

**ROLE OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY AND WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT:A CASE STUDY IN CARPET INDUSTRY
OF BHADOHI DISTRICT,U.P**

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ABSTRACT

The status of women in the society is an index of its civilization. Women as co-human beings have as much right to full development as man have and so emancipation of women is an essential prerequisite for economic development. In India 30% of total population live below the poverty line of which 70% are women .The employment effects of economic women as human resource in India constitute about 50% of population, women are driving force behind 70% of small scale industry with 35% family dependent on them. In this context small scale industry proved the best option for women employment and to empower them. The most populous developing country, India is struggling with the crucial problem of unemployment. To generate the employment opportunity, Small Scale Industry (SSI) has proved one of the best solutions and it contributes 8 percent of India's GDP. SSI has a dynamic characteristic of employment generation because it involves the intricate manner of manufacturing. In India, total numbers of SSI units are 311.52 lakh and which employed 732.17 lakh work force of India.

India is known for its rich heritage of art and craft and each regions of it depicts their own specialty, for example Varanasi is famous for its silk Sari, Firozabad for its bangles, Aligarh for its lock industry and Bhadohi for its carpet industry. Each industry involves a great effort of manpower and providing better opportunity of livelihood. It generates employment to different categories of society whether they are educated or not. The present paper is trying to highlight the significance and importance of carpet industry in employment generation, specially the women participation in carpet industry, the income level of women workers and their educational level. It has been also attempted to draw attention towards the various problems faced by the carpet industry as well as other SSI units in India and suggest the measures to solve out the problems regarding the carpet industry. The whole paper is based on both primary and secondary sources of data collected through field survey by questionnaire and from the government offices of Bhadohi.

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Introduction

“You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women”
(Jawaharlal Nehru)

The status of women in the society is an index of its civilization. Women as to human being, have as much right to full development and social progress. India has an advantage over the rest of the world in the new millennium in the terms of the large size of the young population in the working age group, and it is also one of the fastest economies, with women mainly from middle class entering the workforce. Women economic opportunity in India is rapidly changing landscape. Women are increasingly entering the workforce particularly women professionals and are creating change. In India, women constitute around 48 percent of the population but their participation in the economic activities is only 34 percent. As per the Human Development Report (2007), India ranks 96th on the gender related development index of 137 nations. The gender empowerment measures, which estimate the extent of women participation in the country's economic and political activities, rank India as 110th of the 166 nations. In India about 30% of population lives below poverty line of which 70% are women, therefore eradication of poverty in India cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programs alone but require a drastic change in the domestic participation rates and in the economic status in order to ensure their access on resource. To empower the women, the SSI play a important role in the eradication of regional imbalance and significant tool to remove the poverty and a break through to empower the women. SSI has its own advantage because of its multi-character like employment generation, equitable income, mobilization of resources and entrepreneurial skill

Women Empowerment

In recent year, empowerment of women has been recognized as a central issue in determining the status of women. Empowerment covers many aspects such as women's control over material and intellectual resource. Women empowerment is a process in which women get greater share of control over human and intellectual knowledge, information ideas and financial resources like money – and access to money and control over resources and decision making in family, home, community, society and a nation and to gain “Power”. According to the Country Report, Government of India, “Empowerment means moving from the position of enforced powerless to one of power”. The Govt. of India has made empowerment of women as one of the principle objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and also declared 2001 as the year of “Women's Empowerment”. In India, the principle of gender equality is enshrined in the constitution not only grants equality to women but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favors of women.

Meaning and Significance of Empowerment

Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives, communities and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important. (Sheetal Sharma, Kurukshetra, June 2006). Empowerment occurs within sociological, psychological and economic spheres and at various levels, such as individual, group and community. Empowerment challenges our assumption about the status quo asymmetrical power relationships and social dynamics. Empowerment of women involves many things - economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal rights and so on.

Indian society is a patriarchal system in which women's position within the structure and duties towards the family precede their rights as individuals. Therefore, it is necessary to define empowerment as a process rather than an end point. Empowerment by means of education, literacy or modest income-generating projects is insufficient to ameliorate the prospects for equality and quality of life. Empowerment should enable the individual or a group of individuals to have greater ability to plan their lives, to have greater control over the circumstances that influence their lives and free them from the shackles imposed on them by customs beliefs and practices.

Empowerment of women may also mean equal status, opportunity and freedom to develop them. Empowering women socially and economically through increased awareness of their rights and duties as well as access to resources is a decisive step towards greater security for them. The root cause of women's oppression in India is patriarchy, which has suppressed their legitimate position and made them totally defenseless. The unrealistic way in which women are depicted in literary works and films by male chauvinists, and the misinterpretation of women in epics and scriptures contributed much to the poor self-image, suffering nature, defeatist attitude and lack of assertiveness on the part of women.

Need for Empowerment

Concepts like 'Bharat Nirman', 'Shining India', and 'Socio-Economic Development' cannot be translated into reality without the participation and empowerment of rural downtrodden women. UNDP report indicates that while 67 per cent of the world's work is done by women, only 10 per cent of global income is earned by women and a mere one per cent of global property is owned by them. Thus, comments Prof. Amartyasen, "Women are less likely to secure favorable outcome for themselves in household decision-making process. They feel that their long term security lies in subordinating their well being to that of male authority". Women represent half of the resources and half the potential in all societies. The importance and autonomy of women and the improvement of their social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of sustainable development in all areas of life. Unless the light of knowledge dawns on the women force of the country we can never hope to join the community of developed nations.

Small Scale Industry

The small scale sector has played a very important role in the socio economic development of the country during the past 50 years, it has significantly contributed to the overall growth in terms of the gross domestic products. The performance of the small scale sector, therefore has a direct impact on the growth of the overall economy. The small scale industry has recorded higher growth rate than the industrial sector as a whole .it contributed about 40% toward the industrial production and 35% of the direct export from the country.

In Modern era with the development of Indian economy and rapid expansion of trade, the small scale industrial sector has emerged as a vibrant and dynamic segment in the process of industrialization which is considered not only the key factor to lift up the per capita income but also a vital mechanism for a larger transformation of Indian Economy. In India small Scale Industry has defined as an Industrial undertakings in which the investment is fixed asset in plant and machinery does not exceed rs 1 crore (this investment limit of 1 crore for classification as small scale industry has been further enhance to 5 crores in respect of certain specified items by the government of India.

Importance and significance of Small Scale Industry

In a developing country like India the role and importance of small scale industry is very significant toward poverty generation and employment generation, rural development and creating regional balance in promotion and growth of various development activities.

It is estimated that this sector has been contributing about 40% of the gross value of output produced in the manufacturing sector and generation of employment by the small sector is more than 5 time to that of the large scale sector

This clearly shows the importance of small scale industry in the economic development of the country. The small Scale industry have been playing an important role in the growth process of Indian Economy since independence in spite of stiff competition of large sector and not very encouraging support from the government.

The following are the importance of Small Scale Industries in India.

Employment Generation: The basic problem that is confronting the Indian economy is increasing pressure of population on the land and the need of create massive employment opportunity. This problem is rooted to larger extent by small scale industry because small scale industry is labor intensive in character. They generate huge number of employment opportunity. Employment generation by this sector has shown in phenomenal growth. It is a powerful tool of job creation.

Mobilization of resources and entrepreneurial skill: Small scale industry can mobilize a good account of saving and entrepreneurial skill from rural and semi urban area remain untouched from the clutches of large industries and put them into production use by investing in small scale units. Small entrepreneurs improve social welfare of a country by harnessing, dormant and overlooked talent. Thus a huge amount of talent resources are being mobilized by the small scale sector for the development of the economy.

Equitable distribution of the Income :Small Entrepreneurs stimulate a redistribution of wealth income and political power within societies in ways that are economic positive and without being politically disruptive.

Regional Dispersal of Industries: There has been massive concentration of industries of a few large cities of different State of Indian Union. People migrate from rural and semi areas to these highly developed countries and sometime to earn a better living which ultimately leads to many evil consequences of overcrowding, pollution, creation of slums ,etc.This problem of Indian economy is better solved by Small Scale industries which utilize local resource and brings about dispersion of industries in various part of countries thus promote regional balance development.

Provide Opportunity for Development of Technonology: Small Scale Industry has tremendous capacity to generate or absorb innovation. They provide ample opportunity for development of technology and technology in return creates an environment conducive to the development of Small Unit., the entrepreneurs of small units play a strategic role in commercializing new inventions and products. It also facilitates the transfer of technology from one to the other. As a result the economy reaps the benefit of improved technology.

Carpet Industry

Carpet Industry is one of the oldest industries in India. Carpet Weaving was brought to India by Moguls. Some of the majestic carpets were woven during this Mogul era. Over the period, the weaver has become an artist imbibing the magical exotic colors to the Indian carpets. Based on individualistic skill of the weaver; there is an aesthetic touch of the coloring and beauty in the carpets. Over the period, various clusters have emerged in the northern part of India. Initially, carpet weaving was done only at few centers. Due to several historical reasons and availability of resources, carpet manufacturing spread across the northern India. Major centers have been Bhadohi, Agra, Jaipur & Kashmir. During the last few decades, hand-tufted carpets have emerged as one of the major categories. Due to proximity to Home furnishing products, Panipat has emerged as another major center for carpet manufacturing.

Over the years, various carpet weaving center have emerged in India. Each center has its own competitive advantage. These centers employ millions of people. These are (1)Bhadohi – Mirzapur and Agra belt in Uttar Pradesh (2) Jaipur-Bikaner belt in Rajasthan (3) Panipatbelt in Haryana (4) Kashmir belt.

Market for Indian carpets

Europe is the traditional markets offer small potential for growth though the volumes are high. The scenario may change in future if southern European countries start driving the growth. For most of the players, USA offers a good market based on its size and growth. Also, demand for different kinds of carpets is not widely varying as in the case of other countries. Hence, USA offers an opportunity for both, traditional as well as modern designs. Similar case is for Hand knotted and hand tufted carpets

Bhadohi Carpet

The Bhadohi district is biggest carpet manufacturing centres in India, most – known for its hand knotted carpet. Bhadohi known as also carpet city. While the Mirzapur – Bhadohi region is the largest handloom carpet weaving Muslim, engorging 3.2 million people in the industry. Bhadohi alone employs 22 lakh rural artisans in its 100% export oriented industry, which amounts for about 75% of the Rs. 4,400 crore total carpet exports fume. India, exporting carpets work Rs. 2,500 crores in 21%. Carpet weaving in the region date back to the 16th century during the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar, and is believed to have established which centuries ago. In some Farcies master weavers stopped it Madhosingh village, Khamaria in Bhadohi in India and subsequently set up loom here. In 2010, the carpets of Bhadohi the received the Geographical Indian tag, which main carpet manufacturing in 9 district or region. Bhadohi mirzapur, Varanani, Jaunpur Allahabad was tagged with “Handmade carpets of Bhadohi”

Types of Carpet Produced in Bhadohi

The Bhadohi floor covering cluster is concentrated in Bhadohi, and Mirzapur Districts of Uttar Pradesh. The main products of the cluster are Knotted Carpets (60%), Tufted Carpets (25%), Shaggy carpets (10%) and Durries (5)

Knotted Carpet : Knotting is a process of introducing the pile yarn into the carpet during weaving by means of tying the knot. The nature of a knot and its insertion ensures that the pile lies at a very acute angle to the back. Knotted carpet looks attractive and antique than any other carpet. The price of knotted carpets ranges between Rs. 20,000 to 150000 based on size, design and quality.

Tufted Carpet: Tufted Carpet is producing on a frame type stand up loom. Weaver tufts the weft material into the already traced design through manual or tufting gun. Tufted carpet is cheaper than the Knotted carpets and attractive but less durable than knotted carpet. The price range of tufted carpet varies between Rs. 1000 to 20000 based on based on size, design (Weaving process of Shaggy carpet)

Durries: Durries are generally made on the pit looms with low quality warp and wefts. It is made of simple designs and cheaper than other type of carpets. Durability of durries is more than tufted but less than the knotted carpet. The price range of tufted carpet aries between Rs. 300 to 5000 based on size, design and quality. Process Technology & Flow Chart.

Shaggy Carpet: Shaggy carpets are of two varieties i.e. – 1- Loop Piles and 2- Cut Piles. Shaggy carpets are made on Punjab Loom and Pit Loom. The quality of shaggy carpet depends on the number of picks and piles per inch. It is durable but not attractive like knotted or tufted carpet. The price range of tufted carpet varies between Rs. 5000 to 35000 based on size, design, quality and number of piles per inch.

Objective of the study

- To highlight the role of Small Scale Industry in women empowerment.
- To examine the role of carpet industry in women employment
- generation.
- To discuss the problem of women workers in carpet industry
- To suggest the remedial measures to sort out their problems

Methodology

This present paper “Role of Small Scale industry and Women Empowerment: A case Study in Carpet industry of Bhadohi” is based on field survey. The data collected through questionnaire filled by respondent of 1.5% of household of the industry women’s weaver of Bhadohi City . There are 25 wards in Bhadohi city and 1.5% of household selected from each ward through simple random sampling. The survey was conducted in the month of January 2013.

Study Area

Sant Rvidas Nagar District was created on June 30,1994 as the 65th district of the state. The district is famous for its carpet in universally. Area wise it is the smallest district of the state. Sant Ravidas Nagar (SNR) old name was Bhadohi. Mayawati Government changed this district’s name Bhadohi from Sant Ravidas Nagar.It is famous by the sobriquet of “Carpet City”. It was part of the Varanasi district prior to it creation on June 30,1994 .This district is situated in the plains of the Ganges river, which forms the south western border of the district. Ganges, Varuna and Morva are the main rivers .The district is surrounded by Jaunpur ,Varanasi,Mirzapur and Allahabad by North,East,South and West respectively. The district has an area of 1055.99km².The district is devided into three tehseels,Aurai,Bhadohi and Gyanpur and six blocks,Bhadohi,Suriyawan,Gyanpur,Deegh,Abholi and Aurai.There are 1075 populated and 149non populated villages along with 79 Nyay Pnachayat and 489 Gram Panchayats in the district and has nine police station..According to the 2011 census Sant Ravidas Nagar has a population

density is 1531, its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 14.81, its sex ratio is 950 and literacy rate is 89.14. The climate of the district is moist and relaxing in winter and hot season. The year may be divided into four seasons. The average annual rainfall is 1021.3mm on an average there are 50 rain days in a year in Bhadohi.

Discussion

The present paper is a case study of Bhadohi Carpet Industry, it tries to highlight the efficiency of women's employment in carpet industry, depict their socio-economic condition and their problems.

Sex Composition: Sex composition of human population is one of the basic demographic characteristics. A sex composition largely reflects the socio-economic and cultural pattern of a society a different ways. Table No.1 shows that there is 53.57% male and 46.43% female.

Table 1 :Sex Composition

S. No.	Sex	Percentage
1.	Males	53.57
2.	Females	46.43
3.	Total	100

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey, 2013

Marital Status: Marriage is an important occasion of life mainly established for satisfaction of biological, social and cultural needs of human being. Although, its definition varies from religion to religion but the fundamental purpose remains the same.

Table 2:Marital Status

S. No.	Status	Percentage
1.	Married	44.22%

2.	Unmarried	54.73%
3.	Widow	1.05%
4.	Total	100%

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey, 2013

The above table shows that there is 44.22% respondents are married and 54.73% are unmarried whereas 1.05% are among widows.

Literacy: Literacy has been defined as the ability to read and write with understanding literacy reflects the socio economic and cultural set up of a nation, ethnic group or community. Literacy is one of the main tool which transform the society from backwardness to the modernity. Table No.3 shows that there is 70.52% are literate while 29.48% are illiterate. The low level of literacy is the cause of fact that the weavers do not require education as much. The other cause of illiteracy is the low level of income among industry workers.

Table 3: Literacy among the industry workers

S. No.	Status	Percentage
1.	Literate	70.52%
2.	Illiterate	29.48%
3.	Total	100%

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey, 2013

Work Participation :The economically active section of any population is generally defined as “Those who had engaged in remunerative occupation and who seeks a livelihood in such occupation is called work participation”.The size of active population in relation to the total population is determines not only by the purely demographic factors but it is also affected by economic and social considerations. The total work participation of my study areas is 41.05% out of total population. Study reveals that male population occupies 60.51% in work participation whereas female are occupies 39.48% in work participation. The total work participation of my

study areas is 41.05% out of total population. The cause of low participation rate is outcome of demographic socio-economic and cultural structure. The present data reveals carpet industry provide a broader opportunity for the women employment and make them economically dependent and empowered them. Their participation in economic activity improved financial condition of their family as well as their socio economic condition

Table 4: Work Participation

	Sex	Percentage
1.	Male	60.51%
2.	Female	39.48%
3.	Total	100%

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey, 2013

Occupational structure of women workers and their Wages: Carpet manufacturing is a very not a simple process it has undergone through several process thus facilitate the nit of professions to the workers. It requires skilled and semiskilled labor. There are lots of stages through which a carpet become complete. It need indoor and outdoor labor that provide a big opportunity of women workers that they can participate as workers in the orthodox society. These works are like, designing, wool unbinding, finishing and weaving. Their working participation in different occupation have and their wage structure have illustrated in table

Table 5: Occupational structure of women workers and their Wages

S. No.	Professions	Percentage	Wage/month
1.	Weaving	16.66%	2000
2.	Designing	6.66%	3400
3.	Wool unbinding	29.48%	1800
13.	Finishing	21.79%	1500

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey, 2013

Above table 2 shows that the carpet industry workers women earn monthly differently according to their occupation. The Weavers can get Rs2000 per month after doing her household work, The women who indulge in artistic and more skillful job earn Rs3400 per month and the women who are in the job of wool unbinding and finishing can get 1800 and 1500 per month respectively.

Number of working Day/Month: Number of working days influences the economic condition, more the number of working days more the chances of industrial progress, 5.33% population works for only 10 days 5.33% for 11-15 days, 32.00% work for 16-20 days, 40.66% works for 21-25 days and 6.76% works for 16-30 days. 6.76.

Table 6: Number of working Day/Month

S. No.	No. of Days/Month	Percentage
1.	10	5.33%
2.	11-15	5.33%
3.	16-20	32.00%
4.	21-25	40.66%
5.	26-30	6.76%

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey,2013

Problems

Carpet industry of Bhadohi undoubtedly provides the ample employment opportunity for the skilled or unskilled workers. It provides the earning means of those marginalized section that are uneducated as well as unskilled. It empowers the women giving them employment that they can improve their financial condition. Besides all these advantages of carpet industry, their workers are suffering with some problems, These are as follows:

- The majority of population of Bhadohi city indulged in carpet industry, the irregular nature of employment is major problems among the industry workers which forced them to migrate to other places.
- Another problem are low wages among industry workers, their low wages is the cause of poverty and other socio economic problems.
- The long working hours are the other problems of women workers which causes several chronicle diseases.
- There is lack of awareness among the women workers regarding the government aids

Suggestions and remedial measures

The whole paper have discussed above is about the case study of carpet industry and its role of women empowerment ,there are several problems have come out from study which should eliminate to improve their workers conditions, for this there are some suggestions discussed below these are:

- Carpet Industry is suffering with the several problems caused by liberalization and market policies which posed adverse effect on industry workers. The irregular nature of employment should be supplemented through different engagement of workers. It is possible only if the Bhadohi economy would be diversified by different other small scale industry.
- There should increase the wages of workers that they can enhance their living standards and their other socio economic condition.
- There should introduced the awareness programs that the women workers access their information about the government aids and policies regarding their jobs

Conclusion

Working women are usually double burdened, as they have to discharge their duties and share their domestic schedule to strike balance at both the places. In fact women are known to be the best homemaker. They sacrifice their personal time and energy to justify both the areas. The present study reveals that carpet industry provide a broader opportunity for the women employment and make them economically dependent and empowered them. Their participation in economic activity improved financial condition of their family and socio economic condition as a whole. Carpet industry gave the opportunity not only for the literate and skilled women but also semi skilled women as in the process of manufacturing of the carpet having many stages like weaving , wool unbinding etc. So, we conclude the small scale industry not only giving the employment for women but also empower the women .

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