

Textile Industry Issues in the Rabakawi Banhati Urban Area

Praseejay Khaydarov¹, Abdul Vahab²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Karnataka Science College, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

²Professor and Research Guide, Department of Geography, Karnataka Science College, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

Abstract: *Indian handloom/ weaving sectors are ancient and have served the economy well in terms of employment. In India weaving industry is one of the largest cottage industries spread across the country. This sector is considered as significant from the point of view of its size and employment potential. However, in recent years the growth of handloom/weaving industry has been facing many problems due to variety of factors, such as mismatch between cloth production and marketing needs, availability of good quality yarn, govt. intervention in yarn supply, financial support, competition from other countries and lack of information etc. Rabkavi-Banhatti urban region is known for its flourishing famous handloom industry in Karnataka state. However these industries are also not free from problems. These industries have been facing some peculiar acute problems. It is in this context the researchers have chosen the Rabkavi-Banhatti twin urban region with an objective to study the problems of weaving industries. The Rabakavi-Banhatti urban region has the population size of 77004 persons (2011 census) with a total geographical area of 12.5 Sq. K. M. The researchers have made an attempt to trace-out the problems faced by the weaving industries of this area.*

Keywords: Weaving Industry, Textiles, Spinning Mill

1. Introduction

The Indian textile industry is one of the largest in the world with a massive raw material and manufacturing base. After the agriculture sector the base of our economy is largely dependent on the textile manufacturing and trade in addition to other major industries. This industry is poised to meet the increased global competition in the post 2005 trade regime under the “World Trade Organization.”

The history of textile industry is almost as old as that of human civilization. The Indian textile industry is nearly 195 years old, with the first mill on modern lines having been set up in 1817. It accounts for 14% of the total industrial production and contributes to nearly 30% of the total exports. It is the second largest employment generator after agriculture. This industry has the potential of generating a large number of employment opportunities. Hence we cannot overlook the importance of textile industry in the economy of India

In the textile industry we have three major sectors i. e. spinning, weaving and processing. The textile industry is divided into the organized mill sector and unorganized decentralized sector. In the organized sector, spinning, weaving and processing activities carried out under one roof. On the other hand decentralized sector has been found engaged mainly in weaving activity, which makes it heavily dependent on the organized sector for yarn requirement.

Indian weaving industry has traditionally seen one of Indian's thriving sectors of mass employment. Abundant materials and unlimited supply of cheap labour has contributed to its success. Due to international trade, liberalization and domestic economic reforms there has been a major impact on the Indian weaving industry. The weaving sectors have been identified as one of the poorest technological links in the value chain. What makes the problem more serious is that both the powerloom and

handlooms which are accounting for production of 76% of fabric needs, is marked by an overabundance.

Rabkavi-Banhatti urban region in Bagalkot district popularly known as the Manchester of North-Karnataka. It is one of the important industrial towns. In 1904 the first power loom unit was started in decentralized sector in Rabkavi by importing 4 powerlooms from England. First powerloom unit was started in the name and style “Kokkalaki Weaving Factory.” Thus Rabkavi-Banhatti has given new concept and dimension to textiles in North Karnataka by setting up powerloom units etc. Many powerloom units were set-up under sole proprietorship and partnership in Rabkavi and Banhatti towns. Many weavers slowly shifted from handlooms to powerlooms. Thus, decentralized powerloom industry in Rabkavi-Banhatti gained momentum.

The twin urban centres witnessed slow growth of powerloom units in 1950. However powerloom industry took off in 1960s and thereafter during 60s and 70s large numbers of powerloom units were set-up in Rabakavi-Banhatti. These powerloom units were engaged mainly in production of cotton sarees using combed yarn, carded yarn art silk etc. Dyed cotton yarn of 60 counts and 80 counts are mainly used for production of cotton sarees. It is the forefront in each type of weaving phenomena in Banahatti Co-operative Spinning Mill Ltd.

Weaving industry is one of the important economic sectors in India. The weaving industries have been spread both in urban and rural areas and have given employment to a large number of people. The weaving industry colouring, spindling, saree weaving, marketing etc.

Rabakavi-Banhatti is a important centre of weaving industries. There are as many as 15, 018 weaving industries functioning since last many decades. These industries which have a great economic importance are now the threat of acute problems. Hence in order to trace-out these problems,

the researchers have chosen this problem for an indepth analysis. But since 10 years Rabkavi-Banhatti textile industries facing many problems which is leads to minimize the production and development of textile industries.

Selection of the Problem and Its Relevance:

The research is aimed at to study the problems of weaving sector in Rabkavi-Banhatti urban region. It was started in 1984 with the objective of the production of yarn. It was initiated with 15080 spindles. With the onset of globalization in 1991, many changes are taking place in the textile industry especially I the weaving sectors. The global market has become an overwhelming incentive for new investments. The main purpose of this research study is to highlight the problems faced by weaving sectors in Rabkavi-Banhatti urban region.

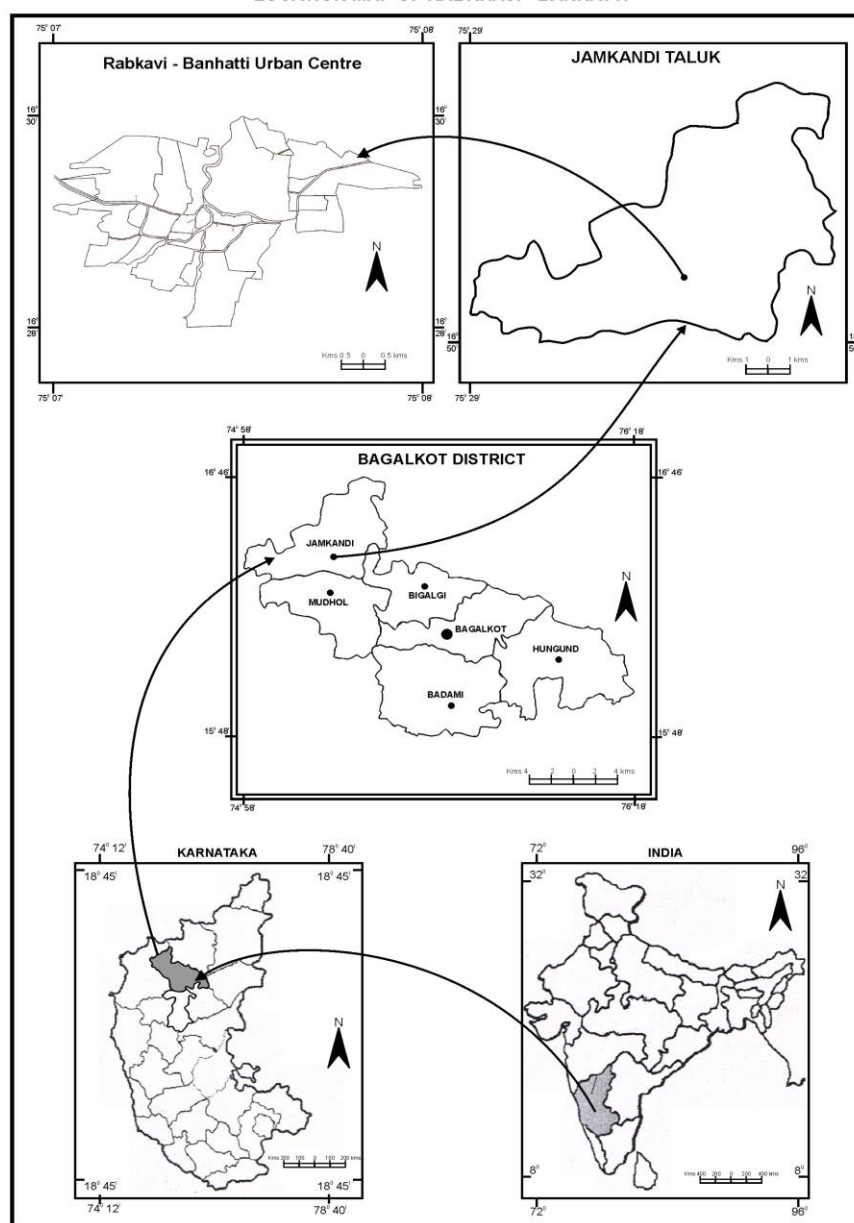
Selection of the study area:

Rabkavi-Banhatti town is one of the important towns in the Bagalkot District. It is a commercial centre. This twin urban

centre is located at the intersection of 75 07'20" East longitude and 16 28'57" North latitude and at 578 meters above M. S. L. The Jamkhandi-Kudachi state highway passes through the twin urban centres. This urban centre is 100 Km. away from Bagalkot district Head quarter and district 80 Km. away from Bijapur city.

Rabkavi-Banhatti town is situated on land having gentle slope in North to South direction and surrounded by Hillocks on three sides except south side. The town has been developed on either side of Jamkhandi-Kudachi Road and Mahalingpur Road. The commercial activities are also concentrated in the middle of the town. The soil surface is composed by granite boulders and black soil. It is known for growing and trading cotton. The Powerlooms, Handlooms and agricultural products are the characteristic features of this region and thus these are the main driving forces behind the development of this urban region.

LOCATION MAP OF RABKHAVI - BANHATTI



Objective of the study:

The study is a modest attempt to focus the problem faced by weaving sector of Rabkavi-Banhatti twin urban region. Hence the objective of the study is to highlight the problems faced by the weavers in Rabkavi-Banahatti area along with the analysis of yarn production and supply.

2. Data Base and Methodology

The data based upon the primary information on textile industries and towns development has been collected by interviewing the local people and the concerned authorities. The secondary data has been collected from various Government and semi-government departments. The data has been analyzed with the help of simple Statistical methods, such as charts, graphs and maps etc.

Identification of problems of weaving industry:**1) Old Technology**

The majority of the small /medium weaving enterprises are all tiny and cottage units with insufficient capital backup. Most of the looms are plain looms with good old technology. Even today all the power looms with outdated technology since 50 years, have been functioning properly. Owners of the Powerloom units are aware of stateless looms like water jet looms, air jet looms etc. But they are not capable of investing 3 to 4 lakhs per power loom. Hence they have no other way but to use powerlooms with outdated technology. Hence, powerloom owners have failed in taking the advantages of technological innovations and advancement taken place in the field of textile industry especially in textile looms. The most serious problem is the lack of adequate technological upgradation.

2) Lack of Government Facilities:

Processing as far as facilities are concerned there is over-dependence on hand processors and traditional items. The demand pattern is observed to be seasonal with no support from the government. No subsidies are granted to the sector from the state. For example Credit Linked Capital Subsidy, Interest Subsidy, Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Capacity Building support for Marketing, Branding & Products diversification, Skill Up-gradation, Textile parks etc. The weaving industry sector is suffering due to these reasons also.

3) Tough Competition:

Indian's weaving industries have been facing the tough competition from large scale cotton textile industries,

synthetic fibres and from products of other countries. Similarly the weaving industries in Rabkavi-Banhatti urban region have been same facing the problems. It is also observable that there is an increasing demand for synthetic fibres for manufacturing of sarees in Rabkavi-Banhatti urban region.

4) Sick Mills:

Due to the low wages the labourers are losing interest in weaving activities. As a result the weavers are diverted themselves to engage in other such as agricultural activities, business and in local factories etc. Due to this most of the weaving machines/ powerlooms stop functioning for sometime. This ultimately results in sticking and jamming of weaving machines/powerlooms. This is how the said machine become sick and unproductive.

5) Seasonal Shift of Labours:

It is found that the labourers working in weaving industries of Rabkavi-Banhatti twin urban centres are obviously skilled, but they are paid very less wages. As a result of this these labourers shift to work in agricultural fields seasonally as and when there is a greater demand for labourers with considerably high wages. Consequently the weaving industries occasionally suffer for non-availability of labourers which results in low level production.

6) Problem of yarn supply:

It is mainly observed that last few years the supply of yarn is minimizing due to the low demand of cotton cloth and lack of cotton raw materials. As a result of this since from 2007-2008 to 2016-2017 Yarn Production and its supply are both decrease.

Table 1: Yarn Production and Supply in Rabkavi – Banahatti.

Year	Yarn Production in Kg	Yarn Supply in Kg
2007-08	1639735	1597607
2008-09	1649203	1542028
2009-10	1040834	1161673
2010-11	787556	749696
2011-12	565081	616800
2012-13	764570	709044
2013-14	778876	747336
2014-15	725185	654488
2015-16	856734	652291
2016-17	729461	814136

Source: Annual Report of Rabkavi Banahatti Co-Operative Spinning Mill Ltd 2016-2017

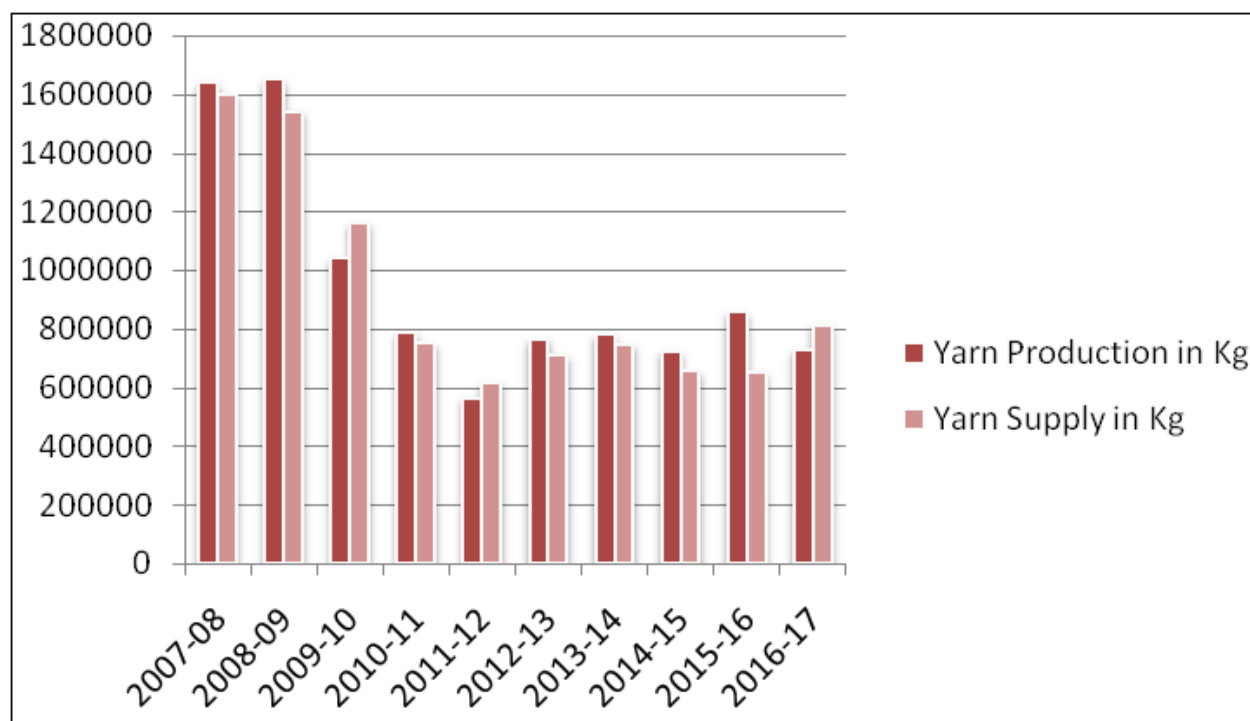


Table No.1 depicts the production of yarn and its supply during a span of 10 years from 2007-08 to 2016-17. From the table it is quite evident that the production of yarn has been continuously decreased from 16, 39, 735 kg in 2007-08 to 7, 29, 461Kg in 2016-17 except some slight fluctuations. During 2011-12 the yarn production has reached minimum to 56, 5081Kg but in 2012-13 it is again slightly increased to 7, 64, 570 Kg. The successive years from 2013-14 to 2016-17 the production of yarn has experienced slightly fluctuations. Due to decreasing trend in yarn production the corresponding supply of yarn has also been reduced in varying degree from year to year. The decreasing trend in yarn production and supply shows the decreasing production of finished items sarees.

- **Lack of quality raw materials**

The Banahatti co-operative spinning mills Ltd. Purchases the raw materials from different states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in addition to Karnataka. The local cotton dealers supply raw materials to the mill i.e. Jamakhandi, Mudhol, Saudatti, Bailahongal, Dharawad, Naragunda, Hirekerur etc. Therefore more investment should be put for raw materials and transportation.

- **Deficiency of Labours Training programme:**

Banhatti Co-operative Spinning Mill Ltd. (BCSM) conducts both on the job and off the job methods of training program. Some of the off the job techniques are classroom method, problem solving method and stimulation method. In this way performance appraisal is very helpful to improve the skills of the employees. Here training facilities are directly or indirectly helpful to employees but some minor problems are occurred, they are: The DA, TA & Bonus were not linked to the training programmers. The workers may not be interested in attending these programmes. Unskilled labours do not show the keen interest in such literary training programmes.

Others Problems

Apart from this, no recognition of national level, lack of competitiveness, decreasing area and production in cotton cultivation and production, acute competition in cotton yarn trade, changes in the consumer's interest and fashion trend and strict pollution norm like zero percent has been imposed. Market facilities are also observed as inadequate. Power supply to most cotton textile mills is erratic and inadequate which adversely affects the production. Lack of provisions for better wages and facilities are major problem in Rabkavi-Banhatti urban region. Labour productivity in Rabakavi-Banhatti urban region is extremely low as compared to some of the developed region of textile industries. Some skilled labours like Zabers are not always available to get the machinery repaired. The number of these Zabers is also every much limited. Hence, the industrial owners go for in search of these Zabers as and when their services are very much needed. The life style of these Zabers is also very peculiar.

3. Conclusions

- 1) Usually the majority of the unit owners have not been receiving subsidies from the government.
- 2) To boost the weaving sectors in Rabkavi-Banhatti area, Banks should come forward to grant loans. And also the government should give adequate subsidies in order to solve the financial difficulties of the weaving units.
- 3) There should be a technological upgradation in powerlooms in order to compete with the growing demand of cloth in the domestic and international market.
- 4) In order to manufacture the masarie cloth feasibly, there should be also cut in the power tariff. The foreign exchange fluctuations which also have an impact on the textile sector needs to be considered. The pollution norms need to be revised.

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