

Impact of Addiction among Power Loom Workers in Maharashtra on Labour Productivity and Economic Stability

Laxmi Tirki¹ and Prof. Dr. M. A. Kore²

Research Student¹ & Guide²

Willingdon College, Sangli

laxmimahajan2212@gmail.com

Abstract: *The power loom sector in Maharashtra is a traditional industry with a significance presence. It holds an important place in Maharashtra's economic development and employs a large number of workers. Bhiwandi, Solapur, Malegaon and Ichalkaranji are major centres where the power loom industry has developed extensively. These four cities are the main hubs of the power loom sector in Maharashtra. Workers in this sector depend on this work of their livelihood. A high degree of addiction is found among many workers in the power loom sector. The consumption of tobacco, gutkha, cigarettes and alcohol is very high. This addiction among the workers has a negative impact on their health, work efficiency, and the family economic stability. The main objective of this research is to study the impact of addiction among power loom sector workers in Maharashtra on their productivity and economic stability. This study analyses the increase in worker absenteeism due to addiction, the increase in health problems, and the impact on their labour productivity. Also, as a large part of the worker's wages is spent on their addictions, there is a possibility of financial instability in the family. This research primarily based in secondary information. This information primarily taken from research articles on addictions, various government reports, periodicals, and variable literature related to the textile industry. Finally, it appears from the conclusion that addictions reduce the productivity of power loom workers, which has a negative impact on the financial stability of the family. Therefore, it's very important to create awareness about de-addiction and health among the workers in this sector.*

Keywords: Maharashtra, power loom workers, addiction, labour productivity, economic stability

I. INTRODUCTION

The textile industry has great importance in Maharashtra. The textile industry plays a valuable role in the development of Maharashtra. The power loom sector of the textile industry has grown and developed significantly. Maharashtra has maintained its top position in India's power loom sector with over 1.2 million registered loom. Large scale employment is generated in the power loom sector. A large number of workers are employed in the power loom sector. In Maharashtra, the power loom sector has developed significantly in Ichalkaranji, Malegaon, Bhiwandi and Solapur. The working class in the power loom sector has valuable contribution to economic development. For this industry, 14% of the total production comes from the textile sector. Most power loom workers come from marginalized sections and rural areas. Workers receive a daily wage of 300-500rs. After working long, strenuous shifts of 12-14 hours. Workers in this sector have to face many socio-economic problems such as long working hours, stressful environment at the workplace, many health related problems. Due to such circumstance, many workers get addicted to alcohol, gutkha, tobacco and cigarettes etc. the effect of these addiction is on their health as well as on their work efficiency and productivity. According to survey by the national sample survey office (NSSO), it has become clear that the rate of addiction among workers in this sector is high. This addiction is seen to be increasing day by day.



Due to addiction, many problems increased absenteeism during work hours due to addiction, adverse health effects resulting in decreased concentration of workers in work., decreased labour productivity and its negative impact on productivity. Also, due to addiction, most of the salary expenses are spent on addiction, which worsen the financial condition of the family. That's why it is powerful. Studying the impact of addiction among workers on labour productivity and the financial stability of the family is important. While schemes like the de-addiction camps of the Maharashtra state textile corporation are promising, they are currently very limited in number. This research will study the impact of workers addiction on their efficiency and the financial stability of their families. This research will help to draw attention to the socio-economic problems of workers and to suggest measure for de-addiction awareness and workers welfare.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ansari, Z. A., Bano, S. N., & Zulkifle, M. (2010)

"Prevalence of tobacco use among the power loom workers – A cross sectional studies" this research studied the prevalence of tobacco use among power loom workers. They clarified in their research that power loom workers always consume tobacco in large quantities. Due to long working hours, work shifts, and peer pressure of at the work place, many workers are gutkha and chewing tobacco.

E. Broudy (1993)

E. Broudy's "the book of loom". Has laid out the expression of this handloom from ancient to modern times. Ha has analysed the types of handlooms that changes over time and the mechanical /technical changes in them. India, China, Egypt were major textile industries.

S. Kolgiri & R. Hiremath (2019)

S. Kolgiri and R. Hiremath (2019) conducted research on the topic "sustainable postural research for women workers from power loom industry: Solapur city, Maharashtra, India." Their research primarily studied the working condition of women workers in the power loom sector in Solapur city and its impact on their health. According to their study, the women workers in power loom sector have to work by bending over or standing continuously, which puts a strain on their neck, back, shoulders and waist. Due to their incorrect working methods, musculoskeletal problems as a back pain, neck pain and fatigue are found in large proportions.

K . Agiwale (2023)

K. Agiwale has researched the topic "study of power loom workers in Bhiwandi." For this research, he studied the social and economic condition of power loom workers in the Bhiwandi area of Maharashtra. Bhiwandi is known as the Manchester of India. A large scale power loom industry run here, providing employment to thousand of workers in this area. But still, the lifestyle of the workers is fraught with many problems.in this research, he found that the most of the workers there are migrants from outside states.

S.R. Shaikh and S.R. Dulange

Sumaiya R. shaikh and Shatish R. Dulange conducted research in 2013 on "a study of factors affecting productivity of power loom industries" in the power loom sector in Solapur. In their research, they studied the factors affecting the productivity of the power loom industry in Solapur.

Government of Maharashtra (2024):

This report has been submitted by the government of Maharashtra. According to this report, the power loom industry is an important component of Maharashtra's economy. Around 12-13 lakh power loom are operational in Maharashtra and this sector provides employment opportunities to large number of workers. According to the report, problems such



as increase in production costs, increase in electricity tariffs and competition in the market exists in the power loom sector of Maharashtra. It is clearly stated in this report that the government needs to provide benefits of various welfare schemes to the power loom workers as they lack social security.

International labour organization (2019)

The international labour organization (ILO) published a report in 2019 regarding “working condition in the textile, clothing, leather and footwear industries”, in which they have made a detailed study of the work of the workers in the textile, clothing, leather and footwear industries. According to their report, workers in this sector have to face many problems such as low wages, long hours working, unsafe working environment, health risks and many such problems

Objectives of the study:

- To study the addiction of power loom workers in Maharashtra.
- To study the effect of addiction on the labour productivity of power loom workers.
- To study the effect of addiction on the economic condition of the family.
- To suggest measure to reduce addiction among power loom workers.

Scope of the study:

The main objective of this research is to study the effects of addiction among power loom workers in Maharashtra on their labour productivity and the economic status of their families. Major centres in Maharashtra such as Solapur, Bhiwandi, Malegaon, and Ichalkaranji were included in this study. This study considers the adverse effect of various addictions such as tobacco, gutkha, cigarettes, and alcohol on the health of the workers. How addiction reduce the labour productivity of power loom workers and how it affects the economic condition of their families has been studied in the above research. The scope of this research is focused on the economic aspects of the workers. A large portion of workers income is spent o their addictions, which leads to the collapse of the families economic condition; its negative impact on their lives is also included. The scope of this research is not only to highlight the problems of the workers but also includes suggesting many welfare schemes like addiction-free awareness and health checkups for workers. Therefore, this study will prove to be important for the development of workers and the future of the industry.

Research methodology:

It's a descriptive research that analyses the nature of addiction among workers, it's effect on productivity and the financial stability of the family.

1) study of area:

- Major power loom centres in Maharashtra are the field of study for this research.
- Cities like Bhiwandi, Solapur, Ichalkaranji and Malegaon have been considered for the research.

2) Data sources:

- Research articles and journals on power loom workers.
- Articles and journals related to the textile industry.
- Research papers on the addiction of power loom workers
- Government publications and reports
- Reports and periodicals related to the textile industry.

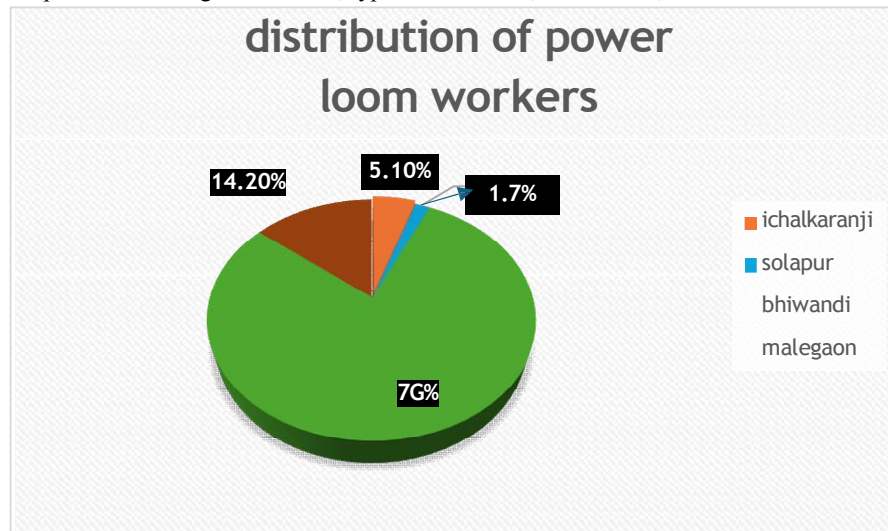
III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Maharashtra's power loom worker's: structural framework

the power loom industry in Maharashtra is largely dependent on migrant labour and is in a developing stage. However, due to an increase in the number of workers, various addiction have led to a decline in workers productivity, health, and



their family's well being. This has resulted in negative impacts on the entire system. Therefore, this research clarifies the interrelationships between "migrant workers, type of addictions, their extent, and socio-economic impact.



[source: estimated and compiled by the researcher based on secondary data, ministry of textile, textile department Maharashtra, ministry of Micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME),(2025),socio-economic status of the entrepreneurs & work force of textile % apparel manufacturing cluster of Bhiwandi government of India.(S3WaaS Report),Solapur municipal corporation(2025).Solapur textile industry socio-economic report.(S3WaaS report), Kumbhar, s.(2017) growth and development of power loom industry in Ichalkaranji city: a geographical analysis Shivaji university.]

In the above pie chart, the distribution of power loom workers in major centres of Maharashtra is shown. This pie chart includes Solapur, Bhiwandi, Malegaon, and Ichalkaranji. From the above chart, it is observed that the number of workers is highest in Bhiwandi 79%. It is followed by Malegaon 14.2%. in Ichalkaranji, 5.1% of workers are employed, while in Solapur, the numbers is the lowest at only 1.7%. these workers are concentrated in the labour sector. Overall, this is the distribution of power loom workers.

I. Worker's multitier structure:

- 1) highly skilled workers: these workers are technically and mechanically skilled. They have good knowledge of operating machines efficiently. They focus more on their work. Therefore, such workers are less attracted towards addiction and tend to remain engaged in their work. As a result, the level of addiction among them is comparatively lower.
- 2) Semi skilled workers: due to long working hours and the nature of the work, the prevalence of addiction to be moderate.
- 3) Unskilled workers: among the group of workers, the prevalence of addiction is found to be at the highest level.

II. Impact on labour productivity:

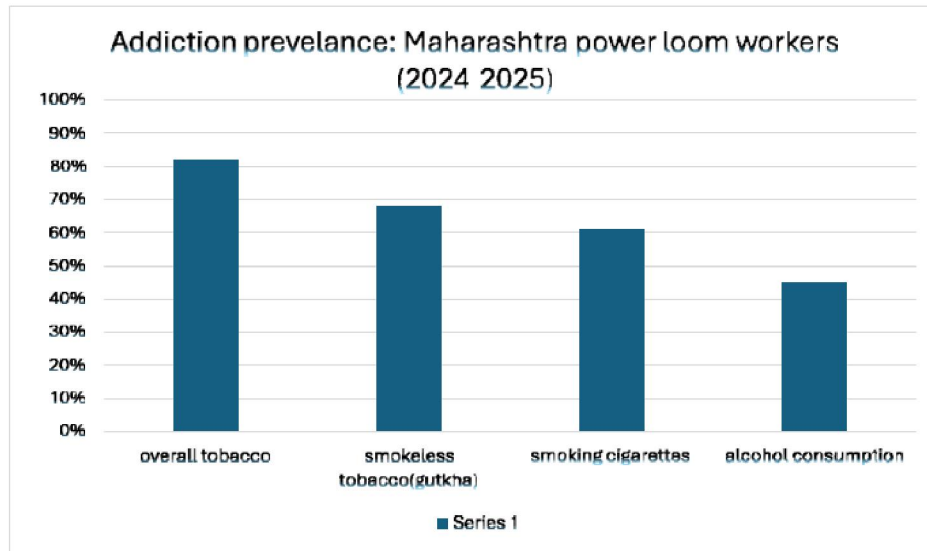
There are negative effects on the productivity of labours due to addiction:

- 1) because the worker cannot concentrate on their work, their labour productivity decreases and their income decreases proportionately.
- 2) due to addiction, the workers efficiency decreases. They do not receive proper wages, leading to a loss of mental stability.
- 3) addiction leads to a decline in the quality of work, which ultimately results in a reduction in the production of the industry.



III. Impact of family financial states:

- 1) Usually, the primary breadwinner is the male head of the family. If he becomes addicted, the future generations(children) also naturally fall into addiction.
- 2) As a result, because the entire family falls prey to addiction, their future becomes dark(bleak).
- 3) Addiction has a negative impact on the education and development of the labours children.
- 4) Additionally, because a large portion of the labourer's salary is spent on addiction, the financial stability of the family is ruined.



SOURCE: [Economic survey of Maharashtra (2024-2025), directorate of economic & statistics, Maharashtra power loom workers bill 2025, MSME cluster reports (2025), international research journal on advanced engineering & management, Indian journal of community health 2025]

The graph illustrates four main categories of substance use among workers, measured in percentage. The data shows a significance reliance in tobacco products compared to alcohol. Only overall tobacco use among in power loom workers is 82%. Smokeless tobacco, such as chewing tobacco and applying tobacco to teeth and gums, accounts for 68%. The rate of smoking bidi and cigarettes is 27%. However, the percentage of those who drink alcohol is as high as 45%. In the above information, while rate of tobacco and alcohol consumption appears to have decreased, tobacco still ranks number one among addiction.

Suggestions and recommendations:

- Program for de-addiction for power loom workers.
- Providing health education about the effects of addiction.
- The government should implement schemes for power loom workers to get health insurance, social security and financial assistance
- It is necessary to implement de-addiction treatment, rehabilitation facilities, health and social programs in the major centres of the power loom sectors.
- It is necessary for the government and voluntary organizations to prepare a long term policy to improve the standard of living of the workers and their families.



Analysis & interpretation:

The impact of addiction among power loom workers in Maharashtra has negatively affected their productivity and financial status, as shown in this study. Addiction is a serious problem: it is most prevalent in the power loom hubs in Maharashtra. Factors like low wages, long working hours, and mental stress drive workers toward addiction. These workers lack job security and face many financial difficulties, leading to an increase in addiction. This is not just an individual issue but has become a social and economic problem. Due to addiction, workers cannot focus on their jobs, leading to increase absenteeism. Many health complaints arise, and consequently, the financial condition of their families deteriorates. All of this results in a decrease in the overall production and income of the industry, creating obstacles to its development. This study clarifies that creating awareness among workers about addiction, providing information on the serious diseases caused by it, making health facilities available, and implementing government policies can improve the overall standard of living for power loom workers. This has been presented in this study.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research paper is about the impact of addiction among power loom workers in Maharashtra on labour productivity and economic stability. The research clearly indicates that the prevalence of addiction like tobacco, gutkha, cigarettes and alcohol is highest among power loom workers. These addiction have a negative impact on the physical, mental well being, labour productivity and economic stability of the worker's families. The direct impact of addiction is seen on the efficiency of workers. Concentration decreases during work. Efficiency in work falls by 25-30%. There are negative effects on health and agility decreases. For example, the capacity of workers to work on machines under the influence of substance decreases, which results in low production. Because of this, as the order taken cannot be delivered to the client on the time, the owners suffers a loss. In this way, a kind of obstacles arises in the development of the nation. In the year 2024, in the power loom sector of Maharashtra, including 5 lakhs units, 8% export was decreases which data from the textile ministry data. As a certain amount of the workers salary is spent on these addictions, the financial conditions of the family worsens. Due to this, the level of debt, child labour and various domestic violence has increased. Overall, as a result of this, it is also observed that the families of many workers are currently below the poverty line. Consequently, productivity decreases, negatively impacting the industry's total production process. Furthermore, addiction also have a negative impact on economic stability of the workers families. Overall, it is necessary for the government, industry owners, and social organizations to come together and make collective efforts to reduce addiction among power loom workers. Proper implementation of de-addiction counselling, social and family security schemes can helps increase labour productivity and improve the economic stability of their families.

REFERENCES

1. Maharashtra state power loom development corporation (2022-2023) power loom cluster in Maharashtra.
2. ministry of textile (2023) power loom sector report.
3. Government of India (2022) textile industry annual report.
4. Government of Maharashtra (2023) district industrial profile: Solapur
5. Ansari, Z. A., Bano, S. N., & Zulkifle, M. (2010) Prevalence of tobacco use among power loom workers: A Cross sectional study. Indian journal of community medicine, 35(1), 34-39
6. Agiwale, K.(2023).Study of power loom workers in Bhiwandi. Zenedo research achieve.
7. Shaikh, S. R. & Dulange, S. R. (2023). Factors affecting productivity of power loom industries. International journal of engineering research and technology.
8. Allen, S. R. (2018).The handloom weavers and the power loom: A Schumpeterian perspective, European review of economic history.
9. Kolgiri, S. & Hiremath, R. (2019).Sustainable postural research for women workers from power loom industry Solapur city. International journal of innovative research.



10. Prakash, S. & Rajendirabhai, C.(2021). Impact of power loom industry during covid-19 pandemic period. Turkish journal of computer and mathematics education.
11. Brady, E.(1993). The book of looms: A history of the handloom from ancient times to the present university press.
12. Ansari, Z. A., Bano, S.N. & Zulkifle, M. (2010). Prevalence of tobacco use among power loom workers: A cross sectional study. Indian journal of community medicine, 35(1),34-39.doi.org.
13. Agiwale, K. H. & Ansari, M.I. (2023). Study of power loom workers in bhiwandi. journal of research and development, 15(1):<https://org/10.5281/zenodo.7593684>
14. Ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) (2025). socio-economic status of the entrepreneurs & work force of textile and apparel manufacturing cluster of Bhiwandi. Government of India, [S3WaaS Report]
15. Shaikh, F.N.& Pawar, A.S. (2024) a case study of socio-economic situation of power loom workers with reference Malegaon city of Maharashtra: international research journal on advanced engineering and management, 2(3),217-222.
16. Kumbhar, S. (2017) growth and development of power loom industry in Ichalkaranji city: a geographical analysis Shivaji university.
17. Sutar, S. (2018) An analytical study of problems issues of power loom workers in Ichalkaranji. International journal of scientific research,793)
18. Ministry of MSME (2012) brief international profile of Solapur district. Government of India. Received from <https://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/DIPS%20solapur.pdf>.
19. Solapur municipal corporation (2025). Solapur textile industry socio-economic report [S3WaaS report]
20. Textile ministry data, Maharashtra
21. National sample survey office report (NSSO) Tata Institute of Social Sciences. (2022). Substance abuse and occupational health among power loom workers in Solapur and Sangli districts. TISS Research Report.pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih
22. Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. (2025). Annual report on textile industry performance: Maharashtra power loom sector 2024. <https://texmin.gov.in/reports>
23. National Sample Survey Office. (2023). NSS 78th round: Employment and health survey in unorganized textile sectors. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
24. Abbas, M. G., Jishan, T. R., Yasmin, S., & others. (2023). Occupational health problems and healthcare seeking behaviour among power-loom workers. Eastern Medical College Journal, 8(2), 54–60.
25. <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/438b/afb97bdd1daa19635a85a89237026c1e1e10.pdf>
26. <https://journal.urau.ac/eejet/article/view/133353>
27. https://www.smilefoundationindia.org/newsletter-december_2012/association.html
28. <https://www.studymode.com/essays/biography-of-sanjay-lalbhair-1922037.html>
29. <https://www.studymode.com/essays/clinic-management-system-1649262.html>
30. <https://www.studymode.com/essays/immigration-1530449.html>
31. <https://www.studymode.com/essays/the-failure-of-the-American-public-1010044.html>
32. [https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=%22\(2010\)+Prevalence+of+tobacco+use+among+power+loom+workers:+A+Cross+sectional+study.%22&hl=en&cas_sdt=0&cas_vis=1&coi=scholar](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=%22(2010)+Prevalence+of+tobacco+use+among+power+loom+workers:+A+Cross+sectional+study.%22&hl=en&cas_sdt=0&cas_vis=1&coi=scholar)
33. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.04446>
34. <https://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/IJEL/article/view/10903>
35. <https://www.ripublication.com/irph/ijert.htm>
36. <https://www.econbiz.de/Record/the-hand-loom-weaver-and-the-power-loom-a-schumpeterian-perspective-allen-robert/10012107550>
37. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2888365>



38. <https://zenodo.org/record/7593684/files/12.pdf>
39. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/emre.12616>
40. https://www.academia.edu/125597392/Occupational_Health_Problems_and_Healthcare_See_king_Behaviour_among_Power_loom_Workers
41. <https://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=21100902608&tip=sid>

