



**SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SELECTED SAMPLE HANDLOOM  
WEAVERS IN SPSR NELLORE DISTRICT**

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***Abstract***

*The handloom weaving sector plays an important role in the economic development of the rural areas. It contributes significantly by generating more employment opportunities and providing bread to the rural poor. In the present study, we have enumerated the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers in SPSR Nellore District. Handloom sector plays an important role in state economy. Weaving is the basic process among the various manufacturing stages of handloom clothes. It is defined as a frame for weaving equipped with some wooden devices. Handloom weaving is an ancient industry. The textile cottage industry includes cotton, silk, and bleaching, dyeing, finishing, hosiery, lace embroidery, silk reeling, silk twisting. It is the chief means of livelihood to people who entirely depend upon it. In this paper is an attempt to Gender, Age Groups, Education levels, Social Status and type of occupation of the sample selected handloom weavers in the SPSR Nellore District.*

**Keywords:** Gender, Age Groups, Education levels, Social Status and type of occupation

## INTRODUCTION

The handloom industry in India has become very dominant because of the availability of different designs of fabrics and the manufacture of garments and dresses, which serves as the livelihood of millions of weavers employed in the handloom segment in India. The Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in India consists of around 5204 handloom weavers. This chapter is an attempt at the socio-economic conditions of sample selected Handloom weavers in the SPSR Nellore District. The data has been collected from 520 respondents through scheduled. Andhra Pradesh is one of the important States in the Handloom Industry. There are about 2,00,310 handloom weavers in cooperative fold and 1,58,902 in outside cooperative fold. There are about 81,000 Power looms working in the State both in cooperative and outside cooperative fold.

### Methodology

Based on primary data that was collected from 520 respondents by using a structured questionnaire and through an informal personal interview method.

### Primary Data

Primary data are collected from 520 weavers working under societies or independent weavers. For data survey a structured questionnaire is used which contain simple, multiple choice questions. Observation method and personal interview method are also used for collection of primary data.

**Objectives:** To study the socio-economic conditions of sample selected Handloom weavers in the SPSR Nellore District.

Table 1 depicts the year-wise total number of Handloom Weavers in the SPSR Nellore District. The number of handloom weavers regularly increased from 1520 in the year 2011-12 to 5201 in the year 2020-21. 1626 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 106.97 percent in the year 2012-13, 1689 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 103.87 percent in the year 2013-14, 1774 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 105.03 percent in the year 2014-15, 1785 handloom weavers with the growth rate of 100.62 percent in the year 2015-16, 1898 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 106.33 percent in the year 2016-17, 2153 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 113.55 percent in the year 2017-18, 2598 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 120.67 percent in the year 2018-19, 3542 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 136.34 percent in the year 2019-20 and 5204 handloom weavers with a growth rate of 146.92 percent in the year 2020-21 were respectively recorded.

**Table 1**

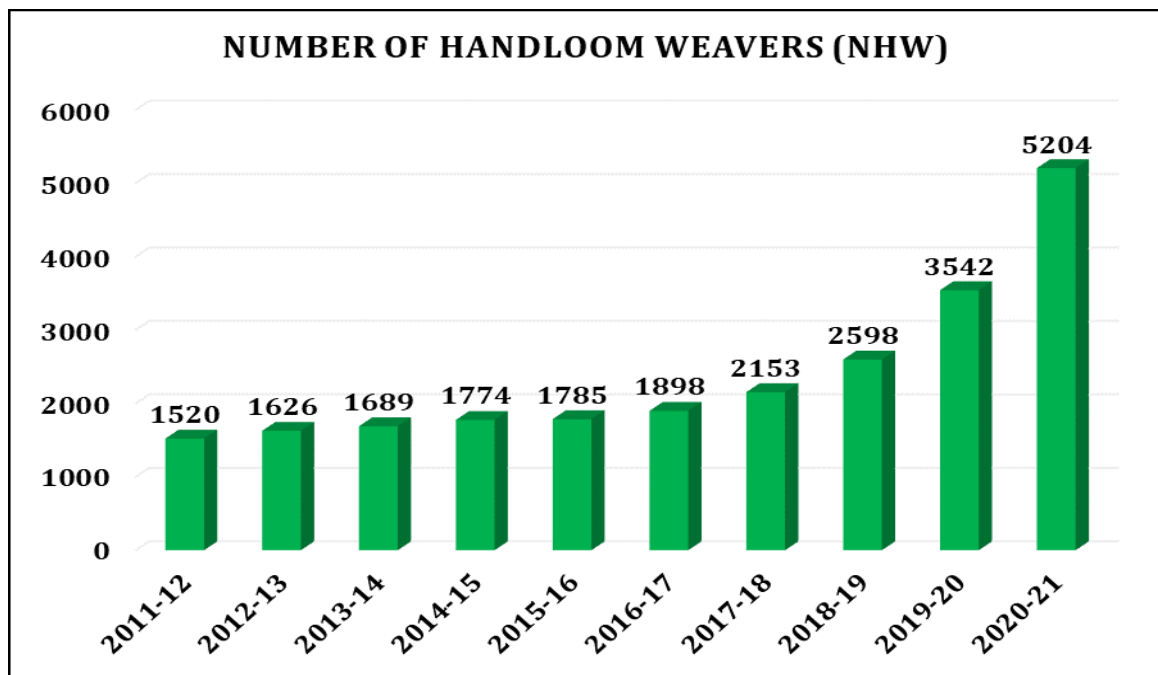
**Year-wise total number of Handloom Weavers in SPSR Nellore District**

Year	Number of Handloom Weavers (NHW)	Growth Rates (GR)
2011-12	1520	-
2012-13	1626	106.97
2013-14	1689	103.87
2014-15	1774	105.03
2015-16	1785	100.62
2016-17	1898	106.33
2017-18	2153	113.44
2018-19	2598	120.67
2019-20	3542	136.34
2020-21	5204	146.92

**Source:** Assistance Director of Handlooms and Textiles, SPSR Nellore district, 2020-21

It is observed that the high growth rate was 146.92 percent in the year 2020-21 and the low growth rate is 100.62 percent in the year 2015-16.

**Fig 1 Year-wise total number of Handloom Weavers in SPSR Nellore District**



**Sampling:** Table 2 reveals the division-wise number of the sample selected handloom weavers in the SPSR Nellore District during 2020-21. Out of 5204 handloom weavers in the district 10 percent proportionate each division i.e., in Nellore division has several handloom weavers 1560 of these 10 percent of the sample selected 156, in Gudur division

have (1040) 104, in Kavali division have (1120) 120, Naidupet division has (852) 85 and Atmakur division have 632 (63). Out of 100 percent of sample handloom weaver's 29.98 percent in the Nellore division, 19.98 percent in the Gudur division, 21.52 percent in the Kavali division, 16.37 percent in Naidupet division and 12.14 percent in the Atmakur division were respectively.

**Table 2**  
**Division-wise number of the sample selected handloom weavers in SPSR Nellore District during 2020-21**

<b>Divisions (D)</b>	<b>Number of Handloom Weavers (NHW)</b>	<b>10% Sample Handloom Weavers</b>	<b>% of Sample Handloom Weavers</b>
Nellore (N)	1560	156	29.98
Gudur (G)	1040	104	19.98
Kavali (K)	1120	112	21.52
Naidupeta (N)	852	85	16.37
Atmakuru (A)	632	63	12.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>5204</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Sample selection in table 1

**Fig 2 Number of sample selected handloom weavers in SPSR Nellore District**

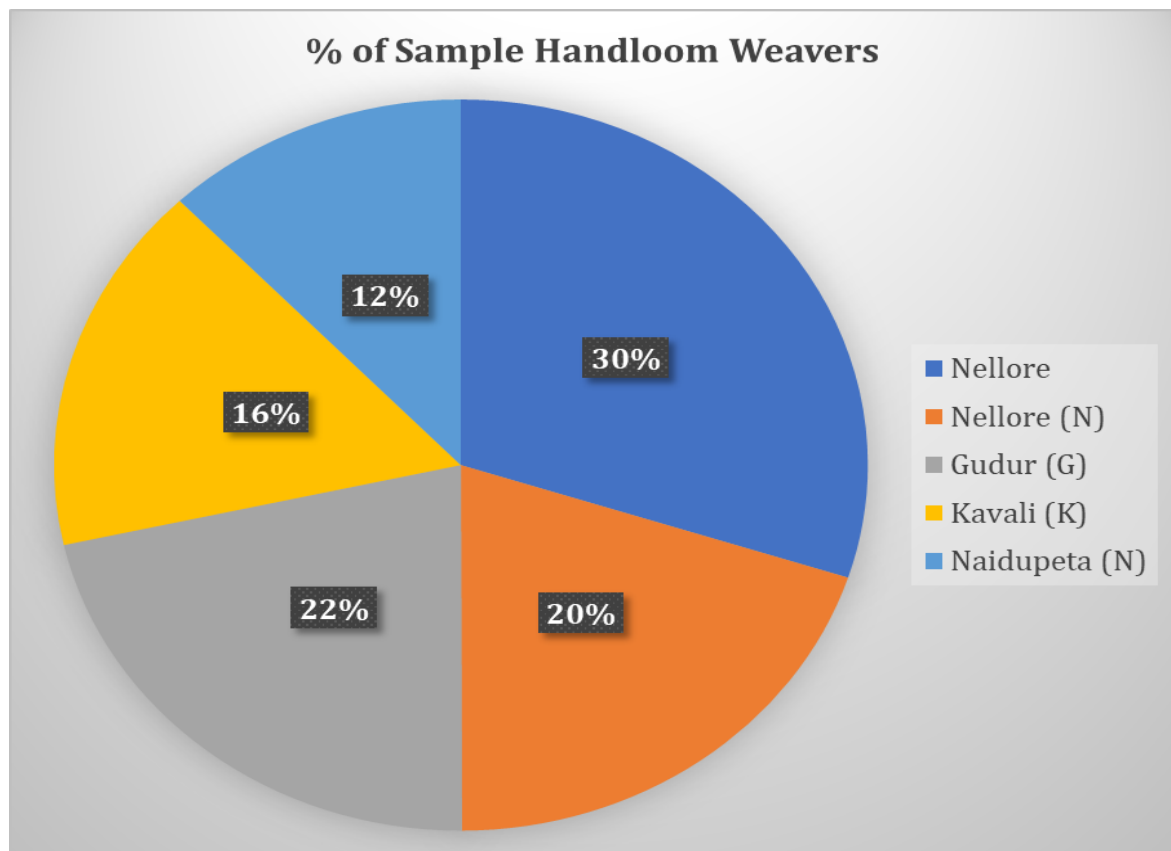


Table 3 shows the division-wise Gender of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area. Out of 318 male handloom weavers, of these 91 were in the Nellore division, 69 were in the Gudur division, 72 were in the Kavali division, 52 were in the Naidupet division and 34 were in the Atmakur division. Out of 202 female handloom weavers, of these 65 were in the Nellore division, 35 were in the Gudur division, 40 were in the Kavali division, 33 were in the Naidupet division and 29 were in the Atmakur division.

Out of 156 handloom weavers in the Nellore division, male weavers 91 (58.33 percent) and female weavers 65 (41.67 percent). Male weavers 69 (66.35 percent) and female weavers were 35 (35.65 percent) Gudur division out of 104 handloom weavers. Out of 112 handloom weavers in the Kavali division, male weavers 72 (64.26 percent) and female weavers 40 (35.71 percent). Male weavers 52 (61.18 percent) and female weavers 33 (38.82 percent) in the Naidupet division out of 85 handloom weavers. Out of 63 handloom weavers in the Atmakur division, male weavers were 34 (53.97 percent) and female weavers were 29 (46.03 percent).

It is observed that around 66 percent of the male handloom weavers in the Gudur division and 46 percent have the female handloom weavers in the Atmakur division

**Table 3**  
**Division-wise Gender of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

<b>Divisions (D)</b>	<b>Male (M)</b>	<b>Female (F)</b>	<b>Total (T)</b>
Nellore (N)	91 (58.33)	65 (41.67)	156 (100)
Gudur (G)	69 (66.35)	35 (33.65)	104 (100)
Kavali (K)	72 (64.29)	40 (35.71)	112 (100)
Naidupeta (N)	52 (61.18)	33 (38.82)	85 (100)
Atmakuru (A)	34 (53.97)	29 (46.03)	63 (100)
Total (T)	318 (100)	202 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom weavers

**Fig: 3 Gender of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

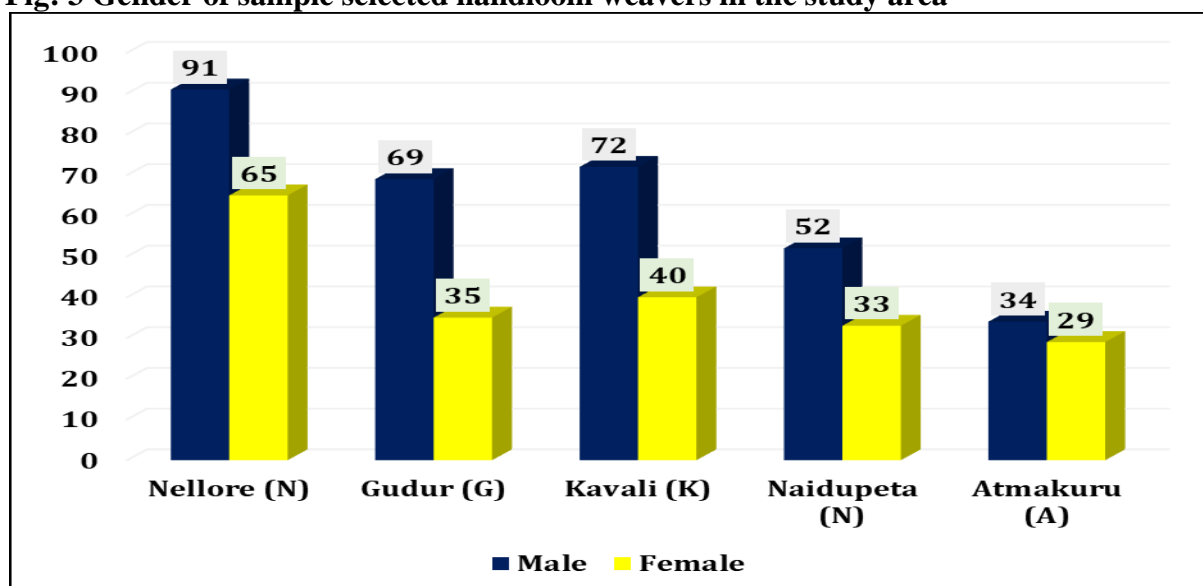


Table 4 reveals the Division-wise Age Groups of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area. Out of 165 handloom weavers, under the age group of 25 years 53 (32.12 percent) were in the Nellore division, 32 (19.39 percent) in the Gudur division, 33 (20 percent) in the Kavali division, 27 (16.36 percent) in Naidupet division and 20 (12.12 percent) in Atmakur division.

Under the age group of 26-45 years 71 (30.87 percent) in the Nellore division, 48 (20.87 percent) in the Gudur division, 52 (22.61 percent) in the Kavali division, 35 (15.22 percent) in Naidupet division and 24 (10.43 percent) in Atmakur division out of 230 handloom weavers. Out of 125 handloom weavers, under the age group of 46-60 years 32 (25.60 percent) were in the Nellore division, 24 (19.20 percent) in the Gudur division, 27 (21.60 percent) in the Kavali division, 23 (18.40 percent) in Naidupet division and 19 (15.20 percent) in Atmakur division.

It is found that the up to 25 years age group of weavers is around 32 percent in the Nellore division, in the age group of 26-40 years around 31 percent in the Nellore division, and in the age group 46-60 years around 26 percent in Nellore division out 520 sample handloom weavers in the study area.

**Table 4**  
**Division-wise Age Groups of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

Divisions (D)	Age Groups			Total
	Up to 25 years	26-45 years	46-60 years	
Nellore (N)	53 (32.12)	71 (30.87)	32 (25.60)	156 (30.00)
Gudur (G)	32 (19.39)	48 (20.87)	24 (19.20)	104 (20.00)
Kavali (K)	33 (20.00)	52 (22.61)	27 (21.60)	112 (21.54)
Naidupeta (N)	27 (16.36)	35 (15.22)	23 (18.40)	85 (16.35)
Atmakuru (A)	20 (12.12)	24 (10.43)	19 (15.20)	63 (12.12)
Total	165 (100)	230 (100)	125 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom weavers

**Fig 4 Age Groups of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

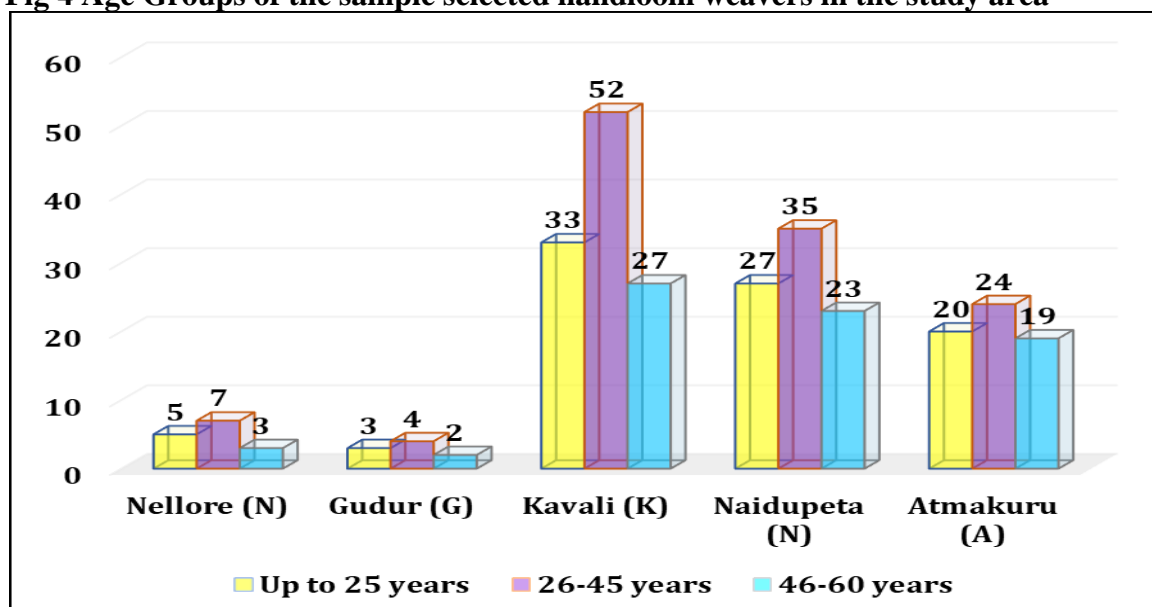


Table 5 depicts the division-wise Education levels of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area. Out of 113 illiterate weavers, 35 (30.97 percent) were in the Nellore division, 22 (19.47 percent) in the Gudur division, 24 (21.24 percent) in the Kavali division, 19 (16.81 percent) in the Naidupet division and 13 (11.50 percent) in the Atmakur division. Out of 129 primary educated weavers, 46 (35.66 percent) in the Nellore division, 26 (20.16 percent) in the Gudur division, 25 (19.38 percent) in the Kavali division, 20 (15.50 percent) in the Naidupet division and 12 (9.30 percent) in the Atmakur division.

Out of 108 secondary-level educated weavers, 32 (29.63 percent) were in the Nellore division, 22 (20.37 percent) in the Gudur division, 24 (22.22 percent) in the Kavali division,

17 (15.74 percent) in the Naidupet division and 13 (12.04 percent) in the Atmakur division. Intermediate level of weavers, 20 (22.47 percent) in the Nellore division, 19 (21.35 percent) in the Gudur division, 21 (23.60 percent) in the Kavali division, 15 (16.85 percent) in the Naidupet division and 14 (15.73 percent) in the Atmakur division out of 89. Out of 81 under the graduation weavers, 23 (28.40 percent) are in the Nellore division, 15 (18.52 percent) in the Gudur division, 18 (22.22 percent) in the Kavali division, 14 (17.28 percent) in the Naidupet division and 11 (13.58 percent) in the Atmakur division were recorded.

**Table 5**  
**Division-wise Education levels of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

Divisions (D)	Education Levels (EL)					Total (T)
	Illiterate (I)	Primary (P)	Secondary (S)	Intermediate (I)	Degree (D)	
Nellore (N)	35 (30.97)	46 (35.66)	32 (29.63)	20 (22.47)	23 (28.40)	156 (30.00)
Gudur (G)	22 (19.47)	26 (20.16)	22 (20.37)	19 (21.35)	15 (18.52)	104 (20.00)
Kavali (K)	24 (21.24)	25 (19.38)	24 (22.22)	21 (23.60)	18 (22.22)	112 (21.54)
Naidupeta (N)	19 (16.81)	20 (15.50)	17 (15.74)	15 (16.85)	14 (17.28)	85 (16.35)
Atmakuru (A)	13 (11.50)	12 (9.30)	13 (12.04)	14 (15.73)	11 (13.58)	63 (12.12)
Total	113 (100)	129 (100)	108 (100)	89 (100)	81 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom weavers

It is observed that among the five revenue divisions, a high portion 36 percent of the weavers under the primary level of education in the Nellore division, and a little portion occupies 9.30 percent in the Atmakur division.

**Fig 5 Education levels of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

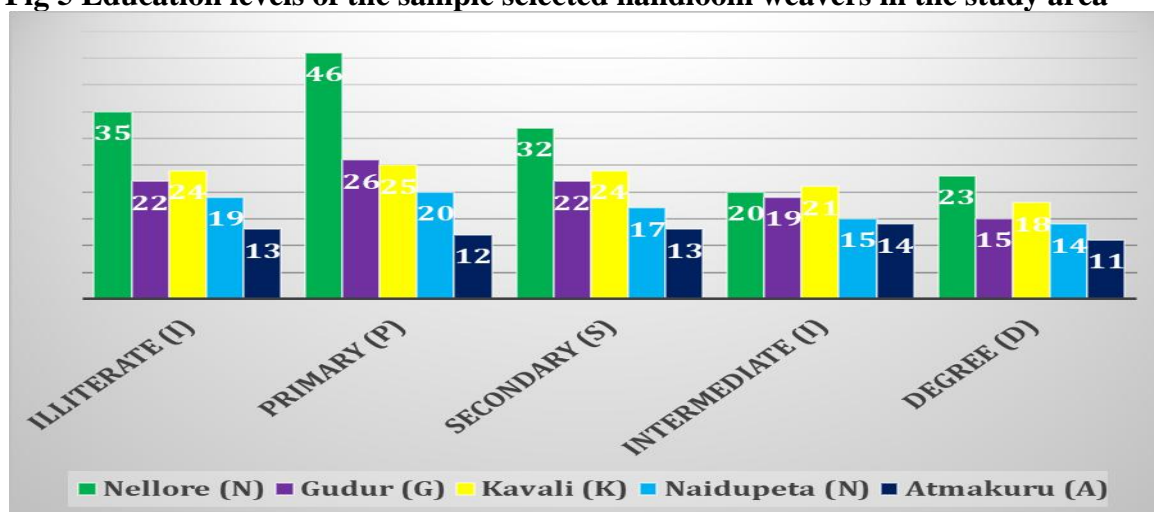




Table 6 explores the division-wise Social Status of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area. It could be observed from the table, out of 139 weavers belongs to the Devanga community, of these 41 (29.50 percent) are in the Nellore division, 32 (23.03 percent) in the Gudur division, 28 (20.14 percent) in the Kavali division, 21 (15.11 percent) in the Naidupet division and 17 (12.23 percent) in the Atmakur division. Out of 103 weavers belongs to the Kaikala community, of these 29 (28.16 percent) are in the Nellore division, 20 (19.42 percent) each in the Gudur and Naidupet divisions, 22 (21.36 percent) in the Kavali division, and 12 (11.65 percent) in the Atmakur division.

Out of 103 weavers belongs to the Padmasali community, of these 36 (34.95 percent) are in the Nellore division, 19 (18.45 percent) in the Gudur division, 23 (22.33 percent) in the Kavali division, 15 (14.56 percent) in the Naidupet division and 10 (9.71 percent) in the Atmakur division. Out of 87 weavers belongs to the Pattusali community, of these 24 (27.59 percent) are in the Nellore division, 15 (17.24 percent) in the Gudur division, 24 (27.59 percent) in the Kavali division, 13 (14.94 percent) in the Naidupet division and 11 (12.64 percent) in the Atmakur division. Out of 88 weavers belongs to the Thogota community, of these 26 (29.55 percent) are in the Nellore division, 18 (20.45 percent) in the Gudur division, 15 (17.05 percent) in the Kavali division, 16 (18.18 percent) in the Naidupet division and 13 (14.77 percent) in the Atmakur division.

**Table 6**  
**Division-wise Social Status of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

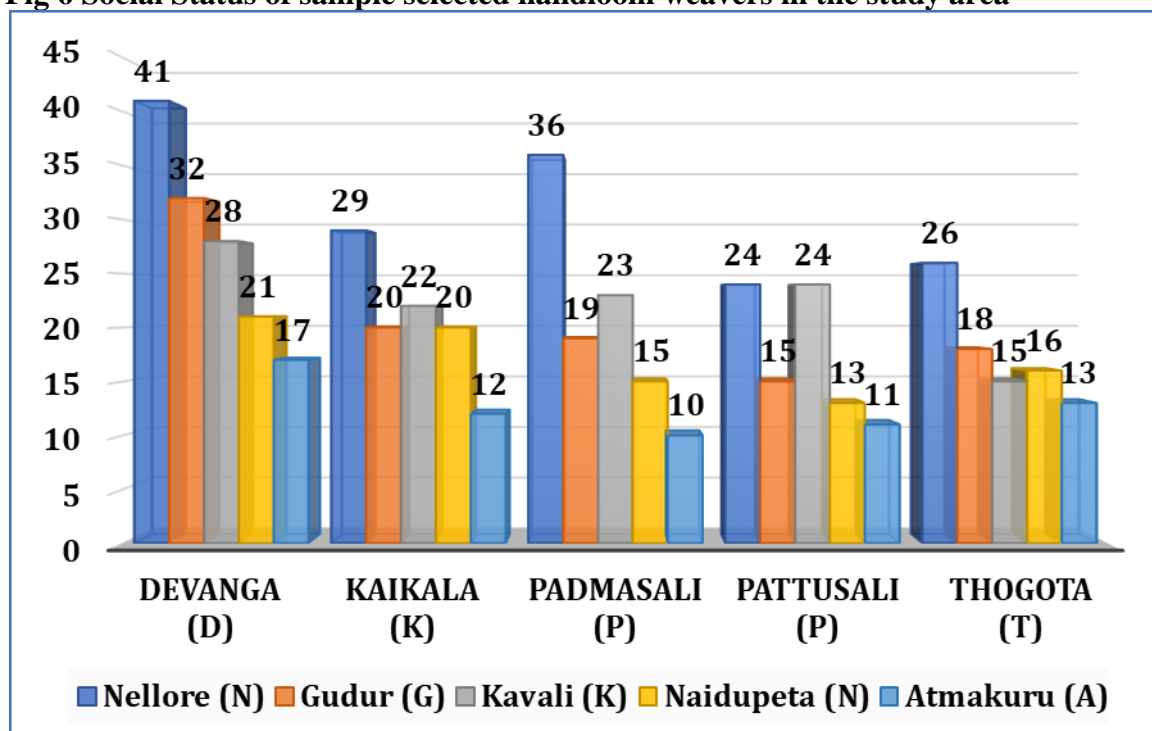
Divisions (D)	Social Status (SC)					Total (T)
	Devanga (D)	Kaikala (K)	Padmasali (P)	Pattusali (P)	Thogota (T)	
Nellore (N)	41 (29.50)	29 (28.16)	36 (34.95)	24 (27.59)	26 (29.55)	156 (30.00)
Gudur (G)	32 (23.02)	20 (19.42)	19 (18.45)	15 (17.24)	18 (20.45)	104 (20.00)
Kavali (K)	28 (20.14)	22 (21.36)	23 (22.33)	24 (27.59)	15 (17.05)	112 (21.54)
Naidupeta (N)	21 (15.11)	20 (19.42)	15 (14.56)	13 (14.94)	16 (18.18)	85 (16.35)
Atmakuru (A)	17 (12.23)	12 (11.65)	10 (9.71)	11 (12.64)	13 (14.77)	63 (12.12)
<b>Total</b>	139 (100)	103 (100)	103 (100)	87 (100)	88 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom weavers

It is noticed that among the five revenue divisions, the social status of handloom weavers a huge portion occupies 34.95 percent in the Nellore division, and a tiny portion occupies 9.71 percent recorded.

**Fig 6 Social Status of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**



Division-wise types of ration cards of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area are incorporated in Table 7. Out of 156 weavers, 102 (26.77 percent) have a Ration Card (Below Poverty Line) and 54 (38.85 percent) not have a BPL card in the Nellore division. Out of 104 weavers, 86 (22.57 percent) have a Ration Card (Below Poverty Line) and 18 (12.95 percent) do not have a BPL card in the Gudur division. Out of 112 weavers, 90 (23.62 percent) have a Ration Card (Below Poverty Line) and 22 (15.83 percent) do not have a BPL card in the Kavali division. Out of 85 weavers, 61 (16.01 percent) have a Ration Card (Below Poverty Line) and 24 (17.24 percent) do not have a BPL card in the Naidupet division. Out of 63 weavers, 42 (11.02 percent) have a Ration Card (Below Poverty Line) and 21 (15.11 percent) do not have a BPL card in Atmakur division.

It is observed that out of 381 weavers have a ration card and 139 weavers not having ration cards. Among the five revenue divisions, a gigantic portion occupies 38.85 percent of weavers who do not have BPL cards in the Nellore division, and a small portion occupies around 11 percent of the weavers having BPL cards.

**Table 7**  
**Division-wise types of ration cards of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

Divisions (D)	Ration Card (RC)		Total (T)
	BPL Card (BPLC)	No (N)	
Nellore (N)	102 (26.77)	54 (38.85)	156 (30.00)
Gudur (G)	86 (22.57)	18 (12.95)	104 (20.00)
Kavali (K)	90 (23.62)	22 (15.83)	112 (21.54)
Naidupeta (N)	61 (16.01)	24 (17.27)	85 (16.35)
Atmakuru (A)	42 (11.02)	21 (15.11)	63 (12.12)
Total	381 (100)	139 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom weavers

**Fig 7 types of ration cards of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

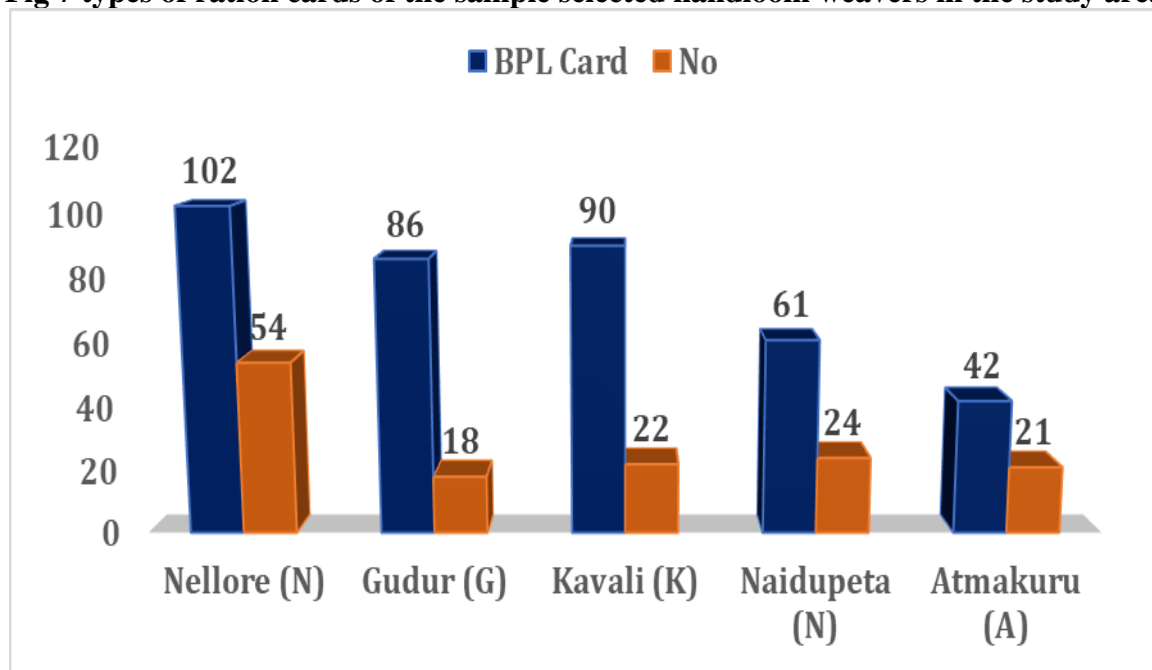


Table 8 examines the Division-wise type of house of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area. Out of 244 weavers have Kutcha type of houses, of these 70 (28.69 percent) are in the Nellore division, 52 (21.31 percent) in the Gudur division, 56 (22.95 percent) in the Kavali division, 38 (15.57 percent) in the Naidupet division and 28 (11.48 percent) in the Atmakur division.

Out of 157 weavers who have Pucca-type houses, of these 50 (31.85 percent) are in the Nellore division, 31 (19.75 percent) in the Gudur division, 32 (20.38 percent) in the

Kavali division, 25 (15.92 percent) in the Naidupet division and 19 (12.10 percent) in the Atmakur division. Out of 119 weavers have Semi-pucca type of houses, of these 36 (30.25 percent) in the Nellore division, 21 (17.65 percent) in the Gudur division, 24 (20.17 percent) in the Kavali division, 22 (18.49 percent) in the Naidupet division and 16 (13.45 percent) in the Atmakur division.

It is observed that among the five revenue divisions, out of 520 handloom weavers around 32 percent of the weavers having pucca houses in the Nellore division and 11.48 percent having Kutcha type of houses in the Atmakur division were respectively recorded.

**Table 8**  
**Division-wise type of house of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

Divisions (D)	Type of House (TH)			Total (T)
	Kutcha (K)	Pucca (P)	Semi-Pucca (SP)	
Nellore (N)	70 (28.69)	50 (31.85)	36 (30.25)	156 (30.00)
Gudur (G)	52 (21.31)	31 (19.75)	21 (17.65)	104 (20.00)
Kavali (K)	56 (22.95)	32 (20.38)	24 (20.17)	112 (21.54)
Naidupeta (N)	38 (15.57)	25 (15.92)	22 (18.49)	85 (16.35)
Atmakuru (A)	28 (11.48)	19 (12.10)	16 (13.45)	63 (12.12)
Total	244 (100)	157 (100)	119 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom weavers

**Fig 8 Type of house of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

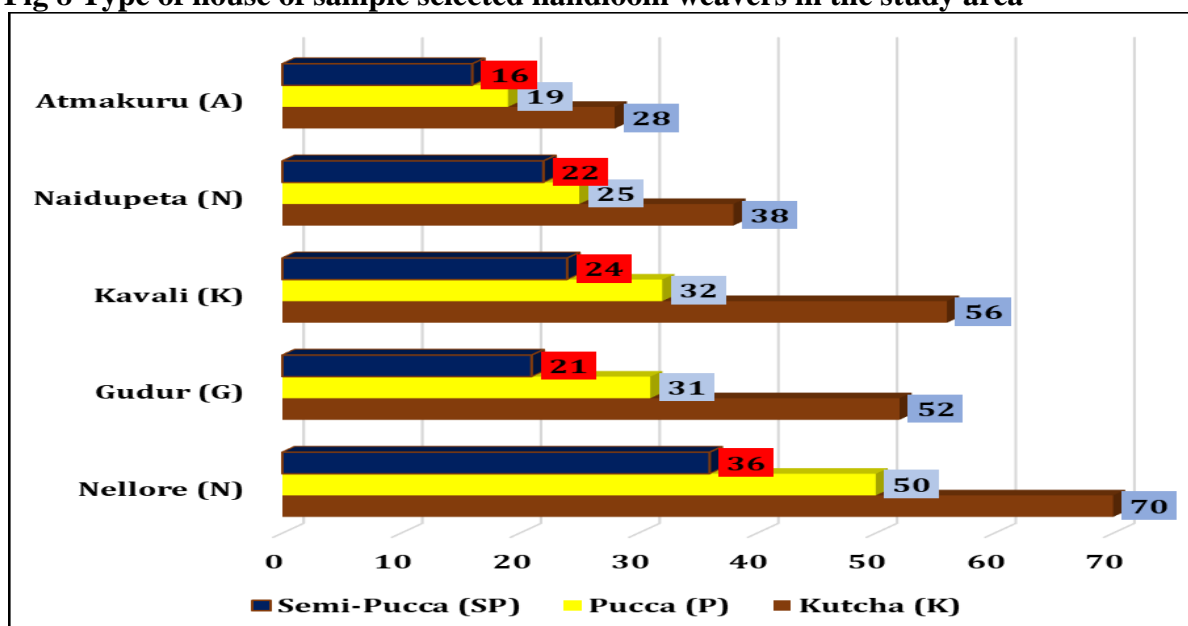


Table 9 reveals the division-wise Members of the Handloom Co-operative Society of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area. Out of 520 sample selected handloom weavers, 326 members actively participated in the handloom cooperative society and 194 members did not activate the members in the cooperative society. Out of 156 sample-selected handloom weavers, 92 members actively participated in the handloom cooperative society and 64 members have not activated the members in the cooperative society in the Nellore division.

Out of 104 sample selected handloom weavers, 68 members actively participated in the handloom cooperative society and 36 members were not activating the members in the cooperative society in the Gudur division. Out of 112 samples selected handloom weavers, 72 members actively participated in the handloom cooperative society and 40 members have not activated the members in the cooperative society in the Kavali division.

Out of 85 samples selected handloom weavers, 52 members actively participated in the handloom cooperative society and 33 members have not activated the members in the cooperative society in the Naidupet division. Out of 63 sample selected handloom weavers, 42 members actively participated in the handloom cooperative society and 21 members have not activated the members in the cooperative society in the Nellore division.

It is found that among the five revenue divisions, a tiny portion 28.22 percent actively participated in the handloom cooperative society and a vast portion occupies at 32.99 percent not activate the members in the cooperative society in the Nellore division.

**Table 9**  
**Division-wise Member of Handloom Co-operative Society of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

Divisions (D)	Member of Handloom Co-operative Society (MHCS)		Total (T)
	Yes (Y)	No (N)	
Nellore (N)	92 (28.22)	64 (32.99)	156 (30.00)
Gudur (G)	68 (20.86)	36 (18.56)	104 (20.00)
Kavali (K)	72 (22.09)	40 (20.62)	112 (21.54)
Naidupeta (N)	52 (15.95)	33 (17.01)	85 (16.35)
Atmakuru (A)	42 (12.88)	21 (10.82)	63 (12.12)
Total (T)	326 (100)	194 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom Weavers

**Fig 9 Member of MHCS of the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**

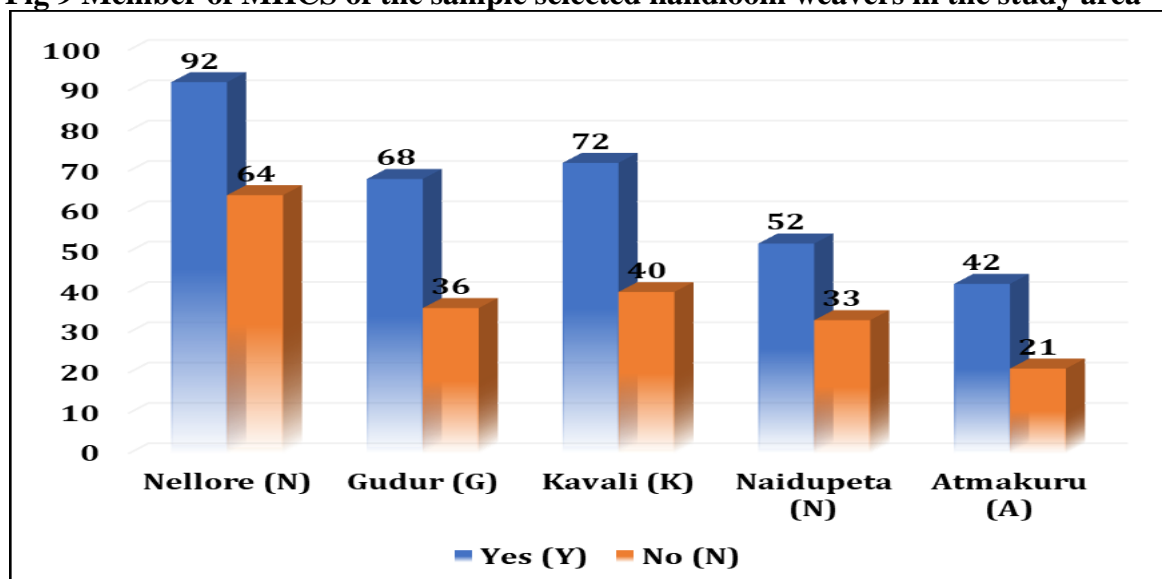


Table 10 depicts the division-wise type of occupation of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area. Out of 338 main occupations of the weavers, of these 98 (28.99 percent) in the Nellore division, 75 (22.19 percent) in the Gudur division, 80 (23.67 percent) in the Kavali division, 48 (14.20 percent) in the Naidupet division and 37 (10.95 percent) in the Atmakur division. Out of 182 secondary occupations of the weavers, of these 58 (31.87 percent) in the Nellore division, 29 (15.93 percent) in the Gudur division, 32 (17.58 percent) in the Kavali division, 37 (20.33 percent) in the Naidupet division and 26 (14.29 percent) in the Atmakur division.

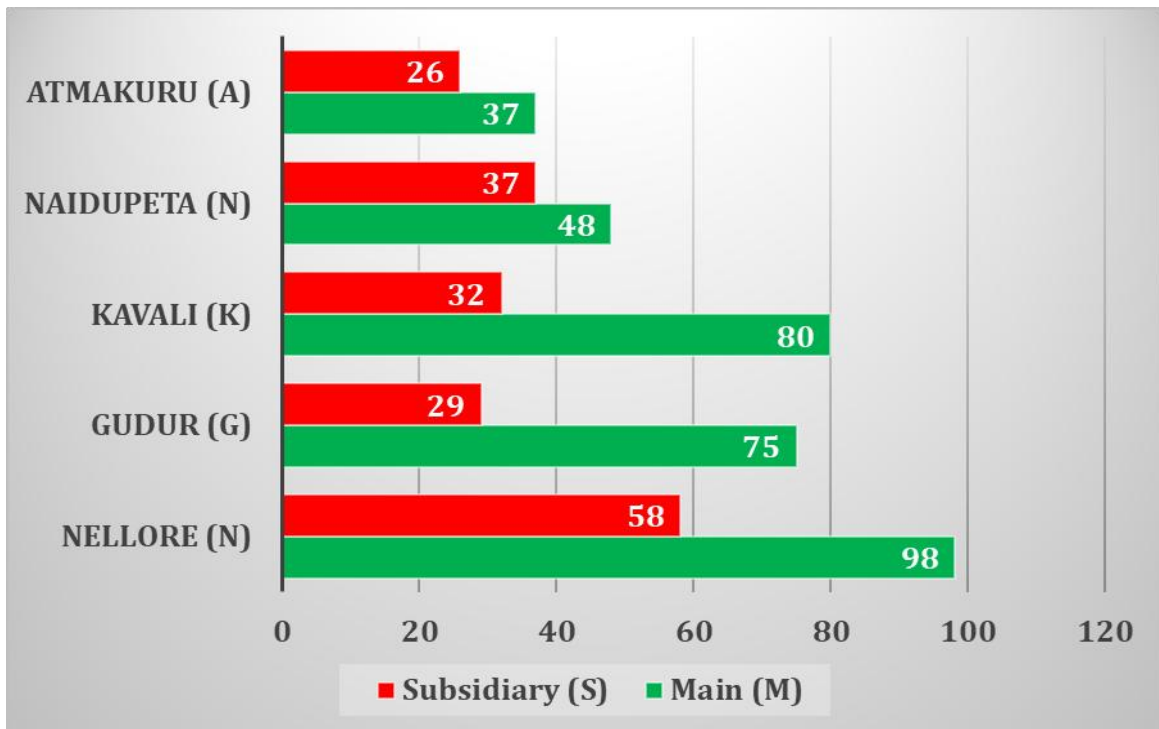
**Table 10**  
**Division-wise type of occupation of sample selected handloom weavers**

Divisions (D)	Type of Occupation (TO)		Total (T)
	Main (M)	Subsidiary (S)	
Nellore (N)	98 (28.99)	58 (31.87)	156 (30.00)
Gudur (G)	75 (22.19)	29 (15.93)	104 (20.00)
Kavali (K)	80 (23.67)	32 (17.58)	112 (21.54)
Naidupeta (N)	48 (14.20)	37 (20.33)	85 (16.35)
Atmakuru (A)	37 (10.95)	26 (14.29)	63 (12.12)
Total (T)	338 (100)	182 (100)	520 (100)

**Source:** The data collected from the sample selected handloom weavers in the study area

**Note:** Figures in bracket ( ) are the percentage of the total sample selected handloom Weavers

**Fig 10 type of occupation of sample selected handloom weavers in the study area**



### Conclusion

It is concluded that the handloom weavers are very significant role in the SPSR Nellore district. The Central and Sate Government should take necessary steps to support handloom weavers, to provide the financial support, more subsidy schemes and also to encourage the weavers. This study indicates that though the Handloom industry offers a massive amount of employment opportunities, it is facing a lot of problems especially socio-economic problems like poor economic condition of the weavers, input related problems and the poor performance of the cooperative sector. Even though it plays vital role in reducing poverty, increasing employment, and enhancing household income and consumption in the state, this sector faces various challenges in the field of creative and innovative design that would increase the market value of the product both in local and national market. Therefore, financial, technical and policy supports of the Government for development of handloom industry in Nellore is the need of an hour.

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