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## Research Article

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF CHIKAN WORKERS OF KAKORI BLOCK IN LUCKNOW

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#### ABSTRACT

'The real India resides in rural India.' Large portion of the rural population of India acting as one of the major sources of it's economy is supported by cottage industries. Every region in our country abounds in beautiful handicrafts, handlooms, carpets etc. It features Indian culture in a very unique way & helps preserve it by marketing products which are hand made. 'Chikan embroider is one of the world fame hand made craft which has emerged as major source of employment in rural areas of Lucknow region. Many people of that area are dependent on this occupation to earn their livelihood. Chikan embroidery is the one of the basic work of that area. In Lucknow it is one of the fastest growing industries. It has wide range of activities with employment of a substantial number of workers. They are mainly working in informal/unorganised sector. These workers are poor and vulnerable. The total household income is very low because their employment is totally temporary in nature. The socio-economic stresses are one of the major outcomes of their occupation. Security measures are not being provided or adopted by them while working. They are being exploited by the mediators. There is no specified time limit/frame of work for them. They had to work on an average for about 10 hours/day. In this paper researcher tries to find out the socio-economic status of the chikan workers of kakori block in Lucknow.

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#### INTRODUCTION

'The real India resides in rural India.' Large portion of the rural population of India acting as one of the major sources of it's economy is supported by cottage industries. Which, is responsible for having hugely preserved the cultural heritage of India. Cottage industry not only maintains a distinct identity of it's own but also provide it with a unique platform to display it's specialty when there is a tough competition faced in international markets. It is only because of cottage industries. The indigenous goods can fairly compete with the foreign goods due to the impression of Indian culture that makes them unique.

Cottage industry or the small scale industries are usually the term used for small business carried on at home involving less number of people as laborers who may or may not be the members of one family and sometimes such a production or manufacturing goods involves the traditional artisans and craftsman who have inherited their work as an art from their ancestors their various goods produced including dress fabrics such as khadi, wool, leather, silk, cotton etc. Have a huge demand not only within India but also in foreign markets.

The European traders and merchants exploited the Indian peasants to great extent due to which these cottage industries witnessed a severe lash to their production later the industrial revolution in the west also gave a fatal blow to their economy & led to considerable decline in the number. Although the Gandhiji led 'Swadeshi' & 'Boycott' movements helped in the promotion of khadi & other Indian fabrics, they could not help much in saving the decline in the manufacturing of the items that involved fine work as well as an artistic taste. Since 1947, after Indian independence there was a much-needed change that was introduced in the economic condition of India as a consequence of which the cottage industries were neglected again but later they became an integral part of India's five year plans.

Since then today after several years of Indian independence the contemporary condition of the cottage industry is under control more than ever before they are operated with a joint co-operation of the public & private sectors. Today every state in India has it's own set of cottage industries whose design & craft items represent the traditional art form & the culture of that particular state. Indian cottage industries are destined to play a significant role in the economic development of the country while keeping in view the potential for employment generation,

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preservation of cultural heritage & the dispersal of industrial activity in to the backward regions. Every region in our country abounds in beautiful handicrafts, handlooms, carpets etc. It features Indian culture in a very unique way & helps preserve it by marketing. Products which are handmade. 'Chikan embroider is one of the world fame handmade craft which has emerged as major source of employment in rural areas of Lucknow region. Many people of that area are dependent on this occupation to earn their livelihood.

### **History and Tradition of Chikankari**

The art of Chikan embroidery in India is about 400 years old and it is believed that this is a Persian Craft, which came to India with Noorjahan, the queen of Jahangeer the Mughal Emperor.. At that time it was designed and practiced by her and other begams (wives) of Mughal Emperors. Chikankari flourished under the patronage of the rulers of Awadh. Later when the capital of Awadh shifted to Lucknow from Faizabad, in the year 1722, the knowledge of the craft came to Lucknow. It is informed that here the Mughals found the Hand Block Printing skills that made it easier for them to practice this embroidery, as earlier the tracing of design was very difficult. This availability of easy process of drawing of base design encouraged them to teach this fine embroidery-work to their Kaniz(servants) who in turn taught it to their other family members and gradually this embroidery become a part time earning source of many women of rural areas.

Evident in 16th C, chikankari reached its height in the 18th C in Lucknow and crystallized into its definitive form in 19th C. With the advent of the British rule, chikan work declined due to loss of patronage of the courts and landlords: the work changed from professional to a cottage industry for women. By the beginning of the 20th C, standards dropped as the industry became orientated towards the mass market resulting in cheap and rough work. Uttar Pradesh became the chief centre of production, mainly garments, for the huge export trade.

Industrialization is the only answer to this present state of disrupted economy. The problem is of the approach which should be direct, utilitarian and pragmatic. Such industries do not require huge capital and hence suitable for a country like India. The small scale and cottage industries have a talent of dispersal." They can be accessible to the remote rural areas of the country and do not lead to regional imbalances and concentration of industries at one place, which is responsible for many economic resources such as entrepreneurship and capital.

Bhagavathi committee in its "Repot of Unemployment" opposes fast introduction of mechanization designed to replace human labour but at the same time recommends introduction of sophisticated technology in certain selected areas. The committee recommends reduction to the maximum extent possible in the installed capacity in various industries in order to generate employment in the industrial field. The committee virtually favours creation of employment at any cost without going into economics of the scheme. The reason for this under utilization is mostly insufficient demand and inadequate financial resources for working capital. Malga Weker, in his study entitled, "Problems of small Industry in Andhra Pradesh" has found the lack of infrastructure as a general problem.

The industrial estate alone cannot overcome the vocational disadvantages. The infrastructure facilities are either very weak or nonexistent in rural areas. In urban areas with necessary industrial climate and infrastructure facilities, the growth of industries is relatively faster. The scarcity of indigenous raw materials has been a serious bottleneck. Scarce raw materials supplied through quotas are not sufficient to meet the demands of the units. There is a delay in the disbursement of the loans due to the existence of procedural delays and instances of tangible securities. The development of small industry also depends on the size of the market which in turn depends partly on the efficiency of the distribution of machinery. It is observed that there is a time lag between sales and realization of sale proceeds and this affected production of the enterprise. This study also finds that the incentives provided by the state and the center are not within the reach of all the entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Ramani quotes in State Bank of India Report which identified that financial management, lack of planned and organized approach are the major cause of failure. However in his study of 20 units, he finds management failure as the single largest contributing factor. He also found problems with governmental procedures and consequent delays contributing to the malaise. However these and other studies also refer to the problem and importance of marketing function on the need for planning and organizing for marketing. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Technical consultancy organization and Kerala Industrial Technical consultancy organization conducted a study of the various problems faced by the industries in three states viz. Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. This study revealed that the serious problem faced by the units was the inadequate working capital. 69 percent of units in Kerala, 44 Percent of units in Karnataka and 52 percent of units in Andhra Pradesh are facing the working capital problem.

A.C. Minocha, in his study entitled, "Industrial development in Madhya Pradesh Regional Structure and Strategy for employment Oriented Industrialization" has suggested that the strategy of employment oriented industrialization should aim at the development of SSI in rural areas. Mathur Gautam, in his study entitled, "True employment and non employment" opined that the appropriate techniques in the consumption. Goods sector will be of a low degree of mechanization creating incidentally a lot of employment per unit of investment of scarce capital.

### **Objective**

- To evaluate socio-economic condition of chikan workers of kakori block of Lucknow
- To evaluate the working environment of chikan workers of kakori Lucknow

### **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology is an integral & essential part of research work. The methodology includes the research design, method of sample selection, tools used for data analysis. All these are given below.

### **RESEARCH -DESIGN**

This study has been used both qualitative & quantitative methods of data gathering. And therefore it has been used

primary and secondary data. Primary data will gathered with the help of questionnaires & personal interview. Required Primary data collected from the field survey in the study area (kakori, Lucknow) and researcher used govt. Reports, research papers, magazines etc. For secondary data.

**Selection of Sample**

For the selection of sample it has been used stratified random sampling method. Total population of that area has been divided on the basis of different age-groups,(0-15,15-30,30-45,45-60,60-75). The total number of individual interview from the strata is 200.

**Hypothesis**

- The working environment of chikan workers may not be good as per their requirements
- They may have in poor socio-economic condition.

**Limitation**

The responses given by the subjects was a limitation of the study.

**Delimitation**

- For data collection researcher only used questionnaire& interview method
- Chikan workers of kakori were selected for survey study.
- For interview only such workers who are involving in chikan work within age group between 15 to 75were chosen
- Study of chikan workers of kakori block on the basis of primary data:

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their religion**

SI	Religion	Number of families	Percentage
1	Hindu	43	21
2	Muslim	157	79
3	Sikh	0	0
4	Christian	0	0
5	Other	0	0
6	Total	200	100

From the above table we can see that in Kakori block there are 21% Hindu respondents and 79% Muslim. The reason behind more involment of Muslim community in this work is the illiteracy and poverty rate is very high among them.

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their age**

Sn.	Age	Number of household	Percentage
1	0-15	0	0
2	15-30	56	28
3	30-45	90	45
4	45-60	38	19
5	60-75	16	08
6	Total	200	100

Chikan embroiderers from the age of 15 to 75 are engaged in this work.The maximum percentage (45%) of chikan embroiders is 30 to 45 years.

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their average income**

It is clear from above calculation that total average household income is Rs9730

Sn.	Monthly household income of respondents	Mean of Monthly income of respondents	No. of household of respondents	Frequency x Mean (fx)
1	0-2000	1000	02	2000
2	2000-4000	3000	08	24000
3	4000-6000	5000	30	150000
4	6000-8000	7000	50	350000
5	8000-10000	9000	23	207000
6	10000-12000	11000	25	275000
7	12000-14000	13000	24	312000
8	14000-16000	15000	20	300000
9	16000-18000	17000	08	136000
10	18000-20000	19000	10	190000
	Total		n=200	fx=1946000

Average monthly income of household =  $x = \frac{fx}{n} = \frac{1946000}{200} = 9730$

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their average expenditure**

Sn.	Monthly household expenditure of respondents	Mean of Monthly expenditure of respondents	No. of household of respondents	Frequency x Mean (fx)
1	0-1000	500	02	1000
2	1000-2000	1500	03	4500
3	2000-3000	2500	04	10000
4	3000-4000	3500	10	35000
5	4000-5000	4500	10	45000
6	5000-6000	5500	12	66000
7	6000-7000	6500	09	58500
8	7000-8000	7500	50	375000
9	8000-9000	8500	65	552500
10	9000-10000	9500	35	332500
	Total		n =200	fx=1480000

Average monthly expenditure of household =  $x = \frac{fx}{n} = \frac{1480000}{200} = 7400$  It is clear from above calculation that total average household expenditure is Rs 7400

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their average saving**

Sn.	Monthly household saving of respondents	Mean of Monthly saving of respondents	No. of household of respondents	Frequency x Mean (fx)
1	0-500	250	12	3000
2	500-1000	750	30	22500
3	1000-1500	1250	36	45000
4	1500-2000	1750	56	98000
5	2000-2500	2250	44	99000
6	2500-3000	2750	22	60500
	Total		n =200	fx= 328000

Average monthly saving of household =  $x = \frac{fx}{n} = \frac{328000}{200} = 1640$

It is clear from above calculation that total average household saving is Rs 1640

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their education**

SI	Education qualification	Number of household	Percentage
1	Uneducated	73	36.5
2	Primary	60	30
3	Secondary	32	16
4	Senior secondary	25	12.50
5	Graduate	10	05.00
6	Post graduate	00	00
	Total	200	100

The education status of these workers is very low most the workers (36.5%) are uneducated. They can't even write their name properly. And only 5% workers are graduate.

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their loaning**

Sn	Description of household under loan	Number of household	Percentage
1	Family under loan	110	55
2	Family free from loan	90	45
	Total	200	100

From the above table it is very clear that 55% of household are under loan because

**Description of respondents of Kakori according to their average employment days in a year**

Sn.	Yearly household employment of respondents (in days)	Mean of yearly employment of respondents	No. of household of respondents	Frequency X Mean (fx)
1	0-60	30	05	150
2	60-120	90	15	1350
3	120-180	150	25	3750
4	180-240	210	38	7980
5	240-300	270	42	11340
6	300-360	330	75	24750
			n= 200	fx=49320

Average yearly employment days of household =  $x = \frac{fx}{n} = \frac{49320}{200} = 246.6 = 247$  days)

It was found that Muslim community workers are dominating the chikan industry as it was their legacy continuing. Socio-economic status of the chikan workers showed that they were poor. Average workers belong to the age from 30-40 years. They are daily wage earners and keeping up their children with small income with difficulty. These chikan workers were not in their proper health most of them suffering from eyes related problem because of their working style and working environment. It was noted that most of them were illiterate. Their monthly household income was less due to which they had to borrow loans for fulfilment of their needs.

They did not consume adequate amount of nutritious food. In most of the cases it was found that they lived in kacha houses. A good proportion of workers cook their food in the same room in which they leave. They used wood for cooking their food. The source of drinking and cooking water was public tube wells or taps. Latrine facility was available in most cases. They were not aware of the different social security schemes.

Government need to provide financial support awareness, micro lone to including individual/separate counselling was essential for upliftment of socio economic conditions of chikan workers. Government should organise half yearly health camps for free health check-ups and provide all health facilities to needy.

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