

Status of Indian Handloom in Relation to Units, Production and Govt. Assistance

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Abstract:

Since from ancient times, handloom industry has been occupied a significant space in the field of cottage industry in which producers and merchants have a strong interdependence in so far as the supply of input and output are concerned. The system of production in handloom is known as Traditional Manufacturing System. Handloom sector in India is known for her manufacturing exclusive fabrics with intricate and distinctive designs. This handloom sector is an important source of livelihood of millions of people with low capital investment and environment friendly and in this context, its rank next to agriculture. In terms of production quantity, this industry provides nearly fifteen percent of the total cloth output. Beside this, handloom sector earns substantial foreign income by way of export.

Keywords: Handloom Industry, Traditional Manufacturing System, Livelihood, Environment Friendly.

Introduction:

Even in modern technology oriented sophisticated surroundings, back-ward technology based rural handloom industry still plays a vital role in our Indian economy, not only in terms of employment opportunity which ranks next to agriculture but also in terms of production quantity, this industry provides nearly fifteen percent of the total cloth output. Its technique of production is mainly labour intensive and it has a great potentiality to absorb unemployed labour force. Handloom weavers are known for their knowledge, innovation and brilliance in designs. Considering deployment of skill and knowledge, weaving is almost an art. This sector provides employment about sixty-five lakh people as per Census of Handlooms & Power looms 1995, conducted by NCAER. There are about thirty-five lakh handlooms during Ninth Five Year Plan that are mostly located in rural

areas and primarily household activity, where generally men are involved in weaving and women & children are involved in pre-weaving activities. The tradition of weaving is in the stage of shrinking from past few decades and the glory of weavers is now fading away.

Review of Literature:

Charulata Sing (2007) in her article '*Handlooms as a Means of Expression*' stated that, like other art; handlooms have been survived due to its richness and flexibility. She expressed that; handloom is working as communication link between various countries. It has been radicalizing through tradition, where various activities help each other by blending indigenous and modern concept. Textile industry is the largest (about 38%) foreign exchange earner. Exported items are generally silk, muslin, cotton fabrics etc. Mythological themes are usually depicted in these items. Handloom sector contribute 23% of total cloth produced in the country.

S. P. Ranga Rao and Shameem Aleem (1991) in their article '*Management of Khadi and Village Industries in India – Some Issues*' mention that advent of the British and the impact of industrial civilization disturbed the general meaning of rural life. Previously the village artisans produced varieties of consumer goods (like hand woven garments) with their traditional skills, indigenous materials and methods for local consumption. A massive scale of artisans discontinued their traditional vocations, as they were unable to compete with the machine-made large scale sophisticated and economic production. As a result, the artisans tried to shift their occupation for life maintenance.

B. Shyama Sundari (2002) in his book '*Traditional Cotton Handlooms of Andhra Pradesh*', describes there are two thinking about the Indian traditional industries- one is Atavistic, which a person or thing not in keeping with in the present time and other is more charitable in the tune with the dignity of artisans in this trade, regards them "as the repositories of a heritage of skilled craftsmanship". Both these perspectives are evident in respect of the handloom industry in our country. Next to agriculture, weaving of cotton has been the major avocation and secondary occupation in the rural population like India

Objective of the Study:

This study will be focus on the following objectives –

- To study the State-wise handloom position in India.
- To study the handloom cloth production trends in India.
- To study the central assistance to States

Features of Handloom Industry:

The main characteristics of Handloom Industry are –

- ✓ Less capital investment is required to form a Handloom unit.
- ✓ It is labour intensive industry, which does not require all skilled labours.
- ✓ It is largely household based industry and run by the contribution of family members.
- ✓ It is an ancient cottage industry.
- ✓ Handloom industries are located in unorganized way both in rural and urban.
- ✓ Most of the weavers are beyond the co-operative fold.
- ✓ Handloom industries are known for distinctive style, innovations and traditionalism.
- ✓ Weaving occupation is a hereditary occupation generally.

Present Situation of Handloom Industry:

The table given below shows the state-wise distribution of handloom units. Total number of handloom units in the country is 35 lakh as per Ninth Five Year Plan. The highest number 12.59 lakh handloom units are located in the state Assam and the lowest number only 14 handlooms in Goa state.

State-wise handloom units in India

Sl. No.	State	Number of Handlooms (in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.03
3.	Assam	12.58
4.	Bihar	0.46
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.10
6.	Delhi	0.02
7.	Goa	0.00 (14 in number)
8.	Gujarat	0.21
9.	Haryana	0.05
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.47
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.20
12.	Jharkhand	0.20
13.	Karnataka	0.77
14.	Kerala	0.30
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.14
16.	Maharashtra	0.38
17.	Manipur	4.25
18.	Nagaland	0.80
19.	Orrisa	1.05
20.	Pondicherry	0.03
21.	Punjab	0.06
22.	Rajasthan	0.36
23.	Tamil Nadu	3.20
24.	Tripura	1.36
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2.22
26.	Uttaranchal	0.08
27.	West Bengal	2.80
Total		35.00

Source: Ninth Five Year Plan

Handloom Cloth Production Trends in India:

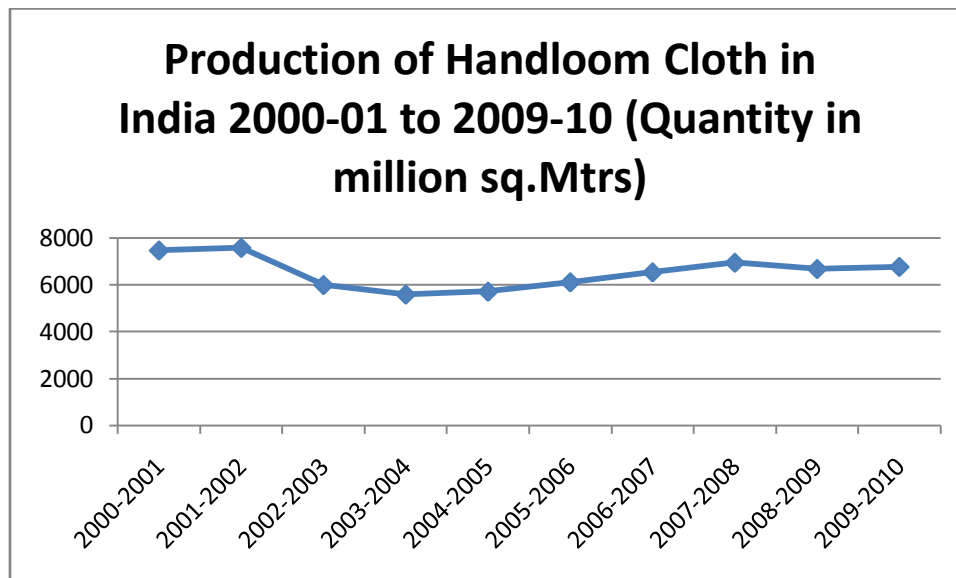
From the 10 years record, it is observed that production in the handloom sector recorded a figure of 7472 million sq. meters in the 2000-2001 and during the period 2001-02, it is 7585 million sq. meters. Next three consecutive periods, a downward trend in production is observed and last four years slight upward rising trend is observed which are shown by a

graph for easy understanding. Production in the financial year 2009-10 is 6769 million sq. mtrs, which is about fifteen percent of total production of the respective year.

Production of Handloom Cloth in India 2000-01 to 2009-10

Year	Quantity in million sq.Mtrs
2000-2001	7472
2001-2002	7585
2002-2003	5989
2003-2004	5581
2004-2005	5705
2005-2006	6108
2006-2007	6535
2007-2008	6947
2008-2009	6677
2009-2010	6769

Source: Ministry of Textile, Govt. of India.



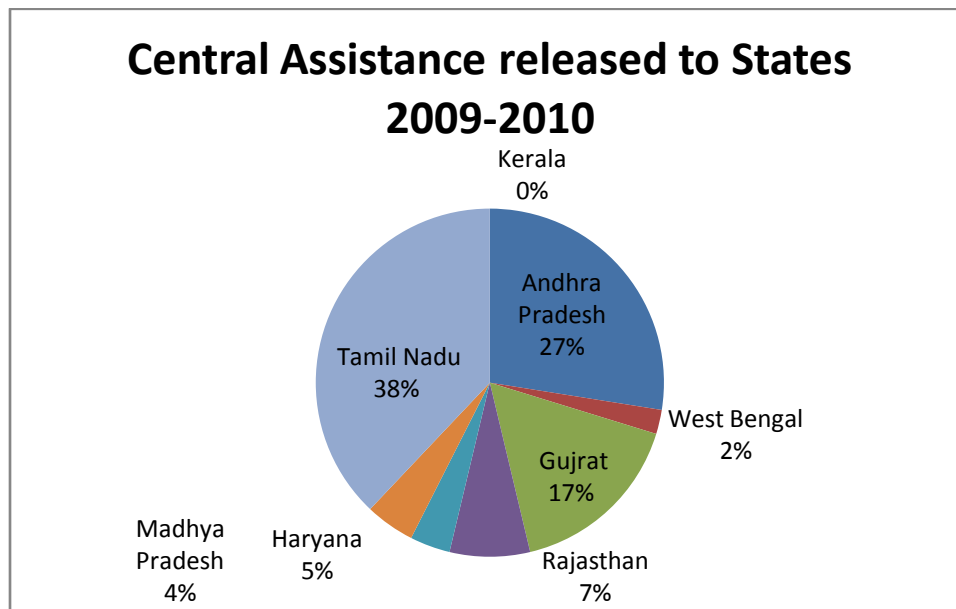
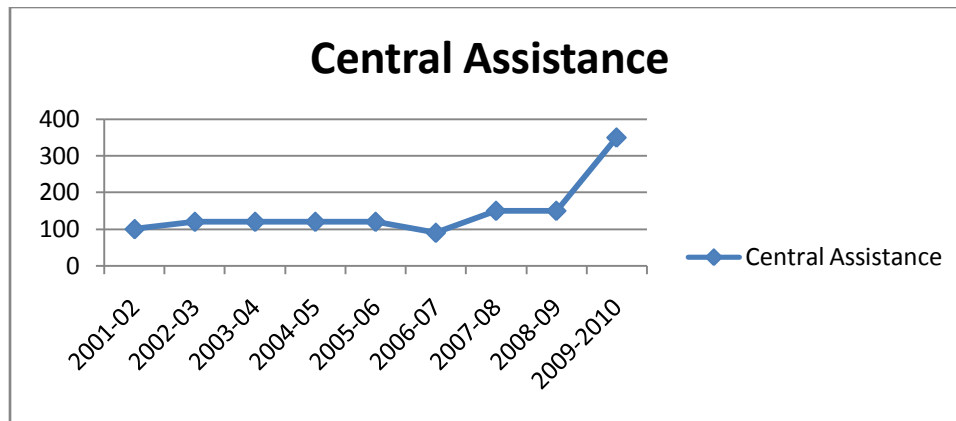
Central Assistance Released to State:

The state Tamil Nadu occupies first place on account of assistance taken from Central Government from the time period 2001-02 to 2009-10, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. In each of the years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2004-05 and 2006-07, state Tamil Nadu acquired more than 50 percent of total fund released by the Govt. In the stated time periods, state Kerala was able to take assistance from the period 2001-02 only. Highest assistance was released in the year 2009-10, amounting Rs. 350 crore. In this year highest fund goes to Tamil Nadu accounting 37.94 percent of total assistance followed by Andhra Pradesh (27.51 percent), Gujarat (16.52 percent), Rajasthan (7.45 percent), Haryana (4.60 percent), Madhya Pradesh (3.74 percent) and West Bengal (2.25 percent) which is depicted by a pie chart. Fund released by the Govt. in different financial years is shown by a line diagram.

Central Assistance Released to State (in crore)

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010	Total Assistance
Andhra Pradesh	0	17.94 (14.95)	0	0	14.58 (12.15)	11.09 (12.32)	71.90 (47.93)	17.72 (11.81)	96.27 (27.51)	229.5 (17.39)
West Bengal	0	0	18.90 (15.74)	0	19.66 (16.38)	0	11.57 (7.72)	11.40 (7.60)	7.88 (2.25)	69.41 (5.26)
Gujarat	0	18.66 (15.55)	39.25 (32.71)	19.19 (15.99)	34.18 (28.49)	0	0	56.70 (37.80)	57.82 (16.52)	225.8 (17.11)
Rajasthan	0	8.73 (7.27)	10.11 (8.43)	23.41 (19.51)	4.19 (3.49)	0	0	28.74 (19.16)	26.06 (7.45)	101.24 (7.67)
Madhya Pradesh	9.29 (9.29)	6.88 (5.73)	5.99 (4.99)	7.20 (6.0)	6.23 (5.19)	0	0	11.73 (7.82)	13.09 (3.74)	60.41 (4.57)
Haryana	5.52 (5.52)	6.05 (5.04)	7.68 (6.4)	5.60 (4.67)	0	0	28.00 (18.67)	0	16.10 (4.60)	68.95 (5.22)
Tamil Nadu	67.90 (67.90)	61.74 (51.46)	38.07 (31.73)	64.60 (53.83)	41.16 (34.3)	78.91 (87.68)	38.53 (25.68)	23.71 (15.81)	132.78 (37.94)	547.40 (41.47)
Kerala	17.29 (17.29)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17.29 (1.31)
Total	100 (100)	120 (100)	120 (100)	120 (100)	120 (100)	90 (100)	150 (100)	150 (100)	350 (100)	1320 (100)

Source: Ministry of Textile, various Annual Reports, Govt. of India.



Conclusion:

Handloom Sector plays a significant and dynamic role in the socio-economic development of the people belonging to the weaker section of the society and is providing employment opportunity after agriculture. The tradition of producing fabric by handloom constitutes one of the richest and vibrant aspects of Indian cultural heritage. It has been sustaining through transferring the weaving technique generation after generation. Handloom products are quite famous for their artistic elegance, complicated designs, philosophy, sheer love of handloom products, economic argument etc. Records exclaimed that hand

woven fabrics in India had reached the peak of its reputation in international market long before the industrial revolution. And then its demand declined due to industrialization and the then ruler's policy. Still now handloom products have wide demand in national market and abroad. However, this handloom sector faces some problems like shortage of right raw materials in right time, insufficiency of capital, poor marketing facilities etc. But this sector has potentiality to overcome the problems and may contribute significantly to income generation, employment and foreign exchange earnings, if proper government intervention is activated through financial assistance and implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes.

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