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Demographic profile of handloom weavers in the state of Andhra Pradesh: An exploratory study

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Abstract
The study aimed to know the demographic profile of handloom weavers in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Exploratory research design was used in the study. The study was conducted at Kurnool and Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. A total sample of 120 handloom weavers were selected using purposive sampling method. The Major findings of the study include that most of the handloom weavers belonged to the age group of 31-45(35%) and 46-60(38.33%). Morethan one-fourth of the sample of weavers were illiterates (33.33). More than 60 per cent of handloom weavers families income was between Rs. 10000 to Rs. 14999. The mean family income of handloom weavers was 9934.17±1725.71.

Keywords: Demographic profile, Handloom Weavers, Andhra Pradesh

Introduction
The nation's handloom industry is the largest cottage industry and produces a significant amount of craft goods. Weaving cotton, silk, and other natural fibres is done on millions of looms nationwide. Nearly every town has weavers who skillfully weave the age-old beauty of India's priceless cultural legacy. International output of mechanised textiles has increased during the past century. Agriculture is the primary economic activity in the nation, with handloom weaving coming in second (Avijit and Pradip, 2017., Emmanil, 2012 & Das *et al.* 2016) [1, 2, 3].

The nation's weaving sector produces over 95% of the hand-woven cloth produced worldwide and contributes approximately 15% of the nation's overall fabric output. The 4th All India Handloom Census 2019–20 indicates that there are around 28.20 lakh looms located throughout India and 35.23 lakh workers directly employed in the handloom sector.

One of the major States in the handloom sector is Andhra Pradesh. There are roughly 1,58,902 handloom weavers outside of cooperative fold and 2,00,310 weavers inside of it. In the State, there are roughly 81,000 Power looms operating both inside and outside the cooperative folds.

Yousuf and Khan (2013) [5] looked at the characteristics and issues faced by the silk weavers in Srinagar. According to the research, the weavers' precarious situation should be taken seriously because of their low income, lack of education, financial hardships, and little government assistance. According to Majeed (2020) [4], the low level of education, low pay, lack of government support, and exploitation by master weavers and middlemen make the position of weavers unacceptable.

Methodology
Exploratory research design was used to collect the data for the study. The study was conducted at Kurnool and Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. A Sample of 120 handloom weavers were purposively selected from each district. The demographic variables of the handloom weavers include age, gender, marital status, education and type of family, monthly income of the weavers. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect the data using survey method. The data was analysed using mean, percentage and Standard deviation. The scores for demographic profile variables (Table 1.) were given as follows.

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Table 1: Scoring of Demographic profile variables

	Score 4	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Age group	61 and above	46-60	31-45	Below 30
Gender	-	-	male	female
Marital Status	-	Married	Unmaried	Widowhood
Educational Status	Graduation and above	Secondary education	Primary education	Illiterate
Type of family	-	Nuclear	Joint	Single
Monthly Income	15000 and above	10000-14999	5000-9999	1000-4999

Results and Discussion
Age of the weavers
Nearly 38.33 % of the weavers were between the age group of 46-60 years, 35 per cent of the weavers belong to 31-45 years of age and 16.67 percent belong to 61 and above years of age. Only 10.00 per cent weavers were belonged to below 30 years of age. On an average (mean) age of weavers in handloom weaving activity were of 47.63 ± 12.26 years.

Table 2: Distribution of weavers by Age group N=120

S. No	Age group	Mean	Frequency (%)
1	Below 30	12	10.00
2	31-45	42	35.00
3	46-60	46	38.33
4	61 and above	20	16.67
Mean ± SD=2.62 ± 0.88			

Gender
The study results revaled that majority 77 per cent of the weavers were male and remaining 43 per cent were female.

Table 3: Distribution of weavers by Gender N=120

S. No	Gender	Mean	Frequency (%)
1	Male	77	64.17
2	Female	43	35.83
Mean ± SD=1.36± 0.48			

Marital status of weavers
Marital Status defines the state of being married, single, separated, divorced or widowed. The majority of the weavers i.e. 84.17 per cent were married and 9.17 were widowhood and rest 6.67 per cent of the weavers were unmarried.

Table 4: Distribution of weavers by Marital status N=120

S. No	Gender	Mean	Frequency (%)
1	Married	101	84.17
2	Unmarried	8	6.67
3	Widowhood	11	9.17
Mean ± SD=1.25 ±0.61			

Education
The weavers marked as illiterates had no schooling experience and weavers who studied between first class to seventh class were categorized as educated up to primary education. Weavers who studied from 9th class to intermediate were grouped as secondary education. Respondents who have completed bachelor's degree and above were included in the graduation and above category.
Thirty five Per cent (35 %) had primary school level education and 33.33 per cent of weavers were illiterates. The weavers with secondary level education constituted 27.50 per cent of the sample and very few (4.17 %) were graduates. The mean education qualification of the respondents was 2.03±0.88.

Table 5: Distribution of weavers by Educational status N=120

S. No	Educational Status	Mean	Frequency (%)
1	Illiterate	40	33.33
2	Primary education	42	35.00
3	Secondary education	33	27.50
4	Graduation and above	5	4.17
Mean ± SD = 2.03± 088			

Type of family
The family structure is divided into single, nuclear and joint families. It was revealed that majority (83.00%) of the weavers were living in a nuclear family and the remaining 11.00 percent of the respondents were living in joint setup and remaining 5 per cent as single family.

Table 6: Distribution of weavers by Type of family N=120

S. No	Type of family	Mean	Frequency (%)
1	Single	6	5.00
2	Joint	14	11.67
3	Nuclear	100	83.00
Mean ± SD=2.78±0.52			

Family Monthly Income
The income earned by all family members together was considered as total family income. The total family income per month ranged between not less than Rs.1000 and not above Rs.15000. Thirty-five per cent of the families earned income between Rs. 5000 to Rs.9999 and more than 60 per cent of families income was between Rs.10000 to Rs. 14999. The mean family income of handloom weavers was 9934.17±1725.71.

Table 7: Distribution of weavers by monthly family income N=120

S. No	Monthly family income	Mean	Frequency (%)
1	1000 - 4999	-	-
2	5000 - 9999	43	35.83
3	10000 - 14999	77	64.17
4	15000 and above	-	-
Mean ± SD = 9934.17±1725.71			

Conclusion
The study concludes that thirty five Per cent (35 %) had primary school level education and 33.33 per cent of weavers were illiterates. The average age of weavers in handloom weaving activity were of 47.63 ± 12.26 years. The mean family income of handloom weavers was 9934.17±1725.71. Majority 77 per cent of the weavers were male and remaining 43 per cent were female.

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