S Ltd.	420	389	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
		RangamatiTantubayS.S Ltd.	310	273	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
		PachmuraTantubay S.S Ltd.	322	191	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Kotulpur	Kotulpur	Kotulpur Thana (M) T.S.S Ltd.	283	254	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha, lungi
	Madanmohanpur	Madanmohanpur T.S.S. Ltd.	182	165	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Onda	Majdiha	Majdiha A.T.S.S. Ltd.	150	100	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
	Ratanpur	Ratanpur T.S.S. Ltd.	104	100	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Simlapal	Bhutshar	Bhutshar T.S.S Ltd.	120	100	Gamcha
	Laxmisagar	Laxmisagar T.S.S Ltd.	273	257	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Joypur	Rajarbagan	Rajarbagan S.T.S Ltd.	401	357	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha
Bankura Municipality	Gopinathpur	Gopinathpur A.T.S.S. Ltd.	180	152	Bedsheet, Bedcover, Gamcha

Table 2: Details of active PWCS in Bankura District (Silk handloom sector)

Block	Area	Society Name	No. of Weavers	No. of Handlooms	Products
Bishnupur	Bishnupur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BishnupurTanthinTantsramikS.S.Ltd . ▪ BishnupurC.W.S.Ltd . ▪ BishnupurBayansilpiS.S.Ltd . 	1402	1324	Balucharisaree, Dress material
Patrasayer	Banbirsingh	Banbirsingh-I R.S.S.S. Ltd.	480	469	Silk than , Dress material
Sonamukhi	Sonamukhi	Sonamukhi R.S.S.S Ltd.	110	189	Silk than,Dress material, Saree

Results and discussion

(a) Income of weavers

Income is one of the prime determinants of economic status and determines the relative living standard. In this study, the weavers' income was measured on two dimensions: (i) income from weaving and (ii) income from subsidiary occupations

(i) Income of weaving

Traditionally, the weavers work under master weavers for their daily wages. These dependent weavers do not have their own looms and are under the clutches of master weavers. Another category of weavers have their own looms and work in their own premises. The majority in this category are members of weavers' co-operatives. Details regarding the distribution of weaving income of the respondents are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of average monthly income from weaving

Income Size (₹)	Member Weavers		Non-Members Weavers		Total	
	No. of respondents	(%)	No. of respondents	(%)	No. of respondents	(%)
Up to 3000	-	-	-	-	-	-
3001 -6000	15	50	22	73	37	62
6001 -9000	15	50	8	27	23	38
9001 -12000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

The Table reveals that the weaving income of most of the member weavers (50%) is between 6,001 and 9,000 while the bulk of the non-member weavers (73%) earn between 3,001 and 6,000. Only 27% of the non-member weavers are having an income between 6,001 and 9,000. This difference is found to be statistically significant. ($Z = 2.16$; $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$).

(i) Income from subsidiary occupation

It is natural that every individual desire to engage himself in some subsidiary occupation to get more income to improve his economic status and living standard. Weavers also engage in subsidiary occupations such as agriculture, cattle breeding, petty business, poultry farming, etc. Details regarding the monthly income from the subsidiary occupation of respondents are given in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of average monthly income from a subsidiary occupation

Income Source	Member Weavers		Non Members Weavers		Total	
	No. of respondents	Average income (₹)	No. of respondents	Average income (₹)	No. of respondents	Average income (₹)
Agriculture	22 (73%)	2000	18 (60%)	2200	40 (67%)	2090
Cattle breeding	14 (47%)	1600	5 (17%)	1500	19 (32%)	1574
Others	17 (57%)	1800	10 (33%)	1600	27 (45%)	1726

Data on income earned from other sources reflect that more member weavers are engaged in subsidiary occupations than non-member weavers. It could be seen that 73% of member weavers are engaged in agriculture while the corresponding figure for non-member weavers is 60% only. The number of members, engaged in cattle breeding and others account 47% and 57% respectively. The corresponding figures for non-member weavers are 17% and 33% respectively. It is also interesting to find that the average income earned from these activities varied between the two categories of weavers. This variation is found to be statistically significant. ($Z = 2.07$; $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$).

(a) Expenditure on essentials

Expenditure on essentials is an active variable that

determines the economic status and living conditions of weavers. In this study, the essential expenditure of weavers is classified into five heads: food, clothing, fuel, lighting and miscellaneous. The more they spend on essentials the higher will be their standard of living. Table 5 depicts that the average monthly expenditure on essentials of member weaver comes to ₹ 7,700, of which the spending on food is ₹ 5,000 (64.94%). The corresponding expenditure of a non-member is ₹ 7,400, out of which he spends ₹ 5,200 (70.27%) on food. It is observed that the share of the other heads of expenditure is relatively higher for member weavers. The difference noticed in the aggregate expenditure of the two categories of weavers is statistically significant. ($Z = 2.19$; $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$).

Table 5: Average monthly expenditure on essentials

Expenditure Head	Member Weavers		Non-Members Weavers		Total	
	Average Expenditure (₹)	(%)	Average Expenditure (₹)	(%)	Average Expenditure (₹)	(%)
Food	5,000	64.94	5,200	70.27	5,100	67.55
Clothing	300	3.90	200	2.70	250	3.31
Fuel	1,000	12.99	900	12.16	950	12.58
Education	400	5.19	300	4.05	350	4.64
Miscellaneous	1,000	12.99	800	10.81	900	11.92
Total	7,700	100	7,400	100	7,550	100

(b) Asset position

The size and composition of asset holding are one of the most significant factors in determining the

economic status of weavers. Details regarding the asset position of the sample weavers are depicted in Table 6.

Table 6: Average value of asset holdings of sample weavers

Asset Type	Member Weavers		Non-Members Weavers		Total	
	Average Value ()	(%)	Average Value ()	(%)	Average Value ()	(%)
Looms and accessories	16,000	6.73	13,000	6.88	29,000	6.80
Landed property	90,500	38.09	90,000	47.64	1,80,500	42.32
Residential house	1,12,000	47.14	62,000	32.82	1,74,000	40.80
Investment	1,000	0.42	1,400	0.74	2,400	0.56
Domestic articles	8,500	3.58	12,000	6.35	20,500	4.81
Gold/jewellery	9,600	4.04	10,500	5.56	20,100	4.71
Total	2,37,600	100	1,88,900	100	4,26,500	100

Table 6 shows the average value of asset holding of a member weaver amounting to 2,37,600 while for a non-member weaver it is 1,88,900. This difference is statistically significant. ($Z = 2.37$; $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$). Member weavers invest more in looms and accessories, landed property and residential houses. Non-members favour investments in domestic articles, gold and jewellery items.

(a) Investment in weaving assets

Amount invested in weaving assets determines the income earning capacity of weavers. The

difference for an investment made in looms and accessories between the member and non-member weavers is found to be statistically significant. ($Z = 2.22$; $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$).

(b) Savings and investment

A man can save for his future only when his income exceeds his consumption expenditure. The study found that majority of the respondents do not have any significant savings. However, a few of them have a nominal amount of saving. The savings and investments pattern of the respondents is given in Table 7.

Table 7: Distribution of sample size according to the mode of savings and investments

Saving Mode	Member Weavers		Non-Members Weavers		Total	
	No. of respondents	(%)	No. of respondents	(%)	No. of respondents	(%)
No savings	26	86.67	25	83.33	51	85.00
Bank deposits	3	10.00	5	16.67	8	13.33
Post office savings	1	3.33	-	-	1	1.67
Total	30	100	30	100	60	100

The Table above depicts that approximately 85% weavers have no savings. Only 15% of the respondents have savings in the form of bank deposits and post office savings. The average amount of saving made by a member weaver and a non-member weaver work out to 1,200 and 1,500 respectively. The difference in these averages is statistically insignificant. ($Z = 1.54$; $Z_{0.05} = 1.96$).

Limitation of study

The study is based on the opinions of weavers which may change over time. Further, it deals only to a certain period with weavers of particular localities. Efforts are made to make the study comprehensive and analytical.

Further scope of the study

There is ample scope for doing a comparative study on the working of co-operative handloom units in terms of cost-benefit analysis of handloom units within the District on competitive handloom products manufactured by them. The researchers can undertake a study on the impact/effectiveness of schemes/programmes implemented by the Central and State Government to promote and develop the handloom sector.

Conclusion

The present study has revealed that member

weavers are well off in terms of income (both from weaving and subsidiary occupations) and asset holdings. The pattern of expenditure also shows that member weavers are enjoying a better standard of living. Thus, it may be noted that co-operatives have contributed significantly to improve the economic conditions of weavers.

The co-operatives are now the success milestones of the co-operative movement in the handloom sector. In spite of several handicaps and obstacles in the way of their progress, they have continued with their excellence in production. However, the number of weavers of the locality under their fold is still limited.

The overall weaving population of the area has benefitted from their endeavour and the socio-economic status of the town and its adjacent get upgraded. Besides the scheduled commercial activities, the co-operatives undertake various developmental activities that include the upgradation of lifestyle, health, and education of weavers under its fold. The co-operative also receives substantial aid from different schemes of the Government and have sufficient orders under their belt.

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