

# **HANDLOOM INDUSTRY & WEAVERS' STATUS AT BEGAMPUR OF HOOGHLY DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Begampur Handloom Industry of West Bengal plays an important role in the handloom map of West Bengal as well as of India. This place has lent its name to the cotton weaved tant sari it produces. But, recently due to different reasons, it is losing its importance. The present study is aimed to address these reasons through investigation of the socio-economic conditions and problems of the local weavers and analysis of the overall nature, method of production and structure of the regional weaving co-operative society. Both the pre- and post-field studies, including the collection of primary and secondary data from the Chanditala II Community Development Block and different co-operative staffs are carried out to find out the root cause of the problem and to perceive the socio-economic status of the weaving community. The usual demand and placement of new orders for Begampur handloom sarees are missing this year as more than 5000 handloom and power loom weavers of Begampur are practically with no work since the last five months. It is found that the handloom industry at Begampur is dominated by the male workers having very low educational profile. This poor financial condition of the weavers finds its mark on the dismal condition of the whole industry. The situation is far more aggravated by the cost of raw materials and lack of domestic market and demand.

**Key words: Handloom industry, tant sari, weaving community, co-operative society**

## **I. INTRODUCTION:**

The textile industry possesses an important role in the economy of Hooghly district and enjoys a reputation for handloom weaving. Textile industry provide widest employment opportunities in this district next to agriculture. Lack of significant minerals hinders the growth of traditional mineral based industries in this district.

By nature, textile industries are localised due to dependence on traditional skilled workers. This industry occupies a dominant position in the industrial scenario of Hooghly district and plays a vital role in the socio-economic conditions of the people. Begampur, Dhaniakhali are the famous cotton handloom weaving centres in Hooghly District and its demand is high in the national market also. The weaving centres of Begampur produce fine-textured sarees and dhotis and also gorgeous jamdani sarees. The sarees produced at Begampur are very deep and bright in colour.

## **II. OBJECTIVES:**

The present study is based on the following objectives-

- To make an overview of Handloom Industry at Begampur of Hooghly District and its various products.
- To study the present status of the Handloom industry at Begampur.
- To find out the impact of Handloom industry on socio-economic condition of local people.
- To investigate the problems which are faced by workers engaged in Handloom industry at Begampur.
- To bring out the future prospects and remedial measures for development of Handloom industry at Begampur of Hooghly District.

## **III. FIELD OF STUDY:**

Begampur is an administrative division in Chanditala-II CD Block and in Serampore subdivision of Hooghly district in the Indian state of West Bengal. police station serves this block. It belongs to Burdwan Division. It is located 30 km towards south from District headquarters Hugli-Chuchura and 19 km from State Capital Kolkata. Begampur is situated on the Howrah-Barddhaman chord line of Eastern Railway system.

Begampur is surrounded by Chanditala-I Block towards west, Bally-Jagacha Block towards south, Serampore-Uttarpara Block towards East and Konnagar Block towards East. This region is in the border of the Hooghly District and Howrah district. Latitude and longitude of Begampur is 22°43'50.52"N and 88°15'27.50"E.

#### **IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

The proposed research work will be conducted in three phases, such as: pre-field work, field work and post-field work. In pre-field phase, data bases have been collected from different National and International journals, various papers, gazetteers, and reports etc. on the problem that has been selected for the preparation of this report. Intensive literature review will have to be done to realise the main focus of the research work. Municipality offices should be visited to prepare this project. During the field work primary and secondary data will be collected from various sources. Mainly Handloom related data should be collected from the websites of Ministry of Textiles and Handloom census, West Bengal Handloom. Questionnaire survey will be conducted in the study area. In post -field work phase, the primary and secondary data sets will be thoroughly analysed using the related statistical tool and techniques. Lastly, several thematic maps and cartograms would be prepared in order to represent the data pictorially and at the same time thematic maps will be constructed to depict clearly the overall picture of development of handloom industry.

#### **V. PLAN OF WORK AND TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED:**

Different tools such as topographical maps, questionnaire, interview observation etc. should be used in conducting this research project. To reveal the status and growth of handloom industry, the present condition of handloom industry of Begampur will be critically analysed. Besides agricultural activity, textile industry is a prominent industry of Hooghly district and a large number of people are dependent on this industry for their livelihood. The problems which are faced by the workers in handloom textile industry will be explored and evaluated to find a way to solve these problems.

#### **VI. Financial assistance required**

- i. Books & journals
- ii. Contingency

Total: Rs10000 /- (Ten thousand only)