



Regional inequalities in handloom industry (A case study of YSR Kadapa District)

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Abstract: Generation of employment opportunities in full time as well as part time by the hand loom industry in cuddapah .Janata Dhoti provides more employment in fulltime and part time when comparative remain products like Janata sarees, shirtings, Lungies, Resham in West Zone. After dhoti product Resham product provides more employment opportunities in Full time as well as part time, but average employment is high in Resham when comparative Janata dhoti, total average is employment accounted for 1.245.

Key words: cottage Industry, employment, weaving

Introduction

Handloom industry is the largest cottage Industry in India .it provides direct and indirect employment to over 13 million weavers. this sector also contributes nearly 23% of the total cloths produced the strength of the sector is its innovation and dynamism in relating itself to the changing market needs and requirements Indian textiles industry, including spinning weaving, fabric processing and garment making units account for about one fifth of India's total industrial output in 1994-95 and about 7% of GDP share of the handloom sub sector in fabric output is around 35%.

Handloom Industry in retrospect:

The history of handloom industry in India could be traced back to the hoary past it dates back to the epic times and is reported to have been in a highly developed stage even then in Vedas and puranas there are innumerable references to the exquisite qualities and wide range of fabrics worn by the Gods, kings and people at large Gods were said to have been very much fascinated by the

exotic designs and textures of fabrics worn by women of the earth and there are stories of such Gods falling in love with mortal ladies by their dress

There was solid evidence that man was practicing the art of weaving in the mid-5th Millennium BC and the evidence indicates that at that time weaver had been practicing it long enough to have grown fairly sophisticated in this technique. In the 18th century he took the first major step towards turning the weaving art into an industry in the modern sense of the term there is evidence of the existence of loom as early as 4400BC. A loom pictured on a potter dish found in a woman's tomb at Algari.

Early History:

India's hand-weaving industry has vast inherent potentialities and it had a glorious past. No other country in the world had preserved and upheld this very ancient hoary craft in such pure form or with such traditions left behind as India does now. Weaving has become an integral part of the lives of large sections



of our people and an important part of our economy through the centuries.

The cotton handloom industry is as old as the Indus valley civilization from first century BC to the 18th century A.D Indian cotton textiles were regarded as a wonder of the world and were eagerly covered by nobles and kings in Europe, Africa and other far off lands. The weaver with variegated designs and colour combinations was able to meet not only the simple demand of the village woman but was in a position at the same time to satisfy the fastidious requirements of the princess in the palace. The prince as well as the peasant had to look upon the weaver for his clothing requirements.

The marvelously woven tissues and sumptuously inter wrought apparel, of ancient India were not only famous in this country but also found their way into many countries A little more than 2000 years ago, cotton was practically unknown to the civilized nations of the west. Thus Europe was in primitive darkness, when India was in comparative light. The Indian handloom products were the craze of fashionable woman all over the world.

Objective of the Paper:

To study the regional variations in the development of handloom industry of Cuddapah district and to examine the reasons and to give suggestions.

Description of the problem:

Just by observation, one can easily find out that the performance of handloom industry is different in different regions in the Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh. In order to study the inter regional and intra-regional disparities of the industry the district is divided into two major parts east and west. Again these two regions are divided into urban east, rural east, urban west and rural west. The division of urban and rural was already decided by the Assistant Director of handlooms, Cuddapah on the basis of concentration of handlooms. Eastern part includes Madhavaram, Pullapet, Upparapalli, Kondamachupalli etc. Western part of the district includes Proddatur, Jammalamadugu etc. Handloom industry is well developed in the eastern region of the district, and it is underdeveloped in the western region of the district. Traditional coarse varieties are woven in the western region, where as sophisticated 120 counts with zari varieties are woven in eastern region of the district. Socio-economic conditions of the weavers are well off where superior varieties are produced and vice versa. In order to make comparative study primary data was collected from 215 households and different aspects of regional imbalances are highlighted in the paper



Table - 1: Product wise distribution of looms

Area	Looms producing						Total looms
	Zari sarees	Ord. sarees	dhoty	resham	shirting	lungis	
Total west	5 (2.92)	27 (15.79)	60 (35.09)	44 (25.73)	28 (16.37)	07 (4.10)	171 (100)
Total east	115 (100.0)	-	-	-	-	-	115 (100)
Grand total	120 (41.96)	27 (9.44)	60 (20.98)	44 (15.38)	28 (9.79)	07 (2.45)	286 (100)

Source: Field survey data

Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table1 shows the important varieties produced in Cuddapah distict. They are zari sarees, also known as Venkatagiri zari sarees, Janata sarees, Janata dhoties, Silk cloth (resham) shirting and lungis. Only coarse varieties are produced in western Cuddapah, whereas, superiod Venkatagiri zari sarees are produced in eastern Cuddapah.

Table – 2: organizational distribution-ownership of looms

Area	Total number of looms	Looms working for			
		Master weaver	Co-operatives	independent	cooperation
Total west	171 (100)	48 (28.07)	86 (50.29)	9 (5.26)	28 (16.37)
east	115 (100)	47 (40.87)	24 (20.87)	44 (28.26)	-
Total	286 (100)	142 (49.65)	72 (25.18)	53 (19.58)	28 (5.59)

Source: field survey data: Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table 2 explains about the organizational distribution of looms. Of the 286 looms 142 looms or 49.5 percent are working for master weaver, 72 looms or 25.18 percent for co-operatives, 53 looms or 20 percent are independent weavers. The rest 28 or 6 percent are working for corporation. Role of the master weavers is more significant with



41percent In the east. While the co-operatives are more active in west. Weavers working for corporation is prevalent only in the west.

Table – 3: Caste composition of weaver households

Area	Dudekula	Padma sale	Thogata	Devanga	Muslims	SC	Total households
West	4 (3.20)	40 (32.0)	61 (48.8)	14 (11.2)	5 (4.0)	1 (0.8)	125 (100)
East	-	90 (100)	-	-	-	-	90 (100)
Total	4 (1.86)	130 (60.47)	61 (28.37)	14 (6.51)	5 (2.23)	1 (0.46)	215 (100)

Source: field survey data: Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table 3 explains caste composition of weavers working in the handloom industry. All the 90 households in the east belong to padmasale. In the west other communities viz., dudekula thogata devanga, muslims and SCs are involved in addition to padmasale. Thogata community dominates the western region of the district.

Table 4 - Educational status of total population of weavers of Cuddapah district

Levels of education	West	East	Total
Illiterates	261 (43)	197 (48)	458 (45)
Literates	349 (57)	217 (52)	566 (55)
Total	610 (100)	414 (100)	1024 (100)

Source: field survey data: Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table 4 throws light on the educational status of weaving households in the district. 43 percent in west and 48 per cent in east are illiterates, while 57 per cent in west and 52 per cent in east are literates.



Table – 5: Housing Conditions

Regions	No of house holds		Description of houses			Total number
	Own	Rented	Thatched	Semi permanent	Permanent	
West	81 (65.0)	44 (35.0)	101 (81.0)	10 (8.0)	14 (11.0)	125 (100)
East	83 (92.0)	7 (24.0)	29 (33.0)	49 (54.0)	12 (12.0)	90 (100)
Total	164 (76.0)	51 (24.0)	130 (61.0)	59 (27.0)	26 (12.0)	215 (100)

Source : field survey data: Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Housing is the best index to measure the socio- economic status of the weavers. Therefore information on housing conditions was collected and presented in table 5 .this explains about the housing conditions of handloom weavers in Cuddapah district.92 per cent of the households in the east and 65 per cent in the west have own houses .35 per cent in the west and 24 per cent in the east live in rented houses. Majority of the weavers in west live in thatched houses, where as in east majority live in semi-permanent and permanent houses.

Table – 6: Monthly Earnings of the Weaving Families

Area	Income levels total no					holds
	Below 250	251-500	501-750	751-1000	Above 1000	
West	5 (4.0)	48 (38.0)	46 (37.0)	14 (11.0)	12 (10.0)	125 (100)
East	-	21 (23.0)	28 (31)	25 (28)	16 (18)	90 (100)
Total	5 (2.3)	69 (32.1)	74 (34.4)	39 (18.1)	28 (13.0)	215 (100)



Table – 6(A): Monthly Earnings of the Weaving Families

Area	Total of houses	Average income per month	CV income	SD
West	76834	543	46.41	252
East	78728	875	29.45	258
Total	146563	682	38.70	

Source : field survey data: Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Data pertaining to monthly earnings of the weaving families was depicted in table 6 the average income per month is highest in eastern region with rs.875; while it is lowest in the west with Rs.543 high value of CV in the west tells us that the variations in monthly earnings of the weavers in western Cuddapah is more with 46.41 and it is less in eastern Cuddapah with 29.45 from the table it can be concluded that the economic position of the weaver in eastern region is better off than his counterpart in the East .

Table – 7: Yearly earnings of the weaving families

Areas	Income levels(Rs) total no						Average of house income per year	income	P.C.I	S.D	C.V
	Below 3000	3001-6000	6001-9000	9001-12000	Above 12000	Holds 12000					
West	5 (4.0)	48 (38.0)	46 (37.0)	14 (11.0)	12 (10.0)	125 (100)	814010	6512	1334	3022	46.41
East	-	21 (23.0)	28 (31.0)	25 (28.0)	16 (18.0)	90 (100)	944740	10497	2282	3092	29.45
Total	5 (2.3)	69 (32.1)	74 (34.4)	39 (18.1)	28 (13.0)	215 (100)	1758750	8180	1718	3166	38.70

Source : field survey data

Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Yearly earnings shown in table 7 also explains that per capita income is more in east with Rs.2282, than in the west with Rs.1334 higher value of CV in west also shows that income inequalities are more in west than in the east .



Table 8 Sources of income of the weaving households

Areas	Annual income total no. of						No .of holds	Avera ge house Per house hold	Avera ge looms Per loom	No.of income in the family	Per capita income
	Person s income weavi ng	Agri cul ture	Other busine ss	Any other							
West	814010 (85.0)	600	23320 (2.0)	11780 (13.0)	954730 (100)	125	171	7638	4760	610	1565.13
East	944740 (96.0)	6760 (1.0)	29300 (3.0)	-	98080 (100)	90	115	10898	8215	414	2369.08
Total	1758750 (91.0)	7360 (0.38)	51620 (3.0)	11780 (5.0)	1935530 (5.0)	215	286	9002	6149	1024	1890.17

Source : field survey data

Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table – 9: Details of weavers attending to other works besides weaving

Are as	No. of hou se holds	House holds doing only weavi ng	House holds attendi ng other works	Agri- cul ture	Details of other works weavers are attending							
					Coo ly	Ma s on ry	La b ou r	Em p loy ee	Bu si ne ss	Wa rpin g	Tai lo rin g	othe rs
Wes t	125	81 (65)	44 (35)	3 (7)	17 (39)	7 (16)	1 (2.0)	5 (11)	4 (9)	1 (2)	3 (7)	3 (7)
Eas t	90	84 (93)	6 (7)	3 (50)	-	-	-	-	-	2 (33.33)	-	1 (16.67)
Tot al	215	165 (77)	50 (23)	6 (12)	17 (34)	7 (14)	1 (2)	5 (10)	4 (8)	3 (6)	3 (6)	4 (8)

Source : field survey data

Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table 9 throws light on the details of weavers attending to other works besides weaving. In addition to weaving, weavers in the west depend on agriculture, working as coolies, masonry, labour, employees, business, warping, tailoring etc. to get their livelihood.



Table – 10: Details of Poverty Among Households (Per Month)

(Poverty line = Rs.1320, 1989-90)

Areas of Cuddapah dist.	Number below poverty line	Number above poverty line	Total
West	43 (34)	82 (66)	125 (100)
East	12 (13)	78 (87)	90 (100)
Total	55 (26.0)	160 (74.0)	215 (100)

Source : field survey data

Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Poverty details are presented in table 10 number below poverty line is more in west with 34 per cent and 13 per cent in east.

Table – 11: Expenditure details of the households (per month)

Regions	Total	Total expenditure	Total members of the family	Per catpita expenditure	Per capita income
west	954730	942967	610	1546	1565
East	980800	803730	414	1629	2369
Total	1935530	1746697	1024	1579	1890

Source : field survey data

The per capita expenditure is relatively more in east with 1629 than in west rs.1546, and the co-relation between per capita income and per capita expenditure is positive.

Table – 12: Particulars of Savings

Regions	No .of households savings	No .of households not savings	Total house holds	Total savings	Average savings
West	27	98	125	4746	176
East	41	49	90	20819	508
Total	68	147	215	25565	376

Source : field survey data



Saving details are presented in table 12, which explains that average savings are more in east with Rs.508, than in west with Rs.176

Table – 13: Details of loan borrowed by the weaving households

Regions	No .of house holds	No borrowd loan	No without loan	Total loan	No of looms	Average per loom	Average per house hold	S.D
West	125	72 (58)	53 (42)	149500	171	874	1196	175
East	90	77 (86)	13 (14)	266900	115	2321	2965	84.2
Total	215	149	66	416400	286	1456	1936	125.5

Source : field survey data

Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table 13 explains the amount of loan borrowed by the weaving households. The amount of loan borrowed is more in east with Rs.2965 than in west with Rs.1196. The higher amount of loan borrowed by east shows the credit worthiness of the eastern weavers, the average rate of interest paid by the weavers is 24 per cent, with 20 per cent in west and 28 per cent in east, which was explained in table 15.

Table – 14: Details of interest paid by the households

Regions	No of house holds	Total amount of loan	Average loan per households	Amount of loan repaid during 1988	Amount of loan outstanding	Average amount of loan outstanding	Total no of house holds borrowd loan	Average rate of interest
West	125	149500	1196	6200	143300	1146	72	20.0
East	90	266900	2966	28250	238650	2652	77	28.0
Total	215	416400	1937	34450	381950	1777	149	24.0

Source : field survey data

Figures in brackets are the percentage to their respective totals.

Table – 15: Assets distribution of the households

Regions	No of house holds	Total value of assets	average	S.D	C.V
West	125	211000	16880	12602	74.66
East	90	2203400	24482	10078	41.16
Total	215	4313400	20540	12207	59.43

Source : field survey data



Possession of assets is the best index of socio-economic status. According to the information presented in table 16 the average value of assets is rs.20,540 for the whole district. And it is Rs16,880 in the west and Rs.24,482 for the east. The higher value of CV (74.66) in west shows that the economic disparities are in west that in east.

Table -16: Details of employment generation in the handloom industry

Regions	No of looms	Full time	Part time	Average employment		Grand total employed	Average employed per loom
				Full time	Part time		
West	171	204	213	1.72	1.25	417	2.62
East	115	239	154	2.08	1.34	393	2.53
Total	286	533	367	1.86	1.28	810	2.55

Table 16 shows the employment generated in the district. Average full time employment generated is more in the east with 2.08 per loom and it is 1.72 in the west. Product wise generation of employment is presented in table 17. Which shows that the products produced in west are giving less employment with 1.245 per loom compare to 1.36 per loom in east.

Table -17: Generation of employment according to products

Region	Products	No of looms	Total employment		Average employment		Total average
			Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	
WEST	Janata dhoti	60	102	71	1.70	1.18	1.245
	Janata sarees	27	44	34	1.63	1.26	
	Shirtings	28	47	35	1.68	1.25	
	Lungis	7	11	9	1.57	1.29	
	Resham	44	82	59	1.86	1.34	
EAST	20 laka pzs	48	95	65	1.98	1.35	1.360
	30 lakapzs	3	6	4	2.00	1.33	
	40 lakapzs	23	47	31	2.04	1.35	
	50 lakapzs	02	04	03	2.00	1.50	
	90 lakapzs	34	72	45	2.12	1.32	
	120 lakapzs	9	24	12	2.67	1.33	
	150 lakapzs	1	3	-	3.00	-	

The table reveals that generation of employment opportunities in full time as well as part time by the hand loom industry in cuddapah .Janata Dhoti provides more employment in fulltime

and part time when comparative remain products like Janata sarees, shirtings, Lungies, Resham in West Zone. After dhoti product Resham product provides more employment opportunities in Full



time as well as part time, but average employment is high in Resham when comparative Janata dhoti, total average is employment accounted for 1.245

20laka pzs are provide more employment opportunities when comparative remain after that 90 laka pzs are provide more employment opportunities followed by the 40laka pzs ,120 laka pzs, 40 laka pzs, 120 laka pzs, 30 laka pzs and 150laka pzs, in East Zone . Total employment opportunities accounted for an average 1.360.

Overall Problems consisting of

1. Rising input costs
2. Credit problems
3. Marketing bottlenecks
4. Lack of modernization
5. Migration to outer fields
6. Poor infrastructure
7. Inadequate research and development

Remedies consisting of

1. Raw material availability
2. Adequate credit supply
3. Efficient marketing management
4. Export promotion
5. Promotion of handloom more
6. Training and skill development
7. Encouragement to private participation
8. Research and development
9. Co-opertisation of weavers.

Conclusions:

From the analysis made above it is very clear that eastern zone of Cuddapah

district is better off compared to western zone of the district. Early history shows that 50 yrs ago coarse varieties are produced both in eastern and western parts of the district. But subsequently the entrepreneurs in the east played an active role in introducing superior varieties of handloom products, basically with the influence of Venkatagiri where the industry is well off. As a result of this constant changes brought in the patterns of weaving with the changing demand for the handloom products, the socio-economic status of the handloom weavers in eastern Cuddapah is better off than their counterparts in western zone. Therefore it is inevitable for the west to change their production strategies from producing inferior varieties to superior varieties. It will solve the problem of handloom power loom competition. All the products produced in west can easily be produced on power looms. Govt., while continuing to provide the subsidy of handloom products, where ever necessary and evolve strategies to upgrade the skills of the weavers in the western zone. So that the existing regional disparities in the handloom industry will come to an end and the economic position of the weaver in western zone will improve significantly.

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