

## **SUSTAINABILITY OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS IN TAMILNADU COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The handloom sector of Tamil Nadu is of heritage value and the history of outstanding craftsmanship of handloom weaving in the State dates back by thousands of years. In Tamilnadu, 2.44 lakh handlooms are functioning in 1,139 Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies. Out of 1,139 Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies, 1,053 are Cotton Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies and the balance 86 are Silk Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies. These societies mostly exist in rural and semi-urban areas, where there is large concentration of handloom weavers. The development programmes and welfare schemes of the State and Central Governments intended for the handloom weavers are being implemented through the Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies.

**Key Words:** Handloom, Cooperative Societies, Schemes, Weavers

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 World Scenario of Handloom sector**

The handloom was devised about 2,000 years ago and was brought to England by the Romans. By 1800 it was estimated that there were 250,000 handlooms in Britain. China's textile industry plays an important role in the earning of foreign exchanges and contributes greatly to the development of China's economy. The USA has a decent share of 7% in the global imports of woven textile made-ups and fabrics. The import market for the selected product categories has increased at an annual average growth rate of 12%.The handloom-sector in Bangladesh used to produce fabric to meet the local demand of low-end fabric. It contains more than 0.18 million handloom units with 0.51 handlooms and 0.88 million workers are employed in this sector. Sri Lankan handloom producers are capable of supplying numerous products to markets such as

Italy, Germany, France, UK, Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Korea and Maldives. Sri Lanka has exported handloom textile products to the value of US \$ 1,539,623 in 2017.

### **1.2 INDIAN SCENARIO OF HANDLOOM SECTOR**

The handloom sector occupies a distinct and unique place in the Indian economy, besides being the largest generator of non-farm rural employment. The handloom industry is largely household based, carried out with labour contributed by the entire family. It is dispersed, spread across thousands of villages and towns in the country. The sector accounts for 14.9% of the total cloth produced in the country (excluding wool, silk, hosiery and khadi) and have the largest infrastructure with 2.3 million weaving looms. Handloom activity is majorly a rural phenomenon. In India 87% of total household units (27.83 lakh) are located in rural areas. Nearly 61% handloom worker households reside in the north-east and are into domestic production. Majority (82%) are weaver households, only 13% households exclusively engaged in allied activities.

### **1.3 TAMILNADU SCENARIO OF HANDLOOM SECTOR**

Tamil Nadu holds the pioneer position in the Indian textile industry for decades by marking its overwhelming presence in all the sub sectors of the industry viz., spinning, handloom weaving, powerloom weaving, processing, knitwear and apparel garmenting.

## **HANDLOOM WEAVERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TAMILNADU**

**Table. No. 1**

Number of Cotton Weaving Societies	1053
Number of Silk Weaving Societies	86
Total Number of Handloom Weaving Societies	1139

These societies mostly exist in rural and semi-urban areas, where there is large concentration of handloom weavers. The development programmes and welfare schemes of the State and Central Governments intended for the handloom weavers are being implemented through the Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies.

Table No. 2

**TABLE SHOWING THE PERFORMANCE OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS  
COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES AS ON 01.01.2020**

<b>Performance of Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies as on 1.03.2018 Circle</b>	<b>Districts Covered</b>	<b>Total No.of Handloom Societies</b>	<b>No.of Members</b>	<b>Production Value (Rs.in Crore)</b>	<b>Sales Value (Rs.in Crore)</b>
Coimbatore	Coimbatore	59	23040	50.95	57.10
	Nilgiri				
Cuddalore	Cuddalore	56	11606	28.00	32.54
	Villupuram				
Dindigul	Dindigul	40	6597	18.97	22.81
Erode	Erode	190	65942	184.00	225.27
Kanchee- puram	Kanchee- puram	74	41552	73.92	105.69
Karur	Karur	55	11299	9.87	10.91
Kumbakonam	Thanjavur	48	13564	50.00	68.09
	Ariyalur				
	Perambalur				
Madurai	Madurai	36	11737	12.76	14.96
	Theni				
Nagercoil	Kanyakumari	40	6545	17.00	20.67
Paramakudi	Ramanatha-Puram	86	11573	25.00	32.12
	Sivagangai				
Salem	Salem	62	25243	45.83	58.79
	Dharmapuri				
	Krishnagiri				
Tiruchengode	Namakkal	75	17890	26.66	30.66
	Salem				
Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	45	7372	11.06	13.14
	Tuticorin				
Thiruvallur	Thiruvallur	61	5903	11.04	12.68
	Chennai				
Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur	6	1053	1.03	1.31
	Nagapattinam				

Trichy	Trichy	21	4120	2.24	2.59
	Pudukottai				
Thiruvanna- malai	Thiruvanna- malai	29	10481	15.24	17.51
Tiruppur	Tiruppur	46	16913	34.22	35.59
Vellore	Vellore	54	9910	16.09	18.78
Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar	56	17212	61.62	71.72
<b>Total</b>		<b>1139</b>	<b>319552</b>	<b>695.50</b>	<b>852.93</b>

**Source:** Tamilnadu Government handlooms and Textiles Policy note 2018-2019

The Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies have produced 35.05 lakh Pedal loom Sarees valued at Rs.68.05 crore and 11.30 lakh Pedal loom Dhoties valued at Rs.16.16 crore under Cost Free Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties Scheme, Pongal 2018. Besides, 41.03 lakh meters of Pedal loom Casement cloth valued at Rs.15.81 Crore and 69.15 lakh meters of Pedal loom Duppatta cloth valued at Rs.18.66 crore were produced under Cost Free Supply of Uniform Scheme for the Academic Year 2017-2018.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Oommen (1972) analysed the working of development programmes for the growth of small scale industry with reference to coir and handloom industry of Kerala. His study investigated about the development programmes related to (a) The modernisation of traditional sector; (b) The Industrial Estate Programme; (c) Rural Industries Project; (d) Special programme of assistance namely finance, marketing and services. The study recommended that in order to avoid large scale displacement of labour, the introduction of modern techniques in the traditional sector have to be a gradual process.

Elango (2009) studied the problems faced by handloom weavers in cooperative societies with special reference to Thiruchirappally district. The study focused on the production, marketing, finance and the socio-economic problems of weavers under co-operative fold.. The study suggested that the government should take steps to improve the literacy levels of handloom weavers, provide loans at easy terms to weavers, start handloom research centres at district levels, and conduct exhibitions and fairs to promote handloom industry.

Government of West Bengal (2009), studied the cluster development programme of Shantipur handloom cluster. The study explains the structure of handloom industry in the region. The report states that over the years, the Shantipur cluster acquired poor image on account of poor quality of the handloom products compared to other clusters in the region due to lack of willingness to adopt new technology and product innovation.

Cathelina (2010) attempted to bring out the operational problems and the export potentials and opportunities of handloom industry in Erode District. The study tried to recognise the impact of government policies and schemes on handloom industry in this region.

### 3. DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOM, HANDICRAFTS, TEXTILES AND KHADI, TAMILNADU.

#### A) National Handloom Development Programme

The Government of India have formulated the revised guidelines for the implementation of National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) during the year 2017-2018 to 2019-2020. As per the projects approved by the Government of India, the following Block level cluster programmes are being implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

**Table. No. 3**

(Rs.in crore)

Sl. No	Name of the Block Level Handloom Cluster	Total Project Cost approved by Government of India	Government of India Share released	No. of Beneficiaries
I	<b>10 Block Level Handloom Cluster (BLHC)</b>			
1	West Arni	147.08	139.89	678
2	Palladam	181.50	169.20	844
3	Kancheepuram	162.33	153.16	810
4	Karamadai – I	181.40	169.39	910
5	Ayothiyappattinam	171.24	160.68	954
6	Chennimalai	170.74	159.44	877
7	Tiruppur Block	181.50	169.44	874
8	Paramakudi	123.25	115.59	1189
9	Kuruthancode	78.70	72.95	343

10	Pollachi North	181.40	170.62	912
II	<b>Trichy Mega Handloom Cluster (TMHC)</b>			
11	Thiruvaidaimarudhur – I	130.53	57.24	407
12	Thiruvaidaimarudhur– II	64.29	58.00	811
13	Thiruvaidaimarudhur–III	94.73	85.41	1020
14	Thirupanandal	125.33	54.16	363
15	Ammapettai	116.35	50.12	292
16	Jayankondam	60.62	54.99	841
17	Andimadam	126.96	54.90	445
18	T.Palur	18.74	17.03	239
19	Sendurai	21.60	19.58	279
20	Thathaiyangarpettai	126.88	55.60	239
21	Musiri	12.79	11.45	71
22	Thottiyam	19.65	17.60	423
23	Karur – I	129.37	56.70	243
24	Karur – II	50.82	46.23	300
25	Thanthoni	45.28	40.77	272
26	Aravakurichi	36.81	33.14	246
27	Palani	33.49	30.15	661
28	Dindigul – I	89.99	79.99	2273
29	Dindigul – II	90.24	80.22	2129
30	Athoor	91.07	81.28	1673
31	Thoppampatti	123.07	53.25	357
32	Mannargudi	70.16	63.56	669
III	<b>Virudhunagar Mega Handloom Cluster (VMHC)</b>			
33	Aruppukottai Block – I	105.00	45.00	220
34	Aruppukottai Block – II	105.00	45.00	220
35	Aruppukottai Block–III	105.00	45.00	220
36	Aruppukottai Block– IV	105.00	45.00	220
37	Srivilliputhur Block	105.00	45.00	220
38	Rajapalayam Block – I	105.00	45.00	220

39	Rajapalayam Block – II	105.00	45.00	220
40	Watrap Block	105.00	45.00	220
41	Sankarankoil Block	105.00	45.00	220
42	Paramakudi Block	105.00	45.00	220
43	Karaikudi Block	105.00	45.00	220
44	Watrap – III Block	120.00	8.58	40
45	Aruppukottai-V Block	120.00	8.58	40
46	Watrap-II, Block	120.00	8.58	40
47	Paramakudi Block-III	120.00	8.58	40
48	Paramakudi Block – II	120.00	8.58	40
IV	<b>4 New Block Level Handloom Cluster (BLHC)</b>			
49	Arni – I	167.84	80.47	703
50	Arni – II	117.84	55.47	410
51	Nangavalli	120.38	54.20	432
52	Kancheepuram – II	107.03	50.55	412
<b>Total</b>		<b>5526.00</b>	<b>3360.32</b>	<b>27221</b>

**Source:** Tamilnadu Government handlooms and Textiles Policy note 2018-2019

### **B) Marketing Incentive (MI) under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)**

Marketing Incentive is one among the components of National Handloom Development Programme. This scheme helps the primary weavers co-operative societies to sustain themselves in the open market. This scheme also helps them to marginally reduce the price of the handloom products and to improve the marketability. During the past 3 years, Marketing Incentive has been released to Primary Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies and Co-optex as detailed below:-

**Table. No. 4**

(Rs.in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Number of Weavers Co-operative societies	State share of Marketing Incentive Released	Central Share of Marketing Incentive Released
1	2015-2016	872	40.85	40.85
2	2016-2017	862	44.53	44.53
3	2017-2018	868	49.01	Yet to be released

4	2018-2019	282	2.35	by Government of India
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Source: *Tamilnadu Government handlooms and Textiles Policy note 2018-2019*

*Statistics of Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles in India*

Under “Domestic marketing promotion” component, the Government is implementing the “Domestic Marketing Promotion Component; National Handloom Exhibitions, Special Handloom Exhibitions and district level events. The financial assistance provided for conducting these exhibitions are as follows:-

**Table. No. 5**

Sl. No.	Name of the event	Financial Assistance (Rs.in lakh)
1.	National Handloom Expo	45.00
2.	Special Handloom Expo	12.00
3.	District Level Events	3.50

Source: *Tamilnadu Government handlooms and Textiles Policy note 2018-2019*

*Statistics of Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of textiles in India.*

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for infrastructural support, Stall Rent, Electricity charges, publicity, etc., and fully funded by Government of India. To promote exports of readymade garments and made-ups, Government of India increased Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) rates from 4 to 6 per cent under the Mid- Term Review of Foreign Policy 2015-20. The government is also making investments under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks and the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for training workforce and to encourage private investment in the Indian textile and apparel industry.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Handloom industry creates noteworthy benefits for the economy in terms of micro- and macroeconomic impacts. It plays vital role to reduce poverty, increase employment, and enhance household income and consumption in the country. Handloom sector has positive contribution to employment generation and economic growth. But this sector faces various challenges which the



reasons for non-operation of looms. Therefore, the government and the non-government organizations should come self-assured with financial, technical and policy supports for development of handloom industry. As a consequence of actual Government involvement through financial support and application of various progressive and welfare schemes, the handloom sector, to some magnitude, has been capable to flow over these hindrances. Accordingly, handloom arrangements a priceless part of the generational heritage and demonstrates the fruitfulness and multiplicity of our nation and the talent of the weavers.

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