

## Problems faced by the handloom weavers

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### Abstract

The handloom industry is India's biggest cottage industry which constitutes a vital sector of the village economy next only to agriculture. Handloom industry plays an important role in improving the economic conditions of the rural poor. It has a vast potential for generating employment and income opportunities for the rural masses and enhancing the purchasing power of millions of people in our rural areas. Almost a third of country's cotton textiles are produced by the handloom weavers. This paper highlighted problems faced by the handloom weavers. For analysis, secondary data have been collected and the same has been analysed.

**Keywords:** handloom, problems, handloom weavers, garrett's ranking technique and kendall's co-efficient of concordance

### Introduction

There is no second opinion that handloom industries are contributing a lot towards Indian economy. In Indian economy, Handloom sectors are playing a significant role. By realizing the significance of the handloom sectors, both Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu are offering a lot of facilities like free power, health insurance savings and welfare schemes. At the same time, handloom weavers are suffering from various problems. To solve all these problems both Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu are taking various efforts. But, actual result is not upto satisfactory level. Presently, the handloom weavers are suffering from various problems like high price of yarn, competition from power loom, poor market facility, more wages and non availability of skilled labour etc. Against this background, an attempt has been made in this chapter to trace out the problems of the handloom weavers. To identify the problems faced by the weavers in handloom sector, 13 problems have been identified and the same have been used in the Pilot study. On the basis of the outcome of the Pilot study and by using Item Analysis technique, only 11 problems have been identified as relevant to the study and the same have been used in the study for data collection. Such collected data have been analysed with Garrett's Ranking Technique and Kendall's Co-efficient of Concordance.

### Review of Literature

Ramakrishna Rao and Subramanyam (1987) <sup>[1]</sup> made a study on Handloom industry in Coastal Andhra Pradesh. They found that handloom weavers are facing the problems like poor wages and poor working environment. They suggested that the Government should take all possible steps to provide minimum wages to handloom weavers.

Sobhan (1989) <sup>[3]</sup> found that weavers in Bangladesh are suffering a lot due to poor infrastructure facilities and consequence of this, weavers are facing various problems in marketing. On the basis of his findings, he suggested that marketing related infrastructure should be enhanced.

Ramakrishna Rao and Subrahmanyam (1998) <sup>[2]</sup> made a study on handlooms face liquidation. They found that

weavers are not getting adequate finance. They concluded that there must be necessary to provide credit facility to the weavers at lower rate of interest.

### Objectives of the Study

The present study is undertaken with the following specific objectives:

1. To measure problems faced by the Handloom weavers.
2. To offer suitable suggestions for further development.

### Research Methodology

This is an empirical study based on primary data. Convenient sampling technique has been adopted for collection of primary data. Required data have been collected from the selected 570 sample weavers.

### Framework of Analysis

For the present study, collected primary data have been analysed with statistical tools like Garrett's Ranking Technique and Kendall's Co-efficient of Concordance.

### Results & Discussion

To know that significant problems faced by the handloom weavers, the per cent position estimated with Garrett's Ranking Technique. Accordingly, score value as per Garrett Ranking Analysis for first rank to eleventh rank is calculated. Then for each factor, the score of each weaver is added and then mean value is calculated. The factor which has the highest mean value is considered to be the significant factor. Details of the findings are shown in Table 1.

Ranks assigned by the handloom weavers have been converted into score by using the following formula and on the basis of Garrett Table.

$$\text{Per cent position} = \frac{100(R_{ij}-0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where,

R<sub>ij</sub> = Rank given for the i<sup>th</sup> factor by the j<sup>th</sup> respondents.

N<sub>j</sub> = Number of factors ranked by j<sup>th</sup> respondents.

**Table 1:** Problems of the Handloom Weavers

Rank Scores (x)		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	Total	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
		83	72	65	59	55	50	45	40	35	28	18				
Inadequate family welfare schemes	f	56	39	51	41	67	55	47	45	67	58	44	570	28301	49.65	VII
	fx	4648	2808	3315	2419	3685	2750	2115	1800	2345	1624	792				
High maintenance cost	f	50	43	43	66	49	56	49	44	55	54	61	570	27930	49	IX
	fx	4150	3096	2795	3894	2695	2800	2205	1760	1925	1512	1098				
Non availability of spare parts	f	57	49	58	31	51	42	52	55	61	52	62	570	28010	49.14	VIII
	fx	4731	3528	3770	1829	2805	2100	2340	2200	2135	1456	1116				
Frequent power failure	f	49	42	49	51	49	55	59	59	47	45	65	570	27820	48.81	X
	fx	4067	3024	3185	3009	2695	2750	2655	2360	1645	1260	1170				
Discouragement of Relatives/friends	f	40	53	66	45	40	42	55	45	59	57	68	570	27541	48.32	XI
	fx	3320	3816	4290	2655	2200	2100	2475	1800	2065	1596	1224				
Competition from power loom	f	56	49	61	28	49	27	61	57	44	49	29	570	29567	51.87	II
	fx	4648	3528	3965	3422	2695	2850	2745	2280	1540	1372	522				
Inadequate finance facility	f	55	60	52	49	51	61	41	35	51	55	60	570	28661	50.28	IV
	fx	4565	4320	3380	2891	2805	3050	1845	1400	1785	1540	1080				
More wages	f	42	61	59	61	55	49	55	45	31	48	64	570	28643	50.25	V
	fx	3486	4392	3835	3599	3025	2450	2475	1800	1085	1344	1152				
Poor Marketing facility	f	51	55	52	49	58	49	52	60	47	53	44	570	28765	50.47	III
	fx	4233	3960	3380	2891	3190	2450	2340	2400	1645	1484	792				
Non-availability of skilled labour	f	59	50	34	59	40	56	57	59	56	48	52	570	28353	49.74	VI
	fx	4897	3600	2210	3481	2200	2800	2565	2360	1960	1344	936				
High Price of yarn	f	55	69	45	60	61	48	42	66	52	51	21	570	29909	52.47	I
	fx	4565	4968	2925	3540	3355	2400	1890	2640	1820	1428	378				
Total	Σf	570	570	570	570	570	570	570	570	570	570	570				

Note: x=Scale; Value f=Number of weavers; fx=Score

It is clear from Table 1 that among the constraints expressed by the handloom weavers, high price of yarn turned out to be the main problem to all the sample weavers, followed by competition from power loom, poor marketing facility, inadequate finance facility, more wages, non-availability of skilled labor, inadequate family welfare schemes, non-availability of spare parts, high maintenance cost, frequent power failure, discouragement of family/friends.

**Problems of handloom weavers: kendall’s co-efficient of concordance**

In addition to Garrett ranking technique, it is decided to apply Kendall’s Co-efficient of Concordance to find out the important problem faced by the sample weavers in Handloom sector and this calculations details has been illustrated in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Problems Faced by the Handloom Weavers: Kendall’s Co-Efficient of Concordance

Problems	TS	MS	Rank	‘W’
Inadequate Family Welfare Schemes	4600	306.67	7	0.119
High Maintenance Cost	4645	309.67	9	
Non-availability of spare parts	4617	307.80	8	
Frequent power failure	4653	310.20	10	
Discouragement of Family/Friends	4773	318.20	11	
Competition from Power Loom Sector	4355	290.33	2	
InadequateFinance Facility	4466	297.73	4	
More wages	4484	298.93	5	
Poor Marketing Facility	4433	295.53	3	
Non availability of skilled labour	4505	300.33	6	
High price of yarn	4303	286.87	1	

According to Table 2, average score is in between 286.87 and 318.20. Further, it is clear that the most important problems faced by the weavers in handloom sector is the problem of high price of yarn (286.87) followed by competition from power loom sector(290.33), poor marketing facility (295.53), more wages (298.93), non availability of skilled labour (300.33), inadequate family welfare schemes (306.67), non availability of spare parts (307.80), high maintenance cost (309.67), frequent power failure (310.20) and discouragement of family/friends (318.20).

It is identified that the calculated value of ‘W’ is 0.119. Thus, it is determined that there is low similarity among the weavers in ranking the problems faced by the handloom

weavers.

**Recommendations and Suggestions**

On the basis of the findings of the present study, the following viable suggestion is offered for the betterment of handloom sector in the aspect of weavers. In the present study, it is found that most important problem of high price of yarn has been ranked as first. Hence, it is suggested that the Government concerned should come forward to form a responsible organization that will supply raw materials to the weavers at a fair price.

**Conclusions**

On the basis of the findings, a suggestion has been offered if

this suggestion has been seriously consider by the Authority Concerned, it is hope that still more number of people will come forward in the field of Handloom weaving.

### **References**

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