

Survive, Sustain And Succeed During Subsistence Crises- A Cluster Study Of Buddhist Handloom Weavers' Of Odisha

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Abstract

1. Introduction: Like Foods and Shelters, clothes are the most important primary elements of human life. The clothes or handloom products identify the look of civilized human society. The Buddhist handloom weavers are those weavers who are the followers of Buddhism as well as the weavers of different kinds of handloom products. These handloom products are primarily used for the Buddhist monk in the period of Lord Buddha. Since that time production of handloom products are the lifeline of the Buddhist Weavers' and provide permanent employment to them. There are various types of raw materials required for the production of handloom products which are imported from the different parts of the state as well as the country. During Subsistencecrises period like lockdown due to COVID-19, these inputs are scarce and not at easy reach for the process of production. In the other hand, during thecrises period, handloom products could not get marketed by the weavers and hence money is not circulated for smooth sailing of theircost of living. In both the aspects, Buddhist handloom weavers are not getting their earnings for theirfinancial need and hence, it is difficult for them to survive and sustain.

2. Research Gap: No remarkable studies have been conducted on survival, sustenance and succeed of the Buddhist handloom weavers during subsistence crises in the study area i.e. in the Cuttack District.

3. Objective: This is an attempt to study the Survive, Sustain and Succeed scenario of Buddhist handloom weavers of Odishaduring subsistence Crises.

4. Research Methodology:

4.1. Nature and Sources of Data (with Sample Size): The study is based on primary data. The primary data have been collected through well design questionnaire and indirect interviews. The sample data consists of 100 Buddhist handloom weavers' respondents.

4.2. Tools of Analysis: There are various tools like percentage calculations; valid percentage calculation, chi-square test, correlation have been used for analysis and interpretation of results.

5. Conclusions: The present study concluded that it is very difficult to survive, sustain and succeed during for the Buddhist handloom weavers' during subsistence crises like COVID-19 without govt. support.

Key Words: Buddhist handloom weavers, Survive, Sustain, Succeed, COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION:

The History is ignorant of the Buddha having set foot in the land of Odisha. But his kindhearted scratch is permanently tangled with the legacy of this soil. In time, in the struggle for religious dominance, Buddhism lost out along with Buddhist motifs in the handloom products and was consigned to the margins. There is supposed to be a lingering presence of 1,20,000 followers of the faith in Odisha, confined to seventeen settlements, predominantly with weaving as a way of life.

According to the legend, the Sarakas (Present Buddhists of Cuttack District) arrived in the court of Prataprudra Deva (Sterling 1904:80-81) (1490-1538) in his twenty-eighth regnal year i.e. 1518 CE. They belonged to an ancient guild of weavers and came to Odisha from the Nandi village of Vardhaman. Now a day's these Buddhists weavers reside in the following areas of Odisha, Athagarh, Nuapatna of Tigiria Block, Maniabandha of Badmba Block, Mahammadpur of Nischintakoili Block, Ragadi of Banki Block in Cuttack district. As per National Handloom Census 2009-10, there total no of Buddhist handloom households are 850 which constitute only rural households. It indicate that most of the Buddhist Households belongs to rural/village area.

Food, Clothes and Shelter are the most important primary elements of human life. The clothes or handloom products are the identity of the civilized human society. The Foods and shelters are compounded through handloom clothes by the Buddhist Handloom Weavers. The Buddhist handloom weavers are the followers of Buddhism as well as of the different kinds of handloom products. These handloom products were primarily used for the Buddhist monk in the period of Lord Buddha. Since that time production of handloom products are the lifeline of the Buddhist Weavers' and provide permanent employment to them.

There are various types of raw materials required for the production of handloom products which are imported from the different parts of the state as well as the country. During Subsistencecrises period like lockdown due to COVID-19, these inputs are not available for the production. In the other hand, during this crises period, handloom products could not get marketed by the weavers and hence cannot get money for their cost of living. In both the aspects, Buddhist handloom weavers are not getting their earnings for their cost of

living and hence it is difficult for them to survive and sustain. So, there is no scope at all to succeed during this COVID-19.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

There are good number of researches have been conducted by various researcher, academicians, and research institutions and also by some professional bodies on handloom industry. Some selected research works are portrayed as follows:

Devi, K. K. (2007) focused the problems and prospects of women handloom weavers, their socio-economic profile, economic and political empowerment of women handloom weavers. Due to inadequate profits women handloom weavers are not interested to strive in this profession. There are also socio-cultural barriers in their economic and political empowerment.

Ramadevi (2010) studied the prospective of women empowerment in different area like social, economic and political activities. Ramadevi assessed the socio-economic empowerment of handloom women weavers. Ramadevi also reviewed the problems and prospects of women handloom weavers. Ramadevi concluded that socio-economic conditions of women are not improved in many aspects. Ramadevi suggested that there is need to create congenial environment and conditions for women to develop in the modern world because women empowerment is an important aspect in the recent developed World.

Chauley, M (2013) studied about the Stupas and Votive Stupas in Odisha and also up to some extent Buddhist Weavers of Odisha. Chauley concluded that Buddhism is believed to have been known to the people of Odisha from the life time of Buddha itself i.e. sixth century BCE and continued with or without royal patronage up to its decline in the sixteenth century CE and subsequently survived under disguise or getting assimilated in to the fold of Brahmanical Hinduism (Vaishnavism) in an incipient form.

Das, C. B., (2016) considered the causes of finance and accounting outsourcing in manufacturing unit in Odisha. Das concluded that the problems of outsourcing are from outsider factors impact.

Shamitha and Balasubramanian (2017) studied the problems of handloom society and the socio economic condition of handloom weavers. They concluded that the schemes and programmes may be in workable condition a group effort should be needed, that will highlight production process, ability of the handloom sector and productivity procedure and also increase the earnings and life style of weavers.

FICCI Ladies Organisation (2019) in its paper "Indian Handloom Industry – Position Paper" it studied the handloom industry in India has a long tradition of excellent craftsmanship, representing and preserving the vibrant Indian culture. It concluded that Indian artists are now distinguished worldwide for their hand spinning, weaving and printing elegance.

RESEARCH GAP

Till now, a good number of studies have been conducted in this area to evaluate the problems, prospects, schemes and assistance of the government in terms of subsidies and support agencies in promoting and developing handloom industry among weaker sections of the society in India. No remarkable studies have been conducted on survive, sustain and succeed of the Buddhist handloom weavers during subsistence crises in the study area i.e. in the Cuttack District.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To analyze the socio-economic conditions of sample Buddhist handloom weavers during subsistence crises like COVID-19.
2. To assess the situations regarding survive, sustain and succeed of Buddhist handloom weavers during subsistence crises like COVID-19.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

i) **Nature of Data:** The study is based on primary data.

ii) **Tools used for Data Collection:** A well designed questionnaire and indirect interviews methods have been used to collect the primary data.

iii) **Sample Size:** The sample data consists of 100 Buddhist handloom weavers' respondents.

iv) **Period of Sample Collection:** The sample data have been collected during March-May 2020 from Cuttack District.

v) **Tools of Analysis:** There are various tools like percentage calculations; valid percentage calculation, chi-square test, correlation have been used for analysis and interpretation of results.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS:

1. There is a significant relationship between the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers' in the study area during subsistence crises like COVID-19.
2. There is a significant relationship between the conditions regarding survive, Sustain and Succeed of Buddhist weavers' and Subsistence crises like COVID-19.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The sample size consists of 100 Buddhist handloom weavers (Shown in table no.1) selected randomly from the Maniabandha (Badamba Block), Nuapatana (Tigiria Block), Ragadi (Banki Block) and Mahammadpur (Nischintakoili Block)of Cuttack district of Odisha.

Table No 1: Profile of Sample Handloom Weavers

Profile	No. of Respondents	% to Total	Valid %	Test Statistics	Profile	No. of Respondents	% to Total	Valid %	Test Statistics
Location				$\chi^2=100$ P= 3.814 df=1	Gender				$\chi^2=2.56$ P= 3.814 df=1
Rural	100	100	100		Male	58	58	58	
Semi-Rural	0	0	0		Female	42	42	42	
Age				$\chi^2=3.5$ P= 5.991 df=2	Education				$\chi^2=78.26$ P= 5.991 df=2
Upto 25	25	25	25		Upto Matriculation	75	75	75	
26-40	35	35	35		Matric to Secondary	11	11	11	
Above 40	40	40	40	Above Secondary	14	14	14	df=2	
No of Looms				$\chi^2=45.14$ P= 5.991 d.f.=2	No. of Years Experience				$\chi^2=6.62$ P= 5.991 df=2
Upto 2	65	65	65		Upto 20 Years	33	33	33	
2 to 3	17	17	17		20-30 years	44	44	44	
Above 3	18	18	18	Above 30	23	23	23	df=2	
Amount of Capital Invested				$\chi^2=67.34$ P= 5.991 df=2	Amount of Working Capital				$\chi^2=3.02$ P= 5.991 df=2
Upto Rs. 20000	72	72	72		Upto 5000	32	32	32	
Rs. 20000 to Rs. 30000	13	13	13		Rs 5000 to Rs 7000	41	41	41	
Rs. 20000 to Rs. 30000	15	15	15	Above 7000	27	27	27	df=2	
Sources of Capital				$\chi^2=54.32$ P= 5.991 df=2	Amount of Sales				$\chi^2=40.46$ P= 5.991 df=2
Owned	36	36	36		Local Market	39	39	39	
Money lender	62	62	62		Within state	56	56	56	
Bank	2	2	2	outside state	5	5	5	df=2	
Net Profit P.a.				$\chi^2=26.42$ P= 5.991 df=2	Quantity Of Raw Material Purchases				$\chi^2=52.82$ P= 5.991 df=2
Upto 5000	57	57	57		Upto Rs. 10000	67	67	67	
5000 to 10000	26	26	26		Rs. 10000 to 20000	22	22	22	
Above 10000	17	17	17	Above 30000	11	11	11	df=2	
Sample	100	100	100		Sample	100	100	100	

(Source: Collected and compiled from Field Study)

The table no. 1 shows that out of 100 weavers most of the handlooms weavers i.e., 100% are from rural area and not a single person belongs to semi-rural area. So, it is village based industry or operated in rural area. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between rural and semi-rural handloom weavers has rejected and so, there is a significant difference between rural and semi-rural handloom weavers. Out of 100 respondents 58% are male whereas 42% are female. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis

there is no difference between male and female handloom weavers has accepted as the calculated value less than the tabulated value and so, there is no significant difference between male and female handloom weavers.

Out of 100 respondents 75 are under matriculate, 11 are under HSE, and 14 members are under graduate. So, these figure shows that handloom weavers are less educated/ illiterate. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between educated and uneducated handloom weavers has rejected and so, there is a significant difference between educated and uneducated handloom weavers.

Out of 100 weavers 25 respondents belong to 26-40 age groups, 35weavers belong to up to 25 age group and rest 40 weavers belong to above 40 age groups. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is difference between aged and young handloom weavers has accepted as the calculated value less than the tabulated value and so, there is no significant difference between aged and young handloom weavers.

Out of 100 respondents 33 have below 20 years experiences, 44 respondents have 20-30 years' experience, and 23 respondents have above 30 years' experience. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between experienced and inexperienced handloom weavers has rejected and so, there is a significant difference between experienced and inexperienced handloom weavers. So, it shows that most of handloom weavers are experienced holders.

Out of 100 weavers 65 weavers have 2 looms where 17 have 2-3 looms and 18 respondents have above 3 looms. So, it is evident that most of the weavers have limited looms to make handloom products. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between inadequate loom possessed and adequate loom possessed by handloom weavers has rejected and so, there is a significant difference between inadequate loom possessed and adequate loom possessed by handloom weavers.

Out of 100 weavers 72 weavers have investment only Rs. 20,000/- , 13 weavers have investment Rs. 20,000/- to 30,000/- and 15 weavers have above Rs. 30,000/- as capital investment. It shows that most of weavers have shortage of fixed capital to invest in their venture. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between inadequate capital investment and adequate capital investment by handloom weavers has rejected and so, there is a significant difference between inadequate capital investment and adequate capital investment by handloom weavers.

Out of 100 weavers 62 weavers have raised capital from money lender as loan to their capital investment 36 have owned capital and only 02 weavers are aware about bank loan and they lend money from bank for their capital investment. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between capital raising from bank and capital raising from money lender by handloom weavers has rejected and so, there is a significant difference between capital raising from bank and capital raising from money lender by handloom weavers.

Out of 100 weavers 32 weavers have within Rs. 5,000/- working capital to invest, 41 weavers have Rs. 5,000/- to 10,000/- working capital to investment and only 27 weavers have above Rs. 10,000/- working capital investment for their running of day to day running of looming works. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between inadequate working capital investment and adequate working capital investment by handloom weavers has accepted as the calculated value is less than the tabulated value and so, there is no significant difference between inadequate capital investment and adequate capital investment by handloom weavers.

Out of 100 respondents 56 weavers are selling their products within the state, 39 in the local market and only 5 weavers are selling their products outside the state. The test statistics χ^2 show that null hypothesis there is no difference between selling of product within state market and selling of product within local market by handloom weavers has rejected and so, there is a significant difference between selling of product within state market and selling of product within local market by handloom weavers.

Out of 100 respondents 57 have below Rs. 5000/- net profit, 26 respondents have between Rs. 5000/- to 7000/- net profit p.a. and only 17 respondents have above 7000/- net profit pa. So, these figure shows that the weavers are belongs to economically backward classes in the country. The test statistics χ^2 shows there is no significant difference between net profits earned by different handloom weavers being null hypothesis is rejected and so, there is significant difference between net profits earned by different handloom weavers in the sample area.

Out of 100 respondents 67 have purchasing raw material up to Rs. 10,000/-, 22 respondents have purchasing raw material between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- and only 11 respondents have purchasing raw material above 20,000/-. So, these figure shows that the weavers have shortage of funds for purchasing raw material and are belongs to economically backward classes in the country. The test statistics χ^2 shows there is no significant difference between amounts of raw material purchased by different handloom weavers being null hypothesis is rejected and so, there is significant difference between amounts of raw material purchased by different handloom weavers in the sample area.

TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS:

Hypothesis 1:

H₀: There is a significant relationship between the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers’ in the study area during subsistence crises like COVID-19.

H₁: There is no significant relationship between the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers’ in the study area during subsistence crises like COVID-19.

Table No. 2: Data for Hypothesis 1 arranged in 2x2 Contingency Table

Standard of Living	Social Conditions	Economic Conditions	Total
Good	42	22	64
Poor	58	78	136
Total	100	100	200

(Source: Collected and compiled from field study)

The table no. 2 shows the collected hypothesis data arranged in 2x2 Contingency Table.

Table No. 3: Calculation of Expected Frequencies

32	32	64
68	68	136
100	100	200

(Source: Author’s Calculation on the basis of field study)

This table no. 3 shows the Calculation of Expected Frequencies on the basis of Table No. 2.

Table No. 4: Computation of Chi-Square (χ^2)

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
41	34.5	6.5	42.25	1.22464
28	34.5	-6.5	42.25	1.22464
59	65.5	-6.5	42.25	0.64504
72	65.5	6.5	42.25	0.64504
200	200	0		3.73935

(Source: Author’s Calculation on the basis of field study)

The above table no 4 shows that the calculated value of $\chi^2 = 3.74$ (approx), and the degree of freedom is given by

$$\text{Degree of Freedom (d.f)} = (2-1)(2-1) = 1$$

Thus, with reference to the 1 degree of freedom at 5% level of significance, the critical value of the χ^2 is obtained at $\chi^2_{0.05} = 3.841$.

Decision:

A comparison between the calculated value i.e. 3.74 and the critical value i.e. 3.841 of the χ^2 reveals that the calculated value of χ^2 is less than its critical value. Hence decision is that **Accept H₀** i.e. there is a significant relationship between the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers’ in the study area during subsistence crises like COVID-19. and **Reject H₁** i.e. there is no significant relationship between the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers’ in the study area during subsistence crises like COVID-19. Thus, the research hypothesis concluded that there is significant relationships between the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers’ in the study area during subsistence crises like COVID-19. So, it may concluded that subsistence crises i.e. COVID-19 negatively affects to the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers’ in the study area.

Hypothesis 2:

H₀: There is a significant relationship between the conditions regarding survive, Sustain and Succeed of Buddhist weavers’ and Subsistence crises like COVID-19.

H₁: There is no significant relationship between the conditions regarding survive, Sustain and Succeed of Buddhist weavers’ and Subsistence crises like COVID-19.

Table No. 5: Data for Hypothesis 2

Difficulties faced by the weavers due to COVID-19	No of weavers affected	No of weavers not affected
Non-availability of raw materials/inputs	95	5
No Scope for Marketing for their products	98	2

Absence of Cost Living	97	3
No Govt. schemes for the weavers like Farmer	99	1
Total	389	11

(Source: Collected and compiled from field study)

The table no. 5 shows the data collected and compiled from field study for Hypothesis 2.

Table No. 6: Computation of Correlation for Hypothesis 2

	No of weavers affected	No of weavers not affected
No of weavers affected	1	
No of weavers not affected	-1	1

(Source: Author’s Calculation on the basis of field study)

The table no. 6 shows that the Correlation between No. of weavers affected and no of weavers not affected by different problems due to COVID-19 is **-1** which shows the perfect negative correlation.

Decision on Hypothesis 2:

Hence the decision of 2nd research hypothesis is that **Accept H₀** i.e. There is a significant relationship between the conditions regarding survive, Sustain and Succeed of Buddhist weavers’ and Subsistence crises like COVID-19 and **Reject H₁** i.e. There is a significant relationship between the conditions regarding survive, Sustain and Succeed of Buddhist weavers’ and Subsistence crises like COVID-19. Thus, the research hypothesis concluded that the conditions regarding survive, Sustain and Succeed of Buddhist weavers’ during subsistence crises like COVID-19 significantly affect to them.

KEY FINDINGS:

- The subsistence crises i.e. COVID-19 negatively affects to the socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Buddhist Weavers’ in the study area.
- The conditions regarding survive, Sustain and Succeed of Buddhist weavers’ during subsistence crises like COVID-19 significantly affect to them.
- Non-availability of raw materials/inputs and No Scope for Marketing for their products lead to difficulties for incurring the Cost Living of them.
- It is very difficult to survive, sustain and succeed during for the Buddhist handloom weavers’ during subsistence crises like COVID-19 without govt. support.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Buddhist Handloom Weavers’ in the Study area are significantly incurring losses and also they are unable to earn minimum money for their cost of living. The raw materials which are required for the production of handloom products are imported from the different parts of the state as well as the country. During this Subsistence crises period (like lockdown due to COVID-19), these inputs are not available for the production. In the other way, during this subsistence crises period, handloom products could not get marketed by the weavers and hence they are unable to get money for their cost of living. So, it may conclude that Buddhist handloom weavers are not getting their earnings for their cost of living in the study area and hence it is difficult for them to survive and sustain without any govt. support till the end of COVID-19 and lockdown period.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ❖ Handloom Weavers are required to use the techniques of new products combinations as per the Market Demand.
- ❖ Handloom Weavers may use the techniques of product diversifications to adopt new products combinations.
- ❖ In case if it is required to develop new products, then new products development techniques should be adopted.
- ❖ Handloom Weavers are needed to bring innovations in terms of productions and marketing of handloom products.
- ❖ Handloom Weavers should use advanced technology in the process of production and should try to sell the products over virtual platform i.e. E-commerce particularly in this subsistence crisis i.e. COVID-19.
- ❖ Handloom Weavers are required to develop the cluster integration to take the benefits of strategic financial management.
- ❖ Government should assist the handloom weavers in terms of production, marketing, and also financial support which is very much required for the handloom Weavers during a subsistence crisis i.e. COVID-19.

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