

# Threads of Change: Analyzing the Socioeconomic and Health Dynamics of Women Weavers in Srijangram Development Block, Bongaigaon

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## Abstract

This research investigates the livelihood and health conditions of women weavers in Srijangram Dev. Block, focusing on their economic contributions and health challenges in the handloom industry. Employing surveys, interviews, and observations, the study reveals that women weavers significantly contribute to their families' economic stability through diverse handloom products like Gamosa, Mekhela, and Angsa. However, they face competition from modern materials such as polyester, affecting their income and sustainability. Health issues are prevalent among women weavers, with musculoskeletal problems due to long working hours and repetitive motions being a major concern. Exposure to chemicals and dust leads to respiratory and skin-related problems, while financial instability and challenging working conditions contribute to mental health issues like stress and anxiety. The study emphasizes the need for comprehensive support to improve the livelihood and well-being of women weavers. Policy measures should focus on promoting traditional handloom products, improving access to finance, and enhancing marketing strategies. Training in ergonomic practices and better access to healthcare facilities can address their health challenges. By addressing their economic and health needs, we can empower women weavers to sustain their livelihoods and contribute more effectively to their families and communities.

**Keywords:** Women weavers, Handloom industry, Livelihood, Health issues, Economic contribution, Empowerment.

## INTRODUCTION

Handloom is one of the world famous traditional and the oldest cottage industries in India. It is distributed both in Rural and Urban areas. This industry is closely related to associated with art and culture of the country. Handloom industry is the socio-cultural, history, socio-economic, folklore and technology associated with traditional textiles in the region. It is also a largest employment provider next to agriculture. It has investigated on the topic of female labour forces participation poor and new industries. The formed that the same industries is low scale in participation has significant rent in the exports of last Asian and Europe. The study shows that role of women in Handloom sector from different community, different culture, different societies and these determine the economic contribution of women to their family. The handloom skill is concentrated in the North-Eastern states of India, who together account for 16.83 lakh (60.5%) and Assam alone accounts for 12.41 lakh (44.6%) handloom households, Manipur and Tripura have 1.79 lakh (6.4) and 1.21 lakh (4.3%) household.

Women have been actively involved in the handloom weaving industry in Assam since ancient times. They have played a significant role in the development and growth of the sector, contributing their skills and expertise to the industry's success. Women weavers in Assam have made a significant impact on the handloom industry, bringing in their unique creativity and designs to the sector. According to the census of India 2011, the population of Assam was approximately 31.2 million, out of which around 14 million were women. As per the handloom census of India, 2009-10, there were around 2.2 million handloom weavers in the country, with approximately 1.5 million weavers working in the unorganized sector. Assam had a significant share of this

workforce, with approximately 550,000 handloom weavers in the state, out of which around 70% were women. The handloom industry in India holds a rich heritage and cultural significance. It is a traditional craft that has been passed down through generations and is deeply rooted in the country's art, culture, and traditions (Hussain, 2019). Handloom weaving is not only an artistic expression but also a major source of employment, particularly in rural areas where it is closely linked to the socio-economic fabric of communities (Sinha & Mazumdar, 2017). Assam, located in Northeast India, is renowned for its handloom weaving industry, which has flourished for centuries (Nath, 2019). The state's handloom weavers, especially women, have played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting this ancient craft (Borthakur, 2018). Assam's handloom weaving industry has contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of the region. According to the Handloom Census of India in 2013, Assam has the highest concentration of handloom weavers in the country, with approximately 78% of the workforce being women (Government of India, 2013). This highlights the crucial role played by women in sustaining and advancing the handloom sector in Assam. Their skills and expertise have been instrumental in the sector's growth and success (Bhattacharjee & Nath, 2015).

The handloom industry in Assam faces various challenges and opportunities. One challenge is the increasing competition from new cloth materials like polyester, which has flooded the market in recent years (Choudhury & Kakoti, 2018). This has resulted in a gradual decline in the demand for traditional handloom products and has adversely affected the income of weavers. Additionally, the industry's dependence on manual labor and the physical demands of weaving have led to health issues among weavers, particularly women (Bhuyan & Pathak, 2016). Lack of access to quality education and healthcare facilities further compounds the difficulties faced by weavers and their families (Sinha & Mazumdar, 2017).

To address these challenges and tap into the potential of the handloom sector, various government initiatives and schemes have been implemented. These include financial assistance, skill development programs, and marketing support to promote the handloom products of Assam (Handloom & Textiles, Government of Assam). However, there is a need for comprehensive policies and programs that address the specific needs of women weavers and provide them with better opportunities for sustainable livelihoods (Ghosh, 2019). Several studies have explored the socio-economic impact of the handloom industry in Assam. For instance, Borthakur (2018) conducted a study on the socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers in Assam and found that despite their significant contribution to the industry, most weavers faced low income levels and limited access to basic amenities. Similarly, Bhuyan and Pathak (2016) investigated the health issues faced by women weavers in Assam and highlighted the need for improved healthcare facilities and occupational safety measures.

In conclusion, the handloom industry in Assam, particularly the contribution of women weavers, is a vital part of the state's cultural heritage and economic fabric. Despite the challenges faced by the industry, efforts are being made to support and revitalize the handloom sector through government interventions and the promotion of traditional handloom products. Addressing the limitations faced by weavers, such as low income, health issues, and limited access to education and healthcare, is crucial for their sustainable development and the preservation of this ancient craft.

## 1.1 Statement of the problem

Assam with total geographical area of 98.4% under rural area (census, 2011) depicts economic activities dominated by primary activities. The state being rural in nature lacks employment and other urban amenities and circumstance in the study area is not different is Srijangram block of Bongaigaon district of Assam.

As most of the people are engaged in primary economic activities with poor income, the area is found to be dominated by agriculture activities, with presence of handloom at most of the household for self-utilization and also as an additional source of income. In the study area as women are involved in producing various traditional handloom products the present study is an attempt to understand economic contribution of women in the family through handloom and its probable consequence to their health status. Therefore the study aims at looking at what is the socio-economic condition and livelihood pattern of women in the Srijangram block and their contribution in the family and its impact on their health.

## 1.2 Literature Review

The role of women in promoting long-term wellbeing has been well documented since the early 1900s. According to (World Bank 2001) women engagement in the work force has been declining as an economy shifts from an agrarian to an industry foundation economy.

There have been a good number of research papers, references, books, reports etc in the women livelihood and its contribution towards economic condition. An attempt is made in this part of the research study to give a brief account of recent present research work.

Awar and Farah (2015) has investigated on the topic of female labour forces participation poverty and new industries .They formed that the same industries is low scale in paristan band has significant rent in the exports of last Asian and Europe . So, it is need of the time to the expend female in cottage in industry.

Aswaini TD and Shivshankar Ehat in their study ,’’Womens participation in handloom industry ‘’ The study focuses the socio-economic condition of the weavers.

Tasneem S and Abdul Munir in their study ‘’Female work participation in handloom industry ‘’ studies female work participation in handloom industry on of Mubarakpur . The stand is based in the socio- economic condition derived from primary data collected from questionnaire.B.SPani (1990)in his paper ‘’Handloom development policy’’ . An analytic assessment shows that the handloom sector facing a deeper crisis and it may have to face the problem of its liquidation in the upcoming times , if present trends continue . He suggest measures like, moderanizing the handloom sector on a war footing plane , altering the production structure to suit consumer preferences , strengthening the private sector in the handloom industry, scrapping the controlled cloth scheme , regulating the supply and prices of yarm , chemicals and dyes and enforcing restrictions on further expansion of capacity in mills and powerloo

Rama Mohan Rao K.(1990) wrote a book ,’’Development of Handloom Industry. ‘’ On his book he describe about the socio-economic status of weavers in handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh. He has presented an overall view of the performance of primary weavers’ co-operative societies , and not an in depth assessment of the performance of these primary weavers’co-operative societies .

Dr.JMJVinodini,’’Participation of women in Handloom and the working condition of female handloom workers .’’ The most significant physiological issue for handloom women workers is menstruation . The data is collected with the help of secondary and the fourth handloom census 2019-20.

Donna Rica Diengdoh,’’ Studies on women workers in Eri Silk handloom industry in Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya and study the Socio – economic status of the women workers involved in Eri Silk handloom industry.’’

Baruah Alpana ,Studied on women workers in handloom in Morigaon district of Assam based on both primary and secondary data . The study showed that socio-economic background of women in handloom and contribution of women to the family income from agriculture and allied activities in the study area.

Shirur, Sangappa, analyze the impact of non governmental organization pogrammes on the income and employment generation of women beneficiaries in the study area and analyze the profile of non governmental organizations women beneficiaries involved in different livelihood activities.

Mallikarjuna,G. studies on impact of handloom industry on weavers in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh . On her study it is found that the performance of handloom co-operative and its women weavers. The women weavers’ economic condition of women in handloom sector are not favourable .The standard of living significantly low . They facing problem of poverty ,unemployment and underemployment .The practical suggestions offered improve the socio-economic empowerment in handloom sector .

Ramesh A study on Financial performance of handloom weavers in Karur district . He studied about the activities of the handloom weavers’ co- operative societies. In his study it showed that the sales performance of the handloom societies and measure the financial health of the handloom societies . He suggest suitable measures for development of handloom co-operative societies .

Medhi Satyabatidiscussed on Traditional handloom culture products and practice a socio cultural study in Hajo ,Kamrup district. She used primary and secondary data for analyzing the topic . She study on the socio-cultural aspect of indigenouse weaving of that area and she discussed about the folklore , history and technology related with traditional textiles and weaving. She also study about the problems and prospect in the development of traditional textile industry.

Kavita, studied about women participation in agriculture and their economic contribution in agriculture special reference to western Uttar Pradesh . The study shows that role of women in agriculture & allied activities from cultivating households . It examine the nature of participation of household female members agriculture, animal husbandry and household activities and she also determine the economic contribution of women in their family.

Kumar,Bondela Vijaya, analyses about growth and performance of Andhra Pradesh state handloom weavers co operative society LTD a study of APCO units in Antara district . This topic review the development of handloom-industry in relation to co- operation & assess the sales and financial performance of Andhra pradesh state handloom weavers’ .

Raman R, studied on the practice and production of silk products in Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers’ co - operative society Ltd . He examine the employees’ perception in marketing practices of silk product .

Muthiah S , study on the socio- economic condition of handloom mat weavers’ in pattamadai,Tirunelveli District. This study also identify the problems of weavers’ of handloom mat industry on that area.

Dharmendra,T. Studied on production and marketing of Handloom products in Karur District . He assess the awareness level of handloom weavers’ about production and he examine the level of satisfaction of weavers’ about facilities available on that area. This study review the trends in export of handloom products from India .

Dr. Dharam Chand Jain and Miss Ritu Gera (2017) conducted a study on the handloom industry in India, emphasizing the difficulties faced by weavers in production and manufacturing. They highlighted the importance of weavers being well-informed about government schemes and suggested providing training on new production technologies to enhance their skills

Dr. Selvaraj A and Tamilrasi N (2016) examined the factors influencing weavers' decision to enter the handloom industry. Their study identified various factors such as heredity, ease of starting, availability of raw materials, and the potential for regular income as key determinants of entry into the sector .

Dr. Manoj P K and Rajesh S (2015, 2013) conducted studies on the work-life and quality of work-life of women workers in textile units in the Kannur district of North Kerala. These studies addressed issues related to social security, legal protection, and proposed suggestions for improving the quality of work-life based on their findings.

Suresh Kumar (2008) analyzed the economic indicators of handloom cooperatives in Kerala and highlighted their dependency on government support for survival. The study revealed challenges in production, marketing, and finance faced by the cooperatives .

Sivagnanasithi (2008) investigated the handloom sector and identified health problems, low wages, raw material shortages, and low social status as major challenges faced by members of cooperative societies. The study also highlighted poor marketing facilities and overall poor performance of the societies .

Selvaraj (2007) discussed the continuous losses experienced by the handloom sector due to outdated technology and competition from mills and power looms. The study identified poor management and low financial and operational efficiency as key issues

Ajithan (2006) conducted a study on the prospects of the handloom industry in Kerala during the post-globalization period. The study indicated positive growth in handloom exports from Kerala during that period, suggesting potential opportunities for the industry

In conclusion, the reviewed literature provides insights into the challenges faced by the handloom industry in India, including production difficulties, factors influencing weavers' decisions, and the work-life of women workers. The studies also shed light on the impact of globalization on the industry and the need for improvements in management, financial efficiency, and marketing. These findings contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the handloom sector and offer recommendations for its growth and sustainability.

### 1.3 Objective of the study:

The present investigation is conducted of the following objective into the study area

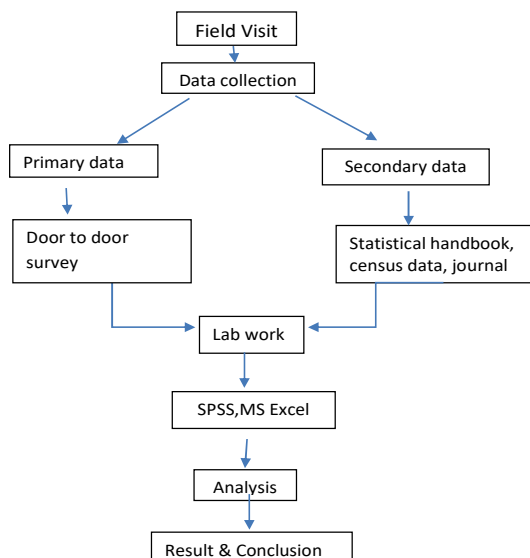
1. To assess the socio-economic conditions and livelihood patterns of female weavers in the selected villages of the study area.
2. To identify the major health issues faced by female weavers and understand their impact on their well-being and weaving activities.

### 1.4 Data and Methodology

The study involved conducting primary data collection by utilizing personal observation techniques to gather information from various weaver households. The data was specifically collected from women residing in four villages, taking into account their socio-economic status, occupation, livelihood pattern, economic condition, weaving style, health concerns, and attitude towards weaving. Household selection was performed through random sampling in the Bongaigaon district.

To facilitate data collection, a well-designed questionnaire was employed during the survey. This questionnaire aimed to explore the economic aspects related to the weavers, such as the occupational distribution and types of cloth they produce, as well as the prices of their products. Additionally, interviews were conducted to elicit responses from the weavers regarding their overall conditions, income, and contributions to their families.

Great care was taken to ensure the selection of handloom households that genuinely represented their respective wards. Subsequently, the collected data was transformed into tabular format for effective analysis. By examining these tables, inferences were drawn pertaining to the diverse socio-economic conditions experienced by female weavers in the study area. It is important to note that the study focuses exclusively on addressing the issues faced by women weavers, emphasizing the identification of potential solutions to resolve their problems.



## Geographical Background Of The Study Area

### 2.1 Location of the study area

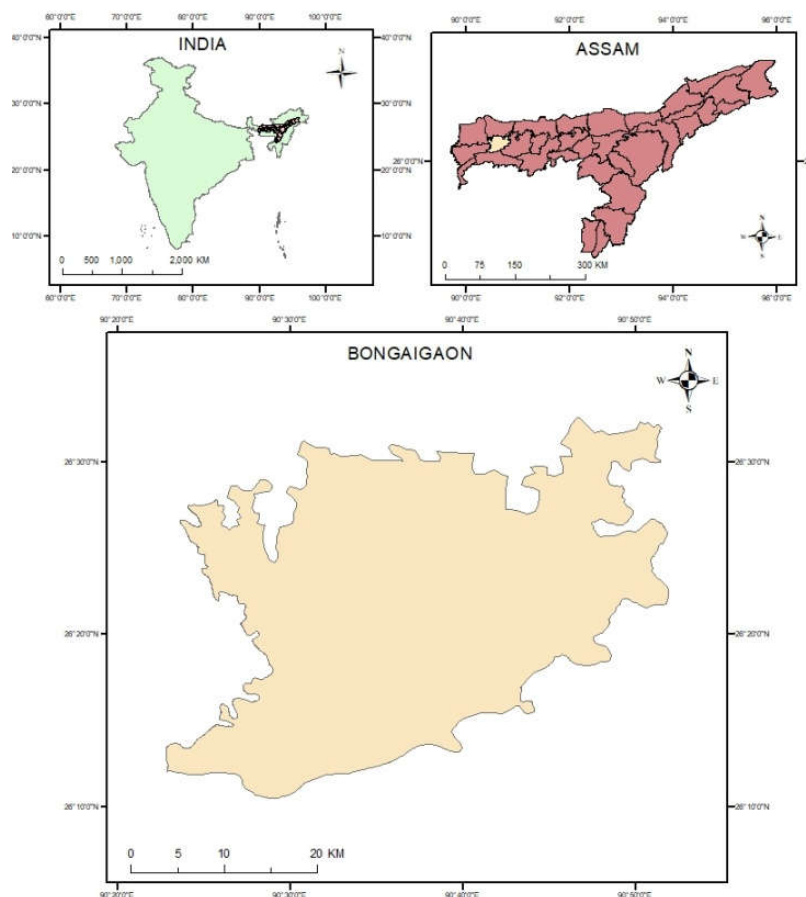
The study area has been conducted in four villages of the outskirts of Srijangrambloks in the Bongaigaon district.

Bongagigaon District was created in 1989 curving out areas of Goalpara and kokrajhar district. The district headquarter is Bongaigaon. Longitudinally the district extends from 90°22'E to 90° 5'E and 26°9'N to 26°42'N 30°N by latitude. It is surrounded by five districts of Assam, namely Barpeta in the east, Goalpara in the southeast, Kokrajhar and Dhuburi in the west and Chirang in the North. Topographically the district display a combination of plain and low rugged topography having a beautiful spot on the flat alluvial plain of the mighty Brahmaputra.

The survey do on four villages regarding Rol of Handloom industry are- Borghola, Amguri, Ambari, Deohati. These villages of rural areas are situated on the outskirts of SrijangramBloks.

Srijangram is a block and Bongaigaondistrict. The srijan gram block of Bongaigaon district of Assam located within latitude 26.380°N and 90.7069°E.

LOCATION MAP OF STUDY AREA



## Data Analysis For The Socio-Economic Conditions and Livelihood Patterns of Female Weavers In The Of the Study Area :

### 3.1 Age Classification

Table 1. Age Classification Of Women Weavers

Age						
1-10 Years	11-20 Years	21-30 Years	31-40 Years	41-50 Years	51-60 Years	60 Years and above
Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
2	20	28	23	26	18	23

Source – primary data

The provided table displays the distribution of weavers based on their age groups. The data reveals that among the surveyed weavers, 2 individuals belong to the age group of 1-10 years, 20 individuals fall within the 11-20 years age bracket, 28 individuals are in the 21-30 years age range, 23 individuals are between 31-40 years old, 26 individuals are in the 41-50 years age group, 18 individuals are above 51-60 years old, and finally, 23 individuals are 60 years and above. It is worth noting that the 31-40 years age group coincides with the 60 years and above age group, implying that there might be an overlap or inconsistency in the age reporting.

Based on this information, it can be deduced that a significant proportion of individuals engaged in handloom weaving belong to the middle-age group of 21-30 years.

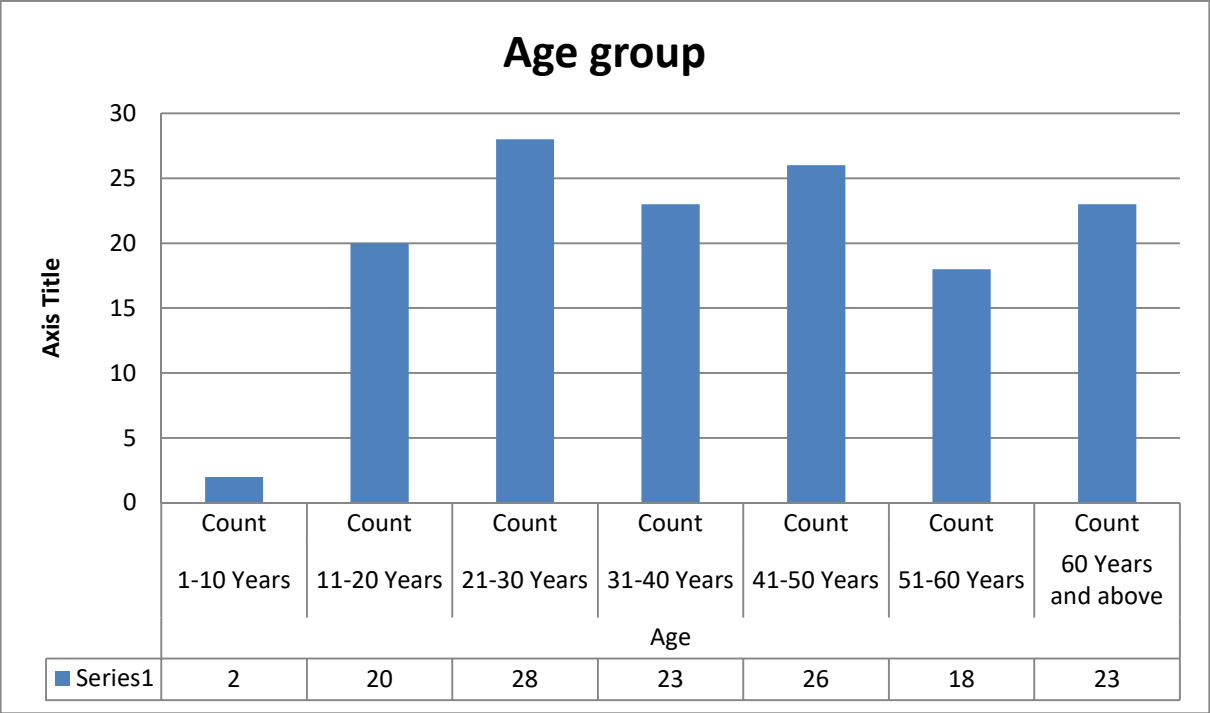


Fig. 1. Age group of women weaver

3.2 Religion Wise Classification

Table 2. Religion Wise Classification Of Women Weavers

Religion	Count
Hindu	133
Muslim	0
Christian	7
Others	0

Source – primary data

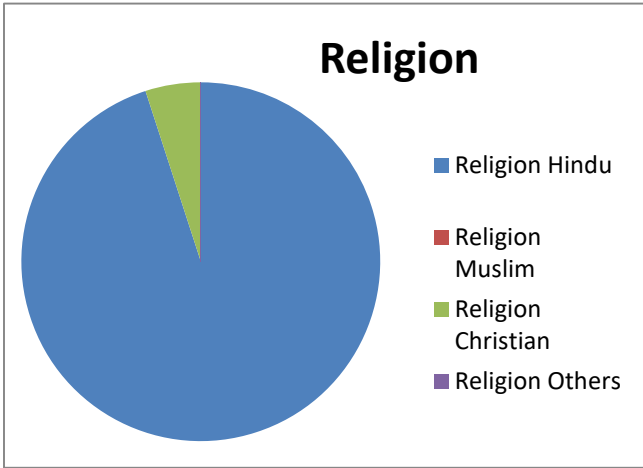


Fig. 2.Religion of female weavers

The table provided presents the religious classification of individuals engaged in handloom weaving. The data shows that among the surveyed individuals, 133 individuals follow the Hindu religion, while there were no individuals from the Muslim or "Others" religious categories. Additionally, 7 individuals identified themselves as Christians.

The religious composition of individuals involved in handloom weaving sheds light on the diversity of religions prevailing in the study area. It is important to note that the study area, Srijangram Block, predominantly consists of two main religions, Hinduism and Christianity. Specifically, Hinduism was the predominant religion, encompassing 100% of the surveyed population, while individuals belonging to the Muslim or other religious categories were not represented in the sample.

3.3 Sex Ratio

Table 3.Sex Ratio Of Study Area

Sex	
Male	Female
Count	Count
62	78

Source – Primary data

The provided table presents the sex ratio of the study area, specifically indicating the counts of males and females. The data shows that there were 62 males and 78 females in the surveyed population. The sex ratio reflects the proportion of males to females in the study area. In this case, the average sex ratio of the entire study

area is calculated as 44% males per person and 56% females per person in the Srijangram Block, which includes the areas of Borghola, Amguri, Ambari, and Deohati.

Thus, based on the collected data, it can be inferred that the sex ratio in the study area slightly favors females, with a higher representation of females compared to males.

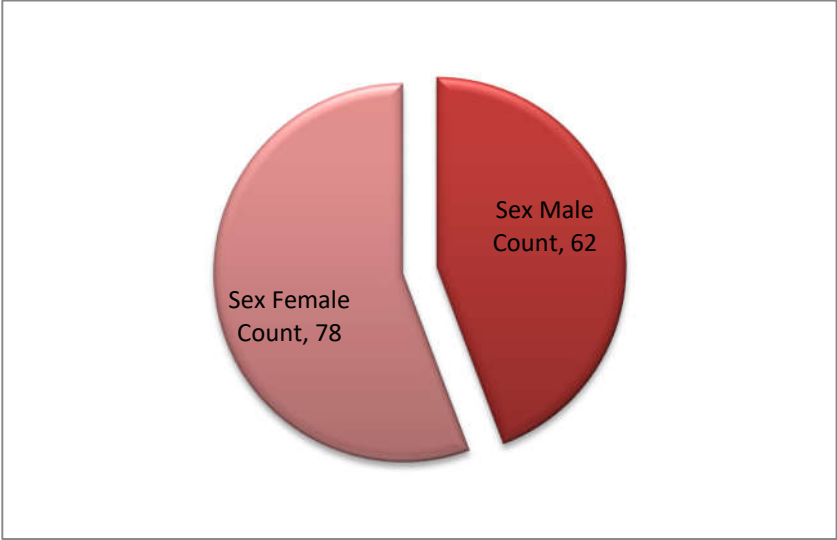


Fig. 3. Sex ratio of study area

3.4 Community

Table 4.Community Of Study Area

Community	Count
Assamese	41
Rajbongshi	43
Bodo	21
Yogi	17
Bengali	15
Others	3

Source : Primary data

The table provided illustrates the distribution of weavers across different communities in the study area, namely Assamese, Rajbongshi, Bodo, Yogi, Bengali, and Others. The data indicates that Rajbongshi community comprises the highest proportion of weavers at 31%, followed closely by the Assamese community at 29%. The Bodo community represents 15% of the weavers, while the Yogi community accounts for 12%. Additionally, the Bengali community represents 11% of the weavers, with the remaining 2% falling under the "Others" category.

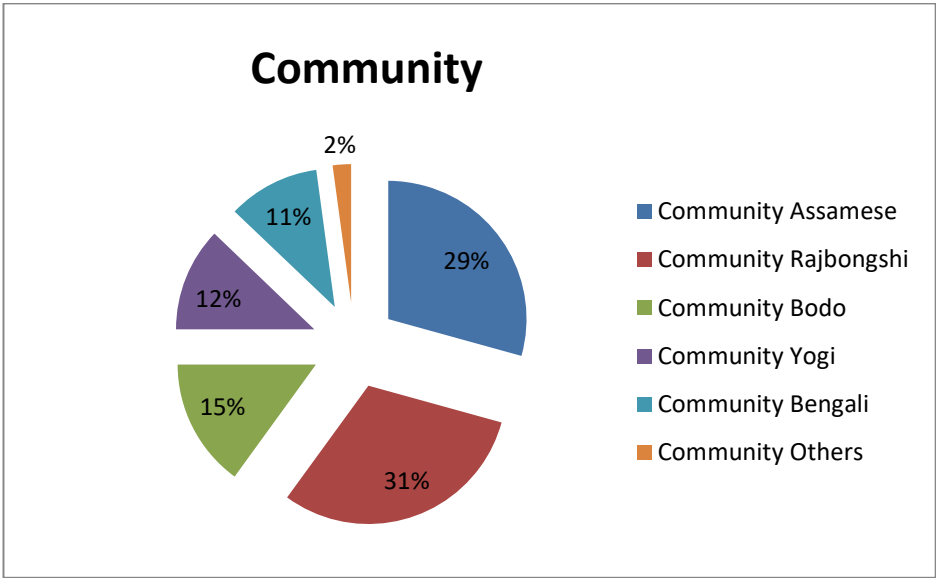


Fig. 4.Community of study area

3.5 Marital status

Table 5Marital Status Offemale Weavers

Marital status	Count
Married	85
Unmarried	29
Widow	7
Below 18	19

Source- Primary data

The provided table presents the marital status of the respondents in the study area. The data indicates that the majority, comprising 61% of the respondents, were married. Unmarried individuals accounted for 21% of the respondents, while 13% were below the age of 18. The table also shows that only 5% of the respondents were widows. Marital status is an important factor that influences the social status and specific needs of individuals in the community.

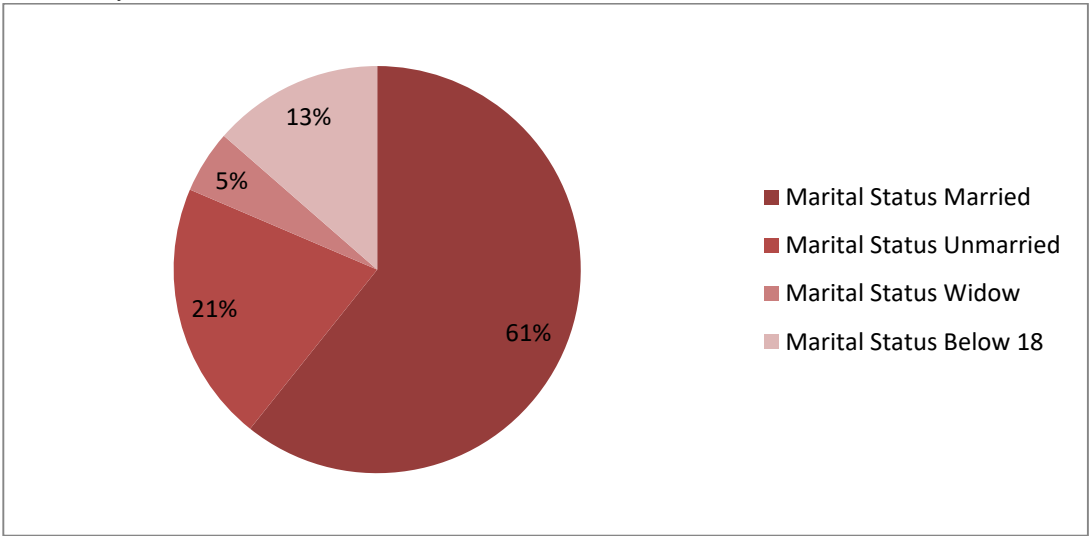


Fig. 5.Marital status of female weavers

3.6 Educational Qualification

Table 6.Educational Qualification Of Women Weavers

Educational Status	Count
LP School	12
High School	35
Hslc Pass	34
Hs Pass	33
Gratuation	19
Others	6

Source- primari data

The table provided displays the educational qualifications of women weavers in the study area, encompassing the regions of Bhorphola, Amguri, Ambari, and Deohati within Srijangram Block. The findings indicate a prevalence of low educational qualifications among the women. The level of education not only influences the social status of individuals but also affects employment opportunities and income potential. The data reveals that 25% of the respondents had completed high school, while 24% had passed the HSLC and HS levels. Additionally, 14% had attained a graduation degree, 9% had studied up to LP school level, and 4% fell under the "Others" category, including both weavers and other family members. Thus, the majority of women weavers in the study area had completed education up to the high school level.

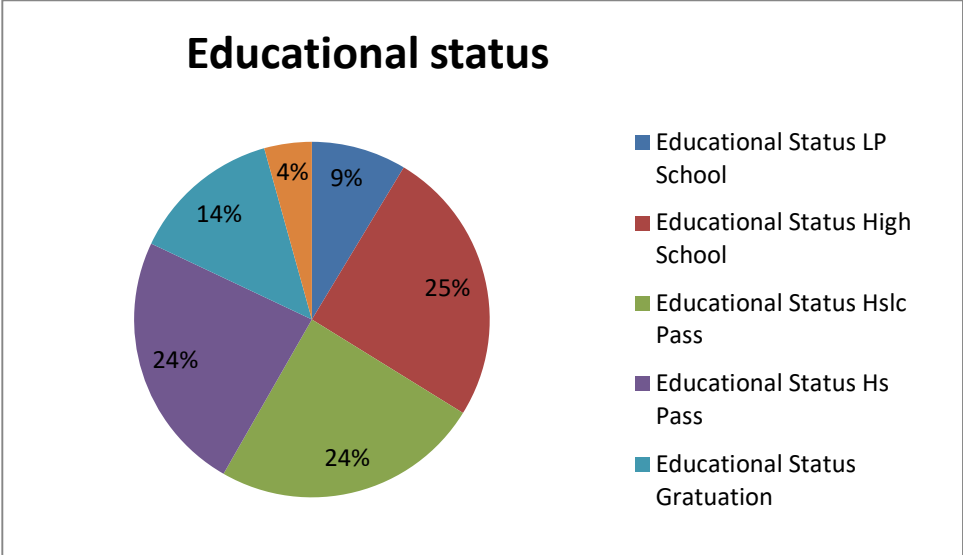


Fig. 6.Educational status of women weavers

3.7 Monthly income

Table 7.Monthly Income Of Female Weavers And Other Family Members

Your Monthly income	Count
5-10K	34
10-20K	34
20-30K	3
Above30K	2

Source – Primary data

The provided table presents the monthly income of weavers, including both the head of the family and other family members. The data indicates that 47% of weavers earn between 10,000 to 20,000 per month, while 46% earn 5,000 to 10,000 per month. Additionally, 4% earn 20,000 to 30,000 per month, and 3% earn above 30,000 per month.

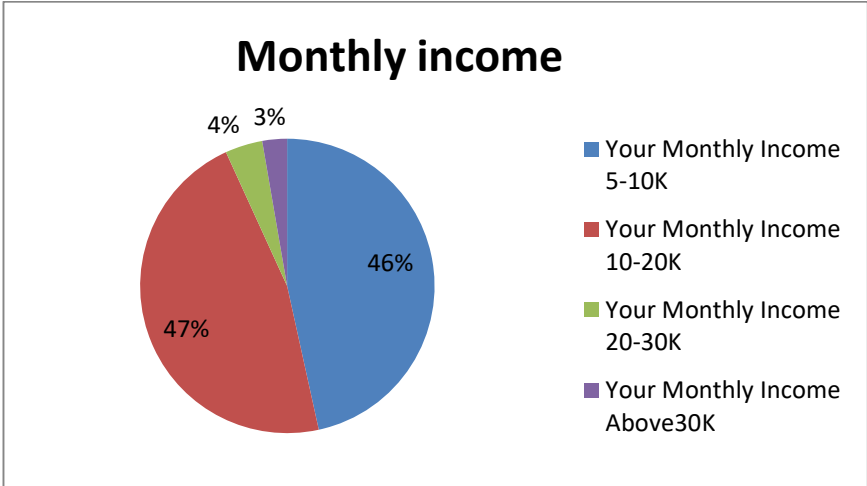


Fig. 7.Monthly Income Of Female Weavers And Other Family Members

3.8 Type of Handloom products

Table 8.Type Of Handloom Products Of weavers Make

What type of handloom products of weavers make	Count
Gamosa,angsa	0
Rumal,,Gamosa,Mekhela	7
Gamosa,Mekhela,Mekhelasador set	12
Aronai, Dokhona,Angsa	3
Angsa,Aronai,Scuff	3
Gamosa,scuff,mekhelasador,Mekhela, Sador	9
Gamosa, sari, Mekhela chador,Mekela ,Sador,sari,	5
Dakmanda,Dakshari,Loincloth	0
Garó Mekela,Garó mekhela sadorset,Dakshari	1

Source – primary data

The table provides information about the types of handloom products made by the weavers. The data reveals that no weavers specifically mentioned making Gamosa and Angsa. However, 7 weavers produce Rumal, Gamosa, and Mekhela. 12 weavers specialize in creating Gamosa, Mekhela, and Mekhela Sador sets. Additionally, 3 weavers make Aronai, Dokhona, and Angsa, while another 3 weavers focus on Angsa, Aronai, and Scuff. Furthermore, 9 weavers produce Gamosa, Scuff, Mekhela Sador, Mekhela, and Sador. 5 weavers engage in crafting Gamosa, Mekhela Chador, Mekhela, Sador, and Sari. There were no mentions of Dakmanda, Dakshari, or Loincloth in the responses. Lastly, 1 weaver specializes in Garó Mekela, Garó Mekhela Sador set, and Dakshari.

The Major Health Issues Faced By Female Weavers And Their Impact On Their Well-Being And Weaving Activities.:

Handloom weavers, like any other occupation involving manual labor, may face certain health problems due to the nature of their work. Here are some health issues commonly associated with handloom weaving:

In rural villages where handloom weaving is prevalent, the occupation poses certain health challenges for the weavers. One major concern is the development of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) due to prolonged hours of sitting or standing in fixed positions while operating the looms. This can lead to repetitive strain injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis, and chronic back and neck pain. The repetitive movements involved in weaving exert strain on the muscles, tendons, and joints, resulting in discomfort and potential long-term damage. Furthermore, weavers often experience eye strain and vision problems as they intensely focus on intricate designs and patterns for extended periods. This can cause headaches, blurred vision, dry eyes, and related issues. Another health issue prevalent among handloom weavers in villages is respiratory problems. Working with natural fibers, dyes, and chemicals in inadequately ventilated or dusty environments exposes them to fine particles and airborne fibers, leading to respiratory conditions like asthma, bronchitis, and allergies. Additionally, contact with certain fibers, dyes, or chemicals can cause skin irritation, allergies, or dermatitis, resulting in itching, redness, rashes, and other dermatological conditions. The handloom weaving profession also poses mental health challenges for villagers, as it can be physically demanding and financially unstable. Factors such as low wages, intense competition, and the decline of the handloom industry contribute to stress, anxiety, and depression among weavers. Addressing these health issues requires measures such as regular breaks, proper ergonomics, and the creation of a healthy work environment. Providing access to adequate healthcare, implementing occupational safety measures, and offering training on work techniques are crucial in mitigating these health risks. Moreover, it is essential for governments and industry stakeholders to initiate initiatives that improve working conditions and overall well-being for handloom weavers in rural village their health.

4.1 Health Problems With Aspects To Handloom Weavers Work In My Study Area

Health Problem In Past Five Month.:

Table 9. Health Problem In Past Five Month Of Female Weavers

Health issues in past five month	Count
Eyee problem	1
join pain	3
typhoid	1
Malaria	1
diarrhea	0
jaundice	1

Source – Primary data

The provided table presents the health issues reported by the weavers in the past five months. Among the respondents, one person experienced eye problems, three individuals suffered from joint pain, one person had typhoid, one had malaria, and one reported jaundice. It is worth noting that no cases of diarrhea were reported during this period. These health issues highlight the various challenges faced by the weavers in terms of their physical well-being. It is crucial to address these health concerns and provide necessary support to ensure the overall well-being of the weaver community.

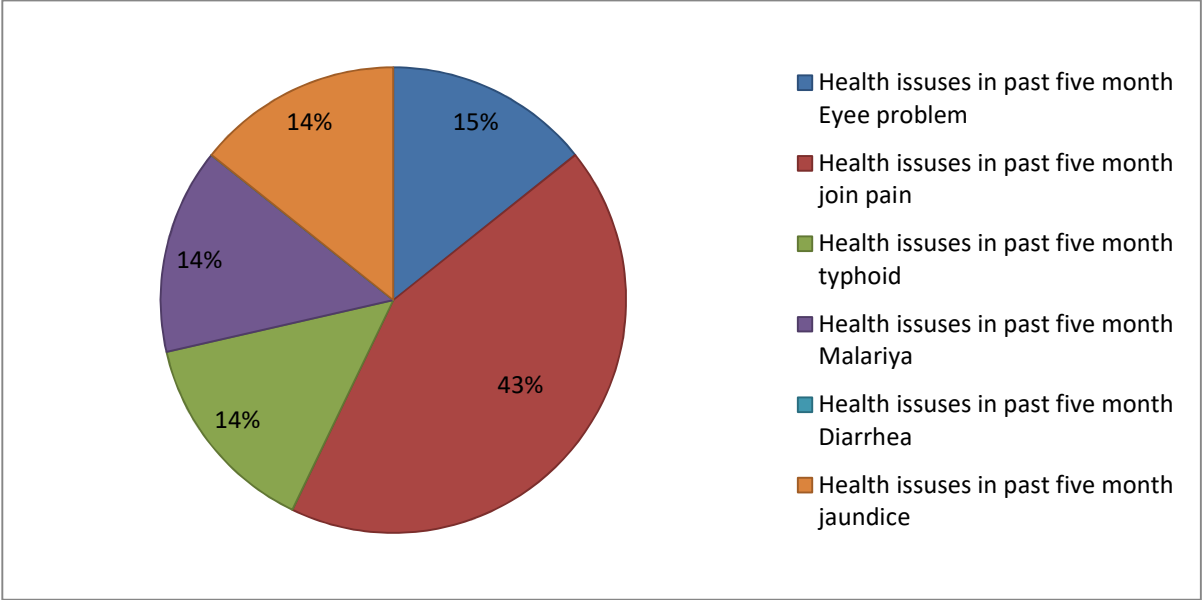


Fig. 8.Health problem in past five month

Health Issues In Past One Year.:

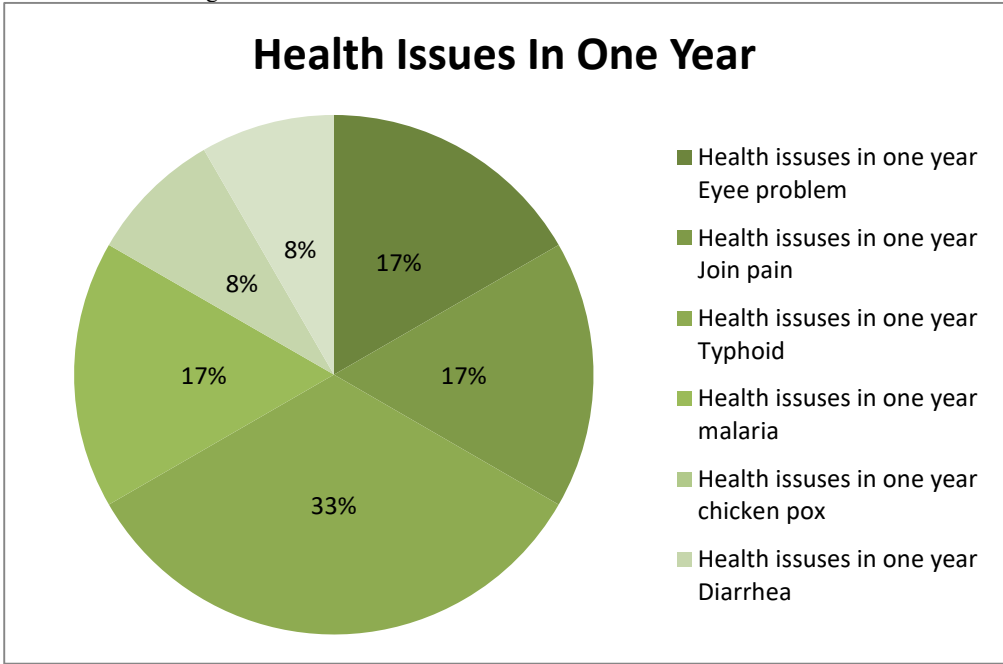
Table 10.Health Issues In Past One Year Of Feamle Weavers

Health issues in one year	Count
Eye problem	2
Join pain	2
Typhoid	4
malaria	2
chicken pox	0
Diarrhea	1
Jaundice	1

Source –Primary data

The provided table displays the health issues reported by the weavers over the course of one year. Among the respondents, two individuals experienced eye problems, two had joint pain, four were affected by typhoid, two contracted malaria, and one person reported diarrhea. Surprisingly, no cases of chickenpox were reported, while one individual mentioned suffering from jaundice. These health issues demonstrate the range of challenges faced by the weavers in terms of their physical well-being. It is important to address these health concerns and provide appropriate support to ensure the overall health and resilience of the weaver community. Regular access to healthcare facilities and awareness programs may be beneficial in mitigating these health issues and promoting a healthier lifestyle among the weavers.

Table 11. Fig 3.10 Health Issue In Past One Year



Health Issues In Past Five Year

Table 12. Health Issues In Past Five Year Of Female Weavers

Health issues in past five year	Count
Eye problem	1
Join pain	3
Malaria	0
Typhoid	1
sugar	1
Covid	2
Hart problem	3

Source – primary data

The provided table highlights the health issues reported by the weavers over the past five years. Among the respondents, one person experienced eye problems, three individuals suffered from joint pain, while no cases of malaria were reported. One weaver had a history of typhoid, another individual had sugar-related health concerns, and two weavers mentioned being affected by Covid. Additionally, three weavers reported heart problems. These health issues underscore the diverse range of challenges faced by the weavers in terms of their

physical well-being. It is crucial to prioritize their health and provide necessary support, including regular check-ups, proper medical care, and awareness programs to address and manage these health concerns effectively.

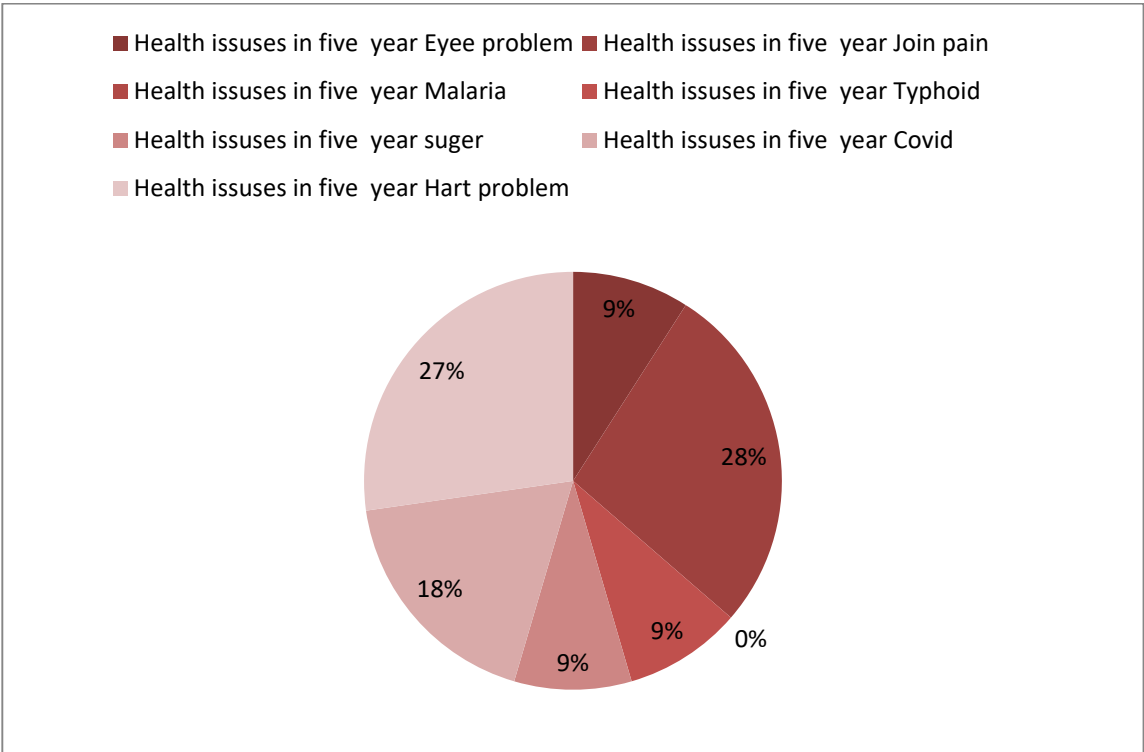


Fig. 9.Health Issues In Five Year Of Female Weaver

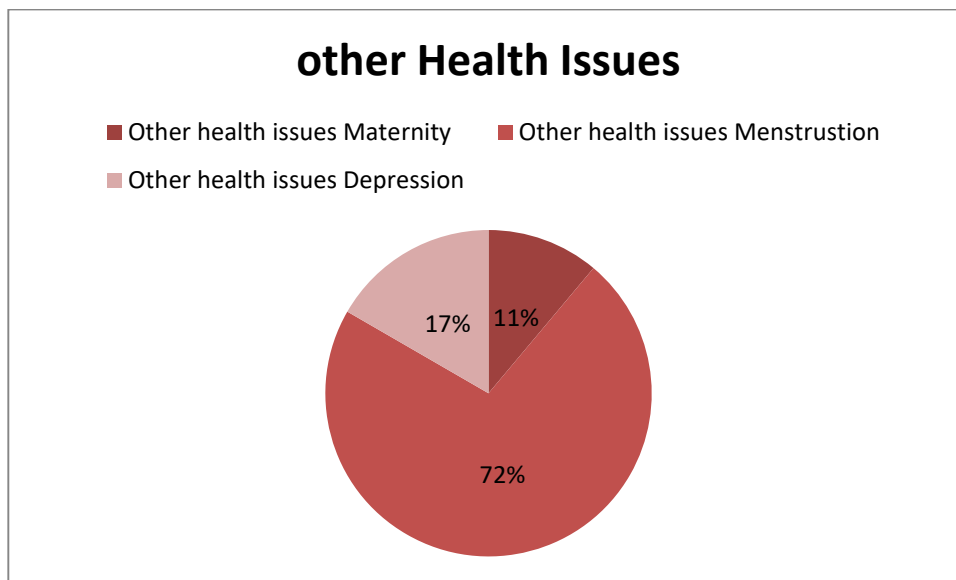
Other Health Issues.:

Table 13.Other Health Issues Of Female Weavers

Other health issues	Count
Maternity	2
Menstruation	13
Depression	3

Source – Primary data

According to the provided table, there are additional health issues faced by the weavers. Two individuals reported maternity-related health issues, indicating the need for support and care during this period. Furthermore, thirteen respondents highlighted challenges related to menstruation, suggesting the importance of addressing women's specific health needs and ensuring access to appropriate resources. In addition, three weavers mentioned experiencing symptoms of depression, emphasizing the significance of mental health support within the weaver community. Overall, it is crucial to recognize and address these diverse health concerns, including maternity issues, menstruation-related challenges, and mental health support, to promote the overall well-being of the weavers and create a healthier working environment for them



**Fig. 10.** Other Health Issues Of Female Weavers

The majority of the respondents expressed their concerns about the problems they face as weavers. The prevalent issues highlighted include low vision, leg pain, and back pain. These physical ailments are particularly common among the aged weavers, who make up a significant portion of the workforce. The weavers shared their opinion that their physical and mental health is under considerable stress due to the nature of their work. The combination of age-related challenges and the demanding nature of weaving takes a toll on their overall well-being. Addressing these concerns is crucial to ensure the health and quality of life for the weavers, providing them with appropriate support and measures to alleviate their physical and mental stress. Additionally, other health issues such as maternity-related concerns, menstruation-related challenges, and symptoms of depression were also reported by some weavers. These issues further highlight the need for comprehensive healthcare support and interventions tailored to the specific needs of the weaver community.

## Results and discussion

**Socioeconomic Conditions:** The study reveals that the socioeconomic conditions of female weavers in the study area are poor. The majority of weavers belong to middle age groups (21-30 years), indicating that the younger generation may not be as inclined to pursue weaving as an occupation. The community composition shows a diverse mix, with the Rajbongshi community being the largest (31%), followed by the Assamese community (29%). Marital status analysis indicates that a significant portion of the weavers are married (61%), while a smaller percentage is unmarried (21%).

**Educational Qualification:** The educational qualification of the female weavers is relatively low. The majority of them have completed high school (25%) or passed the HSLC (24%) and HS (24%) levels. Only a small percentage have attained graduation-level education (14%), with a few having studied at the LP school level (9%) or other educational institutions (4%). This highlights the need for improved educational opportunities and skill development programs for the weavers.

**Handloom Products and Occupational Distribution:** The weavers are engaged in the production of various handloom products. The most common products include Gamosa, Mekhela, Sador, and Angsa. The occupational distribution shows a wide range of products being produced by the weavers, indicating their versatility and skill in different types of handloom work.

**Income and Economic Status:** The monthly income distribution among the weavers shows that the majority earn between 5,000 and 20,000 rupees per month. However, a small percentage (7%) earns above 30,000 rupees per month. The findings suggest that the income earned from weaving is insufficient to meet the needs of the weavers' families, leading them to seek alternative opportunities for income generation.

**Health Issues:** The study highlights the health problems faced by female weavers. The most common health issues reported include low vision, leg pain, back pain, and old-age-related problems. The physically demanding nature of weaving work contributes to these health concerns. Additionally, the lack of access to proper healthcare facilities further compounds the health challenges faced by the weavers.

skill development and training: The study emphasized the importance of skill development and training programs for women engaged in the handloom sector. It was observed that those who received training in advanced weaving techniques and product diversification exhibited higher levels of productivity and income. Therefore, investing in skill development initiatives tailored to the specific needs of handloom weavers can contribute to their economic growth and improve the overall well-being of their families. Training programs should focus on enhancing technical skill, product design, and marketing strategies to enable women to meet evolving market demands.

Empowerment and financial independence: The study found that women involved in the handloom sector experienced a sense of empowerment and financial independence. By participating in handloom weaving, they gained control over their earnings, which enhanced their decision-making power within the family. The economic empowerment not only improved their self-esteem but also positively influenced their social status within the community.

Economic contribution of livelihood: The data collected revealed that women engaged in the handloom sector made substantial economic contribution to their families. Through their handloom activities, they generated additional income, which played a crucial role in improving the overall economic condition of their households. The income earned from handloom weaving complemented the earnings from other sources, such as agriculture or wage labour.

socio-economic challenge: Despite the positive contribution of women's handloom livelihood, the research also highlighted certain socio-economic challenges faced by these women. Limited access to credit facilities was identified their full potential. Lack of market linkages and inadequate infrastructure was also significant challenges that affected their productivity and income levels. These constraints limited the overall impact of women's handloom livelihood on their families' economic.

Overall, the findings reveal the challenges and issues faced by female weavers in the study area. These include socioeconomic constraints, low educational qualifications, limited income, and health problems. It is evident that the handloom industry needs support and interventions from the government and relevant stakeholders to improve the weavers' living conditions. The implementation of policies, skill development programs, and improved access to education and healthcare can help address these challenges and contribute to the sustainable development of the handloom sector.

## Summary

A case study of Srijangram block aimed to investigate the impact on the economic condition of their families. The findings of the study provide valuable insights into the role of women in handloom sector and their contribution to the overall well-being of their household.

The research work is mainly devoted to study the socio economic condition and livelihood patterns of female weavers in and to identify the major health issues faced by female weavers and understand this impact on their well-being and weaving activities.

The first chapter is the introduction part which consist of statement problem, we study the review of literature, to find out objective the study, and to find out the data and methodology.

The second chapter is about the physical setting of the study area. This chapter focus on physiography, location of the study area, topography, weather and climate, soil, vegetation, population of the study area.

The third chapter is the study of socio economic condition female weavers and this chapter focus on age classification, religion, sex ratio, community, marital status, educational qualification, monthly income, made of handloom products of the study area.

After the chapter is about the study of health issues faced by female weavers and major health issues focus on health problem in past five month, health problem in last one year, health problem in past five year, and other health problem of the study area.

The research finding revealed that women engaged in the handloom sector made a significant economic contribution to their families. The income generated from handloom weaving played a crucial role in improving the economic condition of their households. This additional income supplemented the earnings from other source and contributed to the financial stability of the families. It allowed them to meet essential needs, provide better education and healthcare for their children, and improve their overall quality of life.

Furthermore, engaging in handloom weaving empowered women and provided them with a sense of financial independence. Through their involvement in the handloom sector, they gained control over their decision-making power within the family.

The economic empowerment had a positive impact on their self-esteem and social status within community. Women who played a significant role in the family's income through handloom weaving reported a higher degree of autonomy and a greater say in household matters.

The study demonstrates that women's handloom livelihood significantly contributes to the economic condition of their families. Supporting their skill development, ensuring market access, and improving infrastructure will empower women weavers and enhance their economic well-being, ultimately leading to overall development of the community.

### Suggestion

1. Design Innovation: Collaborate with fashion designers to create modern designs that appeal to a wider customer base.
2. Infrastructure Upgrades: Improve weaving facilities by investing in better looms and providing essential amenities.
3. Easy Access to Finance: Establish special financial schemes to provide weavers with easy access to funds for raw materials and equipment.
4. Skill Enhancement: Organize regular training programs to enhance the skills of weavers and improve the quality of their products.
5. Marketing Initiatives: Launch promotional campaigns, participate in exhibitions, and collaborate with retail outlets to create awareness and increase the demand for handloom products.

### Conclusion

The study conducted in the Srijangram Development Block sheds light on various aspects of the handloom industry and the socio-economic conditions of female weavers. The findings reveal the challenges faced by the weavers in terms of economic instability, declining demand for traditional handloom products, and the subsequent impact on their income. It is evident that the weavers are experiencing financial hardships, which affect their ability to support their families and meet their basic needs.

Furthermore, the study highlights the adverse effects of the decline in the handloom industry on the health of female weavers, who often engage in physically demanding work. Their physical ailments, such as low vision, leg pain, and back pain, are exacerbated by the lack of adequate health facilities and support. Additionally, other health issues like maternity concerns, menstruation-related challenges, and depression have also been identified among the weavers.

To address the challenges faced by the weavers in the Srijangram Development Block, it is crucial for the government and relevant stakeholders to provide comprehensive support. This includes implementing policies and programs that promote the handloom industry, offering educational opportunities to enhance the skills and knowledge of working women in the weaving sector, and ensuring access to proper healthcare facilities. By doing so, it is possible to improve the socio-economic conditions of the female weavers and sustain the handloom industry, preserving its cultural heritage and empowering the weaver community.

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