SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILING OF WEAVING COMMUNITY: A BIO STATISTICAL SURVEY

Sai Baishakhi Das
P.G student, Department of Home Science
Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar

Abstracts
This abstract provides an overview of the socio-economic conditions of the weaver community based on a biostatistical survey. The survey was conducted to collect data on the characteristics of the weaver community, including their income, education, occupation, housing, and health, among other factors. The pilot study of the survey indicate that the weaver community faces significant economic and social challenges. Many weavers have low incomes, with a large proportion of them earning less than the minimum wage. Education levels are also low, with a significant number of weavers having limited formal education. Access to healthcare and other basic services is also limited, with many weavers lacking access to clean water, sanitation, and electricity. Housing conditions are often poor, with many weavers living in overcrowded and inadequate housing. Despite these challenges, the survey also revealed a strong sense of community and resilience among the weaver community. Many weavers expressed a deep commitment to their craft and to preserving traditional weaving techniques and skills. They also demonstrated a willingness to participate in training and education programs to improve their skills and income-generating opportunities. Overall, the biostatistical survey highlights the need for policies and programs aimed at addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by the weaver community. Efforts to improve access to education, healthcare, and other basic services, as well as initiatives aimed at promoting locally-made and artisanal textiles, have the potential to support the well- being of the weaver community and to promote sustainable and ethical practices in the textile industry. In recent years, the weaver community has faced a number of challenges, including competition from cheaper imported textiles, changes in fashion trends, and the impact of industrialization and automation on the textile industry. As a result, there has been a growing interest in supporting and preserving traditional weaving techniques and helping to sustain the livelihoods of weavers and their families. This has led to the development of various initiatives aimed at promoting the use of locally-made and artisanal textiles and supporting the weaver community through training, education, and other forms of assistance.

Keywords: Weaver community, Socio economic condition, Jagatsinghpur district, Bio statistic

I.SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF WEAVER COMMUNITY :THE CONCEPT

Odisha, a state noted for its rich past and artistic culture, has a long tradition of producing handcrafted goods, particularly Ikat fabrics. Almost the entire state has an Ikat tradition, primarily in the districts of Bolangir, Subanapur, Bargarh, Boudh, and Cuttack.

The difficulties faced by weavers include financial limitations, the inability to buy modern equipment, bad working conditions, insufficient pay, and the lack of government support. Because handloom products are copied on power looms for a lot less money, they are experiencing serious livelihood crises as a result of rising unfair competition from these industries.

According to the Fourth All India Handloom Census, conducted by the Government of India in 2019, the majority of weaver households (66.3%) earn less than Rs. 5, 000 per month, and the percentage earning between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 has increased to 26.3%. The weavers' average monthly salary does not surpass Rs. 3500 and their average daily income does not exceed Rs. 140. A weaver typically works 280 to 300 days per year and makes between Rs. 5000 and Rs. 8000 per month. The majority of weavers (76.3%) depended on weaving for their primary source of income and made less than Rs. 50,000 annually.

A socioeconomic profile is a description of the characteristics of a population in terms of their economic and social circumstances. It typically includes information such as income, education, occupation, housing, and health, among other factors. Here are some key elements of a socioeconomic profile:

Demographics: This includes information on the age, gender, race, ethnicity, and location of the population being studied.

Income: This refers to the amount of money earned by individuals or households, and can be reported as median or average income.

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Education: This includes information on the level of education achieved by individuals in the population, such as the percentage of the population that has completed high school, college, or graduate school.

Occupation: This refers to the types of jobs held by individuals in the population, and can include information on the percentage of the population employed in different sectors.

Housing: This includes information on the type of housing in which individuals live, such as the percentage of the population living in owner-occupied or rented homes.

Health: This includes information on the health status and access to healthcare of the population, such as the prevalence of chronic diseases and the percentage of the population with health insurance.

A socioeconomic profile can be used to identify areas of need and inform policies and programs aimed at improving the well-being of the population. It can also be used to compare the socioeconomic characteristics of different populations or to track changes over time.

II.WEAVER COMMUNITY:

A group of people who specialise in weaving, a traditional craft that entails creating fabrics, tapestries, and other materials by interlacing threads or yarns using looms or other weaving instruments, is referred to as the weaver community. There are many weaver communities around the world, and their job frequently entails developing distinctive designs and patterns utilising varied materials, colours, and weaving processes. As a result, a number of programmes have been created to help the weaving community through education, training, and other means and to encourage the use of locally produced and handcrafted textiles. Handwoven textiles are arguably the oldest and most well-known form of art and craft in India. In India, weaving has been a common practise for more than 5000 years. Handloom has been a major economic activity after agriculture. It is an age-old tradition of weaving beauty into the threads and converting them into masterpieces to be worn.

But with time these culture has lost its face value due to a number of reasons and gradually deteriorated the economic condition of the weavers.

In some cultures, the weaver community is a distinct social and economic group, with a long history of producing high-quality textiles and fabrics that are in demand in local and international markets. Many weavers work independently, either as artisans or as part of a small family business, while others may work for larger textile and garment manufacturing companies. So, Bayangram of Jagatsinghpur district are a community of weavers. They weave through their society and some of them weave by themselves. They took part in the state as well as National exhibitions. But main focus point is that they can't meet their daily expenses only by weaving. 80-85% of weavers have a low socioeconomic profile. And the rest weavers have an additional income source as it's not sufficient for living. Their monthly income from the weaving is 6000-7000 rupees only. Where as their family expenditure exceeds 12000. So This article tries to study the socioeconomic profile of weavers, life style and the quality dimensions of weavers. The weavers are the rare community having the unique skills to create and recreate designs for human society. So the policy makers, stake holders and government need to profile the bio statistics of weavers for preserving the unique community.

Odisha, located in eastern India, has a rich tradition of handloom weaving. Some of the wellknown weaving communities and their craft styles in Odisha are:

Sambalpuri Weavers: They are known for their intricate ikat weaving technique, which resist-dyeing the yarns before weaving them to create geometric patterns. Some famous Sambalpuri weavers are Bhikari Charan Pattnaik and Gobardhan Panika.

Bomkai Weavers: They are known for their distinct weaving style that features colorful   threadwork and intricate motifs. Some famous Bomkai weavers are Bira Sahoo and Ram Chandra Meher.

Kotpad Weavers: They are known for their unique use of organic and naturally-dyed cotton to create intricate patterns and designs. Some famous Kotpad weavers are Pratap Bhoi and Laxmi Sabar.

Berhampuri Weavers: They are known for their intricately woven silk and cotton sarees with unique borders and pallus. Some famous Berhampuri weavers are Krutibasa Sahoo and Padmanava Meher.

These are just a few examples of the many talented weavers in Odisha, and there are many more weaving communities and individual weavers who create beautiful handloom products in the state.

**III SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS**

The statistical facts

A pilot study has been undertaken for the weavers residing in Bayan gram of Jagatsinghpur district. The study reveals very surprising and alaramic facts about the socio-economic condition, life style, and health condition of the weaving community.

Figure-1
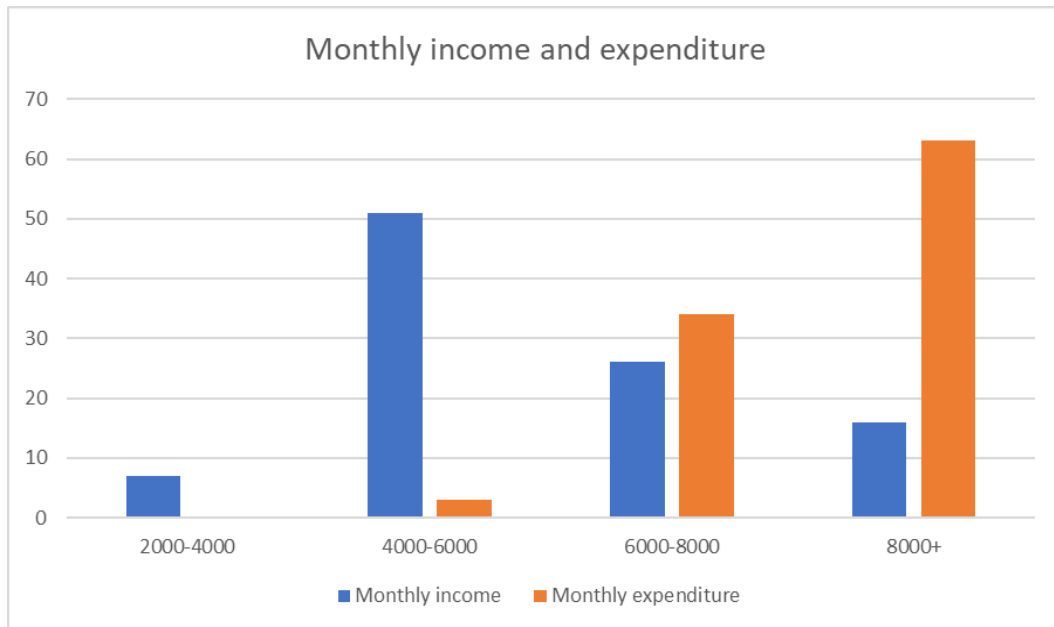
The study on socio-economic status of weaving community was undertaken for around 100 weavers. The above data revealed a very interesting fact that around 63% weavers spend above 8000 rupees per month where as their income is less than or nearer to 7000 rupees.

Figure-2
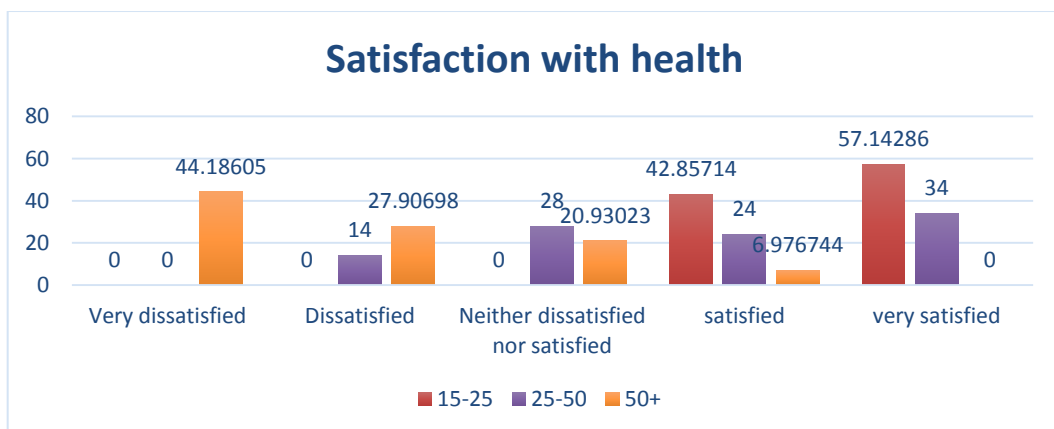
The data which is shown in the above table reflects the health satisfaction of the weaving community. Which have 3 categories comprising 15-15 age group, 25-50 age group and 50+ age group. The data reveals that the weavers between 15-25 age group i.e. 57% are very much satisfied with their health condition ,the age group 25-50 weavers are satisfied with their health condition some of them also neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. But the 50+ age group weavers, 44% are very much dissatisfied and 27% are dissatisfied with their health condition ,having joint pain ,asthma, muscle pain, eyesight etc.

Figure-3
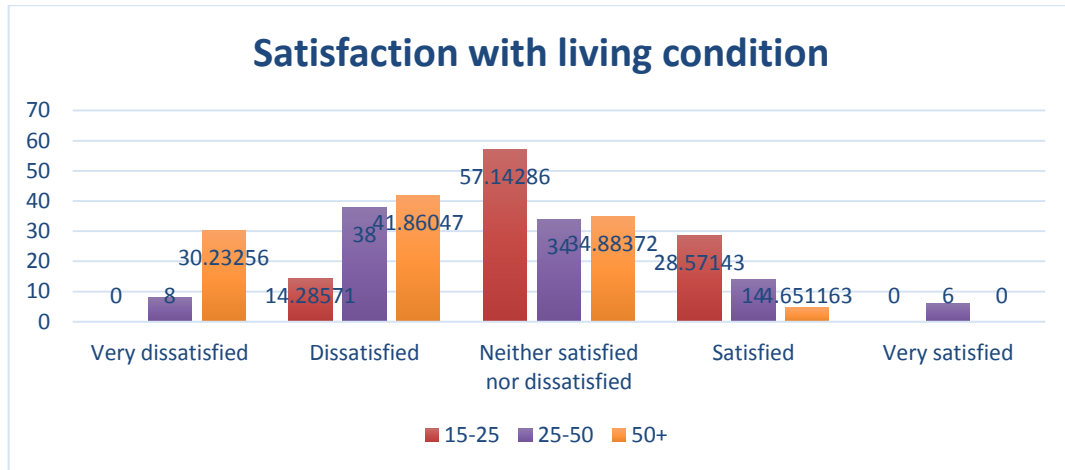
The above data shows the satisfaction of weavers to their living condition. The level of satisfaction is distinguished between three age groups. The 15-25 age groups i.e. 57% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their living condition. 25-50 age groups are dissatisfied with their living condition where as 34% of them are also neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. But the 50+ age groups 41% are dissatisfied and 30% are very much dissatisfied to their livilg condition.

IV Conclusion

In conclusion, the weaver community plays an important role in the textile industry and in preserving traditional crafts and skills. Weavers create unique and high quality fabrics and textiles using various materials and techniques, and their work has a cultural and historical significance in many societies. However, the weaver community also faces many challenges, including competition from cheaper imported textiles and the impact of industrialization and automation on the textile industry. As a result, there has been a growing interest in supporting and preserving traditional weaving techniques and helping to sustain the livelihoods of weavers and their families. Initiatives aimed at promoting locally-made and artisanal textiles and supporting the weaver community have the potential to not only help weavers maintain their livelihoods but also to support sustainable and ethical practices in the textile industry. Overall, the weaver community deserves recognition for their important contribution to the textile industry and for the preservation of traditional crafts and skills.

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