

CHAPTER 4

Trend of Number of Weavers on the Basis of Gender in Kozhikode

4.1 Introduction

Handloom sector is one sector that provided a large number of employments to the people of India in the past. With the present condition of handloom sector one can say that the future of it is in a stake. Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi has said in twitter that 'Our handloom sector is diverse, eco-friendly and is a source of employment for countless weavers, who will be very much encouraged by our support'. The betterment of handloom sector will result two important developments they are providing employment to the unemployed sections of India, and more importantly women empowerment. Handloom is one sector where a large number of female labour forces are working rather female labour force is greater than male labour force in this sector. This sector can be regarded as sector of females. In Kerala according to third handloom census (2009-10), 14,518 is the total population of handloom weavers; out of which 3,732 are males, 10,786 are females. 74.3% of the total weavers are females and only 25.7% are males. While looking at the all India level, 3,846,835 is the total population of weavers; 848,473 are males and 2,998,362 are females. 77.9% are females and only 22.1% are males. The data shows the complete dominance of female labour force in handloom sector both in Kerala and all India level.

4.2 Trend of Handloom Weavers on the basis of Gender in Kozhikode

The table below shows the strength of handloom sector or the number of weavers in the district Kozhikode both total and gender-wise. The data shows information from 2010-11 to 2016-17. In 2010-11 the total number of weavers in Kozhikode district was 870 and among them 131 were males and 739 were females. In 2011-12 the total number of

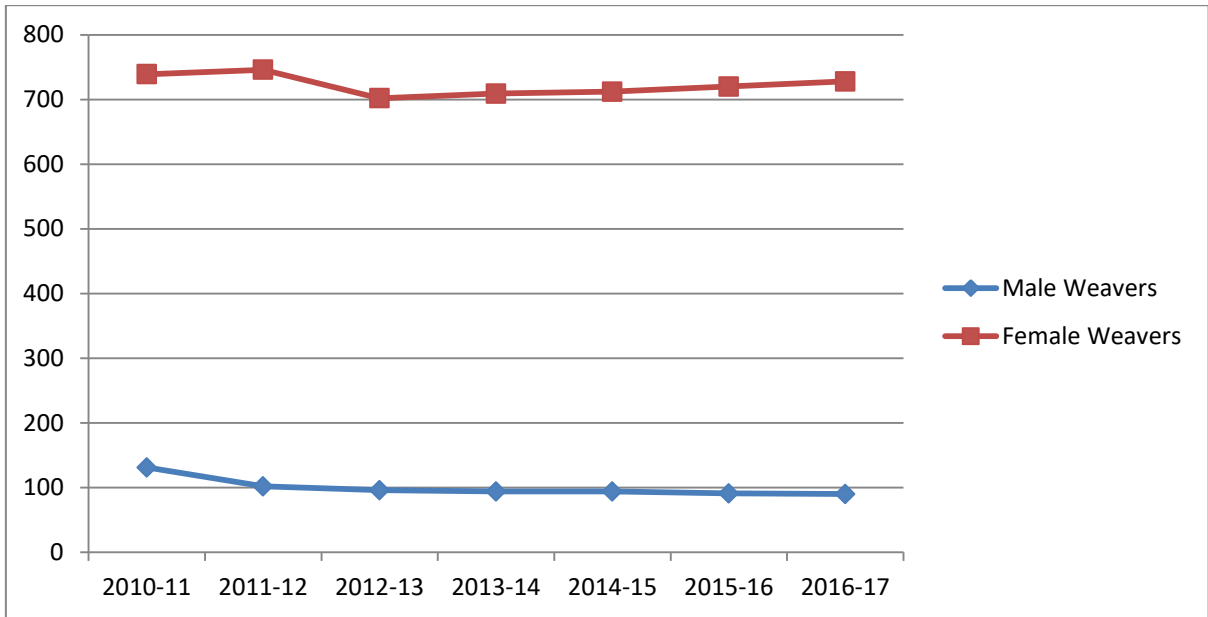
weavers was 848, out of which 102 were males and 746 were females. In 2012-13 the total number of weavers had decreased to 798 and the number of males was 96 only and that of females were 702. In 2013-14 the total number of weavers were 803 and 94 of them are males and 709 were females. In 2014-15 the total number of weavers was 806 and that of males were 94 and females was 712. In 2015-16 the total number of weavers had been increased to 811, out of which 91 were males and 720 were females. In 2016-17 the total number of weavers was 818 and that of males were only 90 and females was 728.

Table 4.1 Gender-wise distribution of handloom weavers in Kozhikode over the years

Year	Male Weavers	Female Weavers	Total Weavers
2010-11	131	739	870
2011-12	102	746	848
2012-13	96	702	798
2013-14	94	709	803
2014-15	94	712	806
2015-16	91	720	811
2016-17	90	728	818

Source: District Industry Centre, Kozhikode

Figure 4.1 Trend line of Gender-wise distribution of weavers in Kozhikode



The graph shows that there is a considerable difference between the number of male weavers and female weavers over the years in Kozhikode. The line of female weavers is always on the top over the years from 2010-11 to 2016-17. The highest point of number of female weavers occurred in 2011-12 period and that was 746, and lowest number was in 2012-13 and that was 702. The highest point of number of male weavers was in 2010-11 and that was 131 and the lowest point was in 2016-17 and that was 90. It is clear from the graph that over the years the number of male weavers is decreasing and the number of female weavers is constant or increasing. That means the prominence of females in handloom sector. Over the years handloom sector is becoming a sector of females, where females are the majority in the labour force in handloom sector.