

**LIVELIHOOD CONDITIONS OF HANDLOOM WORKERS IN
THENZAWL CLUSTER, MIZORAM**

(A Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of Master
of Philosophy in Economics)

By

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Vanlalruata has worked under my supervision and guidance on a research topic entitled “**Livelihood Conditions of Handloom Workers in Thenzawl Cluster, Mizoram**” for the degree of Master of Philosophy in Economics, Mizoram University, Aizawl. The work embodies a record of original investigations and no part of it has been submitted for any other degree in other universities.

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DECLARATION

I, Vanlalruata, hereby declare that the subject matter of this dissertation is the record of work done by me, that the content of this dissertation did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me or to do the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and the dissertation has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other university/institute.

This dissertation is being submitted to the Mizoram University for the degree of Master of Philosophy in Economics.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BLCs	Block Level Clusters
BMI	Body Mass Index
BPL	Below Poverty
BPL	Below Poverty Line
BTAD	Bodoland Territorial Areas District
CDP	Cluster Development Programme
CCFCs	Common Facility Centre's
CHCDS	Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme
CHDS	Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme
DHDS	Diversified Handloom Development Scheme
EU	European Union
GSDP	Gross State Domestic Product
GSVA	Gross State Value Added
HEPP	Handloom Export Promotion Programme
HIS	Health Insurance Scheme
HWCWS	Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
ICHS	Institutional Credit for Handloom Sector
ICICI	Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
IHDS	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme
ISDS	Integrated Skill Development Scheme
JBYP	Janashree Bima Yojana
LIC	Life Insurance Corporation
MAHCO	Mizoram Apex Handloom and Handicrafts Cooperative Society
MAMCO	Mizoram Agricultural Marketing Corporation
MEPS	Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
MGBBY	Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana
MIP	Mizoram Intodelhna Project
NCAER	National Council for Applied Economic Research
NER	North East Region
NERTPS	North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme
NGOs	Non Government Organisations
NHDC	National Handloom Development Corporation
NHDO	National Handloom Development Organisation
NLUP	New Land Use Policy
OBCs	Other Backward Classes
PHE	Public Health Engineering Department

PSUs	Public Sector Undertakings
PWCs	Primary Weaver Cooperatives
RGSSBY	Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthiya Bima Yojana
RRR	Revival Reforms and Restructuring Package
RSBY	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
SCs	Scheduled Castes
SHGs	Self Help Groups
STs	Scheduled Tribes
USA	United States of America
WCC	Weavers Credit Card
YSS	Yarn Supply Scheme
ZENICS	Zoram Electronics Development Corporation
ZIDCO	Zoram Industrial Development Corporation
ZOHANDCO	Mizoram Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation
ZOHANDFED	Federation of Mizoram Handloom and Handicrafts

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

Industrialization is one of the most important factors for economic development of a country. Handloom industry is a cottage industry, largely rural based. Promotion and development of this sector is one of the best industrialization to maintain a balanced regional economic development especially in a developing and populous country like India. Handloom sector is the largest non-farm employment provider and the second largest employment provider next to agriculture providing direct and indirect, as well as full time and part time employment in both rural and urban areas. Since it is an ancient practice of making cloth by hand in India and is environmental friendly, it form a part of India's cultural heritage. 'Handloom weaving in India is an inherited art where weavers learn to weave from their ancestors and thus this craft is practised widely in rural areas and is providing employment to a wide section of rural artisans'. (Usharani et. al., 2014)

'The handloom weaving sector plays an important role in the economic development of the rural areas. It contributes significantly by generating more employment opportunities and providing bread to the rural poor'. (Venkateswaran, 2014) Handloom industry, to a large extent, is cottage and household based and an important provider of non-farm employment particularly in rural areas, it thus plays one of

the most eminent and crucial role in a country's economy, 'providing employment to 12 million families and constitutes about 13 per cent of the total textile production of India' (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, 2009-10).

The handloom sector also provides indirect employment. Since it is a highly labour intensive, specialization, concentration, and diversification of the work like winding, warping, weaving, etc. in this sector has been recommended gradually. Thus, it provides a subsidiary means of livelihood for the agriculturists and families engaged in other sector. Yarn and silk, being the major raw material of handloom industry, are the products of cotton mill industry and silk producing industry, which depends on the production and cultivation of cotton and rearing of silkworms. Therefore, handloom industry is the fruit of agriculture, sericulture and manufacturing industries.

The increasing problems of source of livelihood in rural areas in the country, particularly North Eastern areas has been resulted by a number of reasons and causes like increasing the population pressure on land, etc. and needs effective measures to curb it. The most prominent reason has been increasing rural poverty. Handloom in North East India has absorbed a large number of unemployed providing sources of livelihood. 'The micro handlooms enterprises in India are largely home based units and play an important role in the Indian economy. In spite of the challenges faced, the handloom sector has shown great resilience in surviving and sustaining over decades. The north-eastern states have the largest concentration of handlooms in

the country with more than 65 per cent of the total looms'.
(Ramswamy, 2013)

Production in the handloom sector recorded a figure of 7202 million sq. meters in the year 1995-96, these production was increased 7116 million sq. meter in the year 2013- 14. During the year 2013-14, the highest fund goes to Tamil Nadu state from the central assistance accounting 28.59 per cent of the share of total central assistance followed by Uttar Pradesh (26.59%), Andhra Pradesh (21.22%), Gujarat (9.42%), Haryana (5.15%), West Bengal (4.75%) and Kerala (4.29%). Exports of Handlooms during 2009-10 were of the order of US\$ 265 Million and increased to 365 million in 2010-11, recording a growth of 38 per cent (Handloom Census of 2009-2010, NCAER). In terms of production, the Handloom sector contributes 15 per cent of the cloth production in the country and 95 per cent of the world's hand woven fabrics comes from India.

Handloom sector especially in a developing country with large population, not simply provide employment and contribute a large margin to the textile production, reduce the increasing population pressure, it also provide employment to the most vulnerable and weaker sections empowering them to promote their own status in the society. '...this sector employs the most vulnerable sections of the society viz, women and people belonging to SC/ST communities. Out of the number of persons employed in the sector, 60.40 per cent are women and 35 per cent belong to the SC/ST communities' (Ministry of Textiles, Annual Report, 2009-10, Government of India).

The chief characteristics of handloom sector like extreme diversification in nature, both in terms of product and relations of production, requirement of less capital, decentralized, both rural and urban centre, and non necessity of electricity, home based and large numbers of workers, etc. are some of the rigid strength of the handloom industry. Moreover, these strength and advantage of being less capital intensive, minimal use of power, eco-friendly, adaptability to market requirements, imagination, creativity, uniqueness, flexibility of production, and inspiration of the workers allow accessibility of innovation in this sector. It is a natural productive asset and tradition at cottage level, which has sustained and grown by transfer of skill from one generation to another.

1.2. Concepts and Definitions

This paper has frequently used terms like handloom, cloth, warp beam or warp roll, yarn, etc. The terms most frequently used in this paper are define as under

Handloom: Oxford Living Dictionaries defines ‘handloom’ as ‘a manually operated loom’ whereas it defines ‘loom’ as ‘an apparatus for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread’. Handloom in our analysis will have no distinct meaning and used as ‘a loom powered by hand or human’.

Cloth: Cambridge English Dictionary defines ‘cloth’ as ‘a type of woven material’. Cloth in this paper means that woven material which is the product of either handloom or powerloom.

Warp beam/roll: The warp roll consists of the lengthwise yarns and located at the back of the loom & it releases the warp yarn to the weaving area of the loom as needed.

Livelihood: Cambridge Dictionary defines ‘livelihood’ as ‘the way someone earns the money’. Livelihood in our study means a source of living or simply living. For instance, as in our analysis, ‘source of livelihood’ means ‘source of living through which one acquire his or her necessities’.

Yarn: Yarn in our study means a thread used for making cloth. It is the major raw material of handloom and powerloom.

Weaver: ‘Weaver’ in this paper refers to the ‘handloom worker’ who manually operates a handloom.

1.3. Handloom Elements, Technique and Process

A handloom is a simple wooden machine used for weaving powered by hand. It is an arranged combination of different wooden and iron elements. The elements are:

1. Wood Frame
2. Seat for weaver
3. Warp beam-let off
4. Warp threads
5. Platen or Back beam
6. Rods – used to make a shed
7. Heddle frame - Healed frame

8. Heddle – Healed- the eye
9. Shuttle / Flying shuttle with weft yarn
10. Shed
11. Complete fabrics
12. Breast beam
13. Batten with reed comb
14. Treadles
15. Cloth roll

Handloom operation involves pre and post weaving activities to which some people often concentrated, specialised and regularly engaged in that ‘pre’ or ‘post’ weaving activity like winding, warping, etc. Therefore, the step or process involves in handloom activity are briefly discussed as:

Winding the threads: The first and foremost step is winding the threads in a bobbin. Yarn of different colours collected according to the necessities of such type or design of cloth to be produced are winded with the help of winding machine either manually or automatic machines. Since it’s awkward to wind a warp with fine threads directly from a skein, winding the threads is necessary.

Warping: It is the step of preparing the vertical threads by using a warping frame- a frame with sticks on the side that is usually a meter wide. This process allows determining the width and the length of the fabric, and in the case of striped and plaid designs, where the stripes will fall.

Preparation of the loom: This step involves the arrangement of thread so that each and every single thread is well placed on the loom. Once warping is done, and then come the setting of all the threads on the loom.

Heddling: The heddle is a very important part of the loom. From an outside perspective, it's like a bar that holds many needles in a row. Basically it is something that has holes where to pass each and every single warp thread through. Each heddle bar is attached to a specific pedal of the loom, so when push down on the pedal, the heddle related with it gets lifted up to separate it from the other vertical threads.

Denting: It is the process of putting every single warp thread through the reed. The reed resembles something like a comb, and is used to push the horizontal threads securely in place. Vertical thread was put through the hole of the reed. A small hook is usually used to pull the thread through the hole.

Preparing the design: The weavers use makeshift heddles that 'pick up' the design. These makeshift heddles are sticks that are tied to the vertical threads with string. While weaving, in addition to pushing down on the pedal to lift the heddle, the weavers also lean forward and lift the makeshift heddles with their hands.

Preparing the spool: It involves a steps in which the weavers construct a wheel out of wood or very often even use a bicycle wheel in order to

spin thread from a big cone into a little spool that is then used for the horizontal weft threads.

Weaving: Once everything is ready, the spool is placed into what is called a “shuttle”- a little boat-like wooden device- which is then passed back and forth through the weave to create the horizontal threads of the fabric.

Folding: As the weaver finished weaving a cloth, the finished cloths are rolled in a beam where the finished cloths are rolled.

The warp threads pass alternately through a heddle, and through a space between the heddles (the shed), so that raising the shaft raises half the threads (those passing through the heddles), and lowering the shaft lowers the same threads—the threads passing through the spaces between the heddles remain in place.

According to Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, ‘Weaving’ is a process of fabric production in which two distinct sets of yarns are interlaced at right angles to each other to form a fabric or cloth. The lengthwise yarns are called the warp yarn and the width wise yarns are called the weft yarn. The sequence of operations in Weaving is Yarn, Sizing, Warping, Drawing-in, Pirm Winding, Denting, Weaving, Grey Inspection and Folding.

1.4. History, Trends and Production of Handloom Sector in India

The Indian handloom was hollow out since the ancient times from the parts of Egypt. In fact, traditional handloom style has been one of the

oldest forms in India. The Indus Valley Civilization, Vedic literature, the Mauryan period, and the Moghul period has also witnessed the survival of Indian handloom right from the ancient times through British period in India till today. Indian handloom with vast diversified varieties of handloom from different states has collected a precious wealth of vast innovation which has lead to the emergence of India as the most richly cultured country.

In recent years, the handloom sector in India experienced a declining and deterioration resulting from the gradual shift of the economy to industrialisation. The introduction of powerloom has tackled the pride of handloom in terms of production that handloom sector contributes nearly 15 per cent of total cloth production in the country while the powerloom contributes 60 per cent of cloth production in the country (Ministry of Textiles, Annual Report 2017, Government of India). But, since the powerloom is hard to afford by poorer section and required larger investment, the handloom sector still occupy its position in the core of populous and backward Indian economy due to its large provision of employment especially to the most weaker and vulnerable sections of society.

Despite the comparison to powerloom, the cloth production by handloom sector (in million sq. meters) witnessed a steady growth in the total cloth production of the country since 2008 except for its declining production from 6949 (million sq. meters) in 2010-11 to 6900 (million sq. meters) in 2011-12 while the sector experienced its

highest share (percentage) in the country's total cloth production in the year 2015-16 as shown in Table-1.1.

Table-1.1: Cloth Production by Handloom Sector (in million sq. Meters)

Year	Total Cloth Production	Cloth Production by Handloom Sector	Percentage share of Handloom in the Total Cloth Production
2008-09	42121	6677	15.90
2009-10	45819	6806	14.90
2010-11	47083	6949	14.60
2011-12	46600	6900	14.80
2012-13	61949	6952	11.22
2013-14	46425	7104	15.30
2014-15	47438	7203	15.18
2015-16	46334	7638	15.31

Source: Ministry of Textiles, Annual Report, 2016-17, Government of India

Prior to North East region of India, the Handloom Census of India, 2010 reported that the average share of handloom income to the total household income in India is 30.2 per cent, but in NE region except Meghalaya (37 per cent), all the States show below the national average. Since the economic contribution is less in NE region, the proportion of indebtedness (1.6 per cent) is also low compared to States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Karnataka. Majority of the handlooms in NE region could contribute less economically to the family income (19 per cent only) while it is 58 per cent in other States of India (Ministry of Textiles, Handloom Census of India, 2010, Government of India). While handloom workers in the NE region work an average of 140 days, other States in India work for 245 days in a year.

1.5. Handloom Profile of Mizoram

Weaving is an integral part of 'Mizo' culture and the women learn how to weave at an early age. They work at the loom in their leisure time and during the lean agricultural months. Like in other north eastern states the women use the loin-loom to weave cloth. In 2009-10, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has conducted the Third All India Handloom Census. The survey left out many weavers; as a matter of fact the state government identified 1000 such weavers and issued Weavers' Photo Identity Document (ID).

'Socially disadvantaged groups, viz., Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are generally believed to have low participation in labour force and may be having high unemployment rate. Contrary to this general belief, the socially disadvantaged groups are found to be better off when compared with the General Category on both the parameters of Labour Force Participation Rate as well unemployment rate. At all India level, the usual principal status rates of participation in the Labour Force for the SC, ST, and OBC groups are 55.9 percent, 59.7 per cent, and 53.3 per cent as against 48.5 per cent for the General Category'.(Annual Employment & Unemployment Survey Report, 2011-12).

While the number of handloom weaver households decline in India, the region recorded increase of number of weaver households (Handloom Census, 2010). The women weavers of Mizoram perform multiple roles of being handloom producers and trading of handloom

products. As there are no cloth mills, or large number of powerloom in the region, weavers put their hard labour by working manually. In the process of earning income, they preserve our culture and heritage by laboriously producing traditional clothes.

1.6. Significance and Scope of the Study

‘Interestingly, in comparison to the clusters in other parts of India, the margin of profit earned by the sample enterprises in Thenzawl cluster was quite high. The average margin of profit for the enterprises was about 25 per cent and the traders were getting a high margin of about 22 per cent’ (Ramswamy, 2013).

Mizoram being an underdeveloped state due to the absence of a significant industrial development, agriculture by Shifting Cultivation which is the traditional occupation remains the mainstay of the masses especially in rural and town areas. Lalrinawma (2005) in his study observed that married women have substantially contributed in the family income in Mizoram. The sole occupation in rural areas denied much female participation due to the fact that the sole occupation requires a better and stronger physical workforce. In the mean time, the land produce a decreasing returns over time, there no longer remains desirable for the farmer to support their growing requirements in living. Adoption of optimum use of land as well as in the most efficient productive way has become a serious consideration for the policy makers.

Several Government notable schemes which are meant for abolition of these substantial returns of the land like New Land Use Policy (NLUP) and Mizoram Intodelhna Project (MIP) were implemented. Handloom weaving has also been one of the activities under NLUP with the State Industries Department as Nodal Department. As a result, a large number of households adopted handloom as their main occupation in the state. It is further observed that majority of Thenzawl households (more than 60 per cent) were solely dependent on handloom. According to the reports of Thenzawl handloom survey (Government of Mizoram), this growing scenario due to Government's several scheme is still growing during the last decade showing increasing returns of the sector, increasing employment opportunities and better livelihood condition of weaving households. In the contrast of these situations, an in-depth analysis is required in order to ascertain the scale of productions, status of problems, determinant of satisfaction, livelihood conditions, etc related to handloom sector, which may, in future, serve as a source of information for the general public and public policies related to handloom sector.

Scope of the Study

In the present study, the livelihood conditions, socioeconomic status, employment availability of the handloom weavers, problems and their family enquiring their sources of livelihood, level of education, financial literacy, and other opportunities like insurance schemes, registration in Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, etc of Thenzawl has been examined.

The Union Government, under National Handloom Development Programme had set up a Comprehensive Handlooms Development Scheme (CHDS) for setting up handloom cluster. Plan has been made under the same scheme to set up Common Facility Centre in Thenzawl in the state of Mizoram to increase progress in the handloom sector and provide more benefits to the weavers in the State.

1.7. Study Area: Thenzawl

Thenzawl is a census town in Serchhip district in the Indian state of Mizoram. It is one of the most beautiful towns in Mizoram. It is an important centre for the traditional Mizo handloom industry. Since, it is the only town in Mizoram where one can find such a large concentration of weavers producing rich and colourful varieties of Mizo traditional textiles, Thenzawl is the most important hub of traditional Mizo handloom industry and the largest in the state in terms of production, number of looms, number of weavers and number of households engaged to employment related to handloom sector, nearly 60 per cent (Ramswamy et.al, 2013). Its extreme climate is one important convenient reason matching the art of handloom and the practice of handloom as a source of livelihood primarily or alternatively while the process of weaving is often disrupted by climate and weather in some region in Mizoram. Accordingly, Thenzawl, also known as 'Handloom City of Mizoram' is selected for the study areas.

Thenzawl is the second largest town in Serchhip District and the middlemost town in the State. Geographically, it is located 23° 19'

0.01" N latitudes and 92° 45' 0.00" E longitudes, 93 kilometres away from the capital of the state (Aizawl) to the south on the 'Aizawl – Thenzawl – Lunglei' highway, and 32.1 kilometres away from the District Capital (Serchhip) to the west. It has an average elevation of 783 metres (2568 feet). Thenzawl was initially a dense forest covered with thick vegetation and wildlife. A village was established in 1963 by Bengkhuaia Sailo. Due to the uprising of Mizo National Front in March, 1966, Thenzawl became one of the villages where people from different small villages were grouped. Migration to Thenzawl from different parts of the state like Dampui, Changpui, etc. due to state government's different initiatives to their settlement and other factor is an ever-growing scenario for over a decade.

Demographically, Thenzawl is a town for over 1440 house with total population 7259, of which 3617 are males while 3642 are females. Sex ratio is 1007 against state average of 967. Literacy rate is 98.15 per cent higher than state average of 91.33 per cent. 98.55 per cent of the population in Thenzawl are Christian while Hindu constitutes 0.84 per cent, 0.48 per cent by Muslim (Primary Census Abstract, District Census Handbook: Serchhip District, 2011).

Thenzawl is also a home for 821 handloom units with 1500 weavers and looms. According to the report of Thenzawl Handloom Survey done by the Office of Extension Officer (Handloom), Department of Industries, Government of Mizoram in 2006, the number of looms in the area is recorded 330 with 375 weavers while it

has increased to 476 looms (including idle looms) and 453 weavers in 2009. This has further increased to 1543 looms and 1597 weavers in 2014.

1.8. Objectives of the Study

The study attempted to examine the livelihood conditions, its related basic amenities in living, problems, etc. of handloom workers in Thenzawl cluster keeping in mind the following objectives:

1. To examine the socio-economic condition of handloom weavers in Mizoram.
2. To examine the extent of employment opportunity from handloom industry and alternative livelihood opportunities for weavers.
3. Social significance of the handloom sector and capability of weaving as a livelihood source.
4. Demographic and social profile of handloom workers in Thenzawl.

1.9. Research Questions

1. Can improvement in the techniques and innovation be considered as one of the determinants of the price of handloom products?
2. To what extent is the handloom industry a viable source of generating income for sustainable livelihood?

1.10. Methodology

Data source: The study mainly relies on primary data based on structured questionnaire and interview method as well as secondary data wherever necessary. Using the reporting 821 units of handlooms in the Handloom Survey conducted by the Government of Mizoram as the sample frame, the primary data were collected from a sample size of 110 respondents by conducting sample survey in the study area, i.e. Thenzawl. Since each unit have different number of looms as well as different number of weavers, the sample size is determined depending on the number of handlooms in the units. By employing stratified random sampling method to different handloom units first, then again simple random sampling is employed to weavers selected from different units. Interaction sessions and Group discussions are used to rank and making decision whenever and wherever necessary. The secondary data were collected from published sources like Annual Reports, data of Handloom Census of India, various issued of Economics Survey of India, Mizoram Economic Survey, Thenzawl Handloom Survey Report, various unpublished official records; books and journals; individual research paper (published or unpublished), e-resources, etc.

Data analyzing tools: The data collected from various sources are analyzed using various statistical measures like mean, median, average, percentage, appropriate statistical tools and graphical presentation wherever suitable.

1.11. Scheme of Chapterization

The study is organized in five chapters as follows:

Chapter-1 : Introduction- This chapter gives a brief introduction to the importance of handloom sector, handloom technique, steps and process, history, growth and production of Indian handloom sector and profile of handloom sector in Mizoram. It contains the objectives, research questions, methodology, significance and scope of study, etc.

Chapter-2 : Review of Literature- The second chapter presents review of literature related to handloom and its related problems, socioeconomic status of the workers, measures and suggestions, etc.

Chapter-3 : Handloom Industry in India and Mizoram- This chapter presents overview of (using available secondary data) productivity, number of looms, Central and State Government's schemes, achievements, etc. of handloom sector in India and Mizoram

Chapter-4 : Livelihood Conditions of Handloom Workers in Thenzawl Cluster, Mizoram- This chapter present analysis of primary data collected and illustrated it using tables and figures.

Chapter-5 : Summary of findings and conclusions- Chapter five summarized the main findings of the study and concludes with recommendations to reduce or solve the problems of handloom workers, and promotion of handloom sector which seem prevalent in Thenzawl.

Bibliography

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

Review of literatures is an important part of empirical research involving thorough examination of published or unpublished works related to the present study. This chapter has examined previous studies related to problems, socioeconomic conditions, position in the society, their education, employment availability, marketing, sustainability of handloom sector as an income source, etc. viewed from different angles.

2.2. Review of Literatures

Niranjana et.al (2001) studied Growth and Prospects of the Handloom Industry in India. The objective of the study is to generate reliable field data of Handloom Industry, which can become the basis for future interventions. It focused on different handloom regions of Andhra Pradesh, with a view to bringing out specificities in weaving and to identify particular problems. To put issues in a larger perspective, comparative accounts of handloom weaving in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were drawn on. The study found that Handloom weaving is a significant industry that employs lakhs of people in the country. According to the study the most urgent task today was one of devising appropriate institutional and structural supports that could help the industry realize its potential. The market

for handlooms also required extensive consideration and well thought out strategies.

Akter et.al (2005) has conducted an empirical study over the pre- dominant factors identifying predominant factors that are moving the wheels of this industry slowly. They observed that weavers do not get quality raw materials at right time and right price, government supports to handloom Industry are not sufficient and effective, promotion of handloom products is not effective, weavers association is not efficient, production of handloom products is sufficient to meet demand, weavers are suffering from inadequate contemporary technology, weavers face scarcity of working capital, existing distribution channel of handloom products is not efficient, handloom industry faces intense competition from mill and power-loom.

Vinayan et.al (2008) examines the problems and prospects of the handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh using primary data by survey method and found that the growth performance of cooperatives determines the growth of other institutions – the master weavers, middle men and independent weavers. Well-performing cooperatives are the best safeguard for the handloom sector, as they protect the weaver and also provide a counterbalance to the master weavers. The study observed that competition from power-looms is an obvious threat, but could be countered if the sector produces high value, unique (brand value) products or medium value products which can be marketed locally or abroad, as distinct from power-loom products. The analysis also observed that the economic condition of the weaver is the

other point of crisis. The average income of a weaver is rarely more than Rs. 50 per day. Though handloom weaving has much strength and can be competitive under specific conditions, the seeds of crisis are inherent in the sector.

Hazarika (2012) has made an attempt to analyze the impact of Globalisation on the Handloom Industry of Assam. The study was based on secondary data collected for the State of Assam from various Government Organisations and reports. The study found that the Handloom Industry of Assam was not completely untouched by the phenomena of Globalisation. The economic gain from increase in demand for Assamese handiwork in the world market was negated by the deteriorating and never-changing working conditions in Assam. Their work was being recognized and loved by the world, but they seem to be unaware and unaffected by it. Besides, the study also found the negative effects of Globalisation in relation of child labour, gender inequality and poor working condition, which may sink the Handloom industry. To cope with the above problems, the study suggested establishment of adequate efforts both at the local and national level to uplift the Handloom industry in Assam.

Kasisomayajula (2012) has made a Socio-economic analysis of handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh for the periods of ten years beginning with 1998-99 and ending with 2007-08, on the basis of primary and secondary data. The study has the following set of objectives: To trace the industry structure, the production trends and marketing system in the Indian Handloom and Textile Industry. To

evaluate the overall Financial Performance of Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers 'Cooperative Society Ltd. To appraise the performance of Region-wise Cotton Weavers' Cooperative Societies to assess performance of select district-wise Cotton Weavers Cooperative Societies, To Assess the Socio-Economic Profile of the traditional handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh. The study found that average incomes of handloom households from all sources have doubled in nominal terms since 1995-96. However, in real terms, the average earnings have come down despite various schemes implemented by the Government. This is mainly attributed to an annual inflation of 6.5 percent per year since 1995-96. The study, thus, suggested policy changes both at the Centre and the State levels. Besides, the study also felt the need for scaling up and intensifying both the Central and State Governments, interventions in the handloom sector.

Singh et.al (2012) has made an analytical study of handloom industry in India. The study observed that the handloom industry has developed a lot over a period of time. It was spread throughout the country. However, since most of the handloom units were run either as sole-proprietors or on partnership basis, the owners lack the needed professional outlook in the overall handling of their units. According to the study, many of the weavers were not even aware of the modern techniques of marketing such as product development brand promotion, packing, advertising market, surveys and demand forecasts. Thus, he was of the view that to maximize their sales volume, it has become very important to know how one can get maximum

result/response by using different marketing strategies. For increasing the export, to provide satisfaction to customers there is need of the study of marketing practices.

Bortamuly et.al (2013) has carried out a study focus on the determinants of occupational choice of workers in the handloom industry in Assam and to examine the variables that influence the occupational choice of the workers using primary data collected from nine handloom concentrated districts in Assam and found that annual income, education, access to modern technology, and family size are the significant variables that help in transforming the reelers to owners. Similarly, annual income, education, and access to formal credit are the important variables that help in transforming the reelers to weavers. Access to modern technology appears as the most important factor in the occupational shift from weavers to handloom owners.

Devi (2013) studied the problems and scope of handloom sector in north- eastern region of India for economic development of the people analysing the demographic, employment, income and organisational set-up of handloom sectors in the region and compare the components with other States or national average using the Handloom Census data of 2010. She observed that women in North East region dominate the weaving occupation but in other States like Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, West Bengal, Haryana and Karnataka, men play a major role in weaving while women are involved in pre-weaving. However, women weavers in this region, with changing market structure and competition, they face

conflict and compromise. If appropriate action is not taken, then there is a fear of replacing the handloom products by imported materials. Weaving being a traditional feminine occupation, many women, be they educated or illiterate, got jobs in this sector. The study also found that a strong working organisation among the weavers was lacking to safeguard their security and fight their rights in the society, to enable them to get government schemes, health insurance, credit and market linkages. Contribution of income to household is low in this region, the weavers have to transform from domestic to commercial production for covering a wider range of market. Comparing weavers who are self employed, to weavers working under merchant and weavers working in cooperative societies it was found that the weavers working under the merchants get lower wages while the self employed get more wages. However, due to marketing problems, weavers sometimes prefer to work under merchant weaver despite getting low wages.

Ghosh et.al (2013) has made an attempt to analyze the cost-benefit of handloom weavers operating in Kumarkhali Upazila of Kushtia District in Bangladesh based on primary data. The study analyzed the profit of handloom weaving industries and found that average gross return, average gross margin, average net profit, and per-loom profit of handloom weaving industry are positive. Therefore, handloom industry in the study area is profitable. The average net profit gradually increased from small to large industries indicates that the profitability has increased due to increase in the size of unit and Handloom weaving activity is profitable and per-loom profit for small

scale and large scale units is higher than that for the medium scale units.

Kumudha (2013) has made an attempt to understand how far the consumers are aware about handloom products and identify the most powerful source of information which influences the consumers to buy handloom products. The study was extended to understand consumer buying behaviour of handloom products, customer satisfaction about handloom products. The study observed that very limited customers are aware about shalwai as a product item in handloom product mix. According to the findings of the study, sufficient promotion has to be given by Government to increase the awareness of handloom products to increase the customer awareness about the handloom products and in turn to make it as a sustainable Industry. The study also reveals that consumers are not very much aware about the handloom products.

Narzary (2013) has carried out a study on the challenges faced by the handloom industry in Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) of Assam to find out the major challenges faced by the handloom industry. The findings from the analysis revealed that the problems prevailed in the area were backward and poor welfare and livelihood of weavers including women, rising costs of raw materials, sparse credit coverage, marketing problems, poor institutional management, lack of information to weavers regarding various Government policies and schemes under implementation, infrastructure gaps, inadequate data base which adversely affect on the formulation of

policy, lack of monitoring and evaluation of schemes implemented and the low level of education among the weavers.

Pandey (2013) has made an attempt to carry out a project on the indigenous technique of weaving in silk industries to trace out the history of origin and evolution of weaving technology in the area of Eastern Uttar Pradesh including Varanasi in different periods including other historical dimensions of silk industry. An attempt was also made to study the changes that occurred in different period in weaving and dyeing technology and processing of silk materials. The study found that more than 5, 00,000 weavers lived in and around Varanasi, weaving silk saris and carpets for the domestic as well as international market. But since 1990s, these silk handloom weavers have seen their market vanish. There are many reasons for this decline: increasing competition from power loom weaving, changes in government protection policies, rising prices in raw silk and shifts in market demand. The impact of increasing competition in recent years on sari weavers has been dramatic. Workers' wages have halved since 1990s and it was estimated that half the weavers have shifted to other jobs such as rickshaw pulling or as labour in construction work. Since 1995 demand for silk has been shrinking and 60 per cent of handlooms are idle.

Using data from Third National Handloom Census, 2013, *Prem Sundar et.al (2013)*, reviewed and attempt to familiarize with the current status and livelihood problems of unorganized women handloom workers and also to propose the importance of social

protection and security. The analysis shows that major physiological problem for handloom women workers are menstruation. Weaving for more than 12 hours in a day, they underwent gynaecological problems too. Women, a major work force in handloom sector used to prefer weaving as their profession which they may think safe and secure though it is a back breaking and poverty alleviated profession. Centre for handloom information and policy on 28th April, 2006 in Hyderabad organized a state level workshop to discuss about gender and trade policy, it observed that women are excluded in the national foreign trade policy, value addition roles and also this negligence reduces their role to routine tasks and increases imbalance between men and women relationships. The reviewed of analysing Third Handloom Census, 2013 concluded that nearly 2.57 lakh handloom workers preferred alternative livelihood and it may be doubled or thrice in the future, unless it is protected and nursed by the government of India. This decline exhibits the social and economic insecurity in handloom weaving though the skill development programmes are initiated by the government of India. Even the wards of weavers are not interested to choose weaving as their profession because of its losing fame and prosperity.

Ramswamy (2013) on her study of marketing problems of micro artisan enterprises in Thenzawl handloom cluster, Mizoram, based on primary data collected through field research by administering a structured questionnaire. She recommended that the Thenzawl Handloom & Handicraft Association (an association of the weavers)

should be strengthened into a larger federation so as to increase their competitiveness in the local, national and international markets through appropriate linkages with the intermediaries. She also observed that the future prosperity of Thenzawl cluster depends on developing successful marketing strategies, through continual product innovation and market expansion and proactive cluster development interventions by both the central and the state government. Her study also observed that the specialised agencies such as Mizoram Apex Handloom & Handicraft Cooperative Society Ltd. (MAHCO), Mizoram Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd. (ZOHANDCO) and Federation of Mizoram Handloom & Handicrafts (ZOHANFED) are not playing any proactive role in providing the required support to the handloom enterprises located in Thenzawl cluster. The competitiveness of the cluster cannot be enhanced in the absence of concerted joint action of the facilitating agencies such as MAHCO, ZOHANDCO and ZOHANFED, Directorate of Industries (Handlooms & Handicrafts), Government of Mizoram and the entrepreneurs of the cluster.

Rao, et.al (2013) discussed the need for market assessment, problems, marketing strategy & marketing mix and suggestions for the development of handloom sector and its market in India. They found that lack of availability of market information, no reliable information available regarding the marketing of handloom products, lack of awareness about the product features and insufficient promotion and advertisement of handloom are the major problems in Indian Handloom sector. Merchandising and marketing have been recognized

as being central to the growth and development of handloom sector in India. They suggested that the marketing and export promotion scheme is needed to promote the marketing of handlooms in the country and to improve the levels of awareness among handloom weavers and the general public in the interest of overall development of the handloom sector. They concluded that reducing the prices; improve the quality of product, innovative design, etc. are needed to improve the satisfaction level of handloom customer. Government should help in opening more outlet, exhibition and trade fair, loans to setup a shop subsidized the products, relaxation on duties and taxes, improving the market strategy and finding overseas opportunities to make the handloom sector survive.

Devi (2014) analyze the socio-economic status of handloom workers in India mainly based on the results of the Handloom Census 2009-10 and puts forward some policy options for improving the welfare of the handloom workers. She observed that the health conditions of handloom workers are on moderate. The workers suffer from various work related diseases such as pain in different parts of the body (hand, neck, head and eye sore, legs etc.), anaemia, suffocation, rheumatic complaints due to long hours of working in a particular position. Most of the handloom workers get ill due to excessive hard work, lack of proper nutritious diet, lack of knowledge about health care etc. The housing of the handloom weavers also found improving as most households owned their own dwellings (90.9 %). The handloom sector or the non-farm sector has been slowly deteriorating

over the years and there has been a steady decline in the industry over the years. Handloom weavers are facing severe livelihood crisis because of adverse government policies, globalization and change in socio-economic condition. Suicides are on the rise. Ineffective implementation of the schemes, increased unfair competition from the power loom and mill sectors are responsible for the crisis.

Goswami et.al (2014) has studied strategy for sustainable development of handloom industry in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura with the objective to explore the problems of the handloom industry and further suggest a suitable strategy. The study found that the various problems faced by weavers were unaware about market trends, lack of innovative designs, looms were not upgraded, and yarn was not of required count, poor quality yarn. Most of the weavers were making low quality products and they had no market exposure. The distribution channel was also inadequate and thus came to the conclusion that supply of yarn and marketing continues to be a major constraint for handloom industry. From the study, Identification of new product, quality assurance system, strategy for sustainable development of handloom industry, promotion, and effective publicity were suggested.

Rao et.al (2014) has made an attempt to make an in-depth study into the life and misery of handloom households Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh. The objective of the study is to examine the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers working in the sample area. The study emphasises the issues covering gender, age composition,

social grouping and educational levels, annual income and per capita income of the respondents, organisational support for financial assistance of the selected weavers. It is evident from the study that weaving does not appear to be a preferred choice for the youth below the age group of 18 years. The percentage of respondents in the age group of 18-35 years is only 10.5 as against the national average of 49.1. The number of people entering weaving profession after they cross 18 years is also very low. Another startling revelation is that the number of people engaged in weaving after the age of 60 years is significant. Around 20 per cent of the sample weavers above the age of 60 years are still forced to continue in the occupation for making a living without retirement. From the chi-square results, it is clear that there is significant relationship between age group and weavers. The study reveals the fact that majority of the respondents prefer gold work and Government service as an occupation for their children. The income of the weaver households determines the standard of living and financial status. In the study area, all the weavers are dependent on weaving as their lone activity for their livelihood. Majority (77 per cent) of the respondents are earning wage below Rs. 50,000 per annum.

Shazli et.al (2014) has made an attempt to assess the female work participation in handloom industry of Mubarakpur town, Uttar Pradesh. The analysis of the study based on the socio-economic conditions, derived from primary data collected through questionnaire brings out the fact that textile female weavers of Mubarakpur town are very poor from economic point of view. These female weavers are

suffering mainly because the handicraft industry in Mubarakpur town has declined in the last few decades due to intra Muslim riots. The Results of the study showed that weaving was the major occupation of Mubarakpur town, as there was high concentration of handlooms. The major reasons which forced females to do work in handlooms are economic necessity, unemployment, poverty, low income, low literacy and education and large family size. A gradual decline of the handicraft industry in Mubarakpur town in the last few decades due to economic and political reasons has caused a setback in the condition of female weavers. Thus, the government should address the issues relating to the female work participation and chalk out an action plan for the improvement of poor female weavers.

Usharani et.al (2014) has studied the socio economic background, dietary pattern, life style and work pattern of the handloom weavers of Thiruvannamalai district, who form a sizable segment of the weaving community in the state of Tamil Nadu. The study aimed at assessing the nutritional status of the handloom weavers, identify the occupational health problems and to plan and implement functional food based approaches and nutrition education to overcome the health related problems. The findings of the study indicated that among the surveyed weavers majority were in the age group of 40-50 years, nearly 50 per cent had studied up to primary school, nuclear families were found to be 94 per cent and small family norms were found among 91 per cent of families. Majority of the families (56%) earned a monthly income of Rs. 3300-7300.

Anthropometric measurements indicated that both men and women had body weights in excess of 11.4 and 25 per cent respectively than Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR, 2010) values. Body Mass Index (BMI) values revealed that one third of the weavers were found to be normal whereas majority were in obese category of three types. The clinical symptoms like dental caries, short sight, sleep disturbance, improper digestion, joint pain and muscle pain were reported by a maximum of handloom weavers respectively. Blood haemoglobin levels revealed that 70 per cent of men had a higher prevalence of moderate anaemia. Mild anaemia was found among 14 per cent men and severe anaemia was found among 14 per cent of men. Only 2 per cent of men had normal levels. From the study it might be concluded that higher body weights, poor socio economic background and occupational health problems are strongly associated with increased risk of non-communicable diseases.

Venkateswaran (2014) has studied the dynamics of local-level trade in plant-based handloom product in Kallidaikurichi of Tirunelveli District based on both primary and secondary data sources recognizing that the handloom weaving sector plays an important role in the economic development of the rural areas. He analyzed the socio-economic profile handloom weavers in Kallidaikurichi of Tirunelveli District and revealed that the situation of the weavers was worrying due to illiteracy, financial constraints, health problems, and poor Government support. He concluded that the Handloom weavers in Tirunelveli, mainly those who have inherited this occupation, are in a

pitiable condition owing to the poor socio-economic conditions. The majority of them are wage weavers who earn minimal wages in spite of working for more than ten hours a day. It is interesting to note that the educational status among the weavers community was not discouraging. Almost sixty five per cent of the community belonged to Low income group, engaged with working under middlemen. The basic raw material required for the production of Handloom products was Handloom purchased largely from the local market but sometimes cooperative society or local dealers, on credit.

Boruah et.al (2015) has made a study on the analysis of the economics of weavers' cooperative societies in Assam based on a sample of 60 weavers' cooperative societies to find out the profile, production, marketing and financial management of weavers' cooperative societies with the objectives to analyze the business operation of selected handloom weaving units of Assam, and to suggest measures for the growth of handloom industry. The study reveals that central and state governments have evolved many schemes to uplift the economic condition by providing incentives in the form of grants and loans to impart training on new designs, modernization of looms etc. But handloom weaving units continue to be in the grip of problems. The study also observed that all the societies were under the coverage of Ministry of Textiles, and all the weavers are having financial literacy shown by the findings that all of the weavers are having savings bank account.

Das (2015) has studied aimed to address the reasons of losing importance by handloom sector by investigating the socio-economic conditions and problems of the weavers and analysing the overall nature, production method and structure of the regional weaving co-operative society. He found that the industry is dominated by the male workers with very low educational profile. Income is paltry and that too in an irregular way, waxing and waning with the number of product output. The poor financial condition of the weavers finds its mark on the dismal condition of the whole industry. The situation is far more aggravated by the rocketing expenditure costs, the cost of raw materials and lack of domestic market and demand.

Dodmani (2015) has carried out a study on a socio economic conditions of handloom weaving in Yadgir district of Karnataka with a focus on the problems faced by handloom weavers and their place in the society, he observed that majority of weavers come under the age between 31-40 years and 70 per cent of the weavers work for eight hours a day. The study also found that almost half of the weavers are very poor that 45 per cent of the weaver's monthly income is below Rs. 2500, and concluded that the Handloom weavers in Yadgir district, mainly those who have inherited this occupation, are in a pitiable condition owing to the poor socio-economic conditions. The majority of them are wage weavers who earn minimal wages in spite of working for more than ten hours a day. It is interesting to note that the educational status among the weavers community was not

discouraging. Almost sixty five per cent of the community belonged to Low income group, engaged with working under middlemen.

Kasat et.al (2015) has conducted a study on change management in handloom sector in order to observe the changes adopted in the handloom sector by various organizations, and understand the factors that make the employees to resist change. They observed that the key driver for the changes in the organization is due to technological development, competition, corporate evolution and globalization. It has also been observed that majority of the employees resist to the changes made in the organization due to inefficient skills required for the change. The study suggests training facilities to the weavers to improve their work performance and efficiency in the operation of changed loom equipments, techniques and technology.

Kaushik et.al (2015) studied the impact of various government welfare schemes on the weavers working in the handloom sector taking sample population of 106 weavers from Maheshwar city in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh based on certain purpose that how much impact government schemes made on the income level and livelihood of weaver. Cross-sectional descriptive research was adopted to determine the awareness of weavers against the various schemes like yarn supply scheme, integrated handlooms development scheme. The study concluded that almost one-fourth of weaver population sampled was not aware of central and state government schemes while around three-fourth of weavers and weaver-masters (72.6 percent) were found to be aware of central and state government schemes like Integrated

Handlooms Development Scheme, Mahatama Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Health Insurance Scheme, Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme and Yarn Supply Scheme. The study thus recommended that an immediate effort about awareness campaign from government of India in this area, so that satisfactory usage of these schemes to improve the livelihood and enhancement income of the weavers may take place.

Kumar (2015) studied and reviewed the handloom industry in India using secondary data like Handloom Census Reports and Annual Reports of the Ministry of Textile, Government of India. The analysis gives the conclusion that the handloom sector provides employment to 43.31 lakh persons. Production in the handloom sector recorded a figure of 7202 million sq. meters in the year 1995-96, this production was increased 7116 million sq. meters 2013-14. Exports of Handlooms during 2009-10 were of the order of US\$ 265 Million and increased to 365 million in 2010-11, recording a growth of 38 per cent. During 2011-12, exports of Handloom further increased to US\$ 554 million, recording a growth of 60 per cent. The biggest destination of India's Handlooms products is the USA followed by the European Union. In the year 2013-14, the highest fund goes to Tamil Nadu state from the central assistance accounting 28.59 per cent of the share of total central assistance followed by Uttar Pradesh (26.59%), Andhra Pradesh (21.22%), Gujarat (9.42%), Haryana (5.15%), West Bengal (4.75%) and Kerala (4.29%).

Malik et.al (2015) has carried out a study on selected handloom industry in Panipat and observed that various schemes as well as strategies are adopted for sustainable development of handloom industry. Promotional strategy is also been used as marketing mix which brings new innovations and product development of handloom industry. The study also found that handloom industry has developed substantially over a period of time. It is spread in all over the country. They recommended that to maximize sale volume it is very important to be aware of certain modern techniques of marketing such as brand promotion, packaging, advertising, survey and demand forecasts, and to have knowledge of certain competitive strategies which must be followed and implemented to increase export and which provides satisfaction to the customers.

Patra et.al (2015) has made an analysis of the profitability of handloom weavers in the Cuttack district of Odisha based on both the primary and secondary data. The main objectives of the study were to study the profitability position of the selected handloom products of Odisha, to make comparative study of profits between the selected handloom products of Odisha and to provide suggestion for improving the profitability of handloom weavers in Odisha. The Study found that the profitability of Odisha handloom products have a significant difference in their earning of profits. Though handloom sector provides employment opportunities to the poor and dominant people but the master weavers and the independent weavers have to invest in those handloom products which have more profitability to them. The study

made the following suggestions: promotion, availability, exhibitions, develop new designs, awareness, reduction of price, more customization of products, link it with brand India, improve the quality, customer friendly services, improve durability, etc.

Salim et.al (2015) has made an attempt to work out the crucial significance of ensuring the sustainability, various issues and challenges, and suggest suitable remedial strategies and policy options for the healthy growth of the handloom sector in Kerala based primarily on the secondary data, and also on primary data collected through interviews with the major stakeholders. They observed that the handloom sector in Kerala employs about 1.75 lakh of people directly and indirectly and this stands second to the coir sector in providing employment among the traditional industries of the state. Critical to the crisis in the handloom industry has been the rise in the prices of yarn and dyes. The fluctuating nature of prices of yarn imposed great hardship on handloom weavers. The trade liberalization initiated as part of economic reforms had made the problem bigger by allowing exports. The analysis also revealed that marketing of handloom products requires urgent attention. Handloom products must be branded and marketed to niche markets, to clients who appreciate the value of hand made products and are willing to pay for them. Sustainability of handloom sector can't be achieved by providing greater quantities at cheaper prices. They suggests stricter measures to control cost through adoption of advanced technologies, engagement of trained and skilled staff etc, specialized training needs to be given to

the handloom employees for the meaningful marketing of handloom products through cost-effective distribution channels, government encouragement to the government-owned enterprises to purchase handloom products.

Tanusree (2015) has made an attempt to understand the situation and various problems of the traditional handloom weavers of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh using data collected through in-depth interview, semi structured interview, case study and focused group discussion. The analysis of the study witnessed the exploitation of handloom industry by the introduction and increasing growth trends of 'Powerloom' resulted from the shift to industrialisation. From a sample of 50 weavers each in both handloom and powerloom industry, there's only 1.41 percent of handloom workers who have monthly income of more than Rs. 5500 while the same is 43 per cent for the powerloom weavers. The analysis of the study concluded that handloom weavers of Varanasi have lost their prestigious traditional industry. It has occurred due to the industrialization in all over India. The capitalist production, invention of powerloom, increasing price of yarn, low wages and labour problem are exploiting handloom industry and the weavers. With this declining trend in the handloom sector the problems of unemployment will aggravate, the study suggested that policy maker should realize the importance of handloom sector and allocate the required funds for the upliftment of handloom weavers to avoid the decline in handloom industry.

Roy et.al (2016) has an attempt to a study focused on the emergence of the Santipur Handloom Cluster and how it works, production process, an critically analysed the Status of Weavers and Income level and found that the condition of handloom industry is very bad and fall under tragic situation. Most of the people who live there are very poor. Mostly old age people and females are engaged in weaving. Though once weaving was their primary occupation, it failed to earn reasonable money for them, so they dropped weaving from their priority list. They have stuck to weaving only to conserve their tradition. People are not wholly dependent on weaving and many of them have turned to agriculture for a better living. Middlemen are one of the problems that local weavers face. They grab major portion of the profit and don't let the weavers get what they truly deserve. Government's Schemes are not executed properly and all of the money and the facilities not reached to the grass root people who are totally deprived.

Satyanarayana et.al (2016) has studied Operational Problems of Handloom Weavers in Andhra Pradesh State confined to handloom weavers of Nellore District with the objectives to examine the problems faced by handloom weavers and give suitable suggestions to improve the handloom industry based on primary data as well as secondary data. The main observations were problems related to finance, marketing, production, social and personal and health. The analysis revealed that 82 per cent of the respondents are facing financial problems while 94 per cent of the respondents are facing

marketing problems. 97 per cent of are facing production problems while 89 per cent of the respondents are facing social and personal problems. Another disappointing finding is that 100 per cent of the respondents are facing health problems. Based on their observations, they suggest measures for government like providing assistance to handloom weavers and handloom weavers' co-operative societies to strengthen the share capital, improving the management of societies and modernization of looms, enhancing marketing facilities, increasing the conducting of handloom fairs or exhibitions, providing looms at subsidised rate, Central and State Governments to provide raw material directly to the weavers, strengthening the handloom reservation act, establishment of counselling centres for empowering the weavers to eradicate suicide attitude and Government to provide free health insurance, health checkups, and education for children, training & capacity building, interest free loans for the weaving society.

Sreenivas et.al (2016) analyse the socio-economic condition of handloom weavers of Karimnagar District in Telangana based on primary data through structured questionnaire, personal interview, group discussion and observation methods. The objective of the study is to analyse the socio-economic condition of handloom weavers and to give a suitable suggestions to develop the handloom industry. From a sample of 200 weavers selected from the study area, it is found that handloom sector has been slowly deteriorating over the years and there has been a steady decline in the industry over years. Handloom weavers are facing severe livelihood crisis because of adverse

government policies, globalization and change in socio-economic condition. Suicides are on the rise. Ineffective implementation of the schemes, increased unfair competition from the power loom and mill sectors are responsible for the crisis. Handloom is unparalleled in its flexibility and versatility, permitting experimentation and encouraging innovations. However, the study revealed that concerted efforts are being made through the schemes and programme to enhance production, productivity, and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers.

Bajwa et.al (2017) carried out a study on Woven Assemblages - The Cultural identity of Mizo's, a study conducted with an aim to find the origin, types of raw materials, colours used and weaving technique employed by the weavers in making of different textile goods using sample consisted of 200 weavers who were all females as weaving is a female profession in Mizoram. The study found that no doubt the young Mizo's were shifting to other professions for survival in the present times but still, few of the weavers were playing a dominant role in keeping the art of weaving alive by teaching their children the weaving techniques so that traditional weaving practice which is a part of their culture will not become extinct.

Peters' et.al (2017) has conducted a study 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 focused on the most and

least handloom production units of Chhattisgarh. The study observed that Central Region of Chhattisgarh consists of maximum hand-loom 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, and 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.

2.3. Conclusion

Reviewing research papers and articles, from various sources of handloom related literature with different objectives, focus, sources of data, methodology, etc. gives different findings and picture of conditions of handloom sector and socioeconomic conditions of its workers, employment availability, marketing pattern of the product, quantity of productions, and related problems faced by different weavers, etc. in different region. It is a fact that the suggestions and problems, productivity, marketing and other issues found in the handloom sector in different region are somehow similar. However, socioeconomic condition of weavers, sustainability, problems and issues related to handloom sector is different in different region. All of these papers prove to be relevant and useful source of information to the present study.

Handloom Industry in India and Mizoram

3.1. Introduction

Textiles and its related trade occupied an important position in Indian economy even before the British period. Indian textiles had attained high degree of excellence, popular and earned appreciation from foreign travellers from time to time. However with the advent of the British and competition from low cost English product, Indian crafts particularly handloom lost its supremacy and began to fall. During India fight for its Independence, handloom was promoted by freedom fighters as a means of self sufficiency and survival of traditional crafts and artistry. In independent India, textile sector is one of the largest employers in the country; handloom weaving within with it enjoys pre-eminent status. Various successive governments encouraged and promoted the industry using various policy measures and now handloom sector become one of the important economic activities that provides direct and indirect employment and become sources of livelihood to lakhs of Indian households. The Handloom Sector is one of the largest unorganized economic activities after agriculture and constitutes an integral part of the rural and semi rural livelihood. Handloom weaving constitutes one of the richest and most vibrant aspects of the Indian cultural heritage. The sector has an advantage of being less capital intensive, minimal use of power, eco-friendly, and flexibility of small production, openness to innovations and adaptability to market requirements.

“The Handloom Sector is one of the largest unorganized economic activities after agriculture and constitutes an integral part of the rural and semi-rural livelihood” (Planning Commission, 2014). Being labour intensive, handloom sector has been one of the important job providers. With low level of capital involves with simple techniques, flexibility in its production, immense design possibilities makes handloom weaving suitable for vulnerable and weaker sections of society to earn their source of living. With the right policy measures and initiatives, the sector has high potential which could positively affect development of rural India. In this chapter, we will highlight the overall development of handloom, its production status, employment condition and government initiatives to develop handloom in India, north-east and Mizoram.

Handloom, although it is largely household base, it is also undertaken outside the homes of weavers. Cooperative societies and other small commercial establishments undertaking handloom business along with households were includes in handloom sector. Although continuous and relentless efforts and initiatives were taken by the central and state governments to sustain and increase its production, productivity, employment generation, promotion of market, improvement of health of the workers, etc, there are some problems that hinder development of handloom sector, which includes inadequate infrastructure, poor marketing support, problems in input supply, etc.

3.2. Handloom in India: Number of looms and workers

As per the 3rd Handloom Census conducted in 2009-10, more than 43 lakh people are engaged in handloom weaving and allied activities which shows decline from 65 lakh people as per Second Handloom Census of 1995-96. The number of handloom workers as given by Third Handloom Census is presented in Table-3.1

Table-3.1: No. of Looms and Persons engaged in Weaving and Allied Activities

Number of looms	23.77 lakh 20.66 lakh looms - rural areas 3.11 lakh looms - urban areas
Number of looms in NER	15.5 lakh (65% of total looms)
Number of persons engaged in weaving and allied activities	43.31 lakh 36.33 lakh workers - rural areas 6.98 lakh workers - urban areas.
Number of adult weavers and allied workers	38.47 lakh
Man days worked per weaver per annum	234 days

Source: Ministry of Textiles, "Note on Handloom Sector" page 2

According to the Census, out of the 38.47 lakh adult weavers and allied workers in the country, 77 per cent are women and 23 per cent male weavers showing that the industry is dominated by female workers. Also another fascinating fact shown by the Census figure is that 10 per cent of the weavers are from scheduled castes (SCs), 18 per cent of the weavers are from scheduled tribes (STs), 45 per cent are from other backward classes (OBCs) and 27 per cent are from other castes. This figure shows that handloom sector now, is more popular among these SCs, STs and OBCs. The comparison of rural and urban based on number of looms and number of persons engaged also shows

that handloom is rural business out that of 23.77 lakh looms available, only 3.11 lakh are in urban area whereas the remaining are in rural areas. Also the number of persons engaged in weaving and allied activities in rural areas (36.33 lakh) is also much more than that of urban (6.98 lakh).

The state-wise number of handloom weavers and allied workers and number of handlooms is also given at Table-3.2. It shows that Assam has the highest number of looms as well as highest number of person engaged in handloom weaving, followed by West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur. Region wise distribution of handloom workers also shows that out of the total 38.47 lakh adult handloom workers, 19.69 lakhs are from north-east region while the other state make up the remaining 18.77 lakhs.

Also, as per Census 2009, out of 43.32 lakh handloom and ancillary workers, 24.72 lakh are engaged full time and 13.75 lakh on part time basis.

Table-3.2: State-wise number of handloom weavers and allied workers and no. of handlooms as per 3rd handloom census of 2009-10

Sl. no	State	No. of Handloom Weavers and Allied Workers	No. of Handloom
1	Andhra Pradesh	355838	124714
2	Arunachal	33041	27286
3	Assam	1643453	1111577
4	Bihar	43392	14973
5	Chattisgarh	8191	2471
6	Delhi	2738	2560
7	Goa	0	0
8	Gujarat	11009	3900
9	Haryana	7967	4876
10	Himachal Pradesh	13458	5578

11	Jammu & Kashmir	33209	7301
12	Jharkhand	21160	2128
13	Karnataka	89256	40488
14	Kerala	14679	13097
15	Madhya Pradesh	14761	3604
16	Maharashtra	3418	4511
17	Manipur	218753	190634
18	Mizoram	43528	24136
19	Meghalaya	13612	8967
20	Nagaland	66490	47688
21	Orissa	114106	43652
22	Pondicherry	2803	1771
23	Punjab	2636	261
24	Rajasthan	31958	5403
25	Sikkim	568	345
26	Tamil Nadu	352321	154509
27	Tripura	137177	139011
28	Uttar Pradesh	257783	80295
29	Uttaranchal	15468	3766
30	West Bengal	779103	307829
Total		43,31,876	23,77,331

Source: Ministry of Textiles, "Note on Handloom Sector" page 25

3.3. Handloom in India: Production and Exports

There are a number of fabrics produced by various handloom units in India. According to 3rd Handloom Census, 2009-2010, the major fabrics produced on household looms are: the 'gamcha' (thin cotton towel), the 'mekhla-chaddar', which is a traditional Assamese dress, sari, sarong, shawls, towels, bedsheets, lungi, etc. Except for the product 'Sari', North Eastern states dominate the production of these handloom products in India in terms of distribution of households by types of fabric product. A distribution of households for All in India and North-East by types of fabric product is presented in Table-3.3.

Table-3.3: Distribution of households for All in India and North-East by types of fabric product

States	Gamchas/angavastram	Mekhla-chaddar	Sarong	Sari	Shawls	Towels/napkin	Bedsheets	Lungi	Dhoti
North-eastern states	57.96	57.87	21.3	0	9.01	8.3	6.17	5.94	2.2
Other than North-eastern states	5.56	0.2	0.05	41	0.89	1.42	4.42	1.98	1.7

Source: Ministry of Textiles, Handloom Census, 2010, NCAER

It is interesting to note that North-Eastern states, with 61 per cent handloom households, have households weaving more than one kind of fabric. Also, since the North-East comprises a group of states, it was observed that Assam produces more of mekhla-chaddar and gamcha, while some of the other states produce sarongs, bedsheets, skirt material, etc. However, commercial productions of these fabrics are lesser in north-east than in other states. The main handloom fabrics that are commercially produced are sari, gamchas/angavastrams and bedsheets.

In terms of quantity of production, as per Annual Report (2016-17) of Ministry of Textiles, total cloth production of handloom sector has moderately increased for the last eight years and its share in total cloth production has shown little improvement. In 2008-09 total cloth production by handloom sector was 6677 million square metres which increased to 6952 million square metres in 2012-13 and to 7638 million square metres in 2015-16. Table-3.4 presents cloth production by handloom sector for the last eight years.

Table-3.4: Cloth Production by Handloom Sector in India

Year	Total Cloth Production	Production by Handloom Sector	Share of Handloom in Total Cloth Production
2008-09	42121	6677	15.9
2009-10	45819	6808	14.9
2010-11	47083	6949	14.6
2011-12	46600	6900	14.8
2012-13	61949	6952	11.22
2013-14	46425	7104	15.3
2014-15	47438	7203	15.18
2015-16	46334	7638	15.31

Source: Ministry of Textiles, Annual Report 2016-17

Table-3.4 also shows that while production by handloom sector increase moderately, its share in total cloth production remain more or less the same during these last eight years.

Indian handloom products had witnessed increasing exports. Statistics on exports of handloom products available from 2009-10 onwards, indicate that exports rose by 32 per cent in 2010-11 as compared to the previous year. During 2011-12, total exports in the first seven months had already reached almost 90 per cent of the exports during the whole of the previous year (Steering Committee, Handloom and Handicraft, Planning Commission). The target and achievement of exports on handloom product in India during 2009 to 2011 is shown in Table-3.5.

Table-3.5: Target and achievement of handloom exports (in crores)

Year	Target	Achievement
2009-10	NA	1252.81
2010-11	1350	1662.89

Source: Planning Commission, Report of Steering Committee, 2012

3.4. Schemes/Programmes being implemented in Handloom Sector

Government of India and the state governments have taken a number of steps and initiatives to promote and developed handloom sector. With a view to promote handloom industry on a sustainable basis “India Handloom” Brand was launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister on 7th August, 2015, the first National Handloom Day so as to endorse the quality of handloom products in terms of raw material, processing, embellishment, weaving, design and other parameters besides social and environment compliance for earning the trust of costumers. The main objective of launching the brand is to ensure the production of quality product with new designs for winning the trust and confidence of customers by giving particular attention to the defect free, hand woven, authentic niche products with zero defect and zero impact on environment. The Main objective of declaring National Handloom Day is to create awareness among public in general and in younger generation in particular about importance of the sector, about our rich cultural heritage and about its contribution to socio-economic development of the handloom weavers. This step will also enhance pride of millions of weavers and at the same time it will also boost tourism (Ministry of textiles, Annual Report 2015-16).

Various schemes which take into consideration the health status of the weavers, supply of raw materials, promotion of market not only domestic, but also to foreign countries, etc. are briefly discussed as:

National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)

This programme is Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by state governments which comprises the following components related to marketing, infrastructure development and credit availability:

(i) *Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS)*

This scheme comprises of several schemes like Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS), Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS) and Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS), provides financial assistance for Cluster Development Programme; organising of Exhibitions, Events and Craft Melas; setting up of Urban Haats; participation in International Fairs; strengthening and setting up of Weavers Service Centres and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology and skill upgradation of weavers.

(ii) *Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package (RRR)* for one time waiver of overdue loans and interests of eligible handloom cooperative societies and individual weavers as on 31.3.2010; for re-capitalisation of viable and potentially viable handloom cooperative societies; and to provide of fresh subsidized credit to handloom cooperative societies and weavers covered by a waiver by providing interest subsidy of 3 per cent for a period of 3 years for fresh loan with credit guarantee.

Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)

The Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme, aimed at developing and promoting marketing channels in the country as well as foreign countries, it has two components.

- (i) **Marketing Promotion Programme** assists the market of handloom products by organizing exhibitions at National, Regional, State and District levels; providing facilities to consumers to purchase various genuine handloom products under one umbrella; promoting awareness about latest designs and varieties of handlooms; providing marketing infrastructural support; encouraging innovation in designs and techniques; preserving and promoting traditional skills and designs; fostering brand identity and technological developments among weavers.
- (ii) **Handloom Export Promotion Programme (HEPP)** has the objective of identifying and assists suitable Apex/Primary handloom cooperative societies & corporations in developing export-worthy products, by interventions such as engaging professional designers and marketing consultants, upgradation of skills, and market penetration through participation in international fairs/ exhibitions, buyer-seller meets and brand development through Handloom Mark and setting up design studios.

Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)

The Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS), introduced during 2007-08, has four components.

- (i) The Cluster Development Programme provides need-based inputs to clusters of 300-500 handlooms over a 3-year period

through grant of financial assistance up to Rs. 60 lakh per cluster, for meeting expenditure on formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), setting up yarn depots, design development, setting up Common Facility Centres (CFCs) dye houses, margin money for working capital, new looms and accessories and construction of worksheds, skill upgradation and marketing opportunities.

- (ii) The Group Approach supports the handloom weavers not covered by the clusters, in groups of 10 or more and up to 100 weavers, by providing financial assistance for basic inputs; training in weaving, dyeing, designing and managerial disciplines; and construction of work sheds. Per beneficiary cost is in the range of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000.
- (iii) Marketing Incentive is given to Handloom corporations, Apex organizations and Primary weaver cooperative societies, at the rate of 10 per cent (shared 50:50 between the Central and the State Governments) for promoting marketing of handloom products, largely through promotion of investment in infrastructure. Besides, assistance is extended towards financial strengthening of the handloom agencies.
- (iv) Up to 10 per cent of funds under the Scheme are for Innovative Ideas, and up to 2 per cent allocated for Publicity, Monitoring, Supervision, and Training of officials of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms and State Directors of Handlooms as well as for evaluation of the Scheme.

Institutional Credit for Handloom Sector (ICHS)

A component named Institutional Credit for Handloom Sector (ICHS) was introduced under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS) in 2011-12. It has three sub-components, namely (a) Interest Subsidy of 3 per cent on loans for a period of 3 years, (b) Margin Money Assistance of Rs. 4200 per weaver to individual weavers, their Self Help Groups (SHGs) and joint liability groups (but not to cooperative societies and producer companies) and (c) Credit Guarantee for three years to banks/financial institutions lending to weavers, for which the guarantee fee and annual service fee will be paid by the Government of India.

Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)

This scheme was introduced to provide all types of yarn to the eligible handloom weavers at mill gate price and is been implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation and 788 yarn depots have been set up for this purpose. The scheme makes it obligatory up on yarn producers to pack a fixed percentage of yarn produced for civil consumption to be packed in hank form. The main objective of this scheme is to provide timely and quality yarn at a favourable rate to the handloom weavers.

Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)

In order to provide weavers better healthcare and to provide insurance cover to them, the following two important insurance schemes has been introduced:

(i) *Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)* : Annual medical cover worth of Rs. 37,500/- (Rs. 7500 for OPD and Rs. 30,000 for in-patient treatment (IPT) is provided to family of 5 members. The scheme targeted to cover 18 lakh families each year

(ii) *Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY)*: To provide life insurance to Handloom Weavers- Rs. 60,000 for natural death, Rs. 1.5 lakh for accidental death and total disability, and Rs. 75,000 for partial disability.

Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCDS)

It is a Central Sector scheme introduced for holistic and integrated development of 20 Handloom Clusters, introduced in the year 2006-07, was also continued in the 11th Plan. The Scheme covers about 5000 handloom weavers in each cluster, with GOI's contribution of up to Rs. 2 crore per cluster over a period of 5 years which initially was for 4 years. It has benefitted more than 1.50 lakh handloom weavers.

Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)

This scheme was also introduced as a Central Sector Scheme under the Mega Cluster Scheme of the Ministry of Textiles in 2008-09, which covers clearly identifiable geographical locations with at least 25,000 handlooms, in which Central share is up to Rs. 70 crore per cluster over a time period of 5 years. It provides corpus for raw materials, credit for working capital, construction of worksheds, skill and technology upgradation, and design studio marketing complex, value addition such as setting up of garment unit, common infrastructure and publicity.

Special requirements of North Eastern Region

According to Handloom Census 2010, 90 per cent of handloom worker households in the North Eastern Region (NER) are weaver households. Of the total number of handloom worker households in the country, 63.4 per cent are in the NER. In contrast to the national trend, the NER have recorded an increase in the number of weaver households from 14.6 lakh in 1995 to 15.10 lakh in the Handloom Census, 2009-10. However, 52 per cent households produce less than one meter of fabric per weaver per day. Accordingly, handlooms in the NER are being supported through increased levels of assistance as well as increased number of clusters/ events under the Plan Schemes.

Handloom Reservation

The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 aimed at protecting the livelihoods of handloom weavers and protecting the cultural heritage of the handloom industry from encroachment by the powerloom and mill sectors. Under the Act, initially 22 textile articles were reserved for exclusive production through handlooms. Subsequently, these were reduced to 11 articles in 2008.

The physical performance of various schemes to develop and promote the handloom sector is presented in Table-3.6.

Table-3.6: Performance of Schemes for Handloom Sector during 11th Plan

Sl. No	Schemes	Target	Achievements (first four years)
1	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme	36.88 lakh weavers	61.44 lakh weavers
2	Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme	Domestic Events 1841	1953
		Export Projects 75	37
		International Fairs 50	68
3	Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme	Health Insurance Scheme 83.92 lakh weavers	70.60 lakh weavers
		Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojona (MGBBY) 66.67 lakh weavers	20.88 lakh weavers
4	Diversified Handloom Development Scheme	Design exhibitions-cum-Workshops: 1250	949
		3rd Handloom Census	Completed Dec. 2010
		50 lakh photo ID cards to be issued	30 lakh ID cards issued

Source: Planning Commission, 'Report of the Steering Committee on Handlooms and Handicrafts', 2010

3.5. Industrialisation and Unemployment scenario in Mizoram

Mizoram is the fifth smallest state in India and it is one of the seven states in the North-East India, shares its borders with other north-eastern states of Manipur, Tripura and Assam and neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar. Mizoram offers a gateway for engaging in international trade with Southeast Asian Countries, bordering Bangladesh & Myanmar. Sericulture remains one of the state's key industries. Findings from the analysis of various data in different sectors of economy found that Mizoram has a large opportunity to set up different kinds of agro-based industries as about 87 per cent of the entire State is covered by forests calculating a total

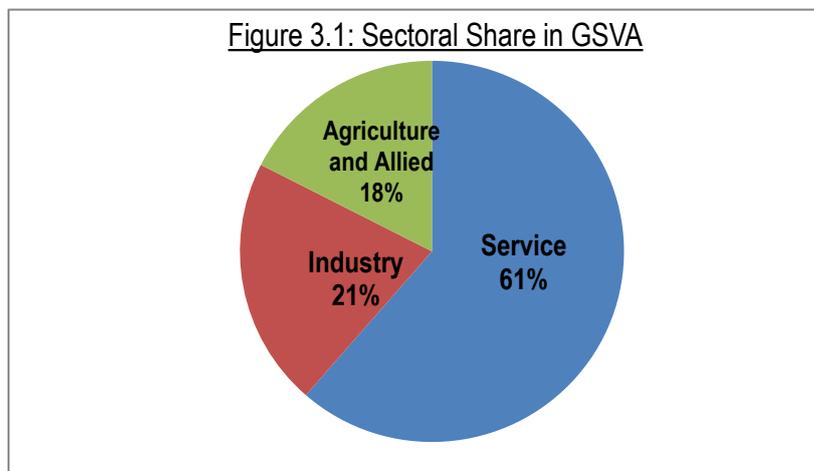
coverage of around 19,117 sq. km (Government of Mizoram, 'State Industrial Profile of Mizoram, 2014-15').

The State has very little deposit of mines or minerals. The thrust areas for industrial development in the state are; Bamboo based industries, Food processing industries, Handloom & Handicrafts, Tourism, Tea, Rubber, Coffee & plantation based industries. Popular activities like tailoring, furniture making, automobile repairs, bakery, handloom weaving and black smithy account for more than 80 per cent of the total number of enterprises/units in the state.

The Industrial Policy of Mizoram was first notified on March 1989 to give direction to the strategy for Industrial development of the State laying stress on reducing shifting cultivation and subsistence farming by encouraging a shift from primary to secondary sectors while protecting the Socio-Cultural and ethnic identity of the indigenous enterprise of Mizoram. The main aim of this policy was not only industrial growth, but also towards all- round development of the people of Mizoram with special focus on upliftment of indigenous people and also towards giving them gainful employment and self employment opportunities in the Industries and allied sectors.

Industrialization in Mizoram is rather slow owing to absence of many pre-requisite factors for industrial development. Even though the geographical location and topography of the state is not congenial for industrial development the sector has slowly made a significant contribution in the GSDP. The industries sector has contributed 22.02

per cent of GSDP during 2012-13 as against 18.66 per cent in 2011-12 (Statistical handbook Mizoram 2014). According to Economic Survey of Mizoram, Services or Tertiary Sector dominates the economy at 60.02 per cent of the total GSDP in 2014 and continued to be the growth drivers of the economy and contributed 61.4 per cent to the GSDP during 2014-15. The Primary Sector contributed 17.5 per cent in 2014-15 to the GSDP. With livelihood of about 60 per cent of the population depending on agriculture and allied activities, faster growth in agriculture is both a necessary and sufficient condition for stronger, sustainable and inclusive growth in the State. The Industry Sector contributed 21.10 per cent of GSDP during 2014-15. The main driving force of the sector is Construction Sector with a contribution of 9.87 per cent to the GSDP. The sectoral contribution in Gross State Value Added (GSVA) of Mizoram is presented in Figure-3.1. Zoram Industrial Development Corporation (ZIDCO), a public sector undertaking under the State Government and Industrial Development Bank of India registered under Company Act 1956, is responsible for the overall development of the industrial development in terms of infrastructure in the state.



Source: Mizoram Economic Survey, 2015-16

Unemployment, particularly among the youths in Mizoram is an increasing trend. Since there is no such industry in any sector in the state other than government in terms of providing employment to the masses, this rising trend of unemployment is found to be a growing crisis unless development that can absorb the growing population is taking place in different sectors in the state.

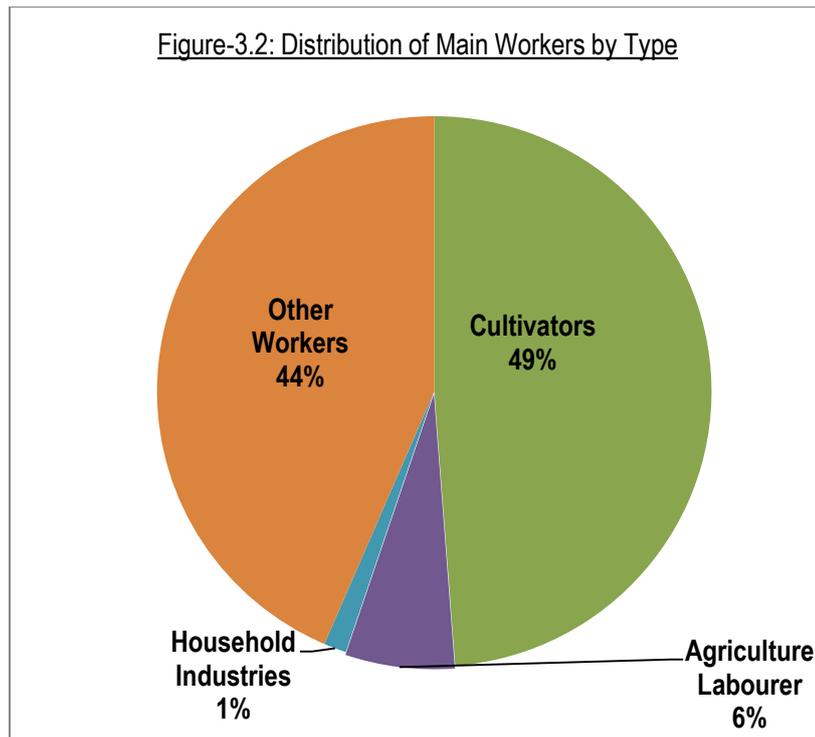
According to Census Report 2011, Out of the total population 486,705 were engaged in work activities. 85.3 per cent of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 14.7 per cent were involved in Marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months. Of 486,705 workers engaged in Main Work, 202,514 were cultivators (owner or co-owner) while 26,464 were Agricultural labourers. The engagement of workers in Mizoram by the nature of work is presented in Table-3.7.

Table-3.7: Engagement in employment, Mizoram.

Nature of the Work	Total	Male	Female
Main Workers	4,15,030	2,63,305	1,51,725
Cultivators	2,02,514	1,21,598	80,916
Agriculture Labourer	26,464	16,601	9,863
Household Industries	5,459	3,109	2,350
Other Workers	1,80,593	1,21,997	58,596
Marginal Workers	71,675	27,435	44,240
Non Working	6,10,501	2,64,599	3,45,902

Source: Census, 2011

Figure-3.2 shows the distribution of main workers by type of work in the state



It is obviously revealed from the nature of the work as well as the distribution of main workers of Mizoram that agriculture with almost 50 per cent (49 per cent) of the main workers has been the main work provider while household industries provide only 1 per cent employment to the main workers of Mizoram. Thus, the existing and widespread households industries in the state like handloom and handicrafts were to be developed to absorb a high population pressure on land. Moreover, out of 610501 non workers, female outnumbered the male non workers as shown in Table-3.8, it is convenient to develop and promote the handloom sector in Mizoram as various studies carried out so far has revealed that handloom sector is dominated by female workers thus providing employment more to female than male as well as it is a household or cottage industry.

Table-3.8: Number of Non Workers by Sex

Sex	Rural	Urban	Total
Male	1,24,044	1,40,555	2,64,599
Female	1,49,009	1,96,893	3,45,902
Total	2,73,053	3,37,448	6,10,501

Source: Statistical Abstract of Mizoram, 2013

According to the report of 5th Employment and Unemployment Survey 2015-16, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, the unemployment rate in Mizoram is found 30 persons per thousand while it is 49 persons per thousand in urban area and 15 for rural areas.

3.6. History and cultural significance of Handloom in Mizoram

The history of Mizoram comes to a few indigenous groups that have been residing in the north eastern part of India since a very long time. The state is located in the extreme southernmost part of Northeast India. Groups of Chin people had migrated to this place from the Chin state of Burma. The word ‘Mizoram’ is formed by two words ‘mizo’, refers to the native and ‘ram’ means state. ‘Mizo’ further itself defines ‘Mi’ meaning people and ‘Zo’ meaning the hills. The dweller of Mizoram primarily consists of Lusei, Hmar, Lai, Mara amongst other tribes. The state has the highest concentration of tribal in the country. It was in the year 1972 that Mizoram was declared as Union Territory and since the year 1986, it has been functioning as a federal state of the Indian union.

The art and craft forms of Mizoram occupy a very important sector of the industrial market of the state. Textiles are the primary section of arts and crafts in Mizoram. Shifting cultivation remains the mainstay as well as a way of life. The festivals such as ‘Chapchar Kut’ ‘Thalfavang Kut’, ‘Pawl Kut’ etc. are having a deep relation with this occupation. The festivals, weddings, culture, traditional dance forms, and other special occasion of Mizoram have a link with their traditional handloom product ‘Puan’, they produce different varieties of cloth (Puan) which the Mizo’s, through the ages, wear according to the occasion. Mizoram has rich and colourful range of handlooms. However, among of all these, the 'Puan' occupies a place of pride in a Mizo lady's heart and wardrobe. The designs, motif and colour of ‘Puan’ have a traditional and cultural significance to the Mizo’s. Traditional weaving of Mizoram has been subsistence practice; it has never been a commercial sector for a long time since Agricultural activities are the mainstay for majority of the Mizo’s.

3.7. Handloom in Mizoram: An Overview

Handloom in Mizoram, like India as a whole, has a deep traditional and cultural significance and forms a part of cultural heritage. The Mizo’s are traditionally expert in weaving and handicraft. Cottage industry is boom in the State with people producing different art and craft.

The State Government has taken several steps and initiatives to promote and sustain the handloom sector in the state. Handloom and handicrafts are the most important and popular industrial activities in

the state for over generation, the artisans in the state are highly gifted skilled. Zoram Handloom and Handicrafts Development Cooperation Limited (ZOHANDCO), undertaken by the state government was established in the year 1988 to provide access of large scale employment for the youths and women especially in rural areas, and to earn revenue for the state with the objectives to develop, aid advise, assist, finance, protect and promote the interest of handloom and handicrafts unit in the state, whether owned or conducted by the government or not and to provide assistance in management, credit, technical and capital for the conduct of their methods of production, management and marketing and their techniques of production, but the state government in 2015 has decided to abolished this Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) along with other PSU's, Zoram Electronics Development Corporation (ZENICS) and Mizoram Agriculture Marketing Corporation (MAMCO) due to heavy losses incurred by the corporations.

The Mizoram Apex Handloom and Handicraft Cooperative Society (MAHCO), was established in 1977 in which there are 69 Class 'A' members (Primary Cooperative Society) and 76 Class 'D' members (Individual). MAHCO has import handloom accessories, equipments and raw material from other states and sell to its members at a subsidised rate. It is the only Yarn Depot operator under National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) in the state. MAHCO, in order to popularise and promote the product of handloom, organised handloom Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in District capitals in the state as

well as neighbouring states with the help of Development Commissioner for Handloom, Ministry of Textiles. The statistic of MAHCO shows that business turnover for the year 2010 – 2011 was Rs. 115.03 lakhs while the net profit was Rs. 9.47.

The state government has forwarded 549 weavers credit card to the banks. As presented in Table-3.10, out of 199 credit card issued by the banks, 155 weavers are issued in the present study area (Thenzawl) while only 44 weavers were issued in the remaining areas like Haulawng, Khawzawl, Champhai and Bungzung missing out many weavers and Clusters in the southern part of the state.

The demography of Mizoram tells that the population of the state is 1097206, 559339 males and 541867 females where 525435 resided in rural areas and 571771 in urban areas with a decadal growth of 23.48 per cent. The total workers counted 486705 persons (44.36 per cent of the total population) which comprise 415030 main workers and 71657 marginal workers (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Mizoram 2013, Government of Mizoram). Meanwhile, the report of Industries Department stated that there are 37981 handloom weavers as per issuance of weaver's photo identity document (Handloom Census 2010, NCAER), the survey still missed out many weavers. However, the Ministry of Textile in 2015, reported that there are 43528 workers in handloom sector and 24136 looms in Mizoram ('Note on Handloom Sector' Ministry of Textile, December, 2015), Thus, compiling these reports, it is safe to present that the handloom sector provide employment to almost 10 per cent (8.94 per

cent) of the total workforce in the state. The number of weavers in Mizoram as per the third Handloom Census 2010 is presented in Table-3.9.

Table-3.9: Number of weavers in Mizoram as per Identity Document

Sl. No.	District	No. of ID forwarded	Unidentified Photo ID
1	Aizawl	3646	1442
2	Lunglei	7954	-
3	Champhai	6209	-
4	Siaha	6243	75
5	Kolasib	2536	-
6	Serchhip	1573	-
7	Lawngtlai	5534	-
8	Mamit	4286	-
Total		37981	1517

Source: Ministry of Textiles, Handloom Census 2010, NCAER.

Apart from photo identity document issued by the Central government, another achievement in handloom sector of Mizoram to mention is that the state government, from its plan fund, targeted to issue Weavers Credit Card (WCC, which will make easier the financial linkages of the government to the weavers and identifying the weavers) to 1000 weavers allocating Rs. 1.45 lakh during the year 2016 - 2017, 1027 weavers credit card were issued by the government while as on August, 2016, only 199 credit card were issued by the bank across the state (Department of Industries, Government of Mizoram). The issuance of credit card to weavers in Mizoram by the bank is presented in detail in Table-3.10.

Table-3.10: Weavers credit card issued by the bank as on 25.8.2016

Sl. No.	Name of Bank	Name of Branch	No. of WCC issued
1	SBI	Thenzawl	85
2	MRB	Thenzawl	70
3	MRB	Haulawng	32
4	MRB	Khawzawl	9
5	MRB	Champhai	2
6	MRB	Bungzung	1
Total			199

Source: Department of Industries, Government of Mizoram

Moreover, Mizoram has witnessed several improvement and progress for the handloom sector where the weavers are benefited like Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Implementation of Integrated Skill Development scheme (ISDS), Common Facility Centre (CFC) established at Thenzawl, etc. Some of the eminent achievements are briefly discuss as:

Implementation of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana is a health care scheme launched in early 2008 and was initially designed to target only the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, but has been expanded to cover other defined categories of unorganised workers. Its objectives are to provide financial protection against catastrophic health costs by reducing out, and to improve access to quality health care for below poverty line households of pocket expenditure for hospitalization and other vulnerable groups in the unorganized sector. The premium cost for enrolled beneficiaries under the scheme is shared by Government of India and the State Governments. The program has the target to cover

70 million households by the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17). In Mizoram the state government surveyed and cover all families in rural areas includes weavers in the area. Such being the case, the state government surveyed and identified weavers to be covered under RSBY in urban areas. The survey was completed during June, 2016 and identified 857 weaving families to cover under the scheme. Out of this 190 families were enrolled and already issued smart card to these families.

Block Level Clusters (BLCs)

The Ministry of Textiles has adopted a Block-level Cluster approach for development of handlooms for integrated and holistic development of cluster by implementing need-based interventions, discontinuing the State contribution, direct release of funds to implementing agencies and in the bank account of beneficiary. As many as seven Block Level Handloom clusters are being implemented in Mizoram. The first two batches of weaving training were completed successfully in all clusters. The training on dyeing and designing conducted by Weavers Service Centre (WSC) was also conducted from October, 2016.

Cluster Development Project (CDP)

Cluster Development Project is a project under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS). It is an umbrella scheme for the development of various segments of textiles like handlooms, silk, handicrafts, apparels and garments with a total outlay of Rs. 1038.10 crore in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Under this project, 17 projects are being implemented throughout Mizoram under which 3715 weavers were benefited. The state government directly implemented 11 clusters and the rest of 6 remaining clusters are implemented by Autonomous District councils with a volume of fund involving the first instalment of Rs. 3.575 crore and the second instalment of Rs. 5.49 crore (Department of Industries, Government of Mizoram).

Apart from these schemes and project, claims of 1 Apex, 124 Primary Weaver Cooperatives (PWCs) and 51 individual weavers have been approved at Rs.4.39 crore as financial package for loan waiver in Mizoram. After the implementation of Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS), the state has got total yarn supply valued Rs. 1631.15 lakhs. The year wise supply of yarn under YSS in Mizoram from the year 2007-08 to 2015-16 is presented in Table-3.11.

Table-3.11: Yarn supplied to Mizoram under Yarn Supply Scheme

Year	Quantity (in lakh kg)	Value (Rs. in lakh)	No. of yarn Depot.
2007-08	0.723	159.94	7
2008-09	0.708	162.93	
2009-10	0.991	231.33	
2010-11	0.932	267.45	
2011-12	0.73	227.05	
2012-13	0.597	197.02	
2013-14	0.34	127.65	
2014-15	0.273	102.48	
2015-16	0.37	155.3	
Total	5.664	1631.15	7

Source: Ministry of Textiles , Handloom Census, 2010, NCAER

3.8. Handloom in Thenzawl: An Overview

Handloom in Mizoram was a traditional, cultural and subsistence practice as women of 'Mizo's' are wearing their own woven fabrics. The history of shifting into commercial weaving from simply traditional weaving in Mizoram took place only in the late twentieth century. The genesis of weaving as a commercial handloom in Thenzawl can also be traced back to 1982 with eight looms. The State Industries Department had played an important role in the initiation of the cluster as a centre of commercial weaving in this town.

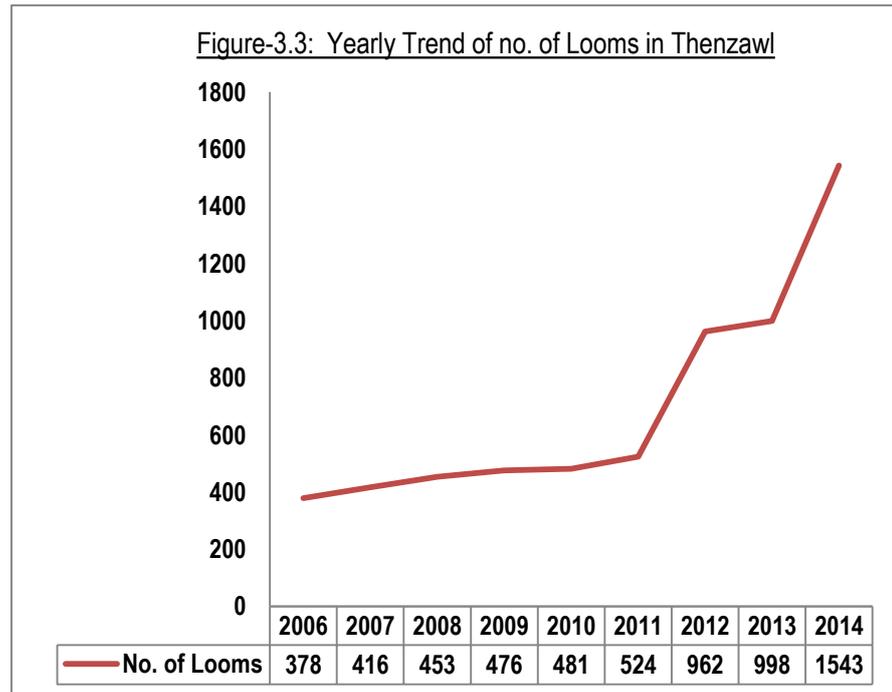
In terms of concentration of household's engagement, Thenzawl is the only town in the state with concentration of more than half of the households. According to the Handloom Survey Report of Thenzawl 2014, there are 821 units and more than 1300 looms with more than 1500 weavers in Thenzawl. The growth of number of looms in Thenzawl from the year 2006 as per the latest Report of Handloom Survey, 2014 is presented in Table-3.12.

Table-3.12: Yearly trend of No. of Looms in Thenzawl

Year	No. of Looms
2006	378
2007	416
2008	453
2009	476
2010	481
2011	524
2012	962
2013	998
2014	1543

Source: Thenzawl Handloom Survey Report , 2014

Despite a steady growing trend during the year 2006 to 2011, the number of handlooms in Thenzawl is rapidly increasing in the year 2012 and 2014 with 45.5 per cent and 35.3 per cent respectively as shown in Table-3.12. Figure-3.3 depicts the growth trend of number of looms in Thenzawl.



The increasing number of looms in Thenzawl is mainly the result of increasing number of weavers in the town. Since commercial weaving took place in Thenzawl, the numbers of weavers are increasing year after year. In addition to this, increase in the number of trainee is another factor that determines increasing number of loom as well as weavers in Thenzawl. Table-3.13 presents the number of weavers and number of person training in Thenzawl from the year 2011 to 2014.

Table-3.13: No. of weavers and trainee in Thenzawl(2011-2014)

Year	No. of Weavers	No. of Trainee
2011	530	42
2012	1205	24
2013	1276	45
2014	1597	95

Source: Thenzawl Handloom Survey Report, 2014

As presented in Table-3.13, the number of weavers is highly increasing in the year 2012 and 2014 which, as stated, results in the high increased numbers of loom in Thenzawl.

In terms of productivity, the approximate total number of cloths or fabrics produced for five years i.e. from 2009 to 2013 in Thenzawl is 264316 while it was 65276 during the month January, 2014 to June, 2014. These figures show the impact of increased number of weavers and handlooms in the town. Moreover, the production value (not sales realization) according to the Report of Thenzawl Handloom Survey, 2014, during 2009 to 2013 worth Rs. 475768800 while it was Rs. 11,74,96,400 just for six months i.e. January, 2014 to June, 2014.

The main procurement of major raw material and the biggest markets since commercialisation of handloom in Thenzawl has been the local and domestic markets. The government, in order to promote and develop the handloom sector in Thenzawl has implemented various steps and initiatives like Yarn Supply Scheme, Common Facility Centre, strengthening the cooperative societies in Thenzawl, implementation of health insurance like RSBY and HIS covering weavers, issue of weavers photo identity document, etc.

In addition to various achievements of central and state government's initiatives, despite the recent initiation of commercial weaving in Thenzawl (1982), the National Merit Certificate has been awarded by the central government to Mrs. Lalnunziri and Mrs. Lalringzuali in the year 1992 and 2012 respectively for their outstanding contribution in development of the handloom product. This award is given by Ministry of Textiles, Government of India to an outstanding, extraordinary skilled handloom weaver who contributed significantly in the development of the handloom product. It consists of a cash prize of Rs. 0.75 lakh and a Certificate.

Working out with cooperative societies and NGO's has been an essential maintenance of rigid strength and promotion of almost each and every sector in the economy. In this regards, Thenzawl weavers and handloom workers have started forming cooperative societies lately from the year 2007, there are six cooperative societies in Thenzawl namely, Thenzawl Venglai Handloom & Handicrafts Co-operative Society Ltd., Thenzawl East Handloom Co-operative Society Ltd., Thenzawl Venghlun Handloom & Handicrafts Co-operative Society Ltd., Thenzawl West Handloom Co-operative Society Ltd., Thenzawl East Village Handloom & Handicrafts Co-operative Society Ltd. and Thenzawl Handloom & Handicrafts Co-operative Society Ltd., but these Cooperative Societies were inactive in the functioning of playing their rightful role in the sector promoting and developing of the sector, defending the weavers from middlemen and their high dependency on local traders.

3.9. Problems and Challenges of Handloom Sector

The development of handloom sector primarily is the responsibility of State Governments. Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of the States with its various policies of promoting and encouraging the sector through a number of policies and initiatives, programmes and financial assistance. Although these measures have benefited the handloom weavers, yet the sector continues to face several daunting challenges and uncertainties.

The rising price of cotton and its related products led to the increase in the price of yarn, a basic raw material and input of handloom industry. Most of the handloom weavers, as stated that the handloom sector is providing employment larger to the most vulnerable and weaker sections of the society, poorer and are from a family of lower standard of living as compared to other industrial sector. In addition, the developmental and promotional steps and initiatives taken by the central and state governments through various schemes, despite the achievements, were not monitored and evaluated properly. These led to the sparse credit coverage, poor institutional management, and poor policy dissemination in the handloom sector.

Moreover, the marketing channel of different handloom products has been facing a rigid challenge and uncertainties especially in rural and remote areas. For instance, the entrepreneur of handloom inputs like cotton yarn, silk, etc. and entrepreneur of handloom products are monopolising the market which adversely affect the

profitability of the weavers and workers in handloom sector, the inactive functioning of cooperatives societies and the inadequate monitoring of the government has added to this curse of improper markets. These bottlenecks have led to a lesser investment of the weavers in handloom sector. Thus, rising input costs, sparse credit coverage and high cost, marketing bottlenecks, poor institutional management, poor policy dissemination, infrastructure gaps, monitoring and evaluation of the schemes implemented are the eminent challenge faced problems by the handloom sector.

3.10. Conclusion

Every government has its responsibility to provide its citizens a quality and decent standard of living by creating healthy environment, providing beneficial employment, making all basic living facilities accessible or affordable to every classes of society, good governance and stable government, promoting social harmony among different classes, castes, race, creed and even rich and poor, etc. The central and state government should take into a serious consideration the increasing unemployment and population pressure on land especially for a developing and populous country like India. A brief overview of handloom sector in India as a whole and Mizoram in particular indicated that although the central and state government, using numerous policy measures, tries to promote handloom industries, marketing the product, generating more and efficient employment, unemployment still haunts millions of Indians and the number of workers is lesser and lesser despite the contrary in certain areas.

Poverty, unemployment, income inequalities regional disparities and unbalancing growth of rural and urban led to movement of millions of poor Indian to move to cities, increased urban poverty. Millions are forced to shift their occupation to agriculture from handloom sector, resulting in the high population pressure on land, unemployment, and lowering the productivity of land per worker.

However, the condition and availability of employment in handloom sector, access to basic amenities by handloom workers in North East Region and Mizoram, in comparison to India as a whole, is a little better. In case of employment and income, profit margin of the weavers of Mizoram is more favourable than the other handloom workers of the country, still the central and state government needs more efforts and require more effective policy realisation to counter the increasing problems of handloom sector in the country as a whole, and keeping up and improve the comparatively favourable condition of the handloom workers of the state than other states of the country.

LIVELIHOOD CONDITIONS OF HANDLOOM WORKERS IN THENZAWL CLUSTER, MIZORAM: AN ANALYSIS

4.1. Introduction

In this chapter, an attempt is made to analyse the livelihood security and socioeconomic status, current situation and other related problems among the handloom workers in Thenzawl town, resided at Serchhip District in the state of Mizoram. The entire analysis of the study is based on primary data using questionnaire from sample data collected from 110 handloom workers from the study area. Apart from direct interview method, convenient group discussion and interaction with the weavers is conducted for simplification and better understanding of the actual condition.

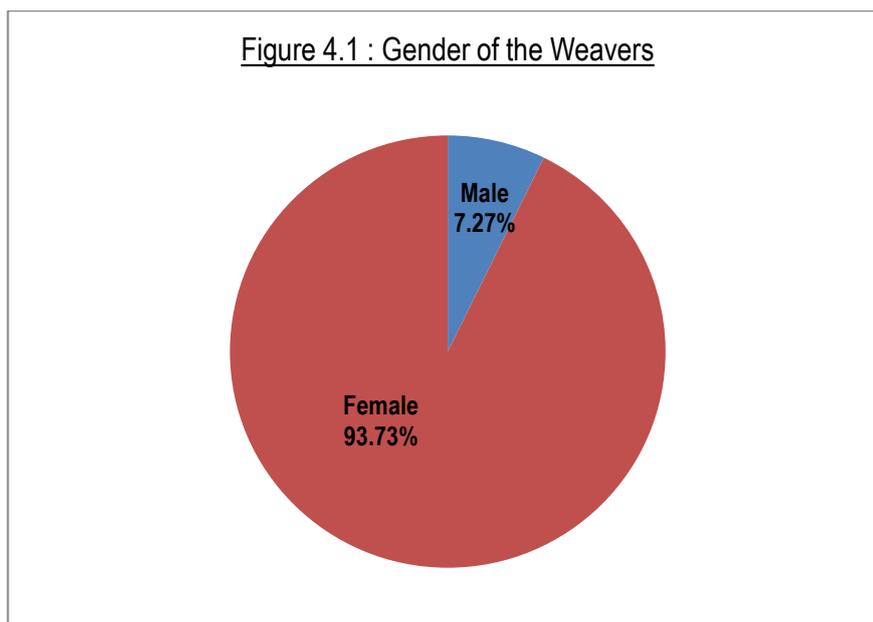
4.2. Gender and Marital Status of Weavers

In a patriarchal society like Mizo society, female are generally assumed to be weaker in most of the works in rural areas. Most of the works especially in rural areas are dominated by male workers. But in the present study area, it is found that female dominate the workforce in the handloom sector. As shown in Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1, out of 110 weavers, 102 weavers were female worker which is 92.73 per cent of total weavers while male constitute only 8 weavers which is 7.27 per cent.

Table- 4.1 : Gender of the Weavers

Sex	No. of Weavers	Percent
Male	8	7.27
Female	102	92.73
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016



Further, out of the 110 sampled handloom workers, it is found that 52 weavers i.e., 47.27 per cent are married, 36.36 per cent unmarried and 16.36 are widowed.

4.3. Average Age and Family Size of Handloom Workers

The study of age and the size of family which the worker belongs give important information in this study. A larger section of families in the study area are influenced by their culture, religious background, incomes and residence including others in the choice of their family size. It is interesting to note that the average or mean age of weavers in the area under study is 33.98 while the standard deviation is 7.42

implying majority of weavers are aged between 26.56 and 41.4. This number indicated that weavers in the study area are young and well within the working age.

Also, the analysis indicated that the average family size of weavers in the study area is 5.17 while its standard deviation is 1.34. In addition to this, it also found that for every weaver family, around 2 of family member were dependent.

4.4. Educational qualification of weavers

One of the most important factors that determined the level of efficiency and productivity of the worker is the level of their education. Table-4.2 shows the level of education of handloom workers in Thenzawl Cluster.

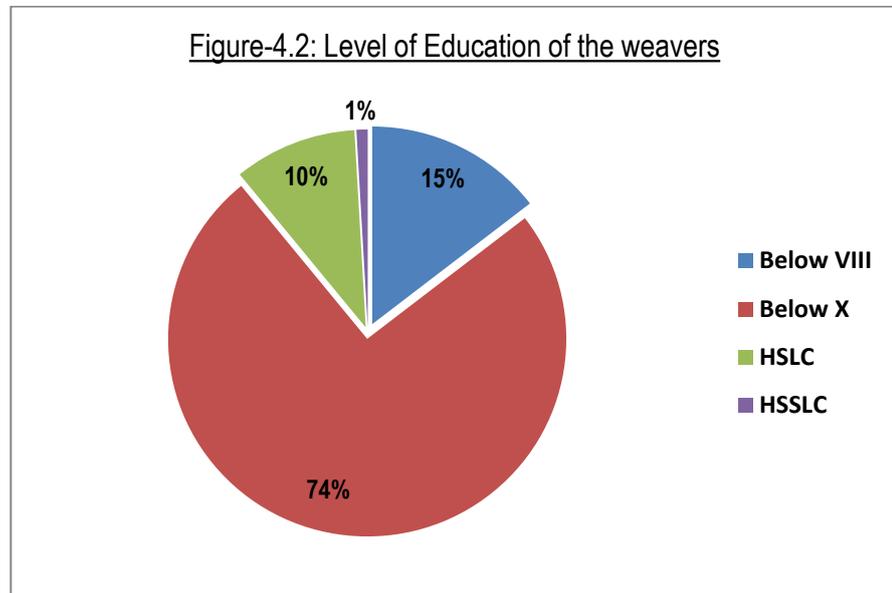
Table-4.2: Educational Qualification of Weavers

Class/Category	No. of Respondent	Percentage
Below VIII	16	14.55
Below X	82	74.55
HSLC	11	10.00
HSSLC	1	0.91
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Since most of the handloom workers in the study area are income earner and weaving is the main source of livelihood, it is difficult for rural poor households to afford a desirable level of education. One of the eminent reasons behind the low level of education among the handloom workers is the difficulty to forgo the income that could be earned by the weaver instead of further education

up to a level that somehow results in their efficiency. Table-4.2 shows that out of 110 sampled handloom workers, 98, i.e., 89.1 per cent are below class ten. Only 10 per cent are matriculate.



4.5. Sources of Income

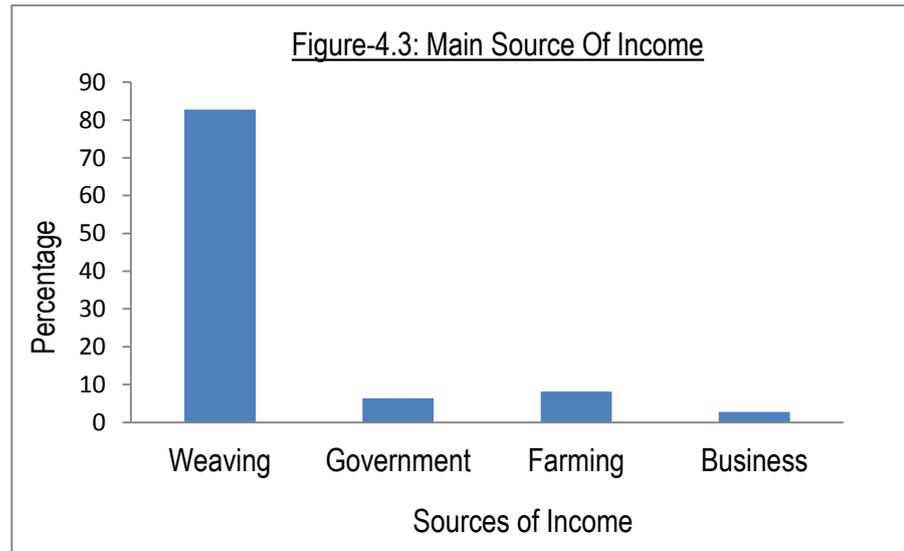
It has always been interesting to study the income and source of livelihood of every social group or working group. It shows the condition and standard of living, socio-economic status of that group. While weaving has become main source of income or living for most of the weavers, some are still dependent on other sources and take up weaving as their alternative source of income.

Table-4.3: Main Source of Income

Source	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Weaving	91	82.73
Government	7	6.36
Farming	9	8.18
Business	3	2.73
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

As expected, weaving is main source of income for more than 80 per cent of weaver as presented in table-4.3. While the remaining respondents cited ‘Farming’, ‘Government source’ and ‘Business’ as the main source of income of their family implying they are not the main income earner in the family.



Every family has other means or alternative source of income apart from their main source. Table-4.4 shows that alternative source of income for majority of the weavers in the study area is farming with 67 respondents which stand 60.91 per cent of the sample weavers.

Table-4.4: Alternate Sources of Income

Source	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Weaving	17	15.45
Farming	67	60.91
Business	2	1.82
Others	24	21.82
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

4.6. Annual income of Weavers' household (from all sources)

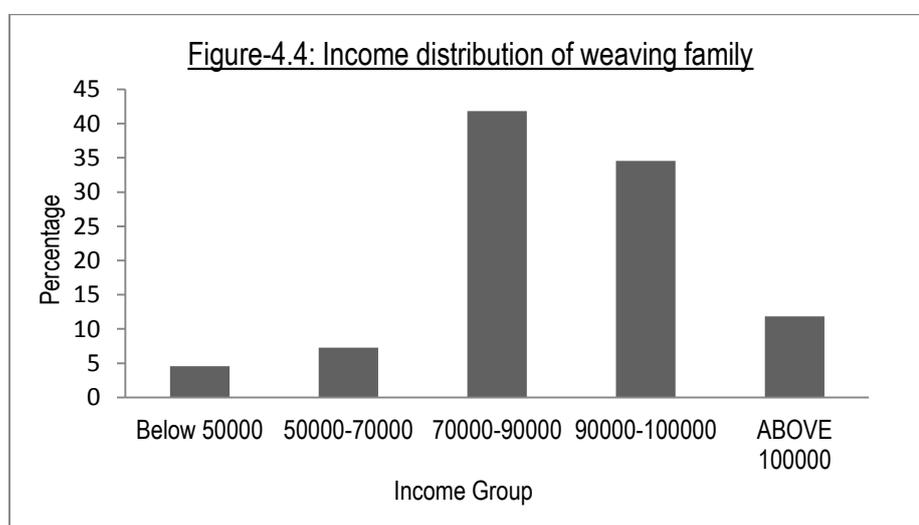
Section 4.5 described the different sources of income of handloom workers. From such different sources, more than 80 per cent of respondent cited weaving as their primary source of income. It is thus safe to say that the income distribution presented in Table-4.5 represent the income level of the weavers.

Table-4.5: Income Distribution of Weaving Family (Annual)

Income Group	No .of Households	Percentage
Below 50000	5	4.55
50000-70000	8	7.27
70000-90000	46	41.82
90000-100000	38	34.55
Above 100000	13	11.82
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table-4.5 reveals that majority of the respondents i.e. 41.82 per cent are within income group of 'Rs. 70000 - Rs. 90000', followed by income group of 'Rs. 90000 - Rs. 100000', 'above Rs.100000', 'Rs. 50000 – Rs. 70000' and 'below 50000' with a percentage of 34.55, 11.82, 7.27 and 4.55 respectively.



Generally, the analysis found that there is a positive relationship between household's annual income and family size. While handloom workers from the household income group of 'below Rs. 50000' are relatively belongs to less number of family members, income group of 'Rs. 50000 - Rs. 70000' and 'Rs. 70000 - Rs. 90000' have a slightly larger size of family member within the working age. On the other hand, handloom workers from the income of above Rs. 90000 are usually having government or business as main source of income and their annual income is not necessarily related to the size of their family. Thus, for the weaver's households with annual income up to Rs. 90000, there is a positive relationship between household's annual income and family size, however, this does not valid for weaver's family with annual income of Rs. 90000 and more.

4.7. Living Conditions of Handloom Workers

The living condition of handloom weavers can be assessed by measuring their level of access to housing, and other basic living amenities such as electricity, safe drinking water, cooking gas, mobile phones, TV, etc. The analysis shows the level of access to housing and other amenities by the handloom workers. Only 10 respondents which is 9.09 per cent of the total sample lives in 'pucca' house, followed by 'semi-pucca' house with 30.91 per cent and 'Assam type' with 60 per cent. Table-4.6 shows different types of housing access by these handloom weavers.

Table-4.6: Housing Types of Weavers Households

Housing Types	No. of Households	Percentage
Assam Types	66	60
Semi-Pucca	34	30.91
Pucca	10	9.09
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Analysis of access to basic amenities by handloom workers shows positive result that all of the respondents have access safe drinking water, cooking gas, TV and all have their personal mobile phone. However, only 79.09 per cent have Refrigerator in their home.

4.8. Weavers' level of access to banking and insurance facilities

One of the important objectives of the government in recent years has been bring all the people under the ambit of financial inclusion through banking along with insurance cover. It is important for any industry or firm to access to banking and institutional finance to promote or developed their business as well as security of workers. The findings on access to banking by handloom workers in Thenzawl suggested that almost all of the weavers have Bank Account in their names. Only a few per cent (6.36%) do not have bank account.

Relating to insurance cover, it is also impressive to know that all of the weavers were under health insurance cover i.e., all weavers were registered beneficiaries of at least Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). Moreover, there are several initiatives-health and life insurance for rural artisans- like Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthiya Bima Yojana (RGSSBY), Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY), etc. undertaken by

Ministry of Textiles, Government of India through financial institutions- like ICICI Lombard, Life Insurance Corporation of India- and Non Government Organisations (NGO's).

4.9. Reasons for engaged in Weaving

In the wake of scarce employment opportunities, rural youth and increasing workforce struggle to find profitable and secure sustained employment. Women or female workers are less preferred and often given less wages in several works which demand more physical abilities especially in rural areas and unorganised sector. While self employment or starting new business require skills and involves huge capital investment, youth especially women workers in Thenzawl find themselves a reliable employment in weaving wherein they sustain themselves and their family with less capital investment in it. Conveniently, handloom sector is a nonfarm employment but which is labour intensive with no seasonal and climatic disruption, women and youth are able to find employment in which their income mainly depends on their regularity. Table-4.7 presents the different reasons why these workers prefer and engaged in weaving instead of other employment.

Table.4.7: Reasons for engaged in Weaving

Reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Traditional Occupation	27	24.55
Better Income	47	42.73
No Other Employment	27	24.55
Others	9	8.18
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

While weaving is the traditional occupation for as many as 24.55 weavers, others shifted their occupation to be a weaver or choose to be weaver due to reasons like ‘better income’ (42.73%), ‘no other employment’ (24.55%) and ‘others’ (8.18%). Since weaving is one of the most suited job for female workers with less physical work involves, it also conveniently providing a part time employment to even housewife who cannot devote full time, attracted most of the unemployed women and those who engage in business, etc. who have other source of income as their main source of livelihood in Thenzawl town.

4.10. Variety of Production

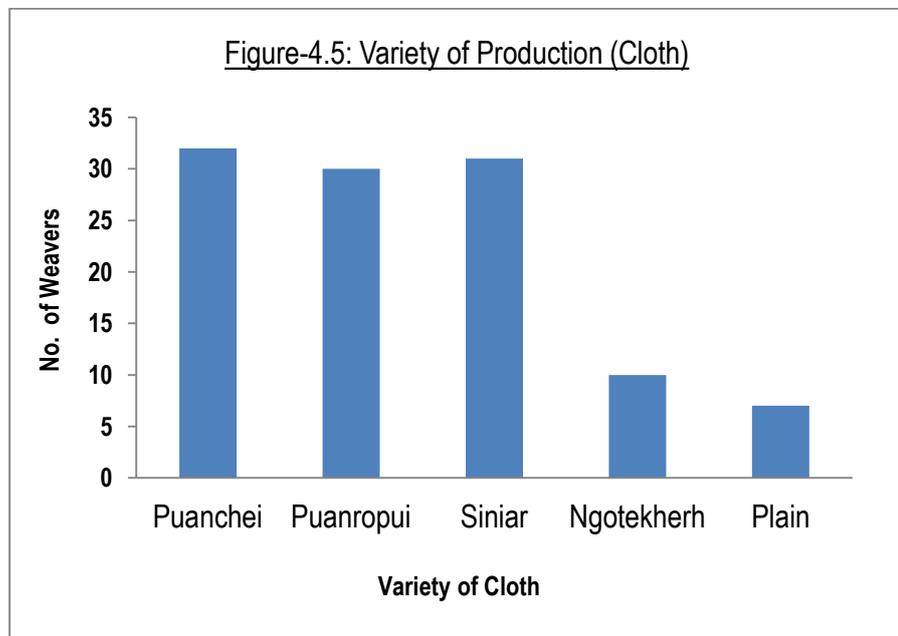
Various handloom units in Thenzawl produce a number of varieties of cloth. The quantity of demand for a variety of cloth determines the number of variety of cloth that weavers are producing in their looms. They also change their variety of production according to trends in demand, fashion and the innovative designs. While there are numbers of varieties of cloth, the most popular and most demanded variety or types of cloth produced by various weavers are presented in table-4.8.

Table-4.8: Varieties of Production

Variety	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Puanchei	32	29.09
Puanropui	30	27.27
Siniar	31	28.18
Ngotekherh	10	9.09
Plain	7	6.36
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The most demanded types or varieties are usually traditional dress or 'Puan' namely 'Puanchei', 'Puanropui', 'Siniar', 'Ngotekherh' and 'Plain'. Of these 'Puanchei' is the most popular and most demanded variety produced by 32 weavers out of sampled 110 weavers. The second most demanded 'Siniar' is produced by 31 weavers while 30 weavers produced 'Puanropui', 'Ngotekherh' by 10 weavers and 'Plain' by 7 weavers. The numbers of weavers producing different variety of cloth in Thenzawl is presented in Figure-4.5.



4.11. Cost of Warp Beam and Price of Products

Warp Beam or warp roll is a roller, located at the back or front of a loom, on which the warp ends are wound in preparation for weaving. A complete warp roll costs between Rs. 8000- Rs. 9000 according to the type of cloth to be produce or weaved. Some warp roll requires just a single colour and variety of yarn whereas other warp rolls for a product like Puanchei, and Ngotekherh requires two or more varieties of colour

of yarn. These differences in requirement of colours of yarn cause difference in the cost of warp beam.

Apart from cost of warp roll, the design-affecting duration of production, technique involves and colour of the product result in difference in cost of production which affect its price. While some variety of product like 'plain' and 'Ngotekherh' involves little less technique and design, only one or two colour require, and needs less time to produce and thus less costs; product like 'Puanropui', 'Puanchei' and 'Siniar' demands complicated techniques and designs, more colours of yarn as well as longer time to produce causing higher cost of production resulting higher price of the product.

These products-Puanchei, Puanropui, Siniar, Ngotekherh and Plain were mostly sold to local traders with a price ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1600 at wholesale rate. The retail traders then sold them at the rate of Rs. 300 to Rs. 2800 to customers; they're the middlemen in the marketing channel of handloom products leading the price in the market between themselves with the weaver and the final consumer of the products. Since Puanropui, Puanchei and Siniar are priced higher than other varieties (priced between Rs. 1200 - Rs. 1600), and are the most demanded in the market, most of the weavers are concentrated in production of these varieties which earned them better return than producing other varieties of cloth as presented in Figure-4.5.

4.12. Duration of Production and Number of cloth per warp roll

Usually there are 37 piece of cloth per warp roll which differs with the choice of weavers. Some weavers, sometimes extended the roll up to 41 pieces, however, 37 pieces per warp roll is the best suited quantity with the conveniences of yarn, capacity of bobbin which results in simplicity during the preparation of warp roll. The process of preparing a warp roll involves choosing the most convenient number of cloth which can be produce in a single warp roll keeping in mind the length of threads, capacity of bobbin, etc.

As already mentioned, production of some varieties of cloth depends on the design and technique of the product. It may involve complicated steps or process needing longer time to produce a cloth. While varieties like Siniar, Puanchei and Puanropui involves more design, colours and needs more manual works, and the same variety may be different in designs, hence required as many as 2 to 6 days to finish a piece of cloth (assuming the time devotion of weavers the same), other varieties like Ngotekherh and Plain involves less colour, less techniques and designs and can be completed even 2 piece per day.

Relating to the duration of production, the required number of day or days to complete or finish one piece of cloth may not be the same with different weavers. The actual duration of production depends upon the level of efficiency, skills, health, timely availability of raw material such as cotton, silk, etc, and time devoted by the weavers. While full time workers-who worked day and night-requires

relatively less time to produce one piece of cloth, some weavers like housewife and part time workers who use handloom sector as alternative source of income may devoted less time for weaving and thus need longer time to produce the same.

4.13. Quantum of production

The quantity of any production may depends upon the timely availability of raw materials, efficiency of workers, technology adopted, adequate supply of power, etc. No doubt the same happens in handloom sector, since handloom is labour intensive employment, the quantum of production of cloth depends on the availability of raw material, time devoted by the weavers, health of the workers, speed or efficiency of the weavers, etc. As mentioned earlier, weavers who worked part time like housewife are assumed to produce less amount of cloth while weavers who devoted almost all their time at weaving are producing a larger amount. Out of 110 sampled weavers, it is found that the quantum of cloth produced in a year is 8991 cloth, thus the average quantum of production is 81.74 cloths per weaver in a year irrespective of the difference in the duration of producing different varieties of cloth. Moreover, one piece of cloth is assumed to be 1.5 meter, and then the average production of cloth by a single weaver in a year is 122.61 meter. The average production of cloth by a weaver in a year is negatively affected by the part time weavers in respect to the average duration of producing one cloth of different variety as presented in section 4.12.

4.14. Problems, Reliability and Levels of Satisfaction of Workers

Several workers in organised and unorganised sector especially in rural areas are often forced to employ in a particular work because of unavailability of choice on what and where to work. One may not choose to work in handloom sector but engaged in it for his or her livelihood if he or she found weaving is a reliable employment or there are no other employments that yield a better return than weaving or it is the traditional occupation for their family. The reliability of the employment may be carried out by the number of problems, types of problems, and reasons for engaged in that particular employment. Problems in handloom sector, likewise in other sector of employment or source of income, is also one of the most significant parameter to carry out the level of satisfaction and whether if weaving is found reliable by the worker.

As presented in Table-4.7, out of 110 sample handloom workers, 27 respondents which occupy 24.55 per cent engage in weaving due to unavailability of other employment. Meanwhile, as presented in Table-4.9, problems like price of yarn, cited by 57 weavers which is 51.82 per cent, marketing channel, cited by 32 respondents which is 29.09 per cent and the price of cloth cited by 21 respondents which is 19.09 percent are mentioned by the weavers in the study area, but 110 respondents i.e. 100 per cent, cited that weaving is a reliable employment. Even all the weavers are not opted for engagement in weaving, and there prevails a problem that could adversely affect the profitability, but still all the respondents found it

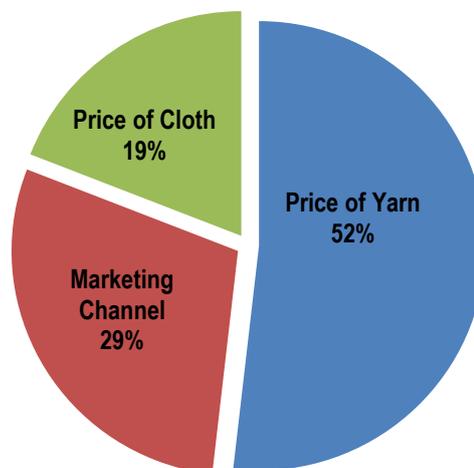
reliable. It is thus obvious that the level of satisfaction of the handloom workers to engage in weaving is positively high in general. It is also found that all the weavers in Thenzawl procure basic raw material, silk, cotton and yarn of different colours and quality from the local market where the price leaders i.e. the local traders, try to maximise their profits, the motive of profit maximisation may leads to a rise in the price. Various problems of the weavers are shown and depicted in Table-4.9 and Figure-4.6.

Table-4.9: Problems of Weavers

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Price of Yarn	57	51.82
Marketing Channel	32	29.09
Price of Cloth	21	19.09
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Figure-4.6: Problems of Weavers



4.15. Suggestions by the weavers

The analysis of the study reveals that there is a need for more Central and State Government's intervention in market channel despite the present steps and initiatives undertaken by them, and there is a need to exist an adequate regulation of market, maintaining proper marketing channel, control, fixation and maintenance of the price of the products- wholesale price at which the weavers sell to local traders as well as the market price at which the local traders sell it to the final goods consumers. The suggestions by the handloom workers in the study area are shown in Table-4.10.

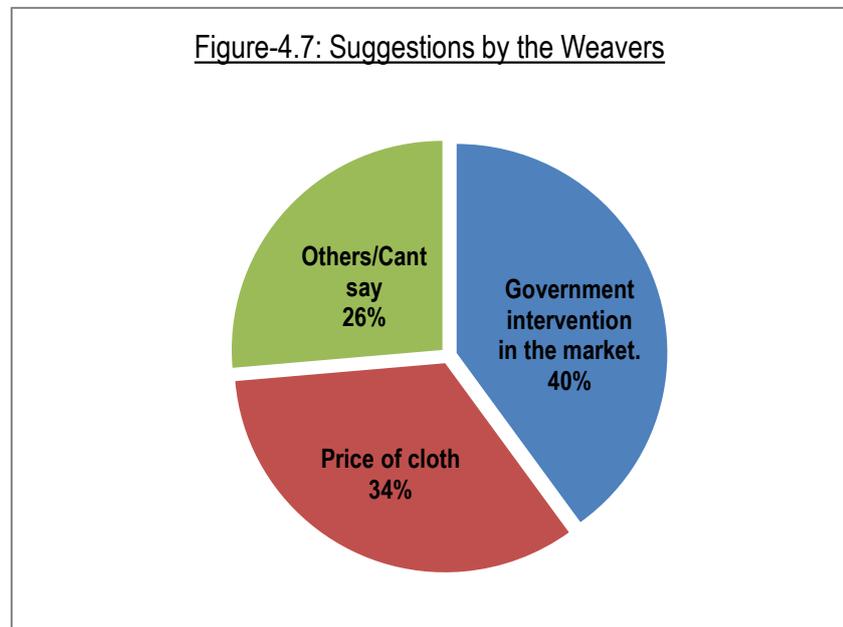
Table-4.10: Suggestions by the weavers

Suggestions	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Government intervention in the market.	44	40
Price of cloth	37	33.64
Others/Cant say	29	26.36
Total	110	100

Source: Field Survey, 2016

As shown and depicted in Table-4.10 and figure-4.7, governments intervention in the handloom industry is suggested by 40 per cent of the weavers, 33.64 per cent i.e. 37 weavers suggest the regulation and adorable change in the price of cloth while remaining 29 respondents cited 'Others' or 'Can't say'. The Cooperative Societies and other handloom related Non Government Organisations (NGO's), and Self Help Groups (SHG's) are no doubt exist there, but they are rarely functioning well to curb the problems in the sector right from the

pre-weaving to post-weaving till the product is sold in the market. The two suggestions i.e. ‘government intervention’ and ‘price of cloth’ are actually the government concern since government is the only authority with power that can change the price of cloth rather than keeping the price to determine by market forces, or the local traders to whom the weavers sell their produce at wholesale rate while selling the products to the final consumer at much higher price compared to their cost.



4.16. Concluding Remarks

This chapter analyse and presents the basic socioeconomic status, living conditions, livelihood securities, of handloom workers in Thenzawl, Mizoram. The following points may be note worthy based on the study. First and foremost, majority of the handloom workers in the area are female and are married. The study revealed that the handloom industry in Thenzawl is dominated by female workforce with 92.73 per cent of sampled 110 weavers. Of these, almost half of

the handloom workers (47.27 per cent) are married; the remaining workers are unmarried (36.36 per cent), and widowed or divorced (16.36 per cent). Secondly, among the handloom workers, more than two-third (74.55 per cent) of them did not passed matriculation. It is found that the reason behind the low level of education among the weavers is the difficulty to forgo the earnings of weavers. Thirdly, more than 80 per cent of the handloom workers had weaving as their main source of income while 17.27 per cent of the handloom workers have their household's main source of livelihood engaged in farming (8.18 per cent), government source (6.36 per cent) and business source (2.73). Fourthly, more than one-third (41.82 per cent) of the handloom workers were from a family with income group of Rs. 70000 - Rs. 90000. Comparing the low level of education and the income distribution of the weaver's family, it is thus obvious that most of the weaving family are unable to afford education because of the costs involved in education as well as to let go of what that student will earn from weaving instead of schooling.

The handloom workers produce such variety of cloth that is price worthy, and more demanded in the market. Most demanded variety as well as most produced cloth are 'Siniar', 'Puanchei', and 'Puanropui' with 28.18 per cent, 29.09 per cent and 27.27 per cent respectively while other variety like 'Ngotekherh' and 'Plain' constitute only 15.45 per cent. The most demanded varieties of cloth produced by the weavers have a relatively higher price compared to other variety due to the technique, designs, colour combination and the

duration (resulted by the design) of producing a cloth. The price of these high demanded varieties of cloth starts from Rs. 1200 and higher according to the designs, technique involved and type, amount and colour of the yarn included in completing a cloth. Thus, the type and variety of cloth demand in the market is directly and positively related to the types, designs and varieties of cloth to the weavers and hence determine the volume of production sales which in turn results in the income of the handloom workers. Sixth, handloom workers in the study area are of different age as well as different family size. The age of the weavers ranges from 21 years to 53 years of age. The study also revealed that the average size of the family is 3.17 ranges from 2 to 8 family members while less number of family member are from lower income group compare to a larger family size and vice versa, this revealed the impact of alternative or primary source of income by another family members. However, it is found from the analysis that more or less is the family size, handloom workers from higher income group than Rs. 90000 are having government source or business as their main source of income. Seventh, the study found that several problems exists like price of basic raw material such as yarn which is cited by 51.82 per cent of weavers, marketing channel of the product by 29.09 per cent of weavers, and the price of cloth as cited by 19.09 per cent of the weavers. Moreover, suggestions like government intervention in the industry as cited by 40 per cent of the weavers, adorable change in the price of cloth as cited by 33.64 per cent of the weavers and so on.

These problems and suggestions show the needs to improve and accelerate the growth of handloom sector in order to achieve sustained employment. The handloom workers in the study area, though there are problems and better suggestions, yet all of them found handloom industry a reliable source of income.

Since handloom weaving is a nonfarm activity, the study also found that there is no interval or any seasonal or climatic problems that can disrupt the process of weaving and weaving itself. Therefore, it is an obvious conclusion that the sales performance which depends on the amount of different variety of cloth demanded in the market has a corresponding level of security for the handloom weavers in the study area whose source of income has been either weaving as a primary source of income or weaving as an alternate source of income.

Figure-4.8: Puanchei (the most demanded type of product in Thenzawl).



Figure-4.9: Siniar



Figure-4.9: Puanropui.



MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.1. Introduction

Livelihood security of an individual is one of the most important companion of survival, determiner of living standard and a factor of development in today's world. Next to agriculture, handloom industry is the largest economic activity in terms of number of employment providing direct and indirect employment through 'pre' and 'post' weaving process. After industrialization has resulted in the declining trends of handloom sector all over the country, it has been a serious issue to consider the livelihood conditions of handloom workers.

Since it has been nicknamed 'Handloom City of Mizoram', Thenzawl has been selected as the area of this study where there are 821 units of handloom and more than 1500 weavers resided in. The livelihood conditions and security of the handloom workers covering their socioeconomic status, costs, prices and channels of liquidation of their products, their access to basic living amenities, problems, etc. of the study area has been pictured clearly through the analysis of primary data collected as well as secondary data which are collected from the report of survey conducted by government of Mizoram in Thenzawl. This chapter presents the major findings, recommendations and conclusion of the study.

5.2. Main Findings

The main findings of this study have been summarized as under:

1. The study revealed that the handloom sector is dominated by female workers that 92.73 per cent of the weavers are female. According to this result, out of 1597 weavers in the study area (Thenzawl Handloom Survey Report, 2014), 1481 weavers were female while remaining 116 weavers are male. The analysis also observed that the average family size of weavers in the study area is 5.17 with most of the family size ranges from 2 to 8 members. In addition to this, it also found that for every weaver family, around 2 of family member were dependent.

2. The study also found that majority of the weavers i.e. 89.1 per cent are below Class-X. There are 14.55 per cent who did not finish even the elementary education. Only 10 per cent are matriculate. However, it is also found that the level of education of the weaver does not necessarily have impact on the production. This is cleared by the fact that weavers without completing matriculation are not producing less cloth as compared to those weavers who passed Class-X; the amount of production depends on the physical abilities and time devotion of the weaver in his or her job.

3. As a handloom worker, 'Weaving' has been the mainstay for more than 4/5th i.e. 82.73 per cent of the weavers while it is an alternate source of income for 17.27 per cent of the weavers who are having 'government source' (6.36 per cent), 'farming' (8.18 per cent) and 'business' (2.73) as their main source of income. Moreover, the

analysis found that among the worker engaged in weaving as their main income source, majority of the weavers i.e. 60.91 per cent are adopting 'farming' as their alternate source of income.

4. The study observed that the most of households of the handloom workers belongs to annual income of Rs. 100000 and less. Nearly half of the weavers belongs to family with income group of Rs. 70000 - Rs. 90000 followed by income group 'Rs. 90000 - Rs.100000', 'above Rs. 100000', 'Rs. 50000 - Rs. 70000' and 'below Rs. 50000' with 34.55 per cent, 11.82 per cent, 7.27 per cent and 4.55 per cent of the weavers respectively. It is also found that for weaver's households without government or business source of income, there is a positive relationship between family size and annual income of the family.

5. After analyzing different housing type of the weaver's family, it was observed from the study that 60 per cent of the handloom workers in Thenzawl are dwelling in 'Assam type', 30.91 per cent of the weavers dwell in 'semi-pucca' houses while 9.09 per cent of the dwell in 'pucca' house. The analysis of data collected also revealed that handloom workers dwelling in 'pucca' houses are mostly from the family whose main income source is either 'government source' or 'business' indicating that these weavers are not the main income earner in the family while some widowed weavers are the only income earner and having dependent child in the family. Further, it is a positive finding that all the weaver's households are having access to safe drinking water either from water connection by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) or public wells.

6. A person's or household's access to banking and coverage of insurance has been considered as one of the most important determinants of the level of security plan. Related to this, it is a delightful and impressive finding that 93.64 per cent of the weavers in Thenzawl are having bank account in their names and all the weavers are under the cover of at least one or more health, medical or life insurance like Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthiya Bima Yojana (RGSSBY), Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY).

7. The handloom sector has been sustained by transferring skills from one generation to another. No doubt in Thenzawl is the practice; the analysis observed that out of 1597 weavers, 24.55 per cent i.e. 392 weavers are engaged in weaving as it is the traditional occupation of their family. Meanwhile, 42.73 per cent opted weaving due to the opportunity of better income compared to other employment available in Thenzawl. Another 24.55 per cent did not find any other employment and hence engaged in weaving. The remaining 8.18 per cent of the weavers in Thenzawl engaged in weaving due to 'other' reasons.

8. Analysis of data observed that weavers in Thenzawl are mainly producing such type of variety of cloth that has more demand in the market. Among different types of variety, a traditional 'Mizo' cloth named 'Puanchei' has been weaved by the largest number of weavers with 29.09 per cent, followed by 'Siniar' with 28.18 per cent and 'Puanropui' with 27.27 per cent. Based on these findings, out of 1597 weavers (Thenzawl Handloom Survey, 2014), the most commonly producing cloth variety, as well as most demanded types such as

‘Puanchei’, ‘Siniar’ and ‘Puanropui’ are produced by 465 weavers, 450 weavers and 435 weavers respectively.

9. In most of the cases, the price of goods generally has a positive relationship with its costs. To a large extent, Handloom sector reject this notion as the price of a product does not necessarily have neither a positive relationship nor a positive relation with its cost. The higher priced products as well as most demanded variety such as ‘Puanchei’, ‘Siniar’ and ‘Puanropui’ did not cost high to complete a warp beam making it ready to weave while relatively lower priced products like ‘Ngotekherh’ cost higher to complete a warp beam than other varieties of products. The analysis of data found that the mean cost of a complete warp beam is Rs. 8336.36 while standard deviation for this is 449.82. The minimum cost of warp beam is Rs. 8000 while the maximum cost is Rs. 9000.

10. In studying the price of the products, as mentioned earlier, analysis shows that the cost incurred in the preparation of warp beam does not necessarily results in the price of cloths. The price of the products depends on the technique involves, and the complicated designs which takes longer time to complete a piece of cloth. Thus, time taken to complete a cloth is one of the main determiners of the price of cloth as it is the results of designs and technique. Our study observed that the mean price for various variety of cloth is Rs. 1273.64 while standard deviation is 387.1. The price ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1600 (wholesale rate). The minimum priced variety of cloth is ‘Plain’ and followed by ‘Ngotekherh’, the steps involved are simple, no colour

combination and diversified design in the mixture of yarn to decorate the cloth. Hence, these two varieties requires half a day for a normal weaver to complete a cloth while 'Puanchei', 'Siniar' and 'Puanropui' required complicated steps, designs and different color combination to complete a cloth. As such, their prices are also higher.

11. In terms of quantum of productivity, the analysis of data observed that the productivity of cloth in Thenzawl is 81.74 cloths per weaver in a year irrespective of the difference in the duration of producing different varieties of cloth. Based on this findings, for 1597 weavers in Thenzawl (Thenzawl Handloom Survey Report, 2014), the total production of cloth in a year is 130539. Further, assuming one piece of cloth as 1.5 meter, the average production of a weaver in a year is 122.61 meter.

12. The analysis of secondary data (Thenzawl Handloom Survey Report, 2014) found that total production value in a year is Rs. 234992800 (not sales realization). Based on this value, the annual gross return in weaving for 1597 weavers is Rs. 147146 each. It is found that all weavers in Thenzawl acquire yarn from local market; the total amount (in weight) of yarn used is 58748.4 kg. The cost for this amount of yarn as per local rate (Rs. 450 per kg.) is estimated at Rs. 26436780. Thus, the total value of production after deducting the cost of yarn is Rs. 208556020 indicating the annual return per weaver is estimated at Rs. 130592 excluding the cost of preparation of a warp beam which includes winding the threads, warping, and other pre-weaving activities.

13. After conducting interaction and group discussion with the weavers therein, the study observed that there is a favourable and impressive picture that, 'while there is declining trends in fashion and shelter especially in contemporary 'Mizo' fashion, the demand for cloth i.e. 'Puan' has never experienced a declining trends, rather it goes on increasing year after year', this has been supported by the increasing annual production of cloth as well as increasing number of weavers year after year. The primary data analysis also proved the fact that 100 per cent of the handloom workers, whether they engaged in weaving as primary source or alternate source of income found 'weaving' a reliable occupation.

14. Although the handloom weaving is found reliable occupation in Thenzawl, yet there is disappointing findings. Our study observed that weavers in Thenzawl faced problems like 'Price of Yarn', 'Marketing channel' and the 'Price of Cloth' cited by 51.82 per cent, 29.09 per cent and 19.09 per cent of weavers respectively. Moreover, the analysis of data revealed that 40 per cent of weavers suggest 'government intervention' which is directly concerned about the marketing channel and the price of cloth, and 33.64 per cent of weavers suggests 'price of cloth' which is positively related with the price of yarn (a major problem). Thus, it is obvious that while weaving is a reliable occupation, there is a 'cost to price' gap in the market from where the weaver bought their raw materials and the market where they sell their products. These gaps can adversely affect the profitability of the weavers in Thenzawl.

5.3. Conclusion and Recommendations

Compare to the whole country as a whole and the states where handloom is popularly practiced in India, the livelihood conditions and status of handloom workers is more favourable despite a few negative observations found in our study. One of the most important positive findings is that all the weavers found weaving as a reliable employment irrespective of whether their household's main source of income is weaving or other sources. No doubt, poverty has also been one of its biggest problems for a numerous handloom workers that negatively results in the educational level of the weavers.

In spite of relatively favourable livelihood source and socio economic status when compared with other handloom workers India, handloom workers in Thenzawl are comparatively producing less in terms variety of cloths, innovative designs, and flexibility of production, etc. Generally, the variety of production depends on the demand. There is a positive prospect keeping in mind the increasing demand, innovative designs, possibility of exploration, market enhancement, etc. to sustain the handloom sector and to maximize welfare of the workers. The amount of return for invest or engaged in weaving mainly depends on the time devoted for weaving. Besides, it is disappointing to find that consideration of government intervention regarding the marketing, price of yarn and cloth are the major problems and suggestions of the weaver. The inactive functioning and participation of NGO's and Cooperative Societies in reality is one of the eminent reasons behind the lagging of government intervention.

Another disappointing picture is that majority of the weavers are having bank account in their names, but their saving habits as well as relation to bank regarding tackling down the local traders from abuse of price of cloths, yarns, etc. are not considered through Bank loans, and other sources.

At the backdrop of the study of livelihood conditions of weavers in Thenzawl, the observations of the study make it considered and convenient to propose some policy recommendations.

1. The existing market is local traders who buy the handloom products at wholesale rate, and there is no such proper rate of cloth. Thus, as suggested by the weavers, it is necessary to regulate and control over the marketing channel.
2. The price of yarn, as stated by the weavers need to be lowered in order to maximize the return of weavers. Thus, there is a scope of government intervention through proper stream or with the assistance of NGOs, Cooperative Societies, etc. to favour the weavers providing a place where they can buy their raw materials at a subsidized rate.
3. To maintain sustainability and innovation, it is necessary to conduct and organize training on skill development, innovative designs, etc. by organizations, societies, or government in order to explore and enhance the market.
4. There is a need to have an active Cooperative Societies and NGOs which will function and participate in reality and consult the weavers to approach the Central and State government for the development and to promote the handloom cluster.

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Appendix-1

QUESTIONNAIRE

1	Name (optional)					
2	Sex	Male		Female		Other
3	Age					
4	Marital Status	Married		Unmarried	Widowed/Divorced	
5	Level of Education	Below VIII	Below X	HSLC	HSSLC	Other
6	Size of Family					
7	No. of Dependent in the family					
8	Why weaving	Family Tadtion	Better Income		No Other Employment	Others
9	Main Source of Income	Weaving	Govt. Source	Farming	Business	Others
10	Alternate Source of Income	Weaving	Govt. Source	Farming	Business	Others
11	Annual Income(from all source)	Below 50k	50k-70k	70k-90k	90k-100k	>100k
12	Housing (Type)	Assam Type	Semi-Pucca		Pucca	
13	TV	Yes		No		
14	Refrigerator	Yes		No		
15	Gas	Yes		No		

16	Safe Drinking Water	Yes		No	
17	Power Supply/ Electricity	Yes		No	
18	Mobile Phones	Yes		No	
19	Weavers Credit Card	Yes		No	
20	Any Insurance Scheme	Yes	If Yes, State		No
21	Savings Bank Account	Yes		No	
22	Variety of Cloth(Name)				
23	Price of product				
24	Duration of Producing One Cloth				
25	Cost of Warp roll				
26	No. of cloth in a roll				
27	Market	Thenzawl	Mizoram	Outside Mizoram	if Other, State?
28	Source of Raw Material				
29	Do you find Weaving Reliable	Yes		No	
30	Problems				
31	Suggestions				