

052 **Effects of Flood'87 on the Handloom Industry: A Study of Two Villages at Shahjadpur**
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a) Researcher's Identity

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b) Objectives

The followings were the major objectives of the study:

- i. To find out the socio-demographic and economic characteristics of the hand loom owners and workers affected by flood;
- ii. To determine the nature and degree of damages caused to the owners, workers of the industry, and the industry as such;
- iii. To assess the extent of relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken for the flood victims and the industry by the government and other sources; and
- iv. To identify and determine the necessary post-flood rehabilitation and development measures and suggestions for the affected owners, workers

c) Executive summary

Arriving at this stage we can now recapitulate some of the important factors mentioned above and draw some conclusions in brief as follows:

1. The study areas were low-lying and susceptible to annual flooding. Therefore, i) as short-term measures, adequate provisions should be made to protect the handloom industry from flooding. Attempts should be made to keep the looms operating even during the flood, flood-preparedness programmes should be taken towards protecting them from flood-damages, at the same time providing prompt and adequate flood-aid ii) Simultaneously, long-run measures should be adopted towards protection against flooding or towards avoiding floods totally.

2. Both short term and long term measures have to be taken for the protection and development of the industry.
3. Workers of the industry should be made more productive if provisions are made to secure and regularize their employment, establish and ensure their minimum wages, offer more skill development and trade trainings.
4. Insurance schemes should be introduced to sustain natural and accidental disasters both for the owners as well as for the workers.
5. Overall national socio-economic and political development is an important pre-requisite for the development of the handloom industry.
6. Weavers' Cooperatives should be given better support than individual ownership to ensuring the interests of the weavers.
7. National policy for the handloom industry should be announced to be backed by political commitment of the government.