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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN TELANGANA - A STUDY OF WARANGAL DISTRICT**

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**Abstract**

The Handloom is a traditional industry of India and it provides employment opportunities to millions of people in the rural and urban belts of our country. After industrialization, the handloom industry has been decline. Most of the problems faced by handloom industry are perpetual in nature and hence to sustain the cultural and economic importance of the industry the present study is an attempt to understand the various problems of Handloom Weavers of Warangal district in Telangana State. The problems are invention of new technology (power-loom), capitalist control, drop off in wages, increased price of yarn, and so on. The present study is descriptive in nature. The data have been collected through the in-depth interview, semi structured interview, case study and focused group discussion.

Keywords: Handloom, industrialization, capitalist control, power-loom, yarn price, wage system.

**INTRODUCTION**

Handloom industry in India is an ancient cottage industry. References to the use of handloom are abundant in the recorded details of epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. This industry seems to have flourished between 5000 and 3000 BC. The civilizations of Harappa and Mohanjodaro reveal the use of woolen and decorative embroidery in handloom. The industry as we understand it today is constantly associated with Indian rural economic scenario ever since. The Handloom Sector occupies a distinct and unique place in the Indian economy, besides being the largest generator of non-form rural employment. The available statistics indicate that there is still an immense scope for expansion. Handloom Industry is the largest cottage industry in India occupying a prominent place in the economy of the country and scattered over the Indian villages. Nearly one third of the clothing requirement in the country is provided by handloom sector.<sup>1</sup>

The industry is providing direct employment to 12.5 million people in Indian decentralized sector. Further the industry generates indirect employment to others like loom manufactures, dyers, twisters, processors, etc., thus one in every 60 in the country is engaged in this industry in one way or the other. The Handloom weavers produce textiles from a third of nation's cotton product and over 60 per cent of the exported is next only to agriculture. The handloom industry generates production at low capital cost, mostly using indigenous raw material and utilizing local skills, widens entrepreneurial base, facilitates balanced regional growth and prevents the migration labour to the metropolitan areas<sup>2</sup>.

The focus of this study was on the handloom industry<sup>3</sup>. In the present economic climate where dependency on foreign capital and know-how is increasing all round, the handloom industry presents a sustainable model of economic activity that is not energy intensive and has low capital costs, as well as an extensive skill base. Its survival in, and adaptability to, a wide range of economic conditions also needs to be understood in a proper perspective, in order to underline the inherent viability of this enterprise. An objective appraisal of the handloom industry, therefore, is the need of the hour. The paucity of reliable information on this sector has often been strongly felt. Even as regards the information that is available, it

is necessary to be aware of the specific viewpoints from which such data is collected. There is also the additional empirical difficulty of collecting such information, given the geographically dispersed and heterogeneous nature of the industry.

The Handloom Industry is largely household-based, carried out with labour contributed by the entire family. It is dispersed, spread across thousands of villages and towns in the country. The industry also exhibits considerable diversity in terms of products, organizational base, as well as in relations between actors within the production structure.

In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, there are 5.29 Lakh handlooms and about 30 Lakh people are dependent on this industry<sup>4</sup>. Out of the 5.29 lakh handlooms, 3.82 Lakhs handlooms are covered by Handloom Co-Operatives<sup>5</sup>. This means that 72.21 per cent handlooms have been brought in to the Co-operative fold which is more than the Sivaraman committee's (1974) suggested a coverage of 60 per cent. As it represents a mere physical coverage of the number of handlooms by the co-operatives and not their production and marketing of handloom cloth, this coverage is treated as deceptive. As such, the progress is inadequate and uneven.

Various developmental Schemes<sup>6</sup> have been implemented by the Government with an emphasis on the following:-

- i) Increased coverage of weavers of co-operatives by extending share capital loan assistance.
- ii) Ensuring effective and satisfactory functioning of the existing Societies.
- iii) Modernisation of looms for achieving diversified production patterns to suit the present day market demand.
- iv) Providing Managerial subsidy to the Weavers' Co-Operatives
- v) Providing infrastructural facilities for pre-loom processing like modern mini dye units and post loom facilities like processing units.
- vi) Arranging increased and smooth flow of credit for working capital from NABARD.

### **Marketing of Handloom Fabrics**

Marketing of Handloom cloth is done by weavers themselves, master weavers, middlemen, co-operative societies and also by marketing organizations, like Apex Weavers Co-operative societies, All India Handlooms Fabric Marketing Co-operative Societies and sales and showrooms of Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation etc., Further there are organizations directly or indirectly supporting the marketing facilities of handloom fabrics for both domestic and export purposes. Some of these organizations are, National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), Association of Corporations, Apex Societies for Handlooms (ACASH) and Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA). They are expected to safeguard the interests of handloom weavers by releasing them from the clutches of the middlemen and improving the standard of living by providing enough employment opportunities and facilities to them to market their products at competitive prices.

### **Production of Handloom Fabrics**

There are several processes involved in the production of handloom cloth, which can be broadly categorized as pre-loom and post-loom activities. Besides weaving, winding, sizing, warping and beaming

are the pre-loom activities while bleaching, printing, calendering and finishing are the post-loom activities, which have to be done in a systematic process. Some of these handloom products may be directly sold soon after weaving and some other products required post-weaving process to find market. The process of weaving takes certain period of time which the weaver has to perform with much attention, care and patience. A simple mistake can spoil the material within no time. Further, the favour of suitable climatic conditions is essentially required. The production of handloom fabrics shows its due influence and impact on the socioeconomic lives of the poor weaver labourers.

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Many policies and schemes are being implemented by government for the benefit and welfare of handloom weavers and for the progressive growth of handloom industry which has been providing livelihood for many people directly and indirectly. Yet, the handloom industry is still staggering in crisis. Hence an attempt is made in this study to examine and analyse the production performance and marketing of handlooms fabrics as well as various problems and constraints that come across in the process of weaving fabrics on handlooms and in marketing the woven fabrics, more particularly the problems of the weavers are studied.

### **Problems of Handloom Weavers:**

In recent years, many of weavers ended their lives due to various problems. Some of them starved and some committed suicides. According to the ranking given by the respondents to the above disaster, lack of Government assistance, competition from power loom products, creditors force, middle men involvement etc., are the major causes for these miseries and crisis. The weaving activity is profitable for some weavers, whereas for others it is not affording adequate profits due to many reasons. Most of the weavers are unable to maintain a good standard of living. Poverty is a common prevalent among weaver households.

Most of the Handloom weavers in all areas are living below poverty line means that there is no proper pucca house, no healthy food, and no clothes. There is no working or fixed capital investment, not even some piece-meal of projects such as, a workshed-cum-housing and project package schemes are not being provided. They merely perpetuate the existing conditions. There have not been any needed plans on basic requirements of the produce. Facilities such as house, land, food, water and electricity need to be provided in many places. On the other hand, power-looms are getting more usable support from the Government in procuring house, land, food, water, electricity. Natural calamities like, heavy rains or floods or cyclones frequently occur in places like Warangal district. So the weavers need at least pucca house with continuous electricity.

The Government should understand and provide pucca houses under the schemes mentioned above or State Government programmes like "INDIRAMMA" schemes to establish pucca houses, continuity of electricity and drinking water facility. This is very essential need for a weaver. Moreover most of the weavers have looms of their own while some others do not have. So the Government should provide moderate working capital and looms to loom less weavers. This may help weaver to weave independently.

Cotton is the primary material to produce the fabric. Weaving is a rural and semi-urban production activity and weavers have to go far to get their yarn. Moreover yarn prices are steadily increasing. The availability of hank yarn is necessary in which the basic material from which weaving is done. It is a serious issue because it is controlled by spinning mills, which see more profit in large volume cone yarn. Secondly, since hank yarn is tax free and has subsidies, enormous amounts are diverted to power-loom and to mill sectors. There is a big shortage of yarn for the weavers.

In this case the Government should take a forward step, first to decentralise spinning units in villages where handloom clusters are set up. The units should be enabled to have direct linkage between farmers and weavers, which essentially decrease the cost of yarn and thus the cost of handloom products. Since, the cost of setting up the units is of high investment for a producer, the Government should provide financial assistance or subsidy and support.

The weavers in the district also face many problems in marketing of the handloom cloth. These problems are due to the seasonal demand for the handloom cloth, the existence of intermediaries, lack of storage facilities and lack of finance to wait for the reasonable price. All these aspects with regard to marketing need considerable attention by the Government. It has to maintain stocks by purchasing the finished cloth immediately after the production, enabling the weavers to continue the activity. Necessary marketing finance should be provided so that the weavers can wait for the reasonable price. The cooperative weavers in marketing their products. Other weavers sell their products either directly or to the dealers. However, the weavers do not have their own marketing outlets which can improve their bargaining power.

During the last 10 years, the budget allocation of Government of India for handloom industry has been decreasing gradually and continuously. The revision is always downward varying between 10 to 20 per cent. For the last five years the Handloom weavers have been facing crucial problems. Starvation deaths on one side and suicides on the other. Adding more to this misery, the Government of India reduced the budget which had already allotted. So the Government of India should open eyes to provide Budget Revision, enhancement of programmes at least in the years to come and to implement new schemes with proper attention, in view of the weavers' healthy benefit.

The needs and entitlements of the industry such as credit and yarn support, need to be further examined and analysed. Detailed research into yarn production, yarn availability and the major agents and factors in this process is necessary. Similarly, an objective and detailed assessment of the structure of weaver co- operatives is necessary. Such evaluative exercises will indicate forms of cooperatives suited to responsible functioning among primary producer families, and what the functions of such entities would be. It is also necessary to realize that while specific issues such as product reservations and the hank yarn obligation are vital ingredients of the textile policy and must be systematically pursued, the impact of wider economic reforms (such as industrial and trade policies) on the handloom sector also require research. Only a holistic approach to these interlinked issues will provide an impetus to the growth prospects of the handloom industry.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE :**

The Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies have not received sufficient attention of the economists and researchers though they deserve it. Very few studies have been conducted in this regard.

Emmanial. R (2012)<sup>7</sup> in his study reported that, (1) The age of Primary Handloom Cooperative Society in the undivided Andhra Pradesh varies from 5-6 years and more than 50 per cent of cooperative Societies have come into existence during the 1960s. Very old Societies which were established 50 years ago are located at Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, (2) A large majority of co-operative Societies in the area of study have the membership between 101-200 followed by 501-800. It is also noted that Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies which are located at Prakasam district only recorded highest membership compare to other Societies in the area of study.(3) It is distressing to observe that a large number of Co-operative Societies in the area of study, maintained share capital only below Rs. 2 lakhs, one can therefore understand from these trends that share capital position of some cooperative societies in undivided Andhra Pradesh is very poor and not at a satisfactory level when compare to other Societies in the area of study. It is clear that the share capital of Primary handloom cooperative societies compromises of members contribution and the contribution by the Government. (4) Almost all sample Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies in the area of study are facing various problems related to the Society operations. Majority of cooperative Societies have expressed the supply of yarn constituted the major problem. In addition to that, the Societies are facing other problems in various dimensions like financial problems, lack of marketing support and inability of cooperative management are there in Society operations.

Kumudha (2013)<sup>8</sup>, though the Handloom Industry offers massive amount of employment opportunities to lakhs of artistic weavers, recently it is facing lot of problems and it has been pushed towards the decline stage of the Product Life Cycle. According to him, to bring the industry back to growth stage the below mention problems have to be well addressed. (1) Because of continuous increase in yarn price the Societies consider high cost of production' as a major input related problem followed poor quality of raw material. (2) Considering the weavers related problem the Societies consider lack of active member as a major weavers related problem followed by aged people. (3) The Competition from mechanized sector such as mill and power loom Sectors is considered as a major marketing problem followed by lack of attractive promotion.

H.N. Satyanarayana<sup>9</sup> tries to highlight the importance of our handloom sector particularly for its capability in the international market. However, inspite of its significant role in the national economy, it is confronting several problems for its survival.

The National Council of Applied Economic Research made a survey of handloom industry in 4 districts of Karnataka and Sholapur of Maharashtra in 1958<sup>10</sup>. The study was confined to the organization, production and marketing activities of the household units. In 1959, the All India Handloom Board organized survey of Handloom Industry in Madras state<sup>11</sup>. The study dealt in detail with the socio-economic profits of the weavers apart from organization, production and marketing activities of the Handloom units in Tamil Nadu. In 1960, A.D. Manterio conducted a study of Handloom weaving in Malaba and south Kanara district. The study points out that the main supporters of the industry give un-pointed support to the promotion of traditional handloom industry, according to them, which is a panacea for the problem of unemployment and under-employment.

In 1968, O.S. Krishnamurthy<sup>12</sup> examined the cotton Handloom Industry in India during the period of 1951-66. He has studied the overall picture of the industry in India and estimated that the handloom cloth suffers from a loss of 24 per cent from that of mill cloth. He recommends the increase in the productivity of the handloom industry by the use of superior technology in order to waive out such a situation. V.B. Angadi<sup>13</sup> made an attempt to know the economics of Handloom and Power Loom Industries in Karnataka state in 1976. The study was restricted to a comparative analysis of costs in handloom and power loom sectors. In 1980, M.A. Arulanandam<sup>14</sup> has undertaken the study of handloom industry in Tamil Nadu. The study analyses the various problems of cotton handloom industry in Tamil Nadu with an emphasis on the household units.

In 1980, S. Shanmugasundaram<sup>15</sup> undertook a study entitled "Weavers" Co-operative Societies in Coimbatore District. "He has studied the extent of utilization of Societies by the member-weavers. In 1982, Nagen C.Das<sup>16</sup> made a study on the Development of Handloom industry in Assam. He has studied in general the problems faced by the handloom industry in the state. He covered aspects such as organization, production, marketing and finance of handloom industry.

In 1985, P.C. Mahapatro<sup>17</sup> studied the Economics of Cotton Handloom Industry in India with reference to Orissa state. He has presented the historical account of the industry, in addition to the organization and capital structure of the industry and output, employment and income of the weaving households. The problem of marketing, finance and supply of raw materials have also received attention in the study.

R.S. Kulkarni<sup>18</sup> highlights the better technology for handlooms and stimulated research on high productivity handloom. He describes two new looms developed at the research centre of Khadi and village Industries Commission. Instead of Pitlooms, Sevagram looms and Krati looms were introduced. The Pitloom is a major health hazard to the weavers because mosquitoes breed in the fifth that collects in the pit. Krati looms and Sevagrams looms contribute substantially in increasing production, improving the earnings of the weavers. The Seminars<sup>19</sup> on standards in the Development of Handloom Industry – Traditional Designs and Today's Textiles, highlighted the necessity to standardize the fabrics by the use of quality raw materials, beautiful designs, colours and textures to enhance its export opportunities in the countries of Europe and America, J.D. Batra<sup>20</sup> considers the lack of infrastructural facilities coming in the way of handloom sector while Kranti Kumar and R. Podar<sup>21</sup> in their study observed that the basic cause for the plight of the weavers is the lack of proper organization of the Handloom Sector.

#### **Socio-Economic Background of The Elected Members of The Society:**

The Success of any complex organization including co-operatives depends upon the team work of Board of Directors. A Society without competent and efficient Board of Directors cannot survive for longer period. With this background in view, the data pertaining to the Socio political and economic background of the Board of Directors with reference to their occupation, educational qualifications, age group, experience and affiliation to political party etc., were collected.

**Table - 1****SOCIO – ECONOMIC BACK GROUND OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY**

<b>Members in Board</b>	<b>Weaving</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
President	35	05	03	02	45
Vice-President	26	06	03	01	36
Secretary	37	06	02	-	45
Treasurer	34	08	03	-	45
Directors	40	03	02	-	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>216</b>

Source: Field Survey.

Table 1 represents that 70 percent (i.e. 172 respondents) mainly depend on weaving in Warangal District. 30 of the total members on Board belong to the non-weaving group. Their main occupation is agriculture (28 respondents i.e., 63) and Business (13 respondents i.e., 35) and other occupations (03 respondents i.e., 2). It is to be noted that even though weaving is not their occupation, 30% of non-weavers are found in the board in the sample survey.

It is evident from the above analysis that a large number of weaving members are controlling and managing the activities of the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

**TABLE – 2****AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBER WEAVERS**

<b>Age of the Respondent</b>	<b>Number of the Respondents</b>
20 – 35	34
35 – 50	83
50 – 65	58
Above 65	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey.

Table – 2. reveals that out of the 200 respondents under study, maximum number of respondents (83) belong to the age-group of 35-50 and least number (25) is in the age-group of above 65 years. Out of these 200 respondents, Maximum number of weavers (190) are married and just a least number (10) are unmarried. The age-group and marital status of weaver-members reveal that the middle aged and married members when interviewed informed that it is because of their ancestral profession and also because of unemployment. It is also observed that they were unable to go to other professions, as they are not qualified and inexperienced to go for other professions.

**TABLE – 3**  
**MARITAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS**

Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Male	Female
Married	190	120	70
Un-Married	10	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>74</b>

Source: Field Survey.

Among the 200 respondents under study 190 respondents are married and other 10 respondents are unmarried. Out of the 190 respondents who are married, 120 (60 per cent) are male weavers and 70 (40 per cent) are female weavers. Out of the 10 respondents who are unmarried, 6 (60 per cent) are boys and 4 (40 per cent) are girls.

Table 4 shows the responses of the respondents about their earning after joining the Society.

**TABLE – 4**  
**EARNINGS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS AFTER JOINING THE SOCIETY**

Increased	No. of Respondents	Male	Female
Positive	71	43	28
Negative	129	84	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>73</b>

Source: Field Survey.

the increased income after joining the Society, 71 (32%) respondents responded positively and 129 (68%) opined negative. This is because of the supply of raw material from the Societies. Out of the 71 respondents who responded positively, 43 (62%) are male and 28 (38%) are female. Among the 129 who responded negatively, 84 (70%) are male and 45 (30%) are female respondents.

Only one (0.5%) hold position as Executive Member out of the 200 respondents. The other 199 (99.5%) of the respondents do not hold any position in the Societies. 114 (55%) respondents out of the 200 respondents have their own properties, while 86 (45%) do not own any property.

**TABLE – 5**  
**MONTHLY INCOME OF THE FAMILY**

Income of the Family	No. of Respondents
2000 – 3000	91
3000 – 4000	38
4000 – 5000	49
Above 5000	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Source: Field Survey.

It is revealed from the table that, out of the 200 respondents under study, 91 (45%) earn monthly income of 2000 – 3000, 38 (19%) to an amount of 3000 – 4000, 49 (25%) earn upto 4000 – 5000 and 22 (11%) of the respondents earn above 5000. The income of the most of the respondents families are very meagre.

The monthly income of the weaver-members is ranged from 2000-5000 and above. Out of the 200 respondents, 91 respondents earn a monthly income of Rs. 2000-3000, 38 respondents earn 3000-4000, 48 respondents earn 4000-5000 and only 22 respondents earn above 5000. It is revealed that the income of maximum respondents is low because of the variation in the distribution of raw-materials and also because of their incapability as they are engaged in other family works.

#### **NEED FOR THE STUDY:**

Telangana is a state in South India and one of the 29 states in India. It was formed on 2 June 2014 with the city of Hyderabad as its capital. Telangana is bordered by the states of Maharashtra to the north and North west Chhattisgarh, Karnataka to the west, and Andhra Pradesh to the east and south. As the twelfth largest state in India, Telangana has an area of 114,840 square kilometres (44,340 sq mi), and a population of 35,286,757 (2011 census). Its major cities include Hyderabad, Warangal, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Ramagundam and Khammam.

Warangal district has been chosen for an intensive and detailed study since the district stands first in production and second in respect of membership in Societies in the State. Though the district has been earning substantial foreign exchange in exporting shatranjies for which the district is very popular in the foreign countries, the Societies in Warangal district are mismanaged and misappropriation of funds goes into crores of rupees. The number of active Societies are on declining trend. The performance of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Warangal district is far from satisfactory, though there are several developmental schemes and assistance provided by the Government to the Societies. Even though it stands first in the state in production, it ranks sixth in sales. There is no correlation between production and sales performance of the Societies in the district. Therefore, there is an imperative need to make an in-depth study of various aspects related to the management of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Warangal district.

#### **Objectives of the Study:**

The main objective of the study was to analyse the functioning of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies with a view to identify the problems and obstacles that were coming in the way of their successful functioning since the Co-operative line of organization provides a solution to the problems of the Handloom Weavers as well as the handloom sector. The specific objectives of the study are:

- 1) To study the History of the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Telangana State.
- 2) To study decline or development of the Indian Handloom Industry.
- 3) To study the profile and structure of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Warangal District.
- 4) To study the Socio-economic background of Individual Handloom Weavers' and Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Warangal.
- 5) To study the performance and problems of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

#### **Methodology and Data Analysis:**

The main aim of the study was to examine the impact of the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies on the living conditions of weavers and to identify the weak areas of the functioning of Co-operatives so as to suggest various measures to make it effective. Therefore, the analysis of the study was based upon the Primary as well as the secondary sources of data.

The Primary data were collected from the personal interviews with the individual weavers and member-weavers as well as the managements of different Societies. In order to examine the financial performance of the handloom Co-operatives, the financial statements of selected Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies have been used. Further, to know the status of Handloom Weavers and their

relationship with the management, a structured questionnaire. In order to examine the problems confronted by the managements in making the co-operatives and success, a structured questionnaire is administered to the Presidents of the sampled Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies. The Secondary source of information relating to the performance and problems of individual Handloom Weavers as well as the Weavers' Co-operative Societies was taken from various journals, newspapers, thesis, books (Published and Un-published)

### Sample Design:

For the purpose of analyzing the functioning of Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies, 18 mandals of Warangal District have been chosen basing on their familiarity in a particular category of handloom cloth. The particulars pertaining to this aspect have been shown in Table – 6.

**Table – 6**  
**PARTICULARS OF THE MANDALS BASED ON THEIR EXISTENCE**

Name of the Mandal	No. of Societies	Active/ Dormant	Variety of Cloth Produced
Warangal	17	15 Active 2 Dormant	Handloom + Terricotton
Parkal	09	7 Active 2 Dormant	Cotton + Terricotton
Athmakur	02	Dormant	--
Shayampet	04	3 Active 1 Dormant	Cotton + Terricotton
Mogullapally	01	Active	Cotton + Terricotton
Chityal	02	Active	Cotton + Terricotton
Regonda	02	Active	Cotton + Terricotton
Lingala Ghanpur	01	Active	Terricotton
Dharmasagar	01	Active	Terricotton
Station Ghanpur	01	Active	Cotton + Silk
Raghunathpally	01	Active	Cotton
Palakurthy	01	Active	Terricotton
Devaruppula	02	Active	Cotton + Terricotton
Cherial	02	1 Active 1 Dormant	Terricotton
Jangaon	02	1 Active 1 Dormant	Cotton + Silk
Bachannapet	02	Active	Cotton + Silk
Duggondi	01	Active	Cotton + Terricotton
Nallabelly	01	Active	Terricotton
Hasanparthy	01	Active	Terricotton
Wardhannapet	01	Active	Cotton + Terricotton
Thorrur	01	Dormant	--
Kodakandla	01	Dormant	--
Chennaraopet	01	Dormant	--
Mulugu	01	Dormant	--

It can be seen from the Table – 1 that there are three varieties of cloth producing Societies in the District, Cotton, Silk and Terri cotton. But, it was found that the major number of Societies were under Warangal Mandal followed by Parkal Mandal respectively. It was also found that 13 Societies out of the 58 Societies in the District were Dormant.

Presently government policies are increasingly influenced by the globalization processes and are related to WTO-induced trade regimes. As the controls on exports get liberalized and domestic markets open up, the handloom scenario in the country is likely to undergo drastic changes in terms of skills, inputs like designs, market trends and changing demands therein. The question is whether these changes include the interests of weavers who are still practising their traditional skills and knowledge. Many policies and schemes are being implemented by government for the benefit and welfare of handloom weavers and for the progressive growth of handloom industry which has been providing livelihood for many people directly and indirectly. Yet, the handloom industry is still staggering in crisis. Hence an attempt is made in this study to examine and analyse the production performance and marketing of handlooms fabrics as well as various problems and constraints that come across in the process of weaving fabrics on handlooms and in marketing the woven fabrics, more particularly the problems of the weavers are studied.

## CONCLUSION

It is hoped that everyone will agree that the handloom industry under the informal sector is one of the major industries that needs immediate care and attention. The handloom sector is next only to agriculture in respect of employment potential and with this declining trend in the handloom sector the problems of unemployment will aggravate.

While the country is depending equally on all the three sectors, i.e., handloom, power loom and the mills to meet the clothing needs, the declining trend in handloom sector is certainly an unhealthy phenomenon. If this trend is allowed to continue then the country with the population increasing at 1.2 crore every year has to suffer for want of cloth.

So the planning people of Telangana State should realise the importance of handloom sector and allocate the required funds for the upliftment of rural handloom weavers to avoid starvation deaths and the decline in handloom industry.

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