

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59286

Title: A Study on Challenges Encountered by Traditional Handloom Weavers in Meghalaya.

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Bishwajit Rout

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

- Significance:** This study addresses an important livelihood and cultural sustainability issue by examining production and marketing challenges experienced by traditional handloom weavers in West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Its significance lies in documenting locally perceived constraints, particularly financial difficulties, transportation barriers, price fluctuations, and middlemen dependence. The findings can inform targeted institutional, financial, marketing, infrastructure, and welfare interventions for traditional weavers.
- Strength:** A major strength of the study is its direct engagement with traditional handloom weavers through primary data collection. The application of Garrett Ranking Technique provides a structured method for prioritizing perceived production and marketing constraints. The paper also integrates economic, operational, technological, health, and market-related challenges, thereby providing a multidimensional perspective on difficulties affecting the sustainability of traditional handloom livelihoods in Meghalaya.
- Key Insight:** The study's central insight is that economic and market-related constraints appear particularly important to surveyed handloom weavers. Financial challenges receive the highest rank among general problems, while price fluctuation leads marketing problems. Dependence on middlemen and transportation difficulties are also prominent. These findings suggest that sustaining traditional weaving requires interventions extending beyond production support toward finance, market accessibility, pricing, and distribution mechanisms.

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Reviewer's Comment / Report

The paper titled “A Study on Challenges Encountered by Traditional Handloom Weavers in Meghalaya.” examines the challenges faced by traditional handloom weavers in Meghalaya, with a focus on the West Garo Hills district. Handloom weaving remains a vital source of rural employment and cultural identity, particularly for women. However, weavers confront stiff competition from cheaper machine-made fabrics, health risks from prolonged work, inadequate infrastructure, and irregular incomes. Market dependence on middlemen further limits profitability and growth. The paper highlights these production and marketing constraints and calls for targeted policies to improve market access, provide financial and health support, ensure fair trade practices, and safeguard the sector's cultural and economic value.

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. Clearly establish the research problem and geographical knowledge gap.
2. Strengthen the introduction by integrating authoritative government statistics and recent scholarship demonstrating the socioeconomic importance of handloom weaving in Meghalaya.
3. Explicitly identify the research gap emerging from existing studies.
4. Compare findings across geographical settings and identify recurring production, financial, technological, health, institutional, and marketing constraints affecting handloom weavers.
5. Separate production and marketing problems into distinct research objectives.
6. Frame objectives using measurable and analytically appropriate terminology.
7. Justify the sample size and explain sampling-frame construction clearly.
8. Describe questionnaire development, pretesting, validity, and ethical procedures.
9. Recheck Garrett scores, means, calculations, and ranks thoroughly. Link each recommendation directly with the empirical ranking results.
10. Discuss why particular constraints received higher rankings by connecting empirical results systematically with evidence reported in previous handloom studies.
11. Compare each major finding systematically with previous empirical research. Explain Meghalaya-specific socioeconomic factors underlying observed ranking patterns.
12. Develop a dedicated discussion section explaining agreements and contradictions with earlier studies and identifying the theoretical and policy implications of findings.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

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The manuscript examines a relevant and underexplored regional issue and offers useful preliminary evidence on challenges confronting handloom weavers in West Garo Hills. However, substantial revision is required before publication. The authors should strengthen the research gap, methodology, literature synthesis, statistical verification, discussion, limitations, references, and language quality. Particular attention should be given to correcting apparent Garrett-score inconsistencies and improving analytical depth. After these revisions, the manuscript may warrant further peer-review consideration. Addressing the identified weaknesses will make it suitable for publication in IJAR.

I recommend this paper for publication after minor revision.