

# A Case Study of the Socio-Economic Situation of Power Loom Workers with reference Malegaon City of Maharashtra

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## ABSTRACT

The power loom sector has a significant positive impact on India's economy. The workers who have been having problems for the past few years are mostly responsible for the power loom industry's success, but it also provides work for many of the people engaged in India's textile industry. As a result, their social and economic situation is getting worse. Examining the workers' current socioeconomic situation and outlining the reasons behind the textile industry in Malegaon are the main objectives of this article. Field surveys served as the investigation's methodology. There are 250 workers in total. The social and economic conditions of the labour are horrifying, according to studies. The power loom sector is extremely important to the Indian economy. Additionally, it supports the textile sector by adding jobs. Economic necessity is the main factor influencing the social and economic situation. To enhance the working conditions, it is urgently necessary to expand both government involvement and power union authorization.

**Keywords:** Malegaon city, socio-economic condition, power loom, Problems.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The power loom sector is one of the greatest employers in the country, both directly and indirectly. India is the sixth-largest exporter of clothes and textiles in the world. This country has the second-largest mill sector in the world, and it requires a lot of cash. The power loom industry in India produces a wide range of fabrics, including cotton, grey, patterned, and mixtures of cotton, synthetic, and other fibres. Power looms, one of the main contributors to the nation's textile industry, are used to make the majority of the textiles produced in India. Because the textile sector is a major contributor to India's economy, power looms are important.

In India, 58.4% of total textile production is produced on power looms. Maharashtra was the location as of April 2022. Maharashtra was the state with the highest concentration of power looms, accounting for 39% of all looms. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka are some of the other top generating states for power loom products in India. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Indian power loom industry, with a special emphasis on the power loom cluster. Decentralised power looms account for 60% of India's textile production, followed by handlooms (20%), knitting (15%), and organised industry (5%). The Indian textile industry depends heavily on the decentralised power loom sector.. Nearly 7 million people are employed by India's 19.42 lakh power looms, which produce about 19,000 million metres of cloth yearly. Today's textile industry produces a vast range of fabrics, including cotton, cotton blends, printed, coloured, and grey materials, among others. To countries like the United States, France, Germany, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Italy, etc., the nation exports goods worth Rs. 44,000,000,000. Although the power loom market first expanded slowly, it has recently started to accelerate. There are already roughly 50,000 shuttle-free looms, of which

35,000 are used in the decentralised sector. Most power loom facilities are found in rural or semi-urban settings. Maharashtra boasts an estimated 8 lakh power looms, which is the most in the entire world. Gujarat is in third place with 4 to 4.5 lakh units, followed by Tamilnadu in second with 5 lakh units.

## 2 REVIEW OF THE LITRATURE

1) Mrs. M. Vanitha & 2) Prof. C. Venkatachalam (2019) In Tamil Nadu there are some districts are very famous for power loom sector like Erode, Coimbatore, Karur, Salem and so on. The Jalakandapuram, Kattampatty, Savuriyur, Vanavasi, Vandimedu, all the areas very famous for power loom sector, most of the women in this area involved in the power loom work. This industry produces wide range of fabrics from printed fabric, dyed fabric, cotton fabric, grey, various mix of cotton, synthetic, and other kind of cloths. In this sector women also play a vital role. This sector not have separate working place, the living place and working place is same. The women laborers also work hard compare to men. Even though the laborers are face so many economic challenges in the family. They are not getting proper income.

2) Lalma Sawmi Renthlei (2019) In the present study, an analysis is done on the socio-economic profile of handloom weavers and problems of this industry in Zuangtui Handloom Cluster that lies at the outskirts of Aizawl City, Mizoram. This study is conducted on the basis of both primary and secondary data sources. It reveals that the condition of the weavers is weak due to financial constraints, health problem and poor Government support.

3) Dr. G. Prathap<sup>1</sup>, Prof. M. Chinnaswamy Naidu<sup>2</sup> (2015) The sector is beset with various problems, such as obsolete technology, haphazard production system, low productivity, inadequate working capital, conventional product range, weak marketing links, overall stagnation of production and sales and above all, competition from power looms and mill sector. There is no doubt that India's textiles constitute one of the costly sources of textile designs in the world, drawn upon increasingly by textile designers, product designers and craze designers from all nationalities. Predominantly Mahatma Gandhi recognized the significance of textile handicrafts during the struggle for independence. A notable aspect of Gandhi's views on this issue is that he emphasized not only handloom weaving but also spinning by hand. Gandhi emphasized hand spinning so much that the instrument for this the Charkha become a leading symbol of the freedom movement. Most of the handloom weavers are willing to live in a joint family system. The income and living standards of the handloom weavers are very poor.

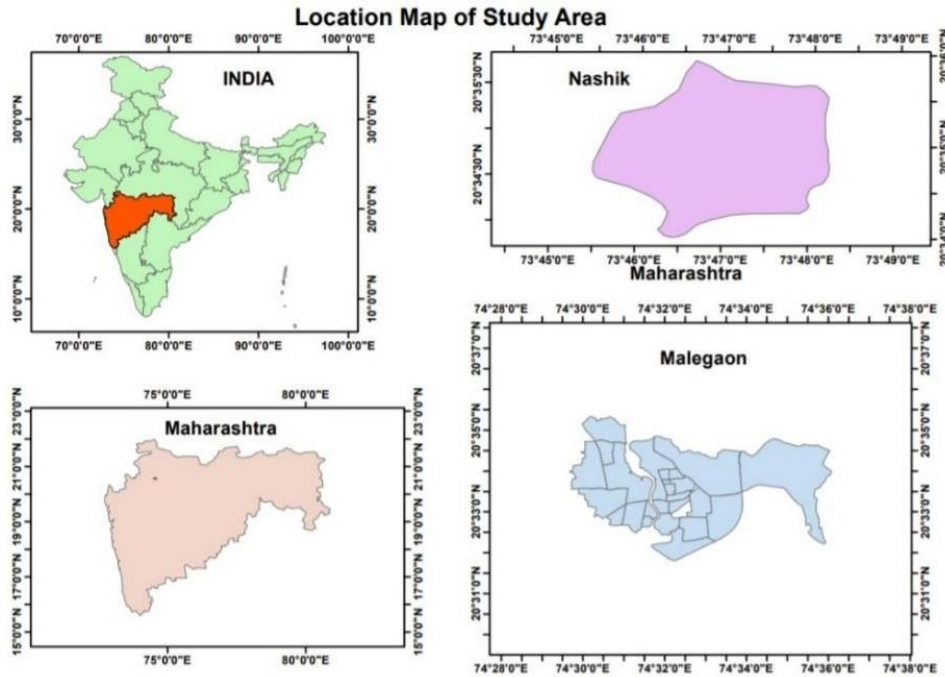
## 3. Objective

- To study the present socio economic status of these workers in Malegaon City.
- To examine the power loom workers' working environments in Malegaon City.

## 4. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The fundamental information on which this study is built. For primary research, weavers were questioned in-person and by self-observation. Observation and conversations with power loom workers served as the main sources of information for determining the actual state. Along with a number of male workers, I found that both male and female workers were winding power looms in various locations. The entire covered area of Malegaon City depends on the power loom business, thus I choose the conducive to researchers Dyaneshivar and Maldashir Wards. Which the researcher can easily access are the wards. I randomly choose about 80 worker households from different wards in the city of Malegaon within 02 wards. These wards were chosen using the researcher's informal network of contacts that she developed throughout her year as a resident there. 250 power loom workers were questioned within 80 homes. In-depth interviews with households that weave either full- or part-time are conducted for this study.

**5. SELECTION OF STUDY AREA:**



Malegaon city in the Maharashtra, India, located in the Nashik district was chosen by the researcher as the study area. The following characteristics have an influence on the unique Malegaon city for consideration as a study area.

Malegaon is a city and municipal corporation in the Nashik District of Maharashtra, India. Malegaon is located at 18.42°N 77.53°E, near the junction of the Girna and Mausam rivers, at a height of 438 metres (1437 feet). It is located 280 kilometres northeast of Mumbai, the state capital. Nashik, Manmad, Mumbai, and Dhule are all adjacent cities with strong connections. Malegaon is known as Maharashtra's Textile Hub. Malegaon is a key center for the weaving of textiles on early twentieth-century power looms. After 1935, the city entered a new age of power. Malegaon was a traditional Maharashtra handloom weaving centre.

**6. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

- Primary data

**6.1. Age Group**

S. No	Age Group	Noof Respondents	Percentage
1	15 to 25	44	17.6%
2	25 to 35	75	30.00%
3	35 to 45	92	36.8%
4	45 to 56	39	15.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 01**

According to the previous graph, 17.6% of respondents are between the ages of 15 and 25, while 30% of the total respondents are between the ages of 25 and 35. And 36.8 % of the total

respondents are between the age 35 and 45. Only 15.6% of respondents were older than 45 to 56, according to the data.

### 6.2. Educational Status

S. No	Educational Status	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Primary	120	48.00%
2	Higher Secondary	117	46.8%
3	UG/PG Degree	13	5.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 02**

All respondents are literate when it comes to the educational backgrounds of the weavers. 4.8% of respondents are in primary education, 46.8% are in higher education, and only 5.2% are graduates.

### 6.3. Type of Family

S. No	Type of Family	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Joint Family	92	36.8%
2	Nuclear Family	136	54.4%
3	other	22	8.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 03**

According to the aforementioned statistics, 54.4% of workers were in nuclear families, 36.8% were in joint families, and 8.8% have moved to another location.

### 6.4. Working Experience:

S. No	Year of Experience	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	05 to 10	29	11.6%
2	10 to 15	44	17.6%
3	15 to 20	82	32.8%
4	20 to 30	95	38.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 04**

Regarding the number of years spent weaving, 11.6% of weavers have experience 5 to 10 years; 17.6% have experience from 10 to 15 years; 32.8% have experience from 15 to 20 years; and 38% have experience from more than 30 years.

### 6.5. Working Hours:

S. No	Working Hours	No of Respondents	Percentage
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1	6 to 8	64	25.6%
2	8 to10	88	35.2%
3	10 to 12	98	39.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 05**

It is evident from Table 05 that 39.2% of workers put in a 10 to 12-hour shift perday. 35.2% of the workforce puts in 8 to 10 hours every shift. Only 25.6% of the workforce works an6 to 8-hour shift. Alternate. In addition, the survey found thatpower loom weavers employed by a plant in Malegaon City work without a set weekly holiday.

**6.6. Monthly Income of the Respondents**

S. No	Monthly income	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Up to 10000	92	36.8%
2	10000 to 15000	78	31.2%
3	15000 to 20000	68	27.2%
4	Above 20000	12	4.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 06**

According to the aforementioned statistics, around 36.8% of people have monthly incomes of up to Rs. 10000, 31.2% earn between Rs. 10000 and Rs. 15000, 27.2% earn between Rs.20000 and Rs. 20000, and 4.8% earn more than Rs. 20000.

**6.7. Working Condition:**

S. No	Working Condition	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Construction	66	26.4%
2	Teen Shed Construction	135	54.00%
3	Wood Construction	49	19.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 07**

According to table the construction of industry number of responds 26.4 % good power loom industry constriction other power loom industry is construction teen shed and woodenshed.

**6.8. Health Problems:**

S. No	Health Problems	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Eye side	30	12%

2	Back pain side	55	22%
3	Knee Pain	46	18.4%
4	Joint Pain	49	19.6%
5	Lungs pain	12	4.8%
6	Heart Problem	08	3.2%
7	Hearing Problem	42	16.8%
8	No health problem	08	3.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table No: 08**

The most prevalent health issue among weavers, as indicated by the aforementioned statistics, is back discomfort, which affects 22% of them. Among the other common health conditions are knee discomfort (18.4%), eye sight problems (12%), joint pain (19.6%), lungs pain (4.8%), heart problems (3.2%), and hearing problems (16.8%). It's noteworthy to notice that 3.2% of respondents claimed to have no health issues.

Problems faced by Workers:

1) Power looms require electricity to function. Malegaon city currently has low electrical efficiency. 3 to 4 hours of load shedding are experienced by workers each day. Load shedding causing stop of production which results in the workers losing duty time. Other issues regarding electricity low high voltage occur as a result machine burns affecting the workers job and facing them to deal with financial situation.

2) According to the survey most of the power loom industries in Malegaon are made of Tin Sheds not proper way available of sanitation ventilation and increases the heat intensity in the workplace which has a significant impact on the health of the workers. Also due to inappropriateness there is a lot of pressure on the vision of the eyes. A part from this there is noise pollution due to old pattern loom. The workers do not use masks and earplugs at work place due to which they are suffering from respiratory diseases problems due to cotton dust.

**Conclusion:**

From the Survey it can be found that the multi population of Malegaon consists of Power Loom labour. Power looms in Malegaon work in two shifts in which some workers do 8 to 10 duty to increase the salary as the workers have full capital affects the labour of power looms due to long nature of work they face physical and mental problems some workplace have harmful raw materials poor ventilation and poor lighting various health problems like body parts Muscle pains are suffering from eye problems and respiratory problems not cleaning the loom regularly

.Lots of fibre dust are seen near it. Due to lack of education among the workers they do not have the ability to understand. Due to low standard workers are not aware of any government scheme although the Government of India has also lunched that there is lack of awareness among workers about the schemes has gone.

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