



HAND LOOM INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Thati Srinaiah* Dr. M. Venkataramana Reddy**

**Research Scholar, Department of Business Management, Mahatma Gandhi University,
Nalgonda, Telangana, -508001.*

***Research Guide, Department of Business Management, Mahatma Gandhi
University, Nalgonda, Telangana.,*

Abstract

The purpose of this article is to introduce cottage industries in India. Despite the long history of Indian artisans, colonialism destroyed India's traditional culture and made the country a supplier of raw materials to Britain. Indian artisans gave way to cheaper fabrics and weavers lost their jobs due to the closure of the crafts. Despite such ups and downs in the business sector, Indian artisans have remained steadfast in maintaining this valuable industry. With the departure of the Ministry of External Affairs, India has gained a better position in the global trade market.

Introduction

Our investment history dates back to ancient times. It is part of our rich culture. There are many references to handlooms and textiles in early Indian, Buddhist and Pali texts. The Vedas and Puranas have many details about these wonderful properties and the many layers used by gods, kings and humans everywhere. Each god wears some kind of clothes, viz. Lord Krishna in yellow, Goddess Kali in red etc.

Historical Development of Handloom Industry

History tells us that hand weaving in India dates back to five thousand nine hundred years. Five thousand years ago, the people of Mohenjodhar cultivated cotton, yarn and weavers. The early people of the Indus Valley used dyed cotton to make their clothes until this ancient Harappan excavation found a small piece of dyed cotton in a field. During the excavations, archaeologists also found clay bars. This important detail of the ancient sand desert proves the knowledge of spinning and weaving and the magical dyeing process of Manzanita Madrid. This is an important discovery as it marks the earliest use of cotton and dyes in the Indian subcontinent.

The industry is said to have flourished during the Puranic era. The industry has a long tradition in India dating back to the 19th century. As there is no thread, only tailors are the basis for home textiles.

Gradual growth of Mill Industry in India

India's handlooms industry was not affected after the colonial sponsored wars, but weavers gradually learned to use indigenous threads to adapt to the changing climate. However, the use of wool yarn brought many changes to the weavers in industry and society, in the manufacturing process and ultimately in the quality of the final product. Even today, from whatever he ate or had at home, jasmine cloth was obtained, but when he came from far away to buy jasmine flowers, the jasmine merchants also became rich, and since it was a middle-class cloth, he had. There is nothing. Yes, it will increase in size. Majority increases. Many traders have lost their independence due to the middle class, where many come on contract or salary to work in Mahayana advances in technology during this time. This period was mainly due to the efforts of missionaries working in South India and Bengal.

Swadeshi Movement and the Handloom Industry in India

This movement was against the partition of Bengal and the policy of banning foreign products. First, the factory's annual sales increased from 100 million to 50 million Lorries. In the initial phase of the Swadeshi movement, there were no significant changes in the industry and manufacturing sector. The management of the company responded promptly to the boycott by providing solid clothing. In 1925 factories started producing saris. Indian factories also produce many types of traditional clothing that have been around for centuries. As a result, the Indian textile industry had no incentive to revive its profitable business and many weavers became unemployed.

India's textile companies, which initially focused on the production and manufacture of breads, gradually moved into the textile sector as well. The First World War provided a great opportunity for the Indian textile industry to increase its production. With imports almost at a standstill, the industry has enough technology and infrastructure to take advantage of this situation. The space left by the exporters is filled by the cotton industry and this business is not competitive because that industry is the major producer of cotton.

The First World War and the Handloom Industry

In 1914, when World War I began, mills and mills were about the same size, each consuming 25 million pounds of flour. But during the First World War (1818-1914), when cloth was not imported from Britain, the mills concentrated on textile production and most of the cotton produced was used, especially for handloom. Indian textiles declined during the First World War. To address this gap, the manufacturing industry has made every effort to increase production and capture the domestic market. This allows more cotton to be used and less cotton to hand weaves the fabric. This process continued until after the First World War.

During World War I, reliance on bread and butter production disrupted industry, but in the pre-war years, this reliance provided the basis for further industrialization and hay production. This situation continued after the war as factories tried to dominate the domestic market without foreign competition. On the other hand, scarcity and high cost of cotton is the main obstacle preventing weavers from using this material.

Therefore, in the middle of the war, there was a significant increase in production in the manual labor sector. However, the industry failed to catch up with production and regained its footing after the war.

Table No – 1, Progress of the Mill and Handloom during 1920-39 (in million yards)

Year	Mill production	Handloom production
1920-21	1,563.1	931.2
1921-22	1,706.0	938.0
1922-23	1,720.8	1,084.0
1923-24	1,696.9	816.8
1924-25	1,935.9	1,010.8
1925-26	1,964.6	888.4
1926-27	2,265.7	1,216.8
1927-28	2,370.9	1,210.8
1928-29	1,859.4	973.2
1929-30	2,356.5	1,282.4

1930-31	2,480.8	1,257.2
1931-32	2,872.8	1,332.4
1932-33	2,982.7	1,519.2
1933-34	2,767.6	1,262.0
1934-35	3,153.7	1,255.6
1935-36	3,240.8	1,450.4
1936-37	3,322.1	1,265.2
1937-38	3,661.5	1,293.2
1938-39	3,905.3	1,703.2

Source: Report of the Fact Finding Committee, Govt, of India, 1942, p. 11.

From the above table, it can be seen that although the production of handlooms increased significantly in 1920-21, the increase in production was less than that of manufactures. The table shows that factory production increased from 1563.1 million meters in 1920-21 to 3905.3 million meters in 1938-39. Glove production increased from 931.2 million yards in 1920-21 to 1,703.2 million yards in 1938-39.

Second World War

With the onset of World War II, the industry faced serious problems. As for the yarn manufacturing industries, the life of the artisan industry is closely linked with the rise and fall of the mill sector. During the First World War, this industry was the only one left and the outbreak of the Second World War led to intense debate about the future of the industry. The Trade Conference was held in December 1940 to discuss the state of trade and measures to support it.

Fact Finding Committee

In 1941, the Government of India commissioned Thomas J. and appointed a commission of inquiry headed by P. In 1941, a three-member Commission of Inquiry set up by the Government of India made a detailed inquiry into the life and work of weavers in the country.

After the establishment of cotton mills in India, it is believed that handlooms developed with the yarn produced in these mills. However, in reality, spinning is different from weaving, so handlooms depend on industry for their development. During World War I, it became clear that lace manufacturers would either make lace more expensive or reduce yarn production because they had more markets available. Hence, during the freedom struggle, Gandhiji thought of how to find a way to balance this sector as well. "Recovery of Charka car or part of it is the result of investigation. The revolution strengthened the national independence movement. It has become a symbol of hope, self-respect and struggle for all Indians. "For any patriot, the flag is a symbol of freedom and maintains its place at the center of the national flag.

Handloom Industry after Independence

India gained independence in 1947 and independence helped industry. This gave hope to the weavers. Soon after independence, the leaders of our country realized the plight of the industry and the condition of the handloom workers to develop the handloom industry. As a result, the Indian Parliament passed the Industrial Policy Resolution in April 1948, which stated that the government should protect domestic industry by imposing taxes on raw materials used during or after domestic production industries.

The country's independence divided its territory into two independent countries, India and Pakistan. There are also disagreements over the influence of separatism that spread to parts of the continent from the beginning of Eastern civilization. The handlooms of this region, which includes parts of Punjab, Sindh and North West Frontier Province and Bengal, have a great influence and weaving is considered the richest heritage. Go to Pakistan so; although the future of handloom is tied to the country's economic development plans, there is a shortage of skilled workers, temporary exit from the market and shortage of raw wool.

All India Handloom Board

An All India Handlooms Council was established under the chairmanship of the Board of Commodities, Bombay to promote the establishment of handlooms co-operative societies. In 1945, the Government of India set up the All India Handlooms Council to provide comprehensive solutions to the problems of the textile industry. But as mentioned earlier, the first Handlooms Council of India was formed only two years ago. This council has been inactive since 1947.

However, in October 1952, the Handlooms Board (AIHB) was re-established to advise the government on the development of handlooms. This Council is responsible for advising on issues relating to the handlooms industry in general, studying schemes for development and growth of the industry and receiving recommendations for the support of the Handlooms Development Fund. The Council analyzed the state of the industry across the country and accelerated cooperation with several textile industries in partnership with the national government. The next year, i.e. 1953, the Watermelon Marketing Association of India was formed for the foreign handloom trade. The 1953 Act imposed an additional tax on textiles and woodwork and fixed a tax of three (3) per meter on textiles and woodwork and created a "Labor Tax Fund" to promote the Khadi and weaving industry. , used for:

Handloom Rebate

The Government of India introduced regulations in September 1953 allowing the sale of gloves throughout the country. Only Central or Regional Unions or Central or Central and All India Handloom Unions are eligible for the subsidy scheme. First, a discount program was introduced to make life easier for companies. Currently, this trend has also become a way of encouraging consumers to opt for handmade clothing. Initially, the withdrawal of half a paisa was allowed in the rupee till 1957, when it was fixed at 6 paisa and then five paisa. Currently, this number changes seasonally.

Number of Handlooms in India (1921-2003)

The handloom industry in India has spread to all the states of the country. But it is true that there are no details about the amount and type of flour, number of unions, type of clothing, production and employment. The Government of India appoints various committees from time to time to estimate the number of handlooms in the country.

Table No – 2, Number of Handlooms in India by Different Committees /Studies (1921-2003)

Year	Name of the Committee/Report	Number of Handlooms (in lakh)
1921	Census Report	12.60
1932	Tariff Board Report	15.15
1942	Fact Findings Committee Report	17.91
1954	Tax Enquiring Committee Report	28.70

1974	Sivaraman Committee Report	35.73
1976	Statistical Statement from the Office of the Commissioner Textile, Bombay	38.00
1983	Basic Statistics on Handlooms, Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi:	38.20
1987	Census of Handlooms in India	39.10
1991	Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi.	51.81
2003	Tenth Five-year-plan Report	67.00

Source: 1. Census of Handlooms in India by NCAER, 1987. 2. Office of the Development

Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi. 3. K.Rama Mohan Rao, Development of Handloom Industry, 1990, p. 14. 4. Tenth Five -year-plan Report.

Table shows the number of gloves in India from 1921 to 2003. According to the census of 1921, the number of artisans in India was 12.60 lakhs. In its 1932 report, the Tariff Board estimated the value of gloves at 15.15 gels. A Commission of Inquiry in 1942 estimated it at 17.91 million. In 1954 the Revenue Inquiry Committee estimated the total number of handloom workers in India at 28.70 lakhs. According to the Sivaram Committee report in 1974, there were 35.73 thousand handloom workers in the country, while in 1976; the number was 38,000, according to the statistics of the Textile Commissioner's office in Bombay. In 1983 there were 38.20 thousand handloom workers in India.

According to the 1987 Indian Census, the number of weavers in India was 39.10 lakh. Additionally, according to the Office of the Development Commissioner of Handlooms, there were 51.81 thousand handlooms in the country in 1991, in New Delhi. According to the 2012 Tenth Five Year Report, there are 67,000 handloom workers in the country. Hence, it has increased by 431.75% from 1921 to 2002-03.

Number of Handlooms in Various States

Handlooms are the largest industry in India after agriculture. According to the Office of the Development Commissioner of Handlooms, there were 51.81 million handlooms in New Delhi, Assam and Bihar in 1991. , Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Assam is at the first position with 14.09 lakh weavers, while Andhra Pradesh is at the second position with 5.97 lakh. Out of 51.81 thousand artisans in the country, Assam has 14.09 lakh which is more than 27.19% of the total and the region ranks first in terms of number of artisans.

West Bengal has 3.38 million handlooms, which is 6.52% of the total handlooms in the country. Nearly 65 percent of the country's weavers have oysters in five states, namely Assam (27.19 percent), Andhra Pradesh (11.52 percent), Tamil Nadu (10.61 percent), Uttar Pradesh (9.82 percent) and West Bengal. (6.52 per cent) closed Small weavers are in states like Gujarat (34,000 weavers), Jammu and Kashmir (25,000 weavers), Punjab (21,000 weavers), Delhi (9,000 weavers) and Meghalaya (4,000 weavers). (29) is shown in the following table:

Table No – 3, Number of Handlooms in States and Union Territories of India in 1991

Sl. No.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Number of Handlooms	Percentage (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	5,97,000	11.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,00,000	1.93
3.	Assam	14,09,000	27.19
4.	Bihar	2,01,000	3.87
5.	Delhi	9,000	0.17
6.	Gujrat	34,000	0.65
7.	Haryana	50,000	0.96
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31,000	0.59
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	25,000	0.48
10.	Karnataka	1,03,000	1.98
11.	Kerala	90,000	1.73
12.	Madhya Pradesh	53,000	1.02
13.	Maharashtra	1,85,000	3.57
14.	Manipur	2,50,000	4.82
15.	Meghalaya	4,000	0.07
16.	Mizoram	1,04,000	2.00
17.	Nagaland	95,000	1.83
18.	Orissa	1,18,000	2.27
19.	Pondicherry	40,000	0.77
20.	Punjab	21,000	0.40
21.	Rajasthan	1,42,000	2.74
22.	Tamil Nadu	5,50,000	10.61
23.	Tripura	1,23,000	2.37
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5,09,000	9.82
25.	West Bengal	3,38,000	6.52
Total		51,81,000	100.00

Source: 1. Government of India, Census of Handlooms in India, 1987.NCAER, New Delhi.
2. Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, New Delhi, 1991.

In independent India, with the devolution of economic power between the Center and the states, manual labor became a subject of state control. So, to fulfill your needs, there are a large number of handlooms in some states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Assam and Meghalaya Knitted by hand. And the textile industry in some states is regulated by the industry regulatory authority. The National Handlooms Development Corporation (NHDC) is the focal point for the adoption and implementation of the Handlooms Development Programme, with State Handlooms Development Corporations and State Upstream Development Agencies at the state level.

Considering the need to promote technology and identify various aspects of development for weavers and other stakeholders involved in the industry, three Indian Institutes of Technology (DHTs) were established at Salem, Varanasi and Guwahati.

Production of Handloom Sector

Creativity is an important factor in any production process. The requirements of cottage industry are different from other industries. The primary and fundamental problem in the production sector is the supply of natural resources, mainly raw materials, of required quality and quantity and their appropriate price. The production and sale of cotton is mainly in the hands of traders, weavers and others. Another disadvantage of manual production is the low performance of some products. This can be achieved by improving relevant machinery and equipment, improving working conditions and improving equipment before and after weaving.

The National Council of Economic Research (NCAER) conducted the Handloom Census in 1987. Census data shows an average productivity of 6.62 meters per day (excluding North-Eastern states), which takes 240 working days per year, 0.95 m per day in Himachal Pradesh and 15.0 m per day in Delhi. The census method is very effective because dividing the published professional data on textile production by the total number of machines and the number of working days shows the daily performance of each machine.

Handlooms sector accounts for 30% of the total textiles produced in the country. Handloom industry is mainly concentrated in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, Assam and other states. In the table below:

Table No – 4, Production of Handloom Cloth from 1972-73 to 2022-23

Sl. No.	Year	Estimated production of handloom cloth (in million meters)
1.	1972-73	2,223
2.	1982-83	3,253
3.	1992-93	4,900
4.	2022-23	7,862

Source: Development Commissioner for Handloom, Government of India, New Delhi.

Table shows that about 2223 million meters of handlooms were produced in 1972-1973. The production of handloom fabrics increased from 2223 million meters in 1972-73 to 3253 million meters in 1982-83. In 1992-1993 it increased from 3253 million meters to 4900 million meters. 7862 million meters were produced in 2022-2023. Hence, it increased by 60.45% from 1992-93 to 2022-23.

Export of Handloom Sector

Handlooms are an important income generating industry in India. Indian handlooms produce many beautiful items. From Immark, Indian handlooms are one of the most popular export products to Asian and European countries. They are admired for their distinctive features like unique color combinations, attractive designs and excellent workmanship. Among the most popular Indian handlooms in the global market are saris, cotton textiles, furniture, bedding and towels. The Export Promotion Council (HEPC) was established by the Government of India in 1965 to promote and develop export trade.

Indian handlooms are exported to 123 countries. The leading countries are France, Japan, Italy, Singapore, United States, Great Britain and West Germany. The major importer of handlooms is Europe,

followed by America, Asia and Africa. The table below shows the textbooks from 1972-1973 to 2022-2023.

Table No – 5, Export of Handloom Goth from 1972-73 to 2022-23

Sl. No.	Year	Value of exports (Rs. in crore)
1.	1972-73	48.46
2.	1982-83	330.89
3.	1992-93	996.32
4.	2022-23	1822.00

Source: Development Commissioner for Handloom, Government of India, New Delhi.

Table shows that the export of handlooms increased from 100 million Rials, 48.46 lakhs in 1972-73, 330.89 million In 1982-83. From Rs. 330.89 million in 1982-83, 996.32 million in 1992-93. It is Rs. 1,822.00 crores in 2022-23. Thus, there was an increase of 82.87% in 1992-93 as compared to 2022-2023.

Census of Handlooms

Since the first census of weavers began twenty years ago (1366), many changes have been made to the data. As a result of these changes, it was decided to conduct a joint census of energy production companies and equipment across the country. The draft census report prepared by the National Economic Council is in the editing stage. A participatory assessment of artisans and manufacturers will help the Ministry of Textiles to identify the needs of these industries and provide effective and efficient plans for the benefit of artisans and manufacturers.

The trade sector has a lot of influence on domestic and foreign markets. In today's India, handlooms are not a thing of the past. The policies adopted by the Government of India after independence has enabled the sector to establish itself in emerging markets over the last fifty years. It is the responsibility of the Central and State Governments to adopt important policies for the development of handlooms.

Handlooms in India

India leads (84.78%) with 3.90 million of the world are 4.60 million. The business sector of the country has made significant progress in the past. It ranks second in terms of employment in the agricultural sector and can employ 124,000 laborers and about 38,000 artisans. Some of them are women. A strong political belief in handlooms has supported the development of the textile industry in general and the handlooms industry in particular. As government policies continue to support manufacturing, the industry's future looks bright.

Although the handlooms sector has grown by about 20% in the last two to thirty years, this has been contrary to the idea of reducing the share of manufacturing. Currently, it accounts for 18.75% of the total production. But handlooms have an important contribution to the employment of 124 thousand people close to agriculture. Of these 60% are women, 12% SC and 20% ST (Ministry of Textiles: 2001). There are 38.91 lakh laborers in India. Although its share in total textile production is 10% (EXIM: 2001), its efficiency, productivity and low consumption of raw materials have given it a unique place in the Indian economy. It weaves various fabrics like cotton, silk, jute, jute, wool and synthetic compounds.

Some of the essential characteristics of the handloom industry are as follows:

- It deals with variety of products and production. From weaving fine fabrics for household use to producing large quantities of medium and fine fabrics for large (mainly urban) markets, the variety of textiles produced by artisans is truly enormous. Each region is known for its unique product design and style.
- Greater flexibility in process, product and regional changes. Product and product development methods are easy to change. Unlike natural resources that transport a person to a specific location, weavers are limited in their skills and can be moved from one resource to another manually.
- Deviation in rural and urban areas. Handloom as an economic activity predates modern industry. In the earlier organized agriculture, weavers mainly catered for household needs. As a result each village or group of villages consists of many families.
- Mainly at home. The team is made up of the entire family. Another consequence of the decentralization of the wheelchair industry is its domestic presence. Despite the scarcity of yarn, weavers often made their own clothes at home, representing the work of all family members.

Developing policies and supporting development organizations requires a deep understanding of the fundamentals of this profession. This domestic industry has high economic potential due to low capital and high energy and household requirements. It is necessary to systematically identify the needs and the nature of their various needs and develop appropriate means of meeting those needs. Most of the measures taken to solve credit, raw material and sales problems have a centralized structure which does not suit the present state of the industry. Today, some industries need to create an adequate support system.

Conclusion

Before the industrial revolution in Europe, India was an exporter of textiles, especially cotton and silk. Until the late 1980s, textiles were exclusively produced by the Indian textile sector. However, this form of colonialism disappeared as a result of the Industrial Revolution in Europe in the early 19th century. India's independence from British colonial rule led to changes in Indian gloves, mainly due to Mahatma Gandhi and the use of the charkha. During the independence movement the focus was on the charkha as a symbol of national revival and gloves. In the post-independence period, continuous support from the Government of India helped further develop the country's handlooms. The launch of IFA on 1 January 2005 has given India a chance to emerge as a major market in the post-IFA environment. After the exit of the Ministry of External Affairs, India rapidly increased its exports of cotton products, including handloom.

References

1. **Babu Rajendra Prasad.:** In FOREWARD Section in M. K. Gandhi's Economics of Khadi, Navajivan Press, Ahmadabad, 1941,pp. vi, ix.
2. **Das Sujit Kumar.:** The Warp and Woof-An Enquiry into the Handloom Industry in West Bengal, K. K. Bagchi & Company, 2001, Kolkata. p.33.
3. International Labour Office, Indian Branch, Handloom Weaving Industry in India with Special Reference to Madras State, New Delhi, 1960, p.7.
4. **Rao K. Rama Mohana.:** Development of Handloom Industry, Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi, 1990, p.24.
5. **Report:** Fact Finding Committee p.10.



6. **Report:** Fact Finding Committee,(Handloom and Mills), Manager of Publications, Govt, of India, Delhi, 1942, p.6.
7. **Sudan A. S.:** Marketing Management of Handloom Products in Jammu & Kashmir, 1997, p. 29.
8. **Sudan A. S.:** Marketing Mix of Handloom Products - A Case Study of Jammu & Kashmir State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., 1989, p. 17.
9. **Sudan A.S.:** “Marketing Mix of Handloom Products - A Case Study of Jammu & Kashmir State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd “, M. Phil. Dissertation, 1989,p.3.
10. **The All India Handloom Board:** First Annual Report (For the Period 25th October to 31st December 1953) Bombay: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, 1954,p.2.
11. Xth Plan, Report of the Sub-Group on Handlooms, 2002.