

**STUDY OF HANDLOOM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, 1967**

**1. The Study**

With the setting up of the All-India Handloom Board in 1952, a massive programme aimed at developing this industry on sound co-operative lines was undertaken on a continuing basis. The programme covered all aspects of development such as supply of raw materials, production, employment and marketing. The evaluation study of this programme was undertaken by the Programme Evaluation organisation at the instance of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and All India Handloom Board, to assess the nature of impact of the handloom development programme on employment and earnings of the handloom weavers and to analyse the problems in the working of the programme.

**2. Objectives**

- i) TO throw light on the nature of impact of the handloom development programme on employment and earnings of the weavers.
- ii) To find out the problems in the working of the handloom development programme.

**3. Sample Size/Criteria for Selection of Sample**

on the basis of the number of looms in the cooperative fold, 6 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Maharashtra, Mysore, Orissa & Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Tripura-were selected. Excepting in Andhra Pradesh where two districts were selected, in all the remaining five States only one district was selected. The total number of Cooperative Societies in the sample was 48, rural 35 and urban 13. The total number of weaverhouseholds in the three categories (Cooperative member, out worker and independent) selected for the study was 1097.

**4. Reference Period**

The study was completed in 1967 and the record data were collected for the year 1956-57 to 1961-62.

## 5. Main Findings

The total number of registered cotton looms in the country stood at 28.49 lakhs in July 1962. Out of these, about 12.6 lakhs were in the cooperative fold. With the increase in the number of looms in the cooperative fold over the period 1957-58 to 1962-63 proportionately the number of active looms did not go up.

2. Even after the advent of modern techniques and the growth of cooperative institutions, the hereditary nature of the handloom industry hardly changed.

3. Nearly 60 per cent of the members of weaver households were engaged in handloom. The proportion of children employed in handloom establishments was the highest in the cooperative member category. Among the weavers in the age groups upto 12 years and 13-15 yrs. 70 & 65 per cent respectively, were girls. The economic backwardness and lack of proper appreciation for education of girls were the main reasons for their employment.

4. The membership of cooperative societies from the weaver households had increased by nearly one and a half times over the period 1956-57 to 1962-63 in the sample areas.

5. The main hurdle in installing the improved types of looms like frame-loom fly shuttle was the lack of adequate space in the handloom establishments.

6. Out of 250 looms existing at the end of 1961-62 in the units of the cooperative societies, 62 remained idle due to lack of skill of the weavers, difficulty of operation, absence of proper repairing facilities and lack of demands for the products.

7. Over the period 1956-57 to 1961-62, the source of procurement of yarn changed **slightly in favour** of cooperative spinning mills and apex cooperative societies. However, the cooperative societies had to **depend on the** open market to a large extent for the supply of yarn because the apex cooperative societies and the cooperative spinning mills could not meet their requirements.

8. The adoption of improved implements in the unit of the cooperative societies increased substantially during the period 1956-57 to 1961-62.

9. A large proportion of non-adopter households had no knowledge of the improved implements. Nearly two-thirds had no knowledge of taking up motion attachment and 56 per cent of working machines or drum. Another important reason for non-adoption was the unsuitability of the improved implements.

10. The open market turned out to be the most effective source of procurement of improved implements in as much as that the largest proportion of weaver households had purchased the different improved implements from this source.

11. The weavers did not generally take interest in getting themselves trained in the improved methods of weaving. A large majority of weaver households were not even aware of the existence of the training programme.

12. There was a growing tendency amongst weavers to work for the cooperative societies **outworkers** rather than to purchase yarn from co-operative societies for production on own account.

the as the

13. A man worked nearly 23 days, a woman 21 days and a child 20 days in an average month in 1961-62.

14. The gross income per handloom establishment were Rs.1790 and Rs.2125 respectively in 1956-57 and 1961-62. The corresponding expenses were Rs 1161 and Rs.1281. The net income per loom establishment went up from Rs.629 in 1956-57 to Rs.844 in 1961-62 - an increase of nearly 34 per cent over the period.

15. The cooperative member households gained most from the handloom development programme. The net income per cooperative member household **increased by 58% as against** 22 per cent and 15 per cent in case of outworker and independent household respectively.

16. The inadequacy of arrangements for marketing of handloom goods arose mainly due to the weak link **between the** primary and apex societies.

17. The time lag between the production and disposal was due to (i) the type of produce; (ii) the management of both production and sale by the same units; and (iii) shortage of adequate working capital to meet the marketing expenses.

18. cooperative cooperative and 1961-62.

The major part of the products from the member households was disposed of through societies in both the reference years 1956-57 and 1961-62.

**Major Suggestions**

1. The establishment of dye-house by every cooperative society is an uneconomic proposition because only a part of the capacity of such dye-house can be utilised. It is, thus, necessary to set up dye houses in such a manner that a dye- house can cater to a number of cooperative societies. The sale depots also should be opened in such a manner that neither their running expense becomes unnecessary burden nor the marketing of handloom products suffers.

2. The share of cooperative member household in the sectors other than cooperative was substantial in 1961-62 and in the master weaver sector it **increased over** time. It pointed out to the need for strengthening further the handloom weavers cooperatives so as to enable them to supply full requirement of yarn to the cooperative member households.