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SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF POWERLOOM WORKERS- A CASE STUDY OF SIRCILLA WEAVERS OF KARIMNAGAR DISTRICT IN TELANGANA

Dr. Mohd Akbar Ali Khan¹ and Mrs. Nikhat Sultana²

¹Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Osmania University (Retd.),
Former Vice Chancellor, Telanagana University,
Telangana,

²Associate Professor, AnwarulUloom College of Business
Management, Telangana.

ABSTRACT

The Indian textile industry has an overwhelming presence in the economic life of the country. Weaving is that occupation which is considered as sacred and respected in that sense. In the present scenario of competition and diversity, the Indian Textile industry has witnessed the fluctuations and the worst outcome of these fluctuations has affected the socio-economic position of weavers. The present study is undertaken to know the significance of Income, Debts, Savings and Financial support on Socio-economic development of Sircilla Powerloom weavers. The descriptive study is undertaken on a sample of 392 weavers of Sircilla Town in Karimnagar District of Telangana State. It is observed that, the timely support from Government and Stakeholders will bring a change in the Sircilla Powerloom industry and self development among weavers will improve their Socio-economic position.

KEYWORDS :Income, Savings, Debts, Financial support and Socio-economic development.

1.INTRODUCTION

Textile industry in India is the second largest industry after agriculture providing employment to over 35 million people which significantly includes women work force. As per Ministry of Textiles the industry contributes 14 percent to industrial production, 4 percent to GDP and 13 percent to the country's export earningsⁱ. Textile as a product has played vital role in the economic development



of the country. Approximately 60 percent of the output is consumed by the household sector and the rest 40 percent is consumed by non-household sector in the form of industries and institutions and exports sector.ⁱⁱ

2.STRUCTURE OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The structure of Indian Textile Industry is divided into four segments i.e Spinning, Weaving, Processing and Apparel Manufacturing.ⁱⁱⁱ The weaving segment comprises of Mills sector which comes under organized units and on the other end comes Handlooms and Powerlooms which is decentralized and comes under unorganized sector.

Mills sector is technically sophisticated and capital intensive

whereas decentralized Handloom sector is Labour intensive and hand woven and has been in the country from the time immemorial. Lastly, Powerloom sector has a recent origin. It can be included between Mill sector and the handloom sector, since it resembles the former in its method of production and the latter in so far as the organization of business is concerned .^{iv}

2.1 Telangana Textile Industry

Telangana, the 29th and newest state of South India which was once ruled by Andhra, the Chalukya, the Yadava and the Kakatiyas , Bahamani Kings, QutubShahi's and Asif Jahi dynasty successively has 10 districts^v of which Warangal, Nalgonda and Karimnagar are famous for cloth manufacturing through Handlooms and Powerlooms.

Ethnic handloom plan of Telangana state has been advancing the social radiance of the State throughout the years. The outline example of Pochampally Ikat's, Gadwala cotton, Silk and Sico sarees, Narayanpet cotton, Silk sarees, Warangal durries, Karimnagar bed sheets and outfitting demonstrates the extraordinary abilities of weavers in Telangana State. A critical bit of State workforce is reliant on Textile industry for business.

Telangana Textile industry is spread over Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda, Rangareddy and Mahabubnagar districts. Out of all these Powerloom industry is broad in Sircilla Town of Karimnagar District. There are around 30000 Powerlooms in Sircilla alone creating low end assortment of material .vi Since more than decade the business dive into emergency taking after conclusion of units and all things considered recorded most noteworthy number of weavers' suicides in State. Absence of work and monetary emergency were fundamental purpose behind suicides of weavers.

With a specific end goal to determine the issues of weavers and for their financial improvement each progressive Government has taken numerous activities and the recently framed Government after the bifurcation of the state has not give it a chance to out and has reported the New Textile Policy by executing different plans, for example,

- Up-degree of Plain Powerlooms
- half Power Tariff admission to Powerloom Weavers
- half Power sponsorship to Textile Park at Sircilla
- Institutional Credit to Micro and Small Enterprises
- Interest sponsorship under PavalaVaddi Scheme on the term advance
- half Reimbursement of the cost required in ability up degree and preparing of weavers.

Aside from above variables the Government has made an inviting domain and bother free system to help little scale enterprises in gaining new advancements and aptitudes, enhancing send out execution and advancing the linkage amongst expansive and little segment .

3. POWERLOOM SECTOR IN SIRCILLA MANDAL

Sircilla as a town and municipality is located on the banks of Manair River a tributary of Godavari River in Karimnagar District of Telangana in India. It is a major powerloom centre in Karimnagar District of Telangana.

Sircilla was predominantly Handloom industry. The growth of Handloom industry can be traced back to 1920's after some enterprising people went to Sholapur in search of work. Over the time weavers of Sircilla have developed unique designs and a niche market for their product. The up-gradation of technology has not spared this small town. The decentralized powerloom sector has widened the scope of products and fabrics manufactured because of the modernization process

undertaken by the sector itself. The phenomenal success of the powerloom sector can be traced to certain distinct advantages it possesses. The comparatively low costs, the flexibility and adaptability of production techniques and heterogeneous production structure of the industry have enabled it to supply large and small quantities as per requirements .^{viii}

The Textile town Sircilla started providing ample work to the weavers, so much so that it was called the 'Sholapur of Andhra Pradesh'. Even after the introduction of power looms, the weavers did not face any problems. As per the Directorate of Handloom and Textile (H&T) Andhra Pradesh, there are about more than 30,000 power looms in Sircilla which account for about 40 percent of the total power looms in the state. There are three types of cloth produced on these looms using Natural fiber (Cotton), synthetic fiber (Polyester) and mix of these two fibers. According to the department records there are 20,000 power looms manufacturing polyester cloth, 8000 looms producing cotton and rest of 2000 looms producing suit cloth.

The change in industry profile has developed the industry into various forms and structurally linked the groups. The stakeholders in Sircilla powerloom industry is classified into four groups who interact on daily basis and are classified as:

1) Traders 2) Master weavers 3) Asami (unit holder) 4) Worker weaver

3.1 Socio-economic position of weavers in Telangana State

Till early 90's the market was stable with good business, but the twist came in late 90's when the Indian Textile industry plunged into crisis with the introduction of Liberalisation and Globalisation and has changed the structure of the market and made it competitive. The affect of this is felt in the form of closure of traditional weaving units and its allied industries. Poor technical knowhow, Lack of marketing skills, Dependency on Master Weaver for work, Lack of creativity and value addition services has led to the crisis. As a result the unemployment is vast spread among the weavers' with lack of regular jobs, inadequate wages, indebtedness and resultant harassment by the micro-finance companies.

Workers weavers is that segment which is more effected with crisis in Powerloom industry as they are in large numbers and work on daily basis with low income.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

4.1 Dhanapal Tare (1993)^{ix} : The study on "Prospects for Powerloom Sector in Textile Exports-Challenges and Opportunities", by Dhanapal Tare has sensitively analyze the benefits that Powerloom sector may reaps if the industry goes for modernization. The author stresses the need for Banking and Cooperative sector to extend the helping hand by providing the loans at subsidized rate of interest to Powerloom sector on the condition of being modernization of looms.

4.2 Naandi Foundation Report (2009)^x : Naandi Foundation was appointed by the government to survey the families of Sircilla weavers. The suicides have been unprecedented among weavers community since 2000 and to know the reason for the suicides the survey was undertaken. The objective of the survey is to study the Socio-economic status of the weaver community. The study concludes that there are three factors which played the pivotal role in resorting the weavers for suicides 1) Social factors 2) Demographic factors and 3) Economic factors.

4.3 S Galab, E Revathi (2009)^{xi} : The authors in the article "Understanding Powerloom weavers' suicides in Sircilla" have thrown light on the oligopolistic market of Sircilla.. The article has highlighted the conditions of workers and the state and central government intervention in a more organized manner to end the distress. Production, Occupational and Social security measures were targeted.

4.4 Uttam Paul (2013)^{xii} : The researcher through the paper titled "A Study of Socio Economic status of

workers in the unorganized powerloom sector of West Bengal”, has analysed the socio economic status and development of workers engaged in small-scale powerloom sector of West Bengal. The study concludes that even after maximum contribution to government revenue the workers engaged in the industry are illiterate and are exploited in many ways.

4.5 Dr. S. Manikandan (2013)^{xiii} : The article on “Socio-Economic Condition of Powerloom Entrepreneurs In Erode District, Tamil Nadu- An Analysis” has highlighted the Socio-economic conditions of Powerloom entrepreneurs and the role of state government, Govt. of India, Banks and State Finance Corporation to promote Powerloom sectors in Erode District of Tamil Nadu. The objective of the research paper was to study the structure of textile industry in general and to know the characteristic of employment.

4.6 PradeepGangurde (2014) :^{xiv} The research paper titled “Socio-Economic Condition of The Powerloom Workers of The Bhiwadi, Thane”, has highlighted the social and economic background of powerloom workers of Bhiwadi. The objective of the study was to understand Social, cultural and economic issues. The study concludes that majority of the workers are migrant and are working in unhygienic and inhuman conditions.

4.7 M.Senthilkumar and R.Rajendran (2014)^{xv} : The researchers study on “Socio-Economic Development of Powerloom Owners in Karur District, Tamilnadu”, has attempted to know the Socio-economic status of Powerloom owners and the impact of societal factors on the status of owners. Based on the objectives the hypotheses were tested and it concludes that there is an association between social status and family type as family is a source of motivation and a means of expenditure.

5.OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The objective of Study is a cross sectional analysis of the Socio-economic development of Powerloom workers of Sircilla Mandal of Karimnagar district in Telangana State.

6.HYPOTHESIS TESTING:

The hypotheses are made by keeping in view the review of literature and the objective of the study.

H11: There is a significant effect of Income on Socio-economic position of Powerloom workers.

H12: There is a significant effect of savings on Socio-economic position of Powerloom workers.

H13: There is a significant effect of debts in Socio-economic position of Powerloom workers.

H14: Financial support has significantly developed the Socio-economic position of Powerloom workers.

7.RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Telangana State has 10 Districts of which Karimnagar, Warangal and Nalgonda districts are quite famous for Powerloom industry. However, Sircilla mandal of Karimnagar district was selected for the study as this region has highest concentration of powerloom workers.

The study is in the form of Descriptive analysis where the objective is evaluated by Primary and Secondary source.

The primary data was collected from Powerloom workers of Sircilla mandal in Karimnagar District of Telangana through a structured questionnaire with good reliability. The primary data is supported by Secondary Data. The secondary sources of data pertaining to the study was gathered from the records published by the Ministry of textile industry Government of India, Department of Handloom and Textile Karimnagar, Powerloom service centre Sircilla and Hyderabad, Trade Unions office Sircilla, CESS Sircilla, and RDO office Sircilla. Further the information was gathered from well

equipped libraries of NIRD Hyderabad, CESS Hyderabad, articles from News papers and Leading journals, Text Books on concerned topics and from Internet web resources.

7.1 Sampling Method

This Descriptive study is done by adopting Purposive sampling method in selection of Powerloom workers of Sircilla textile town. The selection of sample was made in accordance with the Powerloom workers population.

7.2 Sample Size

The selection of sample was made in accordance with the Powerloom workers population. The Sample size is decided by using Solvins Formula:

$$\frac{N}{1+N(e^2)}$$

Sample Size = 392

Out of 20000 workers a sample of 392 is selected for the study. A well structure questionnaire was developed by keeping in view the objective of the study. Pretest was done, the result of which were helpful in developing the consistency and reliability.

8. DATA ANALYSIS

Socio-economic position of Powerloom workers was analyzed by considering the following factors:

- Income
- Savings
- Debts
- Financial Support

Based on the above factors the analysis was done and the following results were obtained.

Table Showing the Income level of weavers'.

Table No: 1
Income Level

S.No	Income	Frequency	Percent	Avg
1	Less than 5000	123	31	3861
2	5000 to 10000	265	68	6237
3	Above 10000	4	1	12900
	TOTAL	392	100	

The above table shows that 31 percent of the workers are earning less than Rs 5000 with an average Income of Rs 3861 and 68 percent are earning somewhere between Rs 5000 and Rs 10000 with an average income of Rs 6237 and only 1 percent of workers are earning above Rs 10000 with an average income of Rs 12900. From the analysis, it was noted that most of the weavers are earning

somewhere between Rs.5000 to Rs.10000 which is insufficient to perform the responsibilities of family in an era of inflation and only 1 percent who are earning above Rs.10000 per month are economically stable when compared with other workers who are earning less than 10000. Most of the weavers borrow the amount from money lenders at high rate of interest and comes under debts as such they are caught in vicious circle of poverty.

Table Showing the Savings of weavers’.

Table No: 2
Savings

Response	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	255	65.1	65.1
Yes	137	34.9	34.9
Total	392	100.0	100.0

As per the above table analysis 65 percent of the workers are not able to make any saving and 35 percent are able to do in a sample of 392. Many of them are not able to save as the Income which they earn is not sufficient and is confined to just hand to mouth. Most of the workers make savings through Banks followed by chit funds. The classification of which is shown below in Table No. 3.

Table showing the types of savings of weavers’.

Table No: 3
Types of Savings

Types of Savings	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Bank	48	35	35
Chit Funds	35	26	61
LIC	28	20	81
Others	10	7.2	88.2
PodupuSangamulu	16	11.6	100
Total	137	100.0	

Most of the workers were able to save through Banks followed by chit funds. 20 percent are able to invest in LIC and about 12 percent in Podupu Sangamulu. Other areas of savings include gold investments or valuables. Very few workers make savings because the earnings which they do are not sufficient and for further requirements they borrow the amount from private money lenders. As such the savings which they do is used to pay interest or any unexpected expenditure such as ill health or for family purpose and workers are always in perpetual debts. The classification of debts is shown below.

Table Showing the Debts of weavers’ in Sircilla Powerloom Industry.

Table No: 4
Debts

Sources	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Bank	27	6.9	6.9
Friends and family members	197	50.3	57.2
MFI	32	8.2	65.4
Money Lenders	132	33.7	99.1
Others	4	1.0	100
Total	392	100.0	

Almost 50 percent of the weavers borrow the amount from friends and family followed by money lenders which accounts to 34 percent. About 8 percent of the respondent took the loan from Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) and very few have taken from bank i.e. 7 percent followed by others. Others include Podupu Sangamulu. Whatever the source of borrowing, but a sense of insecurity is there in form of harassment. Weavers who have taken debts from money lenders and MFI at exorbitant rates are exposed to the harassment in case of delay or nonpayment of borrowed amount. At times due to severe financial crisis they have even sold or mortgage their properties which was their security. The weavers who borrowed from friends and family may not be pressurized but a sense of insecurity in terms of payment of borrowed amount is always there.

Table showing the classification of financial support to weavers' in Sircilla Powerloom Industry.

Table No: 5: Financial Support

Sources	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Spouse	343	87.5	87.5
Parents	30	7.7	95.2
Children	10	2.6	97.8
None	9	2.3	100
Total	392	100.0	

The above analysis shows that 87 percent of the families are having financial support from spouse and about 3 percent and 8 percent from children and parents respectively. Most of the women are employed in Beedi making but the earnings which they get are meager and is not enough to support the family. As such large proportion of financial dependency is on bread earner (workers).

The hypotheses are tested by considering the effect of Income, Savings, Debts and sources of financial support on Socio-economic development of Powerloom workers.

The effect of Income is seen in Socio-economic development of Powerloom workers of Sircilla. The analysis is done by using ANOVA test which is shown below.

TABLE SHOWING INCOME FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**Table No: 6 - Socio Economic Development**

Income Range	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Rs.5000 or less	138	27.43	5.202	.443	26.55	28.30
Rs.5001- 10,000	250	28.00	4.996	.316	27.38	28.62
Rs.10,000 and more	4	24.75	5.315	2.658	16.29	33.21
Total	392	27.77	5.075	.256	27.26	28.27

The descriptive table above provides the information with respect to mean, standard deviation and 95% confidence intervals of Income for the Socio-economic development (dependent variable) of Powerloom workers. The mean for the Income range between Rs.5000 to Rs.10000 is quiet high when compared with other Income range values as most of the weavers Income comes under this range.

Test of Homogeneity of Variances**Table No: 7
Socio Economic Development**

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
.252	2	389	.778

Levene's F test for equality of variances is conducted to test the assumption of homogeneity of Variances. The F value for Levene's test is 0.252 with a Sig. (p) value of 0.778. The Sig. (p) is greater than 0.05, as such assumption of homogeneity of variances is satisfied. Thus, the results conclude that variances are equal.

ANOVA**Table No: 8
Socio Economic Development**

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	65.883	2	32.941	1.281	.279
Within Groups	10006.525	389	25.724		
Total	10072.408	391			

As per the above analysis of ANOVA it is concluded that significance value 0.279 is greater than 0.05, then the test concludes that Income levels have different means. As such the affect of Income on Socio-economic development is not being established. Due to insufficiency of Income weavers borrow

the funds and come under debts or take financial support from family members.

The impact of Savings in Socio-economic development of Powerloom workers of Sircilla is analyzed. The analysis is done by using t-test of two samples and the result of which is shown below.

SAVINGS IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Table No: 9
Group Statistics**

Saved Money		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Socio Economic Development	No	255	27.49	5.220	.327
	Yes	137	28.27	4.772	.408

In the Group Statistics table, the mean for No Savings is 27.49 and Savings is 28.27 with a Standard deviation of 5.220 and 4.772 respectively. The total number of workers sampled is 392.

**Table No: 10
Independent Samples Test**

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Socio Economic Development	Equal variances assumed	1.549	.214	-2.445	390	.003
	Equal variances not assumed			-2.485	300.568	.001

The Sig. (p) value for Levene’s Test is more than 0.05; it means that the variability in both the condition are same. Mean scores of savings do not vary too much when compared with not savings. Hence, the variability in both the conditions is not significantly different.

As far the t-test results are concerned the significant value is less than 0.05, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference in Socio-economic position of Powerloom workers with savings. The group statistics has revealed that the mean value for making savings is more than not making. Thus, with savings the workers are able to improve the socio-economic position. But the effect of this is seen in very few of them as most of the weavers are not able to save due to low income.

The impact of Debts in Socio-economic development of Powerloom workers of Sircilla is analyzed. The analysis is done by using ANOVA the result of which is shown below.

TABLE SHOWING IMPACT OF DEBT IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Table No:11
Socio Economic Development

Source of Debts	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Bank	27	26.67	4.549	.875	24.87	28.47
Friends & family members	197	27.80	4.995	.356	27.10	28.50
MFI	32	27.84	5.371	.949	25.91	29.78
Money Lenders	132	27.99	5.299	.461	27.08	28.90
Others	4	25.50	1.915	.957	22.45	28.55
Total	392	27.77	5.075	.256	27.26	28.27

The descriptive table above provides the information with respect to mean, standard deviation and 95% confidence intervals of Sources of Debts for the Socio-economic development (dependent variable) of Powerloom workers. The mean for the Debts from Money Lenders is 28 with standard deviation of 5.299 respectively. Most of the weavers borrowed the amount from Friends and family followed by money lenders. They have borrowed the funds due to low income.

Test of Homogeneity of Variances

Table No: 12
Socio Economic Development

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
1.204	4	387	.308

Levene's F test for equality of variances is conducted to test the assumption of homogeneity of Variances. The F value for Levene's test is 1.204 with a Sig. (p) value of 0.308. The Sig. (p) is greater than 0.05, as such assumption of homogeneity of variances is satisfied. Thus, the results conclude that variances are equal.

ANOVA
Table No: 13
Socio Economic Development

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	60.319	4	15.080	3.250	.001
Within Groups	10012.089	387	25.871		
Total	10072.408	391			

As per the above analysis of ANOVA it is concluded that significance value 0.001 is less than 0.05, the test concludes that the sources of debts have almost the same means. As such Powerloom workers debts have affected their Socio-economic development. They could not bring change in their lives as they are always in perpetual debts. To come out of these debts they took support from family members but the support which they receive is not enough to develop the life socially and economically.

The effect of financial support in Socio-economic development of Powerloom workers of Sircilla is analysed. The analysis is done by using ANOVA the result of which is shown below.

TABLE SHOWING EFFECT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Table No: 14
Socio Economic Development

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Children	10	26.70	5.100	1.613	23.05	30.35
Parents	30	28.47	3.739	.683	27.07	29.86
Spouse	343	27.77	5.156	.278	27.22	28.31
None	9	26.56	6.126	2.042	21.85	31.26
Total	392	27.77	5.075	.256	27.26	28.27

The descriptive table above provides the information with respect to mean, standard deviation and 95% confidence intervals of financial support in Socio-economic development (dependent variable) of Powerloom workers. The mean for the financial support from children is 26.70 with standard deviation of 5.1 and parents is 28 with standard deviation of 3.739 and from spouse is 27.77 with standard deviation of 5.156. There are 9 respondents who do not have any financial support and their mean is 26.56 with standard deviation of 6.126. Most of them are supported financially by their spouse as women folks are engage in Beedi making.

Table showing Test of Homogeneity of Variances

Table No: 15
Socio Economic Development

Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
1.556	3	388	.200

Levene’s F test for equality of variances is conducted to test the assumption of homogeneity of Variances. The F value for Levene’s test is 1.556 with a Sig. (p) value of 0.2. The Sig. (p) is greater than 0.05, as such assumption of homogeneity of variances is satisfied. Thus, the results conclude that variances are equal.

ANOVA Results

Table No: 16
Socio Economic Development

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	39.278	3	13.093	5.506	.005
Within Groups	10033.130	388	25.859		
Total	10072.408	391			

As per the above analysis of ANOVA it is concluded that significance value 0.005 is less than 0.05 hence, it is concluded that sources of financial support have same means. As such the source of financial support to Powerloom workers have developed their Socio-economic status but not drastic. The women are engage in Beedi making and income which they get is meager enough to support the family.

9. FINDINGS OF STUDY:

1. Approximately 68 percent of the weavers are earning somewhere between Rs 5000 and Rs 10000 and as per the analysis of ANOVA the significance value 0.279 is greater than 0.05, the affect of Income on Socio-economic development is not being established.
2. 65 percent of the weavers' were not able to save and 35 percent are able to save and most of the weavers are saving in Bank followed by chit funds. As far the t-test results which are significant, weavers are able to improve the Socio-economic position with savings but a few of them in a sample of 392.
3. 50 percent of the weavers borrow the money from friends and family followed by money lenders. About 8 percent of the weavers took the loan from Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) and 7 percent from others. As per the analysis of ANOVA, the level of debts has affected the Socio-economic development of weavers who are exposed to harassment and a sense of insecurity prevails in them.
4. 87 percent of the weavers are having financial support from spouse followed by children and parents respectively. The analysis of ANOVA showed that the source of financial support have developed the Socio-economic status of weavers but is not enough to make drastic change in their lives.

10. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The Indian Textile industry is diverse catering to different needs. Weavers being a skilled labour became meager with poor living conditions. The reason is improper fluctuations in textile industry with inadequate modernization. It is observed that since decades Powerloom weavers continue to commit suicide because of financial crisis which has affected their Socio economic position. Government intervention has not helped them much and was not able to address the root cause of the problems. With improper earnings they came under vicious circle of debts. Though their family members provide the financial support by way of Beedi making but the earnings are insufficient to perform the family responsibilities in an era of inflation and as a result they were not able to improve the Socio-economic position. A timely intervention of the Government with proper policies and self development would help them to a larger extent in improving the Socio-economic position.

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**Dr. Mohd Akbar Ali Khan**

Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Osmania University (Retd.), Former Vice Chancellor, Telangana University, Telangana,

**Mrs. Nikhat Sultana**

Associate Professor, Anwarul Uloom College of Business Management, Telangana.

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