

CHAPTER II

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CHAPTER II

Review of Literature:

This section presents a review of literature problems and the impact of the present crisis of handloom industry on weaver community. Various universities, newspapers, journals performed several studies on the problems and the impact of the crisis of the handloom industry. Therefore, an attempt has been made to review the available literature on the subject.

The survey of literature plays an important role in establishing the backdrop for any research work in Social Sciences. It is felt that justification of the present study can be clarified by reviewing the available literature on the subject.

John W. Best remarks, “a familiarity with the literature in any problem area helps the students to discover, what is already, what others have attempted the find out, what methods of attack have been promising or disappointing, what problems remained to be solved.”

Review of literature helps to know the existing literature on the topic being pursued and also on the related aspects. It finds the gaps and also the uncovered areas on the topic. The methodologies adopted, statistical tools employed and also the conclusions inferred can be known. All these help and guide to have some new insights into the current topic for arriving at meaningful conclusions. It is usually an organizational pattern which combines both summary and synthesis. A summary is a recap of the important information of the source, but a synthesis is a re-organization, or a reshuffling, of that information. It might give a new interpretation of old material

or combine new with old interpretations. Or it might trace the intellectual progression of the field, including major debates.

The village and small industrial sector consists of traditional industries and modern small industries. The important traditional industry of Cachar is handloom. Industry. The present study is focused on the handloom sector. Hence, an attempt is made hereunder to review some of the earlier studies on various aspects of Handloom Industry.

A large number of studies were conducted on the handloom sector. The studies were classified into three groups, as 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. The study on an international level is discussed under the group, 2.1. The national level studies are reviewed under 2.2 and the local or regional studies are categorised in 2.3.

2.1 INTERNATIONAL STUDIES:

1) the most important study on the problems of the handloom industry at an international level has been made by Roy (1900 to 1939). He examined the complex process of transformation of handloom industry in India compared to the other countries. The interesting part of his study is the presentation of comparative history of the handloom industry. According to him, transitions in crafts in 18th century rural Europe was similar in outward characteristics: reduction in independent weavers to dependence on capitalists and subordination of merchant to producer. Increasing dependence within the crafts, therefore, belonged to a single movement in Europe.

i) Roy pointed out that in India the motive force did not emerge out of land, for weaving was a specialised occupation even earlier, but from the market it was an externally induced change. Comparable instances were available not from Europe but from other regions of Asia. It is

observed that handloom weaving in China, the Middle East (ME) and Java experienced this articulation and transformed itself. Peasant household production was significant in china but comparatively rare in India. He observed further the following transitions in the industry.

ii) The second quarter of the 19th century witnessed decline in the industry throughout Asia and Industrial Revolution affected the competitiveness both at home and abroad.

iii) In India and China in the mid-thirties, hand spurn yarn was used only to the extent of about 17 to 20% of total yarn consumed by handlooms.

iv) By the end of the 19th century, when the quality of the loom age statistics improved, it was established that a reversal was underway. Between 1873 and 1907, number of weavers has increased by 50% in Egypt while in Syria loom age doubled between 1909 and 1950. In China weaving was never seriously threatened. The mid thirties even witnessed some substitution of mill cloth with the availability of finer yarns.

v) It is more or less an accepted fact that product differentiation served as the basis for survival of hand weaving. The nature of product differentiation was closely similar between India and Java. The thirties saw adoption of special apparatus for decorative work in India.

Roy concluded his study stating product differentiation, erosion of household units, urbanisation of handlooms, etc. To him southern weaving was more progressive than northern India.

2) Lisa and Gezahegn (2011) based on a primary survey of rural handloom clusters in Ethiopia, examine the mechanism and performance of clustering. Given weak financial institutions, clustered producers and traders use trade credits to ease working capital constraints. They pointed out that, geographical clustering enables entrepreneurs with limited capital to enter the business through shared workspaces and fine division of labour. An improvement in infrastructure can further enhance firm performance in a cluster. In towns with electricity access, producers work longer hours by sharing workspaces at lower rental cost.

3) Banerjee, Muzib, Sharmin (2014) conducted a study on the role of the industry as an increasingly essential element of economic, social development and it has become one of the largest economic industries in Bangladesh. Here the study tries to identify the factors of declining handloom workers in Tangail and their main causes of migration to India. Mainly case studies and interview had been taken to collect the primary data. Factors like fear of communal violence, increased price of raw materials, and absence of loan from government, insufficient transport facility, better facilities in India, and lack of security was identified for their rapid migration to India.

2.2. NATIONAL STUDIES:

4) Problems of labour and finance are mentioned in Sahai's enquiry into the industry (1933). He identified "Indebtedness to local sources and yarn dealers" as the crux of the problem, indicating that one way of freeing them will be to take up co-operative forms of association. The cooperative movement in the handloom sector also realigned the overall organization of weaving in various

parts of the country. Though these co-operatives were initially responsible for mediating in weaver's access to scarce raw materials (yarn). Over the time, market mediations too became a reality.

5) The most comprehensive analysis of the Indian Handloom Industry is still the report of the Fact Finding Committee (1942) constituted against the backdrop of a major crisis in the industry. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Thomas (Prof. of Economics, University of Madras), attributed the crisis to the cumulative effect of a number of factors. These included changes in the tariff policy, shift in consumer taste and competition from the mill sector. The major findings of the committee are given below:-

i) The old hand weaving industry using hand-spun yarn decayed during the first half of the 19th century. In its place, a new hand-weaving industry depending upon the use of mill-spun yarn was at first imported, later on Indian mill were made.

ii) The textile policy of the Government of India benefited the mills more than the handlooms. The import duty on yarn, in particular, placed a definite burden on the handlooms. The rise of power looms other than mills has also affected the handloom industry.

iii) It was found that hand-weaving was a full-time occupation for the large majority of the people engaged in it. While most of the weavers belong to the hereditary weaving castes like the Salis, Devangas, Koshtis, and Khattris among Hindus and Jolahas or momins among the Muslims, there have also been lately new entrants into the profession.

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- iv) The Committee recommended the establishment of an Indian Handloom Industry Board as a semi-public corporation, for coordinating all the efforts regarding the handloom industry.
- 6) In 1953 The Textile Enquiry Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Kanungo to make an in-depth study of textile mills and decentralised sector, the committee recommended the conversion of handlooms into semi-automatic looms or power looms to make them technically more efficient, and recommended abolition of middlemen to eliminate exploitation of primary producers.
- 7) Sahai (1956) reported that the problems of handlooms are due to the competition from power looms and mills. He felt the need to employ modern techniques of production and design, government should establish training centers for the benefit of weavers where they are concentrated and materials like, design books and related instruments have to be made available.
- 8) The Government of India appointed the Textile Enquiry Committee in (1958) under the chairmanship of Jos D.A. The committee suggested that the Government should provide assistance to ensure efficiency and improve quality of products and also suggested the assistance of handloom industry by way of rebate on a fairly stable basis.
- 9) National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) conducted a survey in (1958) on the Economics of Handloom Industry in Mysore State. The study pointed out that the earnings of weavers were relatively low and much less than the average standards of living. It was also pointed out that the earnings in the urban centres were considerably higher than those of the rural centres in 1964.

10) The Power looms Enquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Mehta made a study on the status and performance of handlooms and power looms in the country. The committee recommended that the production of coloured sarees should be exclusively reserved to handloom sector and a working group set up by the Government of India under the chairmanship of A.V. Venkateswaran submitted its report in the year (1964).

11) Sevakran (1969) highlighted the role of the handloom, Boards in the development of Handloom weavers and Co-operatives. 17) Rao. (1973) highlighted the employment potentiality in handloom industry and suggested the strengthening of handloom co-operatives for generating more employment. 18) Somappa (1974) expressed that the capacity of utilization was low due to shortage of yarn and competition from mill sector, The author opined that the vacuum thus created in the internal market would be met by handlooms. 19) Angadi (1975) focused on reservation of items for handloom industry and related issues. He suggested reservation of more items for handloom sector. 20) Kamat (1976) advocated the need to face lift handlooms. The author examined potential reservation policy, regional imbalance and also suggested the arrangement of buffer stocks and integration of channels of distribution of yarn to avoid instabilities.

12) Venkatappaiah (1977) conducted a study in Karnataka state. The author opined that the inputs were to be supplied to weavers at controlled rates, without which it is difficult for the weaver to earn his livelihood. Because of non-availability of raw materials at reasonable rates the looms are in the lame position.

13) Batra (1978) conducted a study and identified that non-availability of good quality of yarn at a reasonable price, was one of the major problems of the handloom sector.

14) Varadaraj (1979) discussed various issues of yarn distribution system. He felt that the system was not favorable to handlooms because significant per cent of yarn going to large scale mills and power looms. He suggested the distribution of yarn through government outlets and co-operative societies to the decentralized sector. Sarada. (1979) identified some of the problems of handloom weavers. The author has noted that the weavers have been leading miserable life due to unemployment and under employment, and had been living below poverty line. The weavers are facing the problem of scarcity of yarn and necessary inputs.

15) Ansari (1980) conducted a study on the pattern of government assistance to handloom industry and suggested liberal assistance from the government side to the handloom industry.

16) Sharma (1980) in his study opined that the government made several programmes for the benefit of the handloom weavers, but the weavers did not receive any benefit from any source, because of the master weavers and middlemen. So the government introduced photo pasted identity cards for the real weavers to eliminate the master weavers or middlemen.

17) Pandey (1981) in his article stated that handloom industry constitutes one of the major sectors employing the largest number of people next to agriculture. In terms of economic impact on rural employment and income, handloom industry occupies important place from the consumers view, it meets a substantial part of the market requirements and its production patterns are selective and finally turned to local and regional demand patterns.

18) Murthy (1982) made a study on the Financing Handloom Co-operative–NABARD. He suggested that handloom sector need liberal financial assistance for development of co-operative handloom weavers

19) Jain (1983) expressed the view that the power loom industry was eating away the items reserved for the hand loom sector. The effect of the above event was that many handloom weavers lost their employment; especially of women those who were involve pre weaving processes.

20) Jain. (1985) reviewed the impact of the 1985 Textile Policy on the handloom industry in our country. He pointed out that the policy had given a back seat to employment and reservation of handloom product is not an incentive for the handloom sector.

21) Gopalan. (1986) carried out an empirical study on production, marketing of handloom goods by weaver's co-operatives societies. The author opined that the handloom cooperatives are lacking an appropriate strategy for marketing their products.

22) According to Das, (1986) the major obstacle that hindered proper development of the handloom weaving industry despite of its long traditional background was its very low production. Though several factors were responsible for this state of affairs, one aspect that had become more prominent is the presence of large number of women weavers and that also, large majority of them were not professionalized which presented the absence of commercial weaving

23) Kotaiah (1987) in his study on problems regarding the handloom industry, suggested several measures for weavers security purpose, like insurance, provident fund, and group insurance. The author suggested the government, to construct hospitals for the weavers and also provide tax free on inputs of handloom industry.

24) Sastry (1988) analysed that the in June, 1986 government had set up a modernisation fund worth Rs. 750 crores to meet the modernisation needs of the textile mills over the next five years. But the total outlay for handloom during each the five years plan exceeded Rs. 200 crores.

Modernisation of handlooms was never discussed seriously and the problem did not receive the attention as it ought to be. It only indicated lack of concern for genuine technical needs of the handloom sector.

25) Maurya (1988) in his study revealed that handloom had been serving the basic needs of the people. It is unique in its individuality and in the production of quality-goods which maintained their own identity. The growth of mill sector had its impact on the handloom industry. The mill sector is capital intensive with sophisticated methods of production catering to the diversified needs of the people. Though it is difficult for the handloom industry to meet this competition, it had been able to maintain its own identity, due to this organization and structure which is very different from that of the mill sector. In organization the handloom industry is based on Co-operative and private ownership

26) Sundari. (1989) studied the problems of women workers in handloom industry and had observed that the participation of women workers in the weaving sector is very high but most of them live below poverty line. The author identified reasons for poor living below poverty line was its low wages, insecurity job, and lack of skill. The author had suggested that the government should keep a vigil eye to improve the conditions of the women those living below poverty.

27) Abid Hussain committee (1990) carried out a study on handloom industry. The committee suggested for adequate institutional support to the handloom weavers. The committee suggested to open new institutions like APEX Cotton Development and Technology, Apex Textile Restructuring Agency (ATRA), area Based Handloom Promotion Agencies, area based Textile

Restricting Asset Trust (TRATS). National Development Authority, Power Loom Area Development Corporation etc.

28) Dantwala (1990) in his study showed that organization of industrial weaver's co-operation societies had been one of the important schemes implemented by the state government for the welfare of the loom less weavers. There are a large number of loom less weavers, struggling hard under the master weavers, on whom they necessarily depend for their livelihood.

29) Kotaiah. (1991) had studied the problems faced by the handloom sector, caused by lack of attention to productivity and capacity of handlooms. The author suggested that certain items of cloth should be reserved for production on handlooms for getting protected in market for their products. It would help-to develop the weavers in economically and financially.

30) Rayudu (1992) examined the industrial cooperatives and the marketing structure of the cooperative handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh. The book critically examined the evolution of industrial co-operatives and their importance in the present context of industrial set up. In this outstanding book, the author aptly analysed and discussed the role of co-operation as a balancing sector. The book provided a comprehensive information on the subject. The work appropriately demonstrated and among the issues discussed in this book are their working, financial management, organisation, marketing, State aid and industrial relations. The problems including those of artisans had been viewed. The author offers many workable suggestions.

31) The All India Handloom Conference at New Delhi (1993) discussed the various problems faced by the handloom industry. The delegates of the conference suggested that the government should supply yarn regularly to the weavers at subsidized rates, marketing centres should be

opened in rural areas and the reservation items should continue and restrict the production of the power looms. Additional spinning mills should be established to increase the yarn production and to supply handloom sector.

32) Srinivasulu. (1994) made an attempt to study the Handloom weavers' struggle-for survival in Chirala village in A.P. He pointed out that the handloom sector had been seriously threatened by the severe competition from the power looms and that the survival of the handloom sector and handloom weavers had been affected the rising prices of yarn, dyes and chemicals.

33) The Meera Seth Committee on Handloom Industry was appointed on July 1995 to review the impact of the Government of India's policy on Handlooms (1985). The High Powered Committee headed by Meera Seth, former member of the Planning commission, described how the handloom industry fared during 10 years after the implementation of the Textile Policy of 1985. The implications of government textile policies are crucial to any understanding of the current status of the industry. The phenomenal growth of the power loom sector at the cost of the handloom sector is due at best to the apathy and worst to the active connivance of government officials.

34) Abdul (1996) assessed the impact of the new economic policy on small scale industry and found that competition from big industry had grown and adversely affected the demand for products of small scale units and ancillaries. Handloom industry is one of such industrial segment which had been adversely affected under the reforms regime, with the withdrawal of several subsidies so far enjoyed by the handloom sector and especially by winding up the Janata cloth scheme which not only provided cheap cloth but also provided employment to the vulnerable section of the old and low skilled weavers, thus the economic reforms contributed to the worsening conditions in the handloom sector.

35) Dash (1996) assessed the economics of handloom weaving among different caste groups (as traditionally the industry is divided on the basis of caste) in order to identify the process of decline at work. It attempted to identify the forces of decay within the handloom sector in particular and the textile industry in general. The methodology adopted for the study was the traditional demand and supply analysis. The whole of the study was presented in a historical perspective to throw better insight into the process of desertion of weaving households.

36) Roy (1999) made an attempt to answer that whether a sufficiently general and convincing account of the artisan ate to be found. The book suggested that traditional industry modernized and played a creative role in Indian industrialization. Traditional industry can play such a role is a familiar theme in the economic and social history of early modern Europe and prewar East Asia. In conclusion the study tends to assess that there was a rise of export trade and one outcome of trade was changes in craftsmanship and related strains, furthermore there were adaptations in trading production system. Thus in the inter war period, this premises of the European factories and Indian karkhanas.

37) Premavathy (1999), in her study examined the importance and feasibility of modernization of the handloom industry. She tried to find out the problems of this traditional industry and examined how far modernization can solve such problems with particular reference to Ernakulam District.

38) Gurumoorthy and Rengachari (2002) examined that handloom being an important contributing sector to the textile could make a significant share of its own in the textile market provided that it adopts a market oriented approach and marketing concept. Hence, a market approach is needed.

39) Karunakaran and Karthikeyan (2002) assessed the nature and also extent of use of handloom fabrics and also analysed the factors influencing the buying behaviour of consumer and to find out the post purchases behaviour towards handloom products cotton fabrics had always greater demand in the market compared to other handloom products such as polyester and silk fabrics.

40) Kumar (2003) analysed the need for the expansion of domestic and international market for Indian handloom products. It is argued that in the era of globalization when the market is flooded with textiles from China and other countries , the regional specialization of handlooms , of which the list is endless , can be used to provide a well-defined product identity . For this purpose the identities of handloom fabrics must be respected, protected, and re- in forced.

41) Narasaiah (2004) presented the factual analysis of contribution to the existing stream of insight and actual problems faced by the handloom industry in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh State. And also discussed about the economic and social conditions of the weaving communities.

42) Desai (2007) has highlighted that poor infrastructural facilities in rural segments had been one of the factors holding back rural industrialisation in India.

43) Singh and Naik (2008) conducted study in Banaras district of Uttar Pradesh State regarding present status of silk weavers. The study revealed that the situation of weavers was pathetic; they were feeble due to illiteracy, financial constraints, marketing bottleneck and Government support. An effort had been made to trace the weavers' socio-economic condition, marketing practices and problems faced by them.

44) Bythell (2008) assessed that no other group of workers in the history of the English working class has received more sympathy and less scholarly attention. His main aim was to examine the transition from the domestic system to the factory system in cotton weaving in the first half of the nineteenth century.

45) Menon (2010) highlighted the current product mix of village artisanal units with an exploratory research on the reasons limiting them from implementing quantitative marketing approach. This paper focussed on the pitfalls that limit the ability of village craft industry in implementing quantitative marketing approach to improve marketing performance.

2.3 REGIONAL STUDIES:

The third group of studies can be categorised as those relating to specific areas, regions or states.

The important studies are discussed below:-

46) Sinha (2003), examined the impact of motivation and social support on enterprise creation. Based on a sample of 400 men and women entrepreneurs, the findings revealed that the main motivating factor to start an enterprise was to earn money by both men and women entrepreneurs. The units set up by them were mostly micro enterprises. Traditional activities such as handicrafts and handloom still predominated the type of activities undertaken by the women entrepreneurs. The units of both men and women entrepreneurs were suffering from inadequate income generation. Majority of women entrepreneurs managed finance through their own sources. The study concluded that women of the region have enough potential to take up entrepreneurship as a career. Determined efforts from women entrepreneurs supported by congenial climate can bring about substantial results.

47) Kar, Borthakur, S K(2008) discussed about the dyeing handloom textile products and pointed out that Assam is floristically one of the richest states of Northeast India with more than 3,000 flowering plant species. The state is inhabited by five major tribes and nine minor tribes. The people of Assam have been using different herbs to dye their cotton, silk and woolen yarns, and garments. A survey on vegetable dye was undertaken during 2006-2007 in different parts and among different ethnic group of Assam. The paper deals with 47 dye yielding plant species and provided information on their botanical name, family, local names, and plant parts used, method of preparation, colour produced, and kind of garments dyed.

48) Pandya, Thoudam, Joymati. (2010) investigated the role of handloom in NER particularly in Manipur, pointed out that Hand woven textiles had always been a rich source of one's tradition. In the Northeast region of India, each tribe or community has its own specific designs and motifs. Manipur enjoys a distinct place amongst textiles zones in India. Women folk are practicing weaving in Manipur. The crafts is woven with culture and spiritual beliefs of the natives of Manipur since time immemorial. But due to social changes incorporated with modern technology, the traditional hand woven textiles of Manipur are few to be found and they are rapidly changing in terms of designs, motifs, yarns and processes. The study was an attempt towards the preservation of the textiles before they are completely depleted. The main objective was to document the hand woven textiles of Manipur. The related data was collected purposively from three selected villages by using observation cum interview method.

49) Devi (2012) provided an evidence and analysed the handloom production system in Manipur. Being home oriented, the entire operation in Manipur remain with women only, from rearing of cocoons right up to weaving of fabrics. The mulberry sericulture was not commercially exploited,

and was confined to a few villages with stray plantation in the backyards or isolated mature grown plants. As per the information provided by Department of Sericulture, silkworms are usually reared in small separate spaces within the dwelling houses, which usually lacked sufficient ventilation. Rearing was done either in wooden or bamboo trays or on shelves with leaf feeding, until they spin golden yellow yarns. Then the cocoons were boiled and the fibrous silk unravelled and wound on to a stick

50) Phukan (2012) examined the need for up liftmen of handloom sector, identified the problems faced by this industry. Poor marketing and insufficient market linkage outside the state aided the industry from growing and earning more revenue. Apart from other, innovations in design to cope up with the latest market demand are not sufficient and have posed a threat to this indigenous industry. Therefore, it is high time that all round efforts are made to revive this important and unique industry.

51) Bortamuly and Goswami. (2012) analysed the factors influencing the wage structure of the handloom industry from a gender perspective. They examined the wage differential with respect to gender as well as type of work the workers are entrusted with. The study is based on primary data collected from 300 respondents in 13 districts in Assam. Multiple regression technique is used to analyse the data. The results show that in case of contractual workers, there is no gender discrimination in wages, whereas it is found in case of monthly rated workers. Productivity of the workers is found to be significant both for monthly rated as well as contractual workers. Factors like education and experience do not have any significant influence on the wage structure of the workers in the handloom industry in Assam. Thus, the government machinery should address the gender wage discrimination for monthly rated weavers and dealers, back up support facilities for

contractual workers of the industry in the State. The present study greatly extends our understanding of the wage earnings scenario in Assam's handloom sector from gender perspective. The removal of import quota restriction for textile products opened up new avenues and challenges for the Indian handloom industry, which infused competition in recent years. As majority of the workers in the industry are women, who work mostly as weavers, and helpers, such competition often influences the nature and pattern of earnings of women workers.

52) Das and Das (2012) performed an assessment on the cluster development initiatives in NE and their implication on rural economic and industrial development. Therefore taking into consideration all the benefits of cluster approach of rural and regional economic development, NER can take the benefits of this approach for their economic development. This will bring a new life to the rural economy of North East. The various institutional framework and governmental policies can play a very important role in the field of cluster development

53) Rama. (2012) made an attempt to understand the financial management practices of micro handloom enterprises predominantly run by women in a remote tribal cluster, Thenzawl in Mizoram. The paper identifies the sources of fixed capital and working capital for the enterprises and the problems faced by them related to finance.

54) Narzary (2013) conducted a study entitled "A study on the challenges faced by the handloom industry in BTAD. Dealed with the challenges faced by the producers and retailers in the area. In these efforts, we have been supported by weavers, traders, retailers, customers of handlooms. Experts and cooperative society elected personnel as well as officials of government in getting required information.

The sector has great market opportunities if it is ready to take them. Products made by using organic cotton yarn and natural dyes in high demand in the developed nations and upper segment that are health conscious. For these kinds of products research and development, training and knowledge sharing are crucial things. Decentralized spinning mills are another area of concern to chase away the raw material supply problem. These R&D, training, information centers and mini spinning mills to be come up at weaving center level so that the weaver could have easy access to primary business needs.

55) Pandit , Kumar and Chakrabarti (2013) examined in the paper “Ergonomic Problems Prevalent in Handloom Units of North East India” highlighted the ergonomic issues related to weaving practices as adopted in NE, tried to analyze them from the design perspective. The study suggested that there is a high prevalence of ergonomic risk factor related to the present handloom workstation in the weaving units suggesting that ergonomic intervention was required in the present work situation. The study underlines the needs for further work regarding ergonomic design implementations in the present loom workstations, along with the gender specific requirements.

56) “A study on the analysis of the economics of weavers’ cooperative societies in Assam” by Boruah, Kaur. The study revealed that central and state governments had evolved many schemes to uplift the economic condition by providing incentives in the form of grants and loans to impart training on new designs, modernization of looms etc. But handloom weaving units continued to be in the grip of problems. Therefore the purpose of this paper is to familiarize with the current status of handloom Weavers’ Cooperative Societies. (2015) Government intervention through

financial assistance and implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes. The handloom sector, to some extent, had been able to tide over these disadvantages.