

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRIES IN CHHATTISGARH

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Abstract

Handloom industry plays an important role in the development of the rural economical scenario of Chhattisgarh. It is one of the largest economic activities providing direct employment to larger number of persons engaged in weaving activities. The study is descriptive in nature in which method of observation and survey has been adopted. The study is conducted to know the concentration of handloom industries in Northern, Southern and Central Regions of Chhattisgarh with reference to the number of weaving co-operative societies operated, number of active looms used and number of weavers employed. The study focussed on the most and least handloom production units of Chhattisgarh. The study finds that Central Region of Chhattisgarh consists of maximum handloom units. The study also explores that the increase in number of weaving co-operatives and active looms results in increased number of weavers which, later on increase in production of handloom products. Finally, it reveals that among all districts, Janjgir-Champa acquires maximum handloom production and their kosa/Tussar fabrics have made a mark in the domestic as well as the international market.

Keyword: Handloom, Weaving Co-operative Societies, Weavers

Introduction

Chhattisgarh is located in central part of India. Chhattisgarh is a state of rich heritage of Handlooms. The Handloom Industry in Chhattisgarh has potential to provide large scale rural livelihoods with minimum infrastructure cost. Chhattisgarh state was constituted by the division of Madhya Pradesh on 1st November - 2000.

Chhattisgarh is located in the heart of India, and shares its borders with six states of the country: Uttar Pradesh to the north, Jharkhand to the north-east, Orissa to the east, Madhya Pradesh to the west and north-west, Maharashtra to the south-west and Andhra Pradesh to the south-east.



Figure 1. Location of Chhattisgarh

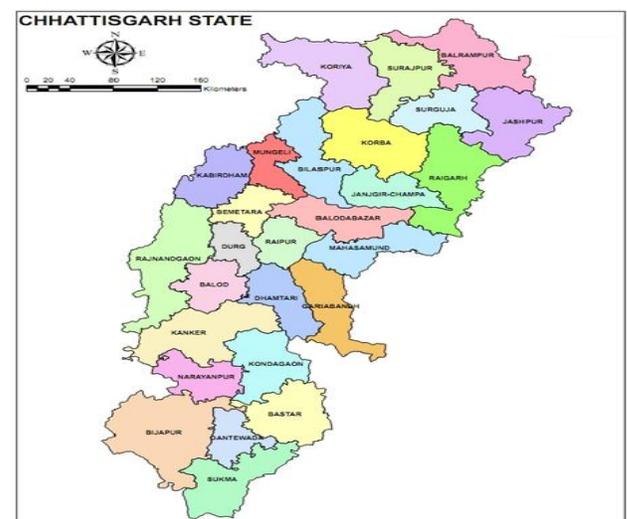


Figure 2. Regions of Chhattisgarh

Handloom industries are established in various states of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh state consists of 27 districts and it is divided into three regions – Northern region (07 districts), Southern region (07 districts) & Central region (13 districts).

The districts that are part of Northern Region are: Korea, Surguja, Jashpur, Raigarh, Korba, Balampur & Surajpur. Except Korea & Surajpur, all regions constitute the handloom industry while Raigarh is most famous for producing Tussar cloth.

The districts in Southern Region are Kanker, Bastar, Dantewada, Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Bijapur & Sukma. Handloom work is done in Kanker, Dantewada & Bastar. Jagdalpur in Bastar is particularly famous for producing natural colour dyeing cloth.

The districts that fall in the Central Region of Chhattisgarh are: Raipur, Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa, Kabirdham, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Dhamtari, Gariabandh, Mahasamund, Mungeli, Baloda Bazar, Bemetara & Balod. Except Bemetara & Balod, all regions constitute handloom industries which employ a large work force. Handloom industries in Janjgir-Champa have maximum production and are much popular in national and international level.

District Raipur, Mahasamund, Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, Durg, Kawardha, Bilaspur and Korba are famous for cotton and furnishing products in the state. Janjgir Champa, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Northern part of Raipur are famous for kosa/tussar production in the state. District Bastar and Surguja are famous for the traditional hand woven cotton products. Tussar fabric is famous for its unique traditional design and color pattern all over in the world. Chhattisgarh is known all over the world for its special structure and design. Bilaspur, Raigarh, Champa are known for Kosa silk or tussar fabric.

Ten handloom clusters Mungjhar (Gariyaband), Katgi (Baloda bazar), Chhuikhadan (Rajnandgaon), Bajawand (Bastar), Champa, Chandrapur (Janjgir-Champa), Saldih, Bhanwarapur (Mahasamund), Lofandi (Bilaspur), Raigarh are already sanctioned in state.

The Government of Chhattisgarh is implementing various Central and State Developmental Schemes to uplift the weavers in the state. Assistant for Modernization of Handlooms, New Weaving Training, Cons-

truction of Common Facility Centre, Anshpunji Loan, Dhanveshthan, Revolving Fund Scheme, Lt. Bisahudas Mahant Puraskar Yojana, Deendayal Sarwashreshtha Hathkargha Bunkar Puraskar Yojana, Kabir Puraskar Yojana, Market Survey and Exhibition Scheme, Research and Development Scheme, Welfare Scheme like Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, are different schemes being implemented by Directorate of Rural Industry (Handloom Sector) in Chattisgarh.

Materials & Methodology

Selection of area - The area is selected on the basis of concentration of various handloom units present in Chhattisgarh. The study is conducted in various districts where there is possibility of handloom production.

Data Collection - For the proposed study, observation and survey conducted in various districts of Chhattisgarh for the purpose of collecting data.

Along with this, discussions are made with Directorate of Rural Industries and District Handloom Office for obtaining the needed information.

Results & Discussion

Table 1. Status of Handloom Profile in Northern Chhattisgarh

District	Total no. of Societies	Total Working Looms	Employment
Surguja	21 (30.43%)	783 (25.38%)	2349 (25.61%)
Jashpur	04 (5.79%)	120 (3.88%)	240 (2.61%)
Raigarh	36 (52.17%)	2000 (64.82%)	5900 (64.32%)
Korba	08 (11.5%)	177 (5.73%)	668 (7.28%)
Korea	00 (0%)	05 (0.16%)	15 (0.16%)
Total	69	3085	9172

In Table 1, Surguja, Jashpur, Raigarh and Korba constitute major handloom units in Northern Chhattisgarh. The table shows that Raigarh consists of maximum number of weaving co-operative societies and maximum number of active looms, thus employing maximum number of workers also while Jashpur is least developed as handloom unit in Northern Region of Chhattisgarh.

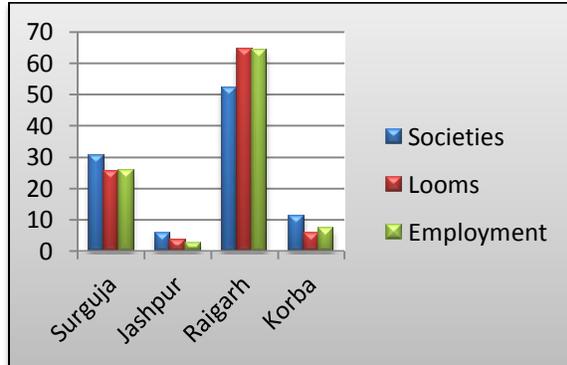


Figure 3. Graph showing percentage of weaving co-operative societies, looms and employment in Northern Chhattisgarh

Figure 3 shows that around 64% workers are engaged in handloom activities in Raigarh, which also acquires maximum percentage of weaving co-operative societies and active looms in Northern Region.

Table 2. Status of Handloom Profile in Southern Chhattisgarh

District	Total no. of Societies	Total Working Looms	Employment
Kanker	03 (7.89%)	420 (18.22%)	1260 (18.22%)
Jagdalpur	25 (65.78%)	1384 (60.04%)	4152 (60.04%)
Dantewada	06 (15.78%)	336 (14.57%)	1008 (14.57%)
Narayanpur	01 (2.63%)	40 (1.73%)	120 (1.73%)
Bijapur	03 (7.89%)	125 (5.42%)	375 (5.42%)
Total	38	2305	6915

Table 2 shows that Kanker, Jagdalpur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Bijapur are having maximum concentration of handloom units in Southern Region of Chhattisgarh.

Among all these, Jagdalpur appears as large employment provider in Southern Region of Chhattisgarh, with maximum number of weaving co-operative societies and active looms while Bijapur is very much less involved in handloom activities with least number of weaving co-operative societies and active looms.

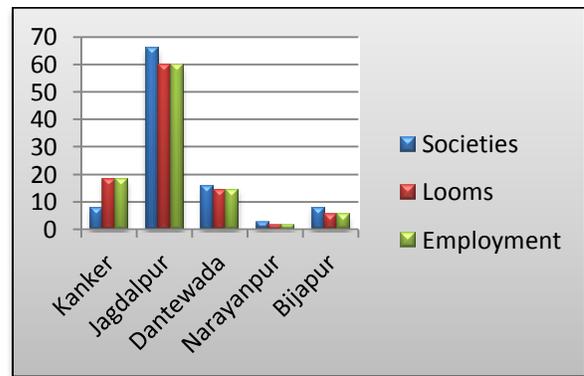


Figure 4. Graph showing percentage of weaving co-operative societies, looms and employment in Southern Chhattisgarh

Figure 4 shows that amongst all active looms in Northern Region of Chhattisgarh; around 60% active looms are available in Jagdalpur. Here the percentages of active looms are same as percentage of workers employed in handloom industries.

Table 3. Status of Handloom Profile in Central Chhattisgarh

District	Total no. of Societies	Total Working Looms	Employment
Raipur	33 (16.6%)	2202 (18.38%)	6606 (18.38%)
Bilaspur	13 (6.56%)	730 (6.09%)	2190 (6.09%)

District	Total no. of Societies	Total Working Looms	Employment
Janjgir-Champa	67 (33.83%)	4133 (34.50%)	12399 (34.50%)
Kabirdham	03 (1.51%)	22 (0.18%)	66 (0.18%)
Rajnandgaon	34 (17.17%)	2088 (17.43%)	6264 (17.43%)
Durg	32 (16.16%)	1983 (16.55%)	5949 (16.55%)
Dhamtari	03 (1.51%)	70 (0.58%)	210 (0.58%)
Mahasamund	13 (6.56%)	749 (6.25%)	2247 (6.25%)
Total	198	11977	35931

Table 3 represents Raipur, Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa, Kabirdham, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Dhamtari and Mahasamund as major handloom industries in Central Region of Chhattisgarh. Janjgir-Champa employ overall largest number of workers while Kabirdham is less involved in handloom production.

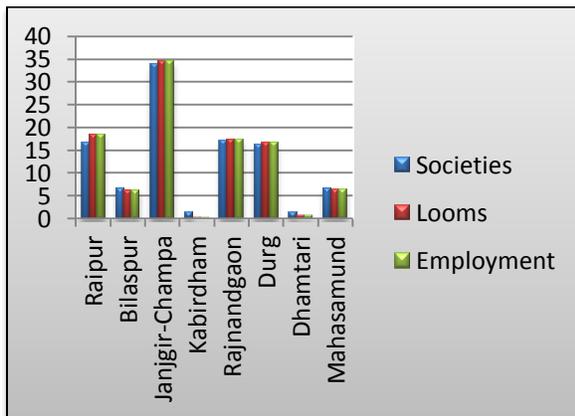


Figure 5. Graph showing percentage of weaving co-operative societies, looms and employment in Central Chhattisgarh

Figure 5 shows that around 34% workers, of all workers in Central Region of Chhattisgarh, employed in handloom industries of Janjgir-Champa. Janjgir-Champa gains maximum profit from handloom

(tussar cloth) production in overall Chhattisgarh. Here also, the percentage of active looms and percentage of workers employed are same.

Table 4. Comparison of Handloom units in various regions of Chhattisgarh

Regions	Total no. of Societies	Total Working Looms	Employment
Northern	69 (23%)	3085 (18%)	9172 (18%)
Southern	38 (12%)	2305 (13%)	6915 (13%)
Central	198 (65%)	11977 (69%)	35931 (69%)
Total	305	17367	52018

Table 4 compares Northern, Central & Southern Region with reference to the number of weaving co-operative societies operated, number of active looms used and number of weavers employed. It is observed that Central region of Chhattisgarh with maximum districts shows maximum concentration of handloom industries as it acquires maximum number of weaving co-operative societies, active looms and employed workers while Southern Region of Chhattisgarh are less developed as handloom units with less number of weaving co-operative societies and active looms, thus there few people involved in handloom activities.

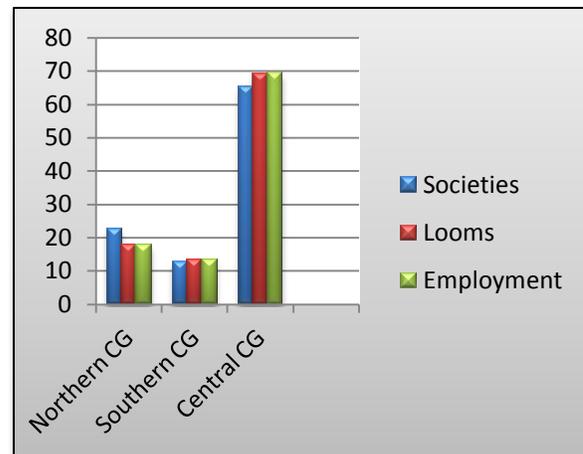


Figure 6. Graph showing maximum concentration of handloom units in Central Chhattisgarh

Figure 6 depicts that out of all weaving co-operative societies, maximum 65% weaving co-operative societies are available in Central Region of Chhattisgarh while Northern Region acquires only 23% weaving co-operative societies. Southern Region is supported by only 12% weaving co-operative societies.

Percentages of total number of working looms are same as percentage of employment provided by handloom industries in various regions of Chhattisgarh. Amongst all regions, Central Region of Chhattisgarh consists of 69% working looms and thus, maximum numbers of workers are employed there. Northern Region consists of only 18% active looms while Southern Region consists of least 13% active looms and thus, there less percentage of workers is getting employment through handloom activities.

Presently, there are 305 weaving co-operative societies operated in Chhattisgarh while 52018 weavers are working in 17367 active looms. Every year annual production of handloom cloth is worth about Rs. 114 crores while tussar cloth worth Rs. 80 crores is exported every year to different foreign countries.

Conclusion

From the above data, we can conclude that the state comprising maximum number of weaving co-operative societies and maximum number of looms involved maximum number of weavers also. Central Region of Chhattisgarh has maximum handloom production with maximum number of districts, weaving co-operative societies, active looms and employed workers. In Chhattisgarh, Janjgir-Champa acquires first position in handloom production while Durg and Raigarh acquire second and third position. Kawardha is least developed as handloom unit and thus, less workers are engaged in weaving activities. Around 24% weavers in overall Chhattisgarh are employed in Janjgir-Champa. Chhattisgarh gain maximum profit from tussar/kosa cloth produced in Janjgir-Champa.

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