

DETERMINANTS OF INCOME, TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION, OCCUPATIONAL CHOICE, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN ASSAM

ABSTRACT

The present study attempts to analyze the influence of different factors on wage structure, technology adoption, occupational choice, and entrepreneurial development in the handloom industry in Assam. The study is based on primary data of 475 respondents collected from 9 handloom concentrated districts in Assam. Kinked exponential, multiple, and logistic regressions are used to analyze the data. The results show a decline in overall growth in the handloom industry in Assam since 1997. Work experience, and education significantly influence the annual income of the industry owners and small owners. Gender wage gap is seen in case of monthly rated weavers and reelers. Annual income and education play significant role in the adoption of modern technology of the industry owners, whereas only gender is found positively significant in case of small owners. In case of contractual workers, annual income, credit, and training play significant role in technology adoption. The annual income, education, and access to technology influence a reeler to move towards the occupation of a small owner. With increase in annual income, education, and credit, the likelihood that the reeler becomes a small owner is more. The coefficients of 'annual income' and 'number of unemployed family members' are positive and significant in rural and urban as well as male and female entrepreneurial development in the industry. Work experience seems to have a significant influence on the female and rural entrepreneurial development. The study suggests that government machinery should come out heavily on addressing the problems related to gender wage gap in monthly-rated workers, and back up support facilities for contractual workers of the industry in the state. Thus, the present study greatly extends our understanding of present scenario in Assam's handloom sector.

Keywords: Handloom, income, technology adoption, occupational choice, and entrepreneurial development.