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C H A P P T E R - IIISOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES OF THE POWERLOOM WORKERSINTRODUCTION :

The present chapter provides insight into the socio-economic conditions of powerloom workers in Solapur city. This is an attempt to analyse the information collected in the course of sample survey. This analysis has been done with reference to educational background, composition of labour-force, family background of workers, their working conditions, the procedure for recruitment, the migratory character of workers and their income and expenditure pattern.

The information collected in the course survey has been tabulated and suitably condensed for the purpose of analysis and interpretation.

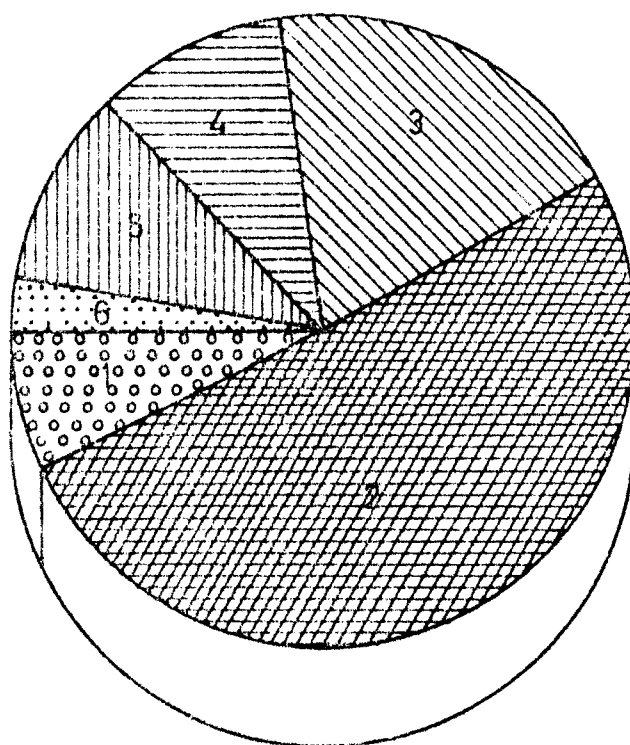
TABLE NO. 3:1EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF WORKERS IN POWERLOOM INDUSTRY

Education	Total No. of Respondents
Illiterate	57
Primary	38
Secondary	5
Total	100

SOURCE - Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

The educational background of workers offers a dismal picture. In our sample of 100 workers, 57 workers are illiterate without any formal educational background 38 percent have educational background of primary level and only 5 percent could get secondary education. This low level of literacy amongst powerloom workers in Solapur city, Points out the urgent need to start formally adult education programme for workers. Though a precise relationship between the

- |   |            |   |          |
|---|------------|---|----------|
| 1 | Maratha    | 4 | Lingayat |
| 2 | Padmashali | 5 | Mahar    |
| 3 | Muslim     | 6 | Komati   |



CASTE COMPOSITION OF WORKERS IN  
POWERLOOM INDUSTRY.

level of education and productivity of workers is very difficult to establish, some such kind of relationship is conceivable in the process of industrialization. Literate workers always constitute the productive labour-FORCE. They can understand things easily and undertake an important leading to higher production.

We can also draw an inference that the low level of education found amongst workers may be due to the nature of work. The work is mainly of repetitive nature and does not require any sophisticated skills for doing the job.

TABLE - 3.2

CASTE COMPOSITION OF WORKERS IN POWERLOOM INDUSTRY

Caste	No. of Respondents
Maratha	7
Padmashali	51
Muslim	19
Lingayat	10
Mahar	10
Komati	3
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It seen from this table that out of the total sampled respondents nearly 7 percent belong to Maratha caste, 51 percent belong to Padmashali, 19 percent belongs to Muslim, 10 percent are Mahars, 10 percent are Lingayats remaining 3 percent belong to Komati caste.

Thus it appears that a little more than half of the workers are Padmashali and a little less than one-fifth of the workers are Muslims and very few percent belong to other castes like Lingayats, Mahars, Komatis and Marathas.

It seems that Padmashali community dominates the labour-force in powerloom industry in Solapur. It may be because weaving and spinning may be the original occupations of this community.

Solapur being on the border of three States viz. Karnataka, Andhra and Maharashtra, it can always get the labour-force from the neighbouring states. Padmashali comes from Andhra Pradesh and has necessary orientation skill wise to undertake the activities of weaving and spinning in the powerloom sector.

The caste composition of workers in our sample survey does not necessarily reflect the caste composition of the town.

TABLE NO. : 3.3AGE GROUPS BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Age Group	Education			Total
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	
10 to 20	5	7	-	12
20 to 30	22	13	4	39
30 to 40	15	8	1	24
40 to 50	7	6	-	13
50 to 60	5	2	-	7
60 and above	3	2	-	5
60				
Total	57	38	5	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

Majority of the respondents are found to quite young. One-tenth of the respondents are above 50 years. It also appears that majority of the respondents are illiterate. A little more than one-third of the respondents are found to have studied upto primary level.

It seems that a practice of appointing child-labour is prevalent in the powerloom industry in Solapur. It may be attributed to

because of low wages and no objection from the Govt. machinery. It may be attributed to absence of healthy trade unionism. The labour-force in this industry also seems more illiterate. It may be because of the easy and semi-skilled work which can be easily performed by illiterate workers.

TABLE NO. : 3,4

SEX AND MARITAL STATUS

Sex	Marital Status			Total
	Unmarried	Married	Widow	
Male	25	51	-	76
Female	-	18	6	24
Total	25	69	6	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

A majority of respondents are male workers and a little less than one-fourth of the respondents are females. A majority of the males and females are married and few percent females are widows.

It seems that powerloom industry in Solapur is a male-dominated industry. However the owners give employment



to female workers in this industry. The poor, needy and helpless women like widows are given jobs in powerloom industry in Solapur.

TABLE NO. : 3.5  
MIGRATORY AND OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND OF THE PARENTS OF  
WORKERS

Migration	Occupational Background				Total
	Hatmag worker	Mill worker	Labour	Farming	
No Migration (Solapur)	29	27	19	4	79
Migrated from (Karnataka)	2	3	3	3	11
Migrated from (Andhra)	-	3	5	2	10
Total	31	33	27	9	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

Table No. 3.5 provides us the background of the parents of workers both in terms of their migratory and occupational background. Majority of the workers belong to Solapur City and their earlier generation also come from Solapur. So these workers can be called as localites. Eleven workers have

migrated from Karnataka and their parents stay in Karnataka State, while in case of ten workers we find that they are migrated from Andhra Pradesh and their parents still reside in that state. If we go by the occupational background of parents we find that 33 percent of them are mill workers and 31 percent are hatmag (Handloom) workers. In short 64 percent of the parents have ~~to~~ background of powerloom industry. Only 9 percent of them belong to farming sector and their second generation has switched over from farming to industrial sector. The occupational background of worker is important because if parents belong to the same occupation it becomes easy to trend their sons and thus the process of skill formation becomes easy.

TABLE NO. : 3.6

MOTHER TONGUE

Mother Tongue	No. of Respondents
Marathi	18
Telgu	52
Urdu/Hindi	19
Kannada	11
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It appears that a little more than half of the workers are Telgu speakers, one-fifth of the workers are Marathi speaking. Besides that again one-fifth of respondents are Urdu/Hindi speakers and a little more than one-tenth of them are Kannada speakers.

It seems that, Telgu speaking workers are more in powerloom industry in Solapur. It may be because of the domination of Padmashali community, who have migrated from Andhra Pradesh and whose mother tongue is Telgu.

TABLE NO. : 3.7

TYPE OF FAMILY

Type of Family	No. of Respondents
Joint	57
Nuclear	43
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It appears that a little more than half of the respondents prefer to stay in Joint families and a little less than half of the respondents prefer to stay in Nuclear families.

It seems that still joint family is popular amongst the workers in powerloom industry in Solapur.

TABLE NO. : 3.8

LABOUR-FORCE

Labour Force	No. of Respondents
Child workers	8
Adult workers	92
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It can be seen from this table that 92 percent of the respondents are adult workers and about 8 percent of them are child workers. Though the percentage of child labour is insignificant, it seems that this practice of employing children for low paid job is still in vogue. This is mainly because of the fact that they offer themselves at lower wages and they are always available for work at short notice. This represents the national scenario and we find that the practice of child labour goes with the object poverty found in the region.

TABLE NO. : 3.9  
LENGTH OF SERVICE OF POWERLOOM WORKERS

Length of Service (Years)	Total No. of Respondents
0 to 5	37
5 to 10	19
10 to 15	23
15 to 20	15
20 and above	6
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

Table No. 3.9 throws light on the level of experience of the workers in our sample survey. Thirty-seven workers have got experience upto five-years, 19 percent of them have got experience between 5 to 10 years, 23 percent workers have experience of 10 to 15 years and only six workers have got experience of 20 years and above.

This aspect throws light on the composition of labour-force in powerloom sector. Though the type of job in this industry requires skilled or semi-skilled workers, the owner prefer workers with adequate experience. The experienced to

workers learn the job quickly and naturally the training time and cost can be minimised.

TABLE NO. 3.10  
CHANGE OF FACTORIES

Details of Change of Factories	No. of Respondents
One (Factory)	13
Two (Two Factories)	16
Three Factories	19
Four industry Factories	11
Five and above Factories	23
No changing	18
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

Table No. 3.10 gives us the details of change of factories by workers in our sample survey. It has been found that 23 percent of workers have changed their jobs for five-times and more. Majority of workers i.e. eighty-two percent have changed the job at least once in their working lives. This industry seems to have developed a tendency of high-labour

turnover. The workers are generally low paid and do not get proper working conditions, as a result of which they leave one job and take up some other job in the same industry. Though vertical mobility is desirable and justified industrial job market, this kind of high-labour turnover may not be justified in a sense that it involves high training cost. Sometimes even the production is held up. The high-labour turnover is a peculiar feature of this industry. It may be attributed to low wage payment, closure of mills and lack of continuous work in this industry. These reasons have been listed in Table no. 3.11.

TABLE NO. :3.11

CAUSES OF LABOUR TURNOVER

Causes	No. of Respondents
Low Wages	48
Closure of Mills	15
Personal Problems	2
Lack of Continuous Work	17
Not Applicable (Since these workers have not changed their jobs)	18
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

TABLE NO. : 3.12  
SOURCES OF RECRUITMENT

Sources	No. of Respondents
Advertisement	23
Friends ✓	31
Relatives ✓	20
Neighbours and other Persons	26

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It can be seen from table No. 12 that majority of workers have been recruited through informal sources like friends and relatives. There is no systematic recruitment procedure being followed in this industry. This may be because of the nature of job which is mainly of semi-skilled type. In case of skilled jobs, sometimes advertisements are published in local newspapers. It has also been found that Munims in these powerloom units also act as contractors who take special interest in recruitment of workers. These informal sources of recruitment are dominant in powerloom industry of Solapur City.



TABLE NO. : 3.13  
BENEFITS OF CHANGING JOB

Benefits	No. of Respondents
Attractive Payments	77
Favourable Working conditions	21
Efficient Management	2
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It is seen from this table that out of the total sampled respondents 77 percent of the respondents had changed the factories for attractive payments. 21 percent respondents had changed the factories for favourable working conditions and remaining 2 percent respondents had changed their factories because of getting efficient management.

Thus, it appears that a overwhelming majority of the respondents had changed their jobs or factories because of attractive payments only. A little more than one-fifth of the respondents had changed their jobs or factories for getting favourable working conditions.

TABLE NO. : 3.14  
WORKING CONDITIONS

Working Conditions	Opinion of the Respondents
Congested or Overcrowding	40
Dirty	7
Unsatisfactory	29
Satisfactory	24
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It is seen from this table that out of the total sampled respondents nearly 40 percent respondents had expressed their opinion that the workplace was congested, 7 percent respondents had expressed their opinion that it was dirty, 29 percent had expressed their opinion that working conditions were very unsatisfactory and the remaining 24 percent respondents had expressed their opinion that it was satisfactory.

Thus, it appears that a overwhelming majority of the respondents could not get satisfaction regarding working conditions in powerloom industry in Solapur City. A little more than one-third of the respondents were of the opinion that working conditions were satisfactory.

In general the working conditions in powerloom industry

are not satisfactory. It may be because of financial position of the owners, negligence of the Govt. machinery, loopholes in the existing laws and lack of healthy trade unionism.

TABLE NO. :3.15

THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND JOB SATISFACTION

Education	Job Satisfaction		Total
	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	
Illiterate	40	17	57
Primary	30	8	38
Secondary	—	5	5
Total	70	30	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It has been observed that lower the level education, higher is the level of job satisfaction. Majority of the workers in the present survey are illiterate without any formal level of education and they have opined that they do get job satisfaction. Possibly their expectations from the job might be moderate and they might have been fulfilled.

Even the workers with primary level of education have expressed that they get job satisfaction. But the workers having secondary education do not seem to be happy with their jobs and have expressed that their job satisfaction is at a very low level.

TABLE NO. : 3.16

CAUSES OF NOT GETTING JOB SATISFACTION

Causes at Not Satisfaction	No. of Respondents
No regular work is available	14
Low prospects for Promotion	3
No opportunity to utilize the skills fully	8
Not applicable (Since they get job satisfaction)	70
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It can be seen from table No. 16 that the labour-force in powerloom industry is satisfied with the present job. Job satisfaction is an important consideration in the sense that contented and satisfied labour-force is always supposed to be productive labour-force. Majority of the

workers i.e. 70 percent have expressed that they are satisfied with the job. Thirty percent of the sampled respondents have expressed that they are not getting job satisfaction mainly because work is not available on regular basis and the working conditions are not favourable. Even the factors of low promotional prospect was figured in their opinion.

TABLE NO. : 3.17

PERIOD OF DISTRIBUTION OF BONUS

Period of distribution of Bonus	Range of the amount of Bonus					<u>Total</u>
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
	Upto 300	300 to 400	400 to 500	500 to 600	600 to above	
<del>Total</del>						
Makar Sankrant	15	3	6	5	13	42
Depawali	18	3	3	5	13	42
Dassara	—	4	2	7	3	16
Total	33	10	11	17	29	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It is seen from this table that out of the total sampled respondents 42 percent respondents have got their

bonus at the time of Makar Sankranth, Forty-two percent of respondents have got their bonus at the time of Diwali festivals and remaining sixteen percent respondents have got their bonus at the time of Dassara festivals.

It follows from this that there is no fixed timing for payment of bonus but it is made available at the time of festivals.

Of the 42 percent respondents who have got bonus at Makar Sankranth, 15 respondents have got bonus upto Rs. 300/-. Three respondents have got bonus in the range of Rs. 300/- to 400/-. Six respondents have got bonus in the range of Rs. 400 to 500/-. Five respondents have got the bonus in their range of Rs. 500 to 600/-. and thirteen percent of respondents have got bonus in the range of Rs. 600 and above.

Out of the second category of 42 respondents who receive bonus at the time of Diwali festival, 18 respondents get bonus upto Rs. 300 and thirteen of them get bonus in the range of Rs. 600 and above.

Thus, it appears that out of total sampled 33 percent

of the total respondents have got the bonus below 300/- Rs. 10 percent have got the bonus in the range of Rs. 300 to 400. Eleven percent of the respondents have got 400 to 500 Rs, Seventeen percent have got bonus in the range of Rs. 500 to 600 and remaining Twenty-nine percent respondents have got the bonus Rs. 600 and above.

TABLE NO. : 3.18

TRADE UNIONISM MEMBERSHIP

Trade Union Membership	No. of Respondents
Yes	8
No.	92
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Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It is seen from this table that out of the total sampled respondents nearly 92 percent respondents were not participating in the trade union activity and only 8 percent respondents were found to be the members of trade union.

The weak trade union activity may be attributed

to the hostile attitude of owners and lack of healthy growth of trade unionism in the powerloom section in Solapur City. The growth of trade union activity on sound footing will only ensure better working conditions for workers in this sector.

TABLE NO. : 3.19

SIZE OF THE FAMILY ALONGWITH THE AVAILABLE ACCOMMODATION

No. of Rooms	No. of Family Member staying together								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	5	8	20	21	-	-	-	-	54
2	-	-	-	9	12	13	-	-	34
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	12
Total	5	8	20	30	12	13	10	2	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

The dwelling conditions of powerloom workers offer a gloomy picture since majority of workers (i.e. 54 percent) stay in one room accommodation, while thirty-four percent of sampled workers have two room accommodation. Only twelve percent of the sampled respondents have three room accommodation.



This accommodation is not very decent one but can be called as slum-hutments. They stay in filthy and deplorable conditions.

TABLE NO. : 3.20  
MONTHLY INCOME BY LOCATION OF HOUSE

Monthly Income in (Rs.)	Location of House			Total
	Zopadpatti	Chowal/Wada	Pucca Bldg.	
200 to 300	18	-	-	18
300 to 400	12	10	-	22
400 to 500	11	11	2	24
500 to 600	6	6	3	15
600 to 700	4	7	3	14
700 and above	3	3	1	7
Total	54	37	9	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It can be seen from this table No. 20 that majority of workers in our sample survey that in slum area which are the congested areas of the town. The slum areas which are popularly called as zopadpattis have got proximity to the industrial areas. Naturally workers prefer to stay near the

place of their work. The conditions in slums are far from hygienic which lead to various diseases affecting the productivity of workers.

The monthly income of workers and dwelling conditions are associated in the sense that higher the income bracket, greater is the tendency of workers to stay in better residential accommodation. For example, workers with monthly income in the range of Rs. 200 to 300 stay in zoppadpattis while majority of workers having monthly income in the range of Rs. 600 to 700. Prefer to stay in either in chawls or Pucca building.

TABLE NO. : 3.21

LOCATION OF THE HOUSE BY FACILITIES

Location	Facilities are not available			All facilities are available	Total
	Water	Light	Latrine & Urinal	Water, light Uninal & latrine	
Slum	4	3	3	44	54
Chawls/Wadas	—	2	2	33	37
Pucca Buildg.	—	—	—	9	9
Total	4	5	5	86	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

In general it appears that almost all the workers living in pucca-building and chawels enjoy the required facilities in their dwelling houses but majority of workers living in slum areas are not enjoying the required facilities. This may be because of underdeveloped slums in Solapur.

TABLE NO. : 3.22 >

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH  
OF WORKERS IN POWERLOOM INDUSTRY

Types of Illness	Frequency of Sickness in a Year				Total
	One Time	Two Time	Three Time	Continuous suffers	
Headache & Injury	23	14	3	—	40
Flue	21	11	6	—	38
Malaria	4	2	1	—	7
Gastro	8	3	2	—	13
T.B. & Asthama	—	—	—	2	2
Total	16	30	12	2	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It can be seen from table No. 22 that majority of workers fall sick at least once in a year. The frequency of falling sick is within the manageable limits. Moreover, the type of illness is also very common like headache, flue, malarial and gastro. This type of illness quite understandable since these workers stay in filthy and unhygienic conditions. A small percentage of workers reported that they have T.B. and Asthma which can be classified as 'occupational diseases'. Generally textile workers are exposed to such working conditions that they fall prey to occupational diseases like T.B. and Asthma. It is a healthy feature of powerloom industry in Solapur. that the workers are free from occupational diseases like T.B. of course, there needs to sound a note caution because the above finding is based on responses of the workers in the course of sample survey and no medical or clinical reporting was obtained. Against the background of general occurrence of these occupational diseases amongst textile workers. It may be suggested that medical check-up of the workers may be carried out periodically.

A considerable percentage of workers have reported that they receive injuries at the time of work and only the First-Aid is made available to them.

TABLE NO. : 3.23HABITS OF WORKERS

<u>Habits</u>	<u>No. of Respondents</u>
Betelnut	6
Bet elnut and Tobacco	
Chewing	17
Smoking	11
Smoking & Betelnut	21
Alcohol	25
Alcohol & Smoking	12
Alcohol, Smoking & Betelnut	8
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

In general it appears that all the workers had some or the other habits. A majority of them had habits of betelnut, smoking and tobacco chewing. And one-fifth of the respondents had habits of drinking liquor. It may be because of heavy work, feeling of tiredness and bad company. One-fifth of the workers are accustomed with the habit of drinking liquor, It may be because of customs in their community.

TABLE NO. : 3.24  
USE OF APPLIANCES

Appliances	No. of Respondents
Cycle	59
Electric fan & Radio	9
Radio, Cycle & Fan	7
Radio & T.V.	3
T.V., Fan & Cycle	2
Not having any appliances	20
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

Table No. 24 gives us the information as to the availability of appliances of various types. Though these appliances after better living conditions and can be taken as a part of living standard, it becomes difficult to equate them.

It can be seen from this table No. 24 that majority of workers have bicycles, naturally because they need some conveyance upto the place of work. Nine percent of them

have electric fans and radios, seven percent have radios, cycle and fans. Only two percent of them have T.V., fan and Cycle. Twenty percent of them respondents reported that they do not have any of these appliances.

TABLE NO. : 3.25

TYPES OF FAMILY AND OCCUPATION OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS

Type of Family	Sources of Family Income					Total
	Nil	Bidi Workers	Handloom Workers	Rope maker	Tobacco wrap maker	
Joint	8	31	14	4	—	57
Nuclear	11	21	8	2	1	43
Total	19	52	22	6	1	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

The No. 3.25 shows the division of respondents into Joint and Nuclear families. Out of 100 respondents 57 respondents have joint families and eight of them do not have any additional source of income. While in case of 49 respondents, they have some additional sources of income since their family members are bidiworkers, handloom workers and rope workers.

In the joint family system, majority of the respondents (i.e. 31 in numbers) have stated that their family members are bidi workers. In case of 14 respondents, their family members are handloom workers. This kind of supportive income helps their families to enhance their standard of living.

There has also been a discernible trend of nuclear families in the sense that 43 respondents have stated to have divided nuclear families.

TABLE NO. : 3.26

TOTAL FAMILY INCOME

Total Family Income (Rs.)	Total No. of Respondents
Rs. 600 to 700	40
Rs. 700 to 800	24
Rs. 800 to 900	15
Rs. 900 to 1000	14
Rs. 1000 and above	7
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.



Table No. 26 shows the average earning of workers in five classes. The first and the lowest income group shown in the table is from Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 and the highest slab of income is of Rs. 1000 and above. If we consider the average size of 5 family members, the per capita monthly income comes to Rs. 140 in the lowest slab and Rs. 200 in the highest slab. These monthly per capita figures if converted into daily per capita figures, they would be correspondingly Rs. 5 and Rs. 7 for a family of 5 members on an average. This clearly bring out the fact that economic conditions of workers are very poor affecting their efficiency considerably.

TABLE NO. 3.21

PRACTICE OF WAGE PAYMENT

Period of Payment	No. of Respondents
Weekly	85
After fifteen days	15
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

Table No. 3.27 shows the practice of wage payment in powerloom industry in Solapur City. The majority of respondents i.e. 85 percent stated that their payment are made on weekly basis and 15 percent respondents receive their payments on fortnightly basis. This practice is perfectly within the provisions of payment of wages Act of 1936 and worker are quite happy about it. If the payments are made with less time interval the cash requirements of workers are satisfied. In case of skilled categories like jobbers, folders though the payment is fixed on time basis (i.e. monthly) the actual payments are made on fortnightly basis or even on weekly basis.

TABLE NO. : 3.28

SOURCES OF LOAN ALONG WITH THEIR CAUSES

Causes	Sources				Total
	Advance from employer	Friends and relatives	Money Lender	No Loan	
Domestic Difficulties	14	11	9	—	34
Education	8	9	—	—	17
Marriage	7	2	6	—	15
Medical Expenses	5	3	1	—	9
Not taking loans	—	—	—	25	25
Total	34	25	16	25	100

SOURCES : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

The various sources of loan alongwith their causes have been listed in table No. 28 which clearly points out the tendency of taking loans for various purposes. Only 25 respondents have stated that they did not avail of any loan either from their employers, a money lenders. But 75 percent of the sampled respondents have availed of loan and in majority of the cases they have taken loan in the form of advance from their employers. In case of advance the workers are not supposed to pay any rate of interest and the deductions are effected at source from their salaries. It is a noteworthy fact that the workers do not prefer to get loans from money lenders since their rate of interest are quite high.

It is very interesting to note that the co-operative form of organisation is completely absent in Solapur City. If we have a scanning of the causes of loans, we find that majority of workers have taken loans to meet their domestic difficulties. Since these workers live hard to mouth living, it is quite understandable that they avail of advance facility to meet certain exigencies on the domestic front. Only 17 workers have taken loan for educational purpose and 15 respondents have taken loan for medical purpose.

DR. BALASAHEB KHARDEKAR LIBRARY  
SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR



TABLE NO. : 3.29FORMS OF SAVING

Form of Saving	Total Amount Saved Last Year (In Rs.)						Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
	Nil	200 to 300	300 to 400	400 to 500	500 to 600	600 & above	
Deposits in Co-operative Bank	—	—	1	—	1	2	4
Deposits in Path Pedhi	—	—	1	—	2	3	6
In House Saving	—	12	3	2	2	2	21
Not Saving	69	—	—	—	—	—	69
Total	69	12	5	2	5	7	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

The present survey of powerloom workers has confirmed that workers do not cultivate the habits of savings. Out of 100 respondents 69 workers do not save at all. It is quite understandable that workers with inadequate incomes can not afford to save. In fact it becomes difficult for them to meet

their daily expenses out of 31 respondents who have stated that they undertake some kind of savings, only 4 workers can be said to have cultivated the habits of saving since they save either in form of deposits with the co-operative banks or in the form of small savings with Path-Pedhi. Twenty-one respondents have stated that they as hard cash in their homes. But this is nothing the transaction motive which these workers have behind this so-called saving. It is a 'dead saving' in the sense that it may not be available for any constructive purpose.

TABLE NO. : 3.30

MONTHLY INCOME BY MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

Monthly Income	Expenditure on Foodgrain, Ration and Fuel					Total
	Rs. Below 200	Rs. 200 to 300	Rs. 300 to 400	Rs. 400 to 500	Rs. 500 & above	
Below Rs. 300	18	—	—	—	—	18
Rs. 300-400	16	6	—	—	—	22
Rs. 400-500	9	15	—	—	—	24
Rs. 500-600	4	9	2	—	—	15
Rs. 600-700	3	10	1	—	—	14
Rs. 700 & above	—	2	3	2	—	7
Total	50	42	6	2	—	100

SOURCE : Monthly expenditure of Sampled workers on Various Items.

The monthly expenditure of workers on various items like foodgrains, ration and fuel offers very interesting findings. Fifty percent of sampled workers spend below Rs. 200 for their food and fuel. This level of expenditure is very low, specially when we calculate it on the basis of average family size of five. One can also understand the quality of diet or intake of workers which may have very serious impact on the productivity of workers. The next category which constitutes 42 percent of the sampled workers spend between Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 on food and fuel. This level of expenditure also can not be described as reasonable taking into account the norms of living wages.

TABLE NO. : 3.31

SIZE OF THE FAMILY AND MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF WORKERS

Family Members	Range of Expenditure on Education Per Month (in Rs.)				Total
	Nil	Rs. 20-30	Rs. 30-40	Rs. 40-50	
Upto 3	—	12	2	—	14
3 to 5	—	8	3	1	12
5 to 7	—	5	3	—	8
Nil	66	—	—	—	66
Total	66	25	8	1	100

SOURCE : Monthly Expenditure of Sampled Workers on Education.

Table No. 31 shows the monthly expenditure on education by the sampled workers in powerloom industry in Solapur City. One glaring fact which is noticeable from the table is that majority of the workers i.e. 66 percent do not spend on education of their children. It may be because of the fact that there is a provision of free and compulsory education upto the age of 14 in Indian constitutions. Naturally the sons, daughters of workers for get free primary education. Though most of the workers aspire for secondary and even higher education for their children, they can afford this because of their hard to mouth living. This result into high residence to drpp out at the secondary level of education. The unability of workers to spend on component of the education is certainly affecting the spirit of wage policy, as chackled out by International Labour Organisation. In fact we are striving for the living wage which should necessarily include the expenditure on education and other frugal comforts.

TABLE NO. : 3.32ITEM OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

Type of Expenditure	Range of Monthly Expenditure (in Rs.)					Total
	Nil	Rs. 10-20	Rs. 20-30	Rs. 30-40	Rs. 40 & above	
Medical-Aid	9	43	35	13	—	100
House Rent	38	—	11	28	23	100
Entertainment	6	30	46	18	—	100

SOURCE : Monthly Expenditure of Sampled Workers on Item of Medical Aid, House Rent, Entertainment.

It seen from this table that out of total sampled respondents 9 percent found not to be spending on medical aid, 43 percent respondents are spending in the range of Rs. 10 to 20, 35 percent respondents are spending in the range of Rs. 20 to 30 and remaining 13 percent respondents are spending below Rs. 30 to 40 on medical aid. which includes medical fees as well as expenditure on medicine.

Of the total sampled respondents 38 percent respondents found not to be spending anything on house rent, 11 percent



respondents are spending between 20 to 30 rupees, 28 percent respondents are spending between 30 to 40 rupees and remaining 23 percent respondents are spending Rs. 40 and above on house rent.

Of the total sampled respondents 6 percent respondents have not spent on entertainment, 30 percent respondents are spending in the range of Rs. 10 to 20, 46 percent respondents are spending in the range of Rs. 20 to 30 and remaining 18 percent respondents are spending below Rs. 30 to 40 on entertainment.

Thus it is clear from the data presented in table No. 32 that majority of respondents spend on items of medical aid and entertainment. The amount of expenditure on entertainment is in the range of Rs. 10 to 20, Rs. 20 to 30 and Rs. 30 to 40. This can not be considered as insignificant amount against the background of their low levels of monthly expenditure.

Out of the sampled respondents thirty eight percent workers do not spend anything on house rent because they have their huts constructed with the help of locally available building material. But they can not be considered to be 'Pucca-Makans'.

TABLE NO.: 3.33MONTHLY EXPENDITURE ON DIFFERENT HABITS

Items of Personal Expenditure	Range of Monthly Expenditure (in Rs.)					Total
	Nil	Rs. 0-10	Rs. 10-20	Rs. 20-30	Rs. 30-40	
Betelnut & Tobacco						
Chewing	26	8	10	38	18	100
Smoking	48	16	33	3	—	100
Alcohol	55	3	15	23	4	100
Matka & Gambling	88	—	8	4	—	100
Picture	3	18	77	2	—	100

SOURCE : Monthly Expenditure of Sampled Workers on Different Habits.

A majority of the workers spend money on habits like betelnut, smoking, alcohol and movies. Majority of them spend between in the range of Rs. 10 to 40.

The different habits which workers are generally indulged in, are smoking, chewing of tobacco, betelnut, gambling, hotelling, drinking and seeing movies. These workers spend quite significant amount on their expenditure on these habits. Though openly they have admitted to have indulged in these habits, the amount of expenditure mentioned by them is certainly an under estimation. Actually there is every reason to believe that they might be spending more.

TABLE NO. : 3.34

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON CLOTHING

Items of Clothing	Range of Annual Expenditure (in Rs.)					Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
	100-200	200-400	400-600	600-800	800 & above	
Male Clothing Requirement	5	11	12	3	3	34
Female Clothing Requirement	2	9	8	2	2	23
Children Clothing Requirement	3	14	17	5	4	43
Total	10	34	37	10	9	100

SOURCE : Annual Expenditure of Sampled Workers on Clothing.

TABLE NO. : 3.34ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON CLOTHING

Table No. 3.34 shows the annual expenditure on clothing. This expenditure is made to meet the clothing requirements of male, female and children. The item is an important item of the consumption expenditure of workers. They spend mostly in the range of Rs. 400 to 600. The clothing requirements of children and male dominate the expenditure on clothing.

TABLE NO. : 3.35FESTIVALS BY ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

Festivals	Range of Annual Expenditure (in Rs.)			Total
	Rs. 100-200	Rs. 200-400	Rs. 400 & above	
Deepawali	12	16	4	34
Dassara	8	10	2	20
M. Sankrant	2	11	3	14
Rakhee Purnima	1	3	2	6
Ramzan	2	3	8	13
Ganesh Ustava	2	2	3	7
Other Festivals	1	3	2	6
Total	28	48	24	100

SOURCE : Annual Expenditure of Sampled Workers on Various Festivals Celebrated.

Table No. 35 shows the annual expenditure on various festivals of the powerloom workers in Solapur City. Though the findings are applicable to the workers covered in our sample survey there is fair scope for generalisation. The measure festivals these workers are Depawali, Dassara, Makar Sankranth and Ramzan generally the annual bonus is distributed during this period and workers do have some discretionary income to spend. It is a very common phenomenon in Indian working class that celebrate some festivals and spend quite a significant amount on these festivals. Perhaps their level of annual income may not justify the expenditure on these festivals.

But that is the only solace in their routine life. If we scan the list of these festivals we find that they celebrate these festivals which are commonly celebrated by Indian Society. The range of expenditure which is emerging in the present survey is between Rs. 200 to 400 and 48 percent of the workers spend in this range of expenditure. Only 24 percent of the workers spend in the range of Rs. 400 and above and 28 percent of the respondents spend in the range of Rs. 100 to 200. Depawali and Dassara festivals are very popular amongst workers possibly they reflect the general practices of Indian working class.

TABLE NO. : 3.36ATTITUDE TOWARDS FAMILY PLANNING

Attitude Towards Family Planning	Total No. of Respondents
Favourable	4
Not Favourable	96
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It is seen from this table that out of the total sampled respondents 4 percent respondents are found to have favourable attitude towards family planning. They have positive approach in accepting various family planning measures. 96 percent respondents do not have favourable attitude towards accepting family planning measures.

On the whole we find an apathetic attitude towards family planning. This may be because of high rate of illiteracy amongst workers. We must build positive mind of these workers so that they become more responsive towards family planning measures.

TABLE NO. : 3.37FAMILY PROBLEM

Type of Family Problem	Total No. of Respondents
Accommodation Problem	25
Economic Problem	61
Other Personal Problem	12
No Problem	2
Total	100

SOURCE : Sample Survey Conducted in Solapur City.

It is seen from this table that out of total sampled respondents 25 percent respondents face the problem of accommodation, 61 percent respondents face economic problem and 12 percent respondents are facing their personal problems. Only a small percentage has mentioned that that they do not have any problem.

The workers seems to be facing accommodation problem because of shortage of housing facilities and majority of the workers are facing economic problems it may be because of low income and high level of expenditure.