

## **Socio-Economic Condition of Power Loom Weavers: A Case Study of Mau City**

Dr. Fatma Mehar Sultana\*, Mehrun nisa\*\*

\*Assistant professor, AMU, Aligarh

\*\* Research Scholar, Department of Geography, AMU, Aligarh

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**ABSTRACT:** Indian power loom industry is an export oriented cottage industry. In 1930 there were about 3000 power loom in the country and by the end of 2008-2009 .The number was raised to about 22.05 lakh. The power loom is spread all over India. Mainly in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh. Apart earning, it also provides employment to a large number of people of an area of Mau city. The manufacturing of textile through power loom has a special place in the heart of the people of India, because these are beautiful and stylish. The power loom industry mainly depends upon weavers, but for a last few years weavers have been facing problems. Their socio-economic condition is going down, due to low manufacturing output. The main objectives of the paper are to explore the existing socio-economic conditions of the power loom weavers, and to reveal the reasons behind the low products in the Mau city. The study is based on primary data collected through field survey. The total number of interviewed weavers is 277. The results reveals that socio-economic condition of weavers is very pathetic, because manufacturing production is very low. The major reason of low manufacturing and low socio economic condition is economic necessity, poverty, large family size with low level of literacy, low electricity supply, and poor government support, and on over whelming recent labour force in weaving activity. So there is an urgent need of government intervention, improvement in educational level, and increase the duration of electricity supply to improve the condition of power loom weaver. Apart of this there is a need to break this culture, norms and tradition which compels women to enter in this work force in pathetic condition.

**Keywords:** Mau city, socio-economic condition, power loom, poverty, weavers

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Socio-economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual of a family is economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education & occupation. When analysing a family's socio-economic status, the household income, earners education and occupation are examined. The families with higher socio-economic status, Education are stressed as in important achievement both within the household as well as in the local community. But in poor areas where food and shelters are priorities, education can take a backseat. So the most important factors of socio-economic condition are Income, Education, and Occupation. Thus socio-economic status is clearly associated with the well being. The power loom industry has grown up from handloom sector traditionally with inherent technical knowhow passed on from forefather and is being continuing in many of the clusters. The decentralized power loom sector plays an important role in Indian Textile and Clothing Industry. The power loom sector caters for about 62 percent of total fabric production in the country. Power loom helped to achieve many of the socio-economic goals of our planning. Thus, the growth of the power loom sector leads to the development in other fields of the economy, such as transportation, banking, and communication etc, power loom unit is said to be an effective way of implementing the programme of 'Garibi Hatao'. The number of power looms, which was 12 lakh in 1992, had increased to about 16 lakh by the end of 1998. At present, it has crossed 22 lakh i.e by the end of 2007. The power loom sector is basically labour intensive. It provides large scale employment opportunities to the people there by helps in solving unemployment problem effectively. The industry will have to prepare itself to face the challenges on account of globalization of trade and consequent competition, in order to survive and expand its market share. The Govt. of India have approved a Group Work shed Scheme for power loom workers during X Five Year Plan which aims to provide improved working conditions in the decentralized power loom sector in terms of more space, facilitate installation of larger and improved looms of bench mark technology, better work environment and improved work efficiency. The power loom industry is a weaving sector and an important segment of the decentralized cotton textile industry in India. Power loom industries are functioning the middle level work in the cloth production. According to the demand of time, power loom industry in Mau city has been classified as small scale unorganized sector. One of the most essential things of civilized human beings has been the cloth and it comes from the textile industry. More than 60 % of the fabric for export comes from the power loom sectors. Most of the power loom workers come from the down trodden families of Mau city. Workers directly engaged in manufacturing products in power loom

industries. They are directly involved in the production process of converting raw materials into finished products on very low wages. It is found that the sample respondents are married and some are unmarried, and some widows are also engaged in this industry for their livelihood. It is observed that the respondents, in general, at their very young age. The power loom industry is one of the weaving hubs of the country an important segment of the decentralized cotton textile industry. Power loom are a very important source of income in Uttar Pradesh. There are thousands of power loom handlooms in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, and lac of people depends on it for their livelihood. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Surat, Ahmadabad, Gujarat, Malegaon, Bhiwandi is an important segment of power loom work. The power loom sector shared nearly 55 % of the total cloth produce in the country. Uttar Pradesh is also one of them. Uttar Pradesh is having to a range of world famous traditional industries along with large scale business house spread. Main centre in eastern Uttar Pradesh are Tanda, Banaras, Azamgarh, Bhadohi, Mau etc. Mau city is a important district of Uttar Pradesh, in which power loom have been operated on a very large scale. The study is concerned with only the power looms which are in small-scale sector of Mau city and the weavers; they are engaged in this sector and their social and economic condition is need attention of the government. It is one of the most important segments of the textile industry in terms of fabric production and employment generation. Government have started different types of scheme, **INTEGRATED SCHEME FOR POWERLOOM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT** to provide infrastructural support for marketing, Modernisation of Power loom Sector etc. Comprehensive Power loom Cluster Development Scheme (CPCDS), In brief, the main objective of setting up these mega clusters is to assist the entrepreneurs to set up world-class units with modern infrastructure, latest technology, and adequate training and Human Resource Development (HRD) inputs along with appropriate market linkages.

## **II. REVIEW OF THE LITRATURE**

There is no authentic and huge number of literatures about this area but some literature is there, which are helpful for the study and research purposes.

Utam Paul (2013), this study is concerned with the socio economic development of workers engaged in small scale power loom sector of West Bengal. They discussed the nature of employment of power loom industries. They selected randomly 500 workers for surveyed and to know their condition. They used primary data as well as secondary data analysed with some statistical tools. They found that most of the workers who are engaged in power loom work are illiterate and they don't have any idea to know about the various schemes of the government. That's the reason of their poor condition.

Airi rahman, et.al (2014) they remarked the social status of the weavers and their economic development. They used random sampling method.

Sandhya Rani Das(2015),the objective of this study is to analyse the socio economic condition of the weavers and suggest possible suggestion to solved their problems. The study is based on primary data through interviewed 100 weavers of Bargarh district of Odisha.They found the conclusion that the weavers are facing a number of problems like financial,social,thats why they unable to purchase up to date machineries. They don't have any support through government.

Arif Anjum, D.V Thakor (2011)they analyse the functioning of the power loom industry and problem faced by the industry workers in Malegaon Maharashtra & their socio economic development. They recommend the appropriate measure for the industry, weavers and traders, consumers and their modernisation in respect to technology up gradation and marketing. They used primary as well as secondary data for this study.

Dr. B.Sadanandam (2016) they present the socio economic condition of the handloom weavers in order to identify the reason, and find out their economic condition and status in society. They select study area is Warangal district of Telangna State. Their study is based on Primary data and they used Qualitative and quantitative technique. The weavers facing problems in marketing, finance, and supply of thread. They found that most of the weavers assisted by their family members. They earn a monthly income of rupees 2000-3000 .This is such a very low income. These people are not satisfied with their profession.Womens are also engaged in the production of sarees and carpet. They require meeting the emerging challenges of the socio economic life.

Roselin Basumatary (2013) They want to highlights the socio economic status of women weavers in the informal sector in Kokrajhar Town. They collect data through questionnaire and used simple percentage method to find out the reality of women weavers in informal sector. The result present that women in informal sector is the most disadvantage category.

### **Objective**

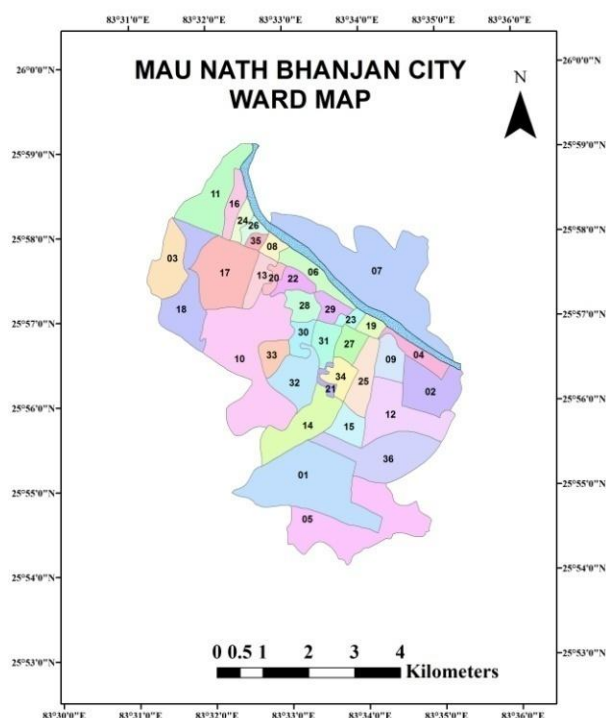
- To analyse the socio economic and gender profile of power loom weavers in Mau city.
- To investigate the factors behind their low manufacturing of the productivity.
- To suggest remedial measure to overcome weavers problems.

### III. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is mainly based on primary data. Primary data was collected through interviewing weavers through discussion and self observation. Observation and discussion with weavers played an important role in identifying the real situation. So I found that more females are involved with their children in comparison to male. Male are done only market oriented work. So female are engaged their children in weaving to increase household income with in less time. Total 36 wards in Mau city and within 36 wards I am selected 13 wards, which are easily accessible wards for the researcher. Within 13 wards I am selected approximately 72 household of the weavers randomly from different wards of the Mau city. These wards were selected through the informal network of acquaintances which the researcher has established over the year being the resident there. Within 72 household 277 weavers were interviewed. The numbers of households engaged in weaving full time or part time are interviewed for this research.

#### Study Area

#### Map of the Study area



Map Source: Digitize by Author

Mau Nath Bhanjan city is located at 25 degree 54 21" N -25 degree 59 08" N & 83 degree 35 44" E, in the fertile alluvial land of southern (right) bank of river Tamsa or choti sarju (A tributary of river Ganga in the heart of triangle constituted by joining the number of districts named as Azamgarh, Ballia, and Ghazipur districts in the eastern Uttar Pradesh. It surrounded by Gazipur district on the South, Ballia district in the East, and Azamgarh district in the west, and north side surrounded by Gorakhpur. Total geographical area of the district is about 1,714 sq. Km. Mau was an important township of Azamgarh district before its partition on 19, November 1998. It is major centres of textile weavers, the predominance of power loom in Mau region make the district like industrial city, and it is divided into four Tehsil and nine blocks. It lies on the main urban axis of major handicrafts, industrial and commercial centres on Gorakhpur-Mau-Azamgarh-shahganj-Allahabad and Mau-varanasi. The city has well developed transport network. And is connected with roads and railway from different parts of country. The city Mau is a major Hub of industrial sector as well as cottage industry named as power loom sector. The city has been an important centre of cotton textile in handloom as well as power loom in eastern Uttar Pradesh. So it has an important place among urban centres of state. Mau district is one of the industrially developed districts of Uttar Pradesh. The demography of Mau city according to 2011 census data have a population of 2,205,170 of which male and females were 1,11,4,888 & 1,09,02,82, respectively while in 2001 Mau had a population of 1,853,997 out of which male 933,523 and remaining 920,474, were female. Data o 2011 shows the Density of Mau district is 1287 person/sq.km while in 2001 density was at 1,082 person/sq.km. Regarding child sex ratio data i.e. 0-6 age were total 327,500 while in 2001, 373,90.

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

**Daily Income of Power Loom Weavers of Mau City      Household Income of Powerloom Weavers  
Table 1 & 5**

Daily Income....	Number of weavers	In percent	Household Income	Number of household	In percent
<100	78	25.7%	<4000	29	40.2
100-200	89	29.01%	4000-6000	22	31.4
200-300	76	24.09%	6000-8000	12	16.6
>300	61	20.09%	>8000	9	12.5

Source: Primary data

#### Age Wise Distribution of Power Loom Weavers

**Table 2.**

Age group	Total number of weavers	In percent
<15	78	25.7
15-25	85	28.05
25-35	80	26.1
>35	62	20.3

Source: Primary Data

#### Education Level of Power Loom Weaver

**Table 3& 4**

Education level (Male)	In percent	Education level (Female)	In Percent
Primary	14.8 %	Primary	38.7%
High school	18.5 %	High school	24.6%
Intermediate	37.0 %	Intermediate	22.5%
Graduation	22.2 %	graduate	10.5%
Post graduation	7.4 %	postgraduate	3.5%

Source: Primary Data

For the better result data collected through personal interview are compiled and tabulated and displayed with diagram. In the power loom sector females are more in number over males. The majority of weavers are Muslims. The share of Hindu weavers is very low as compared to Muslims. Table number 1 indicate the daily income of the power loom weavers which is ranging between 100 -500 rupee per day. 25.7 % household earn income is less than 100 rupee per day. 29.01 % weavers having 100- 200 rupee per day income. 24.9 % weavers having 200-300 income per day, and only 20 % weavers earn more than 300 rupee per day. Therefore this data shows the real socio-economic condition of the power loom weavers. Table 2 shows the age wise distribution of power loom weavers. Approximately 25.07 percent of the sampled weavers are found to be under the age of 15 years. It is followed by the age group of 15-25 years with 28.05 percent. The age group of 25-35 years of the weavers are in 26.01 percent. Only 20.3 percent are belong to the age group of more than 35 years. The age group of 15-25 years represents the major group which is engaged in power loom sector. This is very poor indication, because this age is the stage of learning and education. But the majority of the weavers are least educated. Table number 3 & 4 indicates the education data of the weavers, and approximately 15 percent of the male and 39.06 % female weavers are having primary education. 37% males and 22.5% females having intermediate level of education. 22.2 % male reached up to graduate level as compared to females'. Males having 7.4% of post graduate level and 3.5 percent female are found at post graduate level. So the literacy level of Mau city is very low that is the main reason for their condition. Illiterate weavers of Mau city are not aware about new machineries and recent technologies .They doesn't have any information about government support and schemes. About 10 percent of the female are also engaged in teaching profession those who have educated upto graduate level. After that they operate power loom in their own home. More than half of the weavers work 8-10 hours every day. Table 5 reveals that there are 29 household in the income group of 4000 per month. Total 72 household were interviewd, 22 household come under the category of the income group of 4000-6000 per month. There are 12 household which have monthly income 6000-8000 rupees. Whereas only 9 household belong to income group of 8000 rupee and above. It indicates that most of the weavers family living in a very pathetic condition.

Data represent with Bar and pie diagram

Table 1

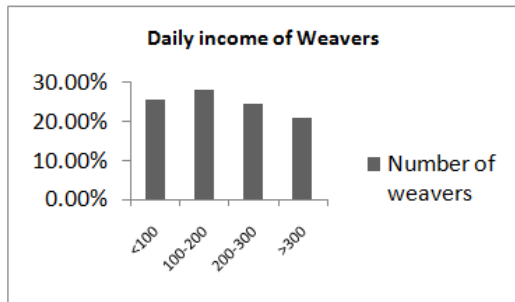


Table 2

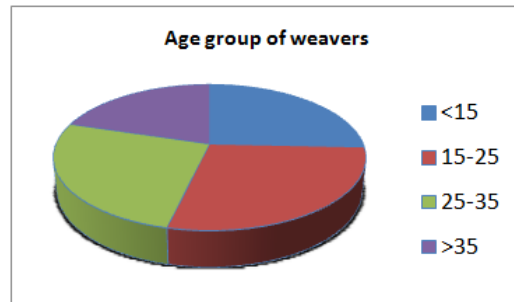


Table 3

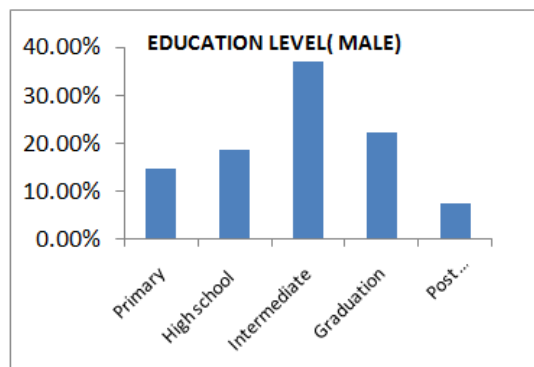


Table 4

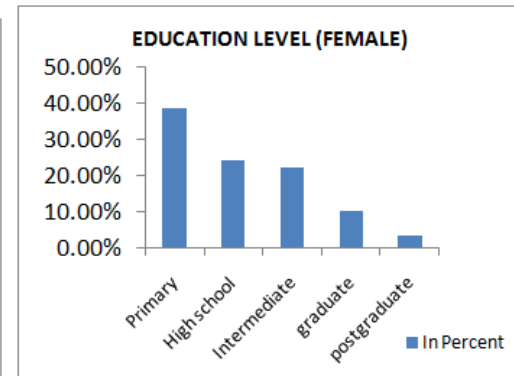
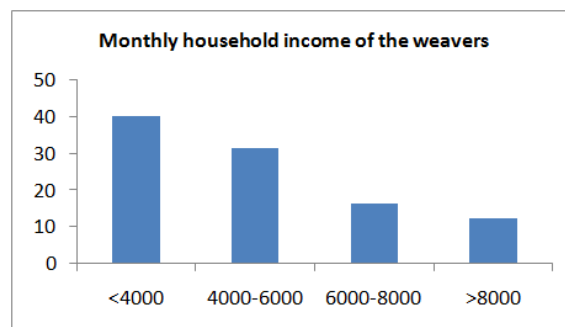


Table 5



Source: primary data through field survey.

### General Status of Weaver

The socio economic condition of weaver in general is very poor; they are in a very pathetic condition. They are not in a position to full fill their basic requirements. Most of the weavers are living in a joint family system consisting of 8-10 members in a family. So it's very hard to survive with their large family size on low wages. Most of the weaver's are low educational status, so they are not taking care of their family successfully. That's the reason the middle man or supplier take full advantage of poor weavers and their labour. The poor female weavers hesitate to ask contractor to increase their wages after the work is completed.

### Socio-Economic Profile of Powerloom Weavers in Mau City

The whole industry of power loom is based on sub contractual arrangement among manufacturer, the supplier of raw material (middle man) and the weaver. The manufacturer is in contract with middleman and weaver. He gets his products manufactured. Middle men collect order and raw material and provide it to weavers for weaving. They pay very small amount of wages for manufacturing of products like Saree to the weavers. Weavers are at the bottom of the Chain of manufacturing of sari. Because large share of profit amount is taken by the middle man and the manufacturers. 25.7 % of the weavers earn less than 100 rupee per day, while 28.05% and 24.7% weavers earn 100-200 per day and 200-300 rupee. Unfortunately, it indicates that a large numbers of weavers are economically poor. That's the reason they enroll their children in preliminary weaving work to increase their household income.

## V. CONCLUSION

Weavers are the main pillar of textile industry or power loom sectors. But they are at the bottom of economic pyramid of this sector. They are suffering enough due to their poor socio economic condition. The main problem of this industry is less support by the government. The large share of profit is taken by supplier. That's the main problem which leads to low wages of the weavers and they live in a very poor condition. Some weavers are in a very pathetic condition. They can't even afford basic amenities. Some weavers of Mau city are adopting other occupation like running small shops, and females are mostly adopting teaching profession if they possess some educational qualification. After their school duties, They operate power loom at their home to raise their living standard, and increase the income of the household. If government does not take immediate step to improve their condition of weavers, then in future it will be a big threat to traditional power loom sari products which is a speciality of power loom sector in Mau city and Varanasi city. Better facilities and wage improvement and improved technology can at best mark the beginning of the process of addressing the livelihood condition of weavers. Government should take suitable step to improve weaver's socio economic condition and their livelihood. If government should not pay attention than traditional sari production will become a old story in the books.

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