

Role of Handloom Board to Generate Employment in Rural Area: A Study of Enaitpur Thana in Sirajgonj

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Institute of Governance Studies
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Statement of the Candidate

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Abstract

Rural non-farm development plays a key role in generating employment in many developing countries. In this regard handloom industry is one of the most important factors for the development of Bangladesh. There is a government authority that observes and upholds the status of this industry, which is Bangladesh Handloom Board. This study examines the role of Bangladesh Handloom Board's role in rural employment generation. In the BHB ordinance there is no specific clause to generate employment in the rural areas of Bangladesh. Even though it has some functions by which this board tries to generate employment in the rural areas of this country. Moreover this board facilitates credit facility to the weavers, training and logistic supports. This is because they are given the privilege to uphold the status of this industry. It has been seen in the recent times people are escaping from this profession due to some unavoidable circumstances. So this paper tries to examine the role of Bangladesh Handloom Board in the employment generation in the rural areas of Bangladesh.

Now it has already passed thirty five years from its inception. So it is time to assess the overall performance of Bangladesh Handloom Board and how they tried to support and generate employment in this sector. This study was conducted to assess the role of BHB to generate employment in rural area of Enaitpur thana in Sirajgonj District. I have selected Enaitpur Thana of Sirajgonj District as a selective sampling and then 50 respondents (weavers) were interviewed with questionnaire and followed by random sampling. Out of 50 respondents, 22 have got only credit facilities and 28 have not got. I tried to find out how handloom board can implement their functions and generate employment in rural area.

Keywords

Bangladesh Handloom Board; Employment Generation; Rural Bangladesh

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.0 Introduction

Bangladesh Handloom Board (BHB) was established in 1977 as a legal Public Sector Organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles and Jute (Ministry of Law and Justice, 1977). The Board has been entrusted with the responsibility for overall development of the handloom sector of the country and to make wellbeing of the people busy therein. The Handloom industry is the ancient, the biggest and the most important cottage industry of Bangladesh. This industry has lots of future prospects as well as glorious past. This sector is responsible for a very high percentage of the nation's economy, as Handloom industry is the biggest handicraft industry in our country (Ahmed, 2001). This sector contributes 24% in the total clothes production of Bangladesh. (Chowdhury, 1989). This sector provides employment to more than 18 million people. (Bakht, 1998) This sector has a great potentiality to meet substantial requirements of fabrics in the export oriented garment industry. The handloom industry in Bangladesh is having a glorious past, questionable present and confusing future. The art of weaving is perhaps as old as human civilization. Bangladesh can proudly claim to have many branches of this ancient art, of which the best known and most popular is the specialty Jamdani, which is one of the varieties of the famous Dhaka Muslin or Mul-mul (Zohir, 1996).

The Handloom industry is still a very important part of the textile industry of Bangladesh, is responsible for a very high percentage of the nation's economy. As Handloom industry is the biggest handicraft industry in our country, it is the second largest source of rural employment after agriculture (Ahmed, 1999). A manpower of about 1.5 million weavers, dyers, hand spinners, embroiderers and allied artisans have been using their creative skills into more than 0.30 million active looms to produce around 620 million meters of fabrics annually. It shares 63% of the total fabric production in the country designed for home consumption, meeting 40% of the local demand for fabrics. Besides, it provides employment opportunities to a million rural people, 50% of which are female. Another half a million people are indirectly engaged in the industry. It contributes more than 10 (ten) billion taka annually to the national exchequer as value addition (BHB, 2012).

For the development and to generate employment in rural area of Handloom sector and ensure well being of the handloom weavers, Bangladesh Handloom Board has been implementing a number of package programs covering supply of input, innovation of suitable designs, financing of working capital, development of human resources, modernization of handloom technology, efficient marketing management and formation of sound weavers societies. In a world, the Handloom Industry has no alternative in the development of rural economy (BHB, 2012)

1.1 Background

The board was established in 1977. Its main responsibility is to take care of the handloom industry of Bangladesh. In this industry Bangladesh has a rich heritage. It is unparalleled and unique comparing to the other parts of the world. Handloom can meet the daily use of the people. It is also dynamic and can meet the demand of the day.

In handloom industry a manpower of about one million weavers, dyers, hand spinners, embroiderers and allied artisans have been using their creative skills into more than 0.30 million active looms to produce around 620 million meters of fabrics annually. Production of these handloom fabrics is diffused in numerous production centers all over the country which are linked up by a network of primary, secondary and central markets.

Weavers are being organized under the fold BHB registered weaver's societies of three tiers viz. Primary, Secondary and Apex. At present there are 1310 primary weaver's societies, 58 secondary weaver's societies and 1 Apex society in the country.

Bangladesh Handloom Board with its head quarter in Dhaka, has 9 Services Centers equipped with modern machinery, one Training Institute, one Training Unit and 30 Basic Centers located at different loom concentrated areas (mostly in the rural areas) of the country. These centers are engaged in providing technical, financial, advisory and extension services to the handloom weavers. For the development of Handloom sector and ensure well being of the handloom weavers, Bangladesh Handloom Board has been implementing a number of package programs covering supply of input, innovation of suitable designs, financing of working capital, development of human resources, modernization of handloom technology, efficient marketing management and formation of sound weavers societies.

1.2 Definition of Handloom

The Handlooms was enacted with a view to protect the livelihood of millions of handloom weavers and rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh Handloom Industry from encroachment of the power loom and Mill Sector.

Handloom has been defined as follows:

a) “Handloom” means any loom, other than power loom.

b) “A hand operated machine for producing cloth by weaving. In some instances, the shedding is performed by foot operation.”

On the other hand, Hand loom is a machine or device which is made from wood and some portion of iron and used to produce woven fabric. Hand loom running without any electrical motor, its urn by man’s hand and foot combination

1.3 Problem Statement

As we have described before that around 1.5 million people are directly and indirectly dependent on this industry. Even in 1977 there was an ordinance to establish Bangladesh Handloom Board. This board is doing their job with dignity though they have lack of resources.

Now the main problem is in the sector of employment generation. This board has a variety of activities to do. After doing all the jobs under the board they try to create some room for the unemployment. Even in the Bangladesh Handloom Board Ordinance in 1977 there is no specific citation to create employment for the unemployment.

Now we are going find that, what are the activities the handloom board has taken in the country. Moreover we have done the case study of Enaitpur Thana in Sirajgonj, Bangladesh. We have discussed the detail of the geographical and population information later.

Moreover I want to add one more thing that, as we have discussed before that handloom is the largest hand craft industry in Bangladesh. Likewise handloom board of Bangladesh is the mother organization to control the policy initiatives regarding the handloom in Bangladesh. We have not focused all the policy issues of the handloom board rather we have focused the employment generation activities of the handloom board of Bangladesh.

Here in our study the main problem is the low income generating activities in the field of handloom industry in Bangladesh. Moreover the handloom board is also doing less in this field.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Handloom industry is the biggest handicraft industry in our country; it is the second largest source of rural employment after agriculture (Ahmad 1999). The knowledge and skills needed for this sector transformed from their forefathers. Thus, the cottage-based industry has been build up by inheritance. Handloom fabric is more producer-driven than buyer-driven. An international experts study reveals that the technical skill of the weavers of Bangladesh is second to none in the world (i.e. Dhaka muslin products, the finest cotton fabric). Handloom products are best known for their eco-friendly nature. The world is 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. The Handloom sector has a great deal of potential for further value addition in the RMG sector for further meeting local needs of fabrics and expanding sales of its products directly in foreign countries. This sector is an important channel for balanced sustainable economic growth. (The Financial Express, dated on 5th Dec’07 ‘Giving Support to Handloom Sector’). Handloom weavers and workers are generally poor. Vitality of Handloom Industry can lead to improvement in the earning of those people on a large scale who are at the fringes of social existence by alleviating their poverty. This sector can be a source of employment of hard-passed rural people, particularly.

Since long the Handloom and its weaving Industry have been struggling; though the government and Non-government sectors have been providing supporting initiatives to the cottage-based industry. The objective of paper is to apply ‘Adoption and Diffusion of Innovation Theory’ to active idle looms and bring back weavers and stakeholders of the industry.

Though there are many problems in the handloom industry in our country we have separately discuss the problem of employment in the field of handloom industry. We also specifically discuss the areas of the handloom board regarding the employment generation. Moreover we have taken a case study of Enaitpur Thana in Sirajgonj.

Likely the lack of in-cooperation of with the weavers is the main cause of the lack of employment generation activities in the field of the handloom industry. There might some other causes of the low employment generation activities of the handloom board but this is the main in our study.

Finally the purpose of our study is to find the main roles played by the handloom board in Bangladesh to generate employment in the rural Bangladesh. Specifically we have done a case study in the Enaitpur Thana in Sirajgonj District of Bangladesh regarding the issues of employment generation of the handloom industry.

1.5 Research Objectives

This research study attempted to look at the role of the handloom board in employment generation in the handloom industry in Bangladesh in the case of Enaitpur Thana in Sirajgonj District, Bangladesh. The study was undertaken with the assumption that a number of studies have already looked at the handloom has contributed in different sectors of Bangladesh handloom sector either from the point of view of employment generation in the sector. While there is no denying the fact that the handloom board offers a complex web of interactions between various stakeholders and different dimensions, credit flows to the handloom sector was rarely the focus of an elaborate study. This study therefore is done with a view to map the policies and the realities of the employment generation mechanism of the Handloom Board of Bangladesh as observed during field interactions. Specifically, the objectives for this study were:

Compile the data of the handloom industry of Bangladesh.

Critically analyze the employment generation activities of the Handloom board of Bangladesh.

Interview selected weavers (50 respondents) about the activities of the Handloom board of Bangladesh.

Make roadmap of the demand of the activities of the handloom board.

Suggest recommendations to improve the activities of the board.

1.6 Research Questions

What are the main employment generation activities of the Handloom Board of Bangladesh?

Sub-question:

What are the other activities?

What are the problems they face in doing work?

1.7 Scope and limitations of the study

It is not easy to identify the group who has been getting help from the Handloom Board of Bangladesh. It was time consuming because I had no plan for using quantitative method to collect data. But when I had studied a lot about the topic as the employment generation activities are not the main job of the Handloom Board then I had realize that to identify the employment generation activities I would need to done a survey among the handloom based villages. It was not enough time to build rapport with the local community for identifying the specific activities of their livelihood in rural areas, which make them to lead their lives. In due course, it is true that I was the alien in their community. However, I had tried to minimize the limitations as researcher to make close relationship with them and I believe I make them easier to me to share their experiences by reducing all the difficulties which a researcher always needed to be face.

1.8 Organization of the study

This paper has organized in five chapters. First chapter 'Introduction' has constructed by the background information of the study, problem statement of the study, significance of the study, research objectives, research questions, limitations, and ethical considerations of this research. The second chapter 'Literature Review' has covered the review of literatures like concept of Handloom, Policy and Regulations, Ministry of Textiles and Jute, handloom Board, past and present status, conceptual framework of the study, which makes the analytical framework and shapes the knowledge of my study. Third chapter has been focused on the 'Research Methodology' from population and sampling, data sources, data collection, and data processing. Chapter four has shown the data analysis and findings based on the primary and secondary findings on the issue of the employment generation activities of the board. Finally, chapter five has prepared a 'Recommendation and Conclusion' with recommendations, conclusion.

1.9 Ethical Consideration

My research has not made any sense of harm to my respondents. It could be benefit themselves but it is a matter of long-term. I would not use the pictures, which they do not consider showing in public and could not use the details of their life in the way that could affect them negatively. I conduct my research with full respect on my respondents and use the pseudo names.

Chapter 2: Theoretical Discussion

2.0 Literature Review

The handloom industry in Bangladesh is having a glorious past, questionable present and confusing future. The art of weaving is perhaps as old as human civilization. Bangladesh can proudly claim to have many branches of this ancient art, of which the best known and most popular is the specialty Jamdani, which is one of the varieties of the famous Dhaka Muslin or Mul-mul (Zohir 1996). For over ten centuries, the Dhaka area has been renowned for this fine fabric. So fine was its texture and quality that it was said to be woven with the "thread of the winds" and the Greek and the Roman texts mention the "Gangetic muslins" as one of the most coveted luxury items. Woven from superfine cotton or silk yarn, Jamdani fabric is embroidered or inlaid on the loom with silk, gold and silver threads. Over the years, the weavers simplified the designs making them more stylized and geometric. Handloom products have shown decisive upward trend in the export market since 1972 and Bangladeshi handloom products with their distinctive design and superior quality have created a niche for themselves in overseas markets (Asian Development Bank (ADB) 2002).

An international expert's study reveals that the technical skill of the weavers of Bangladesh is second to none in the handloom-producing world. So if we can build a platform for them, it is possible to construct an ambitious future for this industry.

The Handloom industry is still a very important part of the textile industry of Bangladesh, is responsible for a very high percentage of the nation's economy. As Handloom industry is the biggest handicraft industry in our country, it is the second largest source of rural employment after agriculture. Though the employment opportunity in this sector has been squeezed in the last 15 years, this sector is still offering employment to nearly 10 million weavers in rural area (Zohir February, 1996). Moreover, in general near about 20 million people are involved in this industry. Though there is a downward trend, this industry still has a significant amount of share in our total cloth production. The product range of handloom is simply amazing and includes Muslin Jamdani Sharees, Bedcovers, Bed sheets, Tapestry, Upholstery, Place mats, Rugs or Blankets, Satranji, Crochet, Muslin, Tribal textiles, Silk fabrics, Sofa covers, Block Prints, Table cloth and Napkins,

Towels, Dusters, Kitchen towels, Gents, Ladies and Baby Wear and Shirts, Punjabis, and other household linen in printed, plain or embroidered Khadi (Sobhan 1989). This sector has a great potentiality to meet substantial requirements of fabrics in the export oriented garments industry.

One of the major problems in this case that is noteworthy is inadequate distribution channel which is failing to match between demand and supply. But we have come to know that, this ancient and most important cottage industry of Bangladesh is now on the way of extinction because of various problems and barriers adjacent to this industry (Chowdhury 1989).

Weavers in our country don't get quality raw materials at right time and at right price. Besides, Weavers are suffering from inadequate contemporary technology and scarcity of working capital which are mandatory to maintain the smooth flow of production (Bakht 1998). Although skills of our workers are up to the expectation level, they are lagging behind in capturing the modern technology due to lack of infrastructural support from the government. The major competitors of handloom products are 1) Cloths come through legal and illegal ways and 2) Power loom produced cloths.

Prof. (Dr.) Kuldeep Singh and Dr. Monica Bansal in their paper have discussed about the handloom export units in India. They say, handloom sector plays a very important role in India's economy. It is one of the largest economic activities providing direct employment to over 65 lakh persons engaged in weaving and allied activities. As a result of effective Government intervention through financial assistance and implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes, this sector has been able to withstand competition from the power loom and mill sectors. This sector contributes nearly 19 percent of the total cloth produced in the country and also adds substantially to export earnings. Handloom is unparalleled in its flexibility and versatility, permitting experimentation and encouraging innovations. The strength of Handloom lies in the introducing innovative designs, which cannot be replicated by the Power loom sector. Thus, Handloom forms a part of the heritage of India and exemplifies the richness and diversity of our country and the artistry of the weavers (Sing & Banasal 2011).

Dr. Raju Phukan has discussed about the handloom weaving in Assam moreover the problem and prospects of handloom industry in Assam India. He says the Handloom sector plays a very important role in India's economy. It is a part of our culture and heritage and one of the largest economic activities after agriculture having the capacity of

absorbing a greater number of manpower. In 2009-10 this sector provides direct employment to over 65 lakh persons in India of which 60.40% are women. This sector contributes nearly 19% of the total cloth produced in the country and also adds substantially to export earnings. The ratio of handloom to power loom in terms of cloth in 2009-10 was 1:5.55 (Phukan 2012).

The writing of Nuimuddin Chowdhury discusses the Bangladesh's handloom economy in transition. He cases of unequal growth structural adjustment and economic mobility amid laissez-faire markets. In his paper he showed that the character and consequence of the response forged by a predominantly rural industry, the handlooms, in Bangladesh, a country with massive poverty and considerable underdevelopment of public initiative, to the forces of economic liberalization and certain degree of investment reprioritization favouring rural development and infrastructure. The period of special interest is the decade following 1976/77-a period, among other things, of steady economic liberalization, exchange rate depreciation, growth of food grain production in excess of population growth, considerable infrastructural development. Against a background of near-total absence of public initiative, the creative response forged by the industry against the forces of competition represents a balance of the interaction between peoples' own initiatives and evolving profit opportunities. The effectiveness of the response as a whole runs substantively counter to the conventional wisdom about the situation of the handloom industry. Handloom yardage grew at a trend of 3.90% annually between 1972-73 through 1986-87-significantly in excess of the population growth. Weaving of polyester fabrics has been assimilated into the capability of the handlooms. Industry-wide loomage has grown at 2.3% during this period; loom-mix has been increasingly weighted towards the "best-practice" handlooms. Producers' returns have improved due to a more independent and flexible marketing regime, as also to widespread availment of yarn trade credit that is mutually advantageous to both traders and weavers, but highly beneficial to the weavers, even small weavers. Consequently, the ratio of income retention in value added in the handloom industry has risen more recently relative to late 1970s as a result of improvement of the economic environment. The profitability of handlooms also has risen over the same period because the labor productivity has gone up. Growth of establishment has been extensively in evidence on a large sample of handloom units. Handloom industry has coped well with the competition of the imports, frequently, illicit, of cotton fabrics from India. Many handloom weavers have left hand-weaving behind and graduated into

capitalist rural power loom weaving. For all its demonstrated capacity for growth and structural adjustment amid increasing economic liberalization, the handloom industry has had its share of those bypassed. The poverty ration on BIDS sample of handloom weaver was more than one half. The pattern of growth and structural change has therefore been dualistic. This however is not surprising due to near-total absence of public interventions. The exclusion of the smallest units from favourable change is a frustrated potential that clearly existed (Chowdhury 1989).

In the writing of Muhammad Abdul Latif, 'Towards an Estimation of Cloth Supply in Bangladesh: 1955-56/ 1986-87' he presented that, the supplies of cloth by taking into account domestic production and imports. Cotton, non-cotton, and second-hand clothing, have all been covered. The data on domestic mill production, and imports of cotton, non-cotton, and of second-hand textiles are available from secondary sources. Whilst the production of the handloom sector (which currently accounts for 69% of the total cloth supply in Bangladesh), factory sub-sector, and unorganized small powerlooms have all been estimated in this paper. An attempt has also been made to assess the smuggling in/out of various textile products. It has been seen that the total supply of cloth (all types) has increased from an average of 477 million yards per year during those years. Per capita availability of cloth has increased slowly over time but still remains at a very low level (around 10 yards) (Latif 1989).

In the article 'Nominal and Effective Rates of Protection in Bangladesh Textile Economy' by Muzaffer Ahmad and AFM Mafizul Islam has discussed about the nominal and effective rates of protection being provided for various components of Bangladesh's and spinning weaving economy. The most significant finding of the paper is that handlooms receive significantly lower effective rates of protection (ERP) than powerlooms. Also, the ERP estimates of our study of mill-made, typically relatively coarse, fabrics are round to be lower, too, than for corresponding handloom ERPs. The disadvantage of the handlooms in terms of ERP contributes an interesting factual detail in the background from which one needs to forge the development priorities of Bangladesh's textile economy, and its weaving economy in particular (Ahmad & Islam 1989).

The paper 'Credit Relations and Factor Productivity in Bangladesh's Handloom Industry' is one of the importing writing by Nuimuddin Chowdhury. He has shown in the paper, that following a bungled implementation of Weavers' Credit Scheme-a public program-the weaving industry had reverted to the old days of near-total dependence on non-institutional

credit. Trade credit on yarn procurement had become the all-important source. Trade credit brings forth lucrative gains for the traders by way of interest rate mark-up. However, it permits a very fast working capital turnover, of 49 per year, and therefore a high level of capacity utilization. High mark-up on the interest rate is due to high compounding that is scheduled into the repayments. Such surplus extraction imposes a strictly modest decline in weavers' profits-of about 10%. The trader does not extract as much surplus as would be indicated by his share of the resources in circulation in the weavers' business. This is due to the traders' enlightened self-interest and the want of obvious exploitability on the part of the weavers: the poverty ration on the study sample is over one-half. Against a background of high costs of yarn relative to the purchasing power of an average Bangladeshi consumer, the compulsion to keep cloth production in motion requires that at least moderate profits can accrue to the weaver, and that his poverty does not become crushing. Multivariate regression was used to show that yarn absorption, more than half of which is financed by trade credit on the study sample, is the single most significant determinant of factor productivity, while controlling for statistically significant direct effects of several other non-fincial variables (Chowdhury 1989).

Abdul Hye Mondal in his paper 'Distribution of Yarn in the Handloom Sector of Bangladesh: A Further Study' has discussed that the effectiveness of the distribution of yarn in the handloom sector in its historical and contemporary perspective. It finds that there is a persistent shortfall in the total availability of cotton yarn in the country in terms of quantity, quality, count and variety. This shortfall very often intensifies and converges towards crisis owing to frequent disruptions and distortions in the supply of yarn. In the face of repeated efforts made by the government institutions, market mechanism has been the prime mover of the distribution of yarn in the handloom sector. It finds that institutional mechanism instead of curbing the involvement of the middlemen traders and controlling the market forces has been virtually instrumental in paving the way for the market mechanism to be more active but inefficient. By and large, the system of yarn distribution has been historically ineffective in meeting the diverse yarn requirement of the handloom enterprises. The paper contends that there is a clear need for controlling the yarn market and emphasizes that an all-out effort be made to improve the quality of the locally produced yarns to international standard and diversify production (Mondal 1989).

Mr. Mondal in his another paper he discussed that 'The Pricing of Cotton Yarn in the Handloom Sector of Bangladesh' that, the perpetual issue of cotton yarn pricing in the

handloom sector of Bangladesh which has gained both historical and contemporary relevance. It investigates the nature of yarn price variation and examines the factors governing formation of yarn price at the level of the handloom enterprises and if the existing pattern is reasonably effective in promoting allocation of yarn conducive to the healthy growth of the handloom sector. It argues that because of several limits mainly excessive price spread across host predominant counts, the existing system of yarn pricing fails to capture and sustain dynamism of the sector. It shows that any increase in yarn price which inherently results in increased variability of returns can cause negative supply response, and points out that the widely held 'law of supply' may fail when generalities of risky multi-count yarn production with risk aversion are introduced simultaneously where diversification is also affected by capacity constraints in local production and import. Contrary to popular belief, it is also found that yarn traders on the average earn only normal and sometimes even below normal profit. The paper contends that price stabilization policy support would beyond any doubt benefit the handloom enterprises at large because a stable price takes account of risk reduction benefits (Mondal 1989).

In his paper Rehman Sobhan, 'Employment and Social issues in the Formulation of Policy for the Handloom Industry' he discussed the development of the handloom industry in a wider social context within which an appropriate set of interventions can be designed. It is argued that the continuing importance of the handloom industry is however not just an economic issue. The earnings of over three quarters of a million, mainly rural peoples, are tied-up in the fate of the industry. Through an ongoing process of structural adjustment the handloom industry has maintained its economic issue. The earnings of over three quarters of a million, mainly rural peoples, are tied-up in the fate of the industry. Through an ongoing process of structural adjustment the handloom industry has maintained its economic competitiveness against imports and managed to remain both absolutely and at the margin the main source of cloth supply to the domestic market. The suggests that any strategy for promoting the development of the industry would satisfactorily reconcile the objectives of cost-effectively clothing the population of Bangladesh with the improvement in the incomes of a large number of relatively impoverished households (Sobhan 1989).

In their paper 'HANDLOOM INDUSTRY ON THE WAY OF EXTINCTION: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OVER THE PRE- DOMINANT FACTORS', Suntu Kumar Ghosh and Md. Shahriar Akter has shown that, 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 have identified those predominant factors that are moving the wheels of this industry slowly. And among them, shortage of working capital, high cost of raw material procurement, lack of organizing capability, inadequate technology and efficiency, and lack of policy support are major forces which are bitterly hit the handloom industry (Ghosh & Akter 2005).

2.1 Concept of Handloom

The handloom was devised about 2,000 years ago and was brought to England by the Romans. The process consisted of interlacing one set of threads of yarn (the warp) with another (the weft). The warp threads are stretched lengthwise in the weaving loom. The weft, the cross-threads, are woven into the warp to make the cloth.

In his book, *History of Cotton Manufacture* (1823), Richard Guest pointed out: "The warp was placed between two beams about five feet apart; half way between the beams the warp passed through a frame work of looped threads, called healds, each alternative thread of the warp going through one heald, and the other threads through the other heald. The healds were worked by two treadles, which upon one being put down by the foot, raised one half of the healds and every second thread of the warp; the shuttle which contained the weft was then thrown by the right hand between the threads which were at rest, and the second or alternative threads raised by the treadle and the healds; the shuttle was caught on the other side by the left hand, and the weft thus transversely shot between the threads of the warp."

Weaving remained unchanged for hundreds of years until John Kay devised the flying shuttle, which enabled a weaver to knock the shuttle across the loom and back again using one hand only. The speed of weaving was doubled; and a single weaver could make cloths of any width, whereas previously two men had sat together at a loom to make broad cloth. By 1800 it was estimated that there were 250,000 handlooms in Britain.

Edward Baines, in his book *The History of the Cotton Manufacture* (1935) he described, in 1738, Mr. John Kay, a native of Bury, in Lancashire, then residing at Colchester, where the woolen manufacture was at that time carried on, suggested a mode of throwing the shuttle, which enabled the weaver to make nearly twice as much cloth as he could make before. The old mode was, to throw the shuttle with the hand, which required a constant extension of the hands to each side of the warp. By the new plan, the lathe (in which the shuttle runs) was lengthened a foot at either end; and, by means of two strings attached to

the opposite ends of the lathe, and both held by a peg in the weaver's hand, he, with a slight and sudden pluck, was able to give the proper impulse to the shuttle. The shuttle thus impelled was called the flying-shuttle, and the peg called the picking-peg (i.e. the throwing peg). This simple contrivance was a great saving of time and exertion to the weaver, and enabled one man to weave the widest cloth, which had before required two persons.

2.2 Rules and Regulations

According to the “THE BANGLADESH HANDLOOM BOARD ORDINANCE, 1977”, as soon as may be after the commencement of this Ordinance, the Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish a Board to be called the Bangladesh Handloom Board for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance. Even more the Board shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

This is an Ordinance to make provision for the establishment of the Bangladesh Handloom Board. Whereas it is expedient to make provision for the establishment of the Bangladesh Handloom Board for the development of handloom industry and welfare of persons engaged in handloom industry and for matters connected therewith. In pursuance of the Proclamations of the 20th August, 1975, and the 8th November, 1975, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President made and promulgated the Ordinance. The board has different functions in its jurisdictions (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs 1977).

2.3 Ministry of Textiles and Jute

Jute Ministry established was 1973 and Textile Ministry established was 1977. Previously these two ministries were under industry ministry. Since 1982 these two ministries were involved as two divisions of industry and commerce ministry. Two of the three divisions of industry and commerce ministry were then jute division and textile division respectively.

In the first stage of 1984, when ministries were reforming, the jute division and commerce division have been separated from industry and commerce ministry, and reform as a separate ministry by name Textile & Jute ministry. Actually by the cabinet divisions

notice at 8 July in 1986, these two ministries had started their activities as independent ministries. Therefore an ordinance has been enforced at 6 May in 2004 to unify Textile ministry and Jute ministry as Textile & Jute ministry. After this, Textile and Jute Ministry has been started its activities again (Ministry of Textiles and Jute 2012).

Research and expansionary activities grahanapurbaka cloth, silk and jute industries, as well as an increase in the production sector through the development of export income of the country's internal needs and to achieve economic prosperity through a contribution to public life manonnayana.

2.4 Handloom Board

Bangladesh Handloom Board (BHB) was established in 1977 as a Statutory Public Sector Organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles and Jute. The Board has been entrusted with the responsibility for overall development of the handloom sector of the country and to make welfare of the people engaged therein historically handloom has got its predominance and heritages in Bangladesh. The tradition of weaving cloth by hand constitutes one of the richest aspects of Bangladesh culture and heritage. The level of artistry and intricacy achieved in handloom fabrics are unparalleled and unique. The handloom can meet every need from exquisite fabrics of daily use. The industry has displayed innate resilience to withstand and adopt itself to the changing demand of modern times.

Handloom sector in Bangladesh consists of more than 0.183 million handloom units with 0.505 million handlooms and about 1 million handloom weavers of which about 50% are female worker. A manpower of about one million weavers, dyers, hand spinners, embroiderers and allied artisans have been using their creative skills into more than 0.30 million active looms to produce around 620 million meters of fabrics annually. Production of these handloom fabrics is diffused in numerous production centers all over the country which are linked up by a network of primary, secondary and central markets (Bangladesh Handloom Board 2012)

Weavers are being organized under the fold BHB registered weaver's societies of three tiers viz. Primary, Secondary and Apex. At present there are 1310 primary weaver's societies, 58 secondary weaver's societies and 1 Apex society in the country.

Bangladesh Handloom Board with its head quarter in Dhaka, has 9 Services Centers equipped with modern machinery, one Training Institute, one Training Unit and 30 Basic

Centers located at different loom concentrated areas (mostly in the rural areas) of the country. These centers are engaged in providing technical, financial, advisory and extension services to the handloom weavers.

For the development of Handloom sector and ensure well being of the handloom weavers, Bangladesh Handloom Board has been implementing a number of package programs covering supply of input, innovation of suitable designs, financing of working capital, development of human resources, modernization of handloom technology, efficient marketing management and formation of sound weavers societies.

The main missions for handloom board are Development, promotion and extension of handloom sector; Creation of backward and forward linkages for the textile sector; Employment generation and alleviation of poverty; and boost up export of handloom products; improve standard of living of the handloom weavers.

2.5 Functions of Handloom Board

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

Article No. 8

- 1) To undertake survey ,census and planning for rational growth of handloom industry.
- 2) To maintain statistics relating to handloom industry.
- 3) To conduct enquiries and investigations relating to handloom industry.
- 4) To promote Handloom industry primarily with the help of primary, secondary and Apex weaver's societies.
- 5) To render promotional and advisory services to units of handloom industry.
- 6) To arrange credit facilities for handloom industry.
- 7) To make arrangement for supply of yarn to the weavers at reasonable price primarily through weavers societies.
- 8) To make arrangement for supply of consumables like dyes, chemicals, spares, and accessories to the weavers primarily through weavers societies.
- 9) To make arrangement for marketing at home and abroad primarily through weaver's Societies of articles manufactured by handloom industry.
- 10) To undertake and organize publicity and propaganda for popularization of handloom products both at home and abroad.

- 11) To make arrangement for maintenance of depots primarily through weavers societies for the supply of raw materials to, and purchase of finished products from handloom industries , and also for maintenance of common facilities for design, yarn preparation, bleaching, dyeing, calendaring , printing and finishing.
- 12) To render promotional and extension facilities for standardization for domestic and export sales of handloom products and grant certificate of quality and of the country of origin.
- 13) To provide training facilities and promote research
- 14) To prepare and implement common facility schemes.
- 15) To collect fees.
- 16) To float subsidiary companies.
- 17) To do such other acts and things as may be necessary or conducive to be done for the smooth operation and rational growth of handloom industry.

2.6 Co-Operatives

The first official step towards co-operative movement in India was taken in 1904. The start was made in the field of agricultural credit. All other forms of co-operatives came into being later (Qureshi 1947).

While the relevant literature abounds with agricultural co-operatives, information on weavers' co-operatives is hard to get for the period 1904-47. However, the Fact Finding Committee of 1942 mentioned that weavers' developed in Bengal only after the Industrial Commission Report on 1918. Then a large number of Primary Weavers' Societies were organized in important centers of handloom production. These were the credit societies and their functions were nothing beyond administering credit. But the cash-loans were not actively supervised, and these were often used for purposes other than those for which they used to be taken. As a result, overdue mounted and, therefore, their activities were far from being satisfactory.

On partition, the area of Bangladesh inherited around 12 hundred Primary Weavers' Societies, most of which were either inactive or dormant. The co-operative Bank was established in Dhaka in 1948.

The first five year plan of Pakistan (1955-60) emphasized that the efficiency of the handloom industry should be increased in order to survive against competition with the rapidly growing mill industry. One device suggested in this regard was to distribute yarn

to the weavers and sell the products through co-operatives so that the middlemen's cost could be eliminated.

The function of the co-operative societies during the period 1960-71 was confined to the administration of credit. Soon after liberation the government decided to distribute yarn through institutional agencies including the weavers' co-operatives. This led to a co-operative boom during 1972-75. The dead societies reactivated and many new societies came up, both with memberships more than what they really ought to have been, in order to get higher quotas of yarn. The reason is that most of the weavers under this co-operative are small weavers who depend for the supplies on this society and have little working capital of their own (Latif 1997).

2.7 Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)

The Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) is the successor organization of the East Pakistan Small Industries Corporation (EPSIC). This public sector organization was set up by an Act of parliament in 1957. The purpose was to promote growth and development of small-scale and cottage industries in the country by providing various required by these industries (Latif 1997).

2.8 Loomless Weavers Co-operative

The objective of the Loomless weavers' co-operative (LWC) project, launched in two phases, was to rehabilitate the loomless weavers in their ancestral profession by providing them with looms and working capital.

The first phase of the project was initiated in 1979. It envisaged setting up of four LWCs each with membership of around 100 loomless weavers and a few others (not exceeding – 6) having owned 2-3 looms. Every loomless member was to be provided with one Chittaranjan/semi-automatic loom under a long-term loan. Each co-operative was to have a store-house and a dyeing factory of its own, created by the government's contribution to the share capital of the co-operative. To ensure regular supplies of yarn, the co-operative. To ensure regular supplies of yarn, the co-operative were to be suitably tagged to different BTMC mills. For easy delivery of goods produced by them, arrangements were to be made with the BTMC sales-com-display centers at the district (the then sub-division) level. A sum of Tk. 5 million was allocated for the implementation of the project (Latif 1997).

2.9 Specialized Product Development

The Specialized Product Development (SPD) program was designed to rehabilitate the traditional khadi industry (production of particular varieties of coarse cloth, especially satranchee, with handspun yarn) and to provide some earning opportunities for handspun yarn) and to provide some earning opportunities for distressed women traditionally spinning yarn on the ambar charka. Under the scheme the BHB, by arrangements with the BTMC, was to supply waste cotton to the hand spinners (in the khadi areas), establish a workshop at Chandina (Comilla) in order to impart training to them, distribute to them the ambar and improved patti charkas, and to extend them marketing support through the MDSC (Latif 1997).

2.10 Metropolis Display-cum-Sales Centre

The Metropolis Display-cum-Sales Centre (MDSC) project was launched in 1979 with a planned outlay of Tk. 1.15 million. The objective of the MDSC was to facilitate sale of output of the weavers, especially of those located away from the traditional handloom areas, as well as to supply the customers with quality cloth at fair prices by reducing the role of intermediaries in the trade. As of now, the MDSC is limited to a single retail outlet (hereafter called centre) located at Nayan Market in Metropolitan Dhaka (Latif 1997).

2.11 Replacement of Pit Looms

The Replacement of Pit looms (RPL) program was designed to replace 833 pieces of low productivity pit (fly-shuttle) looms by high productivity Chittaranjan/semi-automatic looms, and to impart conversion training to the recipients of the looms under the Modernization Program. The idea was to increase production, improve fabric quality, and to enhance the earnings of the poorer weavers. The RPL was launched in 1980 with an original outlay of Tk. 4.33 million; but the program was subsequently revised downwards, and ultimately closed down in 1984 after incurring an expenditure of Tk. 1.7 million.

2.12 Centre for Handloom Products and Equipment Development

The Centre for Handloom Products and Equipment Development (CHPED), located at Narsingdi, was launched in 1980 with an initial allocation of Tk. 19.1 million. The objectives of the project were to develop new designs and distribute them to the weavers; to take stock of changes in designs, color combination, fabric quality, and consumers'

preferences; to undertake research in technology, and develop improved appliances and devices; to study the use of various natural and man-made fibers; and to develop technical training materials and conduct training programs.

2.13 Cloth Processing Centre

The Processing Centre (CPC), located at Madhabdi under Narsingdi (one of the most densely concentrated handloom areas of the country), was launched in 1980 with an initial allocation of Tk. 5.17 million. The CPC project was developed to meet the long-felt demand of the weavers, especially the small weavers who found it uneconomic to get the post-weaving cloth finishing services such as bleaching, dyeing, printing calendaring, from the private processing units. The project was declared complete in 1987, and since then it has been providing the finishing services to the surrounding weavers mostly on a co-operative basis.

The foregoing discussion would suggest that irrespective of the intention of different government in the pre- and post-liberation periods, the successes of the policies pursued to maintain and develop the handloom industry were mixed. Of the two types of measures, protective policies and institution building, the former would seem to have helped the industry to survive against mill competition. The heavy excise duty on mill products (during the pre-liberation period), and custom tariffs on imported cloth (during the post-liberation period) improved the relative competitiveness of the handloom industry. However, the policies pursued to develop the industry through institution building proved to be ineffective in many respects. Contradictory policy formulation, poor program planning, and inefficient administrative machinery appear to have been the major constraints. Nevertheless, the Bangladesh Handloom Board, of late, has tended towards partial successes in some of its development programs.

2.14 Conceptual Framework

Loom means 'tat' in Bangla language. In normally speaking this instrument is used for weaving cloths. The structure and composition of the Loom has already being discussed in the earlier parts of this chapter. There are two types of loom in Bangladesh they are Handloom and Machine loom. We have discussed about the handlooms in our study.

Handloom board in Bangladesh is the prime authority to oversee the situation of the handloom industry in Bangladesh. We have already discussed about the Handloom boards

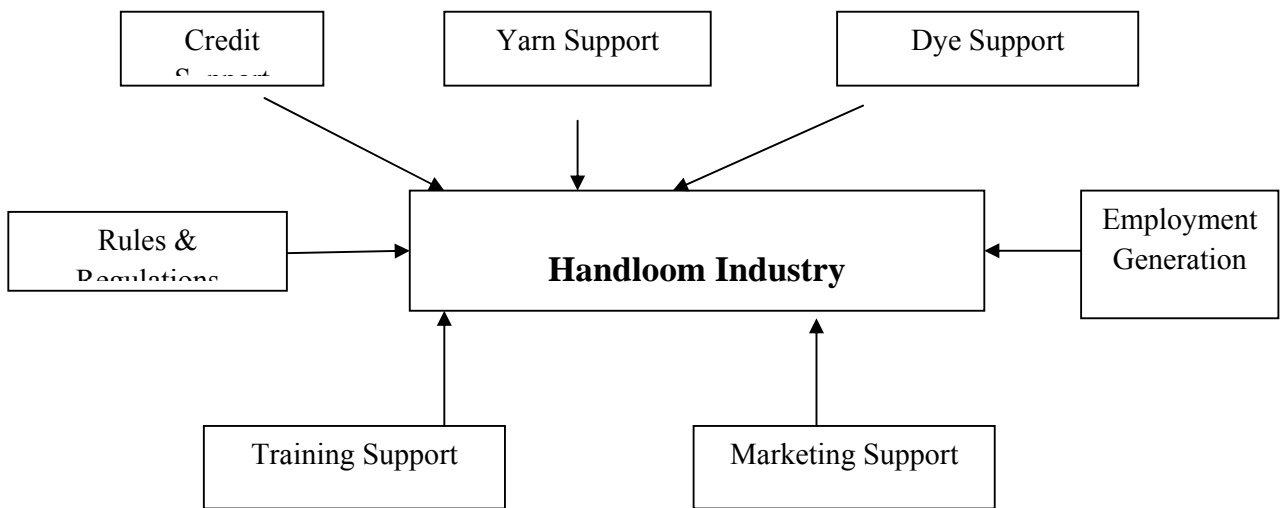
functions and compositions earlier. Hence now we know what handloom board in Bangladesh is? Basically it is the government authority in Bangladesh to oversee the situation of the handloom industry.

Employment in Bangladesh is very important concept. We have earlier discussed about the manpower engaged in this industry. Basically this industry is promoting the employment in Bangladesh. Moreover we have tried to see the position of Bangladesh Handloom Board's position regarding the employment generation measures. Finally we want to clarify one thing about the position the weavers. Basically they are the poor people in Bangladesh. They are staying in the rural or even remote areas of Bangladesh.

However due to time constraints we run our study in the rural area in Sirajgonj district. The name of the thana is Enaitpur. We have done some case studies of some handloom weavers of that region of our study area.

Moreover if we see the ordinance for Bangladesh Handloom Board we will see a bunch of activities run by the board. However you will find hardly any activities that directly increase the employment in the rural areas. Likewise this board is providing the rural weaver training, technical support, logistics even sometimes loans. From our observation, no existing literature regarding handloom industry in Bangladesh hasn't described the issue. So we are going to pull it out in our study.

2.15 Analytical Framework



Chapter 3: Research Methodology

The manner in which research has proceeded depending on many factors, but the underlying methodology is the most important. For this reason, it is imperative that at this stage I am as a researcher defines and outlines the type of methodology that guided the research project.

For data collection and analyzing data, I had used quantitative and qualitative methodology. For analyzing data I would prefer the qualitative method because in qualitative research, there is a need to study reality from the inside, that is, to understand it from the point of view of the subject. Moreover, the researcher wishes to capture the meaning and regularities of social action. Feminists prefer the qualitative methodologies for research. For collecting data I had used survey questionnaire and in-depth interview method with interview guideline and also using the observation method.

3.1 Population and Sampling

From the Enaitpur Thana in Sirajgonj District, I had conducted a survey among 50 handloom weavers on a questionnaire to identify the role of Bangladesh Handloom Board regarding employment generation.

3.2 Methods of Data Collection

The study has collected data through interviewing of the respondent. Here, the study has been chosen the open and close ended questions. For primary sources of data, the study collects by using self-administered questionnaire (open-close) from respondents through sample survey method. Further a guided case study schedule has used for case study to get in-depth information of the respondents and the study areas.

3.3 Sources of Data

The study has been held based on primary and secondary data. The sources of the data are:

3.3.1 Primary Data Sources: The primary data was collected from respondents through questionnaire survey as well as case study of the selected study area. Side by side, the

research work has been consulted with the government officials and general people who are involved with the hand loom sector.

3.3.2 Secondary Data Sources: The secondary sources of data was comprised the relevant documents and publications of government agencies, different NGOs, Archive, library, education and research institutions and internet browsing has been continuously done.

3.4 Data Processing and Analysis

The data has been processed through editing to improve their quality and coded to convert them to the form of numerical codes representing attribute of variables. The study has been conducted on the basis of qualitative and quantitative analysis. The study has used the present upgraded Statistical Program for Social Science (SPSS) software to get appropriate combination of data.

3.4.1 Qualitative Approach of the Study

The qualitative approach gives the study's long term validity and reliability. The data has analyzed on the basis of conceptual framework which has been formed from the combination of theoretical framework and relevant literature.

3.4.2 Quantitative Approach

Quantitative approach is the vital part of this study to give it a complete shape. The processing of quantitative data is depend on the quantitative data analysis processes mainly univariate and vicariate. In the process of univariate analysis, the study used frequency distribution for variables description, percentage for standardization of variables, arithmetic mean for measuring central tendency, co-efficient of variation for unit of measurement as well as skewness. On the other hand, it uses the correlation and regression for bivariate analysis.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Findings

4.0 Data Analysis and Findings

This chapter has focused on the major findings from primary and secondary data identified from the in –depth interviews and observations has been drawn here. This finding has focused on the factor which is related with the role played by the Handloom Board of Bangladesh in relation with the how this board generates income through the rural people by its income generating activities. In the following we are going to discuss the collected data from the field.

4.1 Age of the Respondents

I have collected data from 50 weavers who are all male. Their age are divided in to 4 groups. Among them 20 weavers (40%) are 41-50 years. Here we see that they are young and energetic. That is why they are contributing very well in the handloom sector. And 13 weavers (26%) are 60 and above 60 years, who are very skilled and experience person.

Table 1: Age of the respondents

Age group	Respondents	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
31-40 yrs	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
41-50yrs	20	40.0	40.0	52.0
51-60yrs	11	22.0	22.0	74.0
60+yrs	13	26.0	26.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

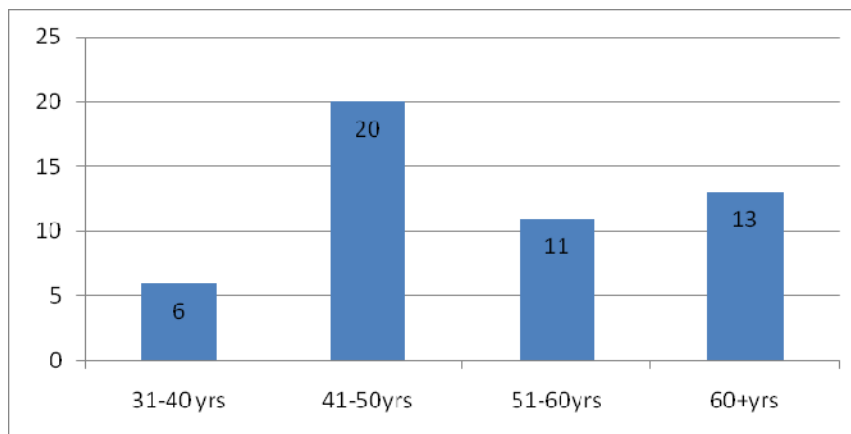


Figure 1: Age of Respondents

4.2 Level of Education

Table-2: Education level of weavers

Education	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
below SSC	40	80.0	80.0	80.0
SSC	8	16.0	16.0	96.0
HSC	1	2.0	2.0	98.0
graduate	1	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

From our study universe we have seen the maximum number are belonging to the group of below SSC (40) among the total 50 respondents. However the minimum belongs to the graduate group (01). While we were interviewing this respondent who is belonging to the graduate he is not usually the weaver he is trying to prepare himself for the job examination. However at the present he is helping his parents in their factory. The following graph will show here a bar-chart about the ratio of the educational background of the respondents of our study.

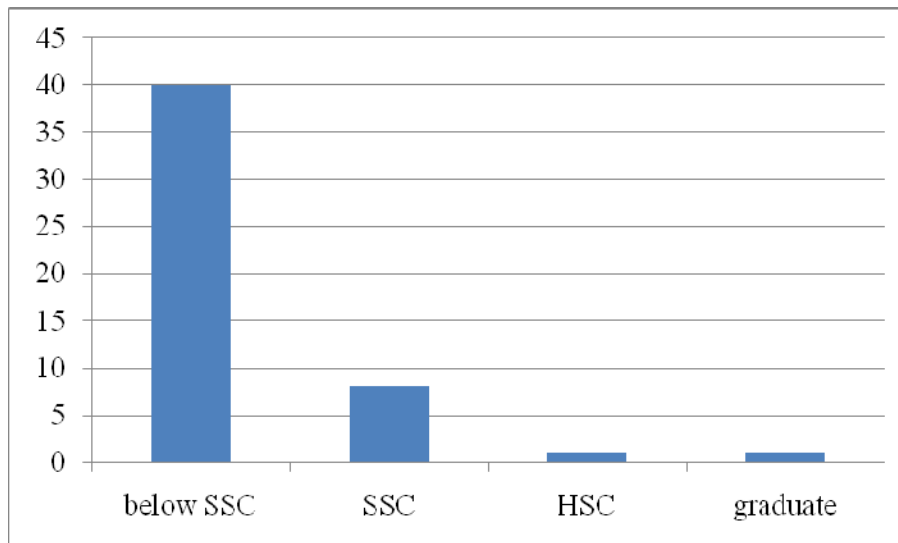


Figure 2: Educational Background of the Respondents

4.3 No. of Earners in Families



Figure 3: Number of Wage Earners

From the above graph we can see that, most of the families (33) of the weavers of our study area are depending on one earning member. There are families who are dependent on 2 earning members (15) and 2 families are having 3 earning members in their families. Basically what do we see here? We see that in most of the cases a family consist of 5-10 members and all the family members are depending on the income of the one or two members of that family.

4.4 Number of handlooms

In the following graph we can see that in the year of 1992 there were 500 handlooms in our total respondents (50). However in the year of 2002 it has increase a little like 503 handlooms. On the other hand in the year of 2012 they have only 293 handlooms. In most of the cases they have left this handloom profession in exchange of machine looms. However some of the weavers have left this business due to the lack of capital. We will discuss the problems later.

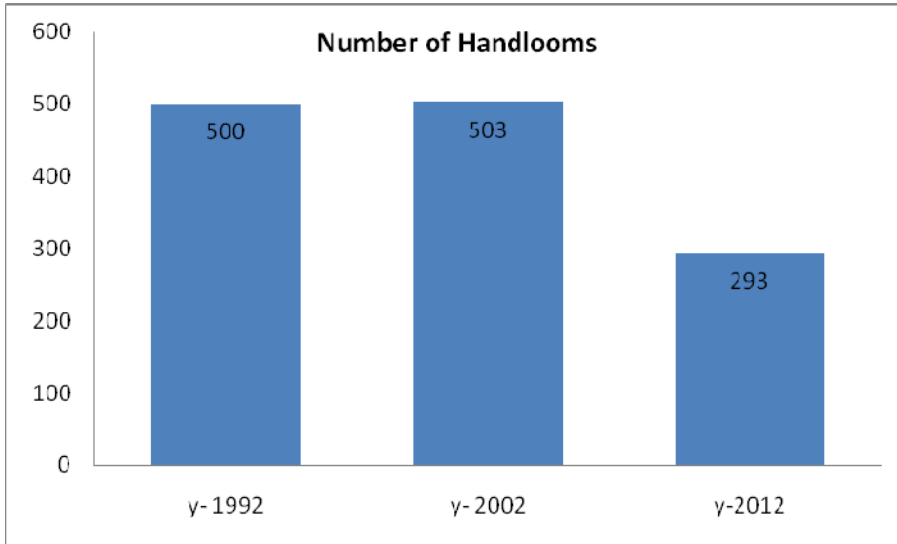


Figure 4: Number of Handlooms

4.5 Number of workers

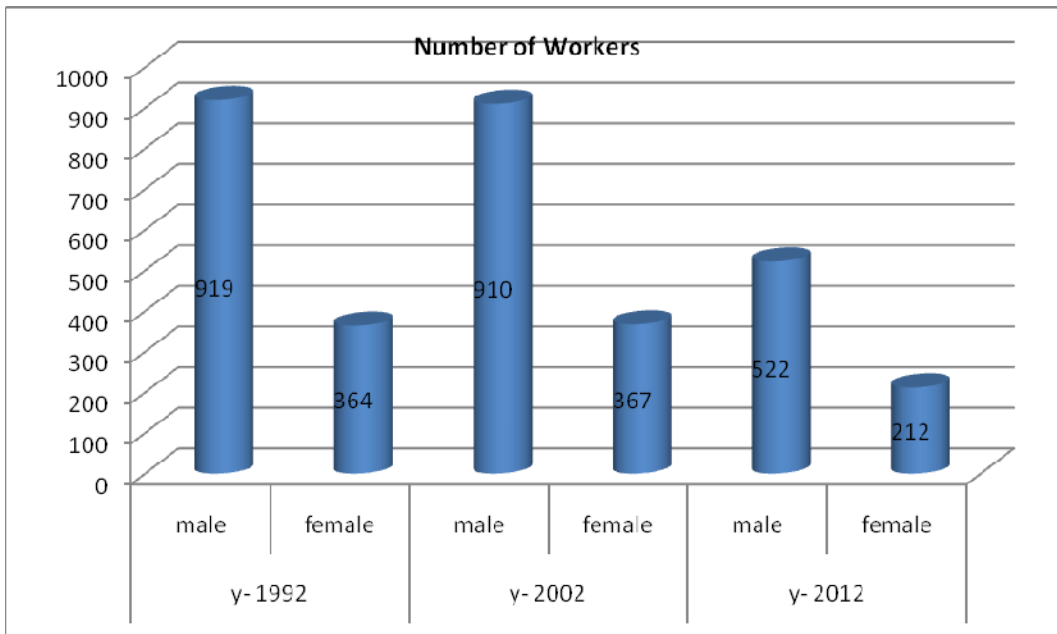


Figure 5: Number of Workers in factory

In the above graph we can see that in 1992 total worker were 1283. Among them there were 919 male workers and 363 female workers in our respondent's factories. However in the year of 2002 the total number of workers was 1277 among them there were 910 male workers and 367 female workers. On the other hand we can see that in the year of 2012 there were 734 workers in their factories. Among them there were 522 male workers and

212 female workers. As we see there are certain causes for the present situation of these workers.

4.6 Workers Skill

Table 3: workers skill

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
un skilled	6	12.0	12.0	12.0
partially skilled	44	88.0	88.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Are the workers skilled? We have asked the respondents to reply like if they have any skilled worker. Also we have classified the workers into three categories. They are Unskilled, partially skilled, skilled. Now if we see the graph bellows we will see that there are 06 respondents have replied they have unskilled workers in their factory and 46 have responded that they have partially skilled workers in their factory and none of the respondents have replied they have skilled workers in their factory. However all the respondents have acknowledged that they need training for their workers.

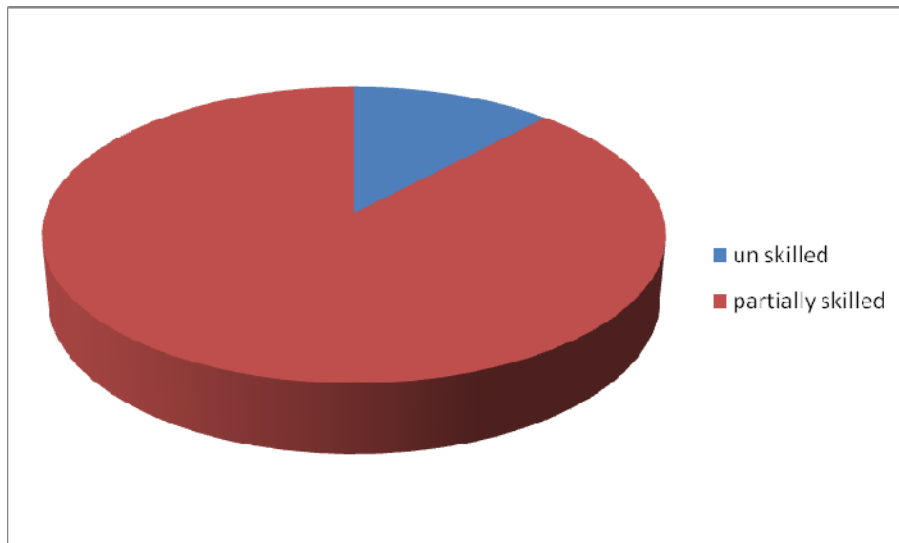


Figure 6: Ratio of Skilled Worker

4.7 Required training

Most of the respondents have emphasized that they need the ‘weaving’ training for their workers. Some of the respondents have emphasized that they need ‘jacquard’ training for their and some of the respondents have emphasized on the ‘jamdani’ training for their worker. They also emphasized on the role of Bangladesh Handloom Board.

4.8 Income of weavers (per year)

We have asked that what the incomes of the weavers in their factory are. But they have refused to the question. As we are bound to maintain the confidentiality of the research and also they do not want to disclose the income of their own. So we have escaped the question.

4.9 Expenditure of the weavers

As the income and expenditure relates to the government taxation, that is why they tried to escape from these two questions. Due to our smoothness of our data collection we also remain stop without the answer of those two questions.

4.10 Awareness

Table 4: Heard the name of BHB

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	50	100.0	100.0	100.0
No	00	00	00	00

We asked our respondents about awareness of BHB. Have they heard the name of Bangladesh Handloom Board? All of the respondents have answered that they have heard the name of BHB.

4.11 Heard the name of weaver society

Table 5: Heard the name of weaver society

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
yes	45	90.0	90.0	90.0
no	5	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

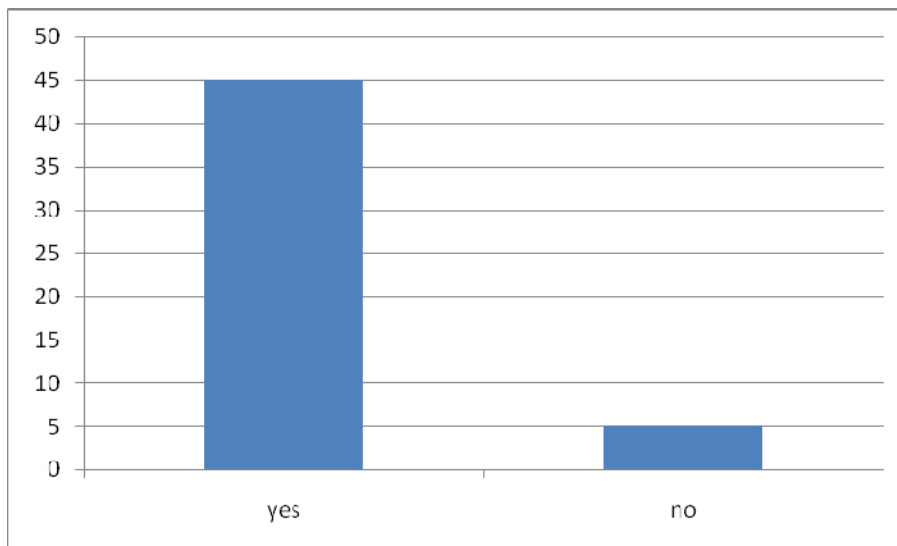


Figure 7: Weaver Society

From the above graph we can see that the popularity of weaver society is not so better than the BHB. As we see in the graph is that 90% (45 respondents) of our respondents have heard the name of the weaver society and 10% (5 respondents) have not heard the name of weaver society. In the recommendations section we will recommend that BHB should work with weaver society accordingly.

4.12 Member of the Society

Table 6: Membership of the Society

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
yes	22	44.0	44.0	44.0
no	28	56.0	56.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

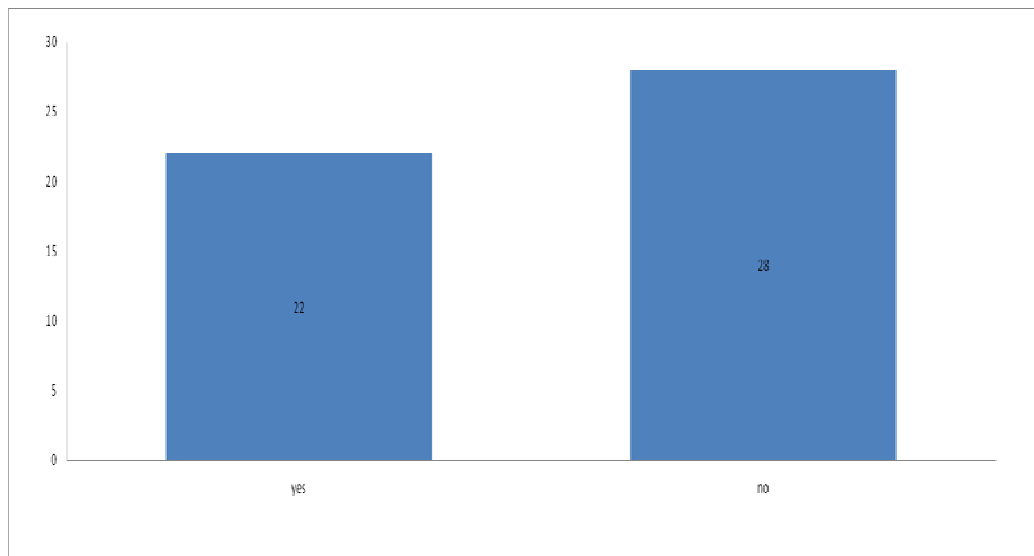


Figure 8: Member of the Society

On the above table and figure, we can see that those (45 respondents) who have heard the name of weaver society have (22 respondents) got a membership in the weaver society among them 23 members have not got the membership of the weaver society. When we asked them, why they do not got membership in the weaver society they told us that due to lack of sufficient supports. BHB only support small amount of credit supply. They supplied 13000/= per loom 10 to 12 years ago. Now it is closed because of budget constraints. Basically BHB cannot do their work according to the Ordinance or 1977. They seems that it is not beneficiary institution, so they are not interested to get membership of BHB.

4.13 Credit facility from BHB

Table 7: Credit facility

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	22	44.0	44.0	44.0
No	28	56.0	56.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

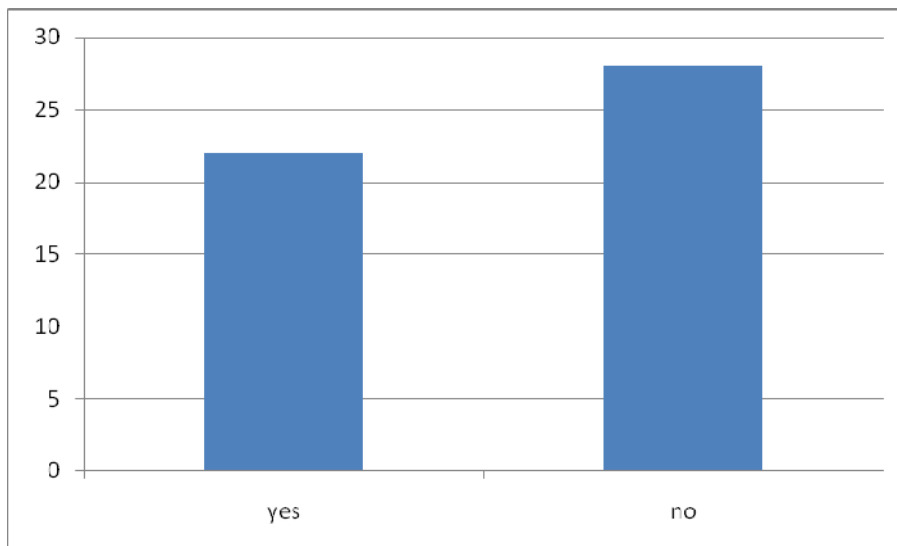


Figure 9: Credit Facility from BHB

We asked our respondents that did they get any credit facility from the BHB. 39 of our respondents have answered that they did not get any credit from the BHB and 11 of them have got the credit facility. One more thing I want to mention here that those weavers who have got 5 of more handlooms only those will get the credit facility from the board. So some of our respondents haven't got 5 or more handlooms that are why they are automatically out of the competition of the credit taking. However the weavers are very much lack of credit facility and they need credit due to run this profession even if they don't have 5 of more handlooms.

Credit Satisfaction

Those who have got credit from the board, they think that the credit is not satisfactory.

4.14 Dye Support

Dye is very important for the handloom production. The respondents informed that they do not get any dye support from the board.

Table 8: Dye Support

Dye Support	Respondents	Percent
Yes	00	00%
No	50	100%

4.15 Yarn Support

Yarn is a very essential raw material for handloom factory. But BHB do not get support or supply yarn to the weavers. The entire respondent knew that they do not get yarn support from BHB.

Table- 9: Yarn support

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	50	100.0	100.0	100.0
Yes	00	00	00	00

4.16 Spare parts Support

Spare parts are very important accessories to run the handloom. Price of accessories increases day by day. According to the function of handloom board, they will get spare parts support. But they cannot do that.

Table 10: Spare parts support from BHB

Spare parts Support	Respondents	Percent
Yes	00	00%
No	50	100%

4.17 Training from BHB

BHB is providing training support for the handloom weavers. It is one of the main jobs. However the board doesn't poses any satisfactory level of training performance towards the handloom weavers.

Table 11: Training support from BHB

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
no	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

From the above we can see that the 9 of our respondents have got training from BHB and other 41 of our respondents have not got any support from BHB. Though they (9 respondents) have got support from BHB among them most of them think those thinks the training is not satisfactory. Even the training center is far from the working area of weavers. Moreover the stipend from the board is very low, and they also said that the trainers are not so efficient. In this regard the weavers think that the training is a west of time.

4.18 Bank Loan

Table 12: Weavers bank loan

	Respondent	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
yes	48	96.0	96.0	96.0
no	2	4.0	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	100.0	

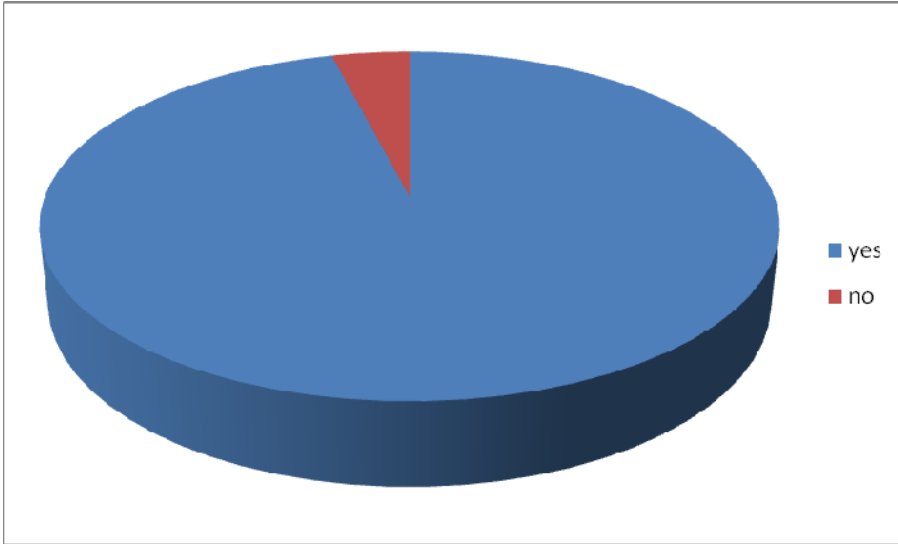


Figure 10: Need of Bank Loan

We asked our respondents about the bank loan. 48 of our respondents have told us that they need bank loan however 2 of the respondents have said that they do not need any bank loan. From the above graph we can see that. Moreover 48 respondents who require bank loans 28 of them have applied for bank loans and 22 of them have not applied for bank loan. We can see it in the following table.

Table 13: Apply for Bank Loan

Apply for Bank Loan	Respondents	Percent
Yes	28	58%
No	20	42%

One more thing we want to mention here again is that we also asked to our respondents is that did they get any bank loan? Among the 28 respondents who have applied for the bank loan 8 of them have got bank loan but the other 20 of them got no loan from the banks.

4.19 Credit Support

I have collected data from 50 respondents. Among them 28 respondents did not get credit support and 22 respondents got credit support. We can see what is happening here or what is the impact.

4.19.1 Did not get Credit Support

a) No. of handloom:

Among 50 respondents 28 did not get credit support. Below the table and figure we see that the number of handloom decreases in last decay.

Table 14: No. of handloom in different decay

Y-1992	Y-2002	Y-2012
368	381	140

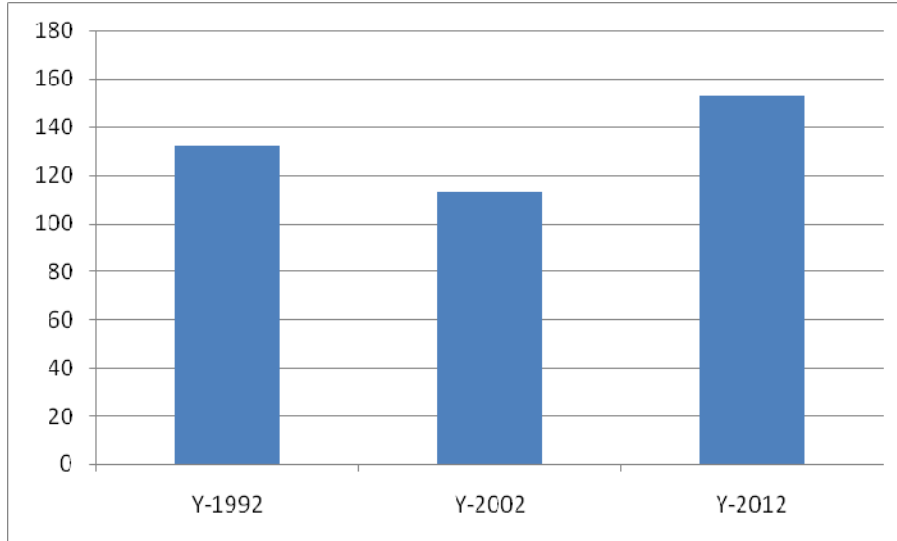


Figure 11: No. of handloom in different decay

b) No. of Workers

The 28 Weavers of their factory, the workers decrease in the last decay. Below the table and figure, we see that.

Table 15: No. of Workers in different decay

1992		2002		2012	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
671	265	713	293	270	119

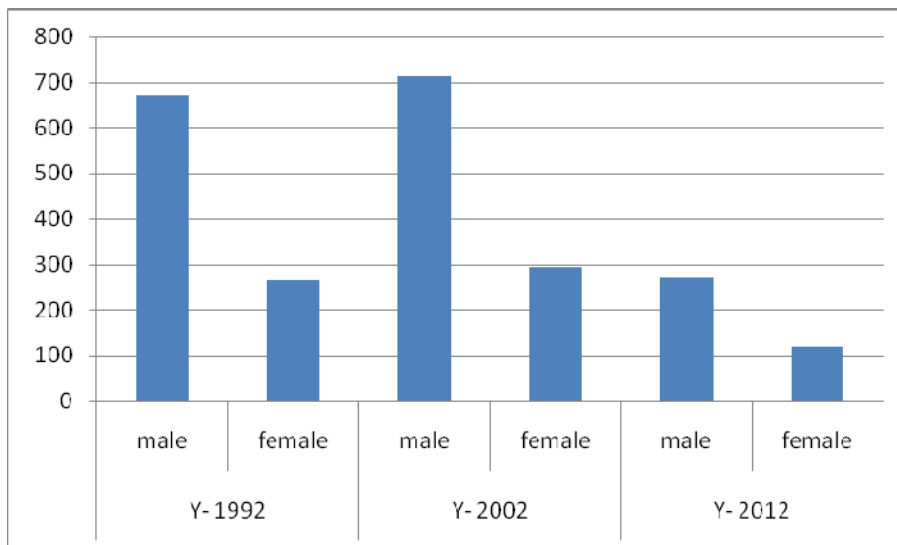


Figure 12: No. of workers

4.19.2 Got Credit Support

a) No. of handloom:

Among 50 respondents 22 have got credit support. Below the table and figure we see that the number of handloom increases in last decay.

Table 16: No. of handloom in different decay (with credit)

Y-1992	Y-2002	Y-2012
132	113	153

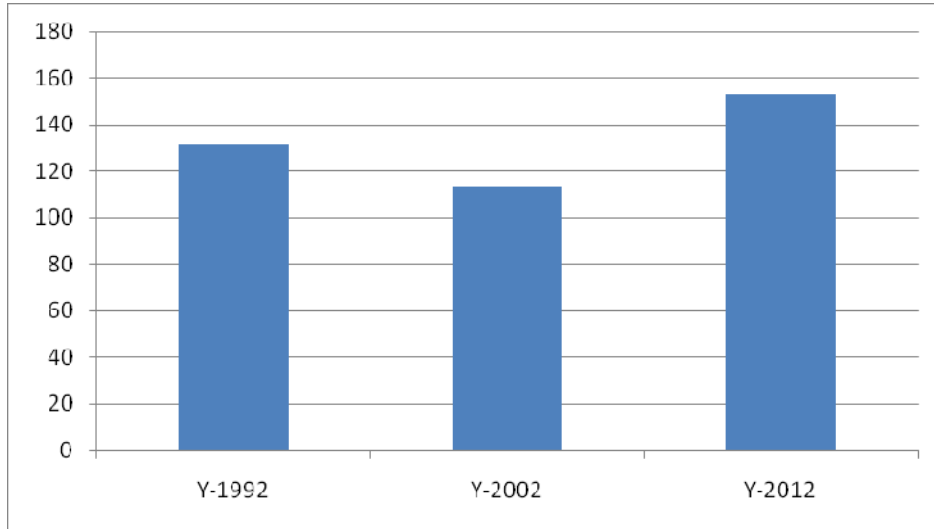


Figure 13: No. of handloom (with credit)

b) No. of Workers

The 28 Weavers of their factory, the workers increase in the last decay. Below the table and figure, we see that.

Table 17: No. of workers (with credit)

1992		2002		2012	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
248	99	197	74	252	98

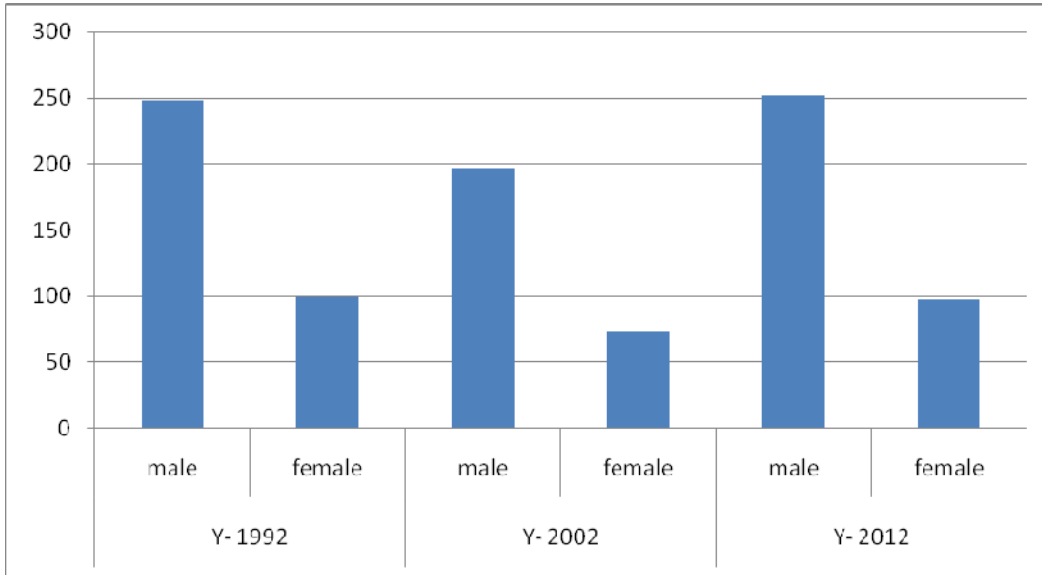


Figure 14: No. of workers (with credit)

4.20 Major Problems

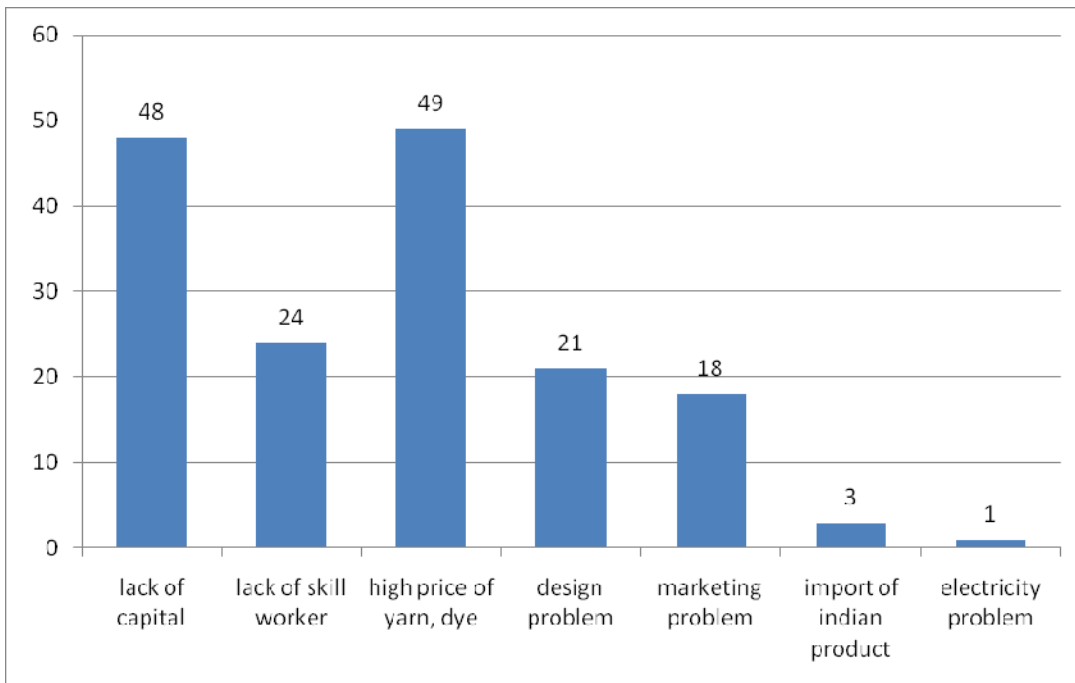


Figure 15: Major Problems

From the above chart we can see that 48 of respondents think that there is a problem of lack of capital in running this profession. There are 24 respondents who think that there is problem of lack of skill worker other big problem is high price of yarn, dye. 49 of our

respondent think that there is problem. There is problem of design and marketing. 21 and 18 respondents think that respectively. 3 of our respondents think that there might be some problem like if some illegal import from India moreover one of our respondents thinks that there is a problem of electricity.

Future Development

For future development our respondents think that hand loom board has to come forward to do something about. This is because Bangladesh has a glorious tradition of handlooms. Now it is losing its pride due to some unavoidable circumstances. So if the government in the name of BHB come forward to protect this industry it will be very helpful for the poor weavers those are basically day laborer. Some other points they have mentioned like- Huge investment in this sector; Supply of capital to the wavers; Provide training; Provide Bank loan; provide bank loan; support for marketing; Research in this sector; Development of traditional hand looms; motivate educated persons in this sector; provide electricity; provide subsidy; stop illegal import from India; etc.

Chapter 5: Recommendations and Conclusion

5.1 Recommendations

After analyzing our all-major and associated findings, we recommend the following steps, which we believe, will provide a direction for further improvement of this sector. For upliftment of handloom sector it is most essential to identify the problems faced by this industry. Poor marketing and insufficient market linkage outside the state ails the industry from growing and earning more revenue. Apart from other, innovations in design to cope up with the latest market demand are not sufficient and have posed a threat to this indigenous industry. Therefore, it is high time that all round efforts are made to revive this important and unique industry.

We have found that weavers don't get raw materials at right time and at right price. In this case, our recommendation is that government should have a monitoring cell under Handloom Board of Bangladesh to monitor activities of those wholesalers and retailers who are engaged in selling raw materials for handloom products to prevent any unfair advantage. In addition, all tax and levies should be waived on all kinds of raw materials which will ensure the right price.

We have found that weavers suffer from inadequate contemporary technology. So, government should take necessary steps to make available these technologies in local market and should waive all taxes on these technologies so that weavers can afford these technologies.

Another major finding is- weavers suffer from scarcity of working capital. Most of the time, weavers acquire their working capital from their own money and sometimes they acquire capital from various institutions like govt. banks, private banks and some other financial institutions. Both government and private sectors should work to solve this problem of working capital.

We have found that high level of skill is needed to produce handloom products, but there is no development program for weavers. So various specialized trainings program should be launched for weavers that will keep them updated. Both private and public sectors can work for this.

We have found that government supports to this industry are not sufficient and effective. Government should be more responsible and should provide more policy support to save

this ancient industry. Our neighboring county, India, provides approximately 20% incentives to their handloom industry and these create problems like lots of handloom products enter in our market through illegal ways as these products are cheaper than our local products. To eliminate this problem, government can provide incentives to those weavers who produce those handloom products which have high demand in national and international market, such as Sharee, Lungi, Three Piece, Bed sheet etc.

We have found that existing distribution channel of the handloom products is not adequate and effective. This problem can be eliminated if we can catch the attention of private organizations and NGOs to participate in the growth of this industry.

We have found that existing promotional campaign is not adequate. So intensive promotional programs like trade fairs, public relations, sales promotions and advertising should be undertaken.

We have found that handloom industry faces intense competition from mill and power loom sector. So government can create a quota system for handloom industry, under which, some special products such as Sharee, Lungi, Three Piece, Bed sheet etc. which have high demand in national and international markets, can exclusively be produced by handloom.

5.2 Conclusion

All recommendations are to boost up the sales and market share of handloom industry in Bangladesh. This industry is facing a lot of problems that have been highlighted through our discussion and made necessary recommendations to bring the handloom industry at the blooming stage of development. We should extend our helping hand to the government and NGOs to pave the way of development for our poor weavers.

An important issue raised concerned the optimal network characteristic of firms in the handloom sector that influence the performance of master weaver firms. This study found that a network rich in structural holes is needed in order to recognize opportunities, whereas strong ties are needed to facilitate resource mobilization. This finding is different from the two stylized network characteristics found in Rowley et al. (2000). They found that firms in a traditional sector such as the steel industry benefit most from a dense network and from strong ties, while structural holes and weak ties are most beneficial to firms in an innovative and changing sector such as the computer industry. A mix of both seems to best suit the handloom industry in Bangladesh.

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Appendix

Questionnaire

"Role of Handloom Board to generate employment in rural area: A study of Enaitpur Thana in Sirajgonj District"

Sl No.

Date:

1) Demographic information:

a) Name :

b) Village:

c) Post.:

d) Upazila:

e) Dist.:

f) Age:

Sex (please √) 1) Male

2) Female

2) Education: a) below SSC b) SSC c) HSC d) Graduate e) Other

3) No. of wage earners in your family-

4) How many machines in your factory?

2010	2011	2012

5) How many workers in your factory?

2010		2011		2012	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female

6) Income of Weavers(Per Year):

2010	2011	2012

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7) Expenditure of Weavers(Per Year):

2010	2011	2012

8) Have you ever heard the name of BHB?

- a) Yes b) No

9) Do you know about Weavers society/association?

- a) Yes b) No

10) If yes, are you member of the society/association?

- a) Yes b) No

11) Do you get any credit facilities from BHB?

- a) Yes b) No

12) If yes, is it sufficient to run the factory?

- a) Yes b) No

13) Do you get any yarn support from BHB?

- a) Yes b) No

14) If yes, is it sufficient to run the factory?

- b) Yes b) No

15) Do you get dye support from BHB?

- a) Yes b) No

16) If yes, is it sufficient to run the factory?

- c) Yes b) No

17) Do you get parts and spare support from BHB?

- a) Yes b) No

18) If yes, is it sufficient to run the factory?

- d) Yes b) No

19) Have you get any training from BHB?

- a) Yes b) No

20) Which type of training have you got?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

21) Do you require Bank loan?

- a) Yes
- b) No

22) Did you apply for Bank loan?

- a) Yes
- b) No

23) If yes, have you got the loan?

- a) Yes
- b) No

24) What are the major problems for further development of this industry?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

25) What should be done for further development of this industry?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

Thank you for your kind cooperation