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ANNUAL REPORT ON HANDLOOMS IN TAMIL NADU 2011-12

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
CHENNAI 600 006.


PREFACE

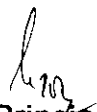
Tamil Nadu Handloom Sector is imbedded with rich cultural heritage and it needs to be preserved forever. The adequate and reliable data on this sector would facilitate the programmatic decisions and planning intervention of the Government so as to upgrade the handloom industry. Hence a sample survey on Handloom is regularly conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics to collect and disseminate the need based data to the Government and also to the stakeholders.

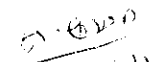
The Sample Survey on Handlooms conducted during the year 2011-12 is the primary source of data on various indicators of handloom workforce with socio-economic conditions and production perspectives. The methodology with concepts and definitions followed for the study is elaborated in this Annual Report.

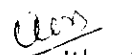
The cooperation rendered by the Department of Handloom in providing valuable information of handlooms is gratefully acknowledged. The effort made by the field functionaries, the valuable contributions of Officers in the State Headquarters and Districts and concerned staff in the section made this report complete, which deserves much appreciation.

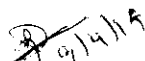
Valuable comments and suggestions towards the improvement of this report are most welcome.



March 2014


Principal Secretary and Commissioner


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Highlights

- A total of 5215 persons involved in handloom weaving and allied activities were covered under the sample survey conducted during 2011-12 in Tamil Nadu. Among them 2543 were male and 2672 were female.
- Out of 5215 handloom weavers, 3871 weavers were full time weavers and 1344 were part time weavers.
- Out of 5215 handloom workers covered, a section of 18.29 percent of weavers was reported to have not attended the school. A major chunk of 63.70 percent of weavers has attended below primary level education.
- The handloom workers come under "weaving and allied activities" are highly concentrated in the age group of 46-60 years, numbering 1889 with 36.22 percent to total.
- About 12346 looms were accounted, out of which 11930 looms were in working conditions and 416 looms remained idle.
- The state level difference between the demand and supply of yarn is estimated as 7.00 percent, which means some portion of looms are in need of adequate and timely supply of yarn.
- The monthly average cloth production ^{per loom} per day in respect of fully cotton based dhotis, sarees, towels and shirting is estimated as 165,136,151 and 150 metre respectively.
- Apparently, the results of the sample survey conveys that there is a paucity of income level among all type of weavers. The estimated monthly average income ranges from Rs1250/-to Rs 6570/-

Section – I : INTRODUCTION

The Handloom Sector of Tamil Nadu assumes paramount importance as it is one of the largest employment providers to the rural mass, next to agriculture. It also represents a traditional art form of the State that has been patronized and promoted from time immemorial. Obviously, this handloom industry cannot compete with power loom and survive on its own. The intervention of both Central and State Governments in the form of financial assistance as well as various development and welfare schemes help this sector to withstand the pressures and competition emerging out of economic and technological advancements.

In this juncture, it becomes very much essential on the part of the Government to take effective steps to capture the trends of certain key variables on the Production, Sales, Stocks of handloom cloth etc., covering socio-economic attributes. Keeping this in view, a Sample Survey on Handlooms is regularly conducted by the Department of Economics and Statistics. The results and inferences derived from the sample survey conducted during 2011-2012 are presented in detail in this Annual Report.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the Handloom survey are:

- To collect details on Production, Sales and Stocks of handloom cloth.
- To assess the socio-economic condition of the family of the weavers.
- To ascertain the status on income and employment opportunity of the weavers.
- To establish baseline information system on handlooms and weavers to facilitate policy formulation by the Government in the context of upgrading the standard of living of the weavers.

Coverage :

The sample survey on handlooms is conducted regularly in 198 Focal Centres of almost all the districts of Tamilnadu except The Nilgiris and Krishnagiri districts. Besides, certain key information on Production, Stocks and Sales of handloom cloth in respect of looms functioning under co-operative societies are collected from the Department of Handloom and Textiles and incorporated in the report.

Methodology:

Selection of Focal Centres :

High concentration of looms in a particular area is named as Focal Centre. Such focal centre in Tamilnadu is enumerated as about 588, out of which 198 focal centres are selected by following stratified sampling procedure. The ————— 198 focal centres are proportioned according to the types of looms based on the usage of yarns. The looms covered under this sample survey are of five major types viz., Cotton, Silk, Art Silk, Mixed cotton and Polyester.

Selection of Weavers family:

At the first instance, listing of weavers according to types viz., cotton, silk, art silk, mixed cotton and polyester has to be done for each focal centre. A maximum of 20 weaver families are selected from each focal centre by using circular systematic random sampling method. If the number of weavers exceeds 300 in the weaver list meant for sample selection, then Cluster has to be formed with 100 weaver families for the purpose of selection of 20 sample weavers.

Section – II : CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Type of Looms (by yarn) : There are Five types of handlooms. They are cotton, silk, art-silk, mixed cotton and polyester.

Type of Looms (by activity) :

Active Looms: The looms that worked throughout the month are classified as Active Looms.

Partly Active Looms: The looms, which worked only for a few days in a month are called Partly Active Looms.

Idle looms: The looms, which did not work even for a single day in a month, are classified as 'Idle Looms'.

Classification of Weavers: weavers are classified as independent weavers, weavers working under master-weavers, weavers under co-operative societies and weavers under factory or establishment.

Independent Weavers: An independent weaver is one who owns one or more looms and works in his home. He buys the yarn and other raw materials from his own resources and sells the finished products in the local market.

Weavers working under a Master Weaver: A weaver working under a Master-Weaver also owns one or more looms but gets yarn, other raw materials etc., from a master-weaver. He converts the yarn into cloth according to the specifications given by the master-weaver and returns the finished products to the master-weaver and gets wages for his work.

Weavers working under a Co-operative Society: This category of weaver also owns his loom. The supply of yarn is made by the co-operative society. The weavers produce cloth according to the specifications given by the society and returns the finished products to the society for wages calculated at prescribed rates

based on the turn-over. In addition to wages, the weaver also gets a share from the profits of the society.

Handloom Factory or Establishment: Handloom Factory or Establishment is a production unit run by a person or persons, who own a number of looms and who employ persons for weaving. The owner of the factory or establishment supplies yarn and other raw materials and sells the finished products. The weavers working in the factory are paid wages for the work done by them.

Assistants to Weavers: Persons who assist the weavers in the preparatory process such as winding, warping, sizing and beaming are called assistants to weavers. Assistants are classified as paid and unpaid assistants. Family members who assist the weaver in winding, warping, sizing and beaming are termed as unpaid assistants.

Hired workers: In this system, workers get raw materials from master weavers or traders and return finished products or services to them. In return, the weaver gets wages, which are paid in accordance with work performed by them. Hired workers may work under an institutional structure like a cooperative society, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, State Handloom Development Corporation, etc. They may also work under private entrepreneurs like master weavers or traders.

Full Time Weavers: Full Time Weavers is one who is attending weaving activity as the main occupation.

Part time Weavers: Part Time Weavers is one who is having some other main occupation but engaged weaving in his out of office hours.

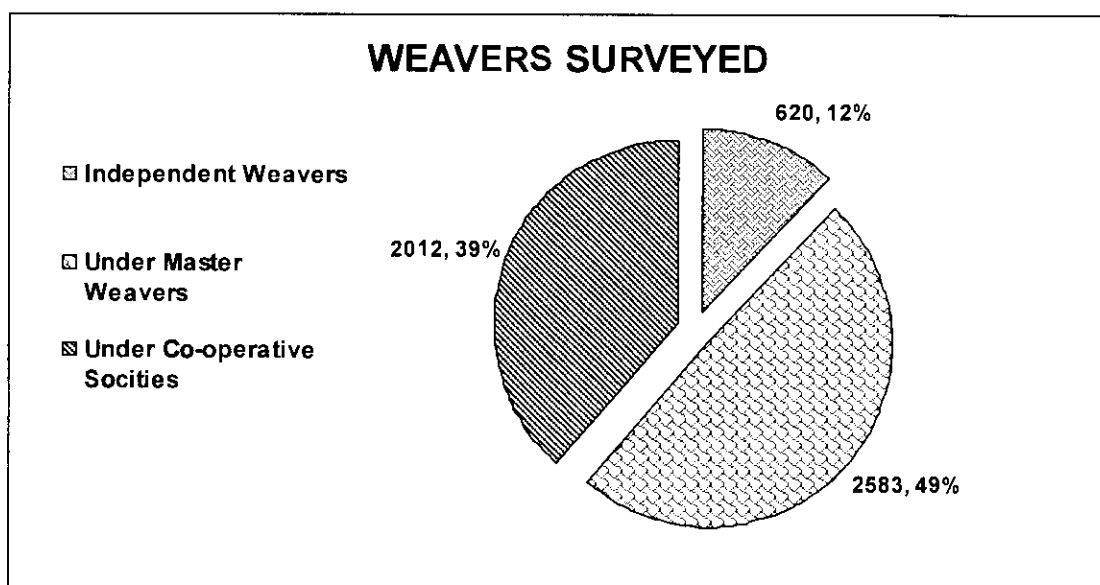
Cooperative Society: The cooperative structure in the handloom sector is twofold: apex society and primary society. The apex society is an umbrella body for primary societies. Hence, weavers are basically members of primary societies.

Section – III : WEAVERS CATEGORY AND NATURE OF ENGAGEMENT

The Handloom weavers are broadly classified into three groups viz., Independent Weavers, Weavers working under Master Weavers and Weavers under Co-operative Societies. The categorywise total number of weavers with male and female breakups are presented in the Table -1 below along with diagrammatic illustrations.

Table 1 CATEGORYWISE TOTAL NUMBER OF WEAVERS (SURVEYED)						
Weavers Category	Number of Weavers			Percentage of Distribution		
	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL
Independent Weavers	306	314	620	12.04	11.75	11.89
Under Master Weavers	1355	1228	2583	53.28	45.96	49.53
under Cooperative Societies	882	1130	2012	34.68	42.29	38.58
Total	2543	2672	5215	100.00	100.00	100.00

The results of the sample survey conducted during 2011-12 reveal that a total of 5215 weavers were working in handloom industries. Among them 2543 were male and 2672 were female. The percentage of male and female being 48.80 and 51.20 respectively. The participation in this industry by both the gender is more or less equal.

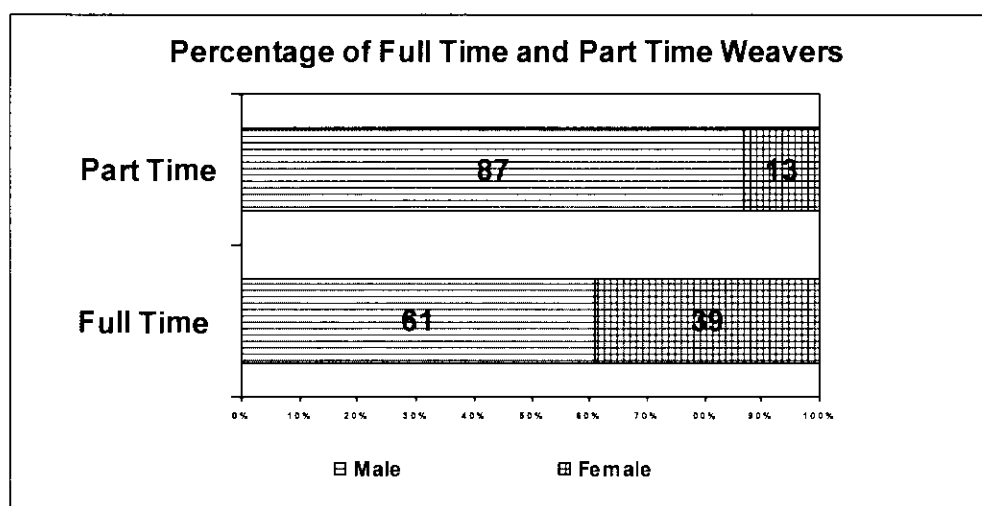


The category of weavers under master weavers tops the list with 2583 in number which constitute 49.53 percentage to the total. Followed by this, the weavers working under Co-operative are calculated as 2012 for which the percentage being 38.58. A minimal share of 620 is noticed under Independent weavers category and percentage of contribution to total is very much least with 11.89as compared to other types.

The weavers may either be fully engaged or partly engaged in the handloom activity. Based on their engagement they are classified as full time weavers and Part Time weavers. The following table -2 together with graphical representation furnishes the details on gender wise engagement in the handloom activity.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS AS FULL TIME AND PART TIME WEAVERS						
Type of Engagement	No. of Weavers			Percentage of Distribution		
	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL
Full Time	1539	2332	3871	60.52	87.28	74.23
Part Time	1004	340	1344	39.48	12.72	25.77
Total	2543	2672	5215	100.00	100.00	100.00

The sample survey infers that out of 5215 handloom weavers, 3871 weavers were full time weavers and 1344 were Part Time Weavers. In terms of percentage, the fully and partly engaged are estimated at 74.23 and 25.77 respectively. The fulltime male weaver were as high as 1539, while the part time male weavers were 1004 for which the percentage being 60.52 and 39.48 each. The female weavers, fully engaged are calculated as 2332 with the percentage share of 87.28 and partly engaged are recorded as 340 which constitute 12.72 percent to total.



Section – IV : Weavers Education, Agewise Participation and Status of Looms

Education is one among the various socio-economic indicators to assess the standard of living. The following table-3 has been framed from the results of sample survey to study the educational status of the handloom workers.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF HANDLOOM WORKERS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Level of Education	No. of. Handloom Weavers			Percentage of Distribution		
	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL
Not Attended School	289	665	954	11.36	24.89	18.29
Below Primary	1680	1642	3322	66.06	61.45	63.70
Higher Secondary	512	327	839	20.14	12.24	16.09
Graduate and Above	62	38	100	2.44	1.42	1.92
Total	2543	2672	5215	100.00	100.00	100.00

Out of 5215 handloom workers covered under this sample survey, fairly a larger portion of 954 weavers were reported to have not attended the school at all. In other words, 18.29 percent of handloom workers come under “not attended school” category. A major chunk of 3322 handloom workers were noticed to come under “below primary” classification, which constitute 63.70 percent to total. The higher secondary being 839 and graduate and above category are 100 in number.

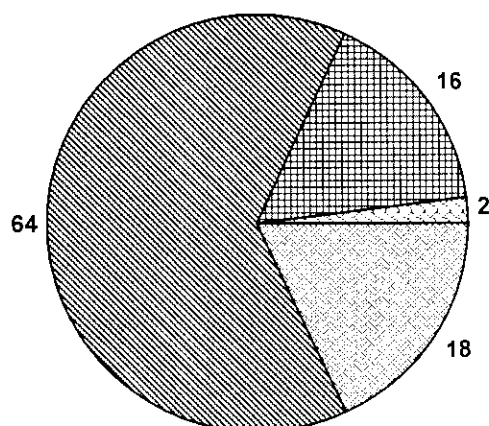
HANDLOOM WEAVERS EDUCATION LEVEL

■ Not Attended School

■ Below Primary

■ Higher Secondary

■ Graduate and above



An analysis on percentage of distribution segment shows that the percentage of female under "not attended school" category was computed as 24.89 percent, while it was 11.36 per cent for male. Fairly a high percentage of 66.06 for male under "below primary category" is noticed as compared to female with 61.45 per cent. Again the male under "higher secondary category" is as high as 20.14 percent, when compared to female, it was 12.24 percent. Regarding "Graduate and above" it was 2.44 Percent for male and 1.42 for female

The table-4 below comprises of two broad segments, the first segment shows the "weaving and allied activities" of the handloom workers and the second portion refers the "other non-weaving family members".

4. DISTRIBUTION OF HANDLOOM WORKERS BY AGE GROUPS :

Age Groups	Weaving and allied activities			Other non-weaving Family members		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Less than 18 Years	37	21	58	1174	1194	2368
%	1.45	0.79	1.11	41.88	44.24	43.04
18- 35 years	495	676	1171	1037	733	1770
%	19.47	25.30	22.45	37.00	27.16	32.17
36-45 years	637	779	1416	167	218	385
%	25.05	29.15	27.15	5.96	8.08	7.00
46 – 60 years	929	960	1889	245	324	569
%	36.53	35.93	36.22	8.74	12.00	10.34
Above 60 years	445	236	681	180	230	410
%	17.50	8.83	13.06	6.42	8.52	7.45
Total	2543	2672	5215	2803	2699	5502
%	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The above table shows distribution of handloom workers come under “weaving and allied activities” are highly concentrated in the age group of 46-60 with 1889 with percentage of 36.22. This is followed by the age groups of 36–45, with the percentage of 25.05 for male and 29.15 for female. In both male and female cases handloom workers are highly found place in the age group of 46-60 years with the percentage of 36.53 and 35.93 each.

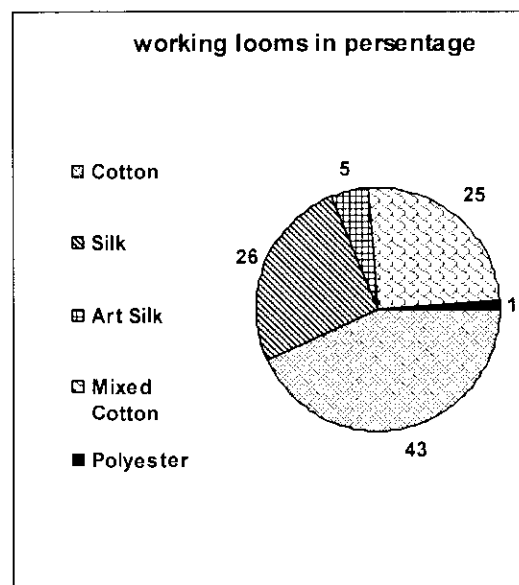
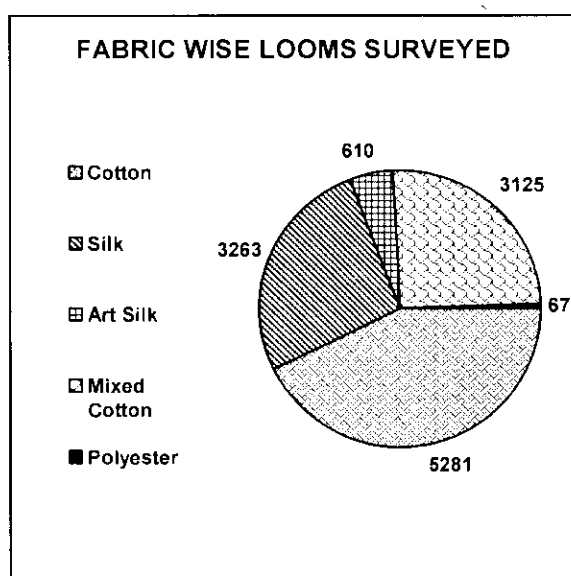
The participation rate of handloom workers in weaving and allied activities was minimal with 1.12 percent in the age group of less than 18 years. The percentage of male participation in the age group of less than 18 years was recorded as 1.45 and for female it was 0.79. It may be significant to note that in the age group of “above 60 years”, participation of male handloom workers in weaving and allied activities is as high as 17.05 percent as compared to female with 8.83 percent.

WORKING STATUS OF LOOMS

The table-5 below indicates the number of looms with working status. During the period under review about 12346 looms were accounted, out of which 11930 looms were reported to be in working condition and the rest of 416 looms remained to be idle. There were 5281 cotton looms, out of which 5125 were noticed to be in working condition and the rest of 156 looms stayed idle.

5. DISTRIBUTION OF LOOMS BY WORKING STATUS

Fabric wise Loom Type	No. of. Looms			Percentage of Distribution		
	Working	Idle	Total	Working	Idle	Total
Cotton	5125	156	5281	42.96	37.51	42.78
Silk	3125	138	3263	26.19	33.17	26.43
Art Silk	559	51	610	4.69	12.26	4.94
Mixed Cotton	3062	63	3125	25.67	15.14	25.31
Polyester	59	8	67	0.49	1.92	0.54
Total	11930	416	12346	100.00	100.00	100.00



The working condition of cotton looms was 42.96 per cent, which is followed by the working silk looms and working mixed cotton looms with 26.19 and 25.67 per cent each.

Section – V : Production Analysis

The following table illustrates the behavior of the district wise demand and supply of yarn during period under evaluation.

6. Districtwise Demand and Supply of Yarn				
(Units in 000'Metres/Kg)				
Districts	Demand of Thread	Thread Supplied / Purchased	Diff	% of Diff
Ariyalur	2800.00	2571.73	228	8.2
Coimbatore	12520.96	12520.96	0	0.0
Cuddalore	8184.88	7334.90	850	10.4
Dharmapuri	9512.00	9215.00	297	3.1
Dindigul	2804.14	2489.84	314	11.2
Erode	62626.70	57446.86	5180	8.3
Kanchipuram	16296.72	14499.72	1797	11.0
Kanniyakumari	53111.86	53081.12	31	0.1
Karur	80240.12	78166.82	2073	2.6
Madurai	25890.24	25779.34	111	0.4
Nagapattinam	185.50	138.68	47	25.2
Namakkal	59441.78	53439.78	6002	10.1
Perambalur	650.00	650.00	0	0.0
Pudukkottai	1944.80	1944.80	0	0.0
Ramanathapuram	6300.00	6200.00	100	1.6
Salem	41248.90	39833.75	1415	3.4
Sivagangai	1200.00	1031.36	169	14.1
Thanjavur	8001.36	5396.65	2605	32.6
Theni	17556.00	17556.00	0	0.0
Thiruppur	6677.96	6604.11	74	1.1
Thiruvallur	23567.01	20858.99	2708	11.5
Thiruvannamalai	15585.79	13922.41	1663	10.7
Thiruvarur	1000.00	800.97	199	19.9
Thoothukkudi	8552.29	8552.29	0	0.0
Tiruchi	13703.85	11492.85	2211	16.1
Tirunelveli	6810.55	6525.47	285	4.2
Vellore	42621.83	33781.95	8840	20.7
Villupuram	15620.29	13969.84	1650	10.6
Virudhunagar	12554.99	12534.26	21	0.2
TOTAL	557210.54	518340.48	38870	7.0

It is highly significant to note that in the districts of Coimbatore, Perambalur,Pudukottai, Theni and Thuthookudi the interaction between demand and supply of yarn is found to be in equilibrium.

A vast proportion of difference in demand and supply of yarn is noticed in Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Vellore and Thiruvavur districts with 25.2, 32.6, 20.7 and 19.9 percent respectively.

The state level difference between demand and supply of yarn is almost 7.00 per cent which means a portion of looms could not be fed with adequate supply of yarn. In certain districts of Kanyakumari, Karur, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tiruppur and Virudhunagar the differences appear to be in range from 0.10 to 2.6 per cent. In the districts of Dharmapuri, Salem Tirunelveli, Ariyalur and Erode the deviation from the demand factor ranges from 3.1 to 8.3 percent.

7. Variety wise monthly average Cloth Production Per Weaver per Loom

Cloth Variety	cloth production per month (In metre)
Cotton-Dhoties	165
Cotton-Sarees	136
Cotton-Towels	151
Cotton-Lungies	120
Cotton-Bedspreads	202
Cotton-Shirtings	150
Cotton-Carpet	62
Cotton-Others	280
Silk-Dhoties	50
Silk-Sarees	15
Silk-others	118
Artsilk-Dhoties	50
Artsilk-Sarees	69
Artsilk-Others	79
Mixture-Sarees	63
Mixture-Others	78
Polyester-Dhoties	116
Polyester-Sarees	75
Polyester-Others	180

It is clear from the table that the Cotton varieties of cloth production was predominant during the survey period of 2011-12.

The average cloth production per day in respect of Cotton Dhoties, Cotton Sarees, Cotton Towels and Cotton Shirting is computed as 165, 136, 151 and 150 metre respectively, which may seem to be lesser as compared to that of cotton Bedsheet with 202 metre and cotton-others with 280 metre average production per month. As a matter of fact, the varieties of Cotton Dhoties, Cotton Sarees, Cotton Towels and Cotton Shirtings are larger in size in terms of length and breadth. Hence it could be connoted that the production performance of these varieties are said to be better as compared to other items.

Similarly average production per month for the varieties of Polyester-others, Polyester Dhotis and Silk others are calculated at 180, 116 and 118 metre each. The average production per month relating to Silk Sarees is computed at 15 metre which is very much least relatively.

**8. Estimated Production and Percentage Break-Ups
by Different Varieties of Handloom Cloth**

(in Lakh Metres)

Varieties of cloth	Year ended (March)			
	2010-11		2011-12	
	Total Production	Percentage	Total Production	Percentage
I.	COTTON			
1. Dhoties	229.46	4.07	206.21	4.24
2. Sarees	923.25	16.39	843.32	17.35
3. Towels	636.14	11.29	549.51	11.31
4. Lungies	699.54	12.42	652.54	13.43
5. Bed spread	839.32	14.90	741.03	15.25
6. Shirtings	11.27	0.20	10.52	0.22
7. Carpet	393.82	6.99	321.17	6.61
8. Others	371.98	6.60	330.32	6.80
Total	4104.78	72.88	3654.62	75.20
II.	SILK			
1. Silk Dhoties	4.25	0.08	2.82	0.06
2. Sarees	587.25	10.43	437.55	9.00
3. Others	0.83	0.01	0.72	0.02
Total	592.33	10.52	441.09	9.08
III.	ARTSILK			
1. Dhoties	5.52	0.10	3.64	0.08
2. Sarees	321.52	5.71	261.21	5.37
3. Others	3.43	0.06	2.17	0.04
Total	330.47	5.87	267.02	5.49
IV.	MIXTURE OF COTTON AND ARTSILK			
1. Dhoties	155.99	2.77	124.18	2.56
2. Sarees	410.43	7.29	341.21	7.02
3. Others	24.06	0.43	19.61	0.40
Total	590.48	10.48	485.00	9.98
V.	POLYESTER			
1. Dhoties	1.32	0.02	1.29	0.03
2. Sarees	6.91	0.12	5.68	0.12
3. Others	6.23	0.11	5.33	0.10
Total	14.46	0.26	12.30	0.25
GRAND TOTAL	5632.52	100.00	4860.03	100.00

Production by Category

The above table depicts the estimated production of various types of handloom cloths during the sample survey period of 2011- 12. Among all the varieties, the estimated production of Cotton varieties of cloth was 3654.62 lakh metres and this is followed by Silk varieties and Mixture of Cotton and Art Silk with 441.09 and 485.00 lakh metres respectively. In terms of percentage the Cotton varieties as referred above was maximum with 75.20, followed by the silk varieties and mixture of cotton and art silk with 9.98 and 9.08 percent respectively.

Cotton

Total production of Cotton cloth in handloom was 3654.62 lakh metres with 75.20 percent. A major production of cotton sarees is noticed as 843.32 lakh metres followed by bed spread 741.03 lakh metres and Lungies 699.54 lakh metres.

Silk

The total Production of silk is estimated at 441.09 lakh metres (9.08%). Out of which Sarees are produced 437.55 lakh metres (9.00%), and other silk materials produced 0.72 lakh metres (0.02%).

Art silk

The production of Art silk 267.02 lakh metres, out of which sarees are produced the maximum of 261.21 lakh metres (5.37%).

Mixture of Cotton and Art silk

About 485.00 lakh metres (9.98%) of mixture of cotton and silk were produced. Out of which sarees were produced 341.21 lakh metres (7.02%) and

Dhoties 124.18 lakh metres (2.56%). The other varieties are very small with 19.61 lakh metres (0.40%).

Polyester

The production of Polyester was 12.30 lakh metres (0.25%), out of which sarees were produced at the maximum of 5.68 lakh metres (0.12%).

Section – VI : Income and Employment of Handloom Weavers

The propensity to consume, spend, save and invest is mainly decided by the income pattern of the individual. Hence income is always considered as the key indicator in any socio-economic analysis. From the results of handloom sample survey conducted during 2011-12, the income pattern according to weaver types are estimated and presented in the following table to assess their standard of living.

9. District wise Monthly Average Income of Weavers

Sl.No	District name	Individual Weaver	Under Master Weaver	Co-operative Societies
1	Kanchipuram	2750	2250	2750
2	Thiruvallur	3200	3025	2825
3	Vellore	2300	2950	3000
4	Thiruvannamalai	4000	3054	4000
5	Villupuram	-	2500	2122
6	Cuddalore	2500	2750	2435
7	Thanjavur	3690	3308	3720
8	Nagapattinam	3800	2570	2200
9	Thiruvarur	-	2800	3225
10	Salem	3900	2500	3365
11	Namakkal	-	-	2550
12	Dharmapuri	-	-	1714
13	Erode	3750	3850	3250
14	Coimbatore	6570	5317	5175
15	Tiruchi	-	2250	1737
16	Karur	1450	3150	2315
17	Madurai	-	2040	2085
18	Dindigul	-	4335	
19	Theni	-	-	3000
20	Ramanathapuram	-	4000	4500
21	Virudhunagar	1400	-	1532
22	Sivagangai	1500	1300	1650
23	Tirunelveli	1960	1984	1600
24	Thoothukkudi	-	-	1384
25	Kanniyakumari	-	-	2450
26	Pudukkottai	-	-	2050
27	Thiruppur	4112	4250	5950
28	Prambalor	-	-	1250

Note : (-) indicates that the category does not exist under the sample survey in the district

Individual weavers:

The monthly average income pattern of *individual weavers* conveyed that Coimbatore district maximum with Rs.6570/- closely followed by Thiruppur district with Rs.4122/-. the minimum average income was 1400/- in the district of Virudhunagar.

Under Master weavers:

In this category monthly average income for weavers is identified Rs.5317/- in Coimbatore district followed by Dindugal with Rs.4335 /-. the minimum average income was 1300 in the district of Sivagangai district.

Co-operative Societies:

The district wise analysis informs that the weavers working in cooperative societies in Tiruppur district received the monthly average income of Rs.5950/- which is the highest as compared to other districts. The minimum average income was 1250 in the district of Perambalur district.

The employment potentiality in terms of categorywise of employment days and unemployment days with reasons are assessed through handloom sample survey conducted in the 198 focal centres in Tamil Nadu during the period of 2011-12 and the results are listed in the table below.

10. TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT DAYS OF HANDLOOM WORKERS FAMILY (For the year 2011-12)										
Weavers Category	Employment Days			Unemployment Days						
	Weaving and allied activities days	Other Occupation days	Total No. of Working Days	Raw Material shortage	sickness	Loom repair	Season	Other reason	Total unemployment days	
Independent Weavers	384560	39650	424210	3620	18450	1605	20480	277150	321305	
%	90.65	9.35	100.00	1.13	5.74	0.50	6.37	86.25	100.00	
Under Master Weavers	1904500	1155630	2060130	40320	61950	8990	125760	812500	1049540	
%	92.45	7.55	100.00	3.85	5.90	0.85	11.98	77.41	100.00	
Under Cooperative Institutions	1788300	427610	2215910	57660	148560	9720	68570	1039355	1323865	
%	80.70	19.30	100.00	4.35	11.22	0.73	5.17	78.51	100.00	
Total	4077360	622890	4700250	101600	228960	20315	214830	2129005	2694710	
%	86.75	13.25	100.00	3.77	8.50	0.75	7.97	79.00	100.00	

In general, the total number of working days for all the categories were 47,00,250, out of them majority of days engaged in “weaving and allied activities” were arrived at 40,77,360 with the percentage share of 86.75, which is followed by “other occupation day” of 6,22,890 for which the percentage was calculated as 13.25 which was comparatively smaller.

it was clear that 26,94,710 days were estimated as total unemployment days, of this 21,29,005 unemployment days were due to *other reasons* which constitutes 79.00 percent. This was followed by the *seasonal reasons* with 2,14,830 unemployment days which represents 7.97 percent. The reason being *sickness* for unemployment day also constitute a considerable of 8.50 percent. The category wise weaver analysis are as follows:

Individual weavers- Employment and Unemployment Days:

Out of the total of 4,24,210 working days under individual weavers category, the *weaving and allied activities* were computed as 3,84,560 while *other occupation* days were quantified as 39,650 and percentage being 90.65 and 9.35 respectively.

About 3,21,305 days are calculated as total unemployment days under this category. In view of “other reasons”, around 2,77,150 days were estimated as unemployment days with 86.25 percent. This is followed by “seasonal reason” with 6.37 percent and due to “sickness” with 5.74 percent. The percentage of 0.50 and 1.13 is noticed for reasons of *loom repair and shortage of raw materials* respectively.

Weavers under Master weavers- Employment and Unemployment Days:

The total employment days under this category was quantified as 2060130, of which the *weaving and allied activities* as the major proportion of 19,04,500 days which represents 92.45 percent, while it is numbered as 1,55,630 days for other occupation that denotes 7.55 percent which is relatively smaller.

It is also seen from the table above that about 10,49,540 days are reported to be total unemployment days under this classification for various reasons. The other *reasons and seasonal factors* are seem to occupy the larger proportion of 77.41 and 11.98 percent each. The sickness factor constitutes 5.90 percent and comparatively lesser percentage is noticed for the reasons of loom repair with 0.85 percent. The unemployment due to the *shortage of raw materials* are estimated to be at 3.85 percent.

Weavers under Co-operative Societies - Employment and Unemployment Days:

The employment days in respect of weaving and allied activities and other occupation together accounted as 22,15,910 and *percentage for weaving and allied activities* represents 80.70, while it was 19.30 percent for other occupation.

A total of 13,23,865 days were found to unemployment days in respect of the category viz., weavers under cooperative societies. Fairly a major proportion of 78.51 percent was noticed for other reasons, which was followed by the reasons of seasonal and sickness with 5.17 and 11.22 percent each.

Section – VII : Views and Suggestions of the Handloom Weavers

The views and suggestions obtained from the weavers enquired during the sample survey towards the uplift of handloom sector in Tamilnadu are presented below in the context of developmental programs by the Government.

- ✓ The Educational Assistance to the weavers may be improved.
- ✓ Old Age Pension provision scheme may be extended to all the eligible weavers.
- ✓ Government Free School Uniforms supply orders may exclusively be allotted to handloom sector.
- ✓ Enhanced provision of free electricity to be provided.
- ✓ Subsidized rate for yarn, dyes etc., and also sustained adequate supply of yarns.
- ✓ Provision of Medical expenses reimbursement scheme to all the handloom weavers for safeguarding them from occupational health hazards.
- ✓ Provision of secondary employment opportunity to handloom weaver during non-weaving seasons.
- ✓ Awareness programme of handloom products among public and also public servants to be encouraged to use handloom clothing by providing regular conduct of handloom exhibition in all the districts in all seasons.
- ✓ Creation of market facilities, improvement of mobile-handloom shops, attracting foreign customers by introducing new designs and new varieties of handloom cloths.
- ✓ Promotion of export policies and improvement of domestic and international markets.
- ✓ Sale of handloom products through Public Distribution System.
- ✓ Regulations on power looms.
- ✓ Procurement of handloom products by the Textile Societies and Government agencies.
- ✓ Extension of women welfare scheme to handloom family.