

CATEGORY DIFFERENTIATION AND WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRIES OF CHHATTISGARH STATE

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ABSTRACT

Handloom Industries are one of the most prominent industries in Chhattisgarh state. Products of Handloom industries reflect diverse culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh state. Handloom products featured with unique designs and textures which do not seem to be found in any other product, thus handloom products are now emerging as heritage of Chhattisgarh state. Handloom industries run by number of weaving cooperative societies and comprises of number of active looms. The study is descriptive in nature and involves observation and survey method. Study conducted in all districts present in centre of Chhattisgarh state, as majority of states present in that area only. Even handloom production in Central Chhattisgarh is also higher as compared to other regions. The present study compares number of weaving cooperative societies and active looms held by backward class and general class. The study also focused on number of womens employed in selected districts of Chhattisgarh state. Chhattisgarh districts holding maximum and minimum number of weaving cooperative societies and active looms with major or minor involvement of women are also studied.

KEYWORDS:- Handloom, Diverse, Unique, Weaving Cooperative Societies, Looms

INTRODUCTION

Handloom industries occupy an important place in rural development because most of the people in rural areas engaged in handloom activities. Handloom Industries remain the basis for livelihood of rural people and thus contributes to the progress of Chhattisgarh state. Fact is that whole family involved in handloom activities and, thus it goes from generation to generation. Handloom Department of Chhattisgarh state now starts encouraging youth for handloom activities and they starts providing training to non- weavers of young age-group. Under Chhattisgarh Government Handloom Regulations, around 53000 weavers were employed and ganvesh cloths woven in handloom for school students were given to womens for stitching. Total number of womens benefited from ganvesh cloth stitching is around 6000. Earlier weavers woven cloth in handloom and they have to struggle for its marketing. They neither able to promote their product nor they get right amount of it. But now Chhattisgarh Government takes this responsibility and establishes various weaving cooperative societies in several districts of Chhattisgarh state. These societies procure raw materials from Chhattisgarh Government and later handloom products produced in Handloom Industries are delivered back to Chhattisgarh Handloom Department where handloom products are made available to consumers. There is differentiation in category of workers performing handloom activities specially General Class and Backward Class. Today womens show keen interest in weaving handloom cloth, thus womens also made a remarkable mark in handloom industries.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive Research Methodology is used to collect data. Information is collected on the basis of Observation and Survey method.

Study area is selected regarding area consisting of maximum handloom units in Chhattisgarh State. Central area of Chhattisgarh possesses more handloom units as compared to other areas. It covers maximum districts of Chhattisgarh state. Study comprises of selected 10 districts of all 13 districts of Central Chhattisgarh. Area selection is done on the basis of maximum handloom activities.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Table1: Table representing number of weaving cooperative societies, active looms with respect to General, Backward Classes and number of womens engaged in handloom industries of Central Chhattisgarh

S.N.	Districts	Weaving Cooperative Societies			Active Looms			Women
		Backward Class	General Class	Total	Backward Class	General Class	Total	
1	Balod	04 (18%)	18 (82%)	22 (14%)	1983 (99.7%)	04 (0.3%)	1987 (29%)	604 (38%)
2	Janjgir	...	60 (100%)	60 (37%)	1559 (99.9%)	01 (0.1%)	1560 (23%)	225 (14%)
3	Rajnandgaon	12 (41%)	17 (59%)	29 (18%)	1550 (100%)	...	1550 (22%)	472 (29%)
4	Mahasamund	02 (50%)	02 (50%)	04 (3%)	510 (100%)	...	510 (7%)	15 (.92%)
5	Balodabazar	13 (65%)	07 (35%)	20 (12%)	446 (100%)	...	446 (6%)	56 (4%)
6	Bilaspur	...	10 (100%)	10 (6%)	282 (100%)	...	282 (4%)	07 (.42%)
7	Durg	...	06 (100%)	06 (4%)	262 (100%)	...	262 (3.5%)	196 (12%)
8	Dhamtari	...	02 (100%)	02 (1%)	211 (100%)	...	211 (3%)	12 (.73%)
9	Raipur	...	06 (100%)	06 (4%)	152 (100%)	...	152 (2%)	15 (.93%)
10	Bemetara	...	02 (100%)	02 (1%)	40 (100%)	...	40 (.5%)	...
	Total	31	130	161	6995	05	7000	1602

From Table 1, it is clear that Weaving Cooperative Societies more belong to General category while active looms more preferable under backward class. Maximum numbers of women as handloom workers were employed in Balod.

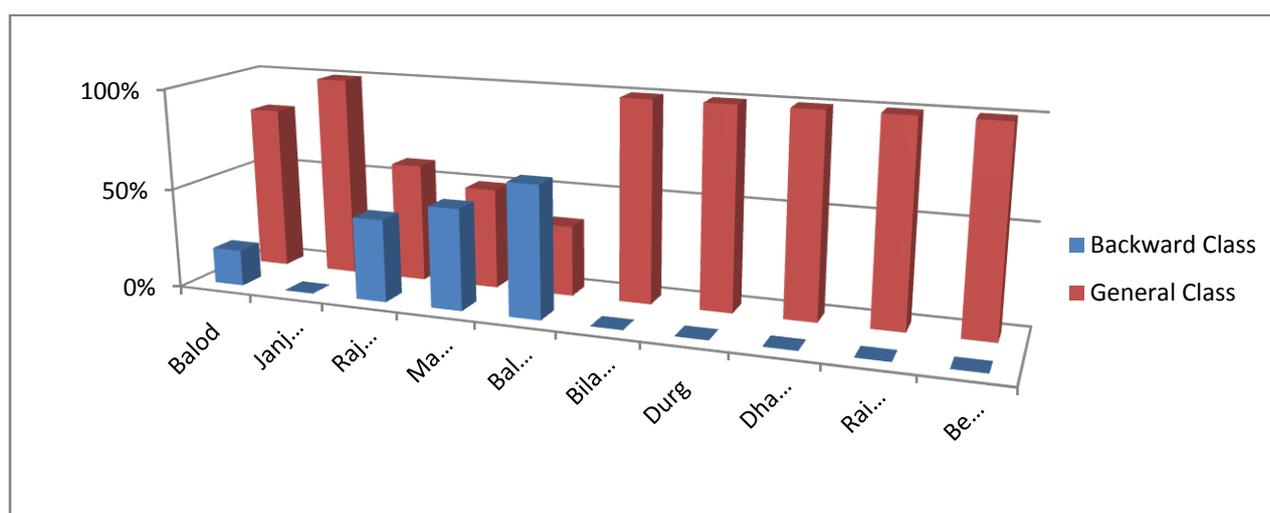


Fig. 1: Graph representing weaving cooperative societies held by Backward Class and General Class in Central Chhattisgarh

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It is clear from the above graph that Balod, Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund and Balodabazar consists of weaving cooperative societies held by Backward Class. But in view of General class, except Balodabazar all districts composed of weaving cooperative societies.

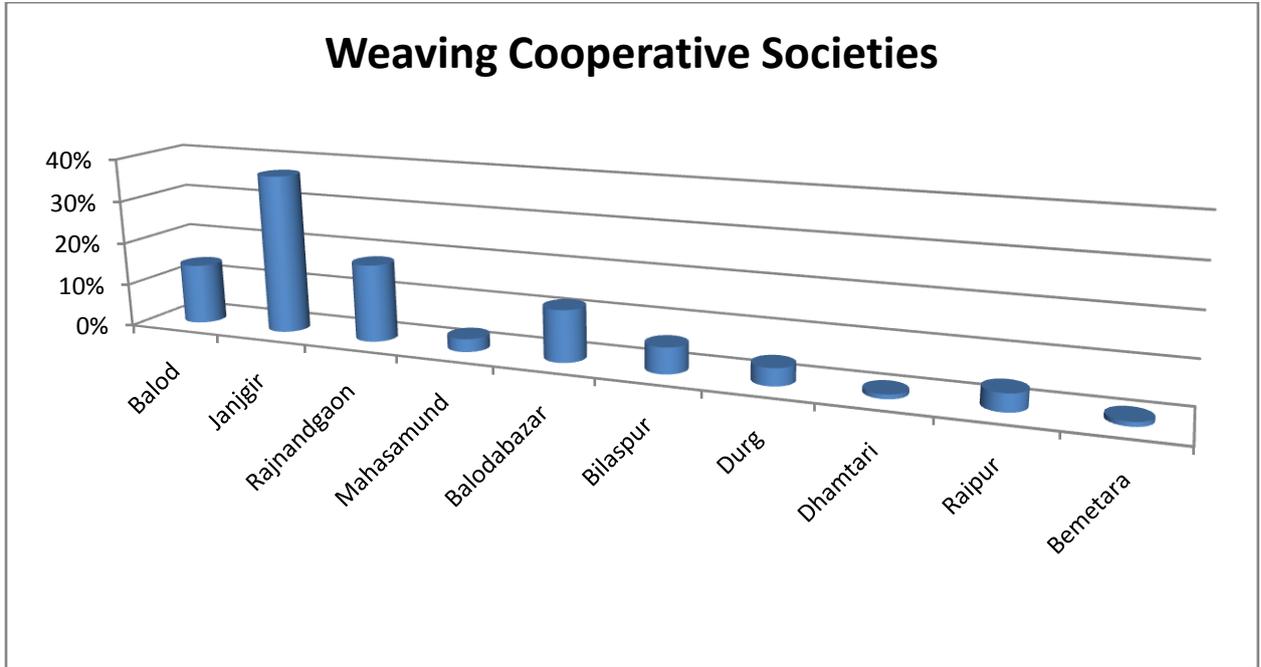


Fig. 2: Graph representing number of weaving cooperative societies in varied districts of Chhattisgarh

Above Graph indicates that Janjgir come up with highest number of weaving cooperative societies as compared to other districts.

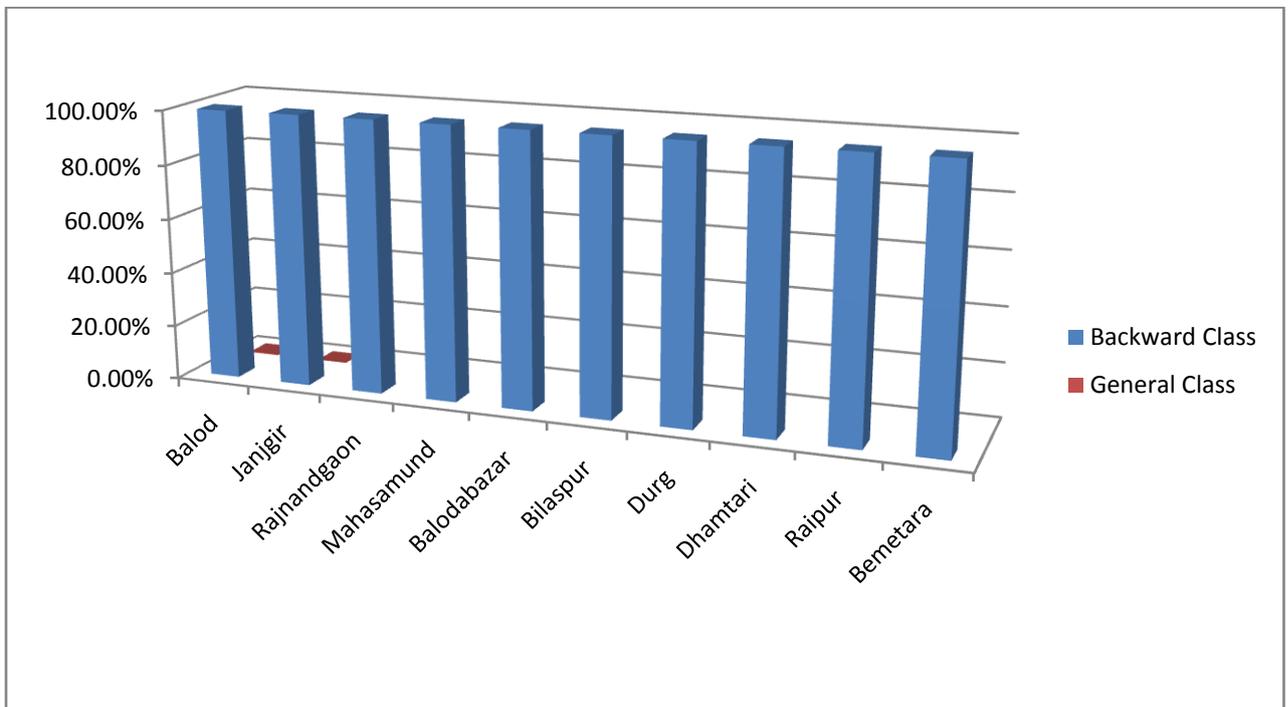


Fig. 3: Graph representing active looms held by Backward Class and General Class in Central Chhattisgarh

It can be easily derived from above graph that all active looms held by backward classes only, so it is clear that backward classes more inclined towards handloom activities.

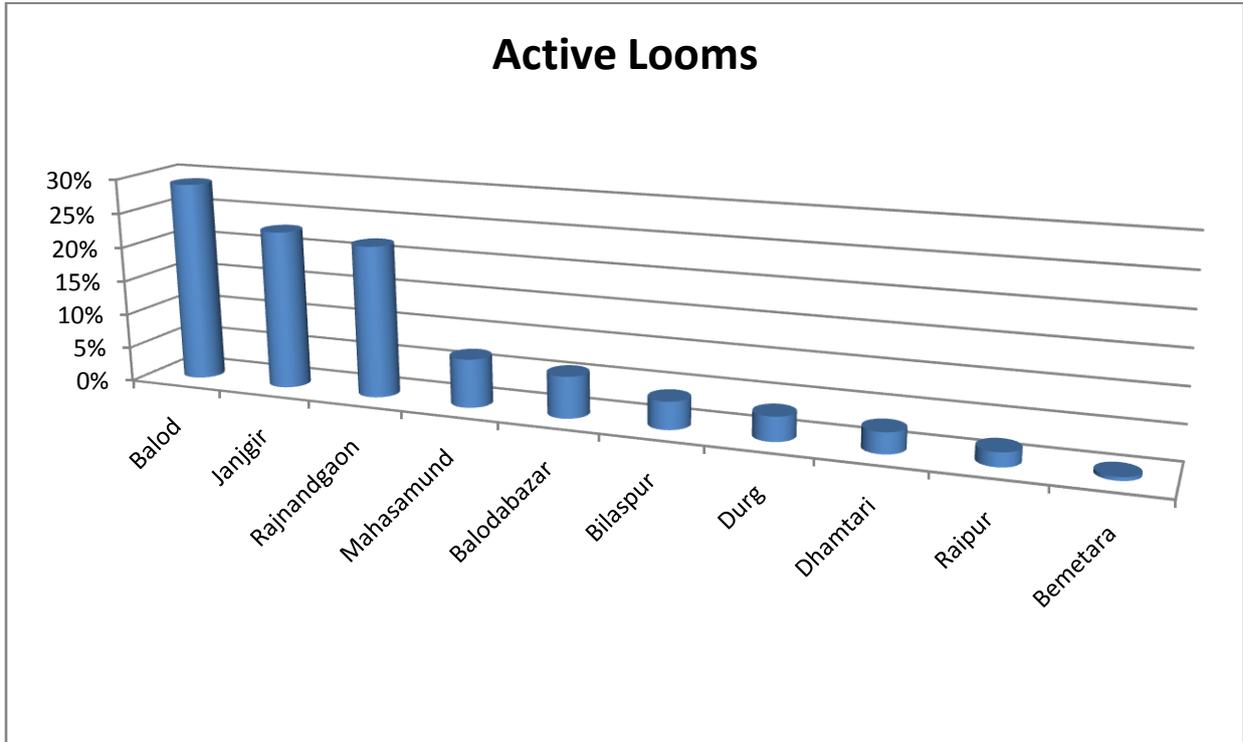


Fig. 4: Graph representing number of active looms in varied districts of Chhattisgarh

Graph shows that total number of active looms found to be maximum in Balod district of Central Chhattisgarh.

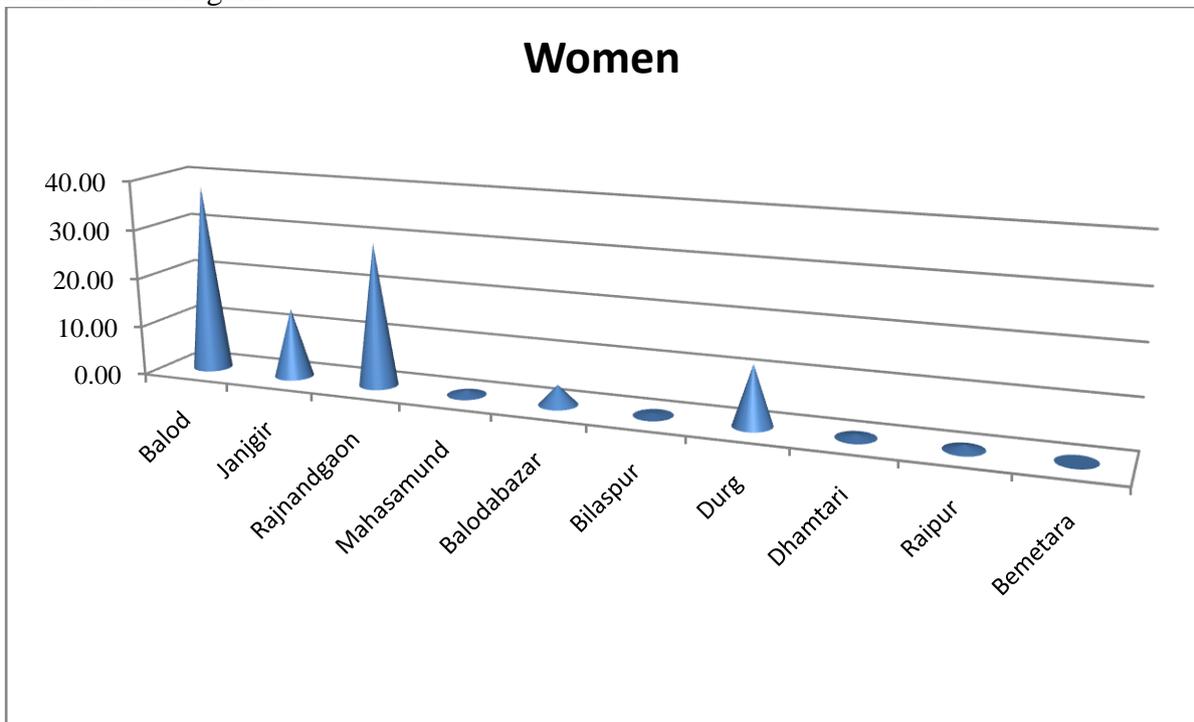


Fig. 5: Graph representing total number of womens employed in handloom industries of Central Chhattisgarh

Graph clearly presents the status of women engaged in handloom industries of Central Chhattisgarh. Balod is such district of Central Chhattisgarh that involves maximum number of women as handloom worker.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that Balodabazar consists of maximum number of weaving cooperative societies while Balod comprises of least number of weaving cooperative societies as per backward classes. While considering general class, it is revealed that Janjgir in Central Chhattisgarh have highest number of weaving cooperative societies while Mahasamund consists of least number of weaving cooperative societies. Total number of weaving cooperative societies found to be maximum in Janjgir and least in Dhamtari as well as Bemetara. Only Balod and Janjgir are two districts where active looms held by General category. In view of backward classes, Balod and Bemetara possess highest and lowest number of active looms. Overall Balod has the highest number of active looms while Bemetara seems to be the lowest. It is clear that women's are more employed in handloom industries of Balod while none of the women inclined towards handloom activities in Bemetara.

It is identified that weaving cooperative societies more held by General Class while active looms are more preferred by workers belonging to Backward Classes. Female handloom workers are more involved in Balod district of Central Chhattisgarh.

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