



A STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF DEVELOPMENTAL PLANS & PROGRAMMES FOR WEAVERS

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Abstract

The Athagarh zone of Cuttack District is thickly populated by handloom weavers. The art of weaving requires involvement of all family members irrespective of sex and age. Government is implementing various plans and programmes from time to time to mitigate the problem of the weavers. Against such a backdrop an attempt is made to find out the ground reality. It was found out alleviation of their poverty through welfare and developmental measures is marginal.

Key words: Handloom, Weaver, Welfare measure, Developmental measure.

Introduction

Despite the onslaught of modern technology based on industrialization and the proliferation of power looms and composite textile mills in independent India, handloom continues to occupy a prominent place in the country's economy. "In a capital scarce and labour surplus economy like India, this industry through backward and forward linkage effect generated employment not only to weavers, but also to others such as loom and accessories manufactures, dyers, printers, processors, twistors, sellers etc. But handloom weavers are suffering from inadequate contemporary technology, scarcity of working capital, rural orientation, exploitation by middleman, meager remuneration which are mandatory to maintain the smooth flow of production. The weavers are not aware of potential new market for their products, in urban India and abroad. The weaver who receives a large order will often not be able to find the funds necessary to purchase raw materials. However, handloom industry needs to reorient itself for meeting the challenges being posed by rapid economic, social and technological changes. Taking into account all these factors the government is implementing many plans and programmes for the weaves from time to time to make them at par with others in the socio-economic ladder. An attempt is made to study the effectiveness of various developmental plans and programmes meant for the weavers in Athagarh zone of Cuttack district.

Objectives

1. To know in detail about the various government plans and programmes meant for the weavers.
2. To study the association of various factors with the beneficiary level which will lead to satisfaction.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the different developmental plans and programmes implemented for the weavers.
4. To give suggestions which will be useful for the planners in future.

Materials and Methods

The study was undertaken in Athagarh zone of Cuttack district of Odisha state. Two villages namely Nuapatna village of Nuapatna Panchayat of Tigiria block and Abhimanpur village of Alara Panchayat of Narshinghpur block were selected randomly. Athagarh zone was selected for the purpose that weaving is the main source of livelihood of the people. Two villages from two blocks were selected for the reason, that it is thickly populated by handloom weavers. One hundred and fifty households were selected by simple random sampling method. Interview and case study method was used for data collection. The data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) such as percentage, pearson correlation, regression analysis etc.

Analysis and Interpretation

Objective-1: To know in detail about the various Government plans and programmes meant for the weavers.

The following are the special packages for the weavers. For the all round development of the weavers construction of work shed-cum-house scheme (2013-14), distribution of Solar Lantern (started from 2013-14) through OREDA to each weaver family by the government, social security assistance, handloom cluster development programmes are available.

Under construction of work shed-cum-house scheme, the beneficiary ought to have the land of 180 square feet in his name, and then only he will be eligible to be covered under the scheme. Weavers living in plain and hilly area will be eligible assistance under the scheme up to Rs. 70,000/- and Rs. 75,000/- respectively. From one's annual income minimum 50% should be from handloom weaving. The weaver should not have availed same type of assistance from either state government

or central government. He should not have work shed of concrete roof. When weavers below poverty line will not be available, then if required eligible above poverty line weavers (Adibasi/ Schedule Castes/ Women/ priority to physically challenged persons) are also eligible to get the assistance and the same will be decided by the State Director In-charge of Handlooms.

For doing weaving work continuously each weaver family is provided with solar lantern through Odisha Renewable Energy Development Assistance (OREDA).

Assistance for social security to weavers is provided by government through insurance coverage. The annual premium of Rs. 330/- per weaver will be shared as under:

Government contribution	:	Rs. 150/-
LIC's contribution	:	Rs. 100/-
Weaver's contribution	:	Rs. 80/-

Under Handloom Cluster Development Programme assistance up to Rs. 33 lakhs to be provided within 3 years to make the cluster continue long.

Central government has introduced Mahatma Gandhi Bunakar Bima Yojana for all the weavers (both male and female) who are engaged in weaving for. To come under the umbrella of this Yojana the criteria for the weavers are:

1. Regular weaver / allied activities related to weaving.
2. Age should be between 18-59 years.

The weaver will get following benefits:

Natural death	:	Rs. 60,000/-
Accidental death	:	Rs.150,000/-
Accidental total disability	:	Rs. 1,50,000/-
Accidental partial disability	:	Rs. 75,000/-

In addition to this, the weaver availing assistance under the scheme, having children reading in class IX to XII (Maximum 2 children) under Siksha Sahayak Yojana will get scholarship of Rs. 1200/ annum which will be provided by Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Yarn supply scheme – Through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), 10% rebate is given in yarn price and is provided to each weaver, all primary weaver's co-operative society, apex society and cluster consortium. Yarn pass book is provided to all the weavers enrolled under the scheme. Each weaver is entitled to get yarn at a rebate rate in a month which is as follows.

Cotton yarn (up to 40 numbers)	– 30 kg
Cotton yarn (above 40 numbers)	– 10 kg
Silk yarn	– 04 kg

When interacted personally with the weavers and their family members to know their awareness level, most of replied that they are aware about it. But their satisfaction level is marginal. The enquiry at personal level further reveals that the effectiveness of developmental plans and programmes are not promising. They opined that since two decades many programmes have been implemented by the Government, but the cause of failure is due to non-involvement of the target groups while planning programmes. Nearly 30 co-operative societies are there in the studied area but only 3 of them are actively working. Members of weaver's cooperative society and other office bearers at times do not distribute the fund. Hence the needs of each eligible beneficiary should be identified and accordingly programs may be chalked out or extended. The budget sanctioned for a particular programme should be released timely in a phased manner for smooth implementation of the programme.

Objective-2: To study the association of various factors with the beneficiary level
Table No.1 – Correlation between Beneficiary Level and Awareness Level

Correlations		Beneficiary Benefit	Awareness Level For Development
Beneficiary Benefit	Pearson Correlation	1	.348**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	150	150
Awareness Level For Development	Pearson Correlation	.348**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	150	150

Interpretation

The above correlation between beneficiary level and awareness level is found to be significant at 0.01 level as the significant value is .000. However as the pearson correlation value is .348, the association is there but it is not strong.

Table No.2 – Correlation Between Beneficiary Level And Availability Range

Correlations		Beneficiary Benefit	Availability Range In Village
Beneficiary Benefit	Pearson Correlation	1	.080
	Sig. (2-Tailed)		.332
	N	150	150
Availability In Village	Pearson Correlation	.080	1
	Sig. (2-Tailed)	.332	
	N	150	150

Interpretation

The above correlation between beneficiary level and range of availability in village is found to be insignificant as the significant value found is .332.

Table 3: Weavers Satisfaction Level

Beneficiary Satisfaction Level									
Not Satisfactory		Satisfactory		Good		Very Good		Excellent	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
116	77.3%	24	16.0%	7	4.7%	3	2.0%	0	0.0%

Interpretation

The above table states that about 77 per cent are not satisfied with the implemented plans and programs. Not a single weaver opined that the various schemes implemented by government are excellent for them. Out of the rest 23 per cent respondents, 16 per cent rated it satisfactory, 4.7 per cent rated good and 2 per cent rated the same as very good. So in toto it can be generalized that the various schemes are not able to raise the socio-economic status of the weavers to a satisfactory level.

Objective-3: To Evaluate The Effectiveness of The Different Developmental Plans and Programmes Implemented For The Weavers

The effectiveness of development programmes has to be analyzed from time to time to see its impact on the weavers. So here an effort is made to calculate the effectiveness of the selected development programmes. To do so the factor beneficiary level is taken as an independent variable and two other factors like household monthly income and the educational status of the

weavers family is taken as dependant variable. Then two separate regression analysis is made to draw the result, which are as follows.

Regression analysis- 1				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.166 ^a	.028	.021	.984
a. Predictors: (Constant), Beneficiary Benefit				

Coefficients ^a							
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	2.050	.180			11.384	.000
	Beneficiary Benefit	.251	.123	.166		2.046	.043
A. Dependent Variable: Education of Weavers							

Regression analysis -2				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.306 ^a	.094	.087	1.004
a. Predictors: (Constant), BENEFICIARY BENEFIT				

Coefficients ^a							
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	1.070	.184			5.822	.000
	BENEFICIARY BENEFIT	.490	.125	.306		3.909	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Household Monthly Income							

Both the above regression analysis shows very poor result. In the 1st regression result as the R square is very less that is .028, so the impact of the independent variable is very less that is only 2.8% variance of educational status is accounted for by the beneficiary level. As noted in the 2nd regression the R square is .094 which means about 9% of variance in household income is accounted for by the beneficiary level through implemented plans and programmes. Here both the analysis is not in the range of acceptable and thus it may be noted that the impact of beneficiary level is very less on both the dependable factors.

The poor result of the regression analysis may be because of small sample size in this particular study.

Objective-4: To give suggestions which will be useful for the planners in future.

1. We have to identify the needs of each eligible beneficiary (people-centric). Basing on their needs only the plans and programmes should be chalked out or may be extended.
2. A proper monitoring and evaluation system should be developed which will work on timely basis.
3. The programmes should ideally be implemented through Panchayat Raj Institution or some credible NGOs.
4. The budget sanctioned for a particular programme should be released timely in a phased manner.



5. Efforts are required to produce defect free high quality handloom fabrics according to contemporary consumer preferences and also to ensure reasonable wages so that younger generation opts for this occupation.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that there is very weak association between the factors and the beneficiary level. More than two third respondents stated that they are not at all satisfied with the implemented plans and programmes. The study further reveals that the effectiveness of various developmental plans and programmes are marginal. Hence to improve the social and economical status of the weavers, the weaver friendly plans should be implemented with proper monitoring and evaluation system.

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