

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59209

Title: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PRODUCTION CHALLENGES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF POWER-LOOM WEAVERS: A CASE STUDY OF PATWATOLI, GAYA, BIHAR

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	✓			
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

☐ Title and Relevance

The title is relevant and clearly reflects the geographical focus, thematic area, and major dimensions of the study. The focus on Patwatoli provides a useful localized case for understanding technological transformation in the textile sector. However, the title could be made slightly more concise while retaining the key concepts of socio-economic conditions, technological transition, and sustainability.

☐ Originality and Contribution

The manuscript addresses an important and relatively specific case of the transformation from handloom to power-loom production in Patwatoli, Gaya. The reported decline in functional handlooms and expansion of power looms provides an interesting empirical dimension. The study's contribution would be strengthened by clearly identifying what is novel compared with existing studies on Indian handloom and power-loom clusters.

☐ Literature Review

The literature review identifies relevant themes such as technological pressure, low returns, market dependence, and the experience of other weaving centres. However, it is comparatively brief. The authors should expand the review with recent peer-reviewed studies, particularly research published during the last five years on power-loom clusters, artisan livelihoods, textile sustainability, digital markets, institutional support, and technological transition.

☐ Research Methodology

The methodology is appropriately described as a qualitative, document-based case study. The paper transparently acknowledges that the available material does not constitute a complete census or econometric survey. However, the methodology would benefit from greater detail regarding source selection, document screening, field observations, dates of field visits, and the procedure used for analysing the collected evidence.

☐ Data and Statistical Analysis

The descriptive calculations, particularly the reported decline of handlooms from approximately

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1,200 to 70–80, are useful for illustrating the scale of technological transformation. The manuscript appropriately cautions that these figures should not be treated as exact census statistics. Nevertheless, the authors should provide clearer source attribution for each quantitative indicator and, wherever possible, distinguish directly observed data from secondary or reported estimates.

□ **Clarity and Organisation**

The manuscript follows a logical sequence covering introduction, literature review, objectives, research questions, methodology, findings, theoretical interpretation, sustainability strategy, limitations, and conclusion. The overall organization is satisfactory. Some sections, however, contain repetition of the handloom decline, power-loom dominance, and electricity/market challenges. These repetitions could be reduced to improve conciseness and analytical flow.

□ **Theoretical Framework**

The application of Traditional Industry, Porter's Cluster Perspective, Marshall's Localisation Economies, Schumpeter's Creative Destruction, and Human Capital concepts provides a useful conceptual foundation. The theoretical section could nevertheless be strengthened by explicitly linking each theoretical concept to specific empirical findings rather than presenting the theories mainly as interpretive perspectives.

□ **Significance and Policy Implications**

The proposed interventions—including single-window support, functional cooperatives, direct and digital markets, branding and certification, reliable electricity, technology upgrading, and skill preservation—are relevant to the challenges identified. The authors could improve this section by identifying responsible stakeholders, implementation mechanisms, priority interventions, and measurable outcomes.

□ **Limitations and Future Research**

A major strength is the manuscript's explicit acknowledgement of its limitations. It notes the absence of a full household survey, enterprise census, longitudinal micro-dataset, and inferential statistical testing. Future research should incorporate primary data from weavers, power-loom owners, workers, traders, women involved in production, and relevant institutions using a transparent sampling methodology.

□ **Conclusion and Overall Recommendation**

The conclusion effectively brings together technological modernization, livelihood security, institutional support, market competitiveness, human capital, and preservation of textile knowledge. The central argument that mechanisation changes the nature of economic risks rather than eliminating them is relevant to the study. Before publication, the manuscript would benefit from strengthening the literature review, improving source documentation, reducing repetition, and providing greater methodological detail.