

## Performance And Trends Of Handloom Industry And Weavers In India

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### Abstract

*Handloom Industry in India is an ancient cottage industry with a decentralized set up. The industry is an age old source of livelihood for millions of people in the country. The handloom industry provides job opportunities to millions of people all over the country. The diversity in India has been seen in the Indian handloom sector also, like in products, designs, weaving styles, usage of looms, employment status and economic position. This study examines the growth, trends and patterns of handloom industry in India during 1987-88 to 2019-20. Percentage, Growth Rate and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) were employed for the analysis. It has been found from the present study that there has been a significant declined in handloom weavers' households in India during 1987-88 to 2019-20. The proportion of man days of employment and average production of cloth per day by handloom households shows declining trend over the period of 32 years from 1987-88 to 2019-20. The study suggested that the institutions like banks, NABARD, Handloom Development Corporations, Weaver's Cooperatives, technology providers etc.*

**Keywords:** *handloom Industry, Handloom weavers etc....*

### Introduction:

Handloom Industry in India is an ancient cottage industry with a decentralized set up. The industry is an age-old source of livelihood for millions of people in the country. About 10 million people directly depend on the industry to eke out their livelihood, while many more millions of people depend upon subsidiary occupations connected with Handloom Industry. The share of employment provided by the Handloom Industry in the total decentralized sector is about 5.5 per cent. Thus, the industry constitutes one of the major sources of employment in India. In regard to production, industry is meeting one-third of the total cloth requirements of the masses in the country.

Handloom Industry is perhaps the most important one among the hundreds of small scale and cottage arts and crafts that have survived in the present day in India. It is remarkable that in some cases it has been wiped out most of the countries where modern textile industry has been established. But still it occupies a strategic position in India's socio-economic set up. The industry is not only ancient but its change is unique, in the sense, that in no other country in the world, where hand weaving is in vogue on such a nationwide basis. And nowhere else could the Handloom Industry of valiantly withstand the on-slaughter of and stiff competition from the giant textile machines as in India.

According to the Annual Report of 2016-17 of Ministry of Textile, Government of India, the Indian handloom sector has evolved and grown and holds a unique position in the export market, where the share of Indian handloom fabric in the world is 95% being exported to over 125 countries.

India is the second largest exporter of handloom products in the world, with exports valued at US\$ 353.9 million in 2017-18 (Indian handloom industry: potential and prospects, EXIM Banks working paper 80, 2018). In the neighboring economies such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and China, they are using fully automotive machines to mass produce and changing the existing customer preferences; another factor playing in the slowdown of the Indian handloom sector is the slowdown in EU and US to be blamed. (MSME, Government of India)

India exports handloom products to more than 20 countries in the world. Some of the top importers are the US, UK, Spain, Australia, Italy, Germany. Hence South Africa, Netherlands and UAE. US is the biggest importer of handloom products from India. During the 2020-2021, the country imported worth Rs. 613.78 crores. The exports to the UK, which was the second largest importer of handloom from India during 2020-21 increased by 9.7% to Rs. 140.2 crore from Rs. 123.13 million crores during 2019-20. (www.indiantradeportal.com).

The home textile constitutes over 60% of India's total handloom exports. Carpets, rugs and mats made from handlooms had a total share of 13.6% in total exports during 2020-21 at a value of Rs. 224.4 crore (US\$ 28 million).

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- To study the performance and trends in Handloom Industry in India.

#### **DATA AND METHODOLOGY**

The present study is mainly based on secondary data collected from the all India handloom census 1987-88, 1995-96, 2009-10, & 2019-20 conducted by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi. Time period covered for the study is from 1987-88 to 2019-20. Simple statistical tools like Percentage, Growth Rate and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) have been employed for the analysis.

##### **DATA ANALYSIS:**

This section an attempt has been made to analyze the Performance and trends of handloom industry in India.

##### ***Handloom weaver Household Units***

Table 1.1 presents the data on distribution of handloom weaver household's units in India during 1987-88 to 2009-10. The data indicates that the proportion of handloom weaver households declined over the period of 22 years in India. The handloom weaver households decreased from 3060090 to 2268008 during 1987-88 to 2019-20. In case of annual growth rate, a negative trend was registered during 1995-96 & 2009-10 in India. Similarly, the CAGR was estimated at -0.59 per cent during the same period.

**Table 1.1: Handloom weaver Household Units in India**

Year	No. of Units	Growth Rate %
1987-88	3060090	--
1995-96	2524512	-17.50
2009-10	2268008	-10.16
2019-20	2545312	12.23
CAGR %	-0.59	--

Source: Various reports of All India Handloom Census, 1987-88, 1995-96, 2009-10, 2019-20.

##### ***Structural Organization of Handloom Sector in India***

Table 1.2 provides the data on distribution of workers under structural organization of handloom sector in India during 1987-88 to 2019-20. The data denoted that the proportion of weavers who are working independently was found to be quite significant as compared to that of weavers working under other types of structural organization during all the four specific periods. Whereas the proportion of weavers who are working under State Handloom Development Corporation was found to be relatively lower as compared to that of weavers working under other types of structural organization during the same period. The CAGR was found to be higher (2.46 %) in case of independent weavers, followed by under master weavers (2.24 %) over the period of 32 years in India. Whereas in case of workers under co-operative society and workers under state handloom Development Corporation the negative CAGR was registered, accounting for -2.27 % and 0.69 %, respectively during the same period in India.

**Table 1.2**

##### **Distribution of Workers under Structural Organization of Handloom Sector in India**

Year	Independent	Under master weavers	Under co-operative society	Under State Handloom Development Corporation	Total
1987-88	1211425 (58.86%)	344646 (16.75%)	454989 (22.11%)	47029 (2.29%)	2058089 (100.00)
1995-96	988626 (63.90)	287654 (18.59)	241862 (15.63)	28915 (1.87)	1547057 (100.00)
2009-10	2351622 (66.05)	1038606 (29.17)	151267 (4.25)	18662 (0.52)	3560157 (100.00)
<b>2019-20</b>	2577044 (73.2%)	684060 (19.4%)	223414 (6.3%)	37994 (1.0%)	<b>3522512</b> (100.00)
CAGR %	2.46	2.24	-2.27	-0.69	1.75

Source: All India Handloom Census, 1987-88, 1995-96, 2009-10, 2019-20.

### ***Looms by Type in India***

Table 1.3 presents the data on distribution of looms by type in India during 1987-88 to 2019-20. The data shows that the proportion of pit looms was found to be higher as compared to that of other types of looms in India during 2019-20. While the proportion of other looms was found to be significant as compared to that of rest of the looms in India during 1995-96. Whereas the proportion of frame looms was found to be relatively higher as compared to that of other looms in India during 2009-10. The CAGR was registered negative in all types of looms except pedal looms (5.34 %) over the period of 32 years in India.

**Table 1.3**

#### **Distribution of Looms by Type in India**

Year	Pit Looms (All types)	Frame Looms (All types)	Pedal Looms (All types)	Other Looms (All types)	Total Looms
<b>1987-88</b>	1583655	1120804	80595	1105522	3890576
	40.70%	28.81%	2.07%	28.42%	100.00%
<b>1995-96</b>	1236391	657583	110618	1283964	3288556
	37.60%	20.00%	3.36%	39.04%	100.00%
<b>2009-10</b>	570860	1342870	32619	349281	2295630
	24.87%	58.50%	1.42%	15.22%	100.00%
<b>2019-20</b>	1141057	851983	404102	303938	2701080
	42.2%	31.5%	15.0%	11.3%	100.00%
<b>CAGR %</b>	-1.05	-0.88	5.34	-4.08	-1.17

Source: All India Handloom Census, 1987-88, 1995-96, 2009-10, 2019-20.

### ***Weaver Household by Average Production***

Table 1. 4 presents the data on distribution of weaver household by average production of cloth per day in India (in meters) during 1987-88 to 2009-10. It has been observed that the proportion of weaver households who produced > 5 meter & and < 1 meter cloth per day was found to be higher as compared to that of other weaver households during the entire study period. Across period the proportion of weaver households who produced > 5 meter cloth per day was found to be higher during 1987-88. While the proportion of weaver households who produced < 1 meter cloth per day was found to be significant during 1995-96 & 2009-10. The CAGR was found to be negative in all level of average production during the study period.

**Table 1.4**

**Distribution of Weaver Household by Average Production of Cloth per Day in India (in meters)**

Year	< 1 meter	1-2 meters	2-3 meters	3-5 meters	> 5 meters	All Households
<b>1987-88</b>	46567	10990	4401	10301	117258	189517
	24.57%	5.80%	2.32%	5.44%	61.87%	100.00%
<b>1995-96</b>	63723	12273	11978	14481	38539	140994
	45.20%	8.70%	8.50%	10.27%	27.33%	100.00%
<b>2009-10</b>	39281	5875	1746	1827	28782	77511
	50.68%	7.58%	2.25%	2.36%	37.13%	100.00%
<b>2019-20</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>CAGR %</b>	-0.81	-2.94	-4.31	-7.91	-6.47	-4.17

Source: Various Reports of All India Handloom Census, Government of India, Delhi

**CONCLUSION**

India exports handloom products to more than 20 countries in the world. Some of the top importers are the US, UK, Spain, Australia, Italy, Germany. Hence South Africa, Netherlands and UAE. US is the biggest importer of handloom products from India. Still there is a need to create awareness about handloom products in general public. A national awareness and publicity campaign may be initiated by the Government of India and State Governments for familiarizing people about the importance of handloom products. The government should give focus and institutions like banks, Cooperative Banks, NABARD, Handloom Development Corporations, Weaver's Cooperatives, PWCS, technology providers, private corporate and traders.

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