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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A CASE STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF WEAVER FAMILY IN THE DISTRICT OF BURDWAN & MURSHIDABAD

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Abstract:

: "Manufacturing is the processing of primary products into more refined and usable products. It is vital for our every existence (Khullar, D.R.)". On the basis of labour, machineries, weight of the raw materials etc. there are varies types of manufacturing industries in India & abroad. Among them, weaving is an important constituent of cottage & small scale industries. The basic objective of this paper is to examine the socio-economic condition of the weavers in the district of Burdwan & Murshidabad. This study looks at the asset distribution of different persons, education status of different persons, different sources of loan, the purpose of loan and the effect of the annual weaver incomes dui to change in the variables such as land holding, family size, and number of family member involved. This study is based on the data collected from primary field survey in the villages; these are Nirol, Beninagar, Sripur, Berugram, Sonarundi, Erera, Simulia, Dattabarutia, Dakshikhanda & Sirpara.

KEY-WORDS:

Handloom Weaving Industry, Socio-economic Status, Food & non-food consumption, Businessman, Money lender etc.

INTRODUCTION

India has a rich cultural heritage of handloom industry and handicraft. Indians are world famous for their magnificent workmanship and produced the most beautiful handspum & hand-woven textiles. The handloom industry survived mainly on its beauty & uniqueness. This sector plays an important role in the country's economy. About 65 lakhs people engaged in weaving & allied activities. This sector is not to be viewed in isolation and as a static part of the economy, but rather as a dynamic and efficient decentralized sector, which on the one hand, is closely integrated with agricultural land, on the other with small scale industry. Handloom industry has a long tradition of excellence and craftsmanship. The industry has adopted itself to modern times and also it can serve a very large internal market, as well as a significant export share. It is only in the second plan that the employment objective of traditional village and cottage industry were fully recognized. Above all this small scale industry has a significant role to play in employment generation in the state as well as country's economy. For these reasons and glorious future, government of West-Bengal has been made an attempt to improve market condition and skill of the weavers. But, in recent time uses of power loom by the relatively rich weavers reduces employment opportunity and due to various economic & political reason Bengal and Indian weavers are in a severe crisis.

Data Base & Methodology: Generally data base means from where the data has been collected & methodology of any case study contributes the actual stages or consequences of study properly. This paper adopts a purposive sampling design. District & clusters (group of villages where there is concentration of handloom weaving) are selected by purposive sampling, but the households are selected by random sampling from the cluster. The data collection adopts survey method, which includes administering of

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structural household questionnaire to the sample weavers. Focused discussion and strategic interviews were conducted with weaving families to collect first hand information about their marketing, living condition, market chain etc. However it should be added the supplementary information is also collected from other weavers, businessman, knowledgeable person, and yarn & cloth merchant through unstructured questionnaire. This was done with a view to better understanding of various aspects labour process, economic condition and production system. A survey was conducted in Burdwan & Murshidabad District of West-Bengal during the year 2010. The sample comprised 80 weaving family from 10 villages of two districts (50 sample from Murshidabad District & 30 sample from Burdwan District). Villages are selected in such a way that weavers cluster in those villages. There are two power loom weaving family and remaining families are handloom weavers. To analyze the data I have used some tables and econometric tools like STATA.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out the relationship whether the annual income from weaving is influenced by the variables- number of looms of the weavers, land owned (in acre), the total number of family member and the total number of family member involved in this production.
2. To study the relationship between the employer & the employee, if the firm hires labour.
3. To search the dynamicity of the firms, whether the firms are stagnant, contracting or expanding in terms of volume of production and investment, both fixed & variables.
4. To study the relationship between the amount of total income and asset holding status of different weavers.
5. To examine the relationship between the total annual income and education status of different weavers consisting of different members, i.e. whether the members who belong to a higher income groups get higher education.
6. Another type of question cum objectives are-

a) Why they are so traditional in nature in their production system?
b) What are the major obstacles behind the independence of weavers?
c) Occupying the world heritage, why Indian handloom sector is so neglected?
d) Why socio-economic condition of Indian weaver is so poor?
e) Why handloom sector is in crisis in recent year?

The above raised questions and objectives should not be solved by using a small sample survey within a limited area but some outlook can be given by analyzing the data given bellow.

Relationship Between Annual Income from Weaving & other variables: In this section we are concerned with the relationship between the annual income from weaving & other variables, such as number of looms, total land owned, the total number of family member and the total number of family member involved in this business, i.e. weather annually income from weaving is influenced by the above variables (see table- 1). Now we should concentrate on the following analysis, tabular analysis and regression analysis for testing the above relation.

Range of annual income from weaving	Total no. of family belong to these range	Average no. of looms owned	Average land owned (in acre)	Average no. of family member	Average no. of family member involved per loom
<20000	11	1.09	1.29	4.09	02
20001-40000	35	1.06	0.586	4.34	2.06
40001-60000	19	1.89	0.632	5.53	3.42
60001-80000	08	2.13	0.48	6.38	04
80001-100000	04	03	0.59	8.75	5.25
100001-120000	01	03	1.3	06	04
120001-140000	01	04	1.3	10	06
140001-160000	01	04	0	10	07

Table: 1. Distribution of annual income from weaving & other variables. Source: field survey.

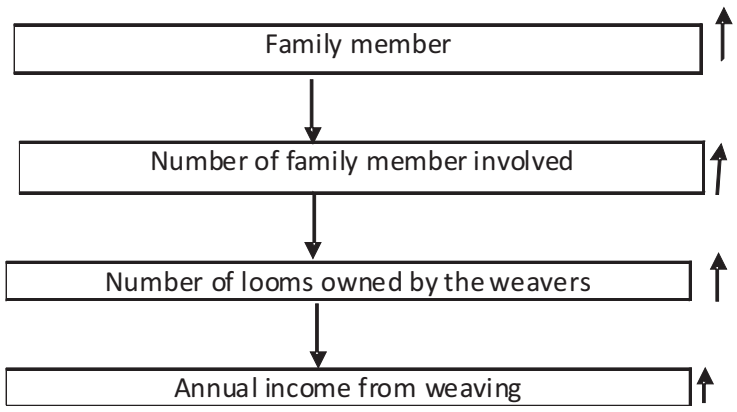
From the above table we can observe that most of the weavers belong to a lower income range. We can also observe from the above table that there is an increasing trend of annual income from weaving with increase in both average number of looms and average number of family members. It seems that as family member's increases, involvement of family member in weaving also increases because of the absence of other alternatives which leads to increase in number of looms. As a result increase in number of looms lead to increase in annual income from weaving (see table- 2). We can get clear findings from the bellow correlation analysis. First, we have constructed a pair-wise correlation matrix between the following variables at 1 % level of significance.

	Annual income from weaving	No. of looms owned by the weavers	Land owned by the weavers	No. of family member involved	Family member	Total yearly income from other occupations
Annual income from weaving	1.0000					
No. of looms owned by the weavers	0.8691*	1.0000				
Land owned by the weavers	-0.1626	0.0711	1.0000			
No. of family member involved	0.8471*	0.9555*	-0.0485	1.0000		
Family member	0.6249*	0.7625*	0.1647	0.7497*	1.0000	
Total yearly income from other occupations	-0.1169	0.0453	0.0810	0.0132	0.2813	1.0000

Table: 2. Correlation analysis showing the relationship between annual income from weaving & other variables.

Note: * represent significance at 10%

From above table- 2 it is cleared that there is no correlation between family member and land holding as well as family member and total income from other occupations. It seems that as both of the absence of other suitable occupations and absence of enough per capita land holding, they intentionally or unintentionally, engage in the traditional weaving. It is also evident that no. of looms are proportionately increased with increase in family involvement in traditional weaving. The intuition may be as follows.



The above diagram shows that as family size increases, the involvement of family member in weaving also increases. As a result the number of looms also increases which leads to increase in the amount of annual income from weaving.

Relationship between different sources of loans & different purpose of taking loan: Generally weaver families take loans, to maintain family through fulfillment of consumption needs, for marriage purpose and for medical purposes. In few cases, the weavers take loans from businessman (to whom they provide output on contact) to purchase weaving instruments. They are not paid any interest against this type of loan formally. But the businessman may take interest through purchase of output at a relatively lower price. Sometimes they take their required amount of money from relatives for production purposes. Most of

the weavers are not interested to take loan from formal institution, such as bank, co-operative etc. for improvement of production structure because of the want to avoid the difficulties (such as-collateral). Here we have collected some information from respondents who took loans from formal institution did not repay loans. In most of the cases, the weavers who require a higher amount of loan take from the money lenders at a high rate of interest. The below analysis, both regression & tabular, give some light on these aspects.

Range of loan		1500-5000	5001-10000	10001-20000	20001-54000
Total no. of weavers belong to these range		9	12	5	5
Sources of loans	Businessman	1	4	1	0
	Moneylender	4	1	3	4
	Relatives	2	2	0	1
	Bank	1	5	1	0
	Cooperative	1	0	0	0
Purpose of loans	Marriage	3	5	1	2
	Medical	2	2	3	2
	Subsistence	2	2	0	0
	Infrastructure	1	3	1	0
	Others	1	0	0	1
The different interest rate in different informal agents or/and formal institutions, on average (%)	Businessman	0[1]	0	0	0
	Moneylender	32	60	0[2]	27
	Relatives	0	0	0	0
	Bank	0[3]	0	0	0
	Cooperative	0	0	0	0

Table- 3. Feature of different sources of loan & purpose of taking loans. Source: Field Report.

From the above table-3, we find the following observations: 1. Only 31 weavers out of 80 are taking loan from different sources. 2. About 39% weavers take loan from moneylender, 23% weavers from bank, 19% from businessman, 16% from relatives and 3% from cooperatives. Thus a higher number of weavers take loan from money lenders. 3. When the weavers need more money, they go for loans to the moneylenders. Most of the loans taken by the weavers are either for marriage or medical purposes.

N.B:

1 They take loans from businessman (to whom they provide output on contact) to purchase weaving instruments. The interest is not paid against this type of loan formally. Thus the interest is taken to be zero. The businessman may take interest through lowering the output price.
2 We have found that sometimes due to the friendship relation, the money lenders do not take any interest rate from the weavers.
3 Both in the bank and cooperative, the weavers either (intentionally or unintentionally) do not repay interest or loans. Here we have found that most of the loans have been subsidized

Regression: 1

The dependent variable is

Y: whether the weavers take loans from moneylender (D1 =1) or not (D1= 0)
The independent variables is
X_1: The amount of loan (in rupees).

Pseudo R^2	LR-chi2(1)	Probability	No. of Observation
0.1260	5.21	0.0224	31

Variable	Coefficient	z-Statistics
Intercept	-1.577638	-2.31**
X_1	0.000902	1.91*

Table: 4. Regression analysis showing relationship between amount of loan taken & sources of loan (moneylender)

Note: *, and ** represent significance at 10%, & 5% respectively.

It is clear from the above regression that there is a significant relationship (at 10% level) between the amount of loan taken & the source of loan (moneylender). It may be intercepted as weavers demand for a high amount of loans; the possibility to go to the moneylender for that loan also increases. It may be because of presence of difficulties for taking loan, the higher amount of loan cannot be provided by the businessman, and it is prestigious to take high amount of loan from relatives.

Asset Distribution of different weavers in different income range:

In this section we are concentrating on the asset distribution of different weavers who have different income levels. Here we have also concentrated on the relation between the proportion of food items (both basic food & non basic food) and the total annual income. A regression analysis has been done to see whether the proportion of expenditure food is affected by the total annual income or not (vide table-5, 6, 7 & 8).

Regression:2

The dependent variable is
Y: The proportion of income spent on food items in relation to total expenditure.
The independent variable is
X_1 Total annual income (in rupees)

R-square	F-value	Significance of F	No. of observation
0.1551	14.32	0.0003	80

Variable	Coefficient	z-Statistics
Intercept	0.8279095	34.11***
X_1	-1.21e-06	-3.78***

Table: 5. Relationship between proportion of food item & total annual income.

Note: *** represent significance at 1% level.

Regression 3:

The dependent variable is
Y: Proportion of non food in relation to total expenditure (D1 =1) or not (D1= 0)
The independent variable is
X_1 Total annual income (in rupees)

R-square	F-value	Significance of F	No. of observation
0.0557	4.60	0.0350	80

Variable	Coefficient	z-Statistics
Intercept	0.0658048	3.11***
X_1	6.00e-07	2.15**

Table: 6. Relationship between proportion of non food item & total annual income.

Note: **, and *** represent significance at 10%, & 5% respectively.

The above two regression shows that as the amount of annual income increases, the proportion of (annual) food in relation to total expenditure also decreases significantly, on one hand. On the other hand, as the amount of annual income increases, the proportion of (annual) non-food (such as Mobile, Colour T.V., Freeze etc) items in relation to total expenditure also increases significantly. The below table and regression analysis are clearly showing.

Range of Income	Asset Distribution (in %)											
	Cycle	Motor Cycle	B & W T.V.	Colour T.V	Mobile	Fan	Radio	Freeze	Drum	Sprayer	Pump	Thresher
<50000	90	0	10	16.67	56.67	36.67	33.33	0	6.67	0	6.67	23.33
50001-100000	94.73	0	10.52	57.89	100	86.84	73.68	0	13.16	21.05	26.32	39.47
100001-150000	100	11.11	0	88.89	100	100	88.89	11.11	33.33	33.33	55.56	66.67
150001-200000	100	0	0	100	100	100	100	0	33.33	33.33	66.67	66.67

Table: 7. Distribution of non food item & ranges of income. Source: Field survey.

In the above table it is shown that how distribution of asset varies with the variation of total annual income. We can take the asset such as cycle, motor-cycle, colour T.V. mobile etc. as an indicator of standard of living. If the uses of those assets increase we may say that standard of living is increasing. It is highly clear from the above table that, as total annual income rises, % of use of cycle, colour T.V., fan etc. also rises. Alternatively, it can also be said that use of black & white T.V decreases with the rise in income i.e. they shifting from black & white to colour T.V. which may indicating the rise of standard of living. To make the above analysis clear we used regression analysis given below (vide table-8):

Regression: 4

The dependent variable is
Y: Whether the Weavers own colour T.V. (D1 =1) or not (D1= 0)
The independent variable is
X1 Total annual income (in rupees)

Pseudo R^2	LR-chi2(1)	Probability	No. of observation
0.3075	34.04	0.0000	80

Variable	Coefficient	z-Statistics
Intercept	-4.186865	-4.34***
X_1	0.0000632	4.23***

Table: 8. Relationship between annual income & asset distribution like colour TV.

Note: *** represent significance at 1% level.

In the above regression result we have considered only one asset, i.e. Colour T.V. but we also considered other asset also. From this result it is clear that, as total annual income increases the probability to use of colour T.V. also increases, which is quite real.

CONCLUDING POINTS:

The basic objectives of this paper are to examine the socio-economic condition of the weavers in the district of both Burdwan and Murshidabad. This study looks at the asset distribution of different persons, educational status, different sources of loan, purpose of loan, the effect of annual Weaves incomes due to change in the variables such as land holdings, family size, number of family member involved etc. On the basis of the data it may analyzes the different observations. Now we can draw some conclusions from the above findings as follows:

Firstly, as income increases the person spent more of income on non-food consumption items, such as- cycle, television, mobile etc. Secondly, there is an increasing trend of annual income from weaving with increase in both average no. of looms and average no. of family members. Thirdly, as family size increases, the involvement of family member in weaving also increases. As a result the number of looms also increases which leads to increase in the amount of annual income from weaving. Fourthly, the

probability of owning luxury assets such as television increases (significantly) with increase in annual income and so on.

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