

Vol II Issue X

ISSN No : 2230-7850

Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

*Indian Streams
Research Journal*

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2230-7850

Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

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INTERVENTION OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN STANDARD OF LIVING OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS – A STUDY

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Abstract:

Handloom sector is one of the major contributors to provide employment opportunities in India next to agriculture and industrial sector. But the earnings of the handloom weavers are very low to compare their productivity. The economic status of the handloom sector states that majority of the handloom weavers are comes under the poverty line. This study was conducted to understand the existing intervention schemes implemented by the government and its effectiveness to the handloom weavers life (the impact of intervention schemes into the hand loom weavers standard of living and to suggest the policy makers to frame policies and programmes). For the study purpose the researcher formulate the structured interview schedule and collect the data from 1843 respondents. The study results found that there is a positive impact of government intervention schemes on the standard of living of handloom weavers. Based on the results and personal observation the current study proposes few suggestions and open up new avenues for further researchers.

KEYWORDS:

Handloom, Product, Weavers, Agriculture and Indutry.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the changing fortunes of India's long history, the spinning wheels of India continued to hum their tune of prosperity and the Indian craftsmen earned everlasting glory for the delicacy of their muslins the finest of textile fabrics (Tiwarin. R.T., & Sinha. R.L., 1979). The handloom weaving industry is the country's biggest cottage industry providing livelihood to the largest population next to agriculture (Maheswari. A., & Sivaprakasam. P., 2002). Handloom sector plays a key role in the textile sector growth and economy of the nation, and it provides both direct and indirect employment to 27.83 lakh households during the year 2009-10. And it provides employment for 191 person days to the weavers among them 181 days in rural and 245 days in urban India. Recent decades, India has the largest handloom sector in the world which is mainly concentrated in the decentralized sector operating in remote and rural locations (Mishra. A.K., 1994). This sector faces competition from the power loom and mill sectors and constrained by its continued dependence on the cooperative delivery machinery, and the financial constraints of the state level handloom agencies/apex societies (Rao. K.V & Raju. G.N. 2008). However, due to effective government intervention schemes in the form of market support, design inputs, as well as other developmental and welfare schemes, the handloom sector has been able to withstand tides of competition (Sundarsingh.K., 1979). Both Tamil Nadu State and Central Governments have been formulated and implemented many number of intervention schemes and programmes to uplift socio-economic status of the handloom weavers household and their standard of living (Sathiyavathi 1990). The present study aims to analyze the performance of government intervention schemes and satisfactory level of handloom weavers.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The poor in Tamil Nadu are overwhelmingly concentrated in the country side and engaged in agriculture and non-agriculture occupations. Handlooms are spread over all the districts and it is a major non-agricultural source for employment in Rural Tamil Nadu (Balakrishnan. A., 2005). Handlooms are traditional and sustainable sector of the State with reflects the customs and culture (Rao, K.V. 1973). Handloom sector face is poised to meet the increased global competition in the post 2005 trade regime under WTO (Amrik Singh Sudan, 1997). Due to globalization and liberalization of the economy, Tamil Nadu is a prominent contributor of handloom sector and it has 4.13 lakh handlooms among 34.86 lakh handloom in India to provide employment to 6.08 lakh handloom weavers. It is more than one tenth of the over all contribution of the nation. In Tamil Nadu most of the handloom production is being carried out on the basis of government free cloth issuing schemes. The remaining fewer portion was sell in co-optex & available in those localities. In Tamil Nadu take a strong part compared to the other states and it is creating employment opportunities to the both rural and urban localities of the State to maintain the economic stability of the poor people (Krishnamoorthy O.S. 1970). But still the weaving technology, equipments, productivity, weavers efficiency, working environment and standard of living condition are poor. Hence the present study has been carried to study the relationship between government intervention schemes and impacts to handloom weavers livelihood.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study was confined only to the handloom sector among textile units in Tamil Nadu in general and it had a clear focus on different government intervention schemes for handloom weavers and its performance and effects in handloom weavers standard of living. The study was conducted particularly in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu. It analyzes the impact of intervention schemes and opinion of the handloom weavers about the selected schemes. And this present study tries to picture out the real image about the intervention schemes implemented by the government and its impacts to the handloom weavers livelihood and standard of living condition.

INTERVENTION SCHEMES COVERAGE

Both State and Central Governments were implemented the plenty of intervention schemes to enhance the living condition of the handloom weavers. The government intervention schemes Mahathma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Scholarship Under Shiksha Sahayog Yojana, Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (Cluster Development), Free Electricity for Handloom Weavers and House cum Workshed Scheme to enhance the standard of living in the study area. This study tries to study the impact of those intervention schemes into change of daily lives of handloom weavers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the present study is
·To study the impact of intervention schemes into handloom weavers livelihood and opinion about the schemes.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The hypothesis of the present study is

There is a relationship between government intervention schemes and handloom weavers standard of living

STUDY AREA AND SAMPLE SIZE

The present study has been conducted in dindigul district of Tamil Nadu, which was selected in view of the availability of weavers involving handloom process. The district was actively implement the government intervention schemes to the handloom weavers and also handloom weavers concentration is high. Convenient sampling method was adopted for selection of respondents from the population. 200 is a sample size for the present study.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is a descriptive study. The present study describes the actual situation and benefits derived through government programme by the handloom weavers. Hypotheses were framed and used to measure the performance of the government intervention schemes implemented for handloom weavers. For measuring the impact the present study employs distribution of income components and preference as variables.

DATA ANALYSIS

For the study purpose to analyze the data frequency distribution, percentage, growth rate were used. The analyzed data have been presented in tables for discussion. The analysis was mainly evaluative in nature. Inferences were made on the basis of problems identified from the data obtained through interview schedule.

DISCUSSION

Expenditure pattern of the family is important factor which is also an indicator of standard of living of the family.

Table 1
Impact of the Intervention Schemes

S. No	Items	Before	After	Changing pattern Rate
1	Food	38	28	-28.01
2	Cloth	1	2	50
3	Education	20	38	91.39
4	Medical	6	11	79.31
5	Entertainment	32	13	-59.25
6	Travel	29	12	-58.05
7	Festival	23	7	-70.37
8	Maintenance of looms & workshed	25	27	11.01
9	Housing Rent	15	7	-55.38
10	Interest on Loan	4	9	137.5
11	Savings	7	46	567.19
Total		200	200	-

Source: Primary Data

Allocating high portion to savings, education and investing their business implies the growth of standard of living of the society. Change in the expenditure pattern of the family indicates the life style through well economic planning of the families and its precautionary measures for future.

The table result reveals that distribution of changing pattern of their family expenditure respondents and their preference towards the family expenditure before and after implementing the government intervention schemes. Before implementing intervention schemes most of the respondents spent in order of, food (19.4 percent), entertainment (15.8 percent), travel (14.5 percent) and festival (11.7

percent). After the implementation of intervention schemes they give more preference to savings (23.2 percent), education (19.3 percent), food (13.9 percent) and maintenance of looms & work sheds (13.7 percent) and remaining preferences to other factors like clothing, medical, entertainment, travel, festival, electricity, housing rent, interest on loans and miscellaneous expenditures.

These changes prove that the government intervention schemes created enough awareness and make them to know the priority in life, and about the importance of standard of living factors like education, savings, family protection and payment of loans. Thus, there is a considerable shift in the expenditure pattern of the weavers after intervention of the welfare schemes and it indirectly report that their increase of income.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHEMES

Measuring the effectiveness of the schemes will help to know about the actual performance of the schemes to the target group. The following table discuss about the handloom weavers opinion of overall performance above said all the intervention schemes implemented to the handloom weavers in the study area.

Table 2
Opinion about the Schemes

S. No	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1	Good	86	43
2	Satisfied	56	28
3	Average	38	19
4	Poor	20	10
Total		200	100

Source: Primary Data

The table results reported that more than two fifth (43 percent) are opined the schemes are good, more than one fourth (28 percent) of the respondents are satisfied to the availed schemes. Nearly one fifth (19 percent) of the respondents are reported average and remaining 10 percent are expressed poor for the available schemes.

The above results clear that all the handloom weavers are covered under the intervention schemes implemented for handloom weavers. And majorities (90 percent) are expressed positive opinion about the schemes and fewer (10 percent) responded negative as schemes are poor. It is clear that the schemes are very effective to enhance the handloom weaver's livelihood. At the same time the negative response implies that there is a revision of available schemes is required depends on the current socio-economic condition.

FINDINGS

After implementation of intervention schemes
 handloom weavers income has increased
 handloom weavers savings has increased
 handloom weavers aware about the education of their wards
 most of them built their own houses
 Majority of the handloom weavers are opined positive response about the schemes

SUGGESTIONS

The suggestion has been made depends upon the handloom weavers suggestion and personal observation of the researchers.

1. There is a need to create awareness about the government intervention schemes and benefits to the handloom weavers.
2. The schemes/programmes should revise according to the current needs and the size of population of handloom weavers.
3. There is a need to ensure the funds utilized in the infrastructure development schemes to improve the working environment for the handloom weavers

CONCLUSION

Both Tamil Nadu State and Central Governments implemented many of the policies to enhance the handloom weaver's standard of living and livelihood status. Here the attempt was made to find out the impact of the intervention schemes implemented by both the governments into handloom weavers. The study results reveal that the productivity and earnings of the handloom weavers increased after implementation of the intervention schemes. Handloom weavers got awareness about the importance of education, available intervention schemes and savings. Due to intervention schemes the handloom weaver's expenditure pattern was changed majority of them pay attention and spend more amounts of their earnings to savings, children education, family protection, food and shelter. The proportion of payment to rent has reduced it shows that handloom weavers improvement in terms asset (house) creation with high earnings. The standard of living factors are improved with the effects of intervention schemes. But some slight changes are needed to revise the existing policies and programmes according to the current density of the handloom weavers and their needs to frame the appropriate policies to implement in future were stated in the suggestions. And also the study opens the discussion about the further area for the researchers to conduct research in future.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The present study was confined to impacts of intervention schemes into the standard of living of handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu with selected eight districts. Similar studies may be conducted in other parts of Tamil Nadu at the state level and also at the interstate level and national level. Varied possibilities of enhancing handloom weavers welfare may be explored. All the problems related to the handloom weavers are due to poor education qualification, lack of awareness, poor earnings and low skills and ability to weave. This calls the researchers and policy makers to analyze the real life situation to frame and suggest the government suitable measures. Evolving suitable strategies for such intervention schemes is yet another area for further research.

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