

STUDY ON THE EXISTING STATUS OF WEAVERS IN HAND KNOTTED CARPET INDUSTRY OF JAIPUR

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Abstract:

Rajasthan hand knotted carpet sector of cottage industry is perhaps the only sector overall in rural India that is 100% export oriented and providing employment to the millions of people, generating many opportunities for rural, unemployed and weaker section. Being one of the largest industries, the condition of artisans is not in good shape and health. Besides the socio-economic conditions of artisans they suffer from occupational health problems and physical disorders sooner or later in their life. They work in same posture for pro-long hours, the sitting position is awkward but at the same time it is the need of the activity, the action is repeated number of times. The wages which they receive is not enough for their living. It seems it is a serious concern and need some action as this condition affects the working efficiency of artisans, economy of the country and the industry as a whole.

Keywords: Socio-economic status, working conditions, working efficiency, occupational health problems, awkward postures.

Introduction

Carpets are well liked for its elegant style and unique craftsmanship all over the world. Each and every carpet is unique in itself as each knot is tied individually to complete a single piece. Weaving craft is a long and complex process and this industry being one of the largest in India provides employment to millions of people in urban as well as rural areas. But the conditions of artisans draw attention to the stressful situation at their working place. The artisans are suffering from physical and occupational health problems

in this industry. The awkward postures for long hours while weaving, washing and finishing the carpet result in the development of the musculoskeletal disorder in different parts of the body. Working in wrong or awkward posture for prolonged hours create discomfort, pain, inflammation, stress in affected areas of the body which is a serious matter to be looked upon.



Figure1: P.J.Exports



Figure2: Thar Indian Arts



Figure2: P.J.Exports

In Choobineh et al (2016) study the improvement in the condition of the artisans will definitely improve the national production, national economy, the quality of life and also the productivity.

According to (Chaman et al.2015) hand woven carpet weavers are suffering from musculoskeletal pain in different parts of the body linked to physical psychological risk factors of work. Musculoskeletal (MSP) is considered as

a one of the major health problem worldwide and responsible of reducing the work ability and quality of life.

There are many rules, regulations, schemes and programmes run by the government for the betterment of carpet weavers as well the industry as a whole. But the worst part of this is that nor the artisans are aware of these schemes and programmes neither they are benefited by these schemes. The government schemes and their benefits do not reach till the weavers to ease their work.

Methodology

The data was collected through convenient sampling. The firms which have yearly turnover of minimum fifteen to twenty crores were included for sampling. Twenty units were selected to explore the profile of artisans, tools and techniques, working conditions and health problems faced by the artisans were also documented. The artisans who have work experience of minimum ten to twelve years, and belong to age group twenty five to sixty years were approached for the interview. Five artisans from each unit were selected.

Data for this study was collected through a scheduled interview with a questionnaire from three hundred artisans of Jaipur city. Hundred artisans from each department that is weaving, washing and finishing department were selected. These are the three departments or can be called steps of a process a carpet have to go through.

Objectives

- To know about demographic profile of the carpet weavers of Jaipur.
- To identify the various occupational health problems amongst the artisans of Jaipur.

Result and discussion

This study analyse the demographic profile of the respondents with reference to age, family type, monthly income etc.

Demographic profile of artisans

Table1. Gender **N=300**

Gender	Weaving Department n=100 %	Washing Department n=100 %	Finishing Department n=100 %
Male	28	95	58
Female	72	5	42

As shown in table 1 the number of the female weavers (72%) are more than male weavers that is (28%) in weaving department. Number of male artisans were more in urban areas instead of rural areas. In rural areas the females get the opportunity to work from home so two to four females from each family prefer to work on loom and earn their living. In washing department there were maximum number (95%) of males and the minimum number (5%) were females. In finishing department the maximum number (58%) were males and (42%) were females.

Table2. Age group of artisans in years **N=300**

Age Group	Weaving Department n=100 %	Washing Department n=100 %	Finishing Department n=100 %
25-35	43	38	29
36-45	42	41	45
46-55	15	19	26
Above 55	3	2	0

Table 2 shows the maximum number (43%) of the artisans belonged to the group of twenty five to thirty five years of age in weaving department, (41%) belonged to group thirty six to forty five years of age in washing department and (45%) of artisans fall in category of thirty five to forty five years of age group in finishing department.

Table3.Educational status of artisans

Education	N=300		
	Weaving Department n=100 %	Washing Department n=100 %	Finishing Department n=100 %
Primary	21	18	20
Secondary	7	4	3
Graduation	12	3	4
Uneducated	60	75	73

The data above show that the literacy rate in this industry is low. As shown table 3 the maximum number (60%, 75%, 73%) of artisans were uneducated in weaving, washing and finishing departments respectively. The maximum percentage of educated artisans was (21%, 18%, 20%) who attained primary education in weaving, washing and finishing department respectively.

Table4. Family status of artisan N=300

Family type	N=300		
	Weaving Department n=100 %	Washing Department n=100 %	Finishing Department n=100 %
Nuclear	22	56	67
Joint	78	44	33

Table 4 presents that most of the artisans (78%) live in joint families as comparison to nuclear families, which is (22%) in the weaving department. Joint families include their grandparents and grandchildren also in some cases children of their relatives also live with them. Average two to four people from a family mostly females in rural areas work by weaving on looms and earn in a joint family from home. Whereas in the washing department (44%) of artisans lived in joint families and (56%) of artisans lived in nuclear

families. In finishing department (33%) artisans were in joint families and (67%) lived in nuclear families. This is because all most all the washing and finishing centres are either in urban areas or outer skirts of the city. So artisans in washing and finishing department prefer to live in nuclear families.

Table 5.Working Hours of artisans N=300

Hours of Working	N=300		
	Weaving Department n=100 Percentage	Washing Department n=100 Percentage	Finishing Department n=100 Percentage
4-6	14	6	0
7-9	76	82	69
10-12	10	12	31

Maximum number that is 76%, 82%, and 69% of artisans in weaving department, washing department and finishing department respectively work for seven to nine hours per day as shown in table 5. In some of the firms 14% and 6% artisans in weaving and washing department respectively work as part time job for four to six hours a day. On the other hand if there is order of carpet manufacturing is pending the 10%, 12%, 31% of artisans work up to twelve hours a day in all the three department of weaving washing and finishing respectively.

Table6.Working Experience of artisans.

Work Experience	N=300		
	Weaving Department n=100 %	Washing Department n=100 %	Finishing Department n=100 %
10-20 years	22	69	62
21-30 years	64	21	32
More than 30 years	14	10	6

This weaving art is considered as ancestral art and so since childhood they start learning how to weave. They weave on the looms installed at their houses and become expert till they are adult. The data presented in Table 6. shows that in weaving department maximum number (64%) of artisans have the working experience of twenty one to thirty years in carpet industry. Whereas in the washing and finishing department this number goes up to 69% and 62% respectively which fall in the category of then to twelve years of working experience..

Neck	62	17	84
Shoulder	36	26	33
Upper back	28	21	69
Lower back	78	66	58
Knees	71	26	87
Fingers	56	60	89
Hands	29	52	11
Eye	52	62	64
Breathing	18	40	11

Table 7. Monthly income of artisans

Monthly Income	N=300		
	Weaving Department	Washing Department	Finishing Department
	t	t	n=100
	n=100	n=100	%
3000-5000	13	12	10
5001-7000	34	37	33
7001-10000	37	42	39
10001-15000	16	9	18

As a whole in this industry there was a dissatisfaction found in artisans regarding their earning. Table no.7 shows the maximum number of weavers (37%) earn the income of rupees 7001-10000 in weaving department. In washing and finishing department also the maximum number 42% and 39% respectively earn the income of rupees 7001-10000 per month. The artisans who earn rupees 3000-5000 also work on contract basis or per hour basis for decided period.

Table 8. Health problems faced by artisans

Health problems faced by artisan	N=300		
	Weaving Department	Washing Department	Finishing Department
	t	t	t
	n=100	n=100	n=100
	%	%	%

Artisans face multiple physical problems due to sitting in an awkward and same posture for pro long hour job demanded activity. Due to the repeated action for months together they started facing problems in different parts of their body. The data from table no 8 shows that most of the artisans (78%) suffer from lower back pain and the lowest of them (18%) suffer from breathing problem in the weaving department. In washing department, the maximum number of artisans (62%) suffer from eye problem and lowest problem was there (13%) fingers in this department. Similarly in the finishing department (89%) of artisans were found suffering from problem in fingers as the tools used for finishing the threads specifically the scissor is uncomfortable to use which results into pain and inflammation. And the lowest number (9%) fall in the category of suffering from breathing problem.

Table 9. Facilities at Working Place

Facilities at Working Place	N=300		
	Weaving Department	Washing Department	Finishing Department
	t	t	t
	n=100	n=100	n=100
	%	%	%
Shed	100	100	100
Air ventilatio	60	100	100
n			
Concrete floor	61	100	100
Cleanline	79	42	63
ss			

Good working conditions are considered as an important factor in all working fields. The facilities which were provided to the artisans for manufacturing a carpet were all the basic once. Shed was provided to all the artisans in all the three department as it is the basic need for carpet weaving process. In weaving department (95%) of artisans had proper ventilation and in washing department and finishing department it was (100%). Only (61%) of artisans were working on the concrete floor, rest of them had the kuchha floor all over their houses. Cleanliness in weaving department was (79%) following with (42%) in washing and (63%) in finishing department. .

Table10. Job satisfaction of artisans

Job satisfaction	N=300		
	Weaving Department	Washing Department	Finishing Department
	n=100 %	n=100 %	n=100 %
Yes	52	32	25
No	48	68	75

Table 10 presents the majority of artisans (52%) working in this carpet industry were satisfied with current job in weaving department, followed by (32%) and (25%) of artisans were satisfied with their job in washing and finishing department respectively.

Table11. Transferring the Weaving Skills to the Coming Generations

Skills Transfer to next Generations	N=300		
	Weaving Department	Washing Department	Finishing Department
	n=100 %	n=100 %	n=100 %
Yes	21	0	0
No	79	100	100

In the weaving department 21% of the artisans were interested in passing the art of carpet weaving to their coming generations. In rest of the two departments washing and finishing, none

were interested in passing the legacy of this beautiful art further to the coming generation as presented in table 11.

Table12.Length of carpet weaved in a day

Length of carpet weaved in a day	N=100	
	Weaving Department.	n=100 %
1 -1.5 inch	12	
1.6 -2 inch	37	
2.1 -2.5 inch	46	
2.6 -3 inch or more	5	

Table 12 says length of carpet weaved by maximum number (46%) of artisans was 2.1- 2.5 inches per day. And the lowest number (5%) only wove 2.6 -3 inches of carpet per day.

Table13. Artisans receive training for their work through company or government

Training through company or government	N=300		
	Weaving Department	Washing Department	Finishing Department
	n=100 %	n=100 %	n=100 %
Yes	5	5	5
No	95	95	95

In table 13 only (5%) were provided with the training regarding the process of weaving, washing or finishing of the carpet to the artisans, rest 95% of artisans were not provided with any kind of formal training by the company in which they are working.

Social Security and Awareness: The number goes 100% if we talk about social security and awareness amongst the artisans related to insurance policies or weavers profit schemes for them or their family. They were not at all aware

of the rights, privilege and advantages existing for weavers also about the programs initiated by the different organisations for the weavers.

Awareness of Government scheme: The artisans were interviewed related to schemes issued for weavers and 100% of them were not aware of the schemes and plans made by the government for the betterment and welfare of artisans and the programs run by the private organizations for the improvement of these people. No company provides with the benefit or even the information regarding these schemes to the weavers working there.

Conclusion

This study on the handmade carpet industry concluded that weavers are suffering from occupational health problems and their condition of working are not at all good even not favourable at some places. High risk factors are the reasons to develop low back pain, sitting in hunch back position, laterally bent or twisted trunk postures, high pressure on hands, neck, shoulder, spine and other parts of the body. Sitting and working in same posture with awkward position for pro-longed hours is quit tiring and monotonous for the body as well as mind. Discomforts begin in different parts of the body which leads to physical problems, musculoskeletal disorder and many other problems too. A lot of facts are known about the measuring of the risk factors but it is still debateable issue. It was found that artisans were facing a lot of physical stress and problems in different parts of the body which was the result of prolonged hours of working in an awkward posture. Some of the tools they were using were inconvenient while working. It created pain and were hard to hold sometimes.

Job satisfaction was found in this industry was very low. In some cases artisans were working just because weaving is their ancestral work they are doing from generations and they have given lot many years of their life to this industry and had no other skills to switch the industry. Some are working just because they are carrying ancestral art. Most of them were not interested in transferring this legacy and this beautiful art of weaving to their coming generations as they found no growth in this industry.

No awareness about the government schemes and programmes was found among artisans. Almost all people working in this industry work without any kind of training about the process. The wages provides to them are not sufficient for their family.

A requirement of a solution is badly needed to improve the working conditions of the artisans, physical condition, occupational health condition and the condition of industry as a whole, which may lead to better working and also better productivity.

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