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“An Analytical Study of The Socio-Economical Condition of Handicraft Workers During Covid-19 Pandemic with Special Reference to Jharkhand State”

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Abstract: These are some of the causes of the severe impact on handicraft workers during COVID-19, such as adverse effects on finance, disruptions in the supply chain, decreased demand, reduction in sales, order cancellations, and less profit. Among others over 90% of handicraft workers were neither prepared nor had any plan to handle such a situation. Further, more than two-thirds of participating enterprises reported not surviving. I have used interpretation methods in my research in which the review paper is taken from a lot of literature. I have also taken the help of schemes, research, and government reports done by the government. The data were analyzed through descriptive methods. The finding of this research paper is based on previous studies/ research based on this topic. Government socioeconomic policy recommendation is helpful to overcome that phase, which directly affected the condition of handicraft artisans. To overcome that situation different efforts are taken by the government of India but this is not only the responsibility of the government but also NGOs, Trust, Corporate social responsibilities, and social workers have to contribute to the welfare of the handicraft artisans. That's why the prime minister of Indian Sri Narendra Modi initiated the concept of local to vocal, make in India and “Atmanirbhar Bharat”.

Keywords: Socio-Economic condition, Formal credit, Supply chain disruption, Self-help group, reduction in sales and profit, and GDP.

I. INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has severely affected the world economy, especially in India. We have seen a different

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outlook in India during COVID-19, which came to India in March 2020. After the Janta curfew from March onward, we suddenly found ourselves in Lockdown. Major victims of the COVID-19 outbreak are adversely affected in the handicraft industry. This article aims to assess the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on

these businesses and provide policy recommendations to help MSMEs in reducing business losses and surviving through crises. In this way, major steps were taken by the Honourable Prime Minister of India “Mr Narendra Modi, and the Finance Ministry of India with the help of RBI. We faced the pandemic situation with this effect not only Jharkhand’s economy but also the Indian Economy as well as worst affected by the handloom and handicraft sectors the present situation is not good, which roughly employees 10-15 crore people across the country, has been among the worst affected over the last one and half years.

Various enterprises are facing different issues with a certain degree of loss. Particularly, enterprises are facing a variety of problems such as a decrease in demand, supply chain disturbance, cancellation of export orders, raw material shortage and transportation disruptions, the shutdown of many companies, Unemployment rate, Inflation, and among others. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that enterprises around the globe are experiencing the significant impact of covid -19 outbreak on their business. Here we see that the major of people during the covid-19 outbreak are the micro, medium and small enterprises and especially, the handicraft industries. Central and state governments were trying to get rid of them but it’s not an easy task for anyone to eliminate this problem. The government had initiated different programs in the state as well

as the state government also. The handicraft and handloom sectors in India are a Rs 24,300-crore industry and contribute approximately Rs 10,000 crore exported yearly. Handicraft artisans have spent a lot of time in the last several decades, and due to their hard work, this style is alive today, Handicraft and handloom sector have played a very good role in increasing the GDP of the country in the last financial year. According to the statistics of the last few years, Handicraft has been around 36,78,000 crores in the domestic market. Under the 12th five-year plan, it is estimated that this sector will register an increase of 10 per cent in terms of employment generation. According to the previous figures, an increase of 18 per cent in exports has been registered from the year 2012 to 2017, which shows that there is a lot of potential for development in this sector. That’s why the central government has taken a lot of steps in the upliftment of handicrafts and handlooms, which is commendable.

Importance of the study

The government and NGOs are expecting to create awareness among the artisans of handicrafts, thereby enhancing creativity and creation. This study will provide artisans with an effective strategy to develop their performance and improve their economic condition. According to the researcher, this study provides an opportunity for further research to develop strategies in the field of crafts. To recognize the importance of handicrafts for the economic development of

the state.

The Objective of the study

a) To examine the economic condition of handicraft workers. b) To develop a platform for artisans for trade and commerce.

Need of The Research

During my research, I found that the handicraft sector was witnessing a rise after independence. Our government has presented many schemes but could not take concrete steps due to a lack of correct figures. As a result of this, the art here started suffocating. Under the 11th -12th five-year plans, the government made many programs for the upliftment of artisans. But it could not be implemented properly. There are many reasons for this such as artisans not being educated, lack of training, lack of complete knowledge of the scheme, lack of proper arrangement of markets, etc.

Research Methodology

This research paper is descriptive and analytical, based on secondary data. The required secondary data has been collected from various research papers, journals, books internet, some government data, etc. The data has also been taken from various documents such as books, newsletters, reports, magazines, journals, newspapers, the internet, and existing literature. This is to understand the importance and contribution of the handicraft trade.

Origination of Handicraft

Handicraft is a word that interprets the artistic items which are made by artisans with the help of their hands and leg without the use of a

machine. They also object of utility and objects of decoration.” Handicrafts in Jharkhand are mostly created by the various tribes and their people. Bamboo workers here as the raw material is abundantly available. Some of the crafts of Jharkhand are intricate works of its tribe. The various crafts of Jharkhand include bamboo crafts, woodcraft, Patkar painting, tribal ornament, metalwork like Dokara art and stone carving, etc. The artisans are residing in the village, and their lives are based on nature but some problems are associated with artisans and without government intervention, the upliftment of artisans is not possible. So, for the upliftment government initiated a different program to improve the living standard of artisans, to provide basic health facilities, training for the artisans, to provide markets and exhibitions, etc. Most of them are poor for substantial growth. Education is most important for the socio-economic development of the artisans.

Classification of Handicraft

Broadly handicrafts can be classified into three categories:

- a. Consumer goods: Mainly artisans prepare handicraft goods for themselves. This concept was later changed and artisans were forced to sell their items in the market to survive.
- b. Decorative Goods/ Luxurious goods: They are the object of utility and objects of decoration. Terracotta works such as Utensils, sculptures, wooden works, clothes, and textiles are some examples.

c. Household goods: In ancient times, everyday things have been produced by humans to meet their own needs and those of others. But later it turned into a business. Some important articles produced by the artisans like Sup, Basket, Broom, etc were prominent among those items. Which people of the Mahli community used to make in Jharkhand.

During Covid-19 Jharkhand's Economy- A Quick Review

Jharkhand's economy has grown in the last financial year 2011-12, the annual growth rate was about 5.9 per cent and a few percentages increased in the financial year 2018-19. The economy, however, recovered in subsequent years. 2019-20, it has been estimated to have grown by 6.7 per cent much higher than the real GDP of the country which has been estimated to have grown by 4.2 per cent in that financial year. But the last financial year, 2020-21 showed a decline due to the covid pandemic in the year of. The covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the national and state economy. Because of the pandemic, then ensuring lockdown and the fear and restrictions caused it, the Gross Domestic Product of the country and its states contracted sharply in the first two quarters of the current financial year (2020-21). However, a sign of recovery has emerged since October 2020. The recovery of the handicraft sector in India is identified as V shape. By the end of the financial year, the GDP/GSDP of the country and its states will more than compensate for the loss incurred due to the

pandemic.

Economic importance of handicrafts in the respect of Jharkhand

The state's economic development relies heavily on handicrafts. Due to the labour-intensive nature of the techniques, they create a lot of employment opportunities despite low capital investment. As well as being the most significant source of foreign income, it also increases the export for national income. India is the largest supplier and developer of handicraft items since the ancient period. After industrialization, we have seen a drastically changed in the Indian economy. But before industrialization, this industry and art were a potential economic advantage for the country. In a couple of decades, demand for handicrafts increased in the foreign market due to this its export contribution increased. The handicrafts sector is under Small-scale industries which plays a significant role in the upliftment of the socio-economic condition of handicraft workers and also in the development of the state. 7.2 The importance of the handicraft sector

India is known as the land of villages, most people live in the villages, but at present, the conditions for artisans and workers are poor. Due to the Corona period, not only the Indian economy but also the world economy has been negatively affected. Due to this the level of unemployment increased, the amount of expenditure decreased, and the price of goods increased, the main reason for which was the

imposition of continuous lockdown. But this was the only solution due to which the country could emerge from this epidemic. Which completely and partially affected the handicraft sector. The handicraft sector is the part of MSMEs Project. The government of India wants to eliminate the various social issues of poverty, unemployment, and unemployment, uplift the living standard of artisans, increase the nutritional status of their work, and raise their contribution to GDP with the help of these projects. For this many co-operatives as well as the government participated.

Impact of Poverty in the handicraft sector in Jharkhand state

As per the report published in July 2019 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), approx. 72 lakh people of Jharkhand have come out from the adverse situation of poverty in the last ten-year period from 2005-06 to 2015-16. The percentage of the multidimensional poor in the state has decreased from 74.7 per cent in 2005-06 to 46.5 per cent in 2015-16. Despite this, the Corona Pandemic is causing a huge problem in all three sectors of the Indian economy. At the end of the financial year 2019-2020 the major sectors (primary, secondary, and tertiary) sectors of the state's economy, the tertiary sector has grown at the fastest rate 2019-2020. While the primary sector contribution has been estimated at 20.2 per cent and the secondary sector at the rate of 4.9 per cent, the tertiary

sector has been estimated to be 4.9 per cent. The state achieved growth in the field of poverty alleviation, education, health, and other civic amenities. These facts have been mentioned in the Economics Survey report for the financial year 2020-2021 presented by the finance minister.

The poor financial condition of the State can be seen at the end of the financial year 2021, the debt burden on the state will increase to more than one lakh crore rupees. Jharkhand is at number 27 in terms of per capita income. The state faced a drastic change in the economy of the state. As we know that we are facing covid-19 Pandemic. In this way, the rate of unemployment increased by 10.6 per cent and 11.8 per cent in January and February 2021 but in March, it increased by 8.2 per cent. Overall, we can estimate it rose 47.1 per cent in March and 59.2 per cent in April which was the highest percentage of unemployment in the state. Is treated the nation's unemployment is the hurdle for the development of the state so this proper measurement is necessary.

The economic condition of handicraft Artisans

The handicraft sector plays a vital role in the state's economic development. It employs a vast segment of poor people in rural as well as Semi-urban areas, which generates substantial foreign exchange for the country. The major population of the country resides in village and craft person is engaged in economic activity as handicraft item but, the handicraft sector

remains unorganized sector due to many reasons, among them the following reasons are prominent such as lack of education, lack of capital, Non-use of new technologies, and disturbance of supply channel, lack of market, Competition with foreign companies and high prices of related goods, etc.

Finding, Discussion, and Conclusion

In the sequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, not only industrialists but also small artisans became its victims. In this order, the activities of all the areas were stopped, as a result of which. It had also become difficult for the artisans to live. But after the lock, the situation started coming back on track. The artisans again started working but the business was done keeping in view the Corona guidelines. During this time the problem of market and production of goods was coming as a result of which the help of online business was taken like Amazon, Flipkart, other sites, and other portals. Through them, these native goods also got into foreign markets. As a result, the participation of handicrafts in foreign exchange is increasing.

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