

Prospects of Loom Industries in Tangail, Bangladesh

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I. Introduction

The loom industry has been considered as an ancient and the largest and the most significant cottage industry of Bangladesh. This industry possesses a lot of future prospects and also responsible for a very high percentage of nation's economy. About more than 1.5 million people are involved in this industry directly or indirectly. It has also been considered as the biggest handicrafts industry in Bangladesh. Loom industry is the second highest source of rural employment after agriculture. As mentioned by an international expert "the technical skill of the weavers of Bangladesh is second to none in the world. Loom products are also best known for their eco-friendly nature. The world is moving towards green technology and loom industry can be considered as the best green technology to fulfill the basic needs of human. Loom workers are generally poor and depends heavily on the income generated from their production.

II. Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are to analyze the existing improvement of handloom industry in Bangladesh. The main objectives of the study can be mentioned as follows:

- To identify the actual conditions of the loom industry in Tangail.
- To identify the basic problems of loom industry in Tangail.
- To identify the lacking of governmental support.
- To realize the production procedures of loom industry in Tangail.
- To identify the weavers and owners actual conditions of handloom industry Tangail.
- To identify the tribulations in distributions of loom products.
- To identify the reasons behind lack of interest of private sector to enter this industry.
- To identify the level of demand of loom products in international market.
- To identify the immediate competitors of this sector.
- To identify the potential markets.
- Finally to provide suggestions to overcome the existing constrains.

III. Literature Review

The production of lungi has increased during the post liberation period (1972/73/-86/87). During the time of independence over a thousand weavers societies were existed and now almost all of which are dormant due to lack of strategic vision from government to protect and promote this sector (Latif, M.A. 1997). Weavers in our country mostly failed to collect the quality raw materials at right time at proper price (Ahmed, M.U 1999). However it can be asserted that there has been a lack of technological knowledge and skills as well as financial limitations of the weavers (Latif, M.A. 1998). The product range of loom industry is simply amazing which includes muslim, jamdani, shares, bed covers, tapestry, Upholstery, place mats, blankets, Muslim, Silk fabrics, plain or embroidered Khadi etc. (Bashu 2001)

All the researches in on loom sectors have identified different strategies to support of handlooms and its weavers. But the actual scenario has not been changed as expected. In addition the heritage based craftsmanship is getting destroyed day by day. It is however important to create proper initiative to boost out the power of handloom industry; symbol of our heritage and culture; to survive with its own creativeness without any charge of rivals-power loom and industrial loom.

IV. Methodology of the Study

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

a). Sample Size

In this study, all listed loom factories in Tangail, Bangladesh have been selected which is 5 in number.

b). Data Collection

In this study data has been collected from the two main types of sources- primary and secondary. Primary data has been collected from various sources and in various ways. A structured questionnaire has been used to collect primary data. Personal interviews have also been employed to achieve the research objectives.

c). Population Parameters

According to the survey of “Tangail Tati Rehabilitation Organization (TALS) in 2011:

Industry Related People

Loom Owner	About 18,000
Industry Related	About 20,000
Loom Worker	About 3,00,000
Family Members involved in loom industry	About 4,00,000
Women	About 1,20,000
Under aged boys and girls	About 1,00,000

V. Loom

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

VI. Major Areas of Loom industries

There are four main areas in which clustering method has helped in Bangladesh Loom weavers to perform better:

1. Reductions in transaction costs through better market linkages.
2. Technological spillovers
3. Lower cost of entry.
4. Ease of trade credit-through repeated interactions.

VII. Functions

Functions of Bangladesh Loom Board as per Bangladesh Loom Board Ordinance 1977/ Ordinance No LXIII of 1977.

- To maintain statistics relating handloom industry.
- To conduct enquiries and investigations relating to handloom industry.
- To promote loom industry primarily with the help of primary, secondary and weavers society.
- To render promotional and advisory services to unites of handloom industry.
- To make arrangement for supply of yarn to the weavers at reasonable price primarily through weavers societies.
- To make arrangement for supply of yarn to the weavers at reasonable price primarily through weavers societies.
- To make arrangements for marketing at home and abroad primarily through weaver’s societies of articles manufactured by loom industry.
- To provide training facilities and promote research.

VIII. Importance of Handloom Industries

The importance of handloom industries in Bangladesh has been unquestionable over the last few decades. The tradition of hand woven clothes in Bangladesh is considered as one of the richest aspects of Bangladeshi culture and heritage. The intensity of creativity and sophistication achieved in handloom fabrics are unparalleled and unique. The handloom can meet every need from exquisite fabrics of regular use.

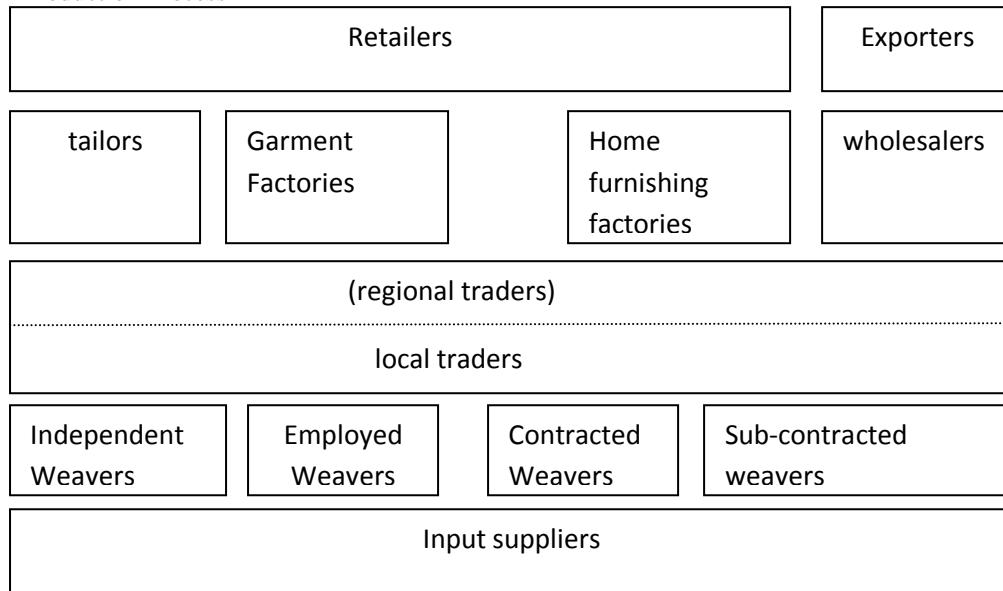
Around one million weavers, dyers, hand spinners and associated artisans have been using their creativity into more than 30 million active looms to produce around 620 meters of fabrics per year. It shares 64% of the total fabric production in the country designed for home consumption meeting 40% of the local demand for fabrics. Moreover this particular sector provides employment facilities to a million rural people indirectly engaged to the industry; hence contributing to the overall economy of the country. It contributes more than 10 billion taka to the national exchequer as value addition for the development of handloom sector and

ensure well being of handloom weavers. Bangladesh handloom board has been implementing a number of package programmers covering supply of input, innovation of suitable designs, financing of working capitals, development of human resources, modernization of handloom industry, efficient marketing management and formation of sound weavers societies. In a competitive world, the handloom industry has no alternative considering the development of rural economy.

a). *Collection of Raw Materials*

Collecting raw materials from the local market is required to fulfill the production process. In which factories have sound economic condition can collect their raw materials directly from Patrail, Sokhipur, Bazitpur, Bolla, korotia and other sources. However most of the handloom factories collect their raw materials from the Narayanganj. The raw materials are generally collected on the basis of credit facilities cause they don't get any loan facilities from different local banks.

b) Handloom Production Process



Raw Materials



c) *Handloom Products*

Specification and brief descriptions of items

i. *Furnishing and made up items*

Includes bed covers, bed sheets and furnishings including tapestries, including main furnishing and made up items.

ii. *Tapestry*

The tapestry is generally highly figured and electorate designs. Tapestry construction are well suited for hangings, sofas, rugs, upholsteries, table covers etc.

iii. *Lungies*

Lungi is a piece of cloth wearied by males and has been considered as a traditional item in the export list. Lungies are generally designed in check patterns, plain weaves, but they may also have elaborate colorful prints and designs.

iv. *Jamdani Saree*

Jamdani is a traditional superfine handloom fabric which has evolved through generations of outstanding craftsmanship.



Jamdani Saree



Tat Saree

v. *Tangail Muslins/Silks*

Tangail Muslins is a traditional superfine handloom fabric. Basically it's been sophisticatedly designed highly ornamented saree silk cotton with cotton or zari threads. The moslin is woven on pit looms. It also has a very lucrative export market.



vi. *Three piece*

Three Piece clothes have gained much more popularity to the younger generation. It also has a very lucrative export market.

vii. *Panjabi*

Panjabi has not only been considered as a religious outfit, however now days it's getting popularity in as a symbol of style for the young generation.



d). Important Handloom Products with Places of Production

SL	Name of the products	Place of production
1.	Jamdani	Tangail Sadar, Delduar and Kalihati, Nagorpur, Basail of Tangail District, Pathrail, Putiajani
2.	Tangail Sharee (Cotton Sharee, Half Silk, Soft Silk, Cotton Jamdani, Gas silk,	Tangail Sadar, Delduar and Kalihati, Nagorpur, Basail of Tangail District, Pathrail, Putiajani

	Twisted cotton Sharee, Dangoo Sharee, Baluchherri)	
3.	Handloom Cotton Sharee	Tangail Sadar, Delduar and Kalihati, Nagorpur, Basail of Tangail District, Pathrail, Putiajani
4.	Lungi	Tangail Sadar, Delduar and Kalihati, Nagorpur, Basail of Tangail District, Pathrail, Putiajani
5.	Silk Sharee	Tangail Sadar, Delduar and Kalihati, Nagorpur, Basail of Tangail District, Pathrail, Putiajani
6.	Gamcha	Tangail Sadar, Delduar and Kalihati, Nagorpur, Basail of Tangail District, Pathrail, Putiajani

e. Handloom Market

SL	Name of the products	Name of the Market	Market Days
1.	Jamdani	Demra Bazar, Demra, Dhaka	Friday
2.	Jamdani	Jamdani Shilpa Nagari Noapara, Rupgonj, Narayan Gonj	Friday
3.	All Handloom Products	Gausia Market, Bhulta, Narayangonj	Tuesday
4.	Handloom Products	BaburhatShekerchar, Narsingdi	Friday to Sunday
5.	Tangail Sharee	Karotia Bazar, Karotia, Tangail	Tuesday-Thursday
6.	Tangail Sharee	Bajitpur Hat, Adi-Tangail, Tangail	Monday & Friday
7.	All Handloom Products	Shahjadpur Bazar, Shahjadpur, Serajgonj,	Sunday & Wednesday
8.	All Handloom Products	Shohagpur Hat, Belkuchi, Serajgonj,	Tuesday to Wednesday
9.	All Handloom Products	Enayatpur Hat, Enayatpur, Sirajgonj	Sunday, Wednesday & Friday
10.	All Handloom Products	Ataikula Hat, Ataikula, Pabna	Saturday

Recommendations

- There is urgent need for investment and research to create simple easily applicable tests to help differentiate between products made on the looms vs. those made on the power loom.
- Yarn availabilities in small quantities, in required count at correct price and quality, in the required fibred is a major lacuna.

Study Results in Findings

The actual situation of Tagail loom sector is not that lucrative. The current study finds that, the loom workers are not getting the raw materials at a reasonable price that eventually hampers their production. The loom workers are also struggling to sell their products, as they are not getting any governmental facilities to export their production internationally. However, the current study reveals that a very limited amount of loom products are exported to countries like, Canada, USA, and India. The weavers and the owners of loom factory are not financially solvent, and in particular, weavers are struggling to get a reasonable amount of loans (i.e. Bank Loans) for the development of this sector as well as their livelihood.

IX. Conclusion

The loom sector has been considered as one of the most important sector in our country. This particular sector has a huge prospect and contribution in our country. In modern times it is important to develop this sector, and government should contribute for the progress of loom sector in particular. With a strong hand and a strong mind, if this weaving industry can be managed by a skilled craftsman, then this weaving industry can be considered as a source of income in Bangladesh, not only that, it will bring a lot of fame to the world.

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