

Prospects of Handloom Industries in Pabna, Bangladesh

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Abstract

Handloom industry in Bangladesh is having glorious past, questionable present and blurry future due to a lot of internal and external factors that are acting behind the scene. In this paper we tried to identify the prospects of Handloom industry in Pabna, Bangladesh. In this case study we identify all the internal external factors that are great contribution to realize the true present conditions of the Handloom industry in Pabna, Bangladesh. In field study, we fell that there are some predetermined factors, like - shortage of working capital, high cost of raw materials, lack of organizing capability, inadequate technology efficiency, lack of policy support, great knowledge gap, lack of power supply and shortage of credit facilities, those are the main forces that directly hit the Handloom industry in Pabna, Bangladesh.

Index terms— handloom Industry, sample size, collection method, handloom products.

1 Introduction

The Handloom industry is the ancient, the biggest and the most important cottage industry of Bangladesh. This industry has a lot of future prospects as well as glorious past. This sector is very responsible for a very high percentage of the nation's economy. About more than 1.5 million people are directly and indirectly involved for their livelihood. It is the biggest handicraft industry in Bangladesh. Rural nonfarm development is a strategic priority for many developing countries during their economic transformation from an agricultural to an industrial society. It plays an important role in generating local employment and linking with other sectors. Handloom weaving is one of the most important nonagricultural sources of income in Bangladesh. It is the second largest source of rural employment after agriculture. The knowledge & skills needed for this sector transformed from their forefathers. An international expert says that the technical skill of the weavers of Bangladesh is second to none in the world. Handloom products are best known for their eco-friendly nature. The world solely concentrating on "Green technology", therefore green products and social business concept to save the struggling world, where "Handloom technology" could be best "Green technology" to fulfill basic needs of human i.e., clothing. Handloom weavers & workers are generally poor. Handloom industry can lead to improvement in the earning of those people on a large scale who are at fringes of social existence by alleviating Author : Pabna University of Science & Technology, Bangladesh. E-mail : mhamudur.341836@gmail.com their poverty. This sector can be a source of employment of hard -passed rural people, particularly.

2 II.

3 Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are to bring to focus on existing improvement of Handloom industry in Pabna, Bangladesh. In the light of this main objective, the specific objectives of the study are as follows:

To identify the actual conditions of the handloom industry in Pabna. To identify the basic problems of handloom industry in Pabna. To realize the production procedures of handloom industry in pabna. To identify the weavers & owners actual conditions of handloom industry in pabna. To identify the tribulations in distributions of handloom products. To identify the lacking of government support. To identify the reasons behind lack of interest of private sector to enter in this industry. To identify the most demanding product of this industry.

44 To identify the level of demand of these products in international market. To identify the immediate
45 competitors of this sectors. To identify the potential markets. Finally to provide some suggestions to overcome
46 these constraints.

47 **4 III. Literature Review**

48 Handloom have registered growth rates of lungi production during the post-liberation period(1972/73-86/87) well
49 in excess of population growth and have remained the principal sources of lungi of Bangladesh over a long period
50 of Bangladesh's history.the entire improvement, growth and structural adjustment have been achieved near-total
51 absence of public policies and programs (chowdhury, N 1989). at the time of independence over a thousand
52 weavers societies were existed and now almost all of which are dormant due to lack of strategic vision from
53 government to protect and promote this sector(Latif, M.A 1997). Weavers in our country don't get quality raw
54 materials at right time and at right price (Ahmed, M.U 1999). The main problems regarding the diffusion of the
55 improved handloom techniques appear to have been lack of technological knowledge and skills as well as financial
56 stringency of the weavers (Latif, M.A 1998). Handloom receives the lowest Effective Rate of Protection (ERP)
57 and among three weaving sub sectors power looms receives the highest. ERP is measured by value addition, i.e.
58 returns of land, labor and capital (Ahmed, M. U and Islam, AFMM 1989 BIDS). the product range of handloom
59 is simply amazing and includes muslim jamdani shares, Bedcovers, Bed sheets, Tapestry, Upholstery, place mats,
60 Rugs or Blankets, Satranji, Crochet, Muslim, Tribal textiles, Silk fabrics, Sofa covers, Block prints, Table ?loth
61 and Napkins, Towels, Dusters, kitchen towels, Gents, Ladies and Baby wear and Shirts, Panjabies and other
62 household linen in printed, plain or embroidered khadi (Bashu 2001). Weavers are suffering from inadequate
63 contemporary technology and scarcity of working capital, which are mandatory to maintain the smooth flow of
64 production (ADB, 2002). Technical efficiency of handloom industries of Bangladesh is only 41% and its technical
65 efficiency might improve by increasing its male and female labor ratio and decreasing its hired/family labor ratio
66 and labor/ capital ratio (jaforullah, M 1997).

67 All the researches on handloom sectors have sought different strategies for the support of handlooms and its
68 weavers. but the actual situation has not been changed as expected. In addition, day to day the heritage based
69 crafts industry is destroying. Thus, it is utmost important to create proper initiative, which boosts power to
70 handloom industry; symbol of our heritage and culture; to survive with its own potential without any fare of
71 rivals-power loom and industrial looms.

72 The methodology of the study includes the selection of sample size and data collection method.

73 **5 a) Sample Size**

74 In this study, all listed handloom factories (Appendix-1) in Pabna, Bangladesh have been selected which are five
75 in number.

76 **6 b) Data Collection**

77 The study is mainly based on primary & secondary data. To strengthen theoretical background of the study
78 different local and international published articles, website, seminar papers, different standard text books and
79 personal interviews dealing with overall prospects of Handloom industry in Pabna, Bangladesh. Time period of
80 the study was May 01 to May 08, 2012.

81 **7 V.**

82 **8 Handloom**

83 A handloom is a simple machine used for weaving. In a wooden vertical-shaft looms, the heddles are fixed in
84 place in the shaft. The warp threads pass alternately through a heddle, and through a space between the heddles
85 (the shed), so that raising the shaft raises half the threads (those passing through the heddles), and lowering the
86 shaft lowers the same threads-the threads passing through the spaces between the heddles remain in place.

87 **9 VI. Major Areas of Handloom Industries**

88 Handloom weaving is one of the most important nonagricultural sources of income in Bangladesh. There are
89 four main areas in which the clustering method has helped in Bangladesh handloom weavers to perform better:
90 1. Reductions in transaction costs through better market linkages 2. Technological spillovers 3. Lower cost of
91 entry 4. Ease of trade credit through repeated interactions.

92 VII.

93 **10 Functions**

94 Functions of Bangladesh Handloom Board as per Bangladesh Handloom Board Ordinance 1977. Ordinance No
95 LXIII of 1977.

96 To undertake survey, census and planning for rational growth of handloom industry.

97 To maintain statistics relating to handloom industry.

98 To conduct enquiries and investigations relating to handloom industry.
99 To promote Handloom industry primarily with the help of primary, secondary and Apex weaver's societies.
100 To render promotional and advisory services to units of handloom industry.
101 To arrange credit facilities for handloom industry.
102 To make arrangement for supply of yarn to the weavers at reasonable price primarily through weavers societies.
103 To make arrangement for supply of consumables like dyes, chemicals, spares, and accessories to the weavers
104 primarily through weavers societies.
105 To make arrangement for marketing at home and abroad primarily through weaver's Societies of articles
106 manufactured by handloom industry.
107 To undertake and organize publicity and propaganda for popularization of handloom products both at home
108 and abroad.
109 To make arrangement for maintenance of depots primarily through weavers societies for the supply of raw
110 materials to, and purchase of finished products from handloom industries, and also for maintenance of common
111 facilities for design, yarn preparation, bleaching, dyeing, calendaring, printing and finishing.
112 To render promotional and extension facilities for standardization for domestic and export sales of handloom
113 products and grant certificate of quality and of the country of origin.

114 **11 To provide training facilities and promote research**

115 To prepare and implement common facility schemes.
116 To collect fees.
117 To float subsidiary companies.
118 To do such other acts and things as may be necessary or conducive to be done for the smooth operation and
119 rational growth of handloom industry.
120 VIII.

121 **12 Importance of Handloom Industries**

122 Historically handloom has got its predominance and heritages in Bangladesh. The tradition of weaving cloth
123 by hand constitutes one of the richest aspects of Bangladeshi culture and heritage. The level of artistry and
124 intricacy achieved in handloom fabrics are unparallel and unique. The handloom can meet every need from
125 exquisite fabrics of daily use. The industry has displayed innate resilience to withstand and adopt itself to the
126 changing demand of modern times.
127 A manpower of about one million weavers, dyers, hand spinners and allied artisans have been using there
128 creative skills into more than . Existing promotional campaign is not adequate.
129 IX.

130 **13 Recommendation**

131 After analyzing we recommend the following steps, which we believe, we will provide a direction for further
132 improvement of this sector: ? We strongly recommended that, govt. should take necessary steps to control the
133 price of yarn at desired level. So that weavers can produce the product at cheap rate. ? Supplied of electricity
134 should be maximized and price of per unit electricity must be charged in the favor of owner of the handloom
135 industry. Average Per unit selling price: 350 taka(per lungi) Average per unit profit: 22 taka(per lungi) Total
136 annual profit: 9,50,400 taka Wages payment system: Weekly basis ? A comprehensive HANDLOOM RENEWAL
137 POLICY is needed to address the entire gamut of issues facing the Handloom Industry for its renewal in the 21st
138 Century. This policy will need to keep in mind it's pro-environment, pro-people, pro-rural employment impact
139 and regional variations while achieving the objectives of making this industry viable, competitive and equitably
140 structured. Additionally the policy will need to focus on improving lives and productivity of workers.
141 ? Government should be more responsible & should provide more policy support to save this ancient industry.
142 ? We have found that handloom industry faces intense competition from mill and power loom sector. So govt.
143 can create a quota system for handloom industry. ? Existing distribution channel of the handloom products is
144 not adequate & effective. This can be eliminated if we can catch the attention of private organizations & NGOs
145 to participate in the growth of this industry. ? The Handloom industry cannot be viewed through the prism of
146 the mechanized textile sector as it needs focused attention with an integrated and a holistic approach. ? As the
147 needs of the weavers and weaving community are quite different from those of the power loom and large textile
148 mills the handloom industry needs to be seen independently of the mechanized textile sector.
149 developed program for weavers. So, both private & public sectors can work for improve these conditions.
150 ? To ensure continuity of weaving traditions, the skills involved in the entire production chain need to
151 be preserved and supported with ancillary occupational workers who perform crucial pre-loom and postloom
152 operations being recognized as handloom workers and significant contributors. ? The Handloom Reservation List
153 includes only those items woven with cotton and/or silk yarn, it was strongly recommended that the Reserved
154 List be broadened to also include items woven with blended yarns, such as viscose and other blended fibers as
155 this is now the requirement of the customers. Unless this oversight is corrected weavers will continue to lose

156 market share with subsequent loss of income for the entire weaving chain. ? Some sort of distinguishing mark is
157 required so as to enable consumers to differentiate between the handloom product and the power loom product.

158 The possibility of inserting a 'power loom mark' ? There is urgent need for investment and research to create
159 simple easily applicable tests to help differentiate between products made on the handlooms vs. those made
160 on the power loom. ? Yarn availability in small quantities, in required count, at correct price and quality, in
161 the required fibred is a major lacuna. ? The Mill Gate Price Scheme has not been operating efficiently. It is
162 recommended that the office of the DC (Handlooms) conduct an independent evaluation of the Mill Gate Price
163 Scheme to study how to make it more effective. ? It is urgent that dyers allied to the handloom sector convert to
164 eco-safe reactive dyes. Training modules to assist in this conversion are therefore imperative and ought to include
165 technical training, testing of dye recipes, and real-time production training. ? The fund allocation should also
166 be allowed to be utilized for repair existing looms. ? Special attention must be paid to female heads of weaving
167 households, including where women have stepped forward to be involved in the weaving.

168 X.

169 14 Conclusion

170 All our recommends are only for the Handloom industry in Pabna, Bangladesh. This industry is facing a lot of
171 problems that have been highlighted through our discussion and give some recommendation to bring the handloom
172 industry at the blooming stage of development. We should extend our helping hand to the Government and NGOs
173 to pave the way of development for our poor weavers. (either a symbol or text) in the selvedge of power loom
174 or machine-made fabrics that states/implies the product is so made needs to be explored thereby ensuring that
175 machine-made products are not mistaken by consumers for hand-made or vice versa.

176 15 Global

177 16 Name of the listed

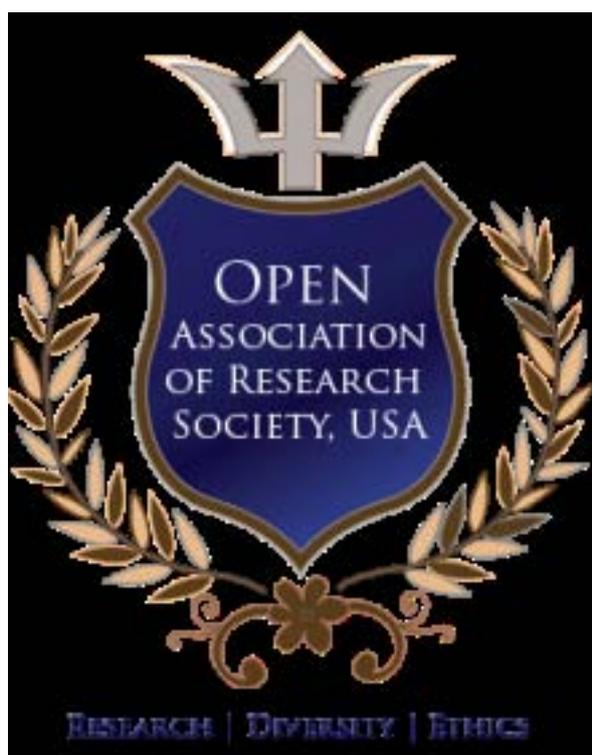


Figure 1:



Figure 2:



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Figure 3: Figure 1 :G



Figure 4: Location:

178

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Figure 5: ?G



Figure 6: G

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