

CHAPTER 6

Findings, Conclusions, Policy Implications and Limitations of the Study

6.1 Findings of the Study

Findings of the study on the basis of analysis of data are as follows:

- According to the sample survey data, majority of female weavers are in middle age group, and they are from a particular community that is Pathmashaliya, they belong to Hindu religion only.
- By looking in to the data, it is clear that women weavers are considering this sector as a casual sector where they joined as weavers for additional income for their family as their household is getting more income from other source.
- Educational qualification, employment status, working conditions and condition of indebtedness are good. But welfare facilities, Trade union and general awareness and economic empowerment indicators are not good for female weavers. And they are having decent housing and transportation facilities, and high level of physical empowerment.
- Household income of the female weavers is good. But income from handloom sector is not good, making them only secondary income earners.

6.2 Conclusion

The socio-economic status of women is very important for all the countries as women play an important role in both social and economic aspects of all societies. There is no such vulnerability in the world than to see a nation's half of the population is far behind the other half in terms of social and economic status. The study is about the socio-economic status of women working in handloom sector in Kozhikode district. As handloom sector is

one sector where the majority of workers are female, the strength of the handloom sector will be the strength of the women. The study focuses on two objectives: first objective is to find the trend line of number of weavers on the basis of gender in Kozhikode and second objective is to analyse the socio-economic status of women working in handloom sector in Kozhikode district.

The fourth chapter of study deals with the male-female wise distribution of handloom weavers in Kozhikode district over the years. Over the years the proportion of female weavers to male weavers are increasing. The study shows decrease in the number of male weavers in the district over the years. But the number of female weavers is either constant or increasing over the years. That makes the handloom sector very favouring sector to females.

In the case of socio-economic status of female weavers in Kozhikode district, the parameters used in the study to measure status are educational qualification, Employment status, welfare facilities in handloom units, working conditions, housing and transportation facilities, indebtedness, trade union and awareness, empowerment indicators, income and expenditure pattern. By looking at the overall status it seems like female weavers of Kozhikode district are having an above average socio-economic status. As handloom sector is one sector that pays low wage compared to other sectors in Kerala the expectation of the status of women working in handloom sector was also not high. A person's socio-economic status not only depends on the kind of work they are doing but also depends on the kind of household or family setup they are coming. If the household is having other members with high salary the status of the female workers also goes high. Usually handloom sector is one sector that Pathmashaliya caste women see as a comfort level of working area. Most of the part of data also shows the casualness of the female weavers

about their employment. They are happy about what they receive and working facilities in a way that this is only a secondary source of income to their households.

This is clear from the data that female weavers who are sampled are middle age group and upper middle age group, and they are members of Pathmashaliya caste in which they choose weaving by tradition. Educational qualification of the weavers is also very good compared to labourers working in small industrial units in other part of India. Employment status of the female weavers are also very high in such a way that majority of them are permanent. But coming to welfare facilities the status goes low due to the factors of maternity leave and educational help by unit. In case of working conditions the status of female weavers are high as majority of them are provided with drinking water facilities, Bonus, Rest room facilities, weakly off, annual leave and very low level of fine rate. In case of canteen facility and overtime payments the status is low. Housing and transportation facilities are also seems very good. Considering the type house they are living, number of rooms, source of drinking water and light and cooking the status seems very good. But not providing a vehicle by unit is a black mark in their status. In case of indebtedness also the status is high as very less number of sample are indebted. But in case of trade union awareness it is bit low considering membership in trade union in a state like Kerala where trade unionism is very strong. In case of general awareness most of them are very good. In case of empowerment indicators they are moderate. Discrimination and torture in work place are out of the box but most of them are not independent of taking economic decisions in their household. In case of income the female weavers are in different income groups. The level of income is moderate. By looking at the expenditure pattern we can say that they having an above average level of economic status. Female

weavers are also having good number of assets like transportation assets, electronic assets, furniture, mobile phones and ornaments.

6.3 Policy implications of the study

Policy implications include all the steps or policies that should be taken to improve the present condition. In case of this study the policy implications are given below:

- As handloom sector in India is one sector where women employees are greater than men employees, development of handloom sector will provide two possible outcomes, they are the development of the declining sector in the country as well as women empowerment. So there should be some initiatives from the part of government to develop this sector to protect the employment status of women in the country.
- Governments both at central and state government should make it compulsory for all government workers to wear handloom products once in a week, so that the sector can produce more products and survive in the future.
- Adequate handloom census data are not available regarding the sector in different states concerning the present conditions of handloom sector. The sector is left as untouched by many government initiatives. This attitude towards handloom sector should change from the minds of policy makers.
- As the handloom weavers are seen less aware about trade union, the different trade unions in the country should look at this sector and help the women, understand their problems.

6.4 Limitations of the study

The study has been undertaken in Kerala where women are better in the case of socio-economic status compared to other states in India. As the situation of women in other parts of India is not like this, the suggestions of the study may not be applicable to them.