

OVERVIEW OF TAMIL NADU HANDLOOM INDUSTRY: A STUDY FROM GOVERNMENT REPORTS

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Abstract: Handloom weaving is an essential craft-based activity of India and comprises the largest cottage industry in the country. Indian handloom sector is one of the major unorganized economic activities after agriculture and it is an integral part of rural and semi-rural livelihood. Tamil Nadu handloom sector has a rich heritage and a history of outstanding craftsmanship of handloom weaving in the state. This industry is one of the largest and most ancient among the other industries producing varieties of handloom fabrics. Tamil Nadu handloom industry has a glorious past, and numerous references can be traced from the archaeological sites and Tamil Sangam literature. Even today, the weaver's cooperatives are by and large confined to handloom weaving. Presently there are 1,139 Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Societies with 3.34 lakh members as weavers. The Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Societies mostly exist in rural and semi-urban areas. Tamil Nadu has 12 per cent of handloom capacity of the country. As per fourth all India handloom census report, Tamil Nadu accounts for 2.43 lakh handloom workforce including handloom workers and allied workers across the state. Tamil Nadu handloom weavers work on an ordinary pit loom, pit looms with dobby and jacquard, frame loom and frame looms with dobby and jacquard. The handloom sector is facing a significant challenge in getting continuous employment. Various measures have been taken by both central and state governments for the upliftment and sustainability of this sector through schemes for the handloom weavers.

IndexTerms - Handloom, Textile, Government Schemes, Production, Technology, Cloth.

I. INTRODUCTION

Handloom weaving is an essential craft-based activity of India and comprises the largest cottage industry in the country. Indian handloom sector is one of the largest unorganized economic activities after agriculture and it is an integral part of rural and semi-rural livelihood. It is a decentralized sector and weavers are primarily from the weaker sections of the society, who weave for their domestic needs and contribute to the production in the textile sector. The weavers of this industry are struggling hard to keep the traditional craft alive. The level of artistry and depth of hands gained in handloom fabrics is unique and there are still some special weaves/designs are outside the scope of modern machines. The handloom industry is concentrated in three distinctive areas of the county the rural, classical and tribal. Indian handloom sector provides direct and indirect employment to about 35.22 lakh weavers and affiliated workers. This sector contributes about 15 per cent of the country's cloth production and adds to the country's export income. India meets the 95 per cent hand-woven fabric requirement of the entire world.

The Tamil Nadu handloom sector has a rich heritage and a history of outstanding craftsmanship of handloom weaving in the state. The art of weaving of state has been very ancient is attested by the fact that the great Tamil Saint-bard, Thiruvalluvar, chose it as his profession. It has a strong presence in textiles and the second largest contributor to the Indian textile industry and predominantly cotton based. The state has an overwhelming presence in all the sub-sectors of the industry namely, Spinning, Handloom weaving, Power loom weaving, Processing, Knitwear, Apparel and Garmenting.

Some of the textile products from Tamil Nadu best known for their beauty and versatility are Kancheepuram Silk Sarees, Bhavani Carpet (Jamukalam), Madurai Sungadi Sarees, Coimbatore Kora Sarees, Paramakudi Sarees, Salem Silk Dhories, Erode and Karur Home Textiles, Tiruppur Knitwear Garments, etc. Tamil Nadu serves as a hub of textile exports from the country namely, Tiruppur for Knitwear Garments, Coimbatore for Yarn, Karur for Home Textiles and Chennai for Woven Garment exports. The state accounts for 19% of the nation's textile output with a strong network of all the sub-sectors of the textile industry [1].

II. ORGANIZATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Indian textile industry can be broadly classified into the organized sector and decentralized sector. The organized sector can be further classified into spinning mills and composite mills. The decentralized textile sector can be further classified into the handloom sector and powerloom sector. The handloom sector works in private or cooperative fold.

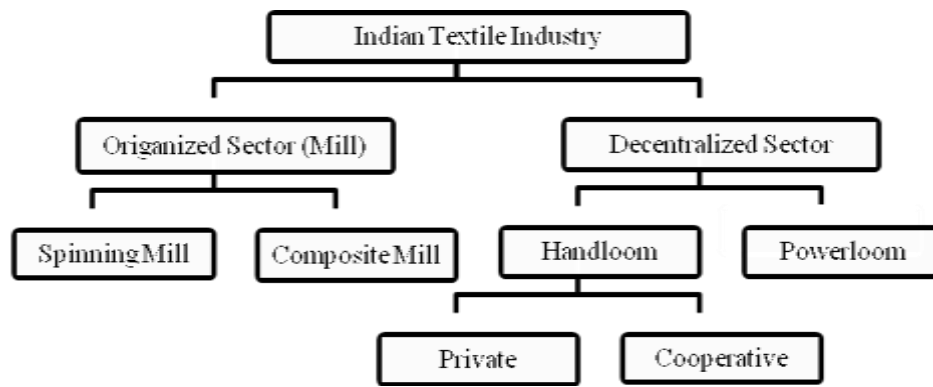


Chart -1: Organization of Indian textile industry

III. HISTORY OF TAMIL NADU HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

Tamil Nadu handloom industry is one of the largest and most ancient among the other industries producing varieties of handloom fabrics. It is a traditional and labour intensive industry that provides second in employment next to agriculture. Tamil Nadu handloom industry has a glorious past, and numerous references can be traced from the archaeological sites and Tamil Sangam literature. Spindles and clothes were discovered by excavation at Paiyampalli in North Arcot, Adichchanallur, and Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu. The superior quality of cotton textiles and cloth were being produced and exported from centres like Kanchipuram, Madurai, Tanjavur. Agananuru [2] and Narrinai [3] wrote between the first and third century B.C. mentions the process of cotton preparation and weaving. It states that the well-beaten cotton using carder's bow resembles "the fluffy clouds in the sky after the rains". Nannul [4] specifies the process of spinning using the spindle (khadir) for yarn preparation.

The sale of silk thread, cotton thread and cloth of many fibres is alluded to in the Silappadikaram, which is written at the beginning of the Christian era. There were separate streets for the weavers called 'karugar vidi' and 'aruvai vidi' at Pumphar or Kaveripumpattinam. The weavers of Pumphar were producing fine fabrics of silk, fur and cotton. It also mentions that Kaveripumpattinam and Madurai as famous textile centers and textiles were being exported from this region, from Colchi (the Korkai of Silappadikaram) [5]. Manimekalai, which is written in the Silappadikaram period, specifies the skilled weavers of Madurai [6]. Professor V.D. Sellam in his book on "Tamilaga Varalarum Panbadum" brings out the references of weaving from the Sangam Literatures. Weaving was a cottage industry and all the family members were involved in the weaving. Textile activity is a primary source of earning for widows (Narrinai). Home Fashion products like curtains, bedspreads, and floor coverings were produced during the Sangam Period [7].

The districts of Tiruchchirappalli and Tanjavur sent muslins to Egypt and Rom and called them as Argaritic. Argaru was the Roman name for Uraiyur (in Trichchirapalli capital of the Sangam Cholas) [8]. The inscriptional evidence from Tiruvottur, Cheyyar Taluk, North Arcot district, inscribed in 1001 AD during the Rajaraja Chola I, provides the reference of the loom. A further reference of loom also can be found in the thirteenth century during the period of Rajaraja III [9].

There are several references of Tamil Nadu Handloom textiles export by the Portuguese, Dutch, and East Indian Company (EIC) during the 16th and 17th Century. Varieties of handloom textiles were exported from St. Thome, Madraspatam, Fort St. George, Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Karikal, Nagapatam, and Tuticorin [10].

During modern times the handloom weaving industry is prevalent in all the districts of then Madras Presidency except Nilgiris. The districts like Tinnevely, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, Vizagapatam, Chittor and Malabar produced coarser variety clothes. Clothes with medium counts are produced in the districts of Salem, Anantapur, Bellary, North Arcot, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Ramnad and Tanjore [11]. Table 1 shows the consolidated data of district-wise handlooms of Madras Presidency in 1945.

Table - 1: Number of Looms in some important weaving Centres of the Madras Presidency (1945)

Name of the Place	No. of Looms	Name of the Place	No. of Looms
Salem	20,056	Rajapalayam	2,745
Madurai	13,170	Tiruchengodu	2,500
Kanchipuram	12,560	Chinnalapatti	2,400
Arupukkottai	10,470	Kurinjipadi	2,400
Gudiyattam	6,448	Srivilliputtur	2,014
Melapalayam	6,230	Rasipuram	2,000
Coimbatore	3,280	Viravanallur	2,000
Pudupet	2,900		

Source: Census of Madras - Report on Handlooms – 1961

Indian handloom industry started its downward journey from the day of invention of Spinning Jenny in England, closely followed by power run mechanical loom. Both the world war created a huge crisis in the handloom industry. In 1928, The Royal Commission on Agriculture mentioned that "survival of village industries in fast increasing competitions, it is essential that they are developed on a cooperative basis". Through state and central government initiatives, in 1935, an Apex Weavers Cooperative Society was formed. Even today, the weaver's cooperatives are by and large confined to handloom weaving. Its main objective was to develop co-operative buying,

selling, to improve the technical aspects of the industry, and to market the finished goods. Presently there are 1,139 Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Societies with 3.34 lakh members as weavers. Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Societies mostly exist in rural and semi-urban areas, where there is a large concentration of weavers [12].

IV. PRESENT SCENARIO OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NADU

4.1 Textile Sector

Tamil Nadu textile industry maintains a unique position in terms of its contribution to total industrial production, employment, exports and foreign exchange earnings. There are 998 spinning mills across the state which includes spinning mills, composite mills and exclusive weaving mills. The state has a share of about 47% of India's total spinning mills. The structure of textile industries in the State continued to be spinning-oriented. Coimbatore, Erode, Karur, Gobichettipalayam, Perundurai, and Tirupur in Tamil Nadu are India's biggest garment exporters and sometimes referred to as India's textile valley. The garment units around this region provide employment opportunity to nearly 1 million people. These units also contribute sumptuous share towards the generation of foreign exchange through home textile exports such as bed linens, kitchen linens, toilet linens, table linens and wall hangings. Madurai and Kanchipuram are very famous for handloom sarees. This handloom sarees are on sale all over India [13]. The key features of Tamil Nadu textile industries are:-

- In terms of percentage contribution in India, Tamil Nadu ranks 1st in Apparel Industry and 2nd in the Textile Industry.
- Tamil Nadu houses more than 46 per cent of total installed capacity of the spinning industry in India.
- Tamil Nadu contributes to 35-40 per cent of total yarn production in India for the last 5 years.
- It contributes to 20 per cent of India's total Readymade Garments export.
- Tamil Nadu accounts for 58 per cent of the total textile mills in India.
- Constitutes 28 per cent of total employment of India's textile and Apparel sector and 35 per cent population of the state.
- 12 per cent of Handloom capacity

4.2 Handloom Sector

The significance of the handloom sector is well recognized in terms of providing job opportunity and value addition to the economy. There are 1139 Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies in the state out of which, 1053 are Cotton Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies, and 86 are Primary Silk Weavers Cooperative Societies. 2.69 lakh handlooms are registered under these cooperative societies which account for around 65 per cent of total loom capacity of the state [12]. The registered handloom weavers under these societies are 3.19 lakh [13]. These societies mostly exist in rural and semi-urban areas, where there is a large concentration of handloom weavers. All the development programmes and welfare schemes of State and Central Government intended to the benefit of handloom weavers are executed through these societies. Out of 1139 Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, 959 are working on profit.

During the year 2017-2018, Handloom Weavers Cooperatives have produced 790.35 lakh meter handloom fabric, which cost Rs. 695.50 crores and handloom goods have been sold to the extent of Rs.852.93 crores. The handlooms registered under Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies produce sarees, dhoties, drill cloth and casement cloth required under various Tamil Nadu Government schemes. Tamil Nadu has about 14,000 pedal looms, the largest amount in the nation that mostly works in cooperative societies.

As per fourth all India handloom census report, Tamil Nadu accounts for 2.43 lakh handloom workforce including handloom workers and allied workers across the state. Tamil Nadu position itself at fourth place in the country in terms of handloom workers household. Overall, 2.09 lakh handloom worker households are reported in this state which accounts for 6.7 per cent of total handloom worker households of the country. Overall, 1.35 lakh (79.8 per cent) handloom workers and 0.34 lakh (20.2 per cent) allied workers are from rural areas. Out of 1.35 lakh rural handloom workers, 70.1 per cent (0.73 lakh) are male and 67.1 per cent (0.62 lakh) are female workers. 0.61 lakh (84.4 per cent) handloom workers and 0.11 lakh (15.6 per cent) allied workers live in urban areas. Out of 0.61 lakh urban handloom workers, 29.9 per cent (0.31 lakh) are male and 32.9 per cent (0.30 lakh) are female handloom workers. Altogether, 1.97 lakh handloom workers are reported in this state [14].

Table - 2: Gender wise distribution of total workforce of Tamil Nadu handloom workers

Gender	Type of handloom worker	Rural	Per cent	Urban	Per cent	Total	Per Cent
Male	Weavers	73,184	70.1	31,185	29.9	1,04,369	42.8
	Allied Workers	9,513	75.2	3,143	24.8	12,656	5.2
Female	Weavers	62,682	67.1	30,766	32.9	93,448	38.4
	Allied Workers	24,777	74.9	8,324	25.1	33,101	13.6
Transgender	Weavers	1	100.0	0	0	1	0.0
	Allied Workers	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Total		1,70,157	69.9	73,418	30.1	2,43,575	100.0

Source: Fourth all India handloom census - 2019-20: Ministry of Textiles

There is a downtrend found in the total workforce of Tamil Nadu handloom workers. The third handloom census reported with 3.18 lakh total workforce of handloom workers [15]. Whereas, the fourth handloom census shows with 2.43 lakh handloom workforce. Between 2009-10 to 2019-20, there is a decline of 0.75 lakh handloom workforce in the state of Tamil Nadu.

4.3 Looms

Tamil Nadu handloom weavers work on an ordinary pit loom, pit looms with dobby and jacquard, frame loom and frame looms with dobby and jacquard. As per the all India handloom census report, there are 55.4 per cent (1.05 lakh) other pit looms and pit looms fitted with Dobby /Jacquard mechanisms are reported. The survey also reveals that there are 26 per cent (0.49 lakh) frame looms and frame looms fitted with Dobby / Jacquard mechanisms. The state also has 18.6 per cent (0.35 lakh) other types of looms [14].

Table - 3: Number of looms in weaver households by type in Tamil Nadu

Type of Looms		Rural	Per cent	Urban	Per cent	Total	Per cent
Pit looms	Pit Loom with Dobby/Jacquard;	79,899	62.3	25,841	41.4	1,05,740	55.4
	Other Pit Looms						
Frame Looms	Frame Loom with	25,689	20.0	23,842	38.2	49,531	26.0
	Dobby/Jacquard; Other Frame Looms						
Other	Other Looms	22,677	17.7	12,768	20.4	35,445	18.6
Total		1,28,265	100.0	62,451	100.0	1,90,716	100.0

Source: Fourth all India handloom census - 2019-20: Ministry of Textiles

4.4 Production

Tamil Nadu handloom industry produces a variety of products for its domestic and export market. Tamil Nadu plays a major role with

- 58.7 per cent (1.06 lakh) handloom weavers involved in saree production.
- 13.3 per cent (0.24 lakh) handloom worker households involved in dhoti, lungi, and angavastram production.
- Products such as towel, napkin, duster, and gamcha are woven by 5.8 per cent (0.10 lakh) handloom worker households.
- 0.9 per cent (0.01 lakh) handloom worker households engaged in producing dress material.
- 11.3 per cent (0.20 lakh) handloom worker households produce bed sheet and furnishing items [14].

Table - 4: Distribution of weaver households by the production of major fabrics in Tamil Nadu

Products	Rural	Urban	Total
Dhoti, Sarong, Lungi, Angavastram	14,318	9,717	24,035
Saree	72,028	34,402	106,430
Dress material, Suiting, Shirting, Long Cloth	999	651	1,650
Towel/Napkin, Duster/ Gamcha	6,233	4,230	10,463
Bedsheet, Furnishings, Blanket	13,318	7,110	20,428
Shawls/ Mekhla Chadder/ Loi/Stole/ Scarf/ Muffler	2,439	73	2,512
Durries, Rugs, Mats	2,263	354	2,617
Others (including Bandage)	11,795	1,280	13,075
Total	1,23,393	57,817	1,81,210

Source: Fourth all India handloom census - 2019-20: Ministry of Textiles

V. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

5.1 Central government schemes

The Central Government have taken several measures to the upliftment of the Indian handloom sector through various programmes and schemes. Main objectives of these schemes are:

- Employment generation.
- Modernization and up-gradation of technology.
- Input, marketing and infrastructural support
- Publicity
- Welfare measures
- Research and development
- Development of exportable products

All schemes are worker-centric and its purpose is to enhance the growth of decentralized handloom sector. The major central government schemes and programmes implemented in Tamil Nadu are given below.

5.1.1 National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)

The programme follows a need based approach for the integrated and holistic development of handlooms and welfare of handloom weavers. The Government of India is implementing the Cluster Development Programme under the newly formulated National Handloom Development Programme. It supports weavers, both within and outside cooperatives, which include Self Help Groups, NGOs etc., towards credit, design input, technology up-gradation, marketing support, skill up-gradation, etc.

The Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme (CHDS) is one of the major components of National Handloom Development Programme. It has been formulated by merging all the major schemes namely, Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS), Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS), and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS) which were implemented during 11th five year plan [16].

5.1.2 Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)

The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has implemented a Block Level Handloom Cluster (BLHC) strategy for the growth of the handloom industry. The cluster development approach focuses on the formation of weavers' groups as a visible entity so that the groups become self-sustainable. This offers integrated and holistic cluster development by applying need-based measures where weavers can easily access the facility. The handloom cluster is described as a place where there is a large concentration of handlooms, which produces handloom cloth that conforms to market demands.

Based on the guidelines of the Government of India, the State Government implemented the Cluster Development Programme under the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), and Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS). Under these schemes, the handloom clusters are set up at Block Level where the concentration of the looms ranges from 200 to 500. The components for the block level handloom clusters are,

- Technological up-gradation
- Common Facility Centre including Common Service Center
- Skill Upgradation
- Engagement of Designer
- Project Management Cost
- Yarn Corpus Fund
- Design Development / CATD

During 2015-16 to 2017-18, under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)/ Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) there are 10 Block Level Handloom Clusters (BLHC), 4 new Block Level Handloom Clusters, 22 BLHCs under Trichy Mega Handloom Cluster, and 16 BLHCs under Virudhunagar Mega Handloom Cluster was established in Tamil Nadu.

A total of 27,221 handloom beneficiaries are covered under this scheme. The primary focus of the scheme is to enhance productivity through technological up-gradation of the existing looms, skill up-gradation of the weavers through training, product development and diversification through design interventions, to create required infrastructure, etc. which lead to enhanced earning of the weavers [12].

5.1.3 Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata Scheme (HSS)

Another significant component under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)/ Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) is "Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata (HSS)". On August 7, 2016, the plan was announced for improving quality and productivity of the handloom industry through financial assistance for the technological up-gradation. The main objectives of the Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata scheme are:

- To facilitate the technological up-gradation in loom units.
- To encourage development capacities, to create employment opportunities in emerging technological areas.

National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)/ Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) cover the broad spectrum of handloom sector to meet the needs of the industry. Through technical up-gradation, skill up-gradation, infrastructure development, this scheme empowers weavers to prepare a sustainable way for development and diversification in line with the trend of evolving markets [12].

5.1.4 Marketing Assistance

Marketing Incentive (MI) is one among the components of National Handloom Development Programme. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies and Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd. For the marketing of handloom products. This scheme also helps them to marginally reduce the price of the handloom products and to improve the marketability and to sustain themselves. Financial assistance of 10 per cent of the average turnover of the last three years.

Another major component for handloom product marketing under NHDP is Handloom Marketing Assistance (HMA) [12]. The Handloom Marketing Assistance has the following sub-components:

- Domestic marketing promotion
- Marketing infrastructural development
- Market access initiative
- Handloom export promotion

5.1.5 Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS)

Government of India is implementing Yarn Supply scheme to make available all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the handloom weavers. The scheme is implemented through the National Handloom Development Corporation, a Government of India Undertaking [16].

5.1.6 Handlooms Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

The Government has introduced the Mahatma Gandhi Weaver Insurance Scheme (MGBBY) and Health Insurance Scheme for the welfare of weavers, through which weavers can be covered under insurance. The beneficiaries in the age group of 18 to 59 years under the co-operative and outside co-operative fold and ancillary workers are covered under the scheme. The MGBBY is now converged with Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), with effect from 01.06.2017 [12].

5.1.7 Enforcement Wing

The Handlooms (Reservation of Production Articles) Act, 1985 aims at protecting millions of handloom weavers and the country's rich cultural heritage from the encroachment on their livelihood by the powerlooms and mill sectors. Currently, 11 textile articles with technical requirements are reserved for handloom manufacturing under the Act. The Government of Tamil Nadu have been enforcing the above Act by the Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles and formed a separate Enforcement machinery headed by the Deputy Director/Enforcement Officer with Headquarters at Chennai and 5 subsidiary offices at Salem, Tiruchengode, Erode, Tiruppur and Madurai by the Assistant Enforcement Officers as per the powers given by the Government of India to enforce this act [12].

5.1.8 Technological up-gradation

The Ministry has been implementing the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) from 1999 to increase productivity, quality, investment and employment in the textile sector. TUFS is a credit-linked scheme which is imposed by the reimbursement of subsidy claims on eligible investments through notified lending agencies. The scheme was restructured in 2012 and renamed as Revised Restructured Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (RRTUFS) and Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) was introduced in 2016 with new guidelines. Segments such as Weaving for brand new shuttle-less looms (including weaving preparatory and knitting), processing, jute, silk and handlooms are covered under this scheme [16].

5.2 State Level Policies for the Development of Handloom

The handloom sector is facing a significant challenge in getting continuous employment. The state has set up the Handlooms and Textiles Department, which is operating under the administrative control of the Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department. The objective of the department is to promote the harmonious development of handloom, powerloom and other areas of the textile industry. It endeavours to look after the welfare of all stakeholders, particularly, handloom weavers and textile workers associated with the industry. Handlooms and Textile Department promote the socio-economic well-being of weavers by implementing various state-specific welfare and development schemes such as Production of Dhories and Sarees for Free Distribution Schemes and Cost Free Supply of Uniform to School Children. Handloom and Powerloom Weaver's cooperative societies are primarily involved in the production of sarees and dhories required under these schemes. These schemes are run to ensure the continued employment of 24,000 handloom weavers and 79,600 powerloom workers besides fulfilling the clothing needs of 3.08 crore people residing in the rural and urban areas in Tamil Nadu. The Director of Handlooms and Textiles is implementing government policies, programmes and schemes to ensure that it reaches the benefits the needy weavers and other stakeholders through Duty / Assistant Directors of the department.

The state government is also implementing schemes like Free Electricity to Handloom weavers, Rebate Subsidy Scheme, Interest Subsidy Scheme to guarantee the smooth functioning of the handloom industry. Various award schemes are also being implemented for the weaver's motivation. The State Government have introduced "Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Scheme" during the year 2015-2016. The scheme was introduced under "State Innovation Fund" for upgrading handloom technology. Over a period of three years from 2015-2016 to 2017-2018, total 6000 motorized Jacquard lifting machines have been supplied at a cost of Rs. 675 lakh to handloom weavers [12].

VI. CONCLUSIONS

Handloom sector plays a vital role in the economy of Tamil Nadu. Since, ancient times, Tamil Nadu handloom industry is traditional and labour intensive that provides second in employment next to agriculture. The recent studies show that there is a steady decline in the number of handloom workforce in the state. Another challenge faced by this industry is technology backwardness. Various measures have been taken by both central and state governments for the upliftment and sustainability of this sector. It is important to evaluate the fact that, how far the handloom industry adapted to the new business environment. A particular point of interest in this context is the extent to which the Tamil Nadu handloom industry, which is typically small-scale and disadvantaged in accessing market and finance, have succeeded in standing up to the challenges of adopting and deploying modern technologies and impact the effort made. There is a need for the study in understanding the reach and effects of the various government schemes implemented for the benefit of the handloom weavers.

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