

Livelihood Insecurity and Coping Strategies of Handloom Weavers: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT Suicides of handloom weavers drew lot of attention from various sectors in recent years. But the phenomenon is not uniform in all the weaving centres. There is no evidence of suicides in certain places despite the insecurity in earning livelihood. The root cause for suicides of handloom weavers is the development of mill sector and the failure of handloom weavers to compete with it. It is believed that the successful coping mechanisms have played a crucial role in avoiding livelihood crisis and suicides. At this juncture, it is very important to evaluate coping strategies and their impact on the livelihood of weavers. The paper tries to explore the similarities and differences in the coping strategies of two castes of weavers and try to understand their consequences.