



## A Comparative Study upon The Socio – Economic condition of the workers in Handloom Industry with spatial reference to Uttar Pradesh

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### **Abstract:**

Handloom weaving is one of the richest and most vibrant aspects of Indian cultural heritage, and the largest unorganized economic activity and generator of non-agricultural rural employment in India. Uttar Pradesh ranks third in the country in terms of production and employment in the handloom sector and about 5.42 percent of the total numbers of handloom workers in the country are residents of Uttar Pradesh (according to the 4<sup>th</sup> census). According to the 4<sup>th</sup> All India Handloom Census 2019-20, it is estimated that the handloom industry employs approximately 1.91 lakhs workforce directly and approximately 1.24 lakhs looms spread all over Uttar Pradesh. The handloom workers include both handloom weavers and allied workers. The total number of handloom workers is more than 1.91 lakhs, with which the number of weavers is more than 1.31 lakhs approx., and allied workers related to handloom are more than 60.18 thousand in Uttar Pradesh. The export of Handloom products during 2019-20 was 2248.33 corer and during the year 2020-21 was Rs.1644.78 corer.

In this research paper, a comparative study of the socio-economic status of the workers employed in the handloom industry in Uttar Pradesh has done. This comparative study was done on the basis of the data obtained from the third and fourth handloom census, in which it was found that the socio-economic condition of the handloom workers have improved in the fourth census as compared to the third handloom census, but even at the present time it is not above the level of livelihood. A significant share of weaver households earn less than 5000 per month and relatively low returns from the sector is perhaps the key determinant behind the fall in average number of worker per households between the two censuses, from 5.31 in the Third census to 2.77 in the Fourth census. Got up Various schemes have been run by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to improve the socio-economic condition of handloom workers, but most of the workers are not aware of these schemes, due to which they have been deprived of the benefits of these schemes. This study is focus on the changes in the socio-economic conditions of workers between two handloom censuses.

**Keywords:** Handloom; Handloom Workers; Socio- Economic Status; Uttar Pradesh.

### **Introduction:**

The handloom sector leads an important part of the Indian economy. According to the number of worker, it is the second largest employment provider after agriculture. It also represents a traditional art form of the country that has been patronised and promoted since time immemorial. The work of Weaving has been done from more than 5000 years in India. Our epic like Ramayana and Mahabharata; speaks about length of craft. If we put a bird eyes view upon the

history, we find some famous hand woven textiles of India were Baluchari sari of Varanasi, Bandamis of Kutch, Chandri sari of Madhya Pradesh, Georgettes of Mysore, Sambalpuri saris of Odisha, Jamdhani sari of Bengal, Temple silk of south from Kancheepuram and others. Handlooms share nearly 23% of cloth production in the country. It plays a significant role in the Indian economy owing to their rural employment potential.

In this dynamic era, fast changes in fashion trend have also led to the increasing demand of handloom

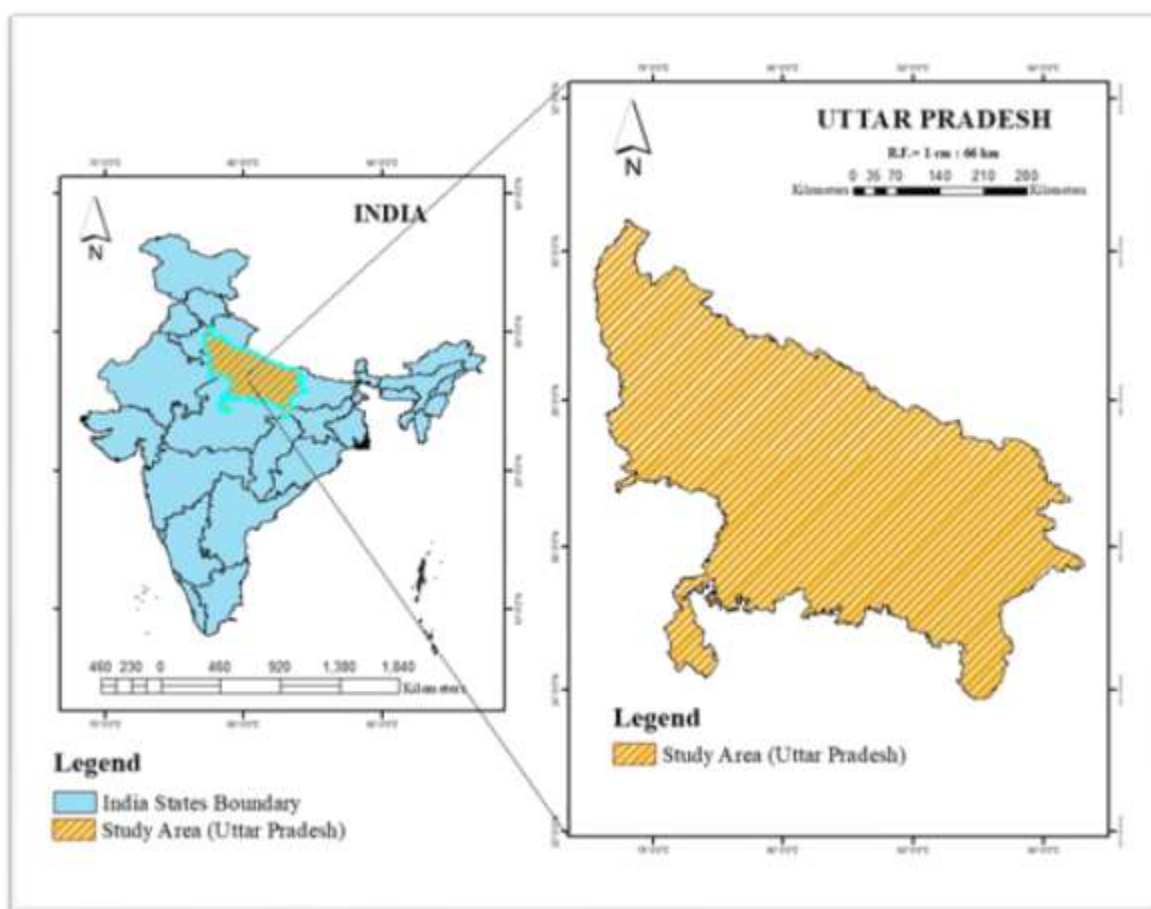
and challenges on the other hand. The handloom weavers are facing some significant problems related to handloom weaving are raw materials shortages, lack of credit availability, increased competition from the power loom and mill sector, marketing issues, decentralised unorganised nature of the handloom industry, lack of technological up gradation, poor working conditions, lack of research and training. Varghese and Salim (2015) in his study the significance of handloom industry in India, to make a detailed study of major problems and challenges of handloom industry in Kerala state, and to suggest suitable remedial strategies and policy options for the healthy growth of the handloom sector.

### **The study area:**

Uttar Pradesh is one of the largest states of India after Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in area and largest states in population. According to the official records, the geographical area of the whole state is 2, 40, 928 sq km and the density of population is 828 persons per sq km. The state is landlocked by Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the north, Haryana in the west, Madhya Pradesh in the south and Bihar in the east. Depending upon lithological, tectonical and sedimentation chronology, Uttar Pradesh can be divided into two broad geotectonic divisions: (i) southern uplands on the peninsular foreland of the

Gondwana block where Archaean, lower Pre-Cambrian, upper Pre-Cambrian, Paleozoic and Carboniferous-Permian systems are found, (ii) the Indo-Ganga plain, created in a process of alluvial sedimentation during Pleistocene-holocene periods. This is the youngest and geologically least noticeable part of the state. One of the most holy and sacred rivers of India, River Ganga, flows through the state and another sacred river, River Yamuna joins it at Prayagraj. These two rivers along with their in numerous tributaries and distributaries form a riverine alluvial land known as upper and middle Ganga plain. The other eminent rivers of the state are Ramganga, Son, Betwa, Gandak, Rapti, Gomati, Ghaghara and Rind. The Soils of the State can be divided into six major groups. Alfisols or the older alluvial soil cover almost two-third of the Ganga valley and constitute the most important soil group as they support more than ninety percent of its population and account for its rich agricultural wealth.

The total population of Uttar Pradesh at the 2011 census was 199581477 out of which 104596415 were males and 94985062 females. Uttar Pradesh has 16.49 percent population of India. Every Sixth Indian belongs to Uttar Pradesh.



*Fig.1 the Location Map of the Study Area*

**Research methodology:**

To conduct this study, a comparative research design was adopted in which the researcher tried to compare and analyze the changes in the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers of Uttar Pradesh according to the third and fourth handloom census. This study is mainly based upon secondary data. Sources of Data Collected from the following sources:

1. 3rd all India handloom census 2009-10, Office of the Development commissioner for handloom, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, NCAER
2. 4th All India Handloom Census 2019-20, Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, NCAER
3. Sustainable Development Goals vision 2030 Uttar Pradesh.
4. Annual Reports (2020-21) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

**Objectives:**

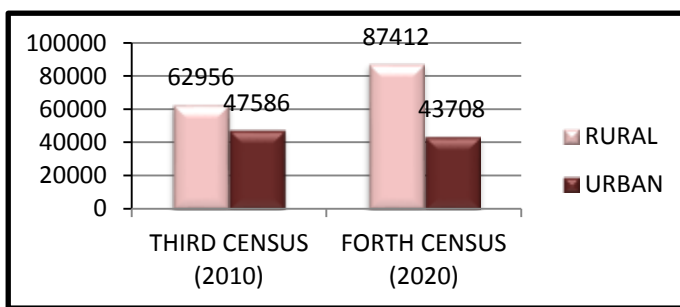
The objective of this research to compare and analysis the changes in socio-economic condition of handloom weavers in Uttar Pradesh according to third and fourth all India handloom census.

**Result & discussion:**

In this study, the socio-economic status of handloom workers of Uttar Pradesh has been compared, which is based on data from the 3rd and 4th Indian Handloom Census, and reported the changes in their status. Various aspects have been included to compare the socio-economic status of handloom workers, such as region, gender, religion, social group, dwelling units, ownership of house, income from handloom related activities, debt and purpose of debt, source of loan, possession of looms, their education level, employment status etc.

**Table 1: No. of Handloom Worker Households by Area**

Area	Third Census (2010)	Forth Census (2020)
Rural	62956 <b>(56.95%)</b>	87412 <b>(66.67%)</b>
Urban	47586 <b>(43.05%)</b>	43708 <b>(33.33%)</b>
Total	110542	131120



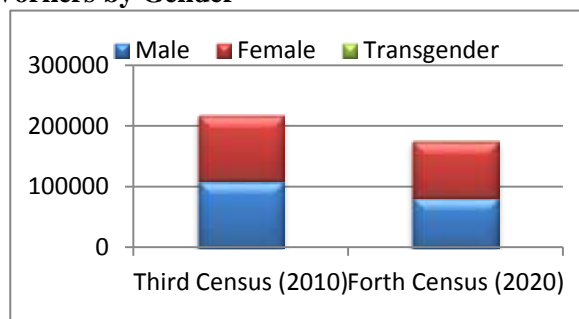
Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 110542)  
\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 131120)

In table 1, the comparison of both the session reveals that there has been an increase of 9.72% in the number of handloom workers households in rural areas and a decrease of

9.72% in the number of handloom worker households in urban areas. Thus there has been an increase of 18.62% in the total number of handloom worker households.

**Table 2: No. of Handloom Workers by Gender**

Gender	Third Census (2010)	Forth Census (2020)
Male	109340 <b>(50.38%)</b>	81744 <b>(51.27%)</b>
Female	107675 <b>(49.62%)</b>	93054 <b>(48.73%)</b>
Transgender	NA	03 <b>(0.00%)</b>
Total	217015	190957



Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 217015)  
\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 190957)

In table 2, the comparison of both the seasons shows that the number of female worker has decreased by 0.89 % and the number of male

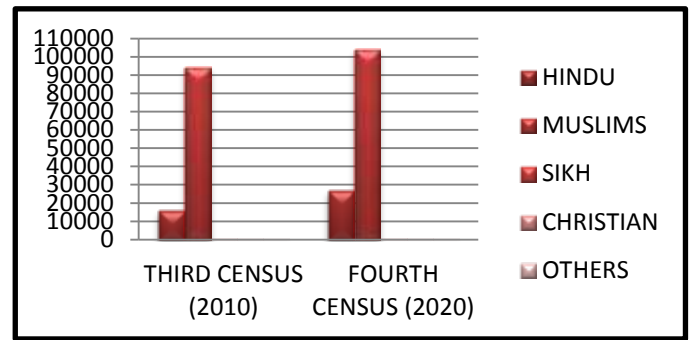
worker has increased by 0.89 %. Thus, there has been a decrease of 12.01 % in the total number of handloom workers.

**Table 3: Handloom Worker Households by Religion**

Religion	Third Census	Fourth Census
Hindu	16026 (14.50%)	26853(20.48%)
Muslims	94375 (85.37%)	104109(79.40%)
Sikh	129(0.12%)	80(0.06%)
Christian	02 (0%)	20(0.02%)
Others	10(0.01%)	58(0.04%)
Total	110542	131120

Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 110542)  
 \*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 131120)

In Table 3, shows a religion wise comparison where the numerical increase in Muslim households is 9834 while the percentage has decreased by 5.97%. Hindu families have



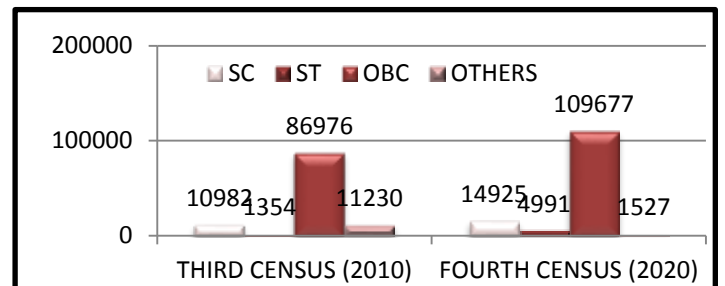
increased by 5.98 %. There has been a decrease of 0.06 % in Sikh families and there has been a relatively small increase in the families of other religion.

**Table 4: Handloom Worker Households by Social Group**

Social Group	Third Census (2010)	Fourth Census (2020)
SC	10982(9.93%)	14925(11.38%)
ST	1354(1.23%)	4991(3.81%)
OBC	86976(78.68%)	109677(83.65%)
Others	11230(10.16%)	1527(1.16%)
Total	110542	131120

Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 110542)  
 \*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 131120)

In table 4, a comparison by social groups shows that the largest decrease (9 percent) has occurred in the general category, while the



other categories have shown a relatively modest increase.

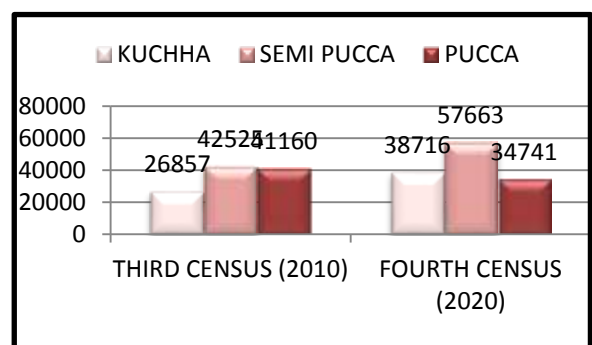
**Table 5: Dwelling Units of Handloom Worker Households**

Dwelling Units	Third Census (2010)	Fourth Census (2020)
Kuchha	26857(24.30%)	38716(29.54%)
Semi Pucca	42525(38.47%)	57663(43.98%)
Pucca	41160(37.23%)	34741(26.50%)
Total	110542	131120

Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 110542)  
 \*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 131120)

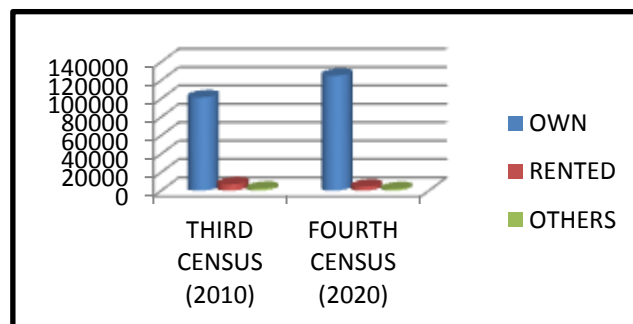
In table 5, a comparison by dwelling units show that there is a general increase in handloom worker households living in Kuchha

and Semi Pucca houses, but there has been a decrease of 10.73 % in handloom worker households living in pucca houses.



**Table 6: Ownership of Dwelling Units of Handloom Worker Household**

Ownership	Third Census (2010)	Fourth Census (2020)
Own	101501( <b>91.82%</b> )	125011( <b>95.34%</b> )
Rented	6878( <b>6.22%</b> )	4446( <b>3.39%</b> )
Others	2163( <b>1.96%</b> )	1663( <b>1.27%</b> )
Total	110542	131120



Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 110542)

\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 131120)

In table 6, the comparison of ownership of dwelling units shows that households with own dwelling units have increased by 3.52%

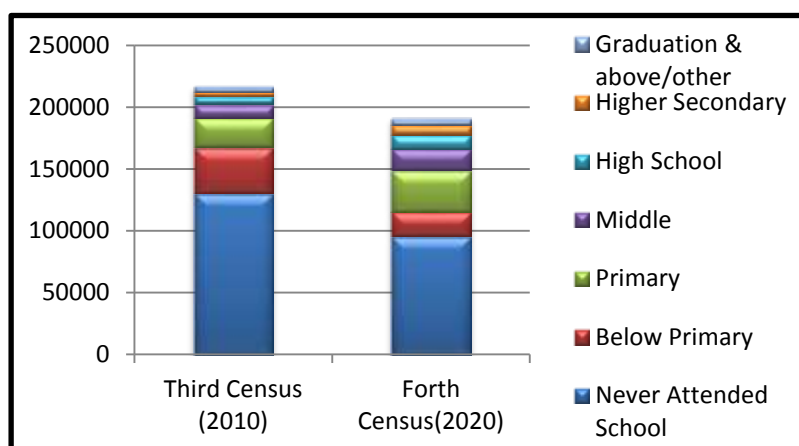
and households with rented accommodation and other forms of housing ownership have decreased by 2.83% and 0.69 % respectively.

**Table 7: Total Handloom Worker by Education level**

Education	Third Census (2010)	Forth Census(2020)
Never Attended School	130563 ( <b>60.16%</b> )	95637 ( <b>50.08%</b> )
Below Primary	36911 ( <b>17.01%</b> )	19807 ( <b>10.37%</b> )
Primary	23910 ( <b>11.02%</b> )	33343 ( <b>17.46%</b> )
Middle	10819 ( <b>4.99%</b> )	17587 ( <b>9.21%</b> )
High School	6669 ( <b>3.07%</b> )	11586 ( <b>6.07%</b> )
Higher Secondary	3415 ( <b>1.57%</b> )	7593( <b>3.98%</b> )
Graduation & above/other	4728 ( <b>2.18%</b> )	5404( <b>2.83%</b> )
Total	217015	190957

Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 217015)

\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 190957)



In Table 7, the comparison on the basis of education level reveals that there is a decrease of 10.08% and 6.64% in handloom workers who have never attended school (illiterate

group) and who have education below primary level, respectively. While the number of handloom workers having primary level and secondary level education has increased by

6.44% and 4.22% respectively. There has been a general increase in other education levels. It is concluded from this study that there has been relative improvement in the education level of handloom workers.

As per the third handloom census, the average annual earning of handloom households is Rs. 22547 (i.e. Rs. 1878.96 per month) and 85.13% share of income from handloom activities.

**Table 8: As per 4<sup>th</sup> handloom census (in %, base of 131120)**

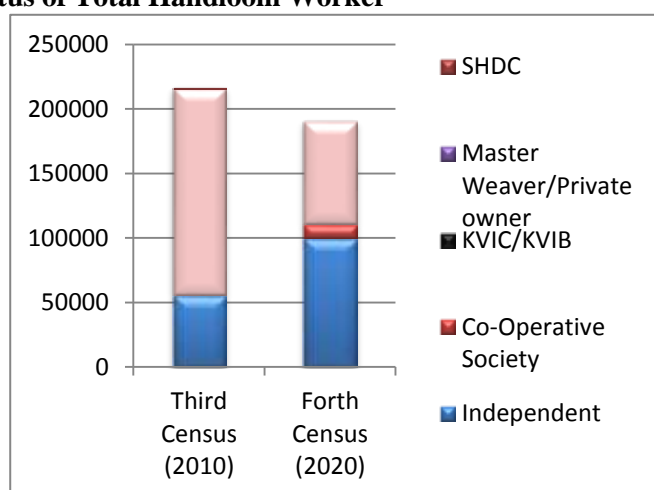
Income per month	Handloom household
Less than 5000	73656(56.17%)
5001-10000	54285(41.40%)
Above 10000	3179(2.43%)
Total	131120

In table 8, 56.17% handloom household earn less than Rs. 5000/month, 41.40% household earn above Rs.5000/month but less than

Rs.10000/month and 2.43% household earn above Rs. 10000/month from all sources.

**Table 9: Employment Status of Total Handloom Worker**

Employment	Third Census (2010)	Forth Census (2020)
Independent	55331 (25.50%)	99997 (52.37%)
Co-Operative Society	538 (0.25%)	10802 (5.66%)
KVIC/KVIB	176 (0.08%)	271 (0.14%)
Master Weaver/Private owner	160020 (73.73%)	79540 (41.65%)
SHDC	950 (0.44%)	347 (0.18%)
Total	217015	190957



Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 217015)

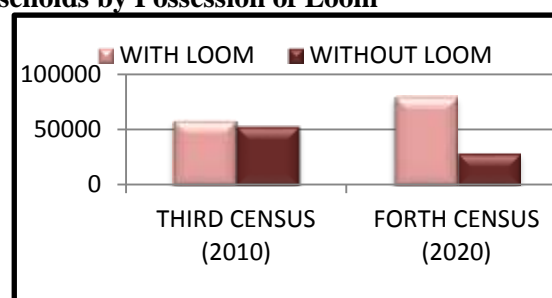
\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 190957)

Table 9, reveals that there has been an increase of 26.87% in handloom workers working as independent weavers, while there has been a decrease of 32.08% in workers working under

master weavers or private owners. There has been a general increase in workers working under Cooperative Societies, KVIC/KVIB and SHDC.

**Table 10: No. of Handloom Worker Households by Possession of Loom**

Possession Of Loom	Third Census (2010)	Forth Census (2020)
With Loom	57940(52.41%)	79585(73.46%)
Without Loom	52602(42.59%)	28758(26.54%)
Total	110542	108343



Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 110542)

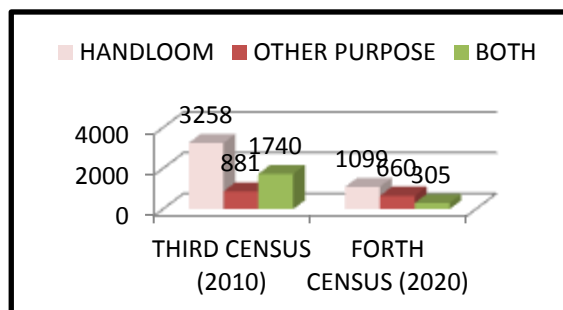
\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 108343)

In Table 10, the comparison of the status of possession of looms reveals that the number of

handloom worker households working with looms has increased by 21.05%, while the number of handloom worker households working without looms has decreased by 16.05%.

**Table 11: Debt and Purpose of Handloom Households**

Purpose Of Debt	Third Census (2010)	Forth Census (2020)
Handloom	3258	1099
Other Purpose	881	660
Both	1740	305
Total	5879	2064



Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10

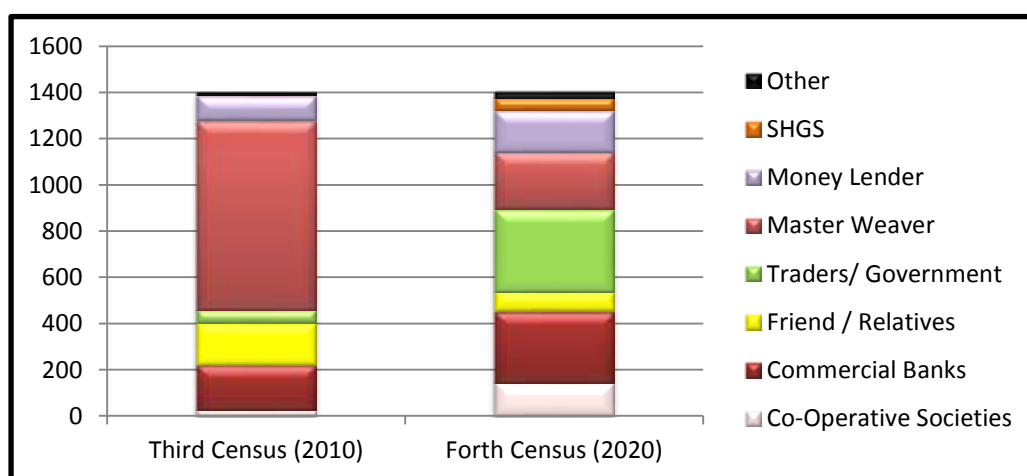
\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20

In table 11, the comparison made on the basis of purpose of loan shows that there is a decrease of 64.89% in the overall number of

handloom worker households taking the above loan.

**Table 12: No. of Handloom worker Households by Sources of Loan**

Sources Of Loan	Third Census (2010)	Forth Census (2020)
Co-Operative Societies	27(1.93%)	146(10.40%)
Commercial Banks	195(13.92%)	308(21.94%)
Friend / Relatives	182(12.99%)	83(5.91%)
Traders/ Government	56(4.00%)	358(25.50%)
Master Weaver	822(58.67%)	249(17.74%)
Money Lender	104(7.42%)	181(12.89%)
SHGS	02(0.14%)	53(3.77%)
Other	13(0.93%)	26(1.85%)
Total	1401	1404



Source: \*Third All India Handloom Census 2009-10( in %, base of 1401)

\*Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20( in %, base of 1404)

Table 12, shows that the number of handloom worker households receiving loans from government, commercial banks and co-operative societies increased by 25.50%, 8.02% and 8.47 % respectively, while those receiving loans from friends/relatives, traders and master weavers decreased by 7.08%, 4% and 40.98 % respectively. There has been a general increase in the rest of the sources.

### **Conclusion:**

In this research paper, a comparative study of the socio-economic status of workers engaged in the handloom industry of Uttar Pradesh has been done on the basis of third handloom census and fourth handloom census. It is concluded from this study that in comparison to the third handloom census, there has been an increase of 18.62 percent in the total number of handloom households in the fourth handloom census, in which most of the handloom worker households belong to rural areas, while the number of workers has decreased by 12.01 percent.

In the handloom industry of Uttar Pradesh, there has been more increase in the workers of Hindu religion than the workers of Muslim religion. If seen on the basis of social groups, the participation of other backward class group is same as third census, but the participation of general class group is very less. It has also been found in this study that there has been an increase in worker households living in self-owned houses, but most of the handloom workers live in kuccha and semi-pucca houses. There has been a relative improvement in the education level of handloom workers and there has been a decrease in the number of workers who never attend the school.

In this study, It has been found that in comparison to the third handloom census, the economic condition of the workers has improved in the fourth handloom census and the average monthly income of the workers has increased. There has been an increase of 26.87 per cent in handloom workers working independently while there has been a decrease in weavers working under master weavers and there has been an increase of 21.05 per cent in the number of workers working with looms.

In this study, It has been concluded that there has been a decrease of 64.89 percent in the number of weavers taking loans for handloom and other purposes. There has been an increase

in the participation of government (25.50%) and commercial banks (8.02% ) in providing loans to handloom workers.

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