



“A study on effectiveness of government welfare schemes for handloom weavers in Varanasi district”

Dr. Jyoti Srivastava^{1*} and Indira Bishnoi²

¹Ph.d, Dept. of Home Science, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh 221005, India

² Retd. Professor, Dept. of Home Science, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh 221005, India

Abstract

Varanasi is the heritage city of India. It is holy and pous city which is situated at the bank of river Ganga and called the temple town. It is world famous city. Every year many pilgrims come here for its culture, value and tradition. The present study has been conducted in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh which is one of the major handloom hubs. It is based on primary and secondary data. The present study was conducted in two cluster-Ram agar and Bajardiha .Out of 350 Handloom Co-operative Society 15 Co-operative Society were randomly selected and each societies 10 Handloom weavers were randomly selected.50 Master weavers and 51 weavers working under master weavers, 49 Independent weavers were purposively selected from densely populated area of Varanasi of handloom weavers. Total 370 Handloom weavers were selected. A structured interview schedule was prepared and administered on respondents through personal interview method and observation method of data collection. Secondary data for study collected from the published and unpublished sources, annual reports, research, journals and various related websites. Data were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tools like Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation-test and x2test.The computer software SPSS 16 was also used to find results. for finding out the socio –economic background of respondents the B.G.Prasad’s scale of Socio Economic Status 2017 were used and results were drawn from it. The study results revealed that the The situation of the weavers was pathetic due to illiteracy, Poor marketing,designing,skill upgradation,competition with powerloom, lack of skilled workers, financial constraints, health problems, and poor Government support.Weavers must get benefit from the government so that they would enjoy a better standard of living development in their socio economic status in the society. Concerted efforts have been made through the schemes and programme to enhance production, productivity, and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers.

Keywords- Handloom, Handloom Weavers, Training, Government programmes

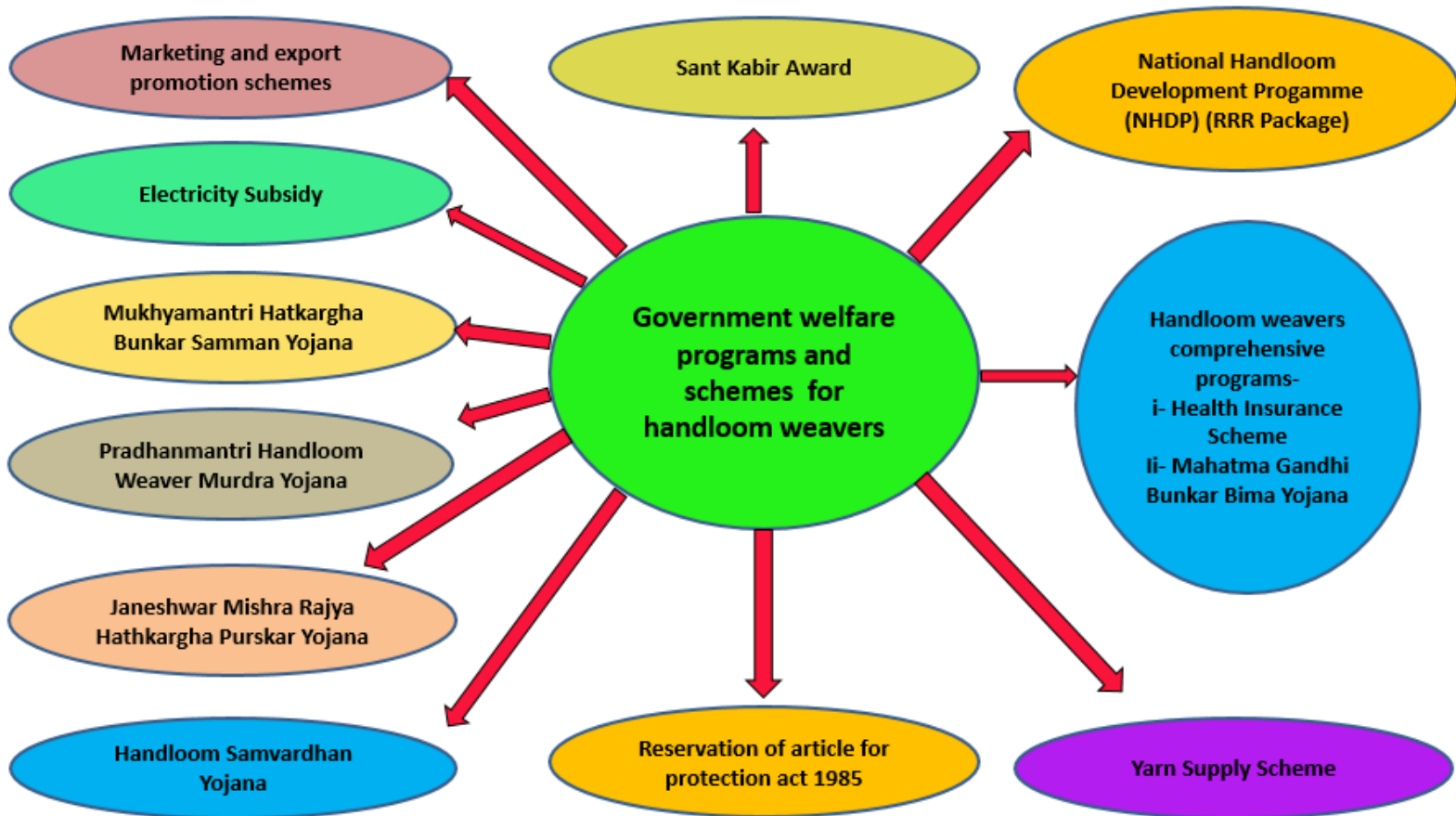
Introduction

The Handloom Sector is one of the largest unorganized economic activities after agriculture and constitutes an integral part of the rural and semi rural livelihood. The tradition of weaving by hand constitutes one of the richest and most vibrant aspects of the Indian cultural heritage. . As per **the latest (3rd) Handloom Census of 2009-10**, there are 23.77 lakh handlooms in the country, providing employment to 43.32 lakh handloom weavers and ancillary workers. This includes 38.47 lakh adult handloom weavers and ancillary

workers, of which 24.72 lakh are engaged full time and 13.75 lakh on part time basis. The handloom sector has a unique place in our economy. This sector has been sustained by transferring skills from one generation to another.

Handloom (Reservation and Articles for Production) Act, 1985 defines Handloom as “any loom other than Powerloom”. The Advisory Sub-Committee on Handloom Reservation Act, 1985 proposed a new definition as “handloom means any loom, other than powerloom; and includes any hybrid loom on which at least one process for weaving requires manual intervention or human energy for production”.

However, in the present situation, there are too many issues, which are impinging on the development of the handloom sector. So, there is a need to develop broader understanding of its multidisciplinary perspective, which is more needed in the present circumstances of globalization and environmental degradation, particularly in relation to development.



Objectives of the study:

- 1-To find out support provided by Central/State Government through different programmes.
- 2-To know the satisfaction level of handloom weavers regarding various Government programmes for their and industry welfare.

Review of literature

Draft consultation paper on handlooms(2014) reported that design is the forte of Handlooms. Very limited design support is provided under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme and the designs made are not marketed. Selection and Appointments of designers must not be confined to just those who have graduated from NID or NIFT to include more designers. Designers must be incentivized to market their design. Design development needs close linkages with marketing and its suitability to market trends and consumer requirements. It is important to note that weavers have played the role of designer and it's their imagination and creativity that has given identity to the handloom products. So, weavers must be encouraged to come up with new designs and must be involved in the design workshops where they can be informed about trends and get help from the professional designers.

Bhagat Singh(2014)The handloom sector assumes special significance for a labour surplus economy like India because its technique of production are mainly labour intensive and it has the potential to absorb a very large size of our unemployed workforce. However, this sector suffers from myriad of problems related to technology, supply of inputs, shortage of capital and weak marketing network etc.If proper attention is paid for the development of this sector it may contribute significantly to the generation of income, output, employment and foreign exchange earnings.

Adya Prasad pandey (2013) reported that more than 5, 00,000 weavers live in and around Varanasi, weaving silk saris and carpets for the domestic as well as international market. But since 1990s, these silk handloom weavers have seen their market vanish. There are many reasons for this decline: increasing competition from power loom weaving, changes in government protection policies, rising prices in raw silk and shifts in market demand.

Dr.M.Soundarapandian(2002)The study has identified some of the problems confronting the handloom sector.Weaving continues to be a traditional and hereditary based occupation. The weavers are following traditional methods of production and designs due to lack of exposure, awareness and knowledge over changing technologies, methods and the requirements. The protectionist policies of the government over the years like subsidies, rebates and other schemes led the weavers to become dependents rather than to be independent entrepreneurs.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study has been conducted in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh which is one of the major handloom hubs. It is based on primary and secondary data. The present study was conducted in two cluster-Ramnagar and Bajardiha. Out of 350 Handloom Co-operative Society 15 Co-operative Society were randomly selected and each societies 10 Handloom weavers were randomly selected.50 Master weavers and 51 weavers working under master weavers, 49 Independent weavers were purposively selected from densely populated area of Varanasi of handloom weavers. Total 370 Handloom weavers were selected. A structured interview schedule was prepared and administered on respondents through personal interview method and observation method of data collection. Secondary data for study collected from the published and unpublished sources, annual reports, research, journals and various related websites. Data were analyzed with the help of appropriate statistical tools like Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation-test and x2test.The computer software SPSS 16 was also used to find results for finding out the socio –economic background of respondents the B.G.Prasad’s scale of Socio-Economic Status 2017 were used and results were drawn from it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the study were discussed according to the objectives of the study under the following sub headings -

Table no.1

Distribution of Respondents knowledge and utilization of different Govt. Welfare programmes for Handloom weavers.

Sr. No.	Govt. Programmes	Knowledge		Benefitted	
		No	%	No	%
1	National Handloom Development programme	173	46.8	152	41.1
1.1	RRR package	64	17.3	36	9.7
2.1	Handloom comprehensive welfare Programme Health insurance Scheme	193	52.2	154	41.6
2.2	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna	224	60.5	186	50.3
3	Handloom Samvardhan Yojana	132	35.7	112	30.3

4	Janeshwar Mishra Raja Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana	35	9.5	23	6.2
5	Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana	36	9.7	34	9.2
6	Mukhyamantri Hathkrgha bunker samman yojana	41	11.1	24	6.5
7	Electricity subsidy	60	16.2	0	0.0
8	Sant kabir Award	69	18.6	49	13.2
9	Yarn supply Scheme.	220	59.5	206	55.7

The table no 1 shows that majority of respondents (60.5%) had knowledge of Mahatma Gandhi BunkarBimaYojana, 50.3% respondents had benefitted with this scheme. 59.5% respondents had knowledge of Yarn Supply Scheme and 55.7% respondents had benefitted with this scheme. 52.2% respondents had knowledge of health insurance scheme and 41.6% respondents had benefitted with this scheme. 46.8% respondents had knowledge of National Handloom Development Scheme (Cluster Development) and 41.1% respondents had benefitted. 35.7% respondents had knowledge of Hathkargha Samvardhan Yojana and 30.3% respondents had benefitted. 18.6% respondents had knowledge of Sant Kabir award and 13.2% respondents had benefitted with this scheme. 17.3% respondents had knowledge of RRR package and 9.7% respondents had benefitted with this scheme. 16.2% of respondents had knowledge of subsidy in electricity and no one had benefitted with this scheme. 11.1% respondents had knowledge of Mukhyamantri Hathkargha Bunakr Samman Yojana and 6.5% respondents had benefitted with this scheme. 9.7% respondents had knowledge of Pradhanmantri Hathkargha Bunkar Mudra Yojana and 9.2% respondents had benefitted with this scheme. 9.5% respondents had knowledge of Janeshwar Mishra RajaHathkarghaPurskarYojana and 6.2% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

Table no.2

Region wise distribution of respondents benefitted of different Govt. welfare programme for Handloom weavers.

Sr. No	benefitted of different govt. welfare programmes	Region							
		Urban		Rural		Total		df=1	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	X ²	P
1	National Handloom Development programme	112	40.3	40	43.5	152	41.1	0.29	>0.05
1.1	RRR package	28	10.1	8	8.7	36	9.7	0.15	>0.05
2.1	Handloom comprehensive welfare Programme Health insurance Scheme	118	42.4	36	39.1	154	41.6	0.31	>0.05
2.2	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna	145	52.2	41	44.6	186	50.3	1.59	>0.05
3	Handloom Samvardhan	84	30.2	28	30.4	112	30.3	0.01	>0.05

	Yojana								
4	Janeshwar Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana	20	7.2	3	3.3	23	6.2	1.84	>0.05
5	Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Binkar Mudra Yojana	32	11.5	2	2.2	34	9.2	7.22	<0.01
6	Mukhyamantri Hathkrgha bunker samman yojana	16	5.8	8	8.7	24	6.5	0.99	>0.05
7	Electricity subsidy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Sant kabir Award	39	14.0	10	10.9	49	13.2	0.60	>0.05
9	Yarn supply Scheme.	156	56.1	50	54.3	206	55.7	0.09	>0.05

The table no 2 shows that the proportion of urban weavers had more benefitted regarding different type of Govt. welfare programmes than rural weavers except national Handloom development schemes, Handloom samvardhan scheme and mukhyamantri Hatkargha Bunkar samman yojana but statistically the difference is significant regarding pradhanmantri bunkar Mudra yojana, and in all other programmes rural and urban weavers had significantly same beneficiary.

Table no.3

Educational status wise distribution of respondents benefitted of different Govt. welfare programmes for Handloom weavers.

Sr. No.	Benefitted of different Govt. Programmes	Educational Status									
		Illiterate		P-H-S		Inter +1		Total		df=2	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	X ²	P
1	National Handloom Development programme	50	36.8	56	34.6	46	63.9	152	41.1	19.36	<0.001
1.1	RRR package	12	8.8	16	9.9	8	11.1	36	9.7	0.29	>0.05
2.1	Handloom comprehensive welfare Programme Health insurance Scheme	49	36.0	73	45.1	32	44.4	154	41.6	2.78	>0.05
2.2	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna	56	41.2	87	53.7	43	59.7	186	50.3	7.84	<0.05
3	Handloom Samvardhan Yojana	44	32.4	49	30.2	19	26.4	112	30.3	0.79	>0.05
4	Janeshwar Mishra Rajya Hathkargha Purashkar Yojana	11	8.1	9	5.6	3	4.2	23	6.2	1.46	>0.05
5	Pradhan Mantri Hathkargha Binkar Mudra Yojana	6	4.4	23	14.2	5	6.9	34	9.2	9.03	<0.05
6	Mukhyamantri Hathkrgha bunker samman yojana	14	10.3	4	2.5	6	8.3	24	6.5	7.97	<0.05
7	Electricity subsidy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Sant kabir	19	14.0	25	15.4	5	6.9	49	13.2	3.22	>0.05

	Award											
9	Yarn supply Scheme.	74	54.4	84	51.9	48	66.7	206	55.7	4.57	>0.05	

The table no 3 shows that proportion of weavers who belonged to qualification of Intermediate and above had more benefitted regarding different type of Govt. welfare programmes than illiterate weavers except SantKabir Award, but statistically the difference is significant regarding National Handloom Development Programme, RRR Package, Pradhanmantri Mudra Yojana, MukhyamantriHathkarghaPurskarYojana and in all other programmes weavers who belonged to qualification of Intermediate and above and illiterate had significantly same beneficiaries.

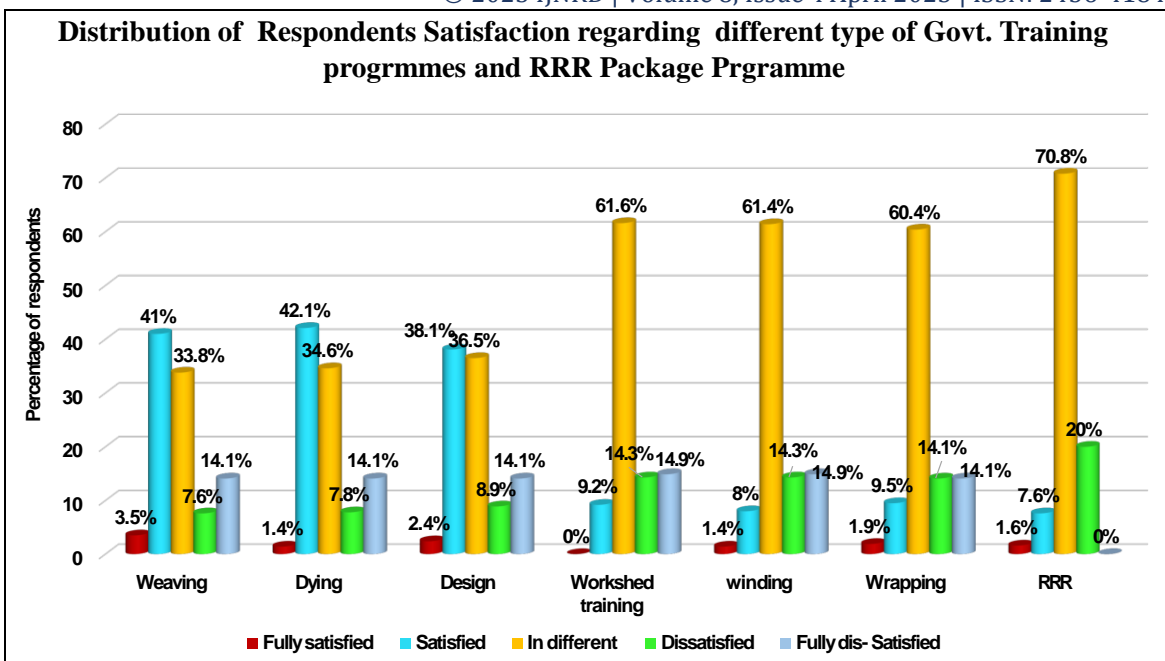
Table no.4

Distribution of Respondents Satisfaction regarding different type of Govt. Training programmes and RRR Package Programme.

Sr. No.	Govt. Programme	Satisfaction Level											
		Fully satisfied		Satisfied		In different		Dissatisfied		Fully dis Satisfied		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Weaving	13	3.5	152	41.0	125	33.8	28	7.6	52	14.1	370	100.0
2	Dying	5	1.4	156	42.1	128	34.6	29	7.8	52	14.1	370	100.0
3	Design	9	2.4	141	38.1	135	36.5	33	8.9	52	14.1	370	100.0
4	Workshed training	-	-	34	9.2	228	61.6	53	14.3	55	14.9	370	100.0
5	winding	5	1.4	30	8.0	227	61.4	53	14.3	55	14.9	370	100.0
6	Wrapping	7	1.9	35	9.5	224	60.4	52	14.1	52	14.1	370	100.0
7	RRR	6	1.6	28	7.6	262	70.8	74	20.0	-	-	370	100.0

The table no 4 shows that satisfaction regarding different type of govt. training programme and RRR package programme. The table no 4 presents that 41.0% respondent were satisfied, 33.8% respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 14.1% respondents fully dissatisfied 7.6% respondents dissatisfied and 3.5% respondents were fully satisfied with weaving training programme. It also shows that 42.1% respondents were satisfied, 34.6% respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 14.1% respondents fully dissatisfied, 7.8% respondents dissatisfied 1.4% respondents were fully satisfied with dying.

The table shows that 38.1% respondents were satisfied with design, 36.5% respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 14.1% respondent fully dissatisfied while 8.9% respondents dissatisfied. Only 2.4% respondents were fully satisfied with design. The table also shows that 70.8% respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with RRR Package. 20.0% respondents dissatisfied 7.6% respondents satisfied while 1.6% respondents were fully satisfied. No one respondents were fully dissatisfied with RRR package training programme.



Graph no.1

Findings-

1-majority of respondents (60.5%) had knowledge of Mahatma Gandhi BunkarBimaYojana, 50.3% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

2-59.5% respondents had knowledge of Yarn Supply Scheme and 55.7% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

3- 52.2% respondents had knowledge of health insurance of scheme and 41.6% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

4-46.8% respondents had knowledge of National Handloom Development Scheme (Cluster Development) and 41.1% respondents had benefitted.

5-35.7% respondents had knowledge of HathkarghaSamvardhanYojana and 30.3% respondents had benefitted.

6-18.6% respondents had knowledge of SantKabir award and 13.2% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

7-17.3% respondents had knowledge of RRR package and 9.7% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

8-16.2% of respondents had knowledge of subsidy in electricity and no one had benefitted with this scheme.

9-9.7% respondents had knowledge of PradhanmantriHathkarghaBunkar Mudra Yojana and 9.2% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

10- 9.5% respondents had knowledge of Janeshwar Mishra RajyaHathkarghaPurskarYojana and 6.2% respondents had benefitted with this scheme.

11-41.0% respondent were satisfied with different type of govt.training programmes and RRR package programme. 33% respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 14.1% respondents fully dissatisfied with weaving training programme. 42.1% respondents were satisfied, 34.6% respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 14.1% respondents fully dissatisfied, 7.8% respondents dissatisfied 1.4% respondents were fully satisfied with dying. 38.1% respondents were satisfied with design, 70.8% respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with RRR Package. 20.0% respondents dissatisfied.

Recommendations-

The result of the study that handloom weavers were illiterate or less educated was found as per the hypothesis of the study that majority of weavers is less educated or illiterate. Thereby they don't have proper information about the welfare schemes run by Government and so not able to get the desired benefit. It is advised to do periodic monitoring and evaluation of all handloom weavers

for whom Government is organizing training sessions and those who have taken training. It is to be checked if they are working on the trained way or using training skills in the work. Because despite getting trained if they are using these method to improve than it is wastage of training, time, hard work and capital. A training and production house need to established at each highly density area of weavers so that new weavers can learn traditional weaving.

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