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Female work participation and health status in power loom sector: A case study of Mau city

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Abstract

The cotton textile industry plays a very important role in the economy of India. Cotton textile industry is divided into two sectors; Handloom and Power loom. Power loom is the modernized form of handloom. After the development of power loom there is reduction of the production cost, as well as labour wages. When the labour wages are reduced the male member of the family has not sufficient income wage. That's why female enter in the labour force to increase the wage and to raise the living condition of their family. The female work participation is not considered as a labour in outside market due to cultural factors. They entered labour market after the introduction of new technologies of power loom. For the analysis select the study area Mau city, it is a part of Mau Nath Bhanjan district. It is a important site of power loom weaving. The objective of this paper is to assess the female work participation and total working hours, and impact on their health in power loom sector of Mau city. The study is mainly based on socio-economic status of power loom female weaver. The data of the paper is derived from primary data collected through questionnaire. After the data analysis results shows that weaving is the major occupation of Mau city as there is a hub of power loom in which most of the female are involved. The major reason which forced female to engage in power loom sector is economic and financial necessity, unemployment, poverty. The low literacy among females and large family size is the major drawback of female involvement in weaving. Result shows that maximum females suffering from headache and respiratory problems. Last few years a power loom sector suffers with so many problems like electricity supply, market decline, and other political reason. All these causes is responsible for poor condition of weavers. Thus government should address the issues relating to female work participation and to start new schemes for female weavers in power loom sector.

Keywords: Female labour, power loom sector, Health, Working hour, Daily Income, Diseases

Introduction

The power loom sector plays an important role in Indian textile and clothing industry. The industry prepares itself to face the challenges an account of globalization of trade and competition in order to survive and expand its markets share. Modernization and installing modern looms is the need of the hours. The power loom industry has traditionally been an important part of Indian economy in terms of earning, employment, and foreign exchange. According to Power loom development and export promotion council (PDEXCIL-it is the Nodal agency for the development and promotion of export of power loom products) between 2007-08 and 2012-13, Power loom exports from India grew from US \$7.7 billion to US \$ 13.1 billion. Power loom contribute around 70 % of the total jobs in textile industry. Around 6.5 million people engaged in this sector in India. As per 2015 data, there are approximately 2.5 million registered power loom in the country.60 % of Indian cloths is produced through decentralised power loom sector. The government of India have approved a group work shed scheme under Power loom workers during 10th five year plan aimed to improved working condition in the decentralised power loom sector in term of space, technology better work environment facility. Power loom is the second largest employer after agriculture sector in India. It is largest in the world which used a large quality of raw material and textile manufacturing base. Handloom and power loom is an ancient sector of cotton textile industry. It consists of textile cotton-silk, and bleaching, Dying, Finishing, embroidery, Silk twisting. Power loom sector is the mechanised or modernised form of handloom. The power loom products export destination in China, UAE, Vietnam, Srilanka, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Bangladesh, Turkey,

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Pakistan, are some of the major markets of these export markets. Indirect employment also include in this sector, for example-man power engaged in different stages of agriculture based raw material for weaving threads. Hand loom and Power loom are the traditional industry of India. It provides employment opportunities to millions of people in rural and urban areas of the country. During the medieval period skilled Muslim weavers from west Asian countries came to India along with moguls. In India the main cluster of Power loom Industry is Salem, Madurai, Sholapur, Bhiwandi, Bhilwara, Malegaon (in Maharashtra). In Uttar Pradesh, weavers found around Varanasi, Mau Nath Bhanjan city, Tanda, Akbarpur, Faizabad district. these areas having skilled labour and suitable climate for weaving. It is the main reason that the weaving became an important industry of eastern Uttar Pradesh, namely Varanasi, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Mau, have their important part of weaving. Unskilled low literate female labour are mostly engage in weaving work While in the number of power loom, Mau Nath Bhanjan city having first place in comparison to Varanasi. It is the chief means of livelihood of people who entirely depend on power loom sector through the hand weaving. Weaving is the initial basic process among various manufacturing stages of cloths. I have taken Mau city as my research area. In Mau city power loom sector employed low skilled workers who mainly came from traditional weaving family. Power loom sector is the only occupation in this area to sustain livelihood of rich as well as poor families. According to 2010-11 data total 21000 registered functional units of power loom in the city and 40,000 registered employee. The main products are Sari, Lungi, Dhoti, etc. Within India products are marketed in South India, & Maharashtra. The weavers work in power loom sector is suffering many occupational hazards due to threads, dangerous chemical substances, long manual working hours, noise pollution etc. The bigger issue that is going too noticed in this sector to protect power loom female weavers from various health hazards. This paper find out the total work participation of female and health issues being faced by the female weavers and suggest suitable measure to remove them socially.

Review of Literature

Some important studies reviewed related present work are given below: Has analyses the importance of Handloom in solving the problem of unemployment of women. Merle Thornton (1975) [6] has explained about women's labour in the modern industrialized society in the decisive part that housewifery plays in it. Its ascribed place in a women's life modifies her preparation of any work. A major labour function socially assigned to women from the point of view of the extra domestic sector of the economy. Esther Lee Yao (1987) [4] has analysed the household labour between husband and wife and to determine the variables that contributed to the household duties showed by Chinese couples. They uncover the domestic job assignment carried out by both the spouses. to examine female work participation and child labour used data from NHFS and attempts to identify the determinants of both female work participation and child labour. They found that household size is not a determining factor for the participation of children in the workforce. Raani Sinha (2005) [8] has described the status of women and economic development in India. Shazli. T & Munir (2014) [9] has explained the

female work participation in handloom industry of Mubarak pur town, Azamgarh. The study was based on Socio-Economic condition. The major reason which forced females to engage in weaving work is economic necessity. Tanushree S. (2015) [11] has attempted to understand the various problem faced by Handloom weavers of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh drop of wages increased price of yarn.

Objective

The major objectives of the study are to analyse the female work participation, and impact on their health due to different type of work related to weaving in power loom sector in Mau nath Bhanjan city (Uttar Pradesh). The following objectives have been taken in to consideration:

1. To analyses the female total work participation in power loom sector.
2. To find out the impact of power loom work on the health status of the female worker.

Data base and Methodology

The present study consisted of female labour in power loom sector. A sample of respondents was evaluated by using simple random sampling technique. Total 18 wards selected out of 36 wards in the city. Data were collected with the help of well design questionnaire and interview schedule. To determine the female work participation, I have taken indicators and their dimensions. General profile of female weavers include dimensions is education level of the female weavers. Second is socio economic condition of female weavers include their dimension is; Economic causes forced for weaving, daily income of the female weavers and daily working hours of female weavers, daily spend hours in household chores. Third Indicator is Health status of females consists of two dimensions that is nature of the work and specific diseases suffer by females due to power loom weaving. For the analysis used simple percentage method and arc view GIS for digitize the map.

Study Area: Mau Nath Bhanjan City

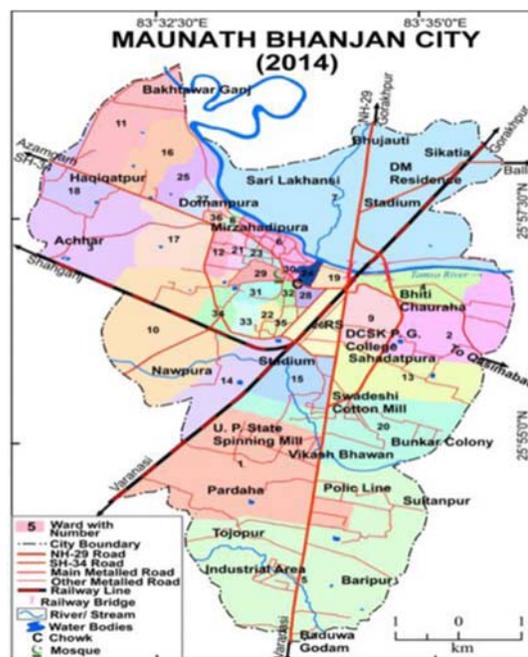
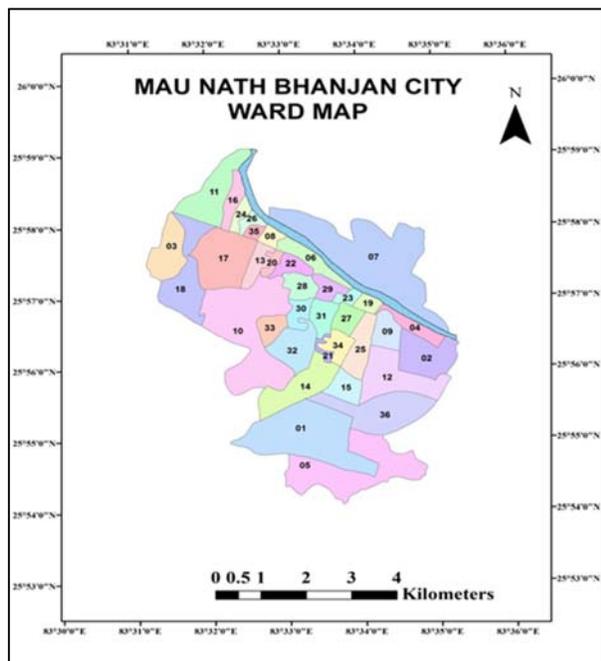


Fig 1: Location of Mau nath Bhanjan City

Mau city known as Mau Nath Bhanjan in Uttar Pradesh is an industrial town. It is located 120 km from Varanasi on the bank of Tamasa (Choti Saryu). It is a major centre of textile weavers. It is divided into 4 tehsil and 9 blocks, 596 gram Panchayat and 1644 villages. According to 2011 census data Mau city had population of 2,205,968 of which male and female were 1,114,709 and 1,091,259 respectively with population density of 1287 people per Km. Urban population is 22.63%. Mau Nath Bhanjan is situated on the fertile plains of the Ganga-Ghagra-Doab. It lies between 83 Degree 17 minute to 84 degree 52 minute East and 24 degree 47 minute to 26 degree 17 minute north. Mau Nath Bhanjan city represents its geographical Characteristics of Mid Gangetic Plain. Khachari and Khaddar are types of soil found in this area. Mau is famous for weaving work after textile industry of Banaras and Mubarakpur. Mau stands as one of the bastille of textile hub of Uttar Pradesh. The main industrial setup here is of cloth making by power loom due to the presence of large number of weavers in the district. Sari, Lungi and other cloths being prepared. These are exported to various states of India and also to various countries. The city has been selected for the study on the basis of major industrial units. Due to excess growth of power loom industries, large number of female engaged in this sector, they installed power loom in their home and made this industry as a house hold industry. This is the reason increasing female labour in this sector. Weaving is the major source of income in Mau city. It is a Muslim dominated area. This study is attempted to understand the problem of power loom female workers who continuously work on power loom for their survival. The Mau Nath Bhanjan city industrial unit is an important place among urban centre of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The city has been an important centre of manufacturing of power loom products in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.



Source: Map digitize by Arc view GIS 3.9 software

Result and discussion

Table 1: General Profile of the weavers

Age	Percentage
0-14	22.6%
15-29	33.2
30-59	25.7
59 & above	18.6
Total	100

Table 2: Marital Status of female Weavers

Marital Status	Percentage
Married	57.6
Unmarried	32.1
Widow	10.2
Total	100

Table 3: Education level of female weavers

Education level	Primary	Secondary	Middle	Graduates
Percentage	37.3	31.05	21.05	10.5

Source: Based on Field Survey 2014 – 2015.

Education is the important means of breaking the chain of poverty. It can be observed that in the year 2014-15, 37.3% of the female having primary education, while 31.05 % & 21.05 % females weavers are educated up to middle level and secondary level. Only 10.5 % of the females are found graduates. Most of the females participated in weaving and different work related to weaving. They permanently engaged in power loom & live at home.

After the analysis of general profile of female weavers from table 1, 2. It has been found that these female weavers have been classified into five categories based on age group. An over view of the data of the age wise distribution of the worker found that 22.6 % of the workers comes under 0-14 age group. 15-29 age group of female are found large number that is 33.2% in weaving. 25.7 % of the female weavers come under the 30-59 years age category. While 18.6 % weavers are above 60 years category. It shows that large proportion of female weavers belong to the age group of 15-29 years, as regards the marital status.

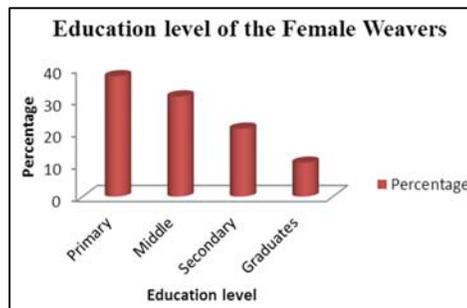
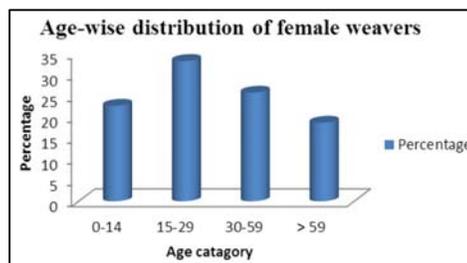
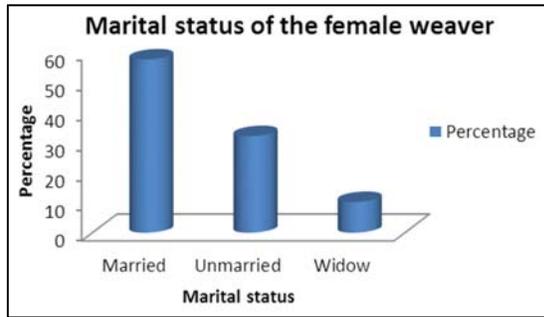


Fig 2



Source: Based on Field Survey 2015

Fig 3



Source: Based on Field Survey 2015

Fig 4

Socio economic condition of female weavers

Table 4: Economic cause forced for Weaving

Causes	Percentage
Poverty	12.8
Low Income	9.7
Unemployment	20.7
Family Burden	12.10
Unskilled	9.2
Uneducated	21.5
Tradition	13.6
Total	100

Source: Based on Field Survey 2015

Table 5: Daily Income of the Female Weavers

Income	Percentage
< 50	24.4
50-100	28.6
100-150	20.5
150-200	13.6
200 & above	12.6
Total	100

Source: Based on Field Survey 2014 – 2015

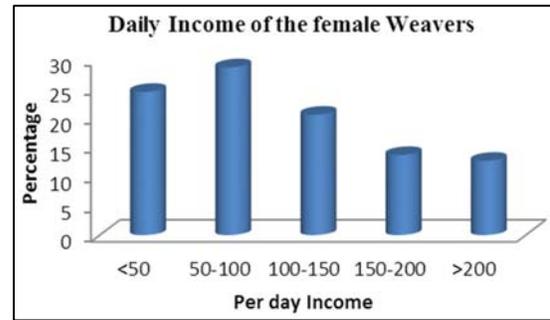
Table 6: Daily working Hours of female weavers

Working hours	Percentage
< 6	13.15
6-8	18.15
8-10	25.7
10 & above	42.8
Total	100

Source: Based on Field Survey 2015

Table 4 shows the cause of female involvement in weaving which compelled the female weavers for work. Most of the economic cause is found during survey; Poverty (12.8%) Low income (9.7%) Unemployment (20.7%) family burden (12.10%) Unskilled (9.2) Uneducated (21.5) and traditional cause (13.6%).The major cause of female engagement in weaving is that they are uneducated. They don't get any job in other field. Table number 5 describes the daily income of the female weavers. The distribution of income is 24.4% female get less than 50 Rs/day. While 28.6 % female weavers gets 100-150 Rs/day.20.5% & 13.6% female weavers women gets 100-150 & per day. Only 12.6 % of the women earn more than 200 Rs/day. After the analysis the table shows that most of the female weavers are having limited source of income 50 rupee and 100 rupee is very low income per day. That's why they generally do hard work and engaged whole day in weaving.42 % of the females

work for more than 10 hours/day. While 25.7% of the women work around 8-10 hours /day.18.15% women work 6-8 hours. Only 13.15 of the females engaged in less than 6 hours in a day.



Source: Based on Field Survey 2015

Fig 5

Female Work participation in power loom sector

By the censusindia.gov.in “The work participation Rate (WPR) defined as the percentage of total workers among the total population is 39.3% on per the 2001 census. The work force participation rate in 1991 census was 37.5%”.women in workforce earning wages or a salary are part of a modern phenomenon, one that develop at the same time as the growth of paid employment for men. But women have been challenged by inequality in the work force. Economically dependence upon men and poor socio-economic status of women had the impact on occupation and became professionalized over 19th and 20th century. According to Jannake, “Female labour force participation is the classic income effect, while raising the male education and income; reduce the labour supply of married women”. In terms of labour supply model, “The higher the incomes of your spouse reduce the value of earning additional income yourself”. So that's the reason women are involved in paid household work or unorganised labour force. Mau Nath bhanjan city is the cluster of weaving.it comes under household industry in Uttar Pradesh. Table 2: Total hours women spend on household chores

Table 7: Female total hours spend in household chores

Total hours	Women(in per cent)
1-3	36.8
4-6	25.7
7-9	21.5
10 & above	16.3

Source: Based on field survey, 2015

Impact on health of Female labour

This paper also highlights various issues in relation to the workload of women in Mau city and its impact on health. The determining factors in women's workload and working hours are described above. How women are subjected to different health stresses owing to their continuous working roles has been examined under three dimension; general diseases of females, and other diseases specially faced by females faced due to continuous weaving. The interaction of women's workload and health is complex and found variations in the socio-economic conditions, which cause they work long hours on loom. There is a critical need to examine the existing problems and diseases faced by women due to weaving. Different types of diseases identify in Mau

city, for example: Asthma, T.B, Respiratory, Backbone problem, Headache, skin diseases, eye sight related problems etc.

Table 8: Name of the Diseases among female worker caused by different nature of work

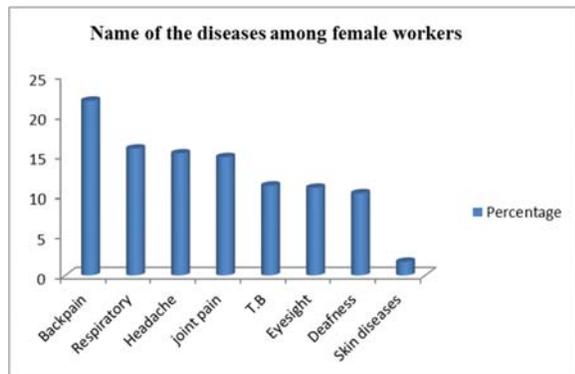
Name of Disease	Nature Of Work
Back pain	Weaving
Skin Disease	Colour of threads
Joint pain	Spinning
Respiratory	Thread dust
T.B	Weaving
Headache	Weaving
Deafness	Noise pollution
Eyesight	Cutting

Table 9: Name of the Diseases among female worker caused by different nature of work

Name of Disease	Per cent
Back pain	21.1
Respiratory	15.78
Headache	15.2
joint pain	14.73
T.B	11.17
Eye sight	10.9
Deafness	10.2
Skin Disease	1.7
Total	100%

Source: Based on field survey, 2015

According to sampled data, table 8 and 9 shows the nature of work and effective diseases. Total survey data is 380 women, among them 21.1% of the females suffering from backbone pain, due to continuous work on loom.15.78 % of the females having respiratory diseases due to dusting of threads at the time of weaving.15.2% of the females having continuous headache.14.73 female weavers suffering from joint pain, due to continuous standing in weaving. Approximately 10.2% of the weaver suffered deafness caused by excessive noise pollution. 11.17 % of the female weaver suffers from Tuberculosis due to their bad habits like chewing Pan and other and irregular care of health and 4.7 % females suffer from skin diseases due to used chemical in threads. After the analysis found that the above diseases among female weavers discussed is depend on nature of the work (Figure 5).



Source: Based on field survey

Conclusion

The overall analysis of the study reveals that however, the participation of the female worker has increased in power

loom sectors significantly over previous year. Yet, they are still the victims of discrimination in terms of low wages and burden of the work. Moreover, they are least able to spare sufficient time for their domestic work, amusements and recreation on account of their long hours engagement in power loom works. The study clearly depicts that women are not paid equal wages for their equal work. The poorly paid wages, heavy burden of work have adversely affected their health. While for the equal contribution to the socio-economic development of country, women should have sound health. But due to insufficient earnings, they are not able to take the adequate health care. Various types of power loom works have caused them many serious diseases to them as discussed above. Therefore, there is an urgent need to take the effective steps by policy makers to better the condition of women in power loom industry not only to improve their condition but also to make effective contribution to the society.

Suggestions

Some remedial measures to improve the working and health status of female workers have been suggested below:

- Various government schemes launched for the development of powerloom industry like: Comprehensive power loom cluster Development Scheme(CPCDS), Modified comprehensive power loom cluster development scheme, Intregated scheme for power loom sector, development scheme, Group Insurance Scheme (GIS), Textile workers fund rehabilitation fund scheme(TWRFS) should be implemented vigorously.
- They should be awarded of article 39 (d) which is about equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- The policies including the objectives of equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public offices etc. should be adapted by policy makers for the welfare of female workers.
- To encourage the participation of women in power loom, some favourable scheme may be launched for them. Facilities like wage parity, maternity benefit, shelters, crèches for the children (below 6 years of age) of workers, water and sanitation facilities at the work place, transport services, security, etc. should be provided.
- Excluding the fair wages, female workers should be provided the monetary support by the power loom sectors so that they may be able to take the immediate and sufficient medical treatment.

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