

# Socio-economic status of Guledgudda Khana weavers

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Received: 14.04.2017; Revised: 25.09.2017; Accepted: 11.10.2017

■ **ABSTRACT** : Many clusters of Karnataka state use traditional designs and intricate weaving methods. The more traditional sarees of Karnataka are the Molkalmuru sarees of Chitradurga and the Ilkal sarees of Bagalkot. The traditional Guledgudda Khana (Choli or Blouse, elsewhere called Khana), which is only one traditional cluster making blouse fabric in India. Khana are the choli or blouse material with extra warp dobby figures, which are the traditional products of northern Karnataka. Earlier it was woven on pit loom having no warp beam using silk warp and cotton weft. Now-a-days due the existence of powerloom most of the weavers are using extra warp beam but dimension of the material remains same. The body is fully covered with extra warp figuring with dobby shedding mechanism and each Khana piece is about 80cm width and 50cm length. India's textile is presenting the most intricate and variegated traditional designs to its end users in the world which constitute one of the costly source of textile designs also but this sector is beset with various problems, such as lack of skill, obsolete technology, haphazard production system, inadequate working capital, weak marketing links and health problems like eye sight weakness, joint pain and dust allergy. The study was conducted to know the socio-economic status and associated health problems of Guledgudda Khana weavers of north Karnataka. The information was collected through personal interview method from the weavers. The study revealed that situation of the weavers was worrying due to illiteracy, financial constraints and health problems.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Guledgudda, Khana weavers, Socio-economic status, Health problems

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Badanayak, Pratikhya and Kulloli, Sadhana D. (2017). Socio-economic status of Guledgudda Khana weavers. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 12 (2) : 378-381, DOI: 10.15740/HAS/AJHS/12.2/378-381.

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Many clusters of Karnataka state use traditional designs and intricate weaving methods. A large number of villages in Karnataka even today produce sarees and blouse piece from light weight printed silks of Bangalore, mulberry silk sarees of Mysore, Patti pallav of Hubli and Betageri, polycotton sarees of Lakkundi and Shigli and silk sarees with contrast borders of Molakalmuru. Prominently notable among them are Ilkal sarees with tope teni pallav and Khana the choli material of Ilkal, Gajendragad and Guledgudda. Khana

are the blouse materials with extra warp figuring with dobby shedding mechanism, which are traditional product of northern Karnataka (Namrata and Naik, 2008). It is woven on pit loom having no warp beam. The woven material has border on both sides ranging from 15 to 23 cm in width; with two strips of extra warp figuring all along the length and each Khana piece will be about 80cm width and 50cm length.

In India the handloom sector occupies a second place next to agriculture in terms of employment. Power

loom sector comes second to it, it is easier and drudgery reducing machine used widely across the country. Despite of it's widespread across the country this sector is confronted with various problems, such as irregular and inadequate supply of raw materials, financial constraints, health problems and poor government support etc. Illiteracy, having low education level and economic status also affect the health condition of the weavers.

Thus, the present study is conducted to know the socio-economic status and health problems faced by the Guledgudda Khana weavers and to know the factors that affect their health condition.

### ■ RESEARCH METHODS

The information on the demographic characteristics and the health problems faced by the Khana weavers of Guledgudda were collected by personally interviewing thirty randomly selected Khana weavers of Guledgudda using self structured interview schedule. The data was statistically analysed using frequencies, percentages and t-test.

### ■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The demographic characteristics of the Khana weavers are presented in Table. 1.

It is found from Table 1 that, majority of the weavers belonged to middle age group (63.33%), followed by old age group (26.67%), had an education upto secondary level (40%) followed by primary school education (36.67%). It is found that, most of the weavers belonged to joint family system (70%), followed by nuclear family type (30%), and low income group (53.33%) with rupees less than 20000/- per annum. It was also found that 50 per cent of weavers were working more than 12 hours per day. Since maximum per cent of the weavers continued their ancestor's profession of weaving, belonged to middle age and old age group, they worked upto 12 hours/day, had an education upto secondary level and have joint family type system with medium family size. Hence may be to continue the weaving profession they did not try for government jobs. So, the income was through weaving and weaving became their main source of livelihood.

Many health problems are faced by the Guledgudda Khana weavers but only most occurring health problems were considered here *i.e.*, Eyesight weakness, Joint pain, Dust allergy and back pain. Table 2 and Fig. 1 shows

**Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the weavers (n=30)**

Sr. No.	Variables	No. of respondents (Percentage)
<b>Age</b>		
1.	Young (<30years)	3 (10)
2.	Middle (30-45 years)	19 (63.33)
3.	Old (>45 years)	8 (26.67)
<b>Education</b>		
1.	Illiterate	2 (6.67)
2.	Primary (1 -7 standard)	11 (36.67)
3.	Secondary (8 -10 standard)	12 (40)
4.	Higher secondary (PUC standard)	4 (13.33)
5.	Degree and above (UG and PG standard)	1 (3.33)
<b>Type of family</b>		
1.	Nuclear	9 (30)
2.	Joint	21 (70)
<b>Family size</b>		
1	Small ( $\leq$ 4 members)	9 (30)
2	Medium (5 -9 members)	21 (70)
3	Large (>9 members)	0 (0)
<b>Annual Income (in Rs.)</b>		
1.	Low income ( Rs. <20000)	16 (53.33)
2.	Middle income (Rs. 20001-Rs. 40000)	12 (40)
3.	High income (Rs. >40001)	2 (6.67)
<b>Daily Working hours</b>		
1.	4 hours	0 (0)
2.	6 hours	0 (0)
3.	8 hours	5 (16.67)
4.	10 hours	10 (33.33)
5.	12 hours	15 (50)
6.	More than 12hours	0 (0)

that, the majority of the weavers had the problem of back pain (86.67%) while weaving, followed by eyesight problem (70%), dust allergy (40%) and joint pain (26.67%). These health problems may be because of regular bending, treadling, beating process, continuous observation for picking and cutting of threads and also due to the dusts from the yarns which enter their eyes, nose and mouth which might be the main cause for eye irritation and dust allergy.

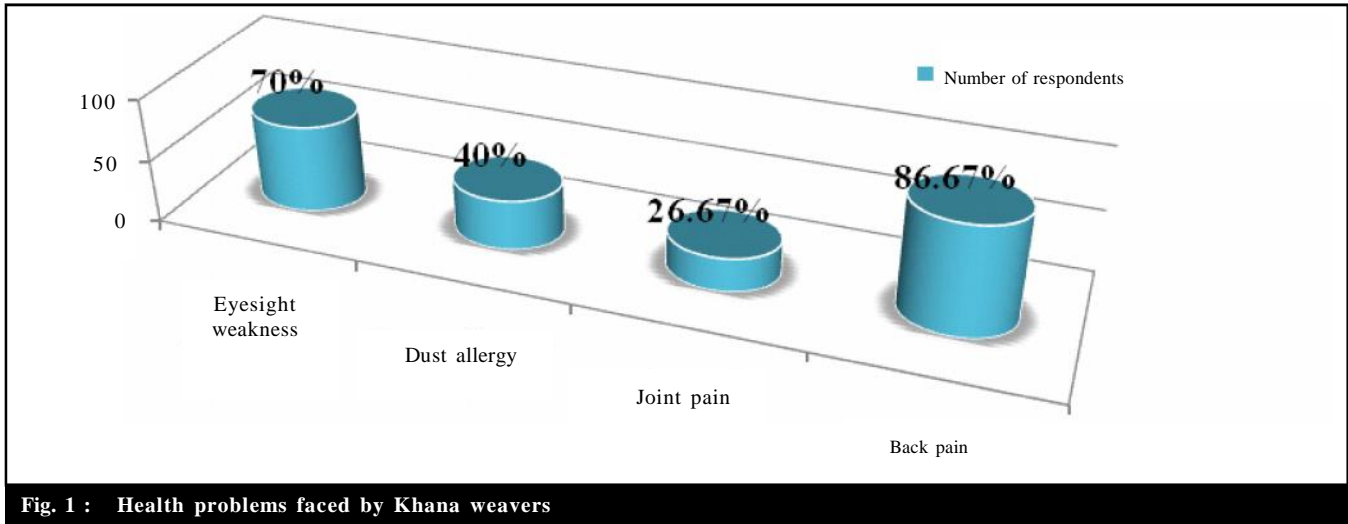
It is observed from the Table 3 that, the effect of

**Table 2 : Health problems faced by the Guledgudda Khana weavers (n=30)**

Sr. No.	Name of ailments	No. of respondents (Percentage)
1.	Eyesight weakness	21 (70)
2.	Joint pain	8 (26.67)
3.	Dust allergy	12 (40)
4.	Back pain	26 (86.67)

**Table 3 : Effect of age and working hours on weaver's health condition**

Sr. No.	Health ailments	Demographic variables	Calculated t value	Tabulated t value
1.	Eyesight weakness	Age	28.20	4.303 (at 5%)
		Working hours	45.83	
2.	Joint pain	Age	5.12	9.925 (at 1%)
		Working hours	8.33	
3.	Dust allergy	Age	5.12	8.33
		Working hours	8.33	
4.	Back pain	Age	46.15	66.67
		Working hours	66.67	

**Fig. 1 : Health problems faced by Khana weavers**

age and working hours on health condition of the Khana weavers is highly significant at 5 % and at 1% level of significance. From this it can be concluded that with the increase in the age and working hours there is a significant increase in their health problems. Due to continuous standing and doing other physical works like bending and so on, they are facing problems like joint pain and back pain. Due to continuous weaving process and looking into it for a longer time cause dust allergy and eyesight weakness. Apart from this age is also another factor which is responsible for their existing health condition. Similar work related to the present investigation was also carried out by Namrata and Naik (2008); Prathap and Naidu (2015); Phukan (2012); Tripathy (2009) and Venkateswaran (2014).

### Conclusion :

Most of the weavers belonged to joint family system, medium family size, middle age, secondary school education level and lower income group. Maximum of

the weavers are from middle age group and their working capacity is 12 hours per day. The health problems associated significantly due to increase in the age and working hours of the Khana weavers. From this it can be concluded that due to increase in age working hours/day, the weavers are faced back pain and joint pain problem as well as dust allergy and eye sight weakness. Thus for uplifting the socio-economic status of the Khana weaver's they must make use of the government subsidies and policies and go for regular health checkups, include a balanced diet and also go for savings.

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