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## An Economic Study of Powerloom Workers in Solapur City

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### Abstract:

This paper is focus on the economic conditions of female and male Powerloom workers working in the different area of Solapur City. For this present study total 100 female and 100 male Powerloom workers selected for the analysis by using random sample technique. The study emphasizes the issues covering monthly income of the respondents, saving and loan pattern of the workers, indebtedness, number of hours they spend to their work in per day, financial Status of the Powerloom workers etc.

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### Introduction:

The Powerloom textile is one of the most important segments of the textile Industry in terms of fabric production and employment generation. It provides employment to 57.44 Lakh persons and contributes 62% of total cloth production in the Country. 60% of the fabrics produced in the power loom sector are of man-made Solapur is the home of Handloom and Power loom weaving industry. The Late Kisan Master Kshirsagar, Late Vyankatesh Guntala and Late Ramachandran Marda are the inventors of the Powerloom industry in Solapur District. Mr. Kisan kshirsagar was a mill workers so he was a started Powerloom producing Jacquard Chaddars in Solapur to the year of 1954. In the year 1961-62 there were near about 200 Powerloom in Solapur, the Powerloom rapidly increased in the year of 1963 the number of Powerloom stood at 2000. The period of 1956 to 1962 were mentioned as a golden period for the Powerloom industry i.e. Chaddar Industry.

A separate association for the power loom industry owners '**Solapur District Power loom Holders Association**' is functioning to expression after the welfare of the Powerloom industry. Maximum Powerloom industries are operational in day shift only from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with two hours break for lunch and break. Some of the industries are working in two shifts from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00.p.m. and from 4.p.m. till 12.00 midnight. The employees working on the handloom power loom machines mainly manufacture Jackard Chadders, Towels and Napkins. These workers receives their payments on the 'Piece Rate' basis, based on category of the product. As the 'Piece Rates' of various products are different there is variation in workers earnings. As per the traditional piece rate system the worker gets Rs 70 to 90 per day on an average.

### Objectives of the Study:-

1. To examine the economic condition of Powerloom workers.
2. To study the problems of the Powerloom workers.

### Research Methodology:

According to Solapur Zillah Yantramag Dharak Sangh Baseline Survey of Powerloom in 2013 there are 1190 Powerloom Owners are found and each Owners having (3units) 12 to 16 Looms. It means that, the Solapur City having total 16060 Powerloom units in working condition. For the purpose of study the 40 workers will be selected from the five different area where Powerloom industry was located. It means the 200 workers will be selected for the study by using simple random sampling method.

### Data Collection:

The present study based both on primary as well as secondary sources of data. The **primary data** is collected from personal observation. The main concern of to prepare questionnaire and interview for the Powerloom workers. It includes different questions in questionnaire by surveying the study area. And the **secondary data** is collected from the Annual Reports Published by Laal Bawata Bidi Kamgaar Union, Solapur Yantramag dharak Sangh, Additional information is collected from the books, journals, Govt. publications library and Internet etc.

### Statistical Tools:

In the purpose of study, some statistical tools have used such as average, percentage some graphical device has used for data analysis. This collected data have processed with help of computer software viz. MS-EXCEL and SPSS.

**Result and Discussions:****Distribution of Powerloom Workers by Type of Work:**

In the Solapur city near about 90000 workers are engaged in the Powerloom Industry, Workers are engaged in different type of works such

as Towel corners stitching, Finishing of final products, Cone Winding, Machine Handling Workers, Coloring of Yarn, Jobber, Cutting, Gard night Shift, Gard Morning Shift, Bim Rolling worker, Packing Workers etc.

**Table No. 1.1**  
**Distribution of Type of Work**

Sr. No.	Type of Work	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Towel corner stitching work	29 14.5%	14 7.0%	43 21.5%
2	Finishing Worker	21 10.5%	4 2.0%	25 12.5%
3	Cone Winding worker	16 8.0%	8 4.0%	24 12.0%
4	Machine Handling Worker	0 0.0%	4 2.0%	4 2.0%
5	Coloring	0 0.0%	9 4.5%	9 4.5%
6	Jobber	0 0.0%	5 2.5%	5 2.5%
7	Cutting	13 6.5%	14 7.0%	27 13.5%
8	Gard Night Shift	0 0.0%	1 .5%	1 .5%
9	Gard Morning Shift	0 0.0%	8 4.0%	8 4.0%
10	Bim Worker	0 0.0%	24 12.0%	24 12.0%
11	Packing Worker	21 10.5%	9 4.5%	30 15.0%
	Total	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

Table no. 1.1 indicates the types of works. Out of the total maximum female workers i.e 29 (14.5%) are engaged in the Towel corner stitching work and largest of male workers are engaged in the Bim Rolling Work, It can be seen that 20% female workers are engaged in the Packing and Finishing work, another hand 20% of male workers are engaged in the Towel Sweaing, Finishing, Jobber, etc. Remaining more than 60% workers are engaged

in the cone winding workers and Cutting workers etc, and more than 60% of the male workers are engaged in the Packing, Coloring, Cutting, Gard in Morning shift and Night Shift.

**Working for Number of Hours:**

The daily average of hours spends for working classified as a group up to 7 hours, 8 to 9 hours, 10 to 12 hours.

**Table No. 1.2**  
**Working for Number of Hours by Respondents**

Sr. No	No, of Hours Work	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Up to 7	9 4.5%	0 0.0%	9 4.5%
2	8 to 9	89 44.5%	81 40.5%	170 85.0%
3	10 to 12	2 1.0%	19 9.5%	21 10.5%
	Total	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

Table no 1.2 illustrate that daily average of hours spend for work, Out of the total majority i.e. 170 (85.0%) respondent spend 8 to 9 hours in per day, which percentage constituted in 89 (44.5%) Female workers and 81 (40.5%) Male workers. Followed by 21 (10.5%) respondents spend 10 to 12 hours in per day, That means more than 95% respondent spend 8 to 12 hours to work in per day. Remaining 9 (4.5%) respondent spend up to 7 hours for working in per day because of the heavy work load in home as well as their health problem.

#### Total Monthly Wages of Respondents:

The table 1.3. Shows the total monthly wages of Powerloom workers. Out of the total, 76

(38.0%) workers receives Rs.6001 to 8000 wages of every month of their work, which percentage constituted in 58 (29.0%) Female and 18 (9.0%) male workers. Followed by 68 (34.0%) workers receive Rs. 8001 to 10000 wages of every month that percentage divided into 11 (5.5%) Female and 57 (28.5%) Male worker wages in per month, 29 (14.5%) workers receive Rs. 4001 to 6000 of every month of period, and remaining the 3 (1.5%) workers receive Rs. up to 4000 of per month of period it shows a poor economic condition of respondents.

**Table No. 1.3**  
**Total Monthly Wages of Respondents**

Sr. No	Wages per month	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Up to 4000	2 1.0%	1 .5%	3 1.5%
2	4001 to 6000	29 14.5%	0 0.0%	29 14.5%
3	6001 to 8000	58 29.0%	18 9.0%	76 38.0%
4	8001 to 10000	11 5.5%	57 28.5%	68 34.0%
5	10000 to 50000	0 0.0%	24 12.0%	24 12.0%
	Total	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

#### Total Monthly Expenditure:

The table 1.4 shows the monthly expenditure of the Respondents. The most of 98 (49.0%) family's expenditure is from Rs.6001 to 8000, Followed by 47 (23.5%) family expenditure from Rs.4001 to 6000. And 23 (11.5%) family

expenditure is from Rs. 10001 and above, Only 14 (7.0%) respondents monthly expense is Rs.8001 to 10000, Remaining 1 (0.5%) the monthly expenditure up to 2000, majorly includes grocery expenses, house rent if any, medical expenses and travel expenses.

**Table No. 1.4**  
**Total Monthly Expenditure of Respondents**

Sr. No	Expenditure	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Up to 2000	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
2	2001 to 4000	10 5.0%	7 3.5%	17 8.5%
3	4001 to 6000	35 17.5%	12 6.0%	47 23.5%
4	6001 to 8000	36 18.0%	62 31.0%	98 49.0%
5	8001 to 10000	7 3.5%	7 3.5%	14 7.0%
6	10001 and Above	11 5.5%	12 6.0%	23 11.5%
	Total	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

**Group- wise distribution of Monthly Saving:**

The basic principle of workers is that even the very poor may save small amount, and that the additional incentive of getting bank loan, SHG,

Bhishi loan at lower rate of the interest, particularly among those who are otherwise ineligible of getting loans, would in calculate and strengthen the habit of saving.

**Table No. 1.5**  
**Monthly Saving of Family**

Sr. No	Saving Amount	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Up to 200	58 29.0%	84 42.0%	142 71.0%
2	201 to 400	5 2.5%	5 2.5%	10 5.0%
3	401 to 600	5 2.5%	0 0.0%	5 2.5%
4	601 & above	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
	Not Applicable	31 15.5%	11 5.5%	42 21.0%
	Total	69 43.7%	89 56.3%	158 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

Out of the total 42 (21.0%) workers spend their all income to fulfill their daily basic needs and remaining the 158 (79%) workers monthly saving amount classified as a group of up to 200 to Above 601, in which majority i.e. 142 (71.0%) workers saving as a group of up to 200 Rs, that percentage constituted in 58 (29%) Female and 84 (42%) male workers saving. Followed by 2.5 (5%) workers saving amount as a group of 201 to 400 and

Remaining 3% workers saving amount as a group of 401 to 600 and 601 and above Rs.

**Sources of the Saving:**

Naturally the principle of higher the education, higher the saving does not apply in case of Powerloom workers, in study area workers source of saving in SHG was a more popular as compared to the bank, Bhishi thus there is no relationship between the level of literacy and the form of saving.

**Table No. 1.6**  
**Classification of Sources of Saving**

Sr. No	Source of Saving	Sex		Total
		Female Worker	Male worker	
1	Bank	5 2.5%	0 0.0%	5 2.5%
2	SHG	32 16.0%	35 17.5%	67 33.5%
3	Bhishi	32 16.0%	54 27.0%	86 43.0%
	Not Applicable	31 15.5%	11 5.5%	42 21.0%
	Total	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

The Powerloom workers sources of saving are classified into three categories such as Bank, SHG and Bhishi. Table no 1.6 shows that Powerloom workers sources of savings. Out of the total 42 (21%) workers unable to save because they spend their total income to their basic needs, Remaining the 158 (79%) workers, out of that the 86 (43%) workers saving their amount in Bhishi, that percentage constituted in 32 (16%) Female and 54 (27%) Male workers, Followed by 67 (33.5%)

workers saving amount in the SHG and only 5 (2.5%) workers saving their amount in Bank.

**Amount of Bonus given to the respondents:**

It is seen from the table no 1.7 that, out of the large worker i.e. 168 (84.4%) were getting in the range of Rs. 1001 to 1500 bonus, that percentage constituted by 70 (35.2%) female workers and 98 (49.2%) male workers, followed by 29 (14.6%) workers getting the Rs. Up to 1000 bonus provided by the industry and remaining the 2 (1.0%) workers getting the rang of Rs. 1501 and above bonus.

**Table No. 1.7**  
**Amount of Bonus given to the respondents**

Sr. No	Amount of Bonus	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Up to 1000	27 13.6%	2 1.0%	29 14.6%
2	1001 to 1500	70 35.2%	98 49.2%	168 84.4%
3	Above 1501	2 1.0%	0 0.0%	2 1.0%
	Total	99 49.7%	100 50.3%	199 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

It was concluded that the majority of the workers getting the bonus in range of the 1001 to 1500 by the industry.

**Distribution of Powerloom workers by Purpose of Borrowing Loans:**

The Purpose of borrowing loans are classified into five categories such as Regular expenses, Festivals, Education, Business, Repay the Loan. Table no. 1.8 illustrates the Powerloom

workers purposes of borrowing loans from various sources. Out of the total majority i.e. 187 (93.5%) workers don't take any type of loan from any sources, remaining the 13 (6.5%) workers out of that 4 (2.0%) workers taken loan for the regular expenses, 4 (2.0%) workers taken loan for the Education of Children and 3 (2.5%) workers taken loan for the purpose of Festivals, Business, Repay the loan.

**Table No. 1.8**  
**Purpose of Borrowing Loans**

Sr. No	Reasons for loan	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	For regular expenses	3 1.5%	1 .5%	4 2.0%
2	Festivals	2 1.0%	0 0.0%	2 1.0%
3	Education	4 2.0%	0 0.0%	4 2.0%
4	Business	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
5	Repay the Loan	0 0.0%	2 1.0%	2 1.0%
	Not Applicable	90 45.0%	97 48.5%	187 93.5%
	Total	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

**Classification of workers by benefits of Government Scheme:**

The central government for the welfare of Powerloom workers, health, baby crèche, canteen, working hours are fixed but the benefits of these provisions can be availed only by those workers who are within the employer's industrial premise and who are the permanent employees in that industry. There is a provision to get leave, bonus, and gratuity along with the issue of appointment

letter to the Powerloom workers. An employer can be punished in case of any violation of the provisions under this law as well as the government provided the Welfare Schemes under Powerloom workers Welfare Fund is as follows health scheme, Educational Scheme, Social Security scheme and Recreation Scheme. The table no 1.9 shows that workers receiving the benefits of Government Schemes.

**Table No.1.9**  
**Benefits of Government Schemes to respondent**

Sr. No	Benefit from Govt. of schemes	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Yes	4 2.0%	0 0.0%	4 2.0%
2	No	96 48.0%	100 50.0%	196 98.0%
	Total	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

It is clear from the table no.1.9, most of i.e. 196 (98.0%) workers not receiving the any type of benefits of government scheme because many workers are not aware about, what are the government scheme related to Powerloom workers and how they receiving, what are their conditions and remaining the only 4 (2.0%) workers getting the benefits of Government Scheme, such as they receiving the house under the scheme of Indira Gandhi Aawas Yojana.

**Major Diseases faced by Workers:**

Out of the total majority of 68 (34.3%) respondents addicted by diseases Breathing Problem, Aches joints and Sholders, Bronchitis, Followed by 33 (16.8%) workers addicted by diseases such as Cold a cough, Aches joints and Sholders, Headaches, 23 (11.6%) workers addicted by the Cold a cough, Breathing problem, Aches joints and sholders diseases, 10 (5.1%) respondents addicted by the Cold a cough, Headaches diseases.

**Table No. 1.10**  
**Classification of respondents by Any Diseases due to working**

Sr. No	Diseases	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Cold a cough	4 2.0%	0 0.0%	4 2.0%
2	Cold a cough, Breathing Problem	5 2.5%	3 1.5%	8 4.0%
3	Cold a cough, Aches joints & sholders	8 4.0%	0 0.0%	8 4.0%
4	Cold a cough, Bronchitis	0 0.0%	1 .5%	1 .5%
5	Cold a cough, Headaches	9 4.5%	1 .5%	10 5.1%
6	Breathing problem/ asthma, Aches joints and Sholders	5 2.5%	0 0.0%	5 2.5%
7	Breathing problem / asthma, Bronchitis	1 .5%	1 .5%	2 1.0%
8	Aches joints and sholders, Bronchitis	3 1.5%	1 .5%	4 2.0%
9	Aches joints and Sholders, Headaches	7 3.5%	0 0.0%	7 3.5%
10	Aches joints and sholders, Fever & weakness pain in chest	2 1.0%	0 0.0%	2 1.0%
11	Cold a cough, Breathing problem, Aches joints and sholders	9 4.5%	14 7.1%	23 11.6%
12	Cold a cough, Breathing problem, Headaches	2 1.0%	0 0.0%	2 1.0%
13	Cold a cough, Aches joints and sholders, Bronchitis	2 1.0%	7 3.5%	9 4.5%
14	Cold a cough, Aches joints and Sholders, Headaches	29 14.6%	4 2.0%	33 16.7%
15	Cold a cough, Aches joints and Sholders, Fever & weakness pain in Chest	4 2.0%	0 0.0%	4 2.0%

16	Breathing Problem, Aches joints and Sholders, Bronchitis	2 1.0%	66 33.3%	68 34.3%
17	Breathing problem, Aches joints and sholders, Headaches	2 1.0%	0 0.0%	2 1.0%
18	Breathing problem, Bronchitis, Headaches	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
19	Cold a cough, Breathing problem, Aches joints and sholders, Bronchitis	0 0.0%	2 1.0%	2 1.0%
20	Cold a cough, Breathing problem, Aches joints and Sholders, Headaches	5 2.5%	0 0.0%	5 2.5%
	<b>Total</b>	100 50.0%	100 50.0%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

Remaining the percentage, out of that the 8 (4.0%) respondents addicted by diseases such as Cold a cough, Breathing Problem, 4 (2.0%) respondents addicted by diseases of Cold a cough, 7 (3.5%) respondents addicted by diseases such as Aches joints and Sholders, Headaches 5 (2.5%) respondents addicted by diseases such as Breathing problem, Aches joints and Sholders, 2 (1.0%) respondents faced the problem of Breathing

problem, Bronchitis only 1 (0.5%) respondents addicted by diseases of Cold a cough, Bronchitis,

#### **Problems of Powerloom Workers**

In the occupation of Powerloom workers facing many problems such as low wages, late for wages, Children's education problem, Transportation, Housing, Sickness problem and Labour cut Policy.

**Table No. 1.11**  
**Classification of Workers by their problems**

Sr. No	If Yes, Problem	Sex		Total
		Female worker	Male worker	
1	Low Wages, Late for wages	2 1.0%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
2	Low Wages, Children's Education	5 2.5%	0 0.0%	5 2.5%
3	Low Wages, Labour Cut Policy	25 12.6%	28 14.1%	53 26.6%
4	Low Wages, Labour Cut Policy	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
5	Sickness, Labour Cut Policy	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
6	Low Wages, Transportation, Children's Education	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
7	Low Wages, Transportation, Labour Cut Policy	45 22.6%	15 7.5%	60 30.2%
8	Low Wages, Sickness, Labour Cut Policy	12 6.0%	36 18.1%	48 24.1%
9	Low Wages, Children's Education, Labour Cut Policy	1 .5%	13 6.5%	14 7.0%
10	Low Wages, Late for Wages, Transportation, Labour Cut Policy	1 .5%	0 0.0%	1 .5%
11	Low Wages, Transportation, Sickness, Labour Cut Policy	5 2.5%	4 2.0%	9 4.5%
12	Low Wages, Sickness, Housing, Labour Cut Policy	0 0.0%	1 .5%	1 .5%
13	Low Wages, Housing, Children's Education Labour Cut Policy	0 0.0%	3 1.5%	3 1.5%
	<b>Total</b>	100 50.1%	100 50.3%	200 100.0%

**Source:** Data based on Field Survey.

Above table no. 1.11 illustrate the percentage of the problem faced the workers in

Powerloom industry. Out of the total most of the percentage i.e. 60 (30.2%) workers faced the

problems such as Low Wages, Transportation and Labour Cut Policy, that percentage constituted by 45 (22.6%) female workers and 15 (7.5%) male workers, followed by the 53 (26.6%) workers faced the problems related to Low Wages, Labour Cut Policy, 48 (24.1%) workers faced the problems such as Low Wages, Sickness and Labour Cut Policy. The 14 (7.0%) workers faced the problems such as Low Wages, Children's Education, and Labour Cut Policy. That means near about the more that 80% workers faced the problems such as Low wages, Sickness, Labour cut policy, Children's education etc. It is concluded that all of the Powerloom industry workers faced the problems such as Low wages, Sickness, Labour cut policy, Children's education etc.

#### Conclusion:

Most of the female workers are engaged in the Towel corner stitching work because this work is easy and largest of male workers are engaged in the Bim Rolling Work and remaining the other workers are engaged in the cone winding, Cutting, Packing, Coloring, Cutting workers and Gard in Morning shift and Night Shift. Most of the workers spend their all income to fulfill their daily basic needs. Largest workers don't take any type of loan from any sources. Out of the total, 76 (38.0%) workers receives Rs. 6001 to 8000 wages of every month of their work, Followed by 68 (34.0%) workers receive Rs. 8001 to 10000 wages of every month, 29 (14.5%) workers receive Rs. 4001 to 6000 of every month of period, and remaining the 3 (1.5%) workers receive Rs. up to 4000 of per month of period it shows a poor economic condition of respondents. Largest respondent spend 8 to 10 hours in per day. Most of workers not receiving the any type of benefits of government scheme because many workers are not aware about, what are the government scheme related to Powerloom workers and how they receiving, what are their conditions. Largest workers addicted by diseases such as Aches joints and Sholders, Headaches, Breathing problem, Aches joints and Sholders. And Most of the workers faced the problems such as Low Wages, Transportation and Labour Cut Policy, Low Wages, Sickness, Children's Education.

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